

APRIL 2014

WHOLE NUMBER 87

VOL. 22 NO. 2

# THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



**Two 5¢ red brown US #1 stamps used with Boyd's 20L4 stamp on a cover dated March 21, 1848 to Montreal, Canada. Boyd's service to the post office and a cross border rate to Canada.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BOYD'S PART 4: 20L4

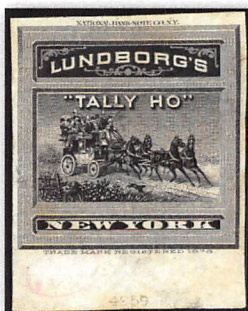
THE INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS COMPANY

BLOOD'S PART 6: 15L6

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# THE PENNY POST

VOL. 22 NO. 2

APRIL 2014



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***THE PENNY POST / Vol. 22 No. 2 / April 2014***

# Editor's Message

By  
Larry Lyons

## Announcement

Greetings to my fellow collectors and a special hello to our new members. I'm going to spill the beans and let you know that we are soon to have album pages for carriers and locals. Alan Cohen has been working on this for nearly two years and it's been decided to get it released. It is a work in progress and corrections can be made at any time. The pages are very extensive and comprehensive and the collector can choose which pages to download and print. It is awesome. Very special thanks to my good friend Alan Cohen for his spectacular effort in getting this done.

## Changing Times

"The times are a-changing." Trends and collecting peculiarities and specific interests change over decades. In the early years of philately rarity was one major focus and the condition of the stamps with regard to faults was of little interest. In general U.S. classic stamp collecting advanced to a time where the gum on the stamps was noted as O.G. (original gum), or part O.G. About 20 years ago the term NH (never hinged) emerged. Today, for certification purposes, a stamp is required to have "full pristine original gum" to get an NH designation. The carrier and local field has not to date taken any interest in looking at or talking about the gum on the back of the stamps. We have spent 150 years ignoring the flip side and have concentrated on what is depicted. There is now some interest in gum on carriers and locals stamps, probably having roots in collectors who collect or collected U.S. classic stamps. I have been assisting Alan Cohen in coming up with a list of the stamps and whether gum can be found on them or if used examples exist or if the stamp is only known on cover. This will be an interesting list. It will be subject to future modifications and changes. It is interesting to note that some of the very famous early collectors of local stamps soaked the gum off of the stamps. This was done because the paper is porous and after a century the gum can soak through the stamp and appear on the front. Many local stamps noted as having gum will really only have traces of the gum indicating they were once gummed.

## The Last Word?

Collectors and critics sometimes think a work of philatelic scholarship should represent the last word on the subject and be a "definitive work." This is very rarely the case. My "Identifier" books have stood up well over the 15 years since they were printed with very few discoveries and even fewer corrections, but Cal Hahn was of the opinion that they should have been delayed another 50 years to be totally comprehensive. The truth is that scholarship is open-ended and new discoveries and new research is expected, even 150 years after the stamps were issued. It is the continuing research which makes this journal great.



### **In This Issue**

We are continuing the Blood's opus with Vernon Morris' Part 6 in his series of research articles. There is lots of original thinking here from the world's foremost expert on Blood's. Much thanks to Vern for his incredible in-depth study.

We are also continuing the Boyd's opus with John Bowman's Part 4 on the 20L4 stamp and the "Dawn of a Brave New World, 1845-1848." This article has a lot of early historical commentary and complements the article in our previous issue by Dale Forster about "The Cheap Postage Movement in the U.S." I hope you enjoy this article as it adds to our understanding of the "dawning" of the local posts and early postal delivery. Much thanks to John Bowman for his research.

Justin Poklis has written an article on the International Express Company and has put forth a candidate for a genuine stamp. As I said earlier in this Editor's Message, there are new discoveries and developments every day. Thanks Justin.

### **Correction**

In setting up the January 2014 issue I inserted a striding messenger image on page 39 in Vern Morris' article to avoid a half-page of empty space. I used an image I took from a forgery. The author has asked me to alert the readers that the enlarged striding messenger is a forgery and was not labeled as such.

Hope you enjoy this issue of *The Penny Post*.

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# Dawn of a Brave New World

## Boyd's in 1845-48

### 20L4

By  
John D. Bowman

#### Early History Before 1845

After Boyd's initial reputation in New York City was secured by his delivery of incoming private mail,<sup>1</sup> a "perfect storm" was developing that may have provided the stimulus for John T. Boyd's long success in NYC. Cal Hahn believed that private post collectors should understand the economic and social conditions of the period to appreciate the opportunity for their rise.<sup>2</sup> Henry Abt describes in detail a number of these conditions under the heading "The Founding of a Great Enterprise" in the first article of his series on Boyd's City Express Post.<sup>3</sup> The Panics of 1837<sup>4</sup> and 1839<sup>5</sup> set the stage. Speculation on public lands for sale had resulted in a bubble of inflated bank notes<sup>6</sup> that resulted in Andrew Jackson's Specie Circular of July, 1836, which prohibited the acceptance of anything but specie for public lands. Henry Clay's Distribution Act began on January 1, 1837, and distributed the federal surplus to the states with no repayment obligation, effectively contracting the money market.<sup>7</sup> The surplus of about \$35 million was to be paid in quarterly installments to the states in 1837, but the fourth quarter's installment was suspended as a result of the Panic. Paper credits led to a depression, with increases in basic subsidies of living for citizens, see **Figure 1**. In May, 1837, the banks in New York were forced

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<sup>1</sup> Incoming conjunctive covers may bear a Boyd's adhesive or paid handstamp. An advertisement in *Commercial Advertiser* of August 10, 1844, notes that Boyd's will deliver outgoing letters to Pomeroy's at no charge when left in their boxes.

<sup>2</sup> Calvet M. Hahn, *The Early Development of Carrier Service in America, with Particular Emphasis on Service in New York Before 1850*, 2002, web presentation on the Carriers and Locals Society website:

[http://www.pennypost.org/pdf\\_files/Early%20Carrier%20Service%20in%20America.pdf](http://www.pennypost.org/pdf_files/Early%20Carrier%20Service%20in%20America.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Henry E. Abt, *Boyd's City Express Post, Introduction*, Collectors Club Philatelist, July, 1949, Vol. 28, No. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Chester W. Wright, *The Economic History of the United States*, McGraw-Hill, 1941.

<sup>5</sup> Did Andrew Jackson Cause the Panic of 1837?

<http://elektratig.blogspot.com/2011/01/did-andrew-jackson-cause-panic-of-1837.html>

<sup>6</sup> In 1832, President Andrew Jackson refused to re-charter the Bank of the United States, opting instead to deposit government funds in select state banks. However, the state banks had virtually no regulation, and freely loaned paper money to almost anyone who asked for it. A flurry of land speculation and inflation followed. To curtail these alarming trends, Jackson issued the Species Circular on July 11, 1836. The executive order meant that federal land could no longer be bought with paper money, but only with gold or silver. In Jackson's view, this "hard" money was the only currency that could be trusted. <http://historyengine.richmond.edu/episodes/view/451>

<sup>7</sup> Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *The Age of Jackson*, Little, Brown and Company, 1945.





**Figure 1. Cartoon depicting the Panic of 1837 resulting from Andrew Jackson’s requirement for government specie in order to reduce the surge in bank notes issued by state banks for buying land and constructing canals with little review by the banks. The result is reminiscent of what happened in late 2007 and 2008 with the collapse of the US housing bubble due to the subprime mortgage crisis.**

to suspend operations and were quickly followed across the rest of the country. Banks failed, unemployment spread, and commodities rapidly fell in value. Specie payments were not resumed until late 1839. After about 1845, the economy gradually improved and beginning in 1848 a “Golden Age” of prosperity occurred, during which customs receipts doubled and represented a substantial portion of federal income; however, this source of revenue was subject to large fluctuations, and the lack of any regular budget for the federal government was problematic.

After about 1820, states’ expenses were low because their activities were limited, and thus state debt was low. But the states began to fund internal improvements and banking enterprises through the sale of bonds. Most of these bonds were issued for construction of canals and for banking. Except for the Erie Canal, few canals yielded profits in the 1830’s and many never paid their bondholders. Those that carried freight became obsolete around 1860 with the completion of major railroads, such as the Hudson River Railroad from New York to Albany, and the Pennsylvania Railroad from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. Banking seemed to prosper, but the crash of 1837 ruined many, leaving states with large

debts and no surplus funds to pay them. Railroads also did not do well in this early period. The states suffered during the early 1840's but by 1850 most had recovered.

Although Samuel Morse successfully constructed a telegraph line from Baltimore to Washington in 1844 through a government appropriation, further government aid was not forthcoming. Private investors came to aid and by 1850 most large cities had telegraph connections. This delay was fortuitous for the Independent Mails and their local delivery partners such as Boyd's.

Carrier services were provided by law in New York City since the early 1800's, but the first private post was organized under Alexander Grieg as the City Despatch Post in February of 1842.<sup>8</sup> Notably, Grieg introduced, with the aid of Henry Windsor, a visitor familiar with the British system under Rowland Hill's reforms, letter boxes, and three deliveries daily, prepaid or collect mail service, free letters to the newspapers, parcel delivery and registration for money letters. He advertised deliveries at 9, 1 and 4 o'clock, including branch offices, which apparently referred to the letter boxes on city streets and in hotels. According to Perry,<sup>9</sup> Grieg's private post was handling about 450 letters daily, while the New York Post Office carriers only delivered 250 per day.<sup>10</sup> This came to the attention of the Postmaster General and, in August of 1842, Grieg sold his business to the New York Post Office and the United States City Despatch Post began operations under Alexander Grieg.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Congress convened in the fall of 1844 and it was clear that some action was necessary to resolve the postal controversy that arose concerning providing cheap letter postage.<sup>11</sup> Great Britain had lowered its rates to a penny some four years earlier and required prepayment with stamps. Britain's success was not lost among the American public, who clamored for rates less than the intercity rates based on distance and weight of letters; for single letters, the Act of March 3, 1825, required 6c for letters up to 30 miles inland, 10c for 30-80 miles, 12 ½ c for 80-150 miles, 18 ¾ c for 150-400 miles, and 25c for over 400 miles. As a matter of fact, Postmaster General C. A. Wickliffe asked Congress in 1843 to reduce these rates but it did not happen. As a result, private Independent Mail Companies came into existence and advertised their low intercity rates starting at six and a quarter cents per letter (or six cents American instead of Spanish currency.) Because they used "post roads," some were taken to court but were exonerated and it was clear that without definitive legislation, the judiciary would not support the federal postal monopoly.

At the same time there was a sharp increase in immigration and business travel to the NY port city. After 1846, a great proportion of the New England textile

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<sup>8</sup> Scott Trepel, *The "New Amsterdam" Collection of City Despatch Post 1842-1852*, Sale 1005, March 2, 2011, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. This auction catalog includes a detailed history of this post and its stamps, and is an important resource for philatelic historians.

<sup>9</sup> Elliott Perry and Arthur G. Hall, *100 Years Ago, February – 1842 – August*, American Philatelic Society, 1942.

<sup>10</sup> Hahn points out that these figures cannot be verified. *Op cit*.

<sup>11</sup> Henry E. Abt, *Boyd's City Express Post, Chapter III*, The Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. XXIX, No. 1.



manufacturing business, sold via commission houses or agents, was transferred to New York City. It also became the center of the booming cotton trade of the country.<sup>12</sup> With the completion of the Erie Canal, wheat trade in New York became important. By 1860, New York had two-thirds of the import trade in the United States, and was second only to New Orleans in export trade. The population doubled from 300,000 in 1840 to over 600,000 in 1850.<sup>13</sup>

### **Boyd's Begins**

Boyd's City Express Post was located at 45 William Street, a three-story building of which Boyd's occupied the first level.<sup>14</sup> Of interest is the fact that Grieg's City Despatch Post was located at 46 William Street, Hussey's was at 50 William Street, while the City Mail office was across the street on Wall Street. Boyd's had little competition from other New York local posts, such as Cummings, Dupuy and Schenk, and Hanford's, until 1847 when Aaron Swarts opened his private post at 6 Chatham Square in central New York.

In 1844, William Street below Wall Street was a center of trade in dry goods and silk.<sup>15</sup> The auction house of Haggerty and Austin was located nearby, as was the famous restaurant Delmonico. The southeast intersection of Wall and William Streets contained the Merchants' Exchange, occupying the entire block bounded by Wall, Exchange, William and Hanover Streets which was New York's newest commercial building. It housed the New York Stock and Exchange Board, a large reading room with international newspapers, and a branch of the government Post Office. Above Wall on William Street were a number of businesses.

No. 45 William Street, where Boyd's opened for business on Monday morning, June 17, 1844, was the first building north of Wall Street and was on the west side of William. The US City Despatch Post was established across the street at No. 46 in 1842, although it is not clear if it was still at this address when Boyd's opened, or if it was in the Merchant's Exchange building or the Rotunda.

Postal reform (reducing postage rates and abolishing the greatly abused free franking privilege) was debated in the 29<sup>th</sup> Congress until finally, on March 3, 1845 it passed a bill that resulted in the closing of private carriage of intercity mail by July 1, 1845. The Act also reduced postage rates for single (half ounce) letters to five cents up to 300 miles and ten cents for longer distances. This Act was the basis for the first US general issue postage stamps issued in 1847. It also increased the drop letter charge from one cent to two cents, so that a letter dropped at the Post Office for local delivery by the carrier would now cost four cents, two cents drop plus two cents carrier. John Boyd anticipated the increase in his business volume due to increased intercity mail traffic and the double cost of using the post office for door delivery rather than his private post. Because of the lower cost and competitive services offered by Boyd's (two cents for pickup and door delivery), its business

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<sup>12</sup> Wright, *Op cit.*

<sup>13</sup> Samuel E. Morison, *The Oxford History of the American People*, Oxford University Press, 1965.

<sup>14</sup> Donald S. Patton, *Boyd's Local Posts in New York City, 1844-1882*, Regent Stamp Co. Ltd., London, date unlisted.

<sup>15</sup> Abt, *Op cit.*

grew rapidly. The New York Post Office was forced to close the U.S. City Despatch Post in November 1846. In February 1849, the rates for carrier delivery in NYC were reduced to two cents for letters placed in a collection box and delivered by carrier to street addresses (1c drop plus 1c carrier fee). Letters deposited in a collection box for out of town delivery required the normal postal rate plus 1c carrier fee. For street address delivery for letters received from out of town at the post office, a 2c carrier fee was collected (not prepaid by sender.)<sup>16</sup>

### Boyd's 20L4 Adhesive

Around April or May 1845 Boyd issued his new adhesive, 20L4. This stamp was printed to a much higher quality engraving standard than earlier issues, although due to its popularity, wear in the cross-hatched background lines is readily apparent over several years of use, see **Figure 2**. The plate may have included 100 subjects as has been surmised by Abt, but no multiples survive and in fact the author has only seen a single unused specimen, all others being used. See **Figure 3**. The plate had ruled lines that separated the stamps so that each stamp might show four plate lines if cut large enough.

Though the new plate was of higher quality and few double transfers are known, the master die apparently had a crack because all stamps show this defect as an uneven line running down from the inner oval under "CITY" into the eagle's right wing. The numeral "2" at bottom is characteristic of this issue, as is the bottom of the "T" in "POST" and the bottom of the "E" in "CENTS".

20L4 was used from 1845 through 1849 and occasionally later, with the number of examples difficult to estimate due to the large number of existing covers. Many covers going "to the mails" exist with red circular date stamps of the New York Post Office. After July 1, 1847, covers headed out of town are sometimes franked by US No. 1 and rarely by the ten cent US No. 2.<sup>17</sup> The Boyd's adhesive stamps were often cancelled with indistinct cork markings intended to prevent re-use, and around 1848 grids and other obliterating markings began to be used, although some grids may have been fraudulently applied after a stamp was attached to a cover.<sup>18</sup>

Boyd's offered "to the mails" service for 2 cents, so that the sender could avoid the trip to the US Post Office, see **Figure 4**. Figure 4, dated May 30 (1845), is the earliest known use of 20L4 known to this author, although Abt reported one used May 4 and another has been reported used April 4. The author has not been able to verify these, so any information predating May 30 should be sent to me at jbowman@stx.rr.com.

The Independent Mail Company period ended on June 30, 1845 as noted above. **Figure 5** illustrates a conjunctive usage of Boyd's with independent mails towards the end of this period.

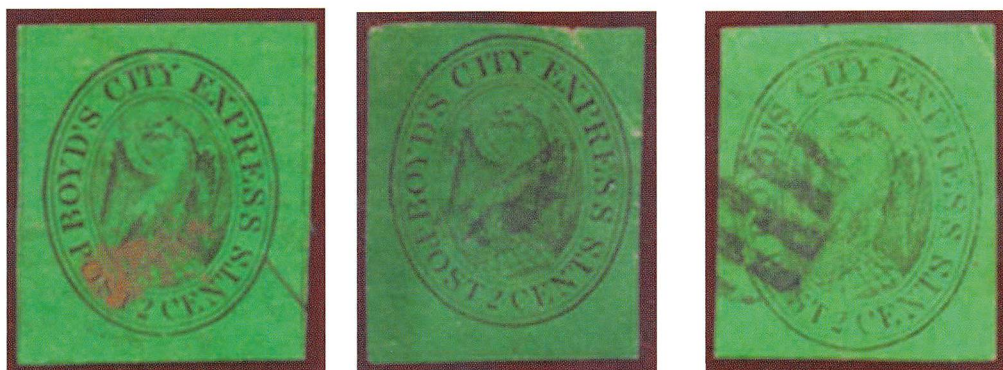
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<sup>16</sup> Steven M. Roth, *Summary of Drop Letter and Carrier Postal Rates in New York City (1794-1885)*, *The Chronicle*, November 1974, Vol. 26, No. 4.

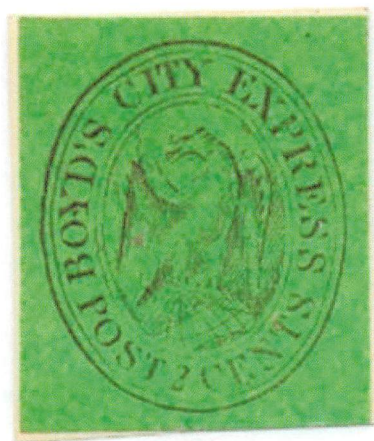
<sup>17</sup> The author is aware of two known ten cent No. 2 covers bearing a Boyd's 20L4.

