

JULY 2017

WHOLE NUMBER 100

VOL. 25 NO. 3

# THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



Letter with  
Blood's Local  
Post 15L16  
adhesive being  
deposited in  
Blood's Penny  
Post collection  
box.

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BLOOD'S 15L16: PART 16

AND MORE

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# THE PENNY POST

VOL. 25 NO. 3

JULY 2017



The Carriers and Locals Society, Inc.  
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## Official Journal Of The Carriers and Locals Society

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# Editor's Message

By  
Larry Lyons

## 100<sup>th</sup> Issue of *The Penny Post*

This is the 100<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Penny Post*. This is a remarkable milestone which began in January 1991. The first 30 issues were under the editorship of Gordon Stimmell who helmed the Journal until April 1998. I became the editor in January 2000. This is my 70<sup>th</sup> issue as Editor of *The Penny Post*. If you have been with us since the beginning, or you have acquired a full set of *The Penny Post*, you have seen 5,648 pages of great research articles. Over the years *The Penny Post* has won 23 gold medals in literature and five Reserve Grand Awards. *The Penny Post*, and its Editor, has won the coveted Diane D. Boehret award for excellence in literature three times (1994, 2009 and 2011). *The Penny Post* has been described as the research Journal that other Societies should emulate.

## Articles In This Issue

In this issue we have Part 16 of Vern Morris' continuing series on Blood's Despatch. The article presented in this issue is about Blood's small rectangular stamps, 15L16, with "PENNY POST" in the middle. This is once again a very thorough study. Many of the images can be found on the C&LS website. The article has been edited to fit comfortably in our *Journal*. Much thanks to Vernon Morris for his research and efforts to present the full Blood's story.

We continue to present original research in multiple areas of local posts. I have authored an article on the "Swarts for U.S. Mail One Cent Adhesive." I have come to a new conclusion as to why these stamps were produced based upon extensive research as to the dates of the known covers including some covers not known to earlier students of this subject. In another article I have authored I reveal the forger of the Westervelt's Forgery A Grant adhesive with conclusive factual evidence.

John Bowman has provided an article on the Westervelt's forgery A of the words only stamp produced by George Hussey. This companion article to mine helps to further our knowledge on the Westervelt's Post.

Eric Karell has provided an article "Restoring a Hartford Local." He shows us the "before" and "after" visual change to a stamp which has been cleaned by a professional paper conservator. See the transformation of a stamp "face lift." Thanks to Eric for his article.

Lastly but definitely not least we have an article by newcomer Casey Jo White on a Hale & Co. stamp overprint. Previously thought to be unique there are now three recorded examples. Much thanks to Casey for authoring this article and sharing her research with us. We look forward to her future participation as an author as well.

## Mission Statement

The purpose of *The Penny Post* is to present original research articles in the fields of United States Carriers, Local Posts and Eastern Expresses. Forgeries in



these areas are also researched. Articles are reviewed and assistance is provided by the Editor's section heads who comprise the editorial board.

### **Appreciation**

I wish to thank the section editors for their contributions and hard work. Special thanks to Alan Cohen for being my constant critic and proofreader for the last seventeen years and counting and David Snow, who joined the proofreading group in the fall of 2012.

### **Liaison Committee**

The trustees of the *Carriers and Locals Society* established a liaison committee to review items proposed for listing or removal from the *Scott Catalogue*. The committee recommended several items for the next *Scott Catalogue* and you will find some new locals pictured. The committee accepts suggestions at any time and makes recommendations twice a year.

### **Thank You Advertisers**

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our advertisers for their continued support of our journal. I hope you study the ads and use the services of these fine dealers and auction houses.

### **Your Participation**

"Ask not what the Society can do for you but what you can do for the *Society*." We are always in need of articles. Please write about one cover or stamp or do a research piece. My editors and friends will help with information and provide answers to your questions. If you have something of interest or are puzzled by something please write a letter to the editor which I will place in *The Penny Post*.

### **Final Message**

My message to you is to plan on participating more. I know you enjoy the hobby, the journal, and the collecting but if you don't give a contribution the *Society* will come to an end. Don't leave it up to the other guy.

My parting message to you is to relax and get away from it all by looking, examining, researching, exhibiting, and sharing and talking with fellow stamp collectors and *Society* members. Forget the world and enjoy your stamps and covers.



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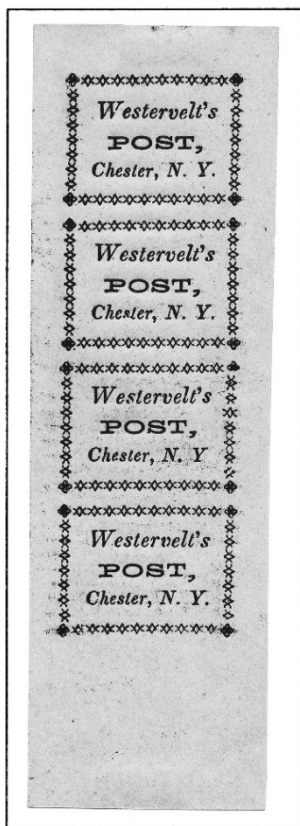
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# Westervelt's Post – Forgery A by Hussey

By  
John D. Bowman

The first typeset stamp of Westervelt's Post is known in a blue-gray color as Lyons' forgery Type 1 by Hussey. It was printed on August 25, 1864 per Thomas Wood's memorandum book of Hussey reprints and forgeries. The setting was a vertical strip of four, with each position identifiable by certain characteristics as described in Lyons' *Identifier*. Each of these positions are described as subtypes a through d from top to bottom (**Figure 1**). The most identifiable characteristic of the strip of four is the sideways ornament on the right side of the third stamp.

- subtype a.**  
right stroke of "W" in  
"Westervelt" is broken
- subtype b.**  
"s" of "Chester" broken at  
foot
- subtype c.**  
third ornament from top at  
right is sideways
- subtype d.**  
"v" of "Westervelt" is  
broken at foot



**Figure 1. Hussey's forgery 1 of Westervelt 144L1. (From Markovits collection pages as mounted by Richard Frajola.)**

Numerous examples of this forgery are known, including strips of four. Examination of two blocks of eight demonstrate that there are two settings of the strip of four, which I will refer to as Setting I and Setting II. The primary characteristics described for subtypes *a-d* apply to both settings, but other very minor differences exist between the positions in each setting.

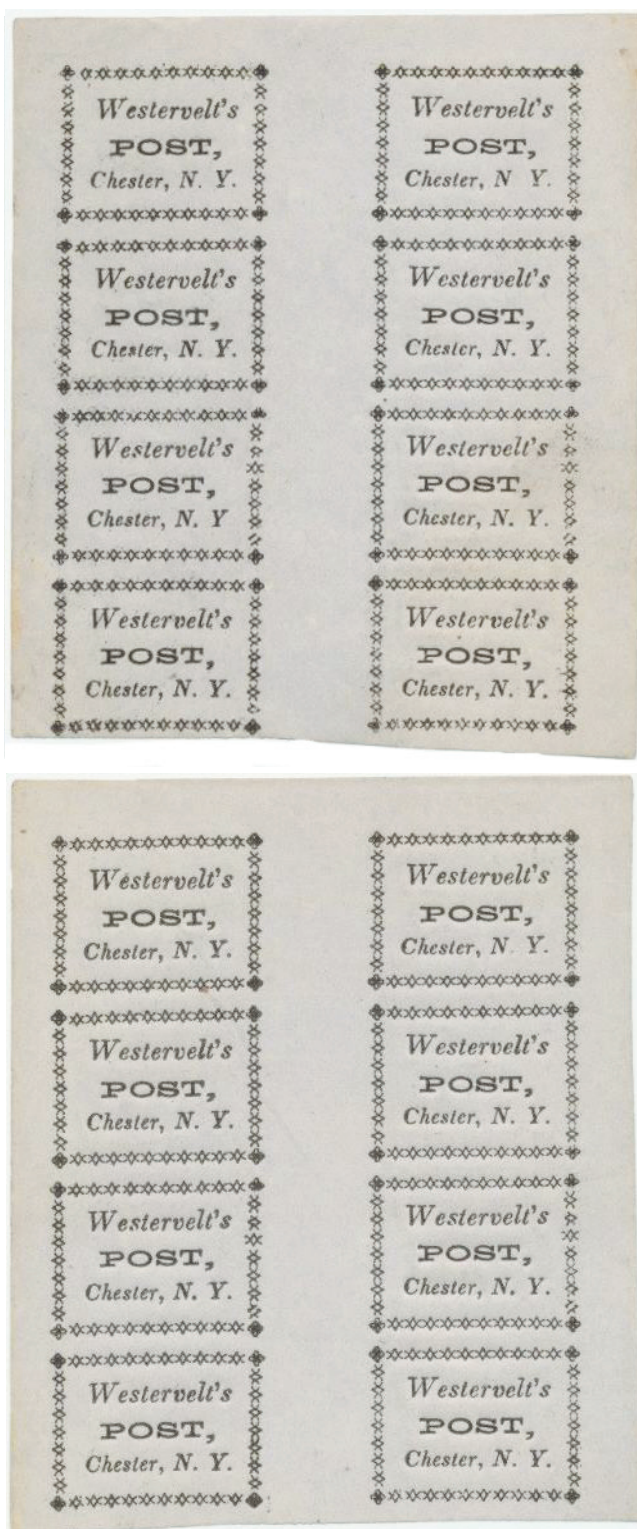
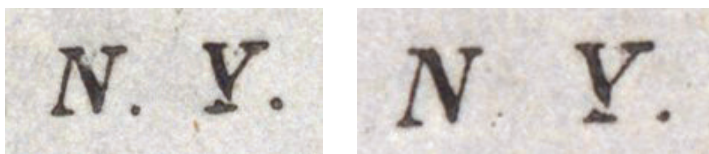


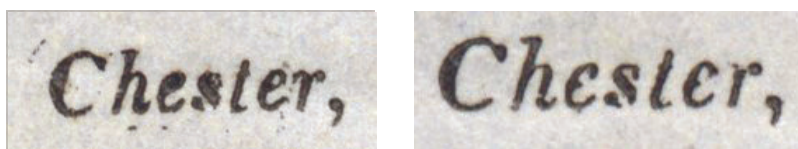
Figure 2. Blocks of eight of forgery 1 by Hussey.

Multiples larger than the strips of four are rare. The Markovits collection of Westervelt's (Siegel Auction Galleries sale 1146, lot 1547) included an irregular block of seven on the pages prepared and mounted by Richard Frajola. I am aware of two blocks of eight and a horizontal strip of three. The size of the original printing sheet is not known.

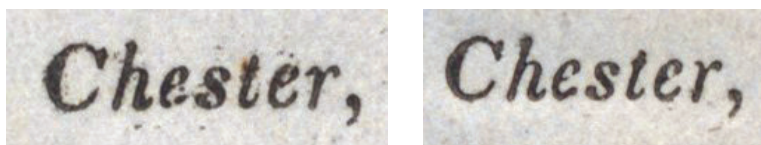
**Figure 2** shows two blocks of eight of the Hussey forgery. In **Figure 3**, the period after N of N.Y. is absent or almost so in position *a* of setting II. **Figure 4** illustrates that both e's in Chester are broken in position *b* on the right-hand strip of four (setting II). For position *c*, **Figure 5**, the upper left serif of "r" in Chester is short in setting II (also seen in position *b*.) Position *d* (**Figure 6**) seems to have dots around the bottom side ornaments on the right side of the frame on the right-hand position which is setting II.



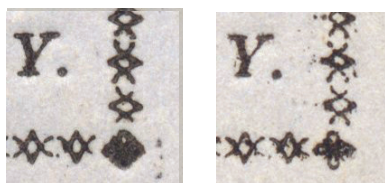
**Figure 3. Position *a* on Settings I and II. In Setting II, the period after "N" of "N.Y." is absent or nearly absent.**



**Figure 4. Position *b* on Settings I and II. Both "e"s of Chester are broken in Setting II. The "r" of Chester has a short upper left serif on the right strip (also seen on position *c*).**



**Figure 5. Position *c* on Settings I and II. The "r" of Chester has a short upper left serif on the right strip (also seen on position *b*).**



**Figure 6. Dots close to right side ornaments in position *d* of setting II.**

A horizontal strip of three of position *a* exists, which includes parts of position *b* (**Figure 7**). The center stamp has a faint period after the “N” of N.Y., suggesting it is from Setting II. This piece suggests that the layout of the original forgery sheet may have consisted of repeated laydowns of the intermediate stone of the block of eight.



**Figure 7. Top strip of three of forgery 1. Position *a* in Settings I – II – I.**

Those who collect forgeries of US locals may be interested in acquiring a strip of four from each of the two settings as described. If a reader has any additional information on this subject, please email me at [jbowman@stx.rr.com](mailto:jbowman@stx.rr.com).





# Westervelt's Post

## The Indian Head and Grant Forgeries

By  
Larry Lyons

In the last issue of *The Penny Post* I presented an article updating the genuine stamps and covers of Westervelt's Post.<sup>1</sup> In that article the "first original printings" and the "second original printings" of the Indian Head adhesives and the Grant adhesives were presented. That article also showed some of the reprints of the Grant adhesives. This article will show the forgeries of the Indian Head and Grant adhesives and identify one new forger by name.

### The Indian Head Forgeries

**Figure 1** shows at least 25 different colors of Forgery A of the Westervelt Indian Head adhesives. These are attributed to S. Allan Taylor who made over 5,000 different carrier and local stamp forgeries. This is a popular collector interest. I estimate there to be about 1000 collectors of local post forgeries. Research in this subject continues and there will be articles on S. Allan Taylor discoveries in future issues of *The Penny Post*. The forgeries were printed over 150 years ago and many have not yet been identified as S. Allan Taylor products. I hope to put a dent in these unidentified Taylor forgeries in the future. The S. Allan Taylor Indian Head forgeries are easily identified by the lack of a period or comma after "Post."

**Figure 2** shows 7 examples of Forgery B of the Indian Head adhesives. These were produced by George Hussey. Forgery B is easily identified by the missing lower serifs on the "T" in "POST" and the square head and thicker tail on the apostrophe in "WESTERVELT'S."

**Figure 3** is the Scott cut for the Westervelt Indian Head adhesive. Scott forgeries are quite rare and I have not seen a Scott forgery of the Westervelt Indian Head Stamp. There are easily identifiable differences in the Indian. See the *Lyons Identifier*<sup>2</sup> for more identification pointers..

### The Grant Forgeries

I now identify Forgery A of the Westervelt's Grant adhesives as an S. Allan Taylor forgery. Taylor has not been previously identified as the forger of this stamp. This is a particularly rare forgery with only three known colors identified as of this writing. See **Figure 4**. These are the same three colors listed in the *Lyons Identifier*.<sup>3</sup> The proof that these are Taylor forgeries has to come from showing

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<sup>1</sup> A Westervelt's Post Update, Larry Lyons, *The Penny Post*, Vol. 25, No. 2, April 2017, pages 25-45.

<sup>2</sup> *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*, Larry Lyons, 1998, pages 1171-1177.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, page 1177.



**Figure 1. S. Allan Taylor produced the Indian Head Westervelt forgery in at least 25 different colors.**



**Figure 2. Examples of Westervelt Indian Head, Forgery B by George Hussey.**



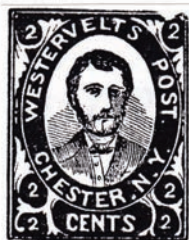
**Figure 3. The Scott Cut of the Westervelt Indian Head stamp.**



**Figure 4. The three known colors of the S. Allan Taylor Grant forgeries. These same three colors were used to print three of the Taylor Indian Head forgeries.**



**Figure 5. The back of the S. Allan Taylor Grant and Indian Head adhesives in black on thin gray s.c.(Surface Colored Paper) and pale lavender s.c. (Surface Colored Paper) indicate they were printed on the same paper.**



**Figure 6. Forgery B of the Westervelt's Grant adhesive. A Scott cut.**

them to be part of a Taylor form and there being other Taylor forgeries in the same colors and on the same paper. In producing his forgeries Taylor took a group of subjects and usually printed them in one or more color. The group of subjects in more than one color would be called a Taylor form.

The main identifying characteristics of the Grant forgery A are that the lapel has 8 horizontal lines and no buttons and the shaded lines above the shoulders consist of dotted lines. There is also a wide color band around the middle of the right "2."

