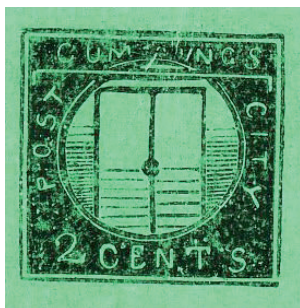


THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



Forgery H



Forgery D



Forgery J

These three different forgeries have not previously had their creator identified. Now we have an article claiming to attribute all three to Spanish lithorapher and forger Plácido Ramón de Torres.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A STORY ON THE ADDRESSEE ON A BALTIMORE CARRIER COVER

BLOOD'S DESPATCH RED CIRCULAR DATESTAMP

THE NEW HAVEN AND N.Y. EXP. POST FANTASY

MOENS, TORRES AND SOME U.S. LOCAL AND CARRIER FORGERIES

ROBINSON'S BLUE EAGLE ALM CORRESPONDENCE

NEW BOOK AND WEBSITE REVIEWS

AND MORE



Public Stamp Auction

Carriers and Locals Society Auction #29

Closing Date: November 11, 2018

Consignment Time is Closed

Contact: Martin Richardson

THE PENNY POST

VOL. 26 NO. 4



OCTOBER 2018

The Carriers and Locals Society, Inc.
APS Affiliate 211

Official Journal Of The Carriers and Locals Society

Published quarterly in January, April, July and October.
Price per issue: \$10.00 for members, \$12.00 for non-members.

Website: www.pennypost.org

CONTENTS

Editor's Message	Pages 2-4
Leave No Stone Unturned! by Richard Colberg	Pages 5-6
Blood's Despatch, ASCC Type 15 Datestamp by Marc Stromberg.....	Pages 7-14
The New Haven and N.Y. Exp. Post Fantasy of S. Allan Taylor by Clifford J. Alexander	Pages 15-23
Moens, Torres and Some U.S. Locals and Carriers Forgeries by Gerhard Lang-Valchs	Pages 24-34
Catalog of Private Express Covers, Labels and Stamps—A Review by William W. Sammis ..	Pages 35-36
A Review of the Michael Farrell Collection posted on the C&LS website by Larry Lyons.....	Pages 40-41
Part 9: Robinson's Blue Eagle ALM Covers by David R. Wilcox	Pages 42-68

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Chairman:	Clifford Alexander, 8721 Bluedale St., Alexandria, VA 22308 E-mail: clifford.alexander@klgates.com
President:	Dr. Vernon Morris, Jr., 128 South Huckleberry, Lake Drive, Sebring, FL 33875 Email: doctorcoverdude@gmail.com
First Vice President / Secretary:	John Bowman, 14409 Pentridge Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78410 E-mail: jbowman@stx.rr.com
Second Vice President:	Byron Sandfield, 6440 N. Central Exp., Suite 316, Dallas, TX 75206
Treasurer / Auction Manager:.....	Martin Richardson, P.O. Box 74, Grosse Ile, MI 48138 E-mail: MartinR362@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Cliff Alexander, Larry Ballantyne, Alan Cohen, Larry Lyons, Vernon Morris,
Martin Richardson, Steven Roth, William Sammis, David Snow, Gordon Stimmell

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief.....	Larry Lyons, 7 Brightfield Lane, Westport, CT 06880 Email: llyons@philatelicfoundation.org
Carriers.....	Scott R. Trepel, 6 West 48th St., New York, NY 10036
Expresses.....	William Sammis, 436 Thomas Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Fakes and Forgeries.....	Clifford Alexander, 8721 Bluedale St., Alexandria, VA 22308

Address changes should be sent to the Secretary, also back issue orders, other correspondence to the Editor-in-Chief. Reports of new items or articles should be submitted to the appropriate Section Editor or Editor-in-Chief. Do not send stamps or covers unless requested. Any items sent will be protected but no liability attaches to an editor or the Society.

Editor's Message

By
Larry Lyons

Come See Us

This is the 105th 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 75th 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 5,946 pages of great research articles thru 104 issues of *The Penny Post*. Over the years *The Penny Post* has won 25 gold medals in literature and seven 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.

In This Issue

We have seven diverse articles in this issue for your enjoyment. One of the “connecting themes” of some of these articles is looking, studying and presenting other aspects of a cover beyond the stamp or local post. First, up are two articles by new writers for our Journal. The first by Richard Colberg concerns the addressee on a Baltimore carrier cover. It is always enlightening to hear about the recipient of a cover that is held in a collection. It is a nice, short well written research article. The second article by Marc Stromberg is a census article about the Blood's Despatch red datestamp which was in use for only five days. The article also shows the contents of one of the letters. This is a thoroughly researched article about the Blood's red datestamp. Much thanks to Richard Colberg and Marc Stromberg for their research contributions to our Journal.

We have a presentation by Clifford Alexander, our Fakes and Forgeries editor, about the New Haven and N.Y. Express Post fantasy created by S. Allan Taylor. His article shows the Bogus 1 and Bogus 2 varieties of this fantasy stamp. The article features images from the Mike Farrell collection. The article explains how S. Allan Taylor came up with this fantasy stamp based on real express companies. Much thanks to my friend Cliff Alexander for his research on this subject.