<sup>18</sup> This is the author's opinion only. Some grid handstamps seem "too good to be true." A leading collector suggests that the 5-bar obliterator was used only for "to the mails" usages.





**Figure 2. 20L4 examples showing early, intermediate and late printings. These are distinguished by the clarity of the background shading lines in the oval around the eagle on globe. The middle example is the dark or dull green shade printed in late 1848. Bowman collection.**



**Figure 3. 20L4 apparently unused. *Only unused example known to the author.* Bowman collection.**

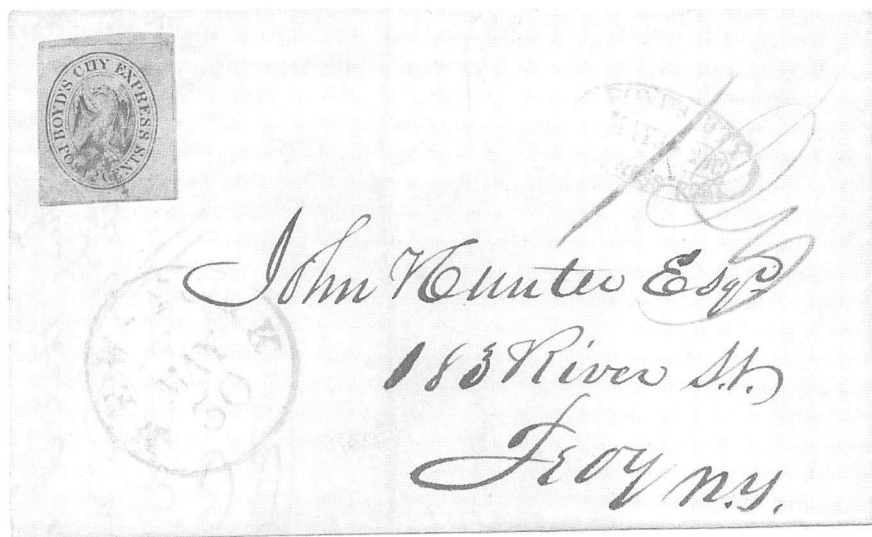
A complete double transfer exists. See **Figure 6**. There is a downward shift of the design on the late worn impression example shown.

**Figures 7 to 22** illustrate various usages of 20L4 on cover and are in no particular order.

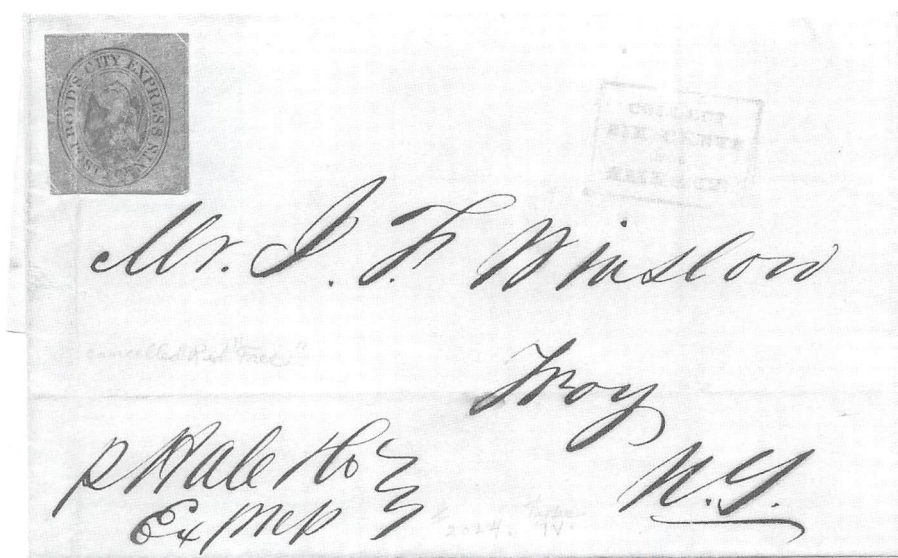
A serious limitation to this article is the fact that 20L4 covers are currently valued at \$250 when tied to cover and \$75 when not tied in the *US Scott Specialized Catalog*. As a result, many covers are not illustrated in auction catalogs due to their relatively low value. My database of Boyd's covers is based on auction catalogs, collections of Richardson and LeBel as well as my own, and occasional other entries. 20L4 was widely used and many covers have survived.

I wish to thank Lawrence LeBel for permission to use his images, and for reviewing a draft of this article and providing helpful suggestions. I also thank Marty Richardson for his images, and Larry Lyons for sending me images. Thanks to Tom Mazza for reviewing a draft. And finally, thanks to my mentor in this field, the late Cal Hahn.

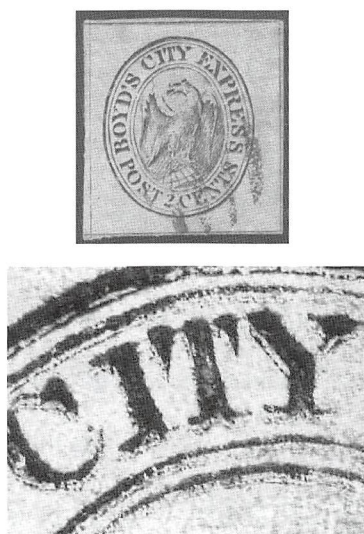
I am grateful for any reader who submits corrections to any of my errors of fact or judgment. Letters to the editor are also welcomed by Larry Lyons. Additional images of unusual Boyd's covers for any of his adhesives or for stampless covers would be most appreciated and added to my database of Boyd's covers.



**Figure 4. May 30 (1845) 2 o'c New York to Troy, NY, 12 ½ cent rate. *Earliest known use of 20L4.* Red "FREE" handstamp cancels adhesive. This folded letter was brought to the NY Post Office by Boyd's, prepaid 2 cents for his service, and 12 ½ cents due from recipient. Street address delivery in Troy was not guaranteed by Boyd's nor the US postal system and there is no indication that it occurred. (Bowman collection)**



**Figure 5.** June 24, 1845 folded letter to Troy, NY carried by Hale & Co. who carried it to Albany and possibly handled by Brainard & Co. for destination in Troy. This is the *latest known conjunctive use with Boyd and an Independent Mail Company.* (Bowman collection)



**Figure 6.** Complete double transfer, slight downward shift of design visible in letters and ovals. This example is from a late worn impression with much of the background behind the eagle gone. (Bowman collection)



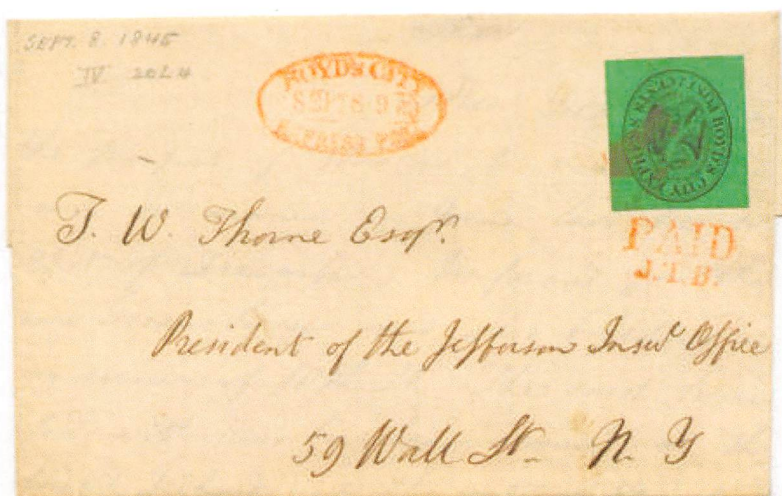


Figure 7. Sept. 9, 1845 local delivery by Boyd's. Usual dated oval with 9 o'clock delivery time and red smudge on stamp, likely the FREE used on 20L1-20L3 and some 20L4 stamps. The red PAID/J.T.B. was initially used by Boyd on incoming mail from the Independent Posts in 1844 and was continued for several years after June 30, 1845 when the Independent Mail period ended. (Bowman collection)



Figure 8. Oct. 21, 1845, from Philadelphia to New York. This is a rare attempted use of a Boyd's stamp to prepay local delivery on incoming mail, from the Captain Atwood correspondence. The care/of recipient crossed out his name and address and forwarded the letter to Frankfort ME with 10c due via the New York post office. (Bowman collection)



Figure 9. Oct. 16, 1847. This letter was carried by Boyd's to the NYPO for delivery in Philadelphia. It was then forwarded to the addressee's new location in Carlyle PA. (Bowman collection)



Figure 10. Aug. 29, 1845. This folded letter was carried by Boyd's "to the mails" to the NYPO which sent it to Toronto, Canada. (Bowman collection)





Figure 11. May 16, 1845(?). Boyd's "to the mails" and then "Paid 10 – to the lines" to Saint Johns, New Brunswick. (Bowman collection)



Figure 12. Aug. 31, 1849. Boyd's "to the mails" and then to Toronto, Canada, "Paid by Canada, 10c." Very rare with Boyd's adhesive tied by foreign datestamp. (M. Richardson collection)





Figure 13. Aug. 7, 1847. Taken by Boyd's to the Post Office for delivery in Blairstown, NJ. Both Boyd's 2c fee and the government 5c fee were prepaid. (M. Richardson collection)

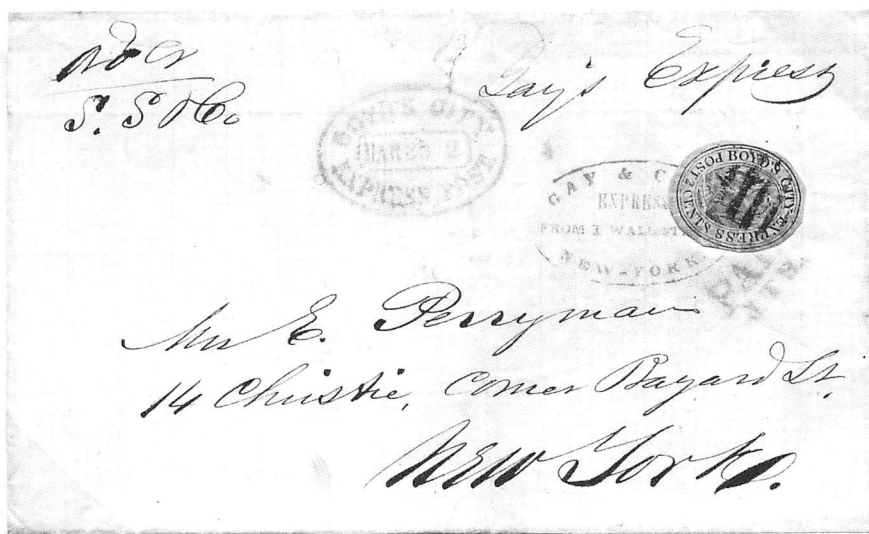


Figure 14. Mar. 30, 1848. Gay & Co. Express carried this letter from Boston to New York, and gave it to Boyd's for local street address delivery. Boyd's fee was prepaid as indicated by the adhesive and "PAID / J.T.B." (M. Richardson collection)



Figure 15. Sept. 16, 184(6). The stamp appears to have been privately perforated, perhaps by a sewing machine. (M. Richardson collection)

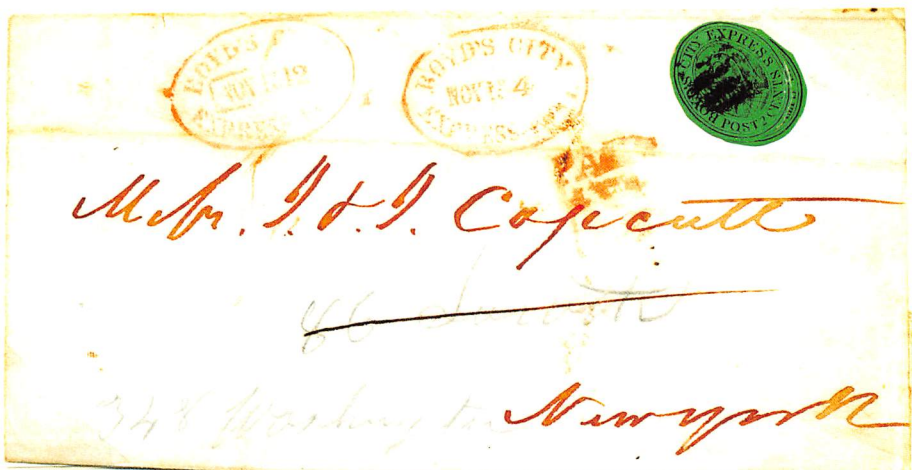
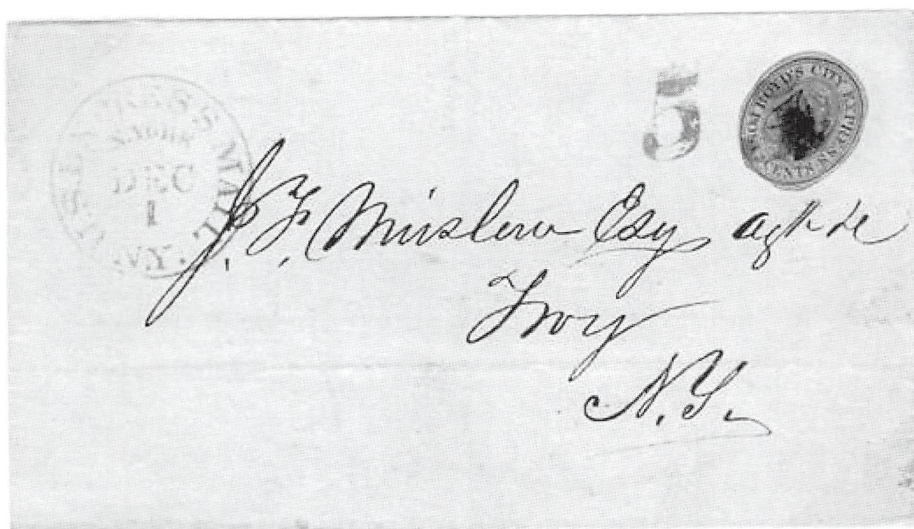


Figure 16. Nov. 15, 1849. First delivery attempt (12 o'clock delivery) was not successful. The cover was re-addressed and sent out again (4 o'clock delivery). A second adhesive was applied over the first, making a total fee of 4c. It is likely the sender had an account with Boyd's so that the prepayment could be handled in Boyd's office. (M. Richardson collection)



**Figure 17.** Dec. 1, 1846. Boyd's delivered this letter to the US route agent for delivery to Troy, NY. The red "5" indicates the PO fee to be collected from the recipient. There is an additional red "5" cancelling the adhesive, a very unusual marking. (M. Richardson collection)



**Figure 18.** Sept. 8, 1845. 20L4 bisected and tied by NY datestamp on folded letter to Wilbraham, MA. Because there was no provision for a one cent rate by Boyd's in their advertisements, it is likely that this cover was accepted as an accommodation by Boyd's and taken to the Post Office. (M. Richardson collection)





Figure 19. Jan. 9, 1849. 20L4 used on cover to Württemberg, Germany. Misrated 24c for service to England; rerated 68c for double weight to Württemberg at 34c per half-ounce. French transit markings. (L. LeBel collection)

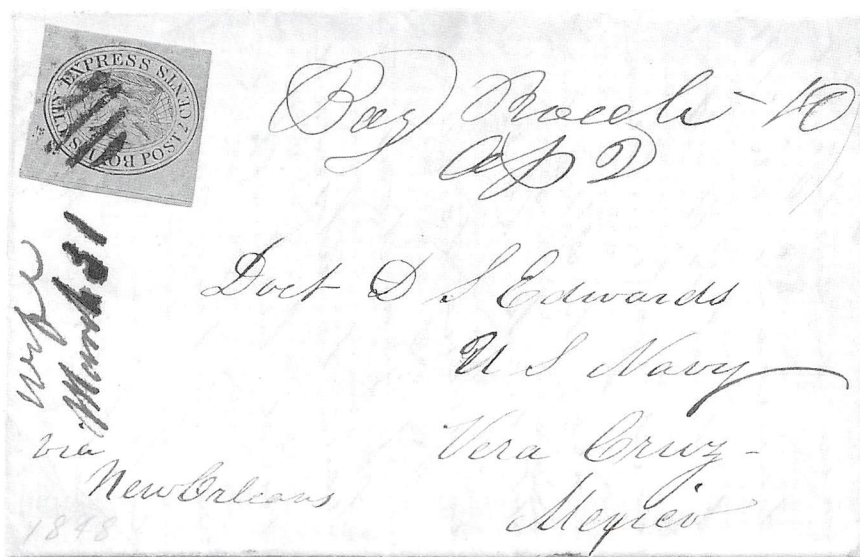


Figure 20. The US Post Office contracted with steamship companies for mail service to Mexico via New Orleans. (L. LeBel collection)

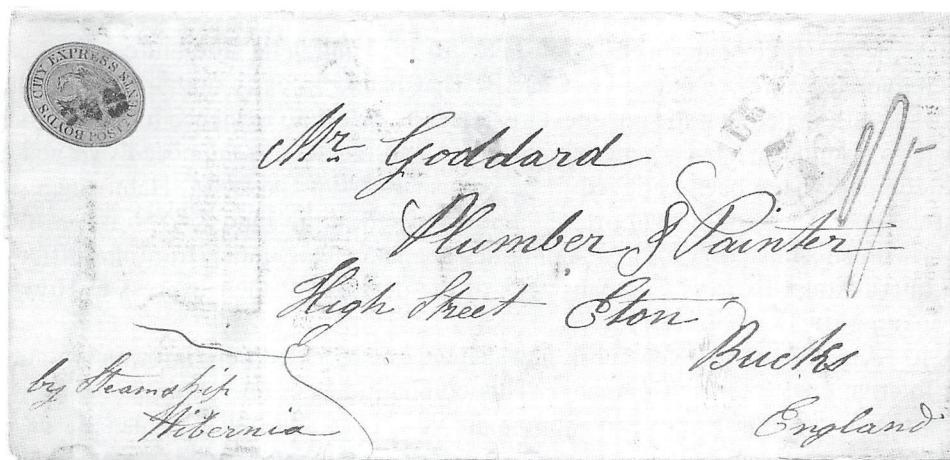


Figure 21. 20L4 cut to shape on cover to England, August 1846.  
Manuscript "1" shilling. (L. LeBel collection)