The first proof that this is a Taylor forgery is the appearance of the black on pale lavender surface colored glazed adhesive in Taylor packet #34. Taylor sold his forgeries in packet groups which he advertised. A few of those packets still exist today and packet #34 is in the Luff collection at the Philatelic Foundation. The Westervelt Indian Head forgery A by Taylor is also in this packet. I called this color LL-70 in my personal assemblage of over 450 different Taylor colors. I have identified at least 9 stamps in this color. The black on pale lavender surface colored glazed adhesives are printed on tan paper. All of the identified stamps from this form are clearly on this very different paper. There are two other colors known on the Taylor forgery A adhesives. These are red on yellow paper colored through and black on lilac rose, surface colored paper. (I find black on thin gray surface colored paper to be a better description.) Now for an interesting discovery. The black on thin gray s.c.(surface colored paper) paper is the same tan paper used for the black on pale lavender surface colored stamps! Not only is there a paper match but it seems the two colors were a "form." **Figure 5** shows the back of the black on thin gray s.c.(surface colored paper) forgeries and the back of the black on pale lavender s.c.(surface colored paper) forgeries. **Figure 6** shows forgery B of the Westervelt's Grant adhesive. This is a Scott cut.

This article proves that the Westervelt Grant forgery A was created by S. Allan Taylor. If a form match is identified for the light red on pale yellow bond paper colored through Taylor forgeries then a fourth color of the Grant Forgery will be identified. That's a story for another time. Hint: It will be a red stamp.

### **Indian Head Design Label**

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Indian Head design label. See **Figure 7**. My instincts tell me this is an S. Allan Taylor color and the cancel is a known Taylor cancel, but more investigation is necessary to be certain.

If you have any information to add to the study presented in this article please send the scan to me at [llyons@philatelicfoundation.org](mailto:llyons@philatelicfoundation.org).



**Figure 7. The Westervelt Indian Head Design label.**



# Restoring a Hartford Local

By  
Eric Karell



**Before**



**After**

I started life as a coin collector and was raised with the rule that a coin should never be cleaned no matter how ugly it looks for fear of its losing its “value”. For a long time I had brought this same fear into my dealings with stamps. But then I ran across the phrase “Philately is a visual hobby” and it got me to rethink what “value” a damaged stamp had. And so over the past couple of years I have worked with a professional paper conservator – Dave Kilcrease – to obtain good-looking stamps that I could otherwise never afford in anything approaching acceptable condition. The purpose of this short note is to give an example of a professional restoration and to introduce the society to Dave as a resource for their collections.<sup>1</sup>

If you ask me what is my favorite stamp – I’d have to rank the 1844 Hartford local way up there. With its attractive yellow paper, vigorous engraving and folk artsy design it deserves a place among the masterpieces of stamps from anywhere. But many examples of the stamp are marred by a dull gray haze – as was the example I owned, as shown above at the left.

The Hartford local was written up in a long article by Francis Stern published years ago in the *Philatelist*<sup>2</sup>. The article makes the claim that the yellow stamp was printed on paper colored using the organic vegetable dye turmeric (which gives curry its yellow color). This claim was based, in part, on the assumption that because the Hartford local was printed before the invention of synthetic (aniline) dyes it must have been colored by organic dyes. Fortunately that assumption is wrong.

Based on the work done by Dave in restoring my example it turns out that the pigment used in the yellow (and presumably pink) Hartford stamps is actually lead-based. These pigments come in many versions and colors such as red, yellow, green, and of course white. The yellow version has traditionally been known as

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<sup>1</sup> Dave Kilcrease can be reached at [urbancamouflage@hotmail.com](mailto:urbancamouflage@hotmail.com).

<sup>2</sup> Stern, Francis “The Hartford, Conn. Stamps”; *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 41 No. 3 page 109.

“massicot” and the red version of this pigment has been known as “minium”. The contemporary “The Ladies National Magazine” of 1846<sup>3</sup> lists just these oxides of lead for use in watercolors. Over the centuries, these lead-based colors will slowly become very dark grey. This has been mistakenly thought to be a process of oxidation. In actuality the darkening is due to the opposite effect - a reversion of lead compounds back to elemental lead, which is of course grey. This process can be seen in just about any old master drawing with white lead in it as highlight material. Depending on its age, and exposure to the atmosphere, it can be noted as varying degrees of this reversion and subsequently darker and darker grey areas. The good news of course is that this effect can be reversed by someone knowledgeable about how to go about it – see the “After” photo above.

So get out your tired and poor-looking stamps and treat them like the works of art that they really are, and remember – Philately is a visual hobby! Cheers.

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<sup>3</sup> The Ladies' National Magazine Vol. 10 No. 2, 1846 page 70.

# Hale & Co. Overprinted Stamps

## A New Discovery

By  
Casey Jo White

A second example of the blue, Type I (addressed) Hale & Co. stamp with overprint, previously believed to be unique, was recently discovered while researching the Farrell collection of local posts and Independent Mails. The extremely rare nature of this piece, which has been in the Farrell collection since 2014, was only understood after revisiting the collection with additional information provided primarily by Michael S. Gutman. It is my hope that this article and the discovery of this new 75L4 example sheds additional light on the history and purpose of the Hale & Co. overprints.



**Figure 1. 75L4, die cut-to-shape used, tied to piece – from the Farrell Collection.**

The history of Hale & Co.'s Independent Mail and eastern express is covered extensively by Gutman in *Hale & Co. Independent Mail Company 1843-1845*. The post was established by James W. Hale, a New York forwarding agent, around 1843. During the service's apex in 1844, Hale & Co. advertised over 100 offices in 10 different states. Connections with other Independent Mail routes and local posts extended Hale & Co.'s reach, allowing them to become highly successful. Like most Independent Mail services of the time, however, Hale & Co. was forced to close after the government passed the Act of March 3, 1845 effective July 1, 1845. This act lowered Post Office's letter rates and banned private companies from carrying letters.<sup>1</sup>

The Hale & Co. delivery rate was 6¢ (or 6¼¢ in Spanish coin), and prepaid adhesive stamps were offered at a discounted rate of twenty for \$1. The stamps were printed in two designs: Type I with the address "13 Court St." in the center; and Type II with the address omitted. From these two types, three stamps were produced (75L1, 75L2 and 75L5) and three overprinted stamps were created (75L3, 75L4 and 75L6)<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> US Postal Laws and Regulations, 1875.

<sup>2</sup> Amos Media, 2016.

Hale's stamps were innovative in four ways: they were the first stereotyped stamps, the first die-cut stamps, the first precancelled stamps, and the first overprinted stamps.<sup>3</sup> It is this last innovation that will be the focus of this article.



**Figure 2. 75L1 – Type I, with address.**



**Figure 3. 75L5 – Type II, without address.**

The Hale & Co. Boston office was originally located at 13 Court St., and the first stamps printed for the company reflected this. The address was featured prominently in the center of the stamp, as shown in **Figure 2**. Starting in March of 1844, advertisements listed Hale & Co. Boston offices at both 13 Court St. and 23 State St.<sup>4</sup> **Figure 4** shows one such advertisement.



**Figure 4. Hale & Co. advertisement with two Boston addresses listed. From the *Daily Atlas*, April 26, 1844.**

By late May 1844, the office at 13 Court St. closed. In conjunction with this change, Hale had the address removed from the stamp design (shown in **Figure 3**). The earliest recorded use of the new Type II stamp design is May 20, 1844.<sup>5</sup> Although the new stamps were issued around the same time as the change in location, Hale & Co. continued to use the remaining addressed stamps into 1845. In fact, the earliest

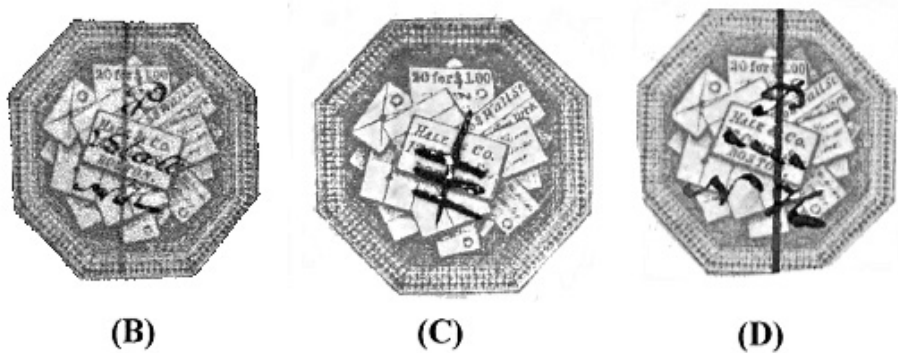
<sup>3</sup> Gutman, 2005, page 27.

<sup>4</sup> Siegel Auctions, May 4, 2016, Sale 1124, page 67.

<sup>5</sup> Gutman, 2016, page 110.

known use of the red Type I stamp (75L2) is August 18, 1844 – three months after the move!<sup>6</sup>

Several offices attempted to correct the Type I stamps on their own. Gutman records three different manuscript overprints applied to 75L1 and 75L2 stamps. While some offices chose to write the new address over or modify the printed stamps, others merely “deleted” the address with black strikethroughs. **Figure 5** shows these overprints, as taken from *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845*. Beyond correcting the Type I stamps, two covers are known with the “23 State St.” address written in manuscript in the center of address omitted Type II (75L5) stamps.<sup>7</sup>



**Figure 5. Manuscript overprints on Hale & Co. Type I stamps, with Gutman overprint types.**



**Figure 6. 75L4, unused – from Siegel sale 1124; lot 97.**

<sup>6</sup> Gutman, 2016, page 109.

<sup>7</sup> Gutman, 2016, page 113.



In 1893, Charles Gregory published his nephew's discovery of three Hale & Co. stamps "surcharged" by handstamp. The stamps, which were found in the inkwell compartment of an old writing desk along with other stationery items, included a pair of red Type I stamps handstamped in black and a single blue Type I stamp handstamped in red (**Figure 6**). Neither the pair (75L3), nor the single (75L4), were used. The find was significant to philatelists, because these stamps represented the first adhesive stamps overprinted by handstamp.<sup>8</sup> The reason for the overprints, however, is still uncertain.

The handstamp used to overprint these stamps is oval-shaped, reading "CITY DESPATCH / OFFICE / 23 State St." as shown in **Figure 7**. This handstamp was used on an 1844 stampless cover from New York to Boston, recorded by Elliott Perry.<sup>9</sup>



**Figure 7. "23 State St." handstamp, as recorded by Perry.**

The City Despatch Post, which was located at 23 State Street in Boston, was a local delivery service. Hale & Co. advertised local delivery in Boston, so it is possible that Hale either owned or partnered with the company to provide the service.<sup>10</sup> One theory for the use of the handstamped overprint is that it represented a surcharge for additional local delivery. It may have also served as a temporary cancellation by the company.

It is more likely, however, that the handstamps were applied for the sole purpose of changing the address. The existence of at least 30 recorded covers with manuscript overprints demonstrate that multiple agents desired corrected stamps.<sup>11</sup>

In 2005, Gutman published his find of a Hale & Co. Type II stamp with a handstamp overprint. This stamp was subsequently listed as a new stamp in the *Scott Catalogue* as 75L6<sup>12</sup>. While at first glance, the handstamp appears to be the same type as the one used to overprint the Type I stamps (75L3 and 75L4), the words "City Despatch" are missing. This 75L6 stamp is used on cover, cancelled by a Boston office rectangular forwarding handstamp.<sup>13</sup> The addition of this cancellation is evidence that the "23 State St." handstamp was not intended to cancel the stamp; the

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<sup>8</sup> Amos Media, 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Perry, 1981, page 395.

<sup>10</sup> Perry, 1981, page. 395.

<sup>11</sup> Gutman, 2016, page 113.

<sup>12</sup> Amos Media, 2016.

<sup>13</sup> Gutman, 2016, page 112.

omitted “City Despatch” implies that the purpose of the overprint was not related to local delivery.

While no 75L6 stamp is known on cover, the 75L3 and 75L4 were previously only known unused. The new discovery shown in **Figure 1** represents the only known example of a used 75L4 on piece, and grants more insights into the overprint’s use.

This stamp has been part of the Farrell Collection since at least 2014. In 2014, Farrell was in the process of organizing and researching his collection for display in albums. During this time, he was aware that the stamp was rare, but did not know it was only the third known example of its type or that it was the second used example. It was not until updating his album with additional stamps and more detailed research that the piece stood out as something special.

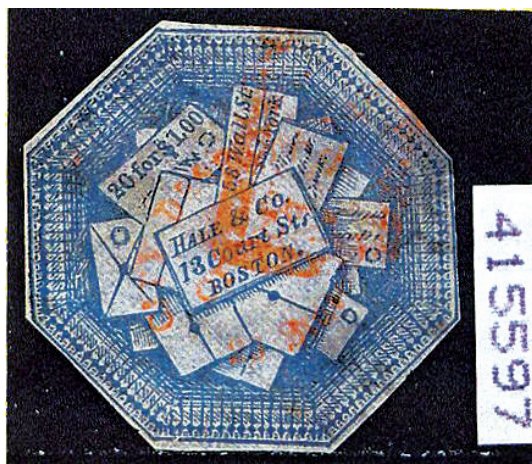
The new 75L4 example is overprinted with a clear strike of the “CITY DESPATCH / OFFICE / 23 State St.” overprint in red. It is affixed to a small piece of a cover that is cut away on three sides and torn at left. The stamp is tied to this piece by a black handstamp with a heavy wavy line frame (Gutman type C-9).

That the cancel on this example is in a different ink color than the overprint provides evidence that the address handstamp was most likely applied prior to affixing the stamp to the cover. The addition of a cancellation also implies that the overprint was not intended to serve as a cancel or precancel – an implication supported by the similar use of a cancel on the 75L6 example.

Considering the discovery of this 75L4 stamp on piece, in the context of Hale & Co.’s postal history and the known 75L6 stamp, I present the following opinions:

1. The “CITY DESPATCH / OFFICE / 23 State St.” overprint was a handstamp previously used by the City Despatch at 23 State Street, which was connected with Hale & Co.
2. The “CITY DESPATCH / OFFICE / 23 State St.” overprint on Hale & Co.’s Type I stamps (75L3 and 75L4) are legitimate and intended for use.
3. The overprint was applied to indicate the office address change from 13 Court Street to 23 State Street.

These conclusions help to develop a clearer understanding of the Hale & Co. overprints and their place in the history of US Independent Mails. It is my hope that this article has highlighted the importance of this discovery.



**Figure 8. Another example of 75L4 from the Lyons collection.  
PF 415597.**

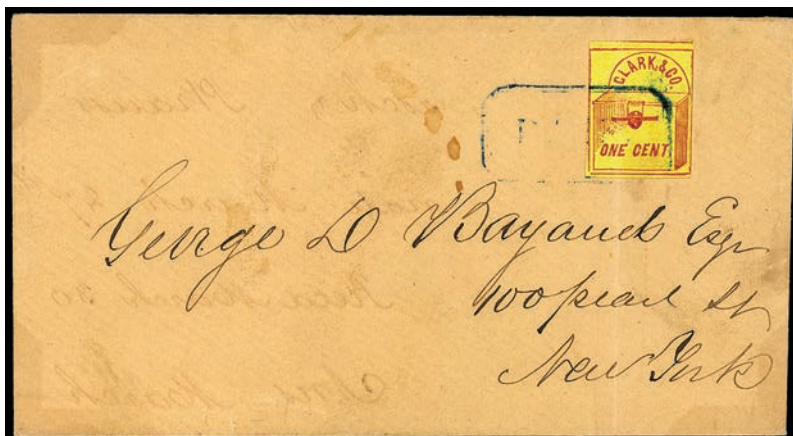
The example of 75L4 shown in **Figure 8** is from the Lyons collection. It was certified by PSE in 1998 and by the Philatelic Foundation in 2004.

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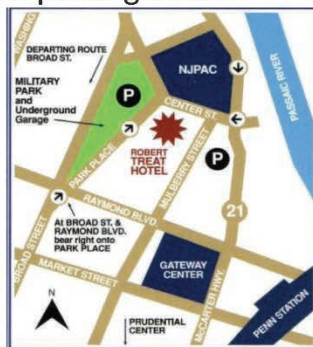
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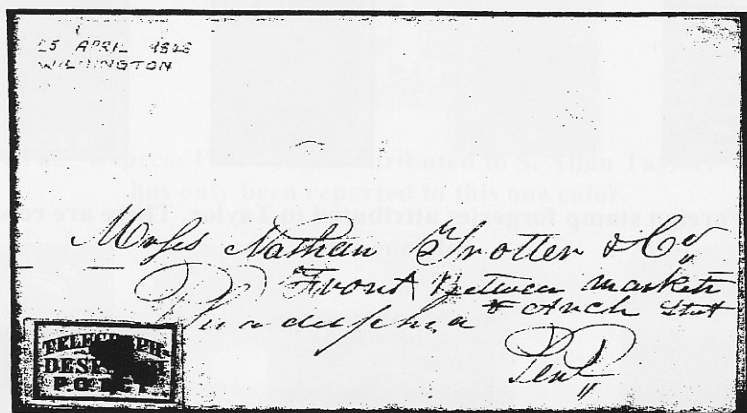
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# The “SWARTS FOR U.S. MAIL ONE CENT” Adhesive

By  
Larry Lyons

Donald Patton attributed the “SWARTS FOR U.S. MAIL ONE CENT” to the Mails adhesive as a Swarts’ counter to the spring 1851 government abandonment of the additional one-cent fee to take letters to the main post office. After examining many Swarts covers this writer believes otherwise. There is evidence the SWARTS “ONE-CENT TO THE MAILS” adhesives were first printed and used in March 1849. Aaron Swarts knew that most of his constituents’ mail would go to the post office and it was easier to deliver a large batch to the post office than to deliver a single letter in the city. In anticipation of the 1-cent to the post office and 2-cents for local delivery rate structure Swarts put no denomination on his Zachary Taylor stamps which were first printed in 1848. It is known they were sold at 2 cents each so another stamp was necessary for the 1-cent to the post office function. Patton stated a period of use of the red “ONE CENT TO THE MAILS” adhesive as June-September 1851 based on the covers he saw. He did state “authentic covers bearing these stamps are decidedly scarce and Perry states that the period of their use cannot be accurately defined.”<sup>1</sup> It seems to this writer the “ONE CENT TO THE MAILS” adhesives were a special offer and were not made available at all times. This is obvious due to most mail going to the post office with the Swarts 2-cent Zachary Taylor stamps. It is probable that Aaron Swarts tried the special “1-cent” offer several times and it did not attract enough extra business to make it a permanent price.