Next up is an article by Gerhard Lang-Valchs, who is also a new author to our Journal. He has been researching the Spanish lithographer and forger, by the name of Plácido Ramón de Torres. Gerhard believes Torres produced many of the catalogue images found in Moens catalogues and quite a few are carrier and local forgery images known to us. The question being researched is whether Torres got his images from American forgers or did the American forgers get their ideas and images from Torres' designs. Undoubtedly we will be hearing more on this subject. The article contains many images that most of us probably have not seen before and questions their origin. Much thanks to Gerhard Lang-Valchs for his thought provoking article. There will be at least one more article from this author.

We have a review of the new “*Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps*” compiled by Bruce Mosher. The reviewer is William Sammis who is our express section editor. As explained by Bill, the second edition is a great expansion over the first edition. Thanks to my friend Bill Sammis for his review of this new important reference work.

The Michael Farrell collection is being posted on the C&LS website. The Farrell group consists of Mike Farrell, Casey White and Jacqui Boussary. The latter two are employees working for Mike Farrell. This group is also in charge of the *Society* website. I have written a review of the Farrell collection content which has thus far been posted on the website. You are urged to check out the website and see the beautiful and professional work that is being done.

Last up, but not least, we have Part 9 of the David Wilcox saga on the American Letter Mail Company. This article explores the David Robinson correspondence of five known letters from June 1845. David Wilcox weaves a story of what the individuals and the ALM might have been doing in the final weeks of the company’s existence. The article draws on research written by David Wilcox in his previous eight articles. Again, our connecting theme in many of these articles presented in this issue is looking, studying and presenting other aspects of a cover beyond the stamp or stampless cover. Much thanks to Dave Wilcox for his continuing research on the ALM which is very fresh and new.

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. Any article in these fields can be submitted to me for publication (email: llyons@philatelicfoundation.org). These articles are reviewed and assistance is provided by the Editor’s section heads who comprise the editorial board. *The Penny Post* continues to be at the top of society publications.

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.

Special Appreciation

I wish to give special appreciation and thanks to David Snow. David Snow has been doing “peer review” and proofreading of the articles you eventually get to read and enjoy. Quite often he provides information, comments and images to our authors. We often confer on articles and David has been very supportive of my editorship. The finished articles greatly reflect the care and time David spends on them. David has been performing these tasks since the fall of 2012. I give extra special thanks to David Snow for his help behind the scenes. Alan Cohen has done proofreading of *The Penny Post* for eighteen years.

Final Message

My parting message to you is to relax and get away from it all(particularly politics) 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.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

ADVERTISERS IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Stanley M. Piller	37
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions	38
Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions	39
Available	Inside Front Cover
Eric Jackson	Inside Back Cover
Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.	Back Cover

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

NAPEX

McLean, Virginia

June 7 - 9, 2019

Join Us!

Exhibits, Presentations & More!

Leave No Stone Unturned!

By
Richard Colberg

I'm sure there are no readers of this journal who need to be reminded to look at every aspect of the covers in their collections and exhibits. On the surface of it, the cover shown in **Figure 1** is a nice example of the 1LB9 One Cent Horse and Rider Baltimore carrier stamp. 1LB8 and 1LB9 are my only interest in the Carriers and Locals area. An added feature of the stamp is that it is Position 7, the "SENT" instead of "CENT" variety. The 3-cent U.S. postage stamp appears to be Scott #11A. Both are tied by a rather hard to read Nov. 22 blue Baltimore, Md. CDS.



Figure 1. A 1LB9a, "SENT" position 7, on a cover from Baltimore to Washington.

Another nice aspect of this cover is the advertising corner card for the Wm. Linton stone and earthenware pottery company in Baltimore. The facility at the corner of Lexington and Pine Streets started life as a pottery manufacturer owned by Maulden Perine. One of his more useful products was a refractor for coal fired stoves used on railway cars. These refractors were sold to both the Baltimore and Ohio and Washington Rail Roads.

In 1840, Perine opened a second pottery facility at Baltimore and Schroeder Streets and in 1844 partnered with an English potter, William Linton. This partnership lasted until 1848. Perine stayed at the Baltimore Street pottery and Linton remained in business at the Lexington Street facility. I found several references online for antique sales of Linton pottery items. In 1866, William Linton's son William G. Linton took over the business and operated it as Linton & Company until 1877.

Ah, but wait a minute, look at the addressee: Justin S. Morrill, Esq., House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. As a graduate of Purdue University, I am keenly

aware that I attended a Land Grant school; opened in 1869. The Land Grant College Act, also known as the Morrill Act, was enacted into law when signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1862. Morrill's bill "...proposes to establish at least one college in every State upon a sure and perpetual foundation, accessible to all, but especially to the sons of toil, where all of needful science for the practical avocations of life shall be taught, where neither the high graces of classical studies nor that military drill our country now so greatly appreciates will be entirely ignored, and where agriculture, the foundation of all present and future prosperity, may look for troops of earnest friends, studying its similar and recondite economies, and at least elevating it to that higher level where it may fearlessly invoke comparison with the most advanced standards of the world."

Justin Smith Morrill