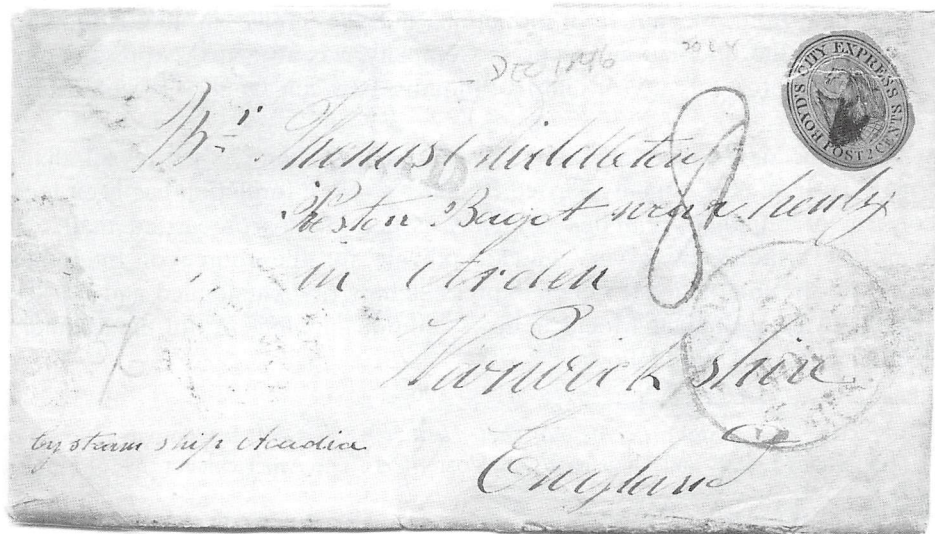


Figure 22. 20L4 cut to shape on cover to England, Nov. 29, 1846.  
(L. LeBel collection)

# The International Express Company

By  
Justin L. Poklis

Very little has been published in the philatelic literature about the International Express Company. Charles. H. Coster, an early authority on United States locals, stated that the post never existed.<sup>1,2,3</sup> With no evidence to the contrary, Coster's opinion has been generally accepted and the stamps supposedly issued by this company have been believed to be bogus. In 1993 Calvet M. Hahn suggested that the post was genuine and offered a notice dated in the June 2, 1856 issue of the Hollowbrush Transcript, a Philadelphia newspaper.<sup>4</sup> This notice from the office of the International Express Company tells of the disposal of their express to Howard & Co. on May 31, 1856.

A search of old New York newspapers has revealed new information about the International Express Company. This company began operations in January of 1855 to carry freight from various points in New York and Philadelphia.<sup>5</sup> It was in direct competition with the American Express Company (United States Express Company) in Penn Yann, New York and eventually gained exclusive freighting rights in Penn Yann. This led to more costly and poorer delivery services for the citizens.<sup>6</sup> In February of 1856 a member of Adams & Co.'s Express Co., applied to the Supreme Court in Philadelphia for injunction against the Catawissa, Williamsport & Erie Railroad Co. in respect to their exclusive contract to carry express packages and freight only with the International Express Company.<sup>7</sup> We can conclude from the above information and the notice in the Hollowbrush Transcript that the International Express Company was an actual express company and in operation for only a year and five months, between January 1855 to May 31, 1856.

The accounts recorded in the various newspaper reports reveal that the International Express Company carried freight.<sup>5,6,7</sup> No information has been located to confirm or repudiate that this company issued stamps or carried mail. This company nevertheless is a very good candidate for the source of International Express and the International Letter Express stamps first catalogued and illustrated (**Figure 1**) by Jean-Baptiste Moens in his 2<sup>nd</sup> edition supplement<sup>8</sup> for the *Manuel des Collectionneurs de Timbres-Poste*.

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<sup>1</sup> Coster C.H., *United States Locals and Their History*, 1877, Scott & Company, New York.

<sup>2</sup> "United States Locals and Their History", Coster CH., *The American Journal of Philately*, 1875 8:43.

<sup>3</sup> "Les Postes Privées des États-Unis d'Amérique", Coster C.H., *La Timbre Poste*, 1878 16:30-32.

<sup>4</sup> "The Incunabula of Philatelic Literature on Locals and Carriers Part V", Hahn C.M., *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 1993 6:17-27.

<sup>5</sup> "A New Trade", *New York Evening Express*, New York, NY, Jan 8, 1855.

<sup>6</sup> "Express Companies", *The Democrat*, Penn Yann, NY, Dec 12, 1855.

<sup>7</sup> "Exclusive Trafficking on Railroads", *Daily Courier*, Buffalo, NY, Feb 19 1856.

<sup>8</sup> Moens J.B., *Manuel des Collectionneurs de Timbres-Poste 2<sup>nd</sup> edition supplement*, 1862, Misonne et Bonnet, Bruxelles.



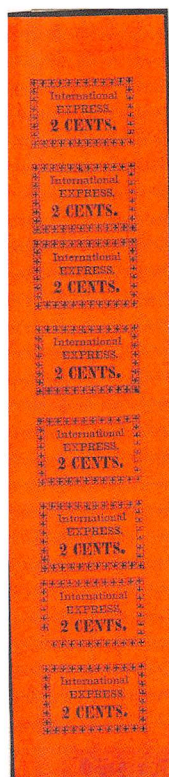


Figure 2. Half pane of International Express printed in two panes of 8, work and turn for a sheet of 2x8.



Figure 4. The Identifier International Letter Express “Bogus 4. From the *Identifier*.

Figure 5. Strips of three are of “Bogus 5” types a, b and c on top of a strip showing “Bogus 5” types d and e. From rfrajola.com.

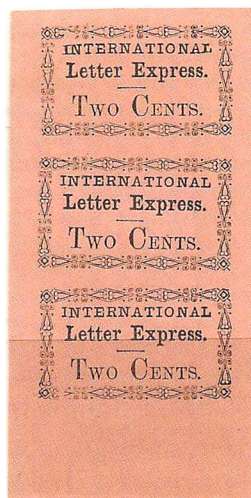
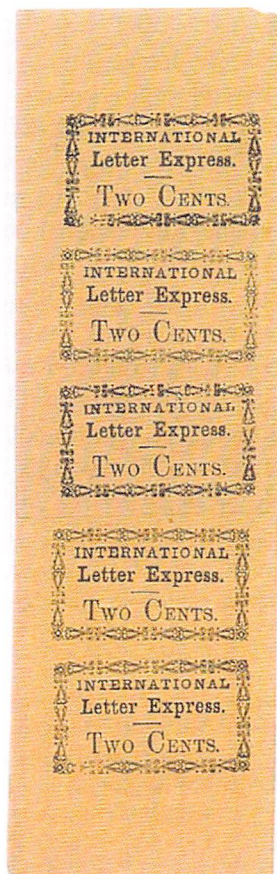
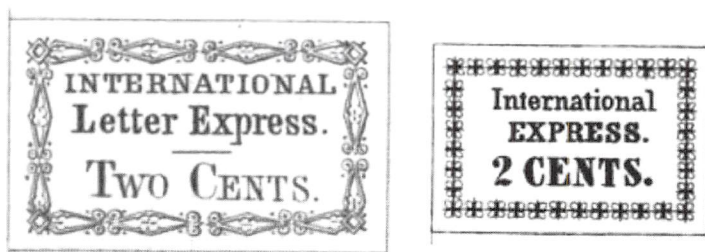


Figure 3. Partial pane of Hussey’s International Letter Express. Not recorded larger than a strip of 3. All strips are the bottom 3 stamps.





**Figure 1. Illustrations of International Express and the International Letter Express stamps from Jean-Baptiste Moens *Les Timbres-poste Illustrés*, 1864 edition. The illustrations are the same as those used in the 1862 2<sup>nd</sup> edition supplement.**

### **The Stamps of the International Express Company**

Two stamps were catalogued by Moens, a 2 cents International Express black on vermillion and a 2 cents Intentional Letter Express black on flesh. Included in Moen's supplement were illustrations of these stamps, **Figure 1**. These illustrations were presumably copied from genuine stamps. These stamps were the same two that George Hussey, operator of a local post and early stamp dealer, offered for sale. They are recorded in Thomas Wood's Memorandum Book,<sup>5</sup> a log book that includes copies of the stamps, dates, and the number of stamps printed for Hussey by Wood. The first printings of the Hussey's copies of the International Express and the International letter Express stamps were done on November 4, 1862. This was after publication of Moens supplement. Sheets/panes of these stamps are shown in **Figures 2 and 3**. Hussey's stamps were also likely copied from genuine stamps and maybe some form of reprints, possibly from refurbished original plates or new plates made from original dies. Therefore, the candidates for the genuine/originals stamps should be similar to both the Moens illustrations and Hussey's forgeries/reprints in color and appearance.

A review of the stamps listed in Larry Lyons' *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Post of the United States*<sup>9,10</sup> the stamp from the Mock Local Post collection found on Richard C. Frajola website<sup>11</sup> and the International Express Company stamps from Carl Kane's forgery collection, now in the authors possession, reveals several candidates for the genuine/originals stamps.

<sup>9</sup> Lyons L., *Identifier for Carrier, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*, Volume 2, 1998, Larry Lyons.

<sup>10</sup> Lyons L., *Identifier for Carrier, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*, Volume 3, 1998, Larry Lyons.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.rfrajola.com/mocks/mocks.htm>.

## Candidates for the genuine “International Letter Express” stamp

1. The *Identifier* “Bogus 4”. This stamp is unseen by the author and does not appear in the Mock Local Post Collection. The image in the *Identifier* is poor, **Figure 4**. According to the *Identifier* it is printed on the correct colored paper in black. It appears similar to both the Hussey's product and Moens images.
2. The *Identifier* “Bogus 5”. There are five types of these stamps listed. These five types are shown in the Mock Local Post Collection, **Figure 5**. According to the *Identifier* these stamps are found printed in black on three colors of paper: pale rose, rose and deep rose.

The five types shown in the Mock Local Post collection appear at first glance as a pane of five. On further evaluation it can be seen that there is actually a strip of three overlaid on top of a second strip, **Figure 5**. The stamps in the top strip of three are of types a, b and c. The bottom two exposed stamp show types d and e.

Thomas Wood produced two printings of this type “Bogus 5” stamp for Hussey. A study of these stamps reveals that the most commonly seen stamps are found on two types of paper and were produced in strips of three containing types c, d and e. The bottom two exposed stamps, and presumably the stamp covered up in **Figure 5**, make up a pane from one of the Wood printings. The strip of three made up of types a, b and c may be genuine stamps.

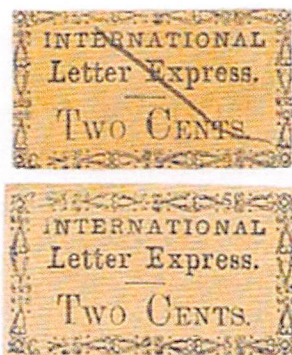
The stamp in **Figure 6** shows “Bogus 5” type stamps on three different colored papers. These stamps presumably printed on the three papers listed in the *Identifier* for “Bogus 5.” The first two stamps are on the two most commonly found papers and are likely from Wood's printings for Hussey. The last stamp shown may be a genuine stamp. This potentially genuine stamp differs not only in the paper used but there is also a break in the last “s” of “Express”. The break in the “s” can be seen in the stamp on the far right in **Figure 6**.” The Mock Local Post collection contains two copies of this stamp, see **Figure 7**, and they are listed as being printed on pale rose paper. The Mock Local Post collection also lists a type c “Bogus 5” stamp. **Figure 8** is listed as being printed on pale rose paper. It appears that either the Hussey products are reprinted from refurbished original plates/new plates made from original dies or there is a third unrecorded printing of the Hussey stamps.

3. There is an unlisted International Letter Express stamps, see **Figure 9**. This stamp is similar to the Hussey and Moens images. The paper is pale rose in color similar to the “Bogus 5” stamps. It is printed on pale rose paper. When held to the light this stamp is printed on a paper with very well defined mesh that is clearly different from the pale rose paper used for the “Bogus 5” stamps.

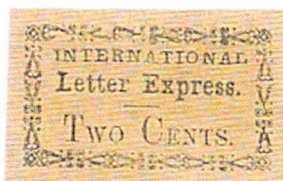




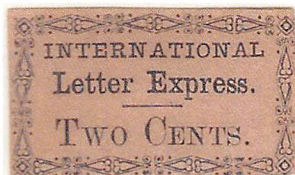
**Figure 6. The three different colored papers/printing of the “Bogus 5” type c International Letter Express stamp, the first two are the Hussey products and the last stamps printed on the pale rose paper and may be genuine.**



**Figure 7. Two other potentially genuine “Bogus 5” type a International Letter Express stamps printed on pale rose paper. From rfajola.com.**



**Figure 8. A potentially genuine “Bogus 5” type c International Letter Express stamps. From rfajola.com.**



**Figure 9. An unlisted International Letter Express stamp.**

## Candidates for the Genuine “International Express” Stamp

1. “Bogus 1”. This stamp was printed with two types, **Figure 2**, by Thomas Wood for Hussey. Wood listed two printings and only two identifiable printings on slightly different papers are known, **Figure 10**. As such “Bogus 1” cannot be the genuine stamps.
2. “Bogus 2”. This stamp, **Figure 11**, is printed from the block used to illustrate Moens’ catalogue. As such “Bogus 2” cannot be the genuine stamps.
3. “Bogus 7”. This stamp, **Figure 12**, is listed in the *Identifier* as being printed on orange and lavender and is found in the Mock Local Post collection on green and lavender paper. As this stamp is found on unlisted colored paper and it is almost identical to the Moens illustrations, this stamp is not a good candidate for the genuine stamp.
4. An unlisted stamp in the *Identifier* and not found in the Mock Local Post collection is illustrated in **Figure 13**. This stamp is printed in the proper color on the proper color paper. It is very similar to the Hussey stamps, “Bogus 1” and Moens illustrations. By the process of elimination it is the only good candidate for the genuine stamp.

It is also worth noting that when this stamp is compared to the two types of the Hussey “Bogus 1” stamps it can be seen that it is very similar to the “type a” stamp with the only major differences being the paper and the alignment of the frame. If this is a genuine stamp the similarities tend to support the idea that the Hussey stamps were reprinted from refurbished original plates or new plates made from original dies.

## Conclusions

The argument for the existence of genuine stamps is predicated on several facts. First, the stamps were cataloged and illustrated before the printings of the forgeries/reprints. Second, newspaper articles from four separate companies prove that the International Express Company did exist in contrast to the 130-plus-year generally held belief that it never existed. This company existed in the period where private post and express companies were known to issue their own stamps. Finally, as more is learned it becomes more apparent that the forgeries or reprints sold by George Hussey were from a genuine post. To date of the 75 or so local posts that Hussey advertised stamps from only two, Roadman’s Penny Post and Winan’s City Post have not been confirmed as genuine posts. With this in mind it seems likely that there were genuinely issued stamps from the International Express Company.

It is my belief that the genuine stamps from this post are the “Bogus 5” International Letter Express stamps printed on the pale rose paper and the unlisted International Express stamp listed above as #4. I also believe that both types of stamp sold by Hussey, International Letter Express and International Express, are

reprints from either refurbished original plates or new plates made from original dies. Please feel free to contact the author if you have any further information about the International Express Company or potential genuine stamps for this company.