Let me present some of what I know on this subject which led me to the conclusion this was a special offer stamp. **Figure 1** is a folded letter, dated March 10, 1848 with a Swarts’ Zachary Taylor adhesive sent to Troy, New York. The black on green stamps adhesive was 2 cents and was the rate to take the letter to the post office. **Figure 2** is the same black on green Swarts adhesive on a folded letter dated April 3, 1850 which was delivered locally for 2 cents. **Figure 3** is a folded letter dated December 15, 1850 to Marengo, Illinois, “Via Chicago” taken to the post office by Swarts Local Post. The 10¢ 1847 General Issue stamp paid the over 300 mile postage rate. The Swarts adhesive indicates the local post rate to the post office for this letter was 1 cent. The date of this letter is 7 months earlier than the June-September 1851 period Patton assigned to the ONE CENT TO THE U.S. MAIL adhesives. This author believes that Patton came to a wrong conclusion because he did not know the real usage period of the small rectangular Swarts’ adhesives. Let’s look at other examples.

**Figure 4** is the only recorded example of the Swarts red on bluish stamp on a letter. Based on the Swarts handstamps the letter is either 1849 or 1850. It is a

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<sup>1</sup> *The Private Local Posts of the United States of America*, Donald Patton, 1967, Published by Robson Lowe, pages 37, 46.

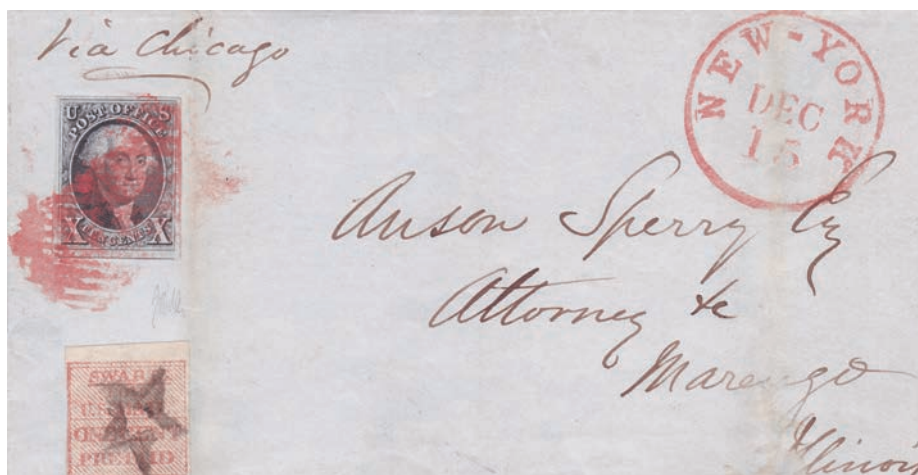


**Figure 1. Swarts' black on green Zachary Taylor adhesive on a folded letter dated March 10, 1848 to Troy, New York.**



**Figure 2. Swarts' black on green Zachary Taylor adhesive on a locally delivered letter dated April 3, 1850.**





**Figure 3. A folded letter dated December 15, 1850 to Marengo, Illinois which was taken to the post office by Swarts Local Post.**



**Figure 4. The only recorded example of the Swarts red on bluish “ONE CENT TO THE MAILS” adhesive on a letter. This is a locally addressed letter and most probably the “PAID” indicates the collection of the additional penny.**



locally addressed letter but the stamp says it was intended for mail to the post office and the adhesive was purchased for 1 cent. This writer believes the red Swarts “PAID” most probably was for the extra penny for the local delivery.

The letter shown in **Figure 5** contains a valentine. The date is February 14<sup>th</sup>. The year is 1852 based on the 3¢ U.S. postage which paid for the letter to go to New Brunswick. This example is later than the Patton June-September 1851 period of use. Seven examples of the red “ONE CENT FOR U.S. MAIL” SWARTS adhesives on letters fall within the Patton June-September 1851 period of use. There are examples of the use of Swarts’ Zachary Taylor adhesives on letters taken to the post office for 2 cents during this time period. **Figure 6** is an example on a letter dated August 21, 1851.

**Figure 7** is another example of the red “SWARTS ONE CENT FOR U.S. MAIL” adhesive on a letter dated March 25, 1849. The stamp is tied to the folded letter by the Swarts black “PAID” in an oval lozenge handstamp.

This author has now shown four examples of the red “SWARTS ONE CENT FOR U.S. MAIL” adhesives out of the Patton June-September 1851 postulated period of use. Three of these are earlier uses and one is a later use.

We know Aaron Swarts issued his Washington adhesives in March 1852. We know they were one cent each. After this date the “SWARTS ONE CENT TO THE U.S. MAIL” adhesives and the Washington adhesives served the same purpose. The only reason for printing more “SWARTS ONE-CENT TO THE U.S. MAIL” adhesives would be to advertise the rate. Now let’s have a look at the blue “SWARTS ONE CENT TO THE MAILS” adhesives.

### **The Blue “SWARTS ONE CENT TO THE MAIL” Adhesives**

Lot 1291 in the Robson Lowe sale USA1 documents a letter dated August 16, 1851 to Cleveland as the earliest known use of the pale blue “SWARTS ONE CENT TO THE MAIL” adhesive. See **Figure 8**. I have found earlier uses. **Figure 9** is an example on a folded letter dated April 1, 1851 which this author believes is the earliest known use of the blue “SWARTS ONE CENT TO THE MAIL” adhesive. It is also another example of these stamps being used before June 1851.

On page 27 of “The Chatham Square Post Office” there is a notation that the blue “SWARTS ONE CENT TO THE MAIL” adhesives are recorded in April and August of 1853 and again in April 1854. This writer finds about 20 examples of the blue adhesive on letters. In addition to the dates indicated above I find uses in August 1851, and in January and September 1855. There seems to be a pattern of two periods of use per year beginning in 1851. This adds credence to my theory that the stamps were promotional. The fact that so few exist also supports the occasional use theory.

### **Stones I and II**

The red stamps were issued early as were the first blue stamps. These are known as the first printings. The stone size and spacing is not known for Stone I but the margins are much larger than in Stone II. We find stamps with 4mm top margins



**Figure 5. A February 14, 1852 use of the “Swarts One Cent for U.S. Mail” adhesive.**



**Figure 6. An August 21, 1851 use of the Swarts’ Zachary Taylor adhesive on a letter to the post office.**



**Figure 7. A March 25, 1849 use of the red “Swarts One Cent for U.S. Mail” adhesive.**



**Figure 8. An August 16, 1851 use of the pale blue “Swarts One Cent for U.S. Mail” adhesive previously thought to be the earliest recorded use of the pale blue Swarts stamp. See Figure 9 for an earlier use. Compliments of Byron Sandfield.**





Figure 9. An example of the blue “Swarts One Cent for U.S. Mail” adhesive on a folded letter dated April 1, 1851. The author believes this to be the earliest use of this color adhesive.



Stone I

Stone II

Figure 10. A Stone I stamp has larger margins than the Stone II “Swarts’ One Cent for U.S. Mail” adhesives. The red stamp is Stone I and could not come from the Stone II pane.



**Figure 11. The author records only this one late use of the light blue on this paper, “Swarts for U.S. Mail One Cent” adhesive from Stone II. The letter is dated July 24, 1855 to Bloomsburgh, New York.**



**Figure 12. An attempt to pay the 1¢ local post fee to the post office and the 10¢ U.S. postage using Swarts stamps. The stamps were not accepted and the letter was sent 10¢ collect.**



and 6mm bottom margins. See the third stamp in **Figure 10**. The stamps from Stone II have 1-1.5mm margins at the top and bottom between the stamps. In 1855 another batch in a deeper blue were printed and these are known as the Stone II or later printing. The Swarts blue stamps on thin paper were also printed late. And there are a lot of remainder panes of 25. I have only been able to document one light blue stamp from Stone II on thin paper used on a letter. The example shown in **Figure 11** is on a letter dated July 24, 1855 to Bloomsburgh, New York.

**A Special 1¢ Swarts Cover**

**Figure 12** is an attempt by Swarts to put eleven 1¢ Swarts adhesives on a letter to attempt to prepay the postage to Canada West. The letter is dated September 15, 1851. The stamps were not accepted and the letter was sent 10 cents collect.

**The Black Adhesives**

Two examples are recorded. One is on a cover dated June 9 to Troy, New York. See **Figure 13**. The second example is on a front dated May 23. There are no recorded off cover examples. Again, the proximity of the dates indicates to me a promotional offer. The question to be answered is what year were the black adhesives used? The answer lies in analyzing the stamp and the handstamps. The Swarts star handstamp is known used in 1849 and 1850. The New York due 5cts handstamp is also known used in 1849 and 1850. There are two additional facts I can find. There is no break above the “W” in “NEW” in the cds. This break seems to have appeared in December 1849.<sup>2</sup> The “SWARTS FOR U.S. MAIL” stamp is a very clean, clear fresh early printing; in fact, the stamp printing quality is the same as that on the red “SWARTS FOR U.S. MAIL” stamp on the letter dated March 23, 1849. My reasonable conclusion is the black “SWARTS FOR U.S. MAIL” adhesives were used in May and June of 1849.

**When were the “SWARTS FOR U.S. MAIL” stamps used?**

A small chart of the known letters appears below. “X”s indicate spring uses and “Y”s indicate fall uses.

Stamp Color	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855
Blue			X	X	X Y	X	X Y
Red	X	X Y	Y	X			
Black	X						

The blue spring 1852 “X” could be 1853. There is probably a blue fall 1852 use. This would confirm a twice per year promotional use of these adhesives.

**“Swarts’ Ugly Duckling”**

The “SWARTS FOR U.S. MAIL ONE CENT” adhesives were known as “Swarts’ Ugly Duckling.”<sup>3</sup> Swarts’ two other designs portrayed political figures but this adhesive was a words only message and that was labelled an “ugly duckling.”

<sup>2</sup> Robson Lowe, September 10, 1891, lot 801.  
<sup>3</sup> Robson Lowe USA1, March 15, 1972, under lot 1263.



**Figure 13. One of two recorded examples of the black “Swarts for U.S. Mail One Cent” adhesive. The other example is on a front. No single stamps have been recorded.**



# BLOOD'S 15L16: Part 16

By

Vernon R. Morris Jr., MD

D.O. Blood & Co. had been established on June 30, 1845 by acquiring the Philadelphia Despatch Post and their 15L3 **stamps, the world's first pictorial issue**. The following day, July 1, 1845 the government eliminated private sector inter-city mail service, but compensated the public by reducing inter-city rates to competitive market levels. The precious few local posts in existence were fortunately ignored. During the next few years D.O. Blood & Co printed three varieties of historic "striding messenger" stamps,<sup>1</sup> which were reserved for *local door delivery*, considered "city stamps," and have since become the logo of the *Carriers and Locals Society*.

Within six months, by January 1846, D.O. Blood & Co. had also developed profoundly different geometric double circle stamp designs dedicated for *outbound* letters, and considered "post office stamps." Inscribed "**For the POST OFFICE,**" the **world's first special purpose stamp**<sup>2</sup> created a paradigm shift to bifurcated private local postal service. Outbound letters were of course less costly because they only required transportation across the street to the post office, *but* with savings kindly passed on to the public.

Two years later, by January 1848, "**BLOOD'S DESPATCH,**" first appeared on the next five stamps, which trended smaller and more rectangular. On May 25, 1848 the company moved west from near the Merchants Exchange Building and post office to Sixth Street,<sup>3</sup> directly across from Independence Hall. The benchmark **single service price had remarkably decreased within eight months from 3 cents in May 1848, was 2 cents during July 1848, and 1 cent by January 8, 1849.** Blood's volume discounts were no longer necessary, and bifurcated local service became obsolete.

By March 1849 the Philadelphia carriers also reduced charges to 1 cent. No other city including New York apparently featured such low market levels, half the generally prevailing 2 cents. However, 1 cent required *prepayment*. Not for more than another three years, until April 1852,<sup>4</sup> was collect service reinstated, but *double* charge.

During the spring of 1852 Blood's introduced third generation **Penny Post** stamps,<sup>5</sup> beginning with 15L15 which had not been fully implemented until 1853. One year later Blood's Penny Post issued their second stamp, 15L16.

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<sup>1</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's 15L6: Part 6" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 2014, Whole No. 87, page 58.

<sup>2</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's 15L7: Part 7," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 3, July 2014, Whole No. 88, pages 29, 53.

<sup>3</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's 15L11: Part 11," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 3, July 2015, Whole No. 92, page 50.

<sup>4</sup> Public Ledger, Vol XXXIII No.14.

<sup>5</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's 15L15: Part 15," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 25, No. 1, January 2017, Whole No. 98, pages 62, 66.

### 15L16 “bronze, black, glazed”

The stamp design in **Figure 1** measured 11 mm high by 14.5 mm wide, and is listed in *Scott Catalogue* as 15L16 “**bronze, black, glazed** (‘54)” correctly in “1848-1854 for 1 cent,”<sup>6</sup> and as an individual issue correctly 1854. Like 15L15 the company name BLOOD’S at top was no longer in bold capital letters; gone at bottom was the inverted arch DESPATCH, replaced by a mundane PHILAD’A, but properly in the center was the new name “**Penny Post**” in old English cursive fonts. “BLOOD’S / **Penny Post** / PHILAD’A” 15L16 continued the new company name, one that would last for a long time. For this article the abbreviated name **Penny Post** 15L16 will be used.

“**Bronze, black, glazed,**” however, had been the *Scott Catalogue* description of two different appearing prior Blood’s Despatch stamps, 15L17 “**Post Office.**” (1849) and 15L13 **One Cent** (1850 through 1852). Both, however, were predominantly bronze. **Penny Post** 15L16 was dark, unattractive, and predominantly black, unlike any other Bloods issue. Gordon Stimmell has aptly referred to this issue as “the black sheep of the tiny Bloods brood.”<sup>7</sup>

No genuine unused block or single has come forward! The stamp design clearly follows the inaugural “BLOOD’S / **Penny Post** / PHILAD’A” 15L15 with double frame motif, outer frame wide and bold, inner frame thin, no connecting guide lines between stamps, and a clean black space surrounding each individual 15L16 stamp.

### 15L16 Description Census

1. February 14, (1854); large envelope, ornate lace with mirror Valentine enclosure; Spring Garden District; two cut rectangles, each acid cancel tied; Blood’s Handstamp Type 17.<sup>8</sup> To: “Miss Elizabeth Taylor / No 140 Marshall St / below Coates / Phila.”<sup>9</sup> Rumsey 67 May 1, 2016 lot 1190. Morris collection.
2. February 16, (1853-54); envelope; outbound Massachusetts; cut trapezoid, acid cancel tied; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood’s Handstamp Type 17. To: “J.W. Spooner Esq<sup>r</sup> / Plymouth. / Mass<sup>ts</sup>”. Lyons collection.
3. February 17, 1854; envelope with dated contents; Northern Liberties; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; non contemporaneous pencil “Feb 17, 1854. To: “Elizabeth W Levick / 140 Delwyn St.”<sup>10</sup> Siegel 825 June 27, 2000 lot 1623,

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<sup>6</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, pg. 545.

<sup>7</sup> Email communication March 18, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 12.

<sup>9</sup> McElroy’s Philadelphia City Directory 1856 page 634 lists TAYLOR D.B. & Co., com lumber mers Coates st whf, h. 140 Marshall.

<sup>10</sup> Philadelphia 1855 City Directory by McElroy page 71 records Dillwyn St was N from Vine ab 3d to Green.

Schwartz. October 27, 2000 PFC 361545. Ex Hollowbush. Morris collection.