**Figure 10. Stamps from the two printing of the Hussey’s International Express stamp “Bogus 1”.**



**Figure 11. International Express stamp from Moens printing block “Bogus 2”.**



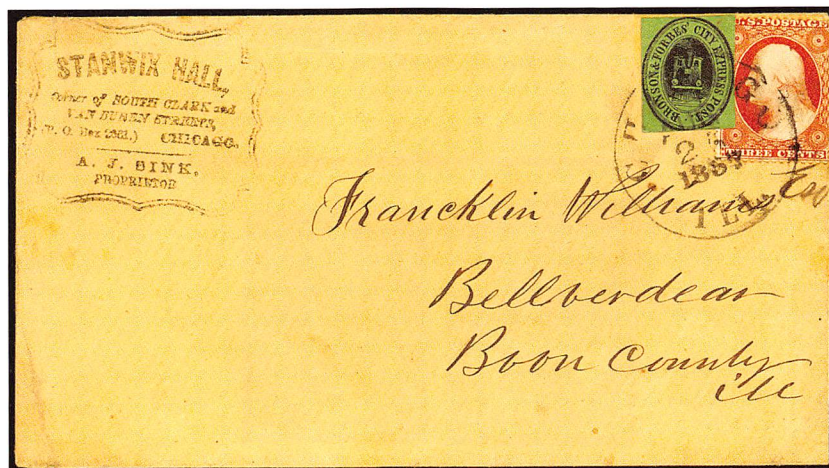
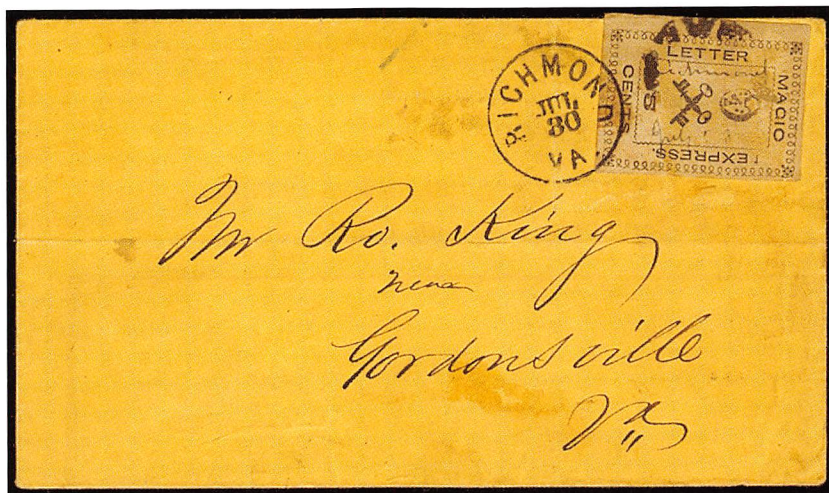
**Figure 12. International Express stamp “Bogus 7”. From rfracjola.com.**



**Figure 13. Unlisted International Express stamp, possibly genuine and known to be very rare.**



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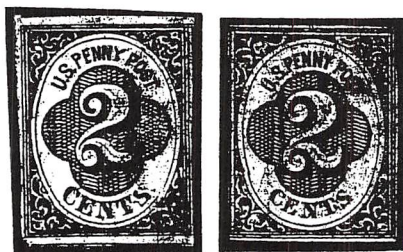
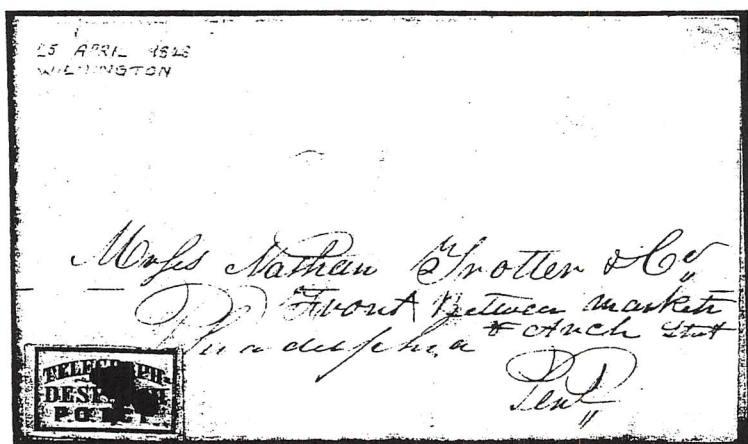
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## BLOODS Part 6: 15L6

By

Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD

Twenty-year old Daniel Blood arrived in Philadelphia in 1838, and was soon employed by the Public Ledger newspaper.<sup>1,2</sup> Seven years later Blood purchased the city's first and only private post, the Philadelphia Despatch Post, on the day before the infamous Independent Mails Armageddon, June 30, 1845. Daniel Blood accepted considerable risk as the government monopolized postal routes throughout the country, while the first electric telegraph was under construction nearby in Pennsylvania. Blood wisely secured a prime office location, several doors south of the Public Ledger at 48 South Third Street, above the historic Girard Bank. Blood & Co. was strategically positioned across the street from the Philadelphia post office, which was inside the magnificent Merchants Exchange Building.<sup>3</sup>

Blood acquired the remaining stamps, plates,<sup>4</sup> and ability to print the historic "striding messenger" adhesives. On the first day of business, Blood reassured the public all outstanding pre-paid 15L3 stamps were valid.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, Blood & Co. promptly sold the same stamps, different only by manuscript validation, cataloged 15L4 by Scott. These "provisional" stamps were temporary while Blood & Co. prepared their own personalized stamp design.<sup>6</sup> Scott catalog 15L5 resulted from adding the namesake "**D.O.BLOOD & CO.**" moniker above the gargantuan messenger "leaping in a single bound" over the Philadelphia post office. 15L5 appeared by mid September 1845, as the third striding messenger design type, the fifth local post stamp issued in Philadelphia, and the city's first private post stamp without a manuscript validated marking.<sup>7</sup>

### 15L6 "Black"

The fourth and final striding messenger stamp retained the "**D.O.BLOOD & CO.**" heading from 15L5. The major change creating 15L6 was the addition of "CITY DESPATCH" across the *middle* of the stamp, in capital but not bold letters, a different font style, and without serifs. "CITY" was left of the messenger's leading leg, and "DESPATCH" across his trailing leg, **Figure 1**. No color change from

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<sup>1</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 4: 15L4," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, page 41.

<sup>2</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 22, 23, 40.

<sup>3</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 4: 15L4," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 44, 46.

<sup>4</sup> Edward Harvey, "Blood's Despatch," *The Chronicle*, Vol. 41, No. 4, November 1989, Whole No. 144, page 233.

<sup>5</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 4: 15L4," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, page 45.

<sup>6</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, page 23.

<sup>7</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 545.





**Figure 1. Uncancelled 15L6 adhesive stamp was the final “striding messenger” design, created by adding “CITY DESPATCH” across the middle in capital letters, but using British spelling, no serifs, and no bold type.**



**Figure 2. Comparative sequential photographs of the mail sack of all four designs reveal that only 15L6 deleted the word “POST.” Only 15L6 was titled “CITY DISPATCH” in American spelling version, uniform capital letters, without serifs, and no bold type.**

15L5, which in the previous article had incorrectly specified “Black on Grayish,” as if identical to the color of the two preceding stamps, 15L3 and 15L4. However, 15L5 and 15L6 are each listed in Scott as “Black,” indicating a slightly different color.

Several minor changes in the 15L6 messenger’s *mail sack* are also present. The word “POST” was removed.<sup>8</sup> Also, “CITY DISPATCH” replaced “CITY DESPATCH”! Third, uniform font size was implemented. The preceding 15L3, 15L4, and 15L5 mail sack *first three letters* of “DESPATCH,” were smaller and closer together, although not previously reported, **Figure 2**. Fourth, was elimination of serifs from the mail sack.

<sup>8</sup> Edward Harvey, “Blood’s Despatch,” *The Chronicle*, Vol. 41, No. 4, November 1989, Whole No. 144, pages 233, 242.

The 15L6 stamp is the only design of *all* Blood & Co. types which displayed both spellings, “DESPATCH” and “DISPATCH,” perhaps unique among all Local Posts. The archaic word “despatch” derived from “hurry, to make haste.” *Despatch is a British variant of “dispatch”*.<sup>9</sup> *American version “dispatch”* can function as a verb, defined “to send (someone or something) quickly to a particular place for a particular purpose.” As a noun “dispatch” is “an important official message.”<sup>10</sup>

Altogether, four stamp designs and four catalog numbers pay homage and reverence to this esteemed and time honored image of a huge messenger rising above the post office. The “mini-series” group the four will be referred to as “striding messenger” stamps. At the conclusion of this article, a summary of the four stamps includes comparative photographs.

### 15L6 Description Census

- (1) June 30, (1846-7); folded letter; outbound New York; manuscript “X” cancel; blue Clarke 70 Philadelphia cds.<sup>11</sup> To: “W<sup>m</sup> H. Richards / 136 Front St / New York”.<sup>12</sup> Wolffers 168 April 29, 1992 lot 421. Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1299, Kuphal. Siegel 948 December 13, 2007 lot 609, Long. February 4, 2008 PFC 461347. Ex Judd.
- (2) August 6, 1847; folded letter; outbound Connecticut; manuscript “X” cancel, tied by manuscript address; blue Clarke 71a (no period) Philadelphia cds; 1847 five cent Orange Brown tied by blue PAID in lozenge. To: “J.W. Fitch. Esq / Cas<sup>h</sup> / New Haven / Cont”.<sup>13,14</sup> Siegel 791 June 25, 1997 lot 259, Meyersburg. April 27, 2010 PFC 486178. Morris collection.
- (3) October 4, 1847; circular; local delivery; penstroke and “dots” cancel, tied by manuscript address smear; light blue Blood’s advertising label. To: “Geo. W. Carpenter Esqr”. HR Harmer 1679 January 21, lot 1448. Apfelbaum 389 December 9, 1975 lot 635. Siegel 927 December 20, 2006 lot 1070, Richardson.
- (4) October 27, 1847; Mine Hill and Schulykill Haven Rail Road Co. circular; local delivery; manuscript connected “dots” cancel, two Blood’s advertising labels color unknown. To: “William Wallace Cook / Chesnut / Near 11<sup>th</sup>”.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/despatch>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dispatch>

<sup>11</sup> Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18<sup>th</sup> Century to Present, Interim Listing*, pp. 21; 2012, Clarke; lists Type 70 recorded from April 26, 1846 until January 29, 1847.

<sup>12</sup> Siegel Auction Galleries sale 1063 December 19, 2013 lot 1694.

<sup>13</sup> <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=28&ik=7ec98b27a8&view-pt&search=inbox&th=143454a30e290e00>

<sup>14</sup> The New Haven Museum identified J.W. Fitch was listed in the 1845 and 1851 city directory as cashier and also president of the Mechanics Bank mid block on State Street between George and Crown.

Lowe 3720 March 1, 1973 lot 1653. Lowe 3786 October 26, 1973 lot 1903.  
Ex Hollowbush. Ex Harvey.<sup>15</sup>

- (5) November 5, 1847; Pennsylvania Rail Road Co. circular; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel; dark green Blood's advertising label. To: "Geo. W. Carpenter Esqr" and "Perry / 14 Perry". Spink USA 144, August 15, 2013 lot 379. March 18, 2013 PFC 511135.
- (6) November 12, 1847; Pennsylvania Rail Road Co. circular; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel; dark blue Blood's advertising label. To: "Geo. W. Carpenter Esqr". Spink USA 144 August 15, 2013 lot 378 March 18, 2013 PFC 511134.
- (7) November 19, 1847; Pennsylvania Rail Road Co. circular; local delivery; manuscript "dot in X" cancel, tied by manuscript address; dark blue and partially torn yellow Blood's advertising labels. To: "Geo. W. Carpenter Esqr". Siegel 820 January 18, 2000 lot 922. July 19, 1991 PFC 242790 and April 27, 2010 PFC 486181. Morris collection.
- (8) December 8, 1847; folded letter; outbound New York; six bar open grid cancel; blue Clarke 71a (no period) Philadelphia cds. To: "For W<sup>m</sup> B Hudson, / To Cear[sic] of W John Dibblin / No 362 Third Avenue / New York". Siegel 830 November 13, 2000 lot 442, Hall. March 28, 2001 PFC 365951. Morris collection.
- (9) December 10, 1847; Pennsylvania Rail Road Co. circular; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel, tied by manuscript address; pink Blood's advertising label. To: "Geo. W. Carpenter Esqr". Christies October 12, 1989 lot 336, Weil. Siegel 773 March 26, 1996 lot 161. Siegel 791 June 25, 1997 lot 355, Meyersburg. December 28, 1989 PFC 219046; July 29, 1997 PFC 317261. Morris collection.
- (10) December 20, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "X" with two dots cancel; light green and dark green Blood's advertising labels. To: "Peter Fritz Esq / Race above Eight Street". John Fox 331 June 26, 1967 lot 823. Lowe 3720 March 1, 1973 lot 1652, Hollowbush.
- (11) December 29, 1847; folded letter; outbound New York; Blood's Type 7 handstamp cancel; blue Clarke 71a (high period) Philadelphia cds. To: "For W<sup>m</sup> B Hudson / In the Cear[sic] of M<sup>r</sup> John Debblin / No 352 Third Aveanew[sic] / New York". Siegel 908 March 17, 2006 lot 908. Siegel 927 December 20, 2006 lot 1072; Siegel 948 December 13, 2007 lot 608. April 27, 2010 PFC 486182. Morris collection.

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<sup>15</sup> Personal email communication with Steve Roth on January 20, 2014.



- (12) December 1847; “Colored Infant School” circular; local delivery; manuscript “X” cancel; vermilion Blood’s advertising label. To: “Mrs. Vaux / Arch below 124” (145 Arch).<sup>16</sup> Siegel 285 March 31, 1965 lot 650. Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1300, Kuphal. Heritage 1111 December 11, lot 31034, Cipolla. Ex Gibson.
- (13) January 5, (1848); envelope; outbound New Jersey; manuscript “V” cancel; blue-black Clarke 71c (high period) Philadelphia cds.<sup>17</sup> To: “D<sup>r</sup>. Peter J Stryker / Somerville / New Jersey”. Spink USA 144 August 15, 2013 lot 380. March 18, 2013 PFC 511136.
- (14) January 29, 1848; folded letter; local delivery to Northern Liberties; manuscript “X” cancel. To: “R.M. Logan Esq. / \_286\_ North\_3<sup>rd</sup> St”.<sup>18</sup> Siegel 927 December 20, 2006 lot 1071, Richardson. January 15, 2014 PFC 516786. Morris collection.
- (15) February 3, (1847-8); envelope; outbound Massachusettes; stamp tied by impression of manuscript “X” cancel; blue Clarke 79a2 (low period) Philadelphia cds.<sup>19</sup> To: “Mrs. Enoch Lewis / Ballard Vale / Andora / Mass”. Stimmell collection.
- (16) February 9, 1848; circular; local delivery; manuscript “X” cancel. To: “Geo. W. Carpenter Esqr”. Stimmell collection.
- (17) February 14, 1848; folded letter; local delivery; “dots” cancel. To: “Richard Smethurst Esqr / 72 south fourth Street / present”.<sup>20</sup> Siegel 853 December 19, 2002 lot 2620.
- (18) June 18, 1848; folded letter; inbound from Tuckahoe (NJ), local delivery; seven bar open grid cancel; manuscript “Paid 5”. To: “J. Fisher Leaming Esqr / South Front Street / Phila d a” (28 South Front Street).<sup>21</sup> Siegel 965 December 3, 2008 lot 1088, Geisler. January 16, 2009 PFC 473059. Morris collection.

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<sup>16</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 386, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849.

<sup>17</sup> Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18<sup>th</sup> Century to Present, Interim Listing*, page 24; 2012, Clarke.

<sup>18</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 221, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849.

<sup>19</sup> Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18<sup>th</sup> Century to Present, Interim Listing*, page 24; 2012, Clarke.

<sup>20</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 344, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849.

<sup>21</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, page 196, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847.

- (19) August 15, (1847-8); folded letter; outbound New York; five bar open grid cancel, tied by blue manuscript "5"; blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds.<sup>22</sup> To: "Walter R Jones Esq / (Atlantic Insurance Company, Wall Street ), New York".<sup>23</sup> Lowe NY Christies 5075 September 10, 1981 lot 744. Siegel 294 January 6, 1966 lot 203. Ex Gibson.
- (20) August 20, (1847-8); (front); outbound New York; manuscript "X" cancel; blue-black Clarke 79b Philadelphia cds and matching blue-black PAID in lozenge; manuscript "paid". To: "F.E. Spinner Esq Cashier / Mohawk Valley Bank / Mohawk Village / State of New York".<sup>24,25</sup> Gronowski collection.
- (21) October 24, (1848-9); cover front; outbound to unknown state; manuscript "X" cancel; blue Clarke 81a (no period) Philadelphia cds. To: Unknown #1. Robert Kaufmann 58 May 13, 1989 lot 845.
- (22) (1848-9); folded letter; local delivery; five bar open grid cancel; (non contemporaneous) pencil manuscript "1849". To: "Richard Smethurst Esq / (72 South) S 4<sup>th</sup> Street / above Walnut St". Siegel 490 April 20, 1976 lot 942.<sup>26</sup> Corwin collection.
- (23) September 8, (1849); envelope; outbound to New Jersey; five bar open grid cancel twice; blue Clarke 74a1 (high period) Philadelphia cds.<sup>27</sup> To: "Mr Thos R Woolman / Burlington / N.J.". <sup>28</sup> March 27, 2014 PFC 519117. Ex Stimmell. Morris collection.
- (24) Unknown; (folded letter); local delivery to Northern Liberties District; manuscript "X" cancel tied. To: "M<sup>r</sup> G H Thorn Esqr / 5<sup>th</sup> near George st / West Side Northern Liberties" (502 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street).<sup>29</sup> September 25, 2012 PFC 507178.

<sup>22</sup> Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18<sup>th</sup> Century to Present, Interim Listing*, page 20; 2012, Clarke.

<sup>23</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol.22, No.1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 2, 9, 10, 21.

<sup>24</sup> Mohawk Village is presently Mohawk, NY. per email communication on November 30, 2013 from Tom Mazza.

<sup>25</sup> en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\_E.\_Spinner "...engaged in banking, first as cashier and later as president...was appointed by President Lincoln as Treasurer of the United States and served from March 16, 1861, until his resignation on July 1, 1875."

<sup>26</sup> Specified 1848.

<sup>27</sup> Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18<sup>th</sup> Century to Present, Interim Listing*, page 24; 2012, Clarke.

<sup>28</sup> Siegel 817 November 15, 1999 lots 361, 164, 367, and 370.

<sup>29</sup> McElroy's *PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, page 347, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847.

- (25) Undated; (envelope); local delivery; manuscript “X” cancel; manuscript “Care of / Neall & Banabt”. To: “Mr W.M. Abbey / No 85 South Wharves / Philada”. Siegel 868 November 14, 2003 lot 2066. Siegel 1026 June 27, 2012 lot 1916. July 31, 2012 PFC 506310.
- (26) Undated; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript “X” cancel; two yellow Blood’s advertising labels (front and back); letter signed by Daniel Blood. To: “W<sup>m</sup>. L. Drane / 115 Lombard”. Lowe 3887 “Americana” October 8, 1974 lot 227. October 27, 1989 Rendon certificate 12583. March 27, 2014 PFC 519118. Ex Stimmell. Morris collection.
- (27) Undated; folded letter; local delivery to Spring Garden District; manuscript “X” cancel; stamp severed in half; dark green Bloods advertising label. To: “Mssrs Rosengarten & Denis Manufacturing Chemists / N.W. corner Sch<sup>l</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup> & Vine”. Rumsey 8 November 11, 1999 lot 1839. Alexander collection.
- (28) Undated; ladies envelope; local delivery; manuscript “X” cancel; dark blue Blood’s advertising label. To: “Mr. Edw<sup>d</sup>. A Warne / No 12 North 3<sup>rd</sup>. / Phil<sup>a</sup>.” Lowe 3720 March 1, 1973 lot 1654, Hollowbush. Siegel 820 January 18, 2000 lot 920. Ex Harvey.
- (29) Undated; envelope; local delivery; manuscript “X” cancel, tied by manuscript address; dark blue Blood’s advertising label. To: “Miss. E Townsend / Arch above 3<sup>rd</sup> st / Phil<sup>ad</sup>.”<sup>30</sup> Siegel 830 November 13, 2000 lot 443, Hall. Lyons collection.
- (30) Undated; piece (flap); local delivery; manuscript “X” cancel on heavily creased stamp; dark green advertising label. To: Unknown #2. Bowman collection.
- (31) Undated; envelope; local delivery; four connected “dots” cancel. To: “Frederick Fraley Esquire / Office of the American Fire Ins. Co. / South side of Walnut St. above 3 d. W.” (72 Walnut Street)<sup>31</sup> Siegel 820 January 18, 2000 lot 921. January 15, 2014 PFC 518785. Morris collection.
- (32) Undated; ladies envelope; local delivery; stamp tied by impression of six “dots” cancel. To: “Miss Lizzy Haines / 317 Arch S<sup>t</sup>.” Weiss 112 April 4, 1992 lot 3442. Ex Boker. Stimmell collection.
- (33) Undated; envelope; local delivery; four “dots” cancel. To: “Henry Atkinson / Cherry st 1 door above 10<sup>th</sup> north / side”. Corwin collection.

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<sup>30</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, page 350, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847 lists Samuel Townsend home at 101 Mulberry or Arch.

<sup>31</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, page 116, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847.



- (34) Undated; envelope; local delivery; four “dots” cancel. To: “Geo. W. Carpenter Eqr / 301 Market St / Philada”.<sup>32</sup> Stimmell collection.
- (35) Undated; ladies envelope; local delivery; stamp tied by impression of four “dots” cancel. To: “Mr. Wm. Jenks / Firm of Jenks & Ogden / No 106 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.”<sup>33</sup> Siegel June 25, 1953 lot 520, Burger Co.; Lowell Newman 11 January 25, 1994 lot 1163. Stimmell collection.
- (36) Undated; folded letter; local delivery; four “dots” cancel. To: “Charles A. Paulson J<sup>r</sup>. / Sch<sup>l</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup> above. Cherry”. Stimmel collection.
- (37) Undated; ladies envelope; (local delivery); four “dots” cancel. To: Unknown #3. Siegel 417 September 27, lot 1597.
- (38) Undated; fancy envelope; (local delivery); four “dots” cancel. To: Unknown #4. Lowe 3720 March 1, 1973 lot 1651, Patton. Lowe 3786 October 26, 1973 lot 1902. Ex Hollowbush.
- (39) Undated; envelope; local delivery; manuscript “Paid” cancel; dark green Blood’s advertising label. To: “The<sup>o</sup>. Biddle jr. Esq / 143 Walnut Street / Phila”. Siegel 723 April 27, 1990 lot 445. Shachat collection.
- (40) Undated; fancy envelope; (local delivery); four bar open grid cancel. To: “M<sup>r</sup> Geo. A Briedenhart / N<sup>o</sup> 15 South Front St / Philad.”. Lowe 3720 March 1, 1973 lot 1655, Hollowbush. Ex Harvey.<sup>34</sup>
- (41) Undated; ladies cover; (local delivery); two dots. To: Unknown #5 “Mr S-----  
-----”. Eastland Stamp Auctions 59 July 9, 1971 lot 418; HR Harmer 2165 November 13, 1973 lot 908.
- (A) May 11, (1849); (folded letter); outbound Virginia; uncanceled; blue Clarke Type 74a Philadelphia cds; Carters Despatch handstamp. To: “Mr Hugh B. Grigsby- / Roanoke bridge / Charlotte County / Virginia”. **WARNING** October 19, 2012 PFC 507687 “local stamp with small tear at left did not originate on this cover.”
- (B) Undated; ladies envelope; local delivery to District of Penn; tied by “extremely faint” red PAID cancel. To: “Miss Susan Wetherill / No. 5 Girard St / Philad<sup>th</sup>”. Wolffers 72 September 14, 1978 lot 468.

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<sup>32</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, page 51, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847.

<sup>33</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, page 173, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847.

<sup>34</sup> Personal email communication with Steve Roth on January 20, 2014.

(C) Undated; printed sheet; local delivery; uncanceled. To “Historical Society / of Pennsylvania / POST OFFICE”. Max Pool sale 273 February 28, 1966.

(D) Undated; (cover front); local delivery; uncanceled. To: Unknown #6. Siegel sale 285 March 31, 1965 lot 651.

### Excluded Covers

Two covers are frank counterfeits, and another two lack sufficient evidence to be included in the data base of 15L6 genuine on cover. The Philatelic Foundation determined in 2012 that the 15L6 stamp in census letter A did not originate on it's cover. Carter's circular datestamp confirmed service by Carters Despatch, *not* Blood & Co., as the two were mutually exclusive. Census letter B was addressed to the District of Penn (shown in **Figure 8**), which had a post office, but was also further north of Spring Garden. The Philadelphia to Penn District intercity route was clearly forbidden by the Postal Act of 1845.<sup>35</sup>

Census letters C and D each possess an uncanceled 15L6 stamp. Although an uncanceled stamp on cover is not sufficient by itself to exclude Blood & Co. service, further scrutiny, and support is warranted.<sup>36</sup> Unfortunately, both are also *undated*, which precludes support by contemporaneous 15L6 evidence. Furthermore, no collateral evidence of any type exists, such as Blood advertising labels, Blood stationary, or Blood & Co. manuscript notation on cover or contents. *Service* by Blood and Co. cannot be confirmed, and these two covers are currently withheld from evidence based data. If additional information becomes available, census letters C and D should be re-evaluated.

### 15L6 Photographic Census

All forty one examples have been identified, photographed, and posted on the Carriers and Locals Society website. Thirty three, for 80%, *are in color*. Eight are in black and white (census number 4, 10, 19, 22, 37, 38, 40, and 41).

Eight are only partial photographs (census number 10, 19, 21, 22, 30, 37, 38, and 41) without a useful address. Location of census number 19 has been independently identified elsewhere in the philatelic literature,<sup>37</sup> and included within parenthesis.

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<sup>35</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 38, 39.

<sup>36</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 31, 38.

<sup>37</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 2, 9, 10, 21.

### 15L6 Cover Data Base

Survival rate of covers during this period has been estimated by several respected scholars. The result is a wide range of surviving covers. Cal Hahn had always believed 4%,<sup>38</sup> which was used previously in this series. However, a 2% survival rate has been suggested by more than one research philatelist.<sup>39,40</sup> Estimates have been as high as 6%<sup>41</sup> and as low as 0.1%.<sup>42</sup> Most scholars are also quick to point out that survival rates are impossible to reliably calculate, as they vary by time period, Federal versus private stamps, and folded letter sheet versus envelope. The survival rate has been reconsidered, and a rate of 2% will be used in all future research. **Table I** lists the 15L6 Data Base. Assuming a 2% survival rate, 41 surviving genuine examples suggests an original population of greater than 2000.

### 15L6 Cover Type

**Table II** summarizes the various cover types bearing a 15L6 stamp. *Envelopes outnumber folded letters*, 16 to 14, and together account for 73% of the population. Eight circulars, two front panels, and one envelope piece fill out the balance.

On occasion, Blood & Co. adhesive stamps sealed the cover shut. Opening sometimes severed the stamp into two (census number 27). To the contrary, stamps sometimes fortuitously remained whole (two 15L5 examples).<sup>43</sup>

### 15L6 Service Time

Service time has been calculated from genuine dated covers. Of 41 covers, 23 provide some date information, 15 of which include the entire day, month, and year. However, 8 are incomplete, and require auxiliary markings and collateral information to determine a reasonable limited period of time of use. Countless Philadelphia circular datestamp cancels have been classified, and recently updated in 2012 by Tom Clarke, into respective time periods. Blood Handstamp Types have also been similarly classified. Both Clarke and Blood Handstamp types may be helpful in determining most probable years of service. Census numbers 13 and 23 can be reasonably dated to a single year, whereas census numbers 1, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22 can be reduced only as far as a two year period.

An 1846 beginning has been mentioned in the literature,<sup>44</sup> although 1847 has been designated in the Scott Catalog. Census number 1 was a year unspecified June 30th cover, accompanied by a government cds marking. In 2008 The Philatelic

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<sup>38</sup> Calvet M. Hahn, "The Beginning of Adhesive Postage in the U.S.," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 4, October 1995, pages 22.

<sup>39</sup> Richard Frajola personal email communication on January 4, 2014.

<sup>40</sup> Larry Lyons personal email communication on January 2, 2014.

<sup>41</sup> Gordon Stimmell personal email communication on January 3, 2014.

<sup>42</sup> Michael Gutman personal email communication on January 3, 2014 based upon Hales & Co.

<sup>43</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 24, 27, 49.

<sup>44</sup> Edward Harvey, "Blood's Despatch," *The Chronicle*, Vol. 41, No. 4, November 1989, Whole No. 144, page 242.



Foundation determined the stamp originated on that cover. The blue Philadelphia circular datestamp, Clarke Type 70, has been recorded from April 26, 1846 until January 29, 1847, suggesting this example was June 30, 1846. On the other hand, the 15L6 evidence based data revealed a cluster of the other 40 examples, starting on August 6, 1847, 13 months later! Therefore, June 30, 1846 is an *unreasonable* early “far outlier” by 13 months. Alternatively, a more likely June 30, 1847 makes the



**Figure 3.** The earliest recorded 15L6 cover by far was June 30, (1846-47) addressed to New York. 1847 conservatively selected for this study, since 1846 is statistically too far of an early “outlier.” Cancelled by “connected dots.”



**Figure 4.** The latest recorded 15L6 was September 8, (1849), census number 23, outbound to Burlington, NJ. The blue Philadelphia circular datestamp is Clarke Type 74a1 (high final period). Cancelled by two strikes of the grid handstamp in open circle.

blue cds a new latest recorded date in 1847, but a *reasonable* “outlier” by only five months. The group of Clarke Type 70 cds recorded data and remaining group of 15L6 evidence *do not intersect or overlap*. Just as nature avoids a vacuum, philatelic logic gravitates toward the smaller 5 month rather than 13 month outlying example as if the smaller gap is a “black hole.” Given a data base of 40 other examples, the statistical probability of census number 1 during 1847 and immediately before, rather than one year earlier in 1846, is ten times more likely.<sup>45</sup> Also, as a rule of thumb, whenever given year uncertainty during early service, the *earlier of two years should not be assumed*, and the later choice selected as the default to preclude a manufactured incorrect earliest recorded date. The conservative **earliest recorded 15L6 was June 30, (1847), Figure 3.**<sup>46</sup>

Although latest dates are predictably difficult, late 1849 appears most likely. Census number 21 was October 24th (1848-9). Census number 22 did not include a day or month, but was described in a Siegel catalog as 1848. However, it bears a probably non contemporaneous “1849” pencil marking, and therefore, the year is uncertain and us listed in parenthesis (1848-9). Census number 23 is more credible, and conservatively considered the latest use based upon current knowledge. Philadelphia cds Clarke Type 74a1 has been recorded from March 8, 1849 until August 23, 1849. Not only is 1849 the most likely year, this example extends the recorded Clarke period by only two weeks, and therefore, a new latest recorded Clarke Type 74a1. Although 1849 service for census numbers 21, 22, and 23 is not impossible, given year uncertainty during late service, the later of two years should not be *assumed*. The earlier choice should not be selected as the *default*, so as not to manufacture a potentially incorrect latest recorded date. The conservative **latest recorded 15L6 cover was no earlier than September 8, 1849, Figure 4.**

The median date of the 23 covers is very late December 1847. Volume by year is demonstrated in **Figure 5**. The 15L6 timeline of dated evidence is demonstrated by the bar graph in **Figure 6**. Twenty three dated 15L6 covers span over **26 1/4 months**. No 15L6 period has been identified as exclusive Blood & Co. sale or service. During the 15L6 “philatelic lifespan” other Blood & Co. stamps had always been simultaneously sold and/or in service (unlike the two predecessor stamps). The longest possible 15L6 “philatelic lifespan” of 40 months is derived from accepting the earliest possible date (census number 1) of June 30, 1846 until the latest possible date (census number 21) of October 24, 1849.

The latest dated *outbound* 15L6 example of *certain* year date was December 29, 1847 (census number 11). Four subsequent outbound letters, year uncertain, have been identified (census numbers 15, 19, 20, and 21). The latest possible cover, census number 21, was outbound to unknown state.

### 15L6 Service Location

Of 41 examples, the final geographical destination of *37 are known*, of which 90% are summarized in **Table III**. Four destinations are entirely unknown

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<sup>45</sup> Email communication on February 27, 2014 from statistician Elizabeth Hudak, PhD.

<sup>46</sup> Robson Lowe, “Philadelphia Local Posts,” *The Chronicle*, Vol. 28, No. 2, Whole No. 90, May 1976, pages 86-77 reported the earliest on October 17, 1847.



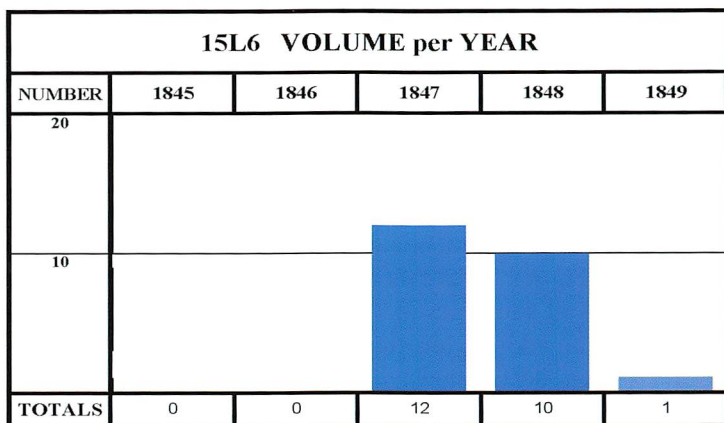


Figure 5. Volume of 15L6 covers per year. At least one in 1849, census number 23. Census number 1 is conservatively assigned to 1847.

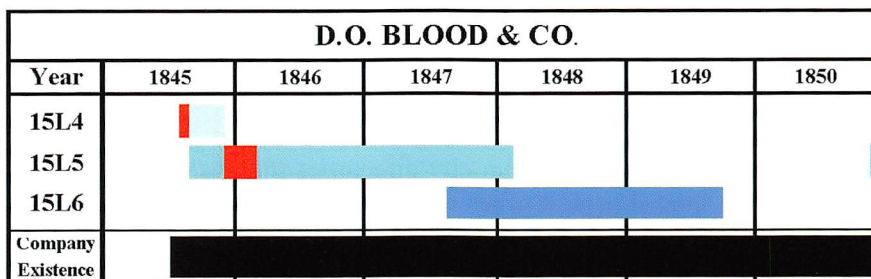


Figure 6. Reasonable conservative “philatelic lifespan” of Blood & Co. “striding messenger” stamps included 15L6 at 26.25 months; from June 30, 1847 until September 8, 1849. Exclusive periods of sale and service are highlighted in red, although did not apply for 15L6.

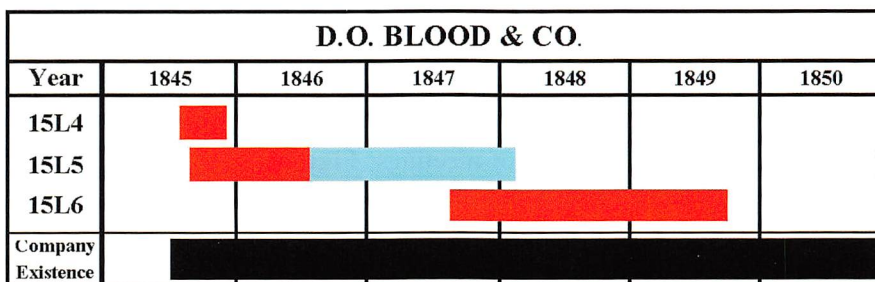


Figure 7. Time periods which included outbound letters are shown in red. Blue in various shades for each stamp design, indicates “city letters” only.



(census numbers 30, 37, 38, and 41), and are listed at “Unknown” address in the data base. A fifth without address (census number 21), shows a government “10” cent cds, was clearly outbound *and* probably out of state.

Of the 37 *known* destinations, 27 were **local**, 73%. Of the 27 known local door deliveries, 24 were in the city of Philadelphia, and only 3 to *adjacent districts* (census number 14, 24, and 27), one of which surprisingly had a post office! Census number 27 was *strangely* delivered by Blood & Co. to the forbidden Spring Garden side of the Vine Street boundary, identical to a 15L5 example.<sup>47</sup> Both to the same recipient! The map in **Figure 8** reveals the 27 locations. Because the old city of Philadelphia renumbered all addresses in 1854<sup>48</sup> the Pennsylvania Historical Society has assisted and verified all address locations.

Of the 37 *known* destinations, 10 were *outbound*, 27%, collected from Blood’s boxes, and delivered to the Philadelphia post office for inter-city mail. Coincidentally, the earliest and latest 15L6 covers were outbound letters, **Figure 7**. Some respected scholars for understandable reasons had believed that 15L6 was never, or rarely, used for outbound letters.<sup>49,50</sup>

Only one inbound example had been “bootlegged” and hand carried into Philadelphia outside of the government mail system and given to Blood & Co. for local delivery. Census number 18 originated in New Jersey.

Several addresses listed in both **Table I** and the Descriptive Census were determined with the aid of supplemental information which is found in parenthesis. Helpful information was obtained from city directories (census numbers 12, 14, 17, 18, 24, 29, 31, 34, and 35), and other contemporaneous correspondence (census numbers 19, and 22).

### 15L6 Correspondence

In any philatelic census some addressees may have received more than one example. **Table I** census reveals *three* different correspondences. Two were Philadelphia, and one New York.

Six of seven 15L6 addressed to George Carpenter (census numbers 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 16, and 34) were business circulars, with no street address provided. For simplicity, the map in **Figure 8** represents a given correspondence by the earliest respective census number only, but in larger font. George Carpenter<sup>51</sup> was a Director for the Philadelphia Rail Road<sup>52</sup> and received numerous circulars via Blood & Co. typically informing Board Directors of meetings, **Figure 9**. Two 15L6 Philadelphia covers were addressed to Smethurst (census numbers 17 and 22). Another two were

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<sup>47</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 26, 32, 36, 39, 54, 55.

<sup>48</sup> *Philadelphia / A 300 Year History*, Norton & Co, New York, 1982, page 375.

<sup>49</sup> Robson Lowe, *Basel U.S.A.1 / Local and Carrier Posts*, March 1, 1973, page 30.