4. February 18, (1854); U1 entire (no red Nesbitt seal on back flap); outbound Mississippi; large left sheet margin, cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel; manuscript "Rec 17 Feb / Fancy ans not / confirm so much / should so land" and "rep not ans / & her thanks". To: "M<sup>r</sup>. John Knight / Natchez / Mississippi". Stromberg collection.
5. February 21, (1854); illustrated "CRESSMAN / TOBACCO - SEGARS" advertisement on envelope reverse; outbound Maryland; top left corner margin cut rectangle, acid cancel, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds tied; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11, Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "G W Garlet Esqr / No 188 West Pratt St / Baltimore M D-". Kelleher 663 January 28, 2015 lot 1192. March 17, 2015 PFC 526215. Morris collection.
6. February 23, (1854); U2 entire (no red Nesbitt seal on back flap); outbound New York; top left corner, torn rectangle; acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel. To: "Rev. Dan<sup>l</sup>- P. Noyes- / Brooklyn- / N.Y." Stromberg collection.
7. March 13, (1854); envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "John Wiest / 43 North 3 S<sup>th</sup> ". Snow collection.
8. March 13, (1853-54); envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; manuscript "*Todd / v / Houser*". To: "Charles J. Biddle Esq / 57. South 7<sup>th</sup> St". Alexander collection.
9. March 14, (1854); blue negative embossed cameo "A.PURVES / METALS" corner advertisement envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "Geo Norton Esq / No 30 South 5<sup>th</sup> St / (up Stairs)". August 30, 2010 PFC 489855. Morris collection.
10. March 20, (1854); small (envelope); outbound (Pennsylvania); cut rectangle, acid cancel; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11, indistinct Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "Mary B. Hay(-- ) / Dr Rand / Chester C(ounty)". Bansner February 28, 1976 lot 210.
11. March 24, (1853-54); small embossed envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "Mr Alfred Young / No 33 North 7<sup>st</sup> / Philadelphia". Alexander collection.
12. March 28, 1854; printed Supplements to the Acts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; outbound Pennsylvania; partially torn away trapezoid, acid



cancel tied; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; manuscript "*Lamentation*" and eight numerals "4". To: "G.R. Fox Esq / Norristown / Montgomery C<sup>o</sup>. / Penn<sup>a</sup>." Snow collection.

13. March 29, (1854); envelope; outbound New York; cut rectangle, includes portion of stamp above and at right, acid cancel tied; 3 cent 1851 general issue missing, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; non contemporary pencil manuscript "3-29-54(?)" To: "David J. Millard Esq<sup>r</sup> / Clayville / Oneida Co. / N.Y.S." Richardson collection.
14. April 1, (1854); envelope; outbound Pennsylvania; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; black Clarke 76a Philadelphia circular datestamp. To: "Anna J. Mitchell / Care of G. J. Mitchell / Hatborough P.O. / Pa." Snow collection.
15. April 8, (1854); small embossed envelope; Northern Liberties;<sup>11</sup> cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "Miss. E.J. Boyer / No 216 Randolph st. / Philad<sup>a</sup>." Carriers & Locals Auction 14 July 24, 2008. August 30, 2010 PFC 489856. Morris collection.
16. April 24, 1854; envelope; outbound Virginia; partially torn cut rectangle, acid cancel; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; manuscript "*Recd Apl. 27. 1854 / Lesh. 13. / She-answered.*" To: "Launalot Minor Blackport Esqr / Powalan. Court house / Virginia". Nutmeg 167 March 18, 2008 lot 5965.
17. April 24, (1854); envelope; outbound New York; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11, Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "To / P.T. Barnum Esq / Chrystal Palace, / New York City / N.Y." Lowe September 9, 1981 lot 759; Siegel 747 February 17, 1993 lot 80; Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1339, Kuphal.
18. May 3, (1854); envelope; Northern Liberties District; cut rectangle, includes portion of stamp at right, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; non contemporary pencil manuscript "5-3-54(?)". To: "W.J.P. Ingraham Esq / 128 Wood St".<sup>12</sup> Richardson collection.
19. May 4, (1854); albino corner oval advertisement "NORRIS / American Rail Way" envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's

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<sup>11</sup> Philadelphia 1856 City Directory by McElroy page 866.

<sup>12</sup> 1855 McElroy's City Directory page 265 states Ingraham WP agent, 128 Wood.

- Handstamp Type 17; non contemporary pencil manuscript "5-4-54(?)". To: "Messrs Watson & Cox / 46 North Front St". Richardson collection.
20. May 5, (1854); U1 entire, red embossed Nesbitt seal on back flap; outbound Pennsylvania; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Bloods Handstamp Type 17; black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel. To: "Martha. B. Yontz. / Bloomsburg / Columbia Co. / Penn<sup>a</sup>.." Alexander collection.
  21. May 6, (1854); SNOWDON druggist collar advertisement envelope; outbound Georgia; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Bloods Handstamp Type 17; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11A, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied. To: "M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup>.. H. Wittberger / Pulaski House / Savannah / Georgia". Nutmeg 177 November 13, 2008 lot 4324. March 10, 2010 PFC 485014. Morris collection.
  22. May 8, (1854); (folded letter); outbound New York; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Bloods Handstamp Type 17. To: Unknown #1 / (New York City). Siegel 825 June 27, 2000 lot 1622, Schwartz.
  23. May 11, (1854); envelope; outbound Pennsylvania; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied, black Clarke 76a Philadelphia cds tied; Bloods Handstamp Type 17; manuscript "JCC<sup>hew</sup> 3 times / since Apl 26-". To: "Miss Chew. / Germantown / P<sup>a</sup>." Alexander collection.
  24. May 16, (1854); envelope; outbound GERMANY; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia MAY/16 cds; Bloods Handstamp Type 17; red 24/9 AMERICAN / UBER BREMEN; 14 MAY/20 NYORK B<sup>R</sup> PK<sup>T</sup>. debit cds; numeral "30" due handstamp; manuscript italicized blue numeral "33"; blue manuscript "33" (kreuzer) due; reverse blue AUSGABE transit backstamp; very faint red 24/9 AMERICAN / UBER BREMEN backstamp. To: "Svanny F Jirst / in / Runiggreif / Gaborau". Siegel 1016 November 15, 2011 lot 1224. December 21, 2011 PFC 500993. Morris collection.
  25. May 18, (1854); envelope; outbound Florida; left margin, cut rectangle, acid cancel; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Bloods Handstamp Type 17. To: "Miss Harriet Jones. / St Augustine. / Florida". Lyons collection.
  26. May 30, (1854); folded letter; outbound Pennsylvania; bottom and left margin, cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; 3 cent 1851 Scott #11 general issue, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; manuscript "Paid / 3". To: "John S. Mann Esqr / Coudersport / Potter Co / Pa". Corwin collection.

27. May 30, (1854); embossed small envelope; Northern Liberties; large top sheet margin, cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; manuscript "*Paid*". To: "Miss Emma J Boyer / No. 216 Randolph St / Philada." Cliff Alexander collection.
  
28. May 31, 1854; envelope; outbound Pennsylvania; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; 3 cent 1851 Scott #11 general issue, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; manuscript "*Paid*" and "*Received 6<sup>th</sup> mo<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1854 from / 1 at Bowford replied to the same day*". To: "Mrs Charles Roberts / West chester / Penna". August 24, 2005 PF 427806.
  
29. June 2, 1854; dated folded letter; local delivery; left sheet margin, cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; non contemporaneous pencil manuscript "June 1, 1854". To: "Johna R. Howell / N<sup>o</sup> 81 South 2<sup>nd</sup>, Street / Care of Joseph Howell & Co / Pa-". Richardson collection.
  
30. June 2, (1853-54); envelope; local delivery; creased cut rectangle, includes portion of bottom and left stamp, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "W<sup>m</sup> Henry Rawler / No 129 S<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> St." Corwin collection.
  
31. June 14, (1854); envelope; outbound New Hampshire; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds tied; 3 cent 1851 Scott #11 general issue, Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "Mr Enoch. D. Yeaton. / Wake-field, / N.H." Apfelbaum April 16, 1975 lot 120. Corwin collection.
  
32. July 1, 1854; dated folded letter; outbound New Jersey, origin GREECE; cut rectangle, acid cancel, black Clarke 76a Philadelphia cds tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "M<sup>rs</sup>. L.B. Hunter / Princeton, N.Jersey. / U.S. America." Siegel 830 November 13, 2000 lot 464, Hall. March 28, 2001 PFC 365956. Morris collection.
  
33. August 26, (1853-54); envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "Sam Chew Esq<sup>r</sup> / N<sup>o</sup> 104. South Fourth Street". Alexander collection.
  
34. October 5, (1854); U1 entire (red embossed Nesbitt seal on back flap); outbound Pennsylvania; top margin cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 18;<sup>13</sup> black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel; manuscript pencil "1854 / Elwynn rec<sup>db</sup>". To: "Richard Moorel. / Quakertown. / Bucks Co.<sup>y</sup> / Pa." Shachat collection.

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<sup>13</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 14.

35. October 24, 1854; (envelope); outbound Missouri; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; 3 cent 1851 Scott #11 general issue, indistinct Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 19<sup>14,15</sup> handstamp "NOV 3". To: Unknown #2 / (St. Louis). Kennedy 126 June 1, 1975 lot 752 (described as "Bronze on Black Blood's Penny Post").
36. January 21, (1855); U10 entire; local delivery, origin Pennsylvania; cut rectangle, acid cancel; black Lebanon Penn Jan 21 cds cancel; manuscript "*Immediate delivery / is requested by the Despatch*". To: "For / Hon W<sup>m</sup>. M. Meredith / N<sup>o</sup> 98 South Fourth St / Philadelphia". September 16, 2010 PFC 490223. Morris collection.
37. May 12, 1859; envelope; outbound Pennsylvania; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; 3 cent 1857 Scott #26 general issue, black Clarke 100 Philadelphia cds cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 21.<sup>16</sup> To: "Messrs J P Grow / Danville / Montour Co / Penn<sup>a</sup>." Stromberg collection.
38. Undated; envelope; outbound New York; large left sheet margin, cut rectangle, acid cancel tied, black indistinct Philadelphia cds tied; 3 cent 1851 Scott #11 general issue, Philadelphia cds cancel tied. To: "M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> H. Kissano / 61 Chamber st / New York". Siegel 817 November 15, 1999 lot 540, Golden. March 28, 2000 PFC 350623. Morris collection.
39. Undated; envelope; outbound Pennsylvania; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; 3 cent 1851 Scott #11 general issue, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied. To: "Mr. George N. Tatham. / Coverly's Hotel / Harrisburg. / Penn." Corwin collection.
- (A) March 29, (1851-54); (small envelope); local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "Geo. (Ebenezer) Robert / 132 --- --- Street / Philadelphia". D.G. Phillips November 4, 1977 lot 733. Levi 15L16 page 1 described bronze on black, but very poor image of stamp, possibly genuine.
- (B) March 26, (1851-54); (envelope); local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel; Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: Unknown. Schween Feb 16, 1976 lot 139. Levi Records, 15L16 page 1 described "schwarz a kupferbronze," more likely 15L14.
- (C) Undated; (small embossed envelope); outbound (New York); cut rectangle, acid cancel tied, (blue). To: (Col. McCall / Inspector General / West Point, New York). Lowe "USA.1 / USA" March 1, 1973 lot 1711. Clarke Type 62

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<sup>14</sup> Second earliest recorded Type 19.

<sup>15</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 13.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, Type 15.

blue Philadelphia is too early, recorded between June 25, 1851 and June 12, 1853.

- (D) October 12, (1849); folded letter; outbound New York; cut rectangle, acid cancel; blue Philadelphia Clarke 73a cds tied without offset; 5 cent 1847 general issue horizontal pair, USPCS ID 11530, cancel tied twice by Philadelphia cds; manuscript "Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 1849". To: "Messrs. T. Owen & Son / New York". E-Bay March 19, 2017 which mentioned local added to cover. Ex Weinberg.

*Editor's Note: This article has been edited to fit our journal. The additional figures can be viewed on the Society website.*

### 15L16 Photographic Census

Only thirty nine "BLOOD'S / ~~Penny Post~~ / PHILAD'A" 15L16 stamps have been identified on cover. Two other examples identified in the Levi records have been withheld; one possibly genuine but in great need of a much better image; and the second likely incorrect with an earlier Philadelphia cds. A third example has been withheld on the basis of incongruent collateral information. A fourth example from (1849) was flagrantly combined with a pair of 1847 five cent general issues, many years too early for genuine combination. Altogether 43 covers have been identified, only 39 are safely considered genuine. All 43 have been photographed and posted on the *Carriers and Locals Society* website. From the 39 genuine covers, 36 are in **color, 92%**; only 3 (8%) are black and white (census number 10, 22, 35).

All too often old auction catalog photos did not include a cover's entire address. Of 15L16 data one photograph revealed a partial address (census number 10), whereas 2 other photos omitted the entire address (census number 22, 35) offering no destination information. Accompanying auction catalog descriptions of postal markings and destinations, however, are not without merit and have provided useful collateral information.<sup>17</sup> These three covers are also the photos given in black and white, see **Table II**. Conversely, 36 (of 39) or **92% are destination certain**.

### 15L16 Cover Data Base

A 2% survival rate for private post covers had been previously selected for this series of articles,<sup>18</sup> but no longer seems applicable. During the very early 1850's the quantitative scale of Blood's Despatch business had reached new heights as measured by huge numbers of collection boxes, numerous deliveries each day, cheap postal costs, all confirmed by enormous quantities lost by fire. An environment of unpredictable survival numbers. Although certainly far from complete, a meaningful data base has nonetheless been compiled, providing a critical mass to appreciate, examine, understand, theorize, further interpret company behavior, and form logical conclusions for this great private post.

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<sup>17</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 12: 15L17," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 4, October 2015, Whole No. 93, pages 21, 60.

<sup>18</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, Whole No. 87, page 38.



### 15L16 Service Time

Data from evidence based philatelic research by necessity is unfortunately associated with *varying degrees of certainty*. **Table I** data include 8 examples, more than 20% *date certain* (census numbers 3, 12, 16, 28, 29, 32, 35, 37) given direct and specific day, month, and year. Another 24 are *indirectly date specific*, and well supported by collateral information.<sup>19</sup> An annualized spread of these combined groups of **82% of data, 32 are year specific** and graphically demonstrated in **Figure 2**. Volume was by far **greatest during 1854**, and dropped immediately thereafter.

An additional 5 examples can be determined to within a two calendar year period (census numbers 2, 8, 11, 30, 33) based upon auxiliary markings of known service period 1853 to 1854. However, no definitive evidence remotely suggests that 1853 is feasible, and all are pragmatically taken as year 1854. Therefore, 37 covers can be reasonably assigned to 1854. Finally, only 2 other examples (census number 38, 39) are entirely year unknown without any date information.

**Table I** evidence confirms 15L16 **Penny Post** began in early 1854. Although none have been identified in January 1854, six covers were serviced during February. The **earliest** recorded *date likely* is tied **February 14, (1854)**, **Figure 3** (census number 1). The earliest recorded *date certain* example was only three days later February 17, 1854 (census number 3), **Figure 4**.

A cluster period of greatest business activity has been derived from date specific and monthly consecutive examples. The **cluster of 15L16 Penny Post** covers was **brief**, and only extended from **February 14, (1854)** (census number 1) until **October 24, 1854** (census number 35), beyond which a few outliers exist, shown in **Figure 5**. This cluster period spanned only 252 days, or 36 weeks, equivalent to 8.33 months. During this 8.33 month period, 35 covers survived at a rate of **4.08 covers per month**. No period of virtually exclusive presence had existed during this cluster period, largely because 15L15 **Penny Post** co-existed throughout. Furthermore, within 10 weeks the eventual successor 15L14 **Penny Post** first appeared.

A philatelic lifespan is typically longer because it includes late outliers, and sometime early outlier covers. However, 15L16 **Penny Post** lifespan included only one near outlier, **Figure 6**, and has been deemed 36 covers from **February 14, (1854)** (census number 1) until **January 21, (1855)** (census number 36), extending beyond the cluster period by only three months, and after which only very *far outliers* (likely misplaced) exist. The **latest recorded** date certain 15L16 cover is far outlier **May 12, 1859** (census number 37) in **Figure 7**.

The new issue 15L16 **Penny Post** did not demonstrate typical **crescendo** introduction from increased volume, consistent with new issue slow replacement of outstanding previously sold stamps.<sup>20</sup> Instead, 15L16 made a strong February 1854 appearance, continued strong for many months, and quickly disappeared rather abruptly in late 1854.