<sup>50</sup> Steven M. Roth, “Blood’s Despatch Revisited,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 1, No. 4, November 1991, page 8.

<sup>51</sup> *National Gazette*, October 6, 1832, page 2.

<sup>52</sup> *North American and United States Gazette*, January 17, 1852, Volume LXX, Issue 18352.

addressed to New York, and Wm B Hudson on Third Ave (census numbers 8 and 11).<sup>53</sup>

“Correspondence” other than number of letters also exists for a significant person as sender, such as Daniel Blood himself (census number is 26).

### 15L6 Cancel Types

The data base of 15L6 cancellations as summarized in **Table IV**, demonstrate that all 41 covers, *100%, were cancelled*. *83% were manuscript*, by far the most common, on 34 of 41. Manuscript markings were invariably located on the left side of the stamp, generally at and above the midline, **always in the left upper quadrant**. Manuscript “X” was the most common, present on 17, and shown in **Figure 13**. “Group of dots” cancelled 9 examples. Also, variations of “X” occurred, such as penstroke with dots, **Figure 9**, and “connected dots,” shown in **Figure 3**.

Handstamp cancellations accounted for 7 examples, only 13%. Grid handstamps made their appearance for the first time, and are found on six 15L6 (census number 8, 18, 19, 22, 23, and 40). The **earliest grid was December 8, 1847, Figure 10, which was also the earliest recorded grid cancel for any type of Blood adhesive stamp**. The seventh 15L6 handstamped example (census number 12) was Bloods Handstamp Type 7, on a December 29, 1847 cover (earliest recorded Type 7 by eight weeks), **Figure 11**. Moreover, **Figures 10 and 11** are the same New York correspondence during the same month. A slow transition from manuscript to handstamp grid cancel occurred during early 1848. One example was struck twice by the grid cancel (census number 23). No red “PAID” handstamp cancels have been identified on 15L6. “PAID” was present in each of the five previous articles, but on a very limited basis.

Cancellation was intended to prevent reuse. The primary purpose of 15L5 and 15L6 was Philadelphia city delivery, where reuse was tempting and quite feasible. After all, what good was a Blood & Co. stamp in New York? Not surprising that 100% of 15L6 stamps were cancelled, even greater than 15L5 at 90%.<sup>54</sup>

### 15L6 Cover Auxiliary Markings

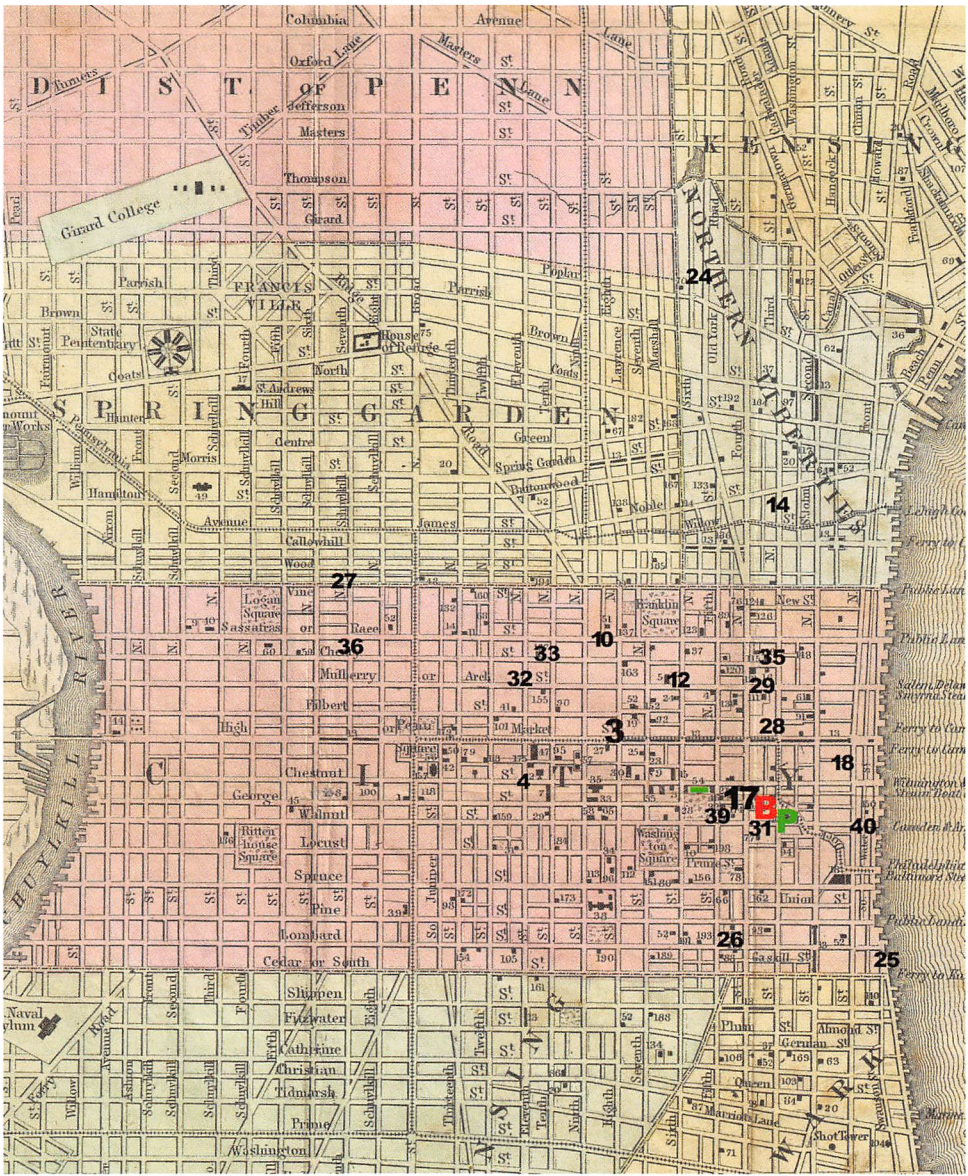
Auxiliary markings provide additional postal information regarding handling and delivery. In the context of private posts, all markings not intended to prevent reuse of the private post stamp have been considered auxiliary markings, both manuscript and handstamp, by government or private post. More than one marking may appear on a single cover. **Table V** identified 10 covers (all outbound) with 14 auxiliary markings. Ten of those markings were Philadelphia circular datestamps, shown in **Figures 3, 4, and 10**. Two handstamp markings were government “PAID” in lozenge (census number 2, and 20). Two manuscript markings also exist (census number 19, and 20).

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<sup>53</sup> Unlisted in John Doggett, *The New York City Directory for 1842 and 1843*, pp.166; New York, 1842.

<sup>54</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 32, 33, and 37.





**Figure 8. Contemporary map identifies the door delivery locations of 15L6 “city letters.” Northern Liberties received two, and Spring Garden one. Red capital “B” locates Blood & Co. principle office. Green capital “P” locates the Philadelphia post office; matching green rectangle is the State House (Independence Hall).**



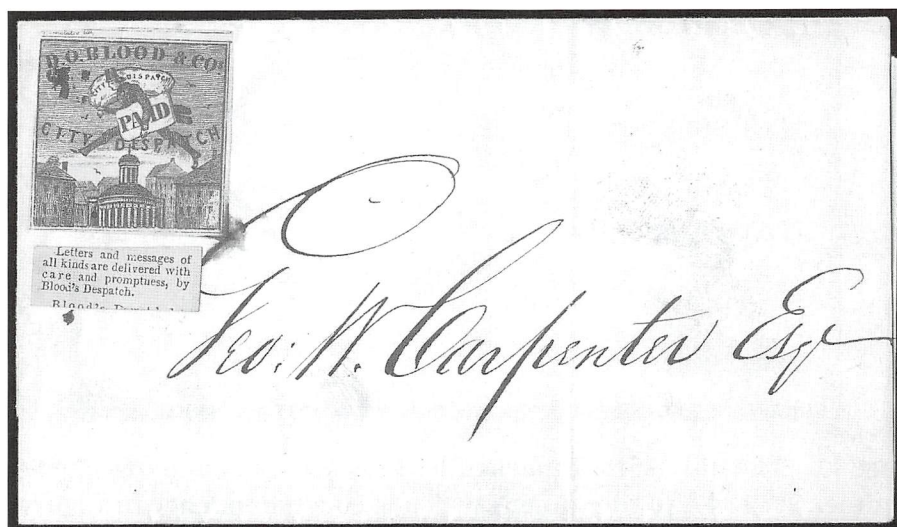


Figure 9. October 4, 1847 circular addressed to George Carpenter is census number 3. The earliest of a correspondence of seven is represented in large font on the map in Figure 8. The address smear may have been caused by adding a stamp on fresh ink, and some ink was absorbed by the corner of the stamp. Cancelled by “penstroke and dots.”

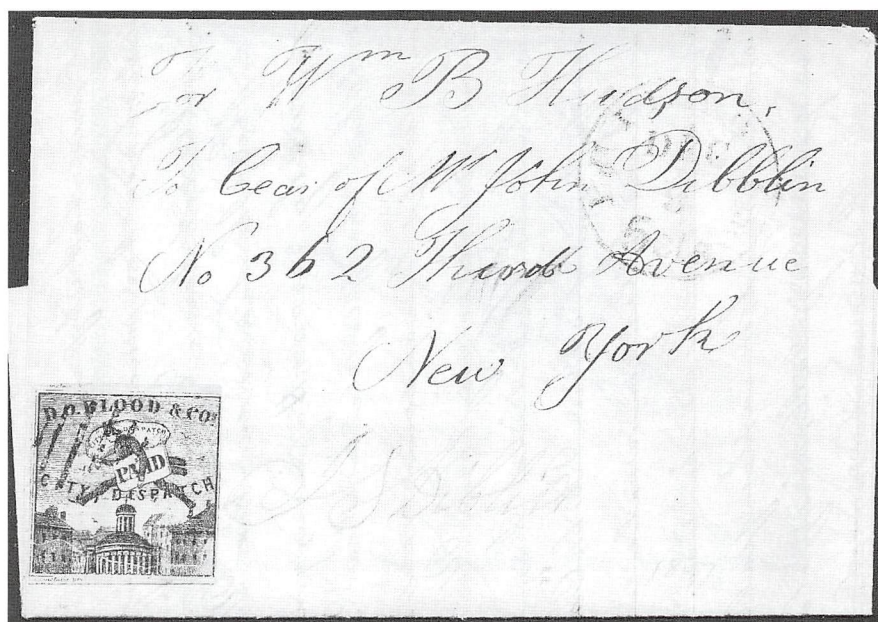


Figure 10. The earliest grid cancel on 15L6 cover was December 8, 1847. Census number 8 is also the earliest grid cancel for all Blood & Co. stamps.



### 15L6 Tied to Cover

**Table VI** reveals how few 15L6 stamps were tied to their cover. Of 41 covers only 7 were *tied with certainty*, about 17%, all by manuscript! Five of them were tied by the manuscript address. *Fresh ink bleeding into the stamp from the address underneath, or written over the stamp confirms likely contemporaneous handwriting and stamp application* (census number 2, 3, 7, 9, and 29) best demonstrated in **Figure 9**. “X” cancel extended from the stamp onto only one cover (census number 24); and once by manuscript numeral “5” postal rate (census number 19). No Philadelphia post office circular handstamp markings tied the stamp (unlike 15L3).

Three examples might have been *possibly tied* by “impression” of dot cancel (census number 15, 32, and 35) into the cover.

### Notices

Circulars or printed notices serviced by 15L6 totaled 8 of 41, for about 20% of the data base (13% of 15L5). The vast majority were circulars from the Carpenter correspondence. Blood promoted door delivery of bills, business notices, advertisements, and printed circulars.<sup>55</sup>

### Envelopes

For the first time in this series, *envelopes were more common* than any other cover type. Pre-folded envelopes did not become commercially available until mid 1845.<sup>56</sup> The first 15L6 on envelope was not until January 5, (1848) (census number 13). Unfortunately, most philatelic envelopes do not include the dated letter contents.

### 15L6 Valentines

No valentine envelopes or valentine enclosures have been identified in the 15L6 data base. Of 23 dated covers, only one is February 14th (census number 17), but an unlikely valentine since addressed to attorney Richard Smethurst Esq. However, two undated small “ladies covers” may be candidates as they are addressed to unmarried females (census numbers 29 and 32).

### Blood Advertising Labels

Colorful labels on cover appeared in early July 1847.<sup>57</sup> **Table VII** identified 14 covers, or 33%, displaying 18 advertising labels. Four covers possessed two labels each, such as **Figure 12** (census number 7). Green was most common followed by blue. The earliest label on 15L6 cover was October 4, 1847 (census number 3), **Figure 9**. The latest was December 1847 (census number 12).

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<sup>55</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 34, 38, 48.

<sup>56</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, page 34.

<sup>57</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, page 34.



Advertising labels sometimes sealed folded letters, as shown in **Figure 12**, subject to be torn and destroyed upon opening (similar to 15L5, census number 51).

### 15L6 Government Combinations

Combination of Blood & Co. with general issue government stamps was not possible of course until July 1, 1847, the first day of issue for government prepayment stamps. Within five weeks, on August 6, 1847, was the singular 15L6 in combination with a five cent 1847 government general issue, shown in **Figure 13** (census number 2). Both stamps were applied before deposit into a Blood & Co. collection box, for delivery to the Philadelphia post office and outbound government mail to New Haven, CT. The 1847 stamp is clearly tied to the cover by a blue Philadelphia post office “PAID” in lozenge. 15L6 reveals very faint, but clearly discernible “bleeding through” of ink from the underlying manuscript address, indicating concurrent address handwriting while ink was still fresh for application of the moistened adhesive stamp. Of all four types of striding messenger stamps only one other combination with a government stamp has been identified, a 15L5 which has not been examined in public for almost 50 years.<sup>58</sup>

### Forbidden

“Blood’s Part 3: 15L3” identified several covers delivered by the Philadelphia Despatch Post to districts just outside the old city.<sup>59</sup> “Blood’s Part 4: 15L4,” reviewed the temptation for Blood & Co. immediately following the postal Act of 1845 to survive on “easy prey” in remote and less populated areas.<sup>60</sup> “Blood’s Part 5: 15L5” confirmed Kensington and Spring Garden were clearly forbidden since they each had an active United States post office,<sup>61</sup> but Northern Liberties and Southwark were indeed eligible for local service by any Philadelphia private post, further confirmed by two 15L6 examples (census number 14, and 24), **Figure 14**. By March 1848 Blood & Co.’s prowess established letter *collection boxes* in Northern Liberties and Southwark.<sup>62</sup>

**Figure 15** is a 15L6 cover (census number 27) interestingly addressed to “N.W. Corner Schl 7 & Vine.” *Clearly on the north side of Vine*, technically inside the Spring Garden District in the domain of the government postal service, but wrongfully delivered by Blood & Co. Furthermore, not an isolated mistake! A 15L5 cover mentioned earlier was addressed to the same location and same recipient, “Mssrs Rosengarten & Denis,” albeit an ambiguous address, “Schl 7th & Vine Sts,”

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<sup>58</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 27, 34, 35, 51.

<sup>59</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 3: 15L3,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, page 55, 57.

<sup>60</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 4: 15L4,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, page 57, 63.

<sup>61</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pg 35, 36, 52.

<sup>62</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 35, 36, 52.



Figure 13. The single example of 15L6 in combination with 1847 five cent government general issue was August 6, 1847. Private post stamp cancelled by manuscript X, and faintly tied by address. Government stamp tied by PAID in lozenge.

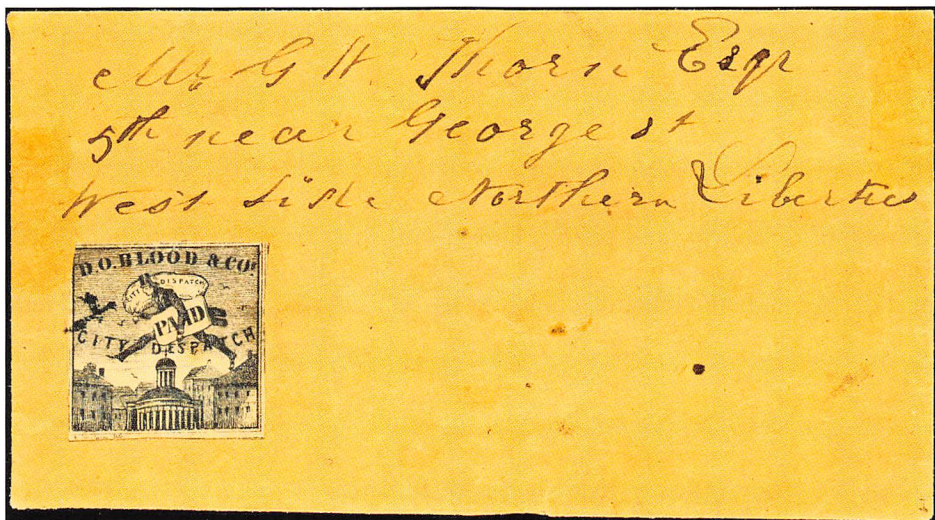


Figure 14. One of only two 15L6 covers addressed to Northern Liberties. This undated example is also the only 15L6 tied by manuscript "X" to it's cover.



delivered by Blood & Co. on May 20, 1847.<sup>63</sup> The same corner, each given in an original alternate Philadelphia numbering system oriented for the western part of the old city. Counting began from the Schuylkill river as Schuylkill 1<sup>st</sup>, rather than typically counting from the Delaware river and Front (First) Street<sup>64</sup> toward the Schuylkill River ending at today's 23rd street. The 15L5 example (census number 26) was given latitude that Blood & Co. perhaps "didn't know any better," and took license because of address ambiguity, to justify an "inappropriate" delivery. However, this 15L6 example was clearly addressed to the *north west corner* of Vine Street, quite descriptive, explicit, and Spring Garden specific. Blood & Co. *must* have known better with the 15L6 cover, and very possibly aware and prepared from the 15L5 example, and perhaps other covers. Without a doubt Blood & Co. was illegally pushing the Act of 1845 into forbidden territory. **Figure 16**<sup>65</sup> is the earliest identified Blood & Co.'s newspaper statement regarding their boundaries, and provides an *admission by Blood & Co. as early as January 7, 1846 that Spring Garden was excluded*. Apparently, Blood & Co. did not always comply with the law. Philadelphia population growth by mid century was greater *north* of Vine Street.<sup>66</sup>

### Volume - Time Analysis

**Figure 17** is an analysis of 15L6 volume over time. **Table I** identified 41 genuine examples of 15L6 on cover, and based upon 23 dated covers conservatively ranged 26.3 months. 18 undated examples are *assumed* to have been in service during the dated "philatelic lifespan" derived from the subset of 23. Therefore, forty one 15L6 covers during 26.3 months was 1.56 covers per month, approximating 15L5, at 1.77 covers per month.<sup>67</sup> Due to its longevity 15L6 stamps overlapped several other Blood & Co. stamp types, precluding a 15L6 "exclusive period" (unlike 15L4 and 15L5).<sup>68</sup>

### City Letters

"City letters" were collected *and* delivered within the old city and nearby eligible districts. This **three step process** involved: (1) messenger *pick up* from a huge number of collection boxes; (2) *sorting* at the principal office; and (3) door *delivery* to a vast number of specific addressee locations. City letters were more labor intensive and undoubtedly a more costly service compared to outbound letters.