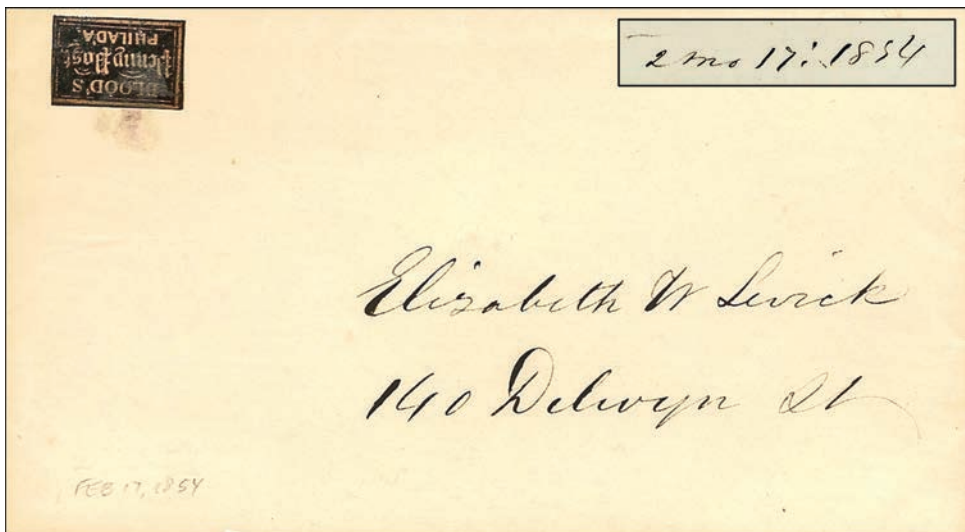
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<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 14: 15L13," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 24, No. 3, July 2016, Whole No. 96, pages 7, 15.



**Figure 1. 15L16 used Blood's Penny Post stamp.**



**Figure 4. The earliest date certain 15L16 cover was February 17, 1854.**

15L16 VOLUME per YEAR									
NUMBER	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861
30									
20									
10									
TOTALS	0	30	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

Figure 2. Thirty two 15L16 covers were year determinant.



Figure 3. The earliest recorded 15L16 cover was February 14, (1854).

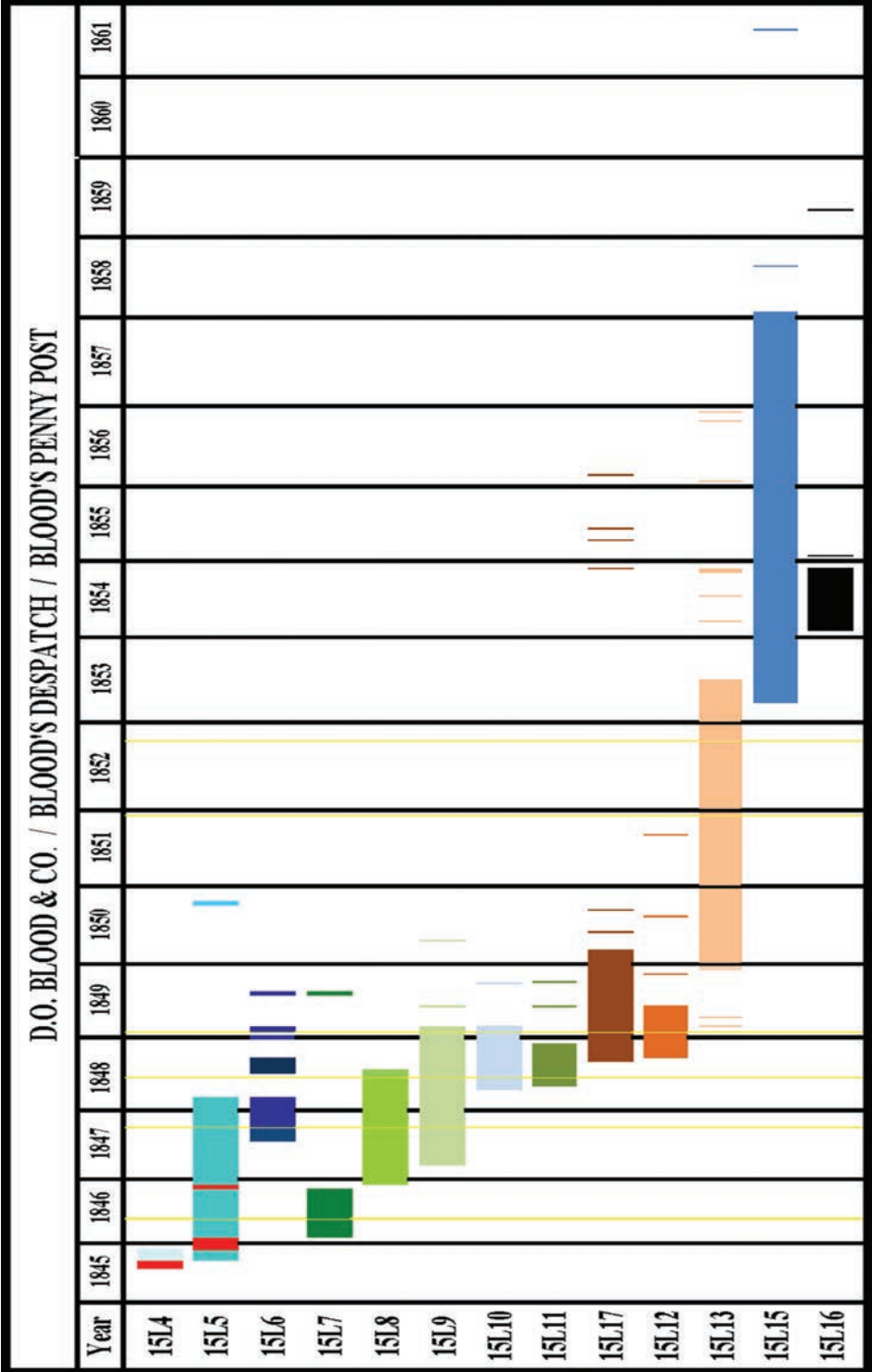


Figure 5. Blood’s stamp timelines through 15L16.



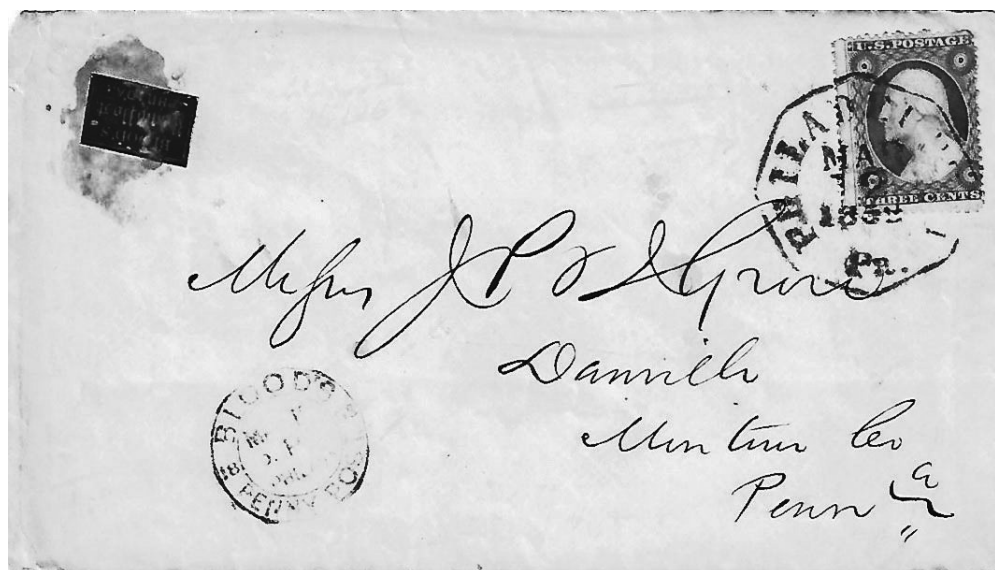


Figure 7. May 12, 1859 is the latest date certain 15L16 cover.

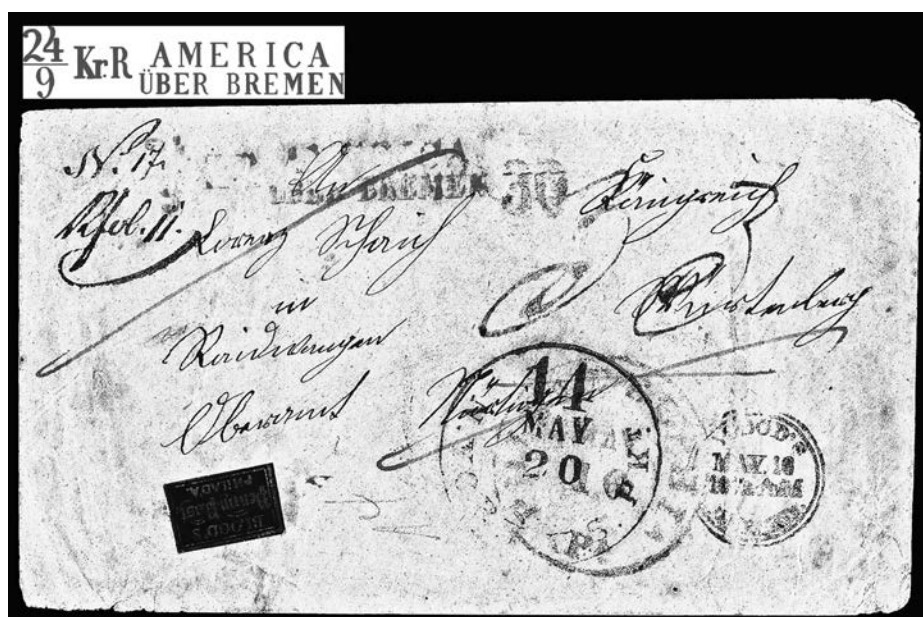


Figure 8. One 15L16 on a transatlantic cover to Germany.

### 15L16 Service Location

Final destinations are summarized in **Table II**. During 1854 Blood's Penny Post collected from a staggering five hundred boxes<sup>21</sup> before sorting at the principal office for appropriate delivery.

Two 15L16 **Penny Post** destinations are unknown, although strongly believed to be outbound mail as each is combined with a 3 cent 1851 government general issue stamp (census numbers 22, 35). Added to 23 outbound destination certain examples comprises 25 from total data for 39, or **64% were outbound**, all transported to the nearby post office. This incidence rate is almost identical to contemporary 15L15 **Penny Post**.<sup>22</sup> Only one example, **Figure 8**, was destined to a foreign country, Germany (census number 24).

Conversely 14 of 39 covers, **36% were locally delivered** within Philadelphia County. The old city received 9 covers (census number 7, 8, 9, 11, 19, 29, 30, 33, 36); and adjacent Districts (primarily Northern Liberties) received 5 (census number 1, 3, 15, 18, 27); respectively 23% and 13% of total data base. None were west of Broad Street. **Figure 9** reveals the locations on a contemporary map.

**Two inbound** covers were given to Bloods Penny Post for handling. One originated in Europe (Greece) bootlegged privately to Philadelphia (census number 32) and eventually destined for Princeton, New Jersey, **Figure 10**.<sup>23</sup> The other cover originated in Lebanon Pennsylvania (census number 36), **Figure 6**, had been transported by government mail to the Philadelphia post office. In highly exceptional manner, and perhaps unique, "From the Mails" Blood's Penny Post delivery, *per sender's directive*, **Figure 11**, for private delivery in Philadelphia.

### 15L16 Cover Type

**Table III** summarized various cover types bearing a 15L16 **Penny Post** stamp. Thirty four of 39 examples, **87%, were envelopes**. The highest percentage yet for envelopes. Many envelopes deserved special **Table III** description and several were tabulated more than once, and accordingly listed in bold print. Folded covers accounted for most of the remaining 5 of 39, or 13%, some included helpful dated letters or printed government material (census number 12).

No wrappers or folded letter sheets. No cover *fronts*, portions of earlier folded letters or envelopes. No remnant "piece of covers."

**Table I** is only the fifth consecutive data base in this series comprised of **more envelopes than folded letters**, this too in dramatic fashion. At the risk of repetition, envelopes were clearly the mid-century trend. Advertising envelopes made a strong appearance, 8% of data (census number 5, 19, 21), **Figure 12** on cover's reverse, and **Figure 13** on front as "collar" for postage stamp. No proprietary "self-sealing" envelopes with company name embossed on reverse flap have been identified.<sup>24</sup> Since Nesbitt government embossed prepaid envelopes had been commercially available in Philadelphia since July 7, 1853, five examples (census number 4, 6, 20, 34, 36) appeared among the 34 envelopes, almost 13% of

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid, page 15.

<sup>22</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, pages 38, 75.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, pages 41, 42.

<sup>24</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, page 9.







Figure 10. Greek origin of 15L16 addressed to Princeton.

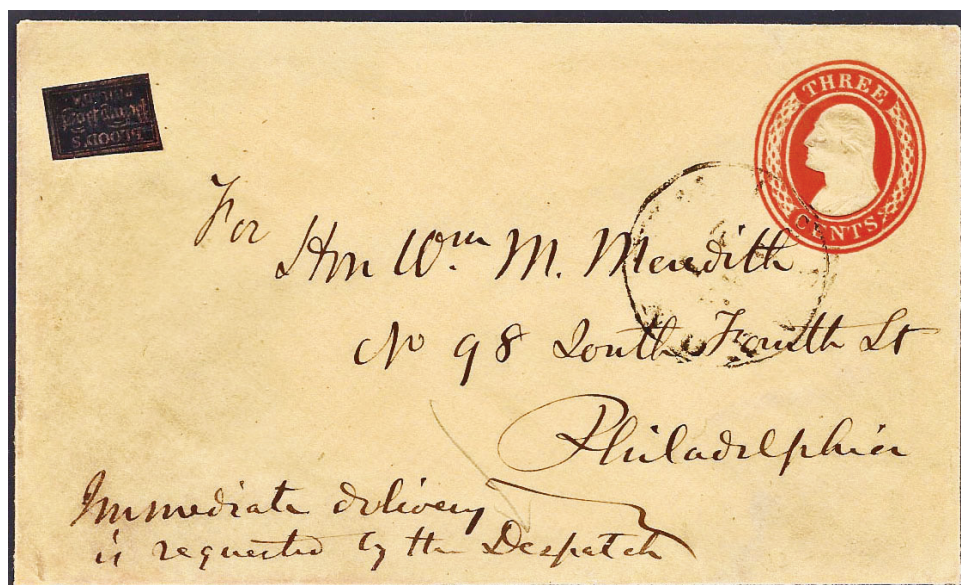


Figure 11. Enlargement of Figure 8 directions.



Figure 12. All over illustrated reverse.





Figure 13. Collar advertisement cover.

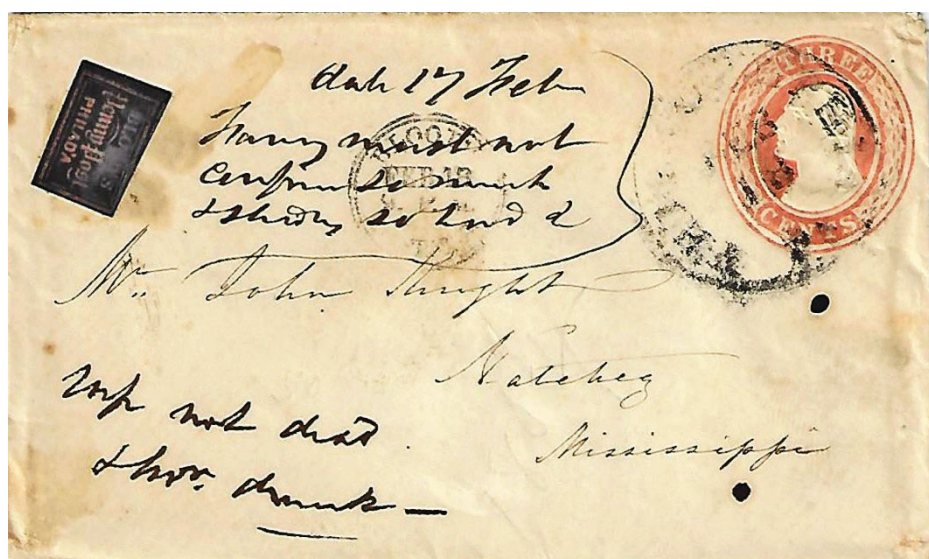


Figure 14. Earliest of 5 on embossed postal envelope.



the entire 15L16 data base. The earliest recorded Nesbitt in combination with a 15L16 Blood's Penny Post stamp was February 18, 1854, **Figure 14**.

### 15L16 Cancels

Any and all markings intended to prevent reuse of the private post stamp have been considered cancellation markings, whether manuscript, handstamp, or other mechanical or chemical means including acid.

**Table IV** revealed that 39 covers with 15L16 Penny Post stamp were **all cancelled by acid**.<sup>25</sup> Furthermore, not a single 15L16 was cancelled by a Bloods handstamp marking.

As with the immediately two prior issues, no evidence exists that 15L16 employed former manuscript "X" penstroke cancels, "group of dots" cancel, red PAID cancel, multiple punctures cancel, or handstamps intended for cancellation.

### Blood's Handstamps

**Table V** revealed that from 39 data, 35 or **90%** of the covers included Blood's handstamp confirmation of service, typically with date. The overwhelming preponderance were handstamp Type 17,<sup>26</sup> which appeared on 31 covers; 78% of all data, and 88% of Blood's handstamp subset. Type 17 had been a new paradigm as the first "Blood's Despatch" handstamp providing partial **date** information including month, day, hour (but not year), and had been introduced years earlier in September 1851.<sup>27</sup>

The first fully dated Blood's handstamp Type 19,<sup>28</sup> however, soon replaced Type 17, but has been identified on only one 15L16 cover (census number 35), October 24, (1854), the third earliest recorded Type 19, only 11 days following the earliest.<sup>29</sup> Both handstamp types retained the name Blood's Despatch rather than the longer name Blood's Penny Post.

Also identified during that transition period was October 5, 1854 sole 15L16 example combined with (undated) PAID Blood's handstamp Type 18, shown in **Figure 15**,<sup>30</sup> (census number 33). A restricted timeline of handstamp Types is shown in **Figure 16**, black representing handstamp Type intersection with 15L16 cluster period.

Only one Blood's handstamp Type 21,<sup>31</sup> May 12, 1859 far outlier, was identified (census number 37) and shown in **Figure 7**.

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<sup>25</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 10: 15L10," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 2, April 2015, Whole No. 91, pg. 33, 34.

<sup>26</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 12.

<sup>27</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 9, 10, 20, 28, 29.

<sup>28</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 13.

<sup>29</sup> Recently updated by Marc Stromberg to October 13, 1854 cover with 15L14 addressed to Winchester.

<sup>30</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 14.

<sup>31</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 15.







BLOOD'S HANDSTAMPS													
MORRIS TYPE	SIZE	MARKING	IMAGE	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860
TYPE 17	DLC-20	DATE / HOUR											
TYPE 18	DLC-22	PAID											
TYPE 19	C-20	DATE / YEAR											
TYPE 20	C-20	2 Cts											
	C-18 NOR	2 Cts no outer ring											
TYPE 22	DLC-20	SPECIAL/ MESSENGER											
TYPE 23	C-21	SPECIAL/ MESSENGER											

Figure 16. Handstamp Types with 15L16 cluster period shown in black.

### 15L16 Cover Auxiliary Marking

Auxiliary markings provide additional philatelic information regarding postal 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, government and private. More than one marking may appear on a single cover. Identical markings repeated on a single cover were not “piled on” in this assessment.

**Table V Penny Post** 15L16 identified 38 of 39 covers included a domestic auxiliary marking, **98%**. Only 1 cover had no markings of any type (census number 3), shown earlier as **Figure 4**. Several covers displayed only the private post handstamp (census number 1, 7, 9, 11, 15, 18, 19, 30, 33), **Figure 3**. The majority of covers displayed more than one marking, altogether 75 *domestic* markings on 39 covers, an average of **1.92** auxiliary markings per cover. An incidence comparable with contemporary 15L15.<sup>32</sup> From 75 domestic markings 35 were private post handstamps, 29 were government handstamps, 9 private manuscripts, and 2 government manuscripts.

The greatest number of auxiliary markings per individual cover, however, were foreign country destinations (census number 24), due to a great number of *foreign* transit markings, see **Figure 8**, but *not* included in this assessment.

### 15L16 Tied to Cover

**Table VI** summarized 15L16 **Penny Post** tied to cover. Of 39 recorded covers only 6 were *not* tied (census number 7, 10, 11, 16, 25, 36), whereas 33, or **85% were tied**.

From 33 tied covers, 31 were tied by Blood’s Penny Post. All by acid, but none by ever present Blood’s circular handstamp markings. Therefore, Blood’s acid had tied 80% of the full data base, and 94% of the “tied subset” of 33.

From 33 tied covers, only 6, or 18% were incidental government handstamp markings (census numbers 5, 17, 23, 31, 32, 38).

Furthermore, 4 special covers were tied by *both* Bloods and government markings (census numbers 17, 23, 31, 38) in **Table VI** listed in bold print. These represent less than 10% of all 15L16 data, and 12% of the “tied subset.”

No 15L16 stamps were triple tied by Bloods Despatch handstamp, Blood’s acid, and government cds.<sup>33</sup>

### 15L16 Stamp Shape

**Table VII** summarized various types of 15L16 **Penny Post** stamp shapes. Mechanical separation has not been identified or recorded, same as 15L15. Apparently all 15L16 stamps were manually separated. From the data base of 39 covers, 37 were rectangles and 2 were trapezoid configurations (census number 2, 12). Also, 37 were fully hand cut, and 2 had been partially or completely torn apart (census number 6, 16). No thin guidelines had existed, and separation was generally attempted outside of the thick frameline.

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<sup>32</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, pages 44, 45.

<sup>33</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 10, 30.

Only 2 full corner margin stamps have been identified (census number 5, 6), which by definition include two margins. Another 9 covers possess a 15L16 with a single margin, or possibly included portion of adjacent stamp included (census numbers 4, 13, 18, 26, 27, 29, 30, 34, 38). Therefore, 11 of the data base, or 28%, contain a 15L16 stamp which displays one full margin or more.

### 15L16 Correspondence

From any philatelic group of covers, multiple examples sent to the same person or address constitute a philatelic correspondence. The greatest numerical correspondence in this data base is only two covers. Miss Emma J. Boyer of Randolph Street, Northern Liberties received two covers (census number 15, 27), the earlier one shown in **Figure 17**. Also, two covers were addressed to the highly respected Chew family: one outbound to Miss Chew at historic Cliveden estate in Germantown, Philadelphia County (census number 23); the other to Samuel Chew at his office in the old city (census number 33). Both were descendants of John Chew, who in 1624 was a citizen of Jamestown, VA, and whose grandson Benjamin Chew in 1774 was the Chief Justice of Delaware Colony.

Persons known from prior articles also received 15L16 *Penny Post* covers. William M. Meredith (census number 36), shown earlier in **Figure 6**, is well known to many of these articles.<sup>34,35,36,37</sup>

Mrs. L.B. Hunter received a 15L16 (census number 32) in Princeton, New Jersey, in addition to several other contemporary 15L15 examples.<sup>38</sup>

Charles Biddle (census number 8) was the son of Nicholas Biddle, who earlier had been the President of the Second National Bank of the United States. Charles was a Major in the Mexican American War, and returned to practice law in Philadelphia.<sup>39,40</sup>

Famous Americans making their first appearance are also included. **Figure 18** was addressed to Phineas T Barnum at the Chrystal Palace in New York on April 24, (1854) (census number 17). Photographed in **Figure 19** was Barnum (1810-1891), who had formed both “Barnum’s Grand Scientific and Musical Theater,” a variety show with Tom Thumb, as well as American musical tour featuring Jenny Lind. The cover’s destination was the New York Crystal Palace, shown in **Figure 20**, which had been fashioned after the original 1851 Crystal Palace of London, and had opened on July 14, 1853. Within one year, PT Barnum became the president on May 1854, just weeks following this cover. The structure was unfortunately destroyed by fire on October 5, 1858. It had been located on 42<sup>nd</sup> street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues, on what is now Bryant Park. Two years following this cover in 1856 PT Barnum was bankrupt. By 1870, however, the irrepressible Barnum established a circus, purchased Jumbo in 1882 from the London Zoo, and merged

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<sup>34</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 43, 44, 46.

<sup>35</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2016, pages 31, 33, 51.

<sup>36</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 27, 32, 43, 51

<sup>37</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, page 50.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid, pages 45, 47.

<sup>39</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 36, 61.

<sup>40</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, page 50.  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_John\\_Biddle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_John_Biddle)).

with James Bailey to form Barnum & Bailey Circus. As this article goes to press, the last performance of “The Greatest Show on Earth” was May 17, 2017.<sup>41</sup>

### 15L16 Valentines

Valentines were large envelopes with heavy fancy enclosures, involved special occasion time sensitive handling, and additional expense especially to distant locations.<sup>42</sup> Early February 1854 newspapers addressed valentine protocol, **Figure 21**. Collect door service was expressly *excluded* for large valentine envelopes, and to the converse 5 or 10 cents prepayment special messenger registration was required. Contemporary data based evidence, however, has apparently revealed behavior suggesting unwritten pragmatic policy modifications.<sup>43</sup> Some large envelopes may have been *mistakenly* dropped into Bloods collection boxes, rather than taken to Blood’s office. Moreover, they were somehow prepaid with less than 5 cents, and accompanied by pedestrian dated handstamps rather than fancy *undated* special messenger handstamps, and often delivered late. Grossly underpaid valentines may not have been delivered at all.<sup>44</sup>

Small 15L16 data base in **Table I** included only one valentine. **Figure 3** is a large envelope with large fancy enclosure with small mirror. However, prepaid by only two Bloods Penny Post stamps, the valentine was indeed delivered as confirmed by February 14<sup>th</sup> dated handstamp, and delivered to Spring Garden! The sender realized more than one cent was required because he prepaid with two stamps. In all likelihood the sender did not report to Bloods office, but expediently chose a collection box. If given the benefit of the doubt, the sender was either unaware of being 3 cents short, or realized he could get away with less costly delivery. More questions than answers.

Was special messenger service intended to add pomp and circumstance to the valentine experience, much like today’s birthday parties in chain restaurants with a team of singing servers? This valentine was unceremoniously delivered on time. Why not delayed until February 15<sup>th</sup> like several other previously reported examples? In order to save three cents and hopefully be delivered on time, perhaps sender purposely deposited it several days too early speculating Bloods *preference* was to deliver sooner rather than later. Wasn’t Spring Garden District further? The specific address, nonetheless, may not have been too difficult or far away, given a straight shot directly up 6<sup>th</sup> Street from the Arcade office, shown in specialized map, **Figure 22**. Could a second stamp be expediently deemed sufficient, whereas a single stamp would certainly not suffice? Incidentally, the last newspaper notice listing of the Arcade office was July 1, 1854, **Figure 23**.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> <http://www.newsday.com/entertainment/circus/how-ringling-bros-and-barnum-bailey-circus/Newsday.com>.

<sup>42</sup> Steven M. Roth, “Blood’s Despatch Revisited” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 1, No. 4, November 1991, pages 15, 16.

<sup>43</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, pages 50-55, 73-75.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid, page 51.

<sup>45</sup> July 1, 1854 Public Ledger Vol. XXXVII, No.8, page 2.





Figure 18. Outbound to PT Barnum in NY.

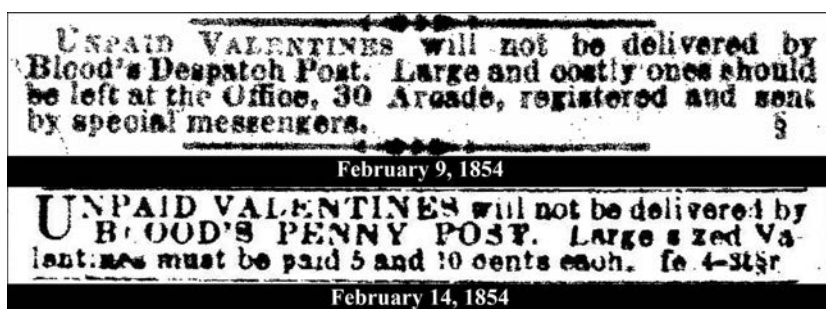


Figure 21. February 9, 1854 newspaper at top, and February 14, 1854 at bottom.

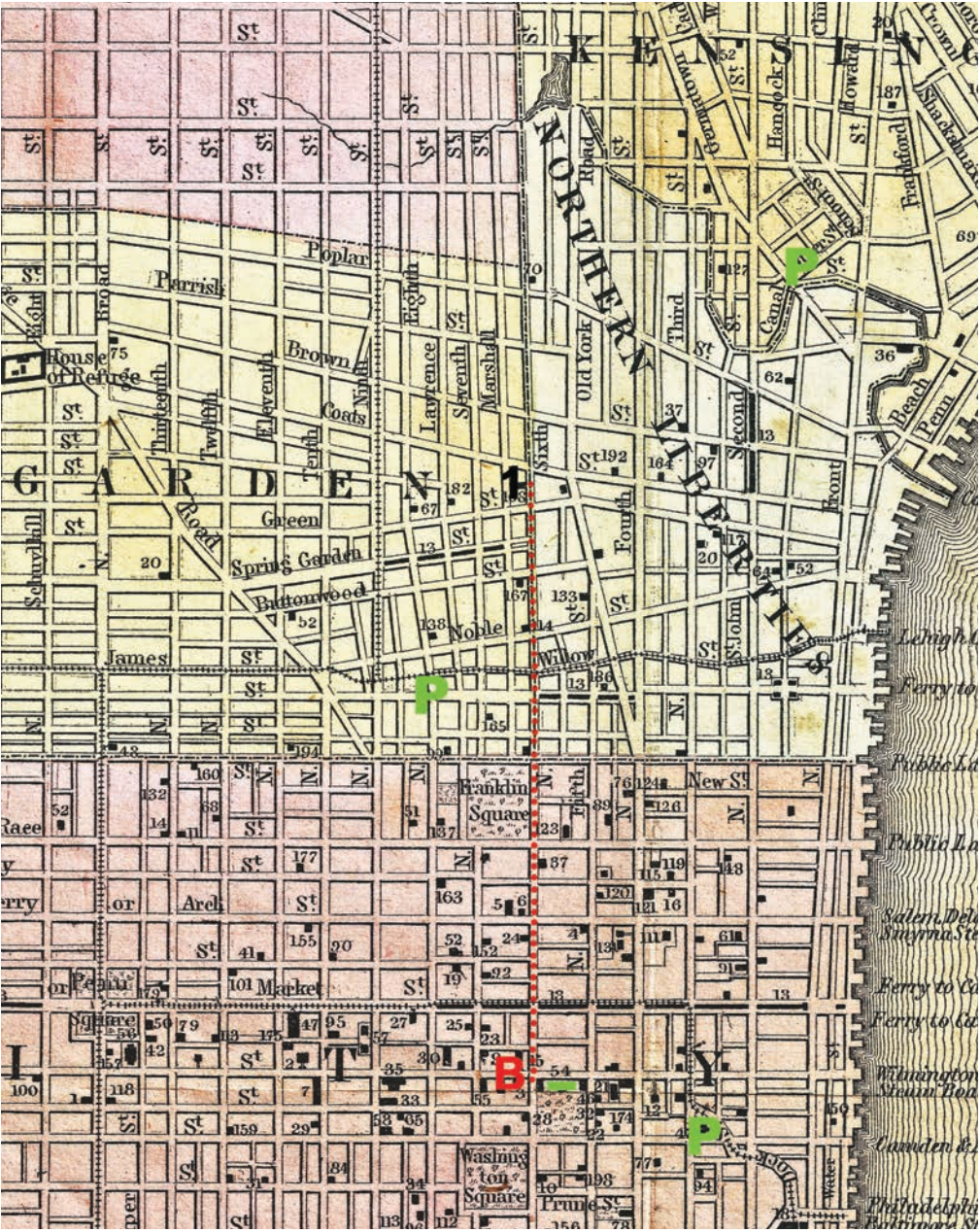


Figure 22. 15L16 valentine path to Spring Garden.

So far in this series of articles, no other large valentines had been delivered with only two stamps. Cumulative data to date have revealed the following valentine stamp multiples: five stamps, three stamps, one stamp, and now two stamps, but none yet with *four* stamps.

### 15L16 Multiple Stamps

Only **1** example from **Table VIII** data bears multiple Bloods Penny Post stamps (census number 1), **Figure 3**.

Unfortunately no government prepaid stamps or embossed stationary envelopes in multiple rates have been identified in **Table VIII**.

### 15L16 Circulars

Mass business circulars had earlier been encouraged by D.O. Blood & Co. Although no Blood's Penny Post 15L16 business circulars have been identified, one printed letter, **Figure 24** (census number 12),<sup>46,47</sup> was likely proposed legislation apparently amended by the Pennsylvania legislature.

### 15L16 Government Combinations

**Penny Post** 15L16 could not possibly have been in combination with 1847 general issue government stamps, which had been demonetized almost three years earlier on July 1, 1851 (census letter D). However, 1851 imperforate and even 1857 perforated general issue stamps had been contemporaneously serviced. Also, combination with recently introduced prepaid government postal stationary envelopes was possible.

**Table VIII** confirmed **22 combination** 15L16 stamps with government prepaid postage, over **56%** of the entire data base, slightly higher than contemporary 15L15.<sup>48</sup>

The 22 combinations, in order of decreasing volume were 16 with 1851 imperforate general issues, 5 embossed stationary, and one perforated 1857 general issue (census number 37), **Figure 7**.

### 15L16 Transatlantic

Only one **Penny Post** 15L16 cover was transatlantic, a 2% incidence rate, addressed to Germany (census number 24), **Figure 8**. The cover's top red *foreign* auxiliary marking "24/9 AMERICAN / UBER BREMEN" represented the sum of the 24 kreuzer international rate and 9 kreuzer German internal rate applied by the Hannover post office in Bremen. The 14¢ debit New York marking represented 5¢ U.S. internal plus 9¢ sea postage that Bremen owed to the U.S. This example would have likely sailed on the *Washington* from New York on May 20, 1854, and arrived in Bremen on June 4, 1854.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, pages 56, 57.