<sup>63</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 26, 36, 52, 54, 55.

<sup>64</sup> *Philadelphia / A 300 Year History*, Norton & Co, New York, 1982, page 312.

<sup>65</sup> *Public Ledger* newspaper, Vol. XX, No. 90, page 2.

<sup>66</sup> *Philadelphia / A 300 Year History*, Norton & Co., New York, 1982, page 360.

<sup>67</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 37, 53.

<sup>68</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 31, 44.



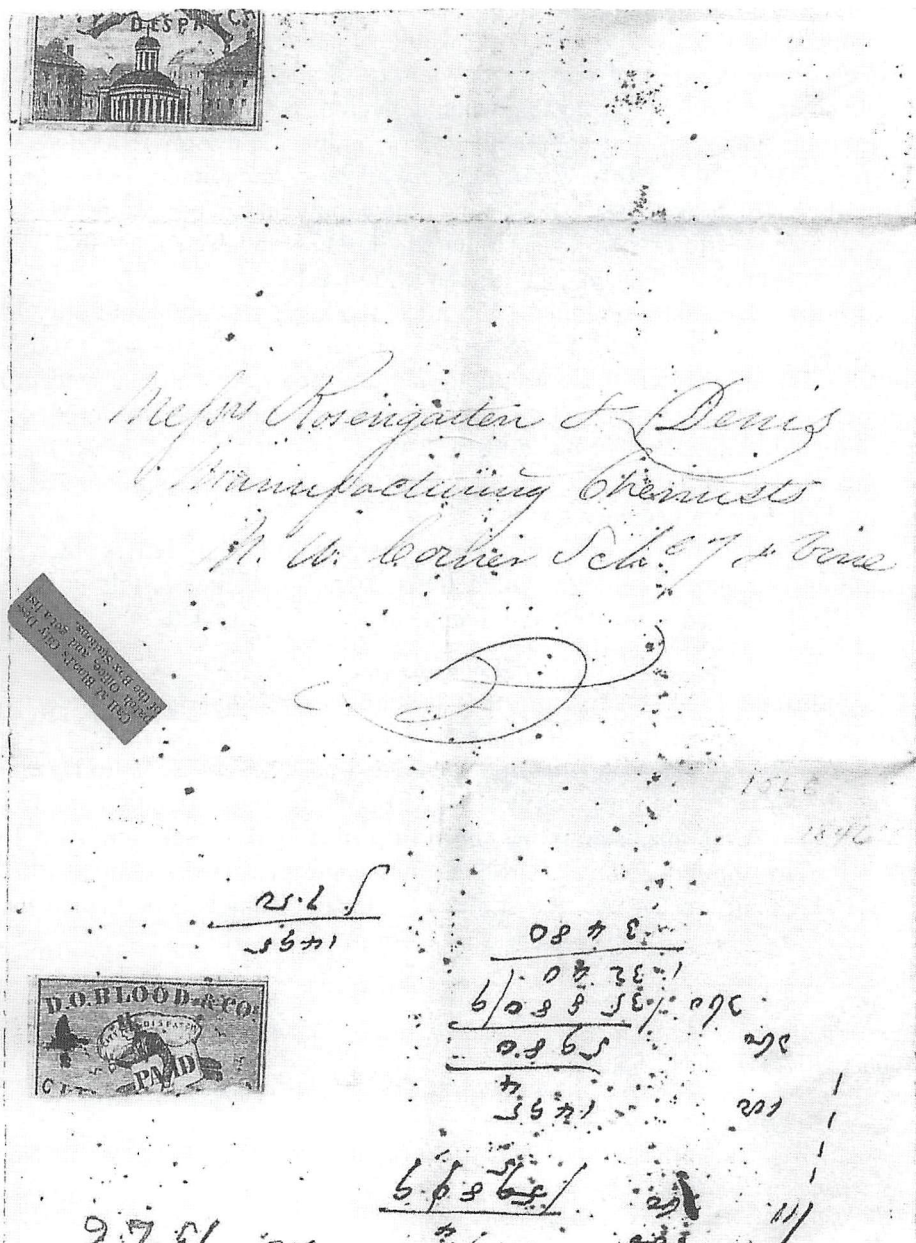


Figure 15. An undated cover clearly addressed to the north side of Vine Street and illegal “city letter” to Spring Garden. The 15L6 adhesive stamp sealed the cover and severed in half upon opening.

“To the Mails” letters were all delivered to a single address, the Philadelphia post office, and simply across the street from the Blood & Co. office.<sup>69</sup>

By the end of their first week of business, July 7, 1845, D.O. Blood, & Co. had announced their “City Despatch Post” would “receive and deliver letters, papers, and parcels from any part of the city or vicinity to another with promptness and despatch...postage *three cents*, payable when delivered...or *25 cents per dozen*...”<sup>70</sup>

Within one year, and apparently effective June 1, 1846,<sup>71</sup> Blood & Co’s service for a single letter was *reduced to 2 cents*. This was announced in newspapers by July 14, 1846, **Figure 18**.<sup>72</sup> Pre-paid volume purchasing of stamps was also reduced further to *20 cents a dozen*, although this has not been identified yet by available newspapers until December 13, 1847, **Figure 19**.<sup>73</sup>

**Figure 17** reveals combined 15L5 and 15L6 covers total 93, but only 17 of which are confirmed outbound, for 18%. As many as *82% of 15L5 and 15L6 were city letters*. Taken together, these few outbound examples are not restricted to any certain period of time, but instead are identified throughout much of the 15L5 and 15L6 combined philatelic lifespan, **Figure 7**. It appears that a *few slipped through* from time to time, unfortunately provided for a *cheaper service*, perhaps resulting from expedience or convenience.

Cancellation to prevent reuse was more important for city letters since reuse was tempting and very feasible in Philadelphia, while rather impossible in or from other cities, which had received Bloods stamps on their inbound letters.

### Theory

15L6 (and 15L5) stamps serviced primarily city letters, as declared by its major design change adding “CITY DESPATCH.” This term conveys a *local Philadelphia city letter service*, a name which dated back several years to December 1842 and the Philadelphia Despatch Post.<sup>74</sup> Also, during most of 1845 a red 32 mm “CITY DESPATCH” handstamp has been recorded and present on two 15L3 covers.<sup>75,76</sup> The famous giant “striding messenger” carried a huge “CITY DESPATCH” mail sack. At the time of sale to Daniel Blood, newspaper

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<sup>69</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 4: 15L4,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 45, 46.

<sup>70</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 4: 15L4,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, page 42.

<sup>71</sup> Robson Lowe, “Philadelphia Local Posts,” *The Chronicle*, Vol. 28, No. 2, Whole No. 90, May 1976, page 86.

<sup>72</sup> *Public Ledger* newspaper, Vol. XXIII, No. 68, page 2.

<sup>73</sup> *Public Ledger* newspaper, Vol. XXIV, No 68, page 3.

<sup>74</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 1: 15L2,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 82, No. 1, January 2013, Whole No. 82, page 27.

<sup>75</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 3: 15L3,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 51, 57, 58, 60.

<sup>76</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Robertson and The City Despatch,” *The Chronicle*, Vol. 54, No. 3, August 2002, Whole No. 195, pages 177-182.

<sup>77</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 3: 15L3,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 35, 37, 39, 40.

**THE CITY DESPATCH POST** continues to take  
**LETTERS, SMALL PARCELS, &c**, to any part  
of the City, and all the Districts except Ken-  
ington and Spring Garden *Delivery twice each day*  
Single letters, 3 cents, payable on delivery.  
**PAID STAMPS** are for sale at the office, for 25 cts  
per dozen, each of which secures the delivery of a  
letter or small parcel to any part of Northern Liberties,  
Southwark, Mayamensing or the city.  
**D O BLOOD & CO,**  
at 13521 10th St. 1-8 Third St. above Girard Bank

Figure 16. Blood & Co announced in the January 7, 1847 newspapers an admission of no delivery to Spring Garden of Kensington.

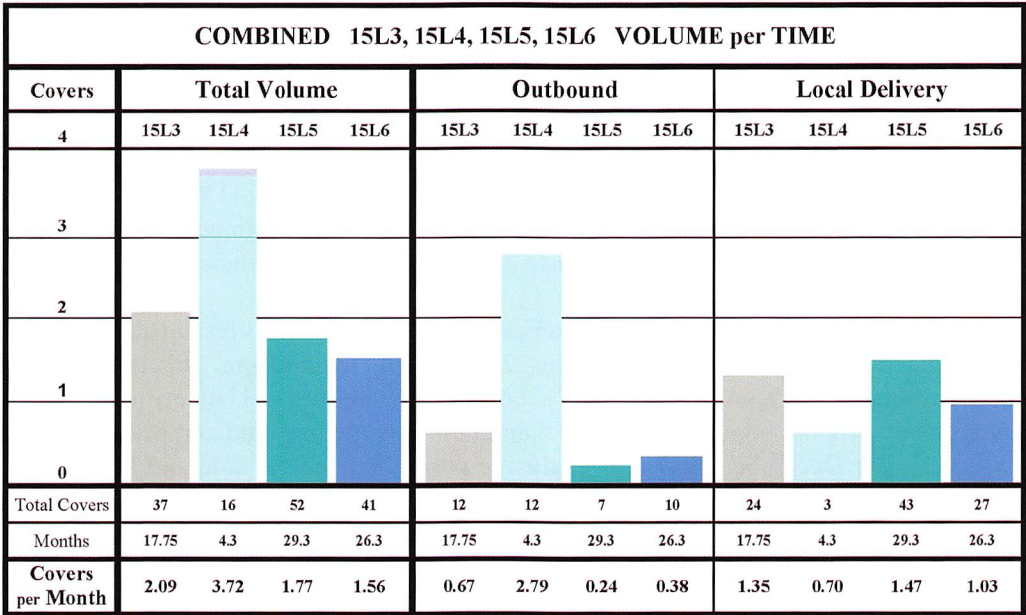


Figure 17. Volume over time for all four “striding messenger” stamps. Calculated in Total covers at left, and subdivided into either outbound and “city letters.”



advertisements immediately referred to his “CITY DESPATCH POST,”<sup>78</sup> with many *city* letter boxes. Paradoxically, during Blood & Co.’s initial few months selling temporary “provisional” 15L4 stamps the new business seemed to survive largely due to *outbound* service.<sup>79</sup>

The two added words across the middle in *large* capital letters “CITY DESPATCH,” however, were a *different style, without serifs*, and not bold, compared to the company name “D.O.BLOOD & CO.<sup>80</sup>” “CITY DESPATCH,” was a clarifying phrase functioning as an *adjective*, rather than a noun as would be expected if the formal company name had intended to be expanded.

Although Blood & Co. respected the postal Act of 1845, they had been clearly tempted to expand their business into the underserved and growing northern districts. Northern Liberties, Southwark, and Moyamensing, were clearly eligible as documented in newspapers and surviving covers. But, after July 1, 1845, *not* Kensington or Spring Garden, because of their post office. Two Spring Garden examples, however, have documented illegal Blood & Co. delivery.

### 15L6 Summary

**Forty-one genuine 15L6 stamps on cover** have provided the evidence for a substantial data base. Undoubtedly, in the future more examples and/or further information will become available. Images of all 41 genuine and 3 of the excluded covers are posted on the Carrier & Locals website.<sup>80</sup> The major design change from the preceding 15L5 stamp headed by “D.O.BLOOD & CO.”<sup>81</sup> was the addition of British version “CITY DESPATCH” in *large capital letters, but without either serifs or bold font*, across the middle of the stamp. Minor changes involved the mail sack, by deleting “POST,” converting to *the American* version “CITY DISPATCH,” and small *uniform* capital letters without serifs. 15L6 is the fourth and final striding messenger stamp, and the only one to *use both Despatch and Dispatch* in one design in small *uniform* capital letters.

The most reasonable but conservative 15L6 philatelic lifespan determined from dated evidence is a period over **26 months from June 30, 1847 until September 8, 1849**. Assuming a 2% cover survival rate, 41 identified covers suggests an original population greater than 2000. The median date and peak volume was very late December 1847. No exclusive period existed for sale and service of 15L6.

The **great majority were city letters** as the new stamp design name suggested. “City letters” were labor intensive and more costly, requiring a three step process to collect, sort, and door deliver to a vast number of Philadelphia address locations. By the mid-1850’s the geographically much larger Philadelphia was the fourth most populous city in the Western World, well behind London and Paris, close to New York (Manhattan), and greater than Brooklyn.<sup>81</sup> Two covers were

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<sup>78</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 4: 15L4,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 40, 41, 42.

<sup>79</sup> Vernon Morris Jr MD, “Bloods Part 4: 15L4,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 54, 56, 57, 66.

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.pennypost.org/>

<sup>81</sup> *Philadelphia / A 300 Year History*, Norton & Co., New York, 1982, page 363.

addressed to the eligible growing population in Northern Liberties. One example, however, was illegally delivered to Spring Garden District, which *did* have a post office and clearly violated the postal Act of 1845.

Just over **25% of the covers were outbound**, easily and inexpensively delivered across the street to the United States post office. Government *auxiliary markings appear on all 10* outbound covers.

**All 41 covers were cancelled**, as would behoove Blood & Co., since the great majority of recipients were located in or near the old city, where reuse was tempting and very feasible. **All cancels are located in the left upper quadrant.** Well over 80% were by manuscript, in various forms of pen stroke, “X” and “dots.” **Grid handstamp cancels appeared in late 1847.** The earliest recorded Blood & Co. stamp of any type cancelled by grid, was a 15L6, on December 8, 1847. Only 7 of 42 cancellations, just over **16%, tied** the 15L6 stamp to its cover.

For the first time in this series, *envelopes were more common* than folded letter sheets. Although no valentine covers or enclosures were identified, evidence demonstrated almost **20% were business circulars. Advertising labels were present on 33%**, sometimes two labels per cover.

During 1846 and 1847 Blood & Co. postal service became further specialized. The company delivered letters to the nearby districts of Northern Liberties and Southwark, and by 1848 had established collection boxes there. Blood & Co. prowess even dared illegal entry into Spring Garden. Business volume was maintained and local delivery flourished. Blood & Co was on the threshold of serving an exploding Philadelphia population and business boom.<sup>82,83</sup>

### Scott Catalog Numbering

Chronologically sequential Scott numbering for 15L4, 15L5, 15L6, and 15L7 has been supported by each respective data base. The respective *inaugural year* has also been confirmed for 15L3 in 1843, and 15L4 in 1845. Scott Catalog 15L6 is also confirmed in 1847, via a *conservative* assessment of the earliest recorded example.<sup>84</sup>

However, three 15L5 covers have been recorded during late 1845, but listed by Scott starting in 1846.<sup>85</sup> Scott Catalog should strongly consider 15L5 listed as 1845.

### Striding Messenger “Mini Series” Summary

The famous striding messenger graced four different adhesive stamps. No image better symbolized the competitive private post **spirit and service** with more power and elegance. The design was created by the Philadelphia Despatch Post for

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<sup>82</sup> *Philadelphia / A 300 Year History*, Norton & Co., New York, 1982, page 366.

<sup>83</sup> W.Otis Blood, Sr., “Recollections of Blood’s Despatch Post,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, page 6.

<sup>84</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney, Ohio, pages 544, 545.

<sup>85</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 23, 30, 41, 44, 54, 55.

15L3, the **world's first pictorial stamp**.<sup>86</sup> That historic image served as the template for three subsequent Blood & Co's adhesive stamps, 15L4, 15L5, and 15L6. **Figure 20** shows the evolution of the four stamp designs. The earliest recorded was 15L3 on **October 10, 1843**.<sup>87</sup> The "philatelic lifespan" was active and continuous for **6 years** until at least **September 8, (1849)** with 15L6. Furthermore, a 15L5 "far outlier" on **December 7, (1850)**<sup>88</sup> may extend the series legacy to over seven years!

The temporary "provisional" second striding messenger stamp, 15L4, was Blood & Co's first and only manuscript validated stamp. The third striding messenger stamp, 15L5, was created by adding the company name "**D.O.BLOOD & CO.**" in *bold* capital letters across the top. The 15L6 fourth and final striding messenger stamp major change was the addition of a British term "**CITY DESPATCH**" across the mid section of the stamp in large capital letters, but *not bold* and of a different font style and without serifs.

The messenger's mail sack for the first three stamps (15L3, 15L4, and 15L5) displayed "**CITY DESPATCH / POST**" in a peculiar *variable font size*, strangely appearing like a modern day computer security hologram sketch. Only the fourth design, 15L6, deleted "POST" from the mail sack, converted to the American term "**CITY DISPATCH**," with serifs deleted. The spelling distinction and *varying* font size of "**CITY DESPATCH / POST**" has not been previously reviewed in the philatelic literature.

The fourth style is therefore the only striding messenger, the *only Blood stamp of any type*, and *perhaps the only local post stamp*, which oddly included both "**CITY DESPATCH**" and "**CITY DISPATCH**" in the same stamp design.