<sup>47</sup> March 28, 2016 email communication from Cliff Alexander.

<sup>48</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, pages 44, 45, 75.

<sup>49</sup> Analysis provided courtesy of Dwayne Littauer per email communication January 29, 2016.



### 15L16 Canada

No ~~Penny Post~~ 15L16 covers have been identified addressed to Canada East or Canada West.<sup>50</sup>

### 15L16 Transcontinental

No ~~Penny Post~~ 15L16 covers have been identified addressed to the United States west coast.<sup>51,52</sup>

### 15L16 Florida

For the first time in this series a Blood's cover was addressed to Florida (census number 25), on May 18, (1854) to St. Augustine, **Figure 25**. The deep South had been slowly penetrated during the prior ten years.

The first cover in this series to enter the deep South had been ten years earlier, assisted by Philadelphia Despatch Post to Mississippi on December 7, 1844 with 15L3 (census number 22);<sup>53</sup> the next Mississippi cover wasn't until August 25, (1848) with 15L17 (census number 2).<sup>54</sup>

The second in this series, and first "Blood's" cover to the South was September 23, 1848 to Texas via 15L10 (census number 21).<sup>55</sup> The third state in the deep South was Alabama on December 27, (1848), also 15L10 (census number 26).<sup>56</sup> Fourth was Georgia, but not until October 21, 1853 with 15L15 (census number 30).<sup>57</sup> Louisiana is year uncertain, but did appear with a 15L17 (census number 130).<sup>58</sup>

### 15L16 Volume – Time Analysis

The ~~Penny Post~~ 15L16 data **cluster period** included 35 covers from **February 14, (1854) until October 24, 1854**. During these 8.33 months 35 covers survived at a rate of 4.22 covers per month, **Figure 26**. From the cluster subset of 35 examples, 22 were likely outbound, and 13 were likely local delivery. As a cluster percentage, 63% were outbound, and 37% were local delivery (old city or adjacent districts), at a respective rate of 2.64 and 1.56 surviving per month.

### 15L16 Time Line

The active cluster period for ~~Penny Post~~ 15L16 was unusually tight and less than nine months. **Figure 5** was a late outlier in early 1855, and **Figure 7** a far outlier in mid-1859. Such a short cluster period with so few outliers is curious, and not at all consistent with the longevity of most recently introduced Blood's issues 15L15 and 15L13. Perhaps a dark stamp was unattractive, not popular, or quickly outlived its usefulness. Perhaps the company name was not conspicuous enough.

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<sup>50</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, pages 56, 59, 75.

<sup>51</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 14, 28.

<sup>52</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, pages 56, 62, 75.

<sup>53</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2013, pages 43, 44, 50, 56.

<sup>54</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 11, 36, 57, 64.

<sup>55</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 24, 28, 29, 32, 38, 53.

<sup>56</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 25, 28, 29, 32, 41, 53.

<sup>57</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, electronic pages 38, 62.

<sup>58</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 27, 33, 62, 64.

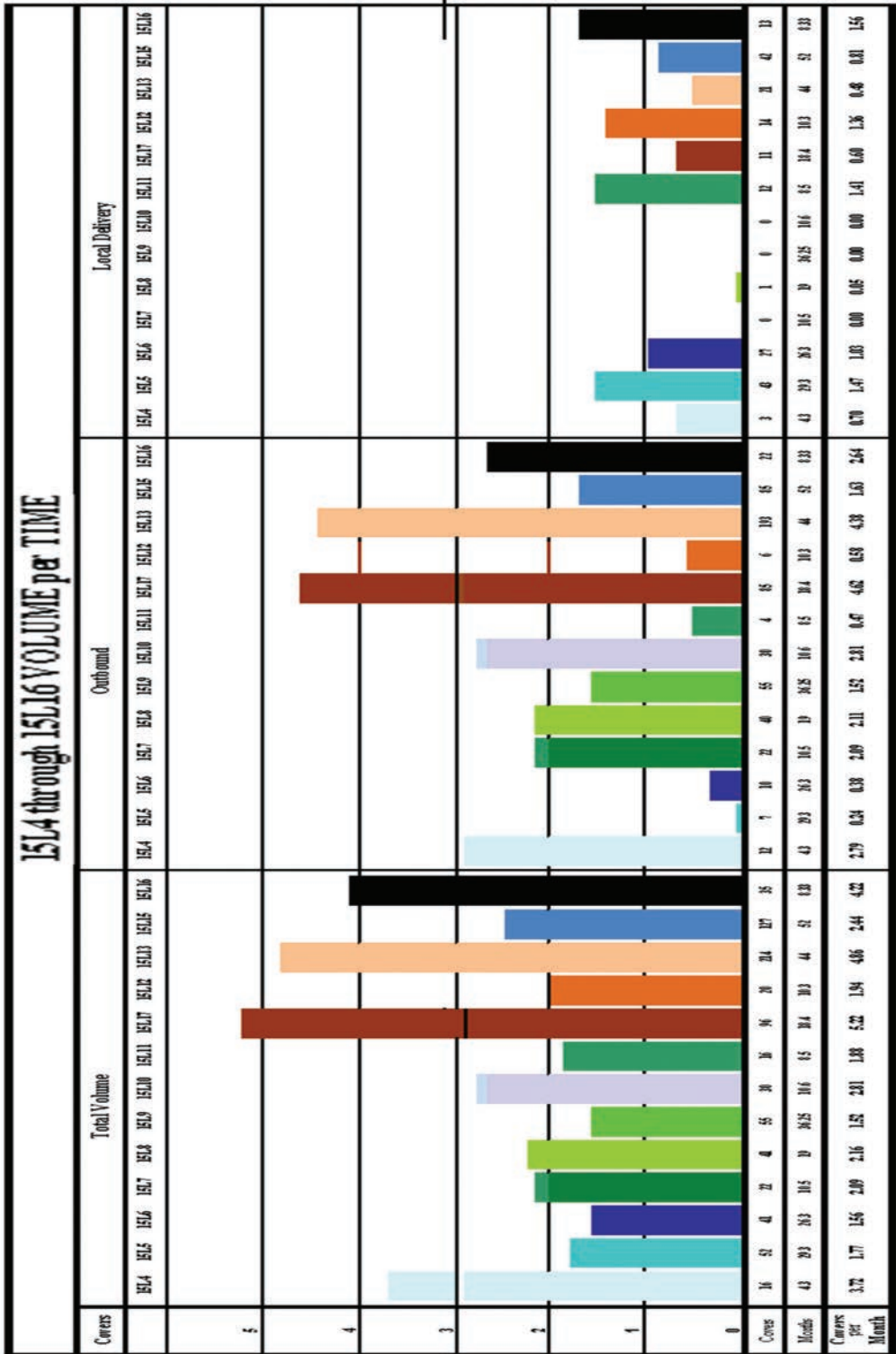


Figure 26. Greatest business activity of surviving covers.



**ANOTHER REDUCTION OF POSTAGE.**—The New York Express states that the Postmaster General has appointed Mr. Aaron Swartz, Agent for the delivery of all letters coming through the Post-office to persons living north of Chambers and Roosevelt streets, and that in no case shall more than one cent postage be charged. South of those two streets Mr. John J. Boyd has been appointed general agent under the same restriction. The Postmaster General, we understand, contemplates some such arrangement in Philadelphia, by which the carriers' charge of two cents will be reduced to one.

Figure 27. December 29, 1848 newspaper speculation.



Figure 28. Philadelphia black lithographed carrier stamp 7LB11.

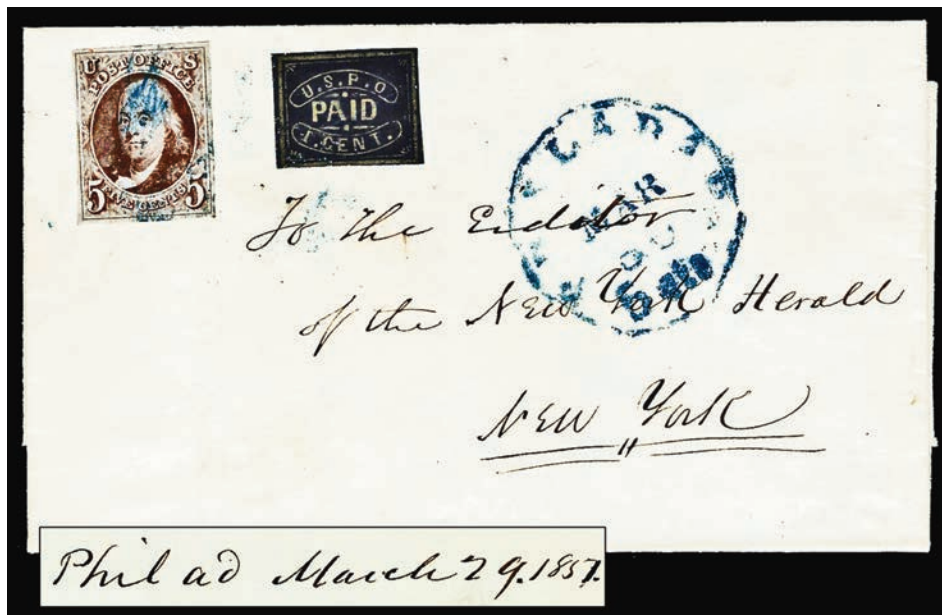


Figure 29. Earliest black 7LB11 carrier March 30, 1851.

Philatelic collectors, have not been especially attracted, as market values do not reflect the very limited supply of covers, no blocks, and precious few if any unused examples!

### Philadelphia Local Post Black Stamps

15L16 “**bronze, black, glazed**” color does not resemble any other Blood issues, including identically (color) classified 15L13 and 15L17. However, at least five other competing Philadelphia private posts issued black stamps. Cressman & Co.’s Penny Post, 53L1 “**gold, black**”<sup>59, 60</sup> apparently mimicked ~~Penny Post~~ 15L16 as early as December 18, (1854).<sup>61</sup> Clintons Penny Post, 161L1 “**black**”<sup>62</sup> was likely one cent, but year indeterminant.<sup>63</sup> Priests Despatch issued 2 cent very dark stamps, such as 121L3 and 121L6, both “**Black, yellow**” during 1854.<sup>64, 65, 66</sup> Moreover, John Bowman has pointed out that competitor G. Carter’s Despatch much earlier in 1849 had issued 2 cent “black” stamps.<sup>67, 68</sup> Earlier than Carters was 1846 City Express Post, 2 cent 44L2 “**black, pink.**”<sup>69, 70, 71.</sup>

### Blood’s verses Philadelphia Carrier Department through 1854

On December 29, 1848 the Public Ledger reported, or perhaps leaked, that the Postmaster General had been contemplating reducing carrier rates from two to one cent in Philadelphia, **Figure 27.**<sup>72</sup>

Ten days later on **January 8, 1849** one cent became the universal Blood’s rate for each and every single service (with the exception of special messengers). Volume discounts became obsolete, and prepayment was mandatory.<sup>73</sup> Within two months by March 1849, the Philadelphia carrier department indeed sold crude unattractive *typeset* one cent adhesive stamps, attempting to finally remedy antiquated hand delivery of letters to carrier on route, which otherwise required cumbersome exchange of coins.<sup>74</sup> Prepaid postage stamp innovation may have

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<sup>59</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, pages 552-553.

<sup>60</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Crossman & Co.’s,” *The Collectors Club Philatelist*,” Vol. 81, No. 5, September-October 2002, pages 237-246.

<sup>61</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 817 lot 994 on November 15, 1999, Golden; PFC 350634.

<sup>62</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 552.

<sup>63</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 950 December 19, 2007 lot 2545.

<sup>64</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 562.

<sup>65</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 817, lot 1443; PFC 346672.

<sup>66</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 817, lot 1446; PFC 346675.

<sup>67</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 551.

<sup>68</sup> May 14, 2009 PFC 47655.

<sup>69</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 552.

<sup>70</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 817, lot 994 on November 15, 1999, Golden.

<sup>71</sup> September 28, 1999 PFC 345615.

<sup>72</sup> Public Ledger Vol. XXVI No. 82 page 2.

<sup>73</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 16, 20.

<sup>74</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Philadelphia Eagle Carrier Cancellations: Two Discoveries,” *The*

been government innovative nineteenth century “EZPass” transportation, so familiar if not virtually indispensable in today’s society.

Two years later, Philadelphia’s **carrier** department upgraded to attractive *lithographed* stamps, starting with 7LB11 “**gold, black, glazed,**” **Figure 28**,<sup>75</sup> recorded as early as March 30, 1851, **Figure 29**.<sup>76</sup>

Furthermore, the federal postal Act of 1851, concurrently passed on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, was not effective until July 1<sup>st</sup>. Section 10 empowered the postmaster general to “establish suitable and convenient places of deposit” within cities for pick up.<sup>77</sup> As a likely threat to rising star Bloods Despatch, three month’s window provided Blood’s some reaction time. On May 2, 1851 Blood’s Despatch<sup>78</sup> graciously offered their 300 collection boxes to Postmaster General Honorable N.R. Hall, and audaciously proposed Blood’s “deliver all mailable matter which arrives by mail in Philadelphia or is deposited in the office there for distribution in that city,”<sup>79</sup> **Figure 30**.<sup>80</sup>

The government of course did not capitulate or avail themselves of Kochersperger’s offer. By early 1852 Philadelphia carrier department service had extended north of Spring Garden into Penn District, confirmed by **Figure 31**.<sup>81</sup> Please note it’s striking similarity to **Figure 12** (census number 5).

To compound matters worse for Blood, only seven months later, December 27, 1851 fire destroyed their office. In desperate need of an immediate new office, the company immediately relocated only a few doors away on Chesnut Street to the well-known Arcade Building, and proudly had not missed a single delivery day.<sup>82</sup> Within a few months, by April 6, 1852 Blood’s restored collect door service (except outbound letters of course) for the first time in more than two years, although with cost doubled to 2 cents.<sup>83</sup> In May 1852 “Blood’s Penny Post” stamps appeared, and by August 1852 Bloods infrastructure reached 500 collection boxes.<sup>84</sup> An incredible display of ambition and resilience. Boxes were typically inside or outside of retail stores, an original example shown in **Figure 32**.

The Philadelphia post office, however, apparently still had few if any collection boxes.<sup>85</sup> London did not adopt pillar letter collection boxes until late 1854, **Figure 33**.<sup>86</sup> The second series of Philadelphia carrier department lithographed stamps ran their course by late 1853, the latest recorded 7LB13 was September 16, 1853.<sup>87</sup>

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*Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 88, No. 3, May-June 2009, pages 149-157.

<sup>75</sup> Scott 2012 *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*, Nineteenth Edition, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 541.

<sup>76</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 791, lot 265 on June 25, 1997, Meyersburg; PFC 317230.

<sup>77</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “What is a Drop Letter, and a ‘Drop Dead’ Letter?”, *The Chronicle*, Vol. 56, No. 4, November 2003, Whole No. 200, page 254.

<sup>78</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, page 15.

<sup>79</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, electronic copy Figure 37 on page 105.

<sup>80</sup> Public Ledger June 28, 1851 Vol. XXXI, No. 81, page 2.

<sup>81</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 830, lot 185 on November 13, 2000, Hall; PFC 365943.

<sup>82</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 18, 19; electronic pages 78, 79.

<sup>83</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, page 18.

<sup>84</sup> Public Ledger August 10, 1852, Vol. XXXIII No.118 page 2.

<sup>85</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “What is a Drop Letter, and a ‘Drop Dead’ Letter?”, *The Chronicle*, Vol. 56, No. 4, November 2003, Whole No. 200, pages 249, 250, 254.

<sup>86</sup> November 8, 1854 Public Ledger Vol. XXXVIII No.40 page 1.

<sup>87</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 791, lot 273 on June 25, 1997, Meyersburg; PFC 317236.

COPY of the Proposal and Recommendation submitted to the Postmaster General on the 3d May, 1851.

PHILADELPHIA, May 2d, 1851.

To the Hon. N. E. Hall, Postmaster General of the United States :

SIR:—The undersigned, proprietors of Blood's Despatch Post, who have been engaged since 1845 in the business of delivering letters throughout the city of Philadelphia, propose to deliver all mailable matter which arrives by mail in Philadelphia or is deposited in the office there for distribution in that city.

They believe that by uniting the mail delivery with their present city delivery, the people of Philadelphia can be better accommodated, and at less rates than by any other system.

The Government Post-office has never been able to make more than one delivery in winter, and two deliveries in summer. This has been a serious inconvenience to the citizens of Philadelphia, whose letters in consequence of it, during half the year, lie in the office, sometimes for twenty-four hours after their arrival in the city. Of course that office has never at any time been able to acquire any considerable share of business as a city despatch post. In fact, until lately, it has never had any deposit box but at the central office, nor proposed to be a city post at all. And it has attempted to become a city post lately only in consequence of the great utility and success which has attended Blood's; an utility and success caused by the general fidelity and efficiency with which the latter has been managed.