15L6 has brought linguistics to the attention of philatelists. The term "Despatch" is not part of our modern lexicon, and philatelic neophytes may suspect an old timer spelling error. However, from a cloud of confusion shines a ray of sunlight, surprisingly upon forgeries. The Scott Catalog warns "Dangerous counterfeits exist of Nos. 15L3-15L6".<sup>89</sup> Although stamp varieties and forgeries are not in the scope of these articles, the author submits that *virtually all forgeries of the first three striding messenger design types, 15L3, 15L4, and 15L5 can be easily determined by a mail sack inscribed "DISPATCH"*.<sup>90</sup> Genuine 15L3, 15L4, and 15L5 display "DESPATCH" and only "DESPATCH," consistently British in variable sized fonts. Conversely, of the four genuine striding messenger types, only 15L6 shows "DISPATCH" on the mail sack.

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<sup>86</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 57, 62, 63.

<sup>87</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 41, 46, 47, 49, 50, 57.

<sup>88</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 27, 30, 36, 44, 47, 56, 57.

<sup>89</sup> Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney, Ohio, page 545.

<sup>90</sup> Larry Lyons, *The Identifier For Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries & Bogus Posts Of The United States, Volume 1*, pages 90-106, Larry Lyons, 1998.



**LETTERS, PAPERS and SMALL PARCELS**  
 are taken *three times a day* to all parts of the City and  
 Districts south of this line for **TWO CENTS EACH.**  
*Hours of delivery, 7 and 10 A. M. and 3 P. M.*  
**CITY DESPATCH OFFICE,**  
 13 South THIRD St.  
**N B—All persons sending letters will please no-**  
**tice that the boxes have the name of D. O. BLOOD**  
**& CO on them in large letters** 1511-11

Figure 18. After one year in business, the price for a single stamp was reduced from three to two cents, as announced in the July 14, 1846 in the Public Ledger.

**BLOOD'S DESPATCH! BLOOD'S DESPATCH!**  
 Letters are taken three times a day.  
 At 7 and 10 o'clock forenoon and 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> afternoon.  
 Two cents each, sender or receiver pays.  
 Boxes in the stores to all parts of the city.  
 Stamps, for pre-payment, 20 cts. a dozen.  
 Blood & Co's name on all the boxes  
 Office, 48 S. 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> st., above Girard Bank. d11-t.n.y.15

Figure 19. Volume purchase of one dozen stamps was also reduced from 25 to 20 stamps.

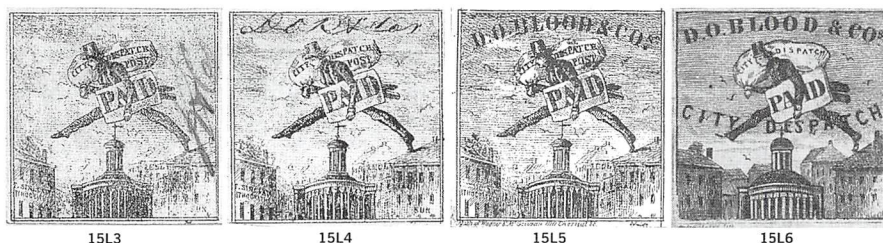


Figure 20. The four “striding messenger” stamp designs, in chronological order, left to right.

Manuscript validation appeared *on all* 15L3 and 15L4 stamps, a holdover from the Philadelphia Despatch Post control mechanism. To the contrary, no 15L5 or 15L6 were ever validated.

Evidence based data of four stamp types identified a global census of 146 striding messenger stamps genuinely used on cover, **Figure 17.**<sup>91</sup> One third of 15L3 covers and 75% of 15L4 were outbound. The combined subset of the final two stamps, 15L5 and 15L6, however, restricted to outbound examples number only 17 of 93, for 18%. The data suggests that the *striding messenger series evolved to service primarily city letters, although on a very infrequent but regular basis they appeared on outbound letters.*

A 15L6 example (census number 18) is also the only inbound cover, subsequent to July 1, 1845, hand carried to Philadelphia to be eventually fitted with a striding messenger. Not a single inbound cover had been serviced on a 15L4 and 15L5 cover.

Except for perhaps only several weeks in mid 1845, the striding messenger design was continuous and active in Philadelphia for six to perhaps seven years through 1849 and maybe 1850. The first three stamps did experience “exclusivity,” a period of only one striding messenger stamp of any type sold or serviced; ranging from most of 15L3<sup>92</sup> philatelic lifetime, to none for 15L6, **Figure 21.**

Striding messenger **cancellations evolved.** 15L3 was generally cancelled by a numeral “3” handstamp. The great majority of 15L4, 15L5 and 15L6 stamps were cancelled by manuscript. The typical “X” eventually became abbreviated to a “group of four dots” as the “de minimus” four end point vestiges of “X.” The morphing process for 15L5 was a relatively short period in June 1847,<sup>93</sup> whereas 15L6 transition was over a longer period. Furthermore, a return to handstamps began in December 1847, when for the first time a grid in open circle appeared.

The **cancel position was regular and predictable.** Genuine 15L3 handstamp cancels were placed in the stamp right upper quadrant. 15L4 manuscript markings were large and generally covered the stamp center. 15L5 and 15L6 manuscript cancels were much smaller and regularly placed in the stamp left upper quadrant.

Striding messenger stamps tied to cover were few. Of the global census of 146 covers, only *31 are tied with certainty, 21%.* Type of cover also evolved in the later 1840’s, as envelopes finally became the most common type for 15L6.

One of the most iconic scenes in the world of philately has now run its course. Claiming the first pictorial stamp in the world, the image symbolized the spirit and commitment to service espoused by private post enterprise especially for city letters, collection boxes and door delivery.

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<sup>91</sup> The author speculates yet unidentified examples may eventually bring that number close to 200.

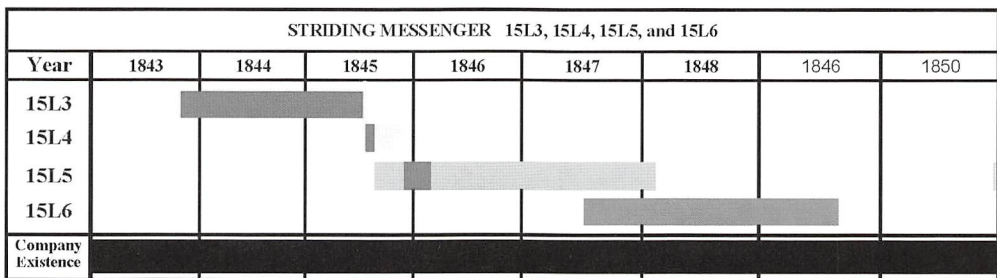
<sup>92</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 3: 15L3,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 50, 55, 57.

<sup>93</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 32, 32, 38, 59.

### Acknowledgments

It would be a travesty to not be thankful for contributions made from so many philatelic collectors, professionals, and archival sources. Evidence based research requires as much information and data as possible. Old auction catalogs and the Levi records provided a good start for each article. Siegel “Power Search” established by Scott Trepel has been invaluable providing quality photos and information lacking from numerous old catalogs. Old Philadelphia street address locations prior to 1854 renumbering has been a challenge, but determined from aggressive historical search through invaluable contemporaneous information in city directories and newspapers, with assistance from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Appreciated most of all, is the personal time and dedication of many collectors, for high resolution scans and photocopies from their personal collections and holdings. Greatly appreciated is the support from Larry Lyons as editor, and proof readers John Bowman and David Snow for their forbearance and requisite numerous hours of labor through dry, tedious data and boring research. Prior research philatelists include my mentors, Cal Hahn, Steve Roth, and previous editor Gordon Stimmell, who all created the impetus, knowledge, and interest in this fascinating field of postal history for which I am forever indebted. Best personal thank you to collector friends Gordon Stimmell, Norm Shachat, Marty Richardson, Cliff Alexander, Dick Corwin, Steve Gronowski, Tom Mazza, and Richard Frajola. My heartfelt regrets that limited journal space does not allow all images to be included in the printed *Penny Post*; however, these significant contributions are all available and included in the Carrier & Locals website. Above all, special thank you to John Bowman for support and fellowship through hours of philatelic and personal conversation.



**Figure 21. Reasonable “philatelic lifespan” of four “striding messenger” stamp designs of approximately six years: from the earliest 15L3 on October 10, 1843 until the latest 15L6 on September 8, 1849. Exclusive periods of sale and service are highlighted in dark gray, although did not apply for 15L6.**



**Table I. 15L6 genuine on cover evidence based data tabulated chronologically. Parenthesis used for information without absolute certainty, or address information from sources other than the cover.**

	DATE	COVER	15L6	15L6 CANCEL	TIED	LABELS
1	June 30, (1846-47)	folded letter		connected dots	no	
2	August 6, 1847	folded letter		manuscript "X"	address	
3	October 4, 1847	circular		penstroke and dots	address smear	light blue
4	October 27, 1847	circular		connected dots	no	2 labels unknown color
5	November 5, 1847	circular		manuscript "X"	no	light green
6	November 12, 1847	circular		manuscript "X"	no	dark blue
7	November 19, 1847	circular		dot in manuscript "X"	address	yellow & dark blue labels
8	December 8, 1847	folded letter		4 bar grid	no	
9	December 10, 1847	circular		manuscript "X"	address	pink
10	December 20, 1847	(folded letter)		manuscript "X" with two dots	no	light green & dark green labels
11	December 29, 1847	folded letter		Blood Handstamp Type 7	no	
12	December 1847	circular		manuscript "X"	no	vermillion
13	January 5, (1848)	envelope		manuscript "X"	no	
14	January 29, 1848	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	
15	February 3, (1847-8)	envelope		manuscript "X"	(impression of X)	
16	February 9, 1848	circular		manuscript "X"	no	
17	February 14, 1848	folded letter		4 dots	no	
18	June 18, 1848	folded letter		4 bar grid	no	
19	August 15, (1847-8)	folded letter		5 bar grid	manuscript "5"	
20	August 20, (1847-8)	(front)		manuscript "X"	no	
21	October 24, (1848-9)	cover front		manuscript "X"	no	
22	(1848-9)	folded letter		5 bar grid	no	
23	September 8, (1849)	envelope		4 bar grid twice	no	
24	Unkown	(folded letter)		manuscript "X"	manuscript "X"	
25	Undated	(envelope)		manuscript "X"	no	
26	Undated	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	two yellow labels
27	Undated	folded letter	in halves	manuscript "X"	no	dark green
28	Undated	ladies envelope		manuscript "X"	no	dark blue
29	Undated	ladies envelope		manuscript "X"	address	dark blue
30	Undated	piece	creased	manuscript "X"	no	dark green
31	Undated	envelope		connected dots	no	
32	Undated	ladies envelope		6 dots	(impression of dots)	
33	Undated	envelope		4 dots	no	
34	Undated	envelope		4 dots	no	
35	Undated	ladies envelope		4 dots	(impression of dots)	
36	Undated	folded letter		4 dots	no	
37	Undated	ladies envelope		4 dots	no	
38	Undated	fancy envelope		4 dots	no	
39	Undated	envelope		manuscript "Paid"	no	dark green
40	Undated	fancy envelope		4 bar grid	no	
41	Undated	ladies envelope		2 dots	no	
A	May 11, (1849)	(folded letter)		uncancelled	no	
B	Undated	ladies envelope		(extremely faint red PAID)	(yes)	
C	Undated	printed sheet		uncancelled	no	
D	Undated	(front)		uncancelled	no	

**Table I. (continued).**

FEDERAL STAMPS & MARKS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND	
blue Clarke 70 Philadelphia cds	Wm H. Richards / 136 Front St / New York	NEW YORK	1
1847 5 cent tied by blue PAID in lozenge blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	J. W. Fitch Esq / Cash / New Haven / Cont	CONNECTICUT	2
	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq		3
	William Wallace Cook / Chesnut / Near 11th		4
	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq & Perry / 14 Perry		5
	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq		6
	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq		7
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Wm B Hudson / No 362 Third Avenue / New York	NEW YORK	8
	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq		9
	Peter Fritz Esq / Race above Eight Street		10
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Wm B Hudson / No 352 Third Avenue / New York	NEW YORK	11
	Mrs. Vaux / Arch below 124 (145 Arch)		12
blue-black Clarke 71c Philadelphia cds	Dr. Peter J Stryker / Somerville, New Jersey	NEW JERSEY	13
	R. M. Logan Esq. / North 3rd St	Northern Liberties	14
blue Clarke 79a2 Philadelphia cds	Mrs. Enoch Lewis / Ballard Vale / Andora / Mass	MASSACHUSETTES	15
	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq		16
	Richard Smethurst Esq / 72 South fourth Street / <u>present</u>		17
	J. Fisher Leaming Esqr / South Front Street / Philada (28 S Front St)	(New Jersey inbound)	18
blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds blue manuscript "5"	Walter R Jones Esq (Atlantic Ins Company, Wall Street, New York)	NEW YORK	19
(blue) black Clarke 79b Philadelphia cds black PAID in lozenge manuscript "paid"	F. E. Spinner Esq Cashier / Mohawk Valley Bank / Mohawk Village / State of New York	NEW YORK	20
blue Clarke 81a Philadelphia cds	Unknown #1	(UNKNOWN STATE)	21
	Richard Smethurst Esq / (72 South) S 4th Street / above Walnut St		22
blue Clarke 74a1 Philadelphia cds	Mr Thos R Woolman / Burlington / N.J.	NEW JERSEY	23
	Mr G H Thorn Esqr / 5th near George st / West Side Northern Liberties (502 North 5th St)	Northern Liberties	24
	Mr W. M. Abbey / No 85 South Wharves / Philada		25
	Wm. L. Drane / 115 Lombard		26
	Mssrs Rosengarten & Denis / Manufacturing Chemists / N.W. corner Schl. 7 & Vine	Spring Garden District	27
	Mr. Edwd. A Warne / No 12 North 3rd / Phila.		28
	Miss E Townsend / Arch above 3rd st / Philad		29
	Unknown #2		30
	Frederick Fraley Esquire / Office of the American Fire Ins. Co. South side of Walnut St. above 3 d. W. (72 Walnut St)		31
	Miss Lizzy Haines / 317 Arch St.		32
	Henry Atkinson / Cherry st 1 door above 10th north side		33
	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq / 301 Market St. / Philada		34
	Mr. Wm. Jenks / Firm of Jenks & Ogden / No 106 N. 3rd St.		35
	Charles A. Paulson Jr. / Schl. 7th above. Cherry		36
	Unknown #3		37
	Unknown #4		38
	Theo. Biddle Jr. Esq / 143 Walnut Street / Phila		39
	Mr Geo. A Briedenhart / No 115 South Front St / Philad.		40
	(Unknown #5) Mr S-----		41
blue Clarke 74a Philadelphia cds Carters Despatch circular handstamp	Mr Hugh B. Grigsby- / Roanoke bridge / Charlotte County / Virginia	VIRGINIA	A
	Miss Susan Wetherill / No 5 Girard St / Philada	District of Penn	B
	Historical Society / of Pennsylvania / POST OFFICE		C
	Unknown #7		D

15L6 COVERS		
Total	Cancel Type	Census Number
16	Envelope	13, 15, 23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41
14	Folded Letter	1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 27, 36
8	Circular	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 16
2	Front	20, 21
1	Piece	30
41	All Types	

**Table II. Envelopes were the most common type of cover found with 15L6.**

15L6 ADDRESS		
Total	Location	Census Number
24	Philadelphia Old City	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 18, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40
2	Northern Liberties District	14, 24
1	Spring Garden District	27
5	New York	1, 8, 11, 19, 20
2	New Jersey	13, 23
1	Massachusetts	15
1	Connecticut	2
1	Unknown State	21
4	Unknown	30, 37, 38, 41
41	All Locations	

**Table III. Summary of 15L6 address destinations grouped by Blood & Co. “city letters” at top, and outbound letters at bottom.**



15L6 CANCEL		
Total	Cancel Type	Census Number
17	Manuscript "X"	2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
1	Manuscript "V"	13
2	Manuscript "X" and Dots	7, 10
3	Connected Dots	1, 4, 31
9	Dots	17, 32, 33, 34, 35 36, 37, 38, 41
1	Dots and Pen stroke	3
1	Manuscript "PAID"	39
6	Grid	8, 18, 19, 22, 23, 40
1	Blood's Handstamp	11
0	Uncancelled	-
41	Total	

**Table IV. Summary of 15L6 cancel types. All examples were cancelled. Manuscripts were by far the most common, and appear in various types. Manuscripts at the top and Handstamps at bottom.**

15L6 AUXILIARY MARKINGS		
Total	Handstamp Type	Census Number
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 60a) cds	19
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 70) cds	1
3	Philadelphia (Clarke 71a) cds	2, 8, 11
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 71c) cds	13
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 74a1) cds	23
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 79a2) cds	15
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 79b) cds	20
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 81a) cds	21
1	Blue PAID in lozenge	2
1	Black PAID in lozenge	20
1	Manuscript "PAID"	20
1	Manuscript "5"	19
14	All Types (10 covers)	

**Table V. Summary of 15L6 auxiliary markings from ten covers.**

15L6 TIED to COVER		
Total	Marking Type	Census Number
5	Manuscript Address	2, 3, 7, 9, 29
2	Manuscript marking	19, 24
3	<i>Possibly tied</i> by impression	15, 32, 35
0	Philadelphia cds	0
0	Red PAID	0
7	All Types	

**Table VI. Summary of 15L6 stamps tied to their cover, most by manuscript address.**

15L6 ADVERTISING LABELS		
Total	Label Color	Census Number
4	Dark Green	10, 27, 30, 39
2	Light Green	5, 10
4	Dark Blue	6, 7, 28, 29
1	Light Blue	3
3	Yellow	7, 26
1	Pink	9
1	Vermillion	12
2	Unknown	4
	Two Labels	4, 7, 10, 26
18	All Types (14 Covers)	

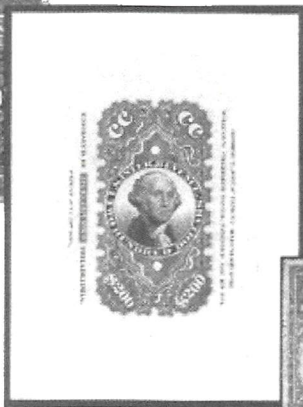
**Table VII. Summary of colorful advertising labels found on 14 of 41 covers.**

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