The undersigned believe that the Government Post-office can never become an effective and satisfactory city post. It attempted the business in imitation of Blood's Despatch Post, about two years since, and totally failed. The reason is obvious. As a national office, its arrangements are necessarily subservient to its great and more peculiar business of receiving, assorting and despatching the national mails between the city and other places; and in the nature of its organization, it cannot thoroughly perform the business of a post intended for incessant communication between the citizens of the same city, nor, of course, deliver the mail letters with that expedition which the convenience of a great and populous city requires.

Blood's Despatch, on the contrary, has, at all seasons, made collections from over 300 boxes, in a circuit of twelve miles, four times every day, and from an unknown and untried office, without capital, and laboring equally against the good-will in favor of a government office, and the bad reputation brought upon the whole system of private posts by different individuals, who have undertaken and performed imperfectly the business, it has come to be so stable and trusted a concern, and to enjoy so considerable a public reputation in Philadelphia, that individuals of the highest influence, and whose names are rarely signed to recommendations of any kind, have expressed their wish that it should be adopted as the medium of all city deliveries whatsoever. The department is referred to the certificate and recommendations annexed.

The undersigned believe, from their experience of six years in the city delivery, that they perfectly understand that business. They have been recently informing themselves, by the reports of a gentleman who made the matter a study, of the arrangements of the penny posts in London, Edinburgh, Paris and other great cities of Europe, with a view to improve their own. The success which has attended their post enables them now to profit by these suggestions, and to insure an absolute certainty and an increased promptness and frequency of delivery, which, in the outset of their enterprise, its great expense made in some degree impossible to secure. They mean to put men of known integrity, intelligence and good education upon their routes, to assist expedition by the aid of horses and wagons, and to give generally to the whole establishment that character, activity and certainty to usefulness, towards which it has been aspiring and approaching, but which, as an untried and incipient enterprise, it was impossible, under any circumstances, fully to enjoy in its origin.

To secure an object which so many citizens of commanding influence in Philadelphia have expressed in the card annexed, to be desirable, the undersigned now propose to the General Post-office Department to make regular and prompt deliveries EVERY TWO HOURS throughout the day, along with their own letters, of all mailable matter arriving by mail or deposited in the Philadelphia Post-office for distribution in this city, letters at one cent, and other matter at the present Post-office rates. They will make returns for all matter to the City Postmaster, every day or week, as may be directed, and will give satisfactory security for the faithful discharge of whatsoever they may undertake in behalf of the United States.

Respectfully submitted by

DANIEL O. BLOOD,  
CHAS. KOCHERSPERGER,  
Proprietors of Blood's Despatch.

Figure 30. May 2, 1851 offer to deliver all mail in Philadelphia.



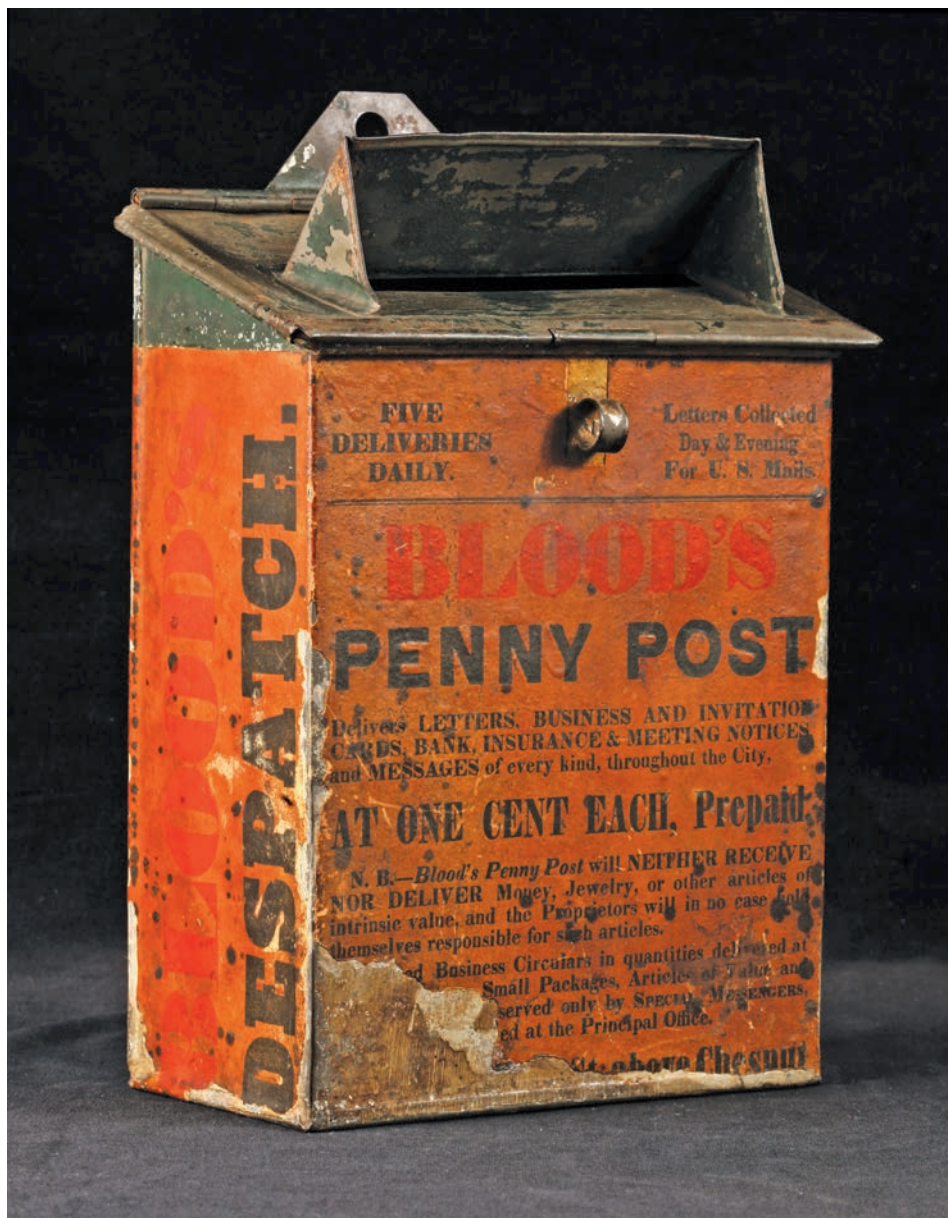


Figure 32. Blood's collection box, courtesy National Postal Museum.

The 1854 Philadelphia Act of Consolidation Act increased the city to the far reaches of the county. Over the next five years thirteen townships, six boroughs, and nine nearby districts were absorbed into the post office system as branches.<sup>88,89</sup> Furthermore, the old city was in need of updated facilities, see **Figure 34.**<sup>90</sup> Times were a'changing.

### Spring Garden and Kensington

Private posts such as Blood's Penny Post<sup>91,92</sup> and several others<sup>93</sup> for years had conducted a small amount of business in the heavily populated and rapidly growing eastern Spring Garden district.

The Philadelphia carrier department eventually serviced Spring Garden, and even delivered Bloods letters to distant Eastern Penitentiary.<sup>94</sup>

The October 13, 1854 newspapers referenced existing city postal service in Spring Garden, **Figure 35.**<sup>95</sup> as a reasonable argument for city post office, (therefore penny posts) service in Kensington. Kensington was a borough whose post office had been among the very few in the nation to sell federal Eagle Carrier prepaid stamps,<sup>96</sup> and had also engaged Philadelphia carrier department (lithograph) stamps, **Figure 36.**<sup>97</sup>

Carters Despatch had serviced letters north of the old city, one interesting January 26, 1850 example originated in Kensington and delivered to Spring Garden.<sup>98</sup>

### Theory

- (1) The Rodney Dangerfield stamp of all Bloods issues was 15L16, given little due respect for such rarity; small number of covers, no unused blocks and possibly no unused singles.
- (2) *Scott Catalogue* color listing “**bronze, black, glazed**” does not satisfactorily differentiate 15L16 appearance from conspicuously different 15L17 and 15L13 but identically color classified.
- (3) 15L16 may have been derived from the enigmatic 15L15 variant “black on bluish.”

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<sup>88</sup> *Philadelphia; A 300 Year History*, Russell Weigley, Norton & Company, 1982, pages 359, 375.

<sup>89</sup> Stets, Robert J. and Kay, John L. “*Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County, 1800-1867*”, Associated Stamp Clubs of Southeastern Penna. And Delaware, Inc, Horsham, Pa. 1979.

<sup>90</sup> Public Ledger, September 21, 1854 Vol. XXXVII, No. 155, p2.

<sup>91</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, page 52.

<sup>92</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2016, pages 56, 59, 60, 61.

<sup>93</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 817 lot 1150 on November 15, 1999, Golden.

<sup>94</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, electronic page 107.

<sup>95</sup> Public Ledger Vol. XXXVIII, No. 18, page 2.

<sup>96</sup> Clifford J. Alexander, “Use of the Eagle Carrier Stamp in Kensington” *The Penny Post*, Vol.25, No.1, Jan 2017, Whole 98, pages s 5-15.

<sup>97</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries sale 791, lot 156 on June 25, 1997, Meyersburg; PFC 317219.

<sup>98</sup> January 27, 2010 PFC 483757.



- (4) 15L16 was the “black sheep” of Blood stamps and curiously similar, perhaps inspired by, or intended to mimic recent Philadelphia carrier department lithographed “**gold**, *black*, glazed” *Scott Catalogue* 7LB11 issue of 1851-1852.
- (5) 15L16 may have been intended to overwhelm small private posts which sold black stamps.
- (6) 15L16 was an 1854 stamp serviced through the Arcade office on Chesnut near 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- (7) 15L16 cover data base is exceedingly small, revealing a very short 8 month business cluster, philatelic lifespan merely an additional 3 months, but the third highest volume per month.
- (8) 15L16 had no period of relative exclusivity among other Blood’s stamps.
- (9) By 1854 city letter collection boxes reached 500 for Bloods versus likely zero for Philadelphia’s post office.
- (10) Bloods handstamp markings were not intended to cancel and prevent reuse, but rather to confirm service performed and on which date.
- (11) Blood’s handstamps Type 17 was the dominant 15L16 companion, since it was Blood’s Penny Post primary marking through late 1854.
- (12) All three handstamps during the 15L16 cluster period continued under *Blood’s Despatch* name rather than longer Blood’s Penny Post.
- (13) No 15L16 covers received Special Messenger service.
- (14) Large valentines prepaid by only two stamps were accepted by regular Blood’s delivery.
- (15) No 15L16 covers were delivered west of Broad Street.
- (16) 15L16 was on the first Bloods cover of any stamp type to reach Florida.

### **15L16 Summary**

During the first half of the 1840’s competition between government and private post intercity service had become existential. By mid-1845 the federal government prevailed by strong-arm legislation. Within four years federal angst redirected to several large cities and control of local letter service. Perhaps the greatest single challenge for the federal government was Blood’s Despatch in Philadelphia, which proposed the reverse take-over scenario, but to no avail.

Although Postmaster General Hall had encouraged city collection boxes, Philadelphia was very slow to respond.<sup>99</sup> To the converse, Bloods had increased their boxes to 500 by mid-1852. Recently the National Postal Museum obtained an original Blood's collection box which is on display in the Gross Gallery. The name Blood's Penny Post and Blood's Despatch both appear on the box, and of course Blood in vivid red. An important achievement given London pillar collection boxes did not appear until 1854, and wall collection boxes in 1857. Given England's fame for postal innovation, their first roadside pillar box did not appear until 1852 in the Channel Islands.<sup>100</sup>

The name Blood's Penny Post appeared on 15L15 stamps by Spring 1852, and in newspapers later that year. While the new company name was successful and long lasting, the workhorse *handstamps* retained the shorter name Blood's Despatch. Type 17 and 19 handstamps were dominant throughout much of the decade. By October 1851, Type 17 appeared on covers confirming date and time; Type 19 added the year, and prevailed by the end of 1854.

In 1854 the Act of Consolidation enlarged the city of Philadelphia to the county limits, and arguably allowed Blood's Penny Post to follow outside of the old city. For several years Blood's had already positioned many collection boxes throughout Spring Garden, and which newspapers suggested should open long sanctioned Kensington for competition.

Black 15L16 may have been chosen to mimic, confuse, distract, and overwhelm competition. Black Philadelphia carrier department 7LB11 had soon disappeared, perhaps as 15L16 stamps were rolled out, and suddenly lost their purpose.

**Penny Post** 15L16 data base is only 43 covers, from which 39 genuine examples have been identified, all photographed, with 37 of 43 in color. Of 39 genuine covers, 37 destinations have been identified. The earliest recorded **Penny Post** 15L16 was date likely tied **February 14, (1854)**, and **date certain February 17, 1854**. Greatest business activity clustered tightly from **February 14, (1854) until October 24, 1854**, only **8 months**. If near outliers are included **Penny Post** 15L16 philatelic lifespan was not much longer, but a few months until January 21, (1855). The latest recorded date certain cover is a very far outlier **May 12, 1859**. Quantitative analysis revealed 1854 was by far dominant, and proved *Scott Catalogue* correct. No period of virtually exclusive service existed as large numbers of contemporaneous 15L15 and 15L14 issues existed.

The evidence in **Table 1** confirms the clear majority serviced outbound letters. From the entire data base **64% were outbound** post office letters, compared to 36% city letters, virtually identical to contemporary 15L15. Mid-century trend toward envelopes increased further, and reached ever higher to 87% of 15L16 covers.

**100% were cancelled**, all by Blood's **acid**. Furthermore, appearing on **90%** were **Blood's handstamps**. Auxiliary markings of various types had appeared on

<sup>99</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "What is a Drop Letter, and a 'Drop Dead' Letter?", *The Chronicle*, Vol. 56, No. 4, November 2003, Whole No. 200, page 254.

<sup>100</sup> Martin Robinson, *Old Letter Boxes*, Shire Publications Ltd, Buckinghamshire UK, 2004.

98% of 15L16 covers, and averaged almost two markings per cover, about equal government versus Blood's, same as 15L15. **85% were tied** to their cover, a very high rate, although much less than 15L15. Blood's Penny Post cancel tied 80% of the data base. Government markings accidentally tied 18%. Only 10% were tied by both Bloods and government.

Given no mechanical separation from panes, all were manual; the great majority cut, and very few torn. No advertising labels.

Well over half, **56%** of ~~Penny Post~~ 15L16 stamps (higher than 15L15), 22 of 39 were in combination with prepaid government intercity postage, all 3 cent. The great majority consisted of 16 imperforate general issue 1851 imperforate stamps, one 1857 perforated stamp, but five with prepaid postal stationary.

Similar to concurrent 15L15, almost **3%** were **foreign** destinations. In this case one of 39, transatlantic to Germany. None, however, to Canada or the US west coast.

Special Messenger service for large valentines had been promoted, but seldom identified. Small census 15L16 included no special messenger examples, and only one large valentine curiously sent by regular Bloods service. Apparently pragmatic valentine policy modifications had been evolving during early to mid-1850's, only now further elucidated. Likely no other private posts of the 1850's including New York had quite engineered such specialized valentine service.

Ongoing correspondence, some to historic families has been identified, including famous PT Barnum and 1854 Crystal Palace of New York. Times were changing in 1854. Philadelphia Consolidation created a conceptual network of branch post offices around one central Post Office, although implementation required many years and new facilities.

**"Bronze, black, glazed"** was a flash in the pan, and the black sheep of Blood's stamps. Black entered Blood's repertoire during high volume 1854, but quickly vanished. Quite a philatelic rarity given no recorded unused blocks or single, and only 39 or so genuine covers. Speculation suggests a black stamp may have tried to overwhelm the carrier department's recent introduction of attractive lithographed stamps, the first one in black. Several competitor private posts may have tried to mimic and ride Blood's wave of success with their own black stamp. Black stamps had no staying power.

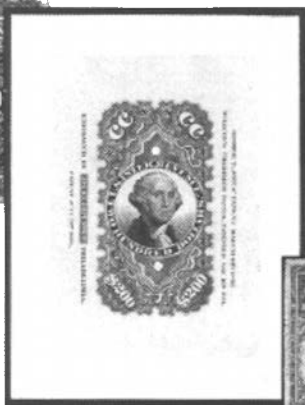
Blood's Penny Post had grown into the big guy on the streets of a tough town. During 1852 Blood's had not only survived devastating fire, but quickly responded with an infrastructure of 500 collection boxes. The year before, Blood's was offering to "help out" an ailing carrier department, and service all governmental local responsibility. "Neither snow nor rain nor heat **nor fire** nor gloom of night stays Blood's messengers from the swift completion of appointed rounds" never physically appeared over the Arcade Building, near Independence Hall, but for quite a while was "de facto" truth.

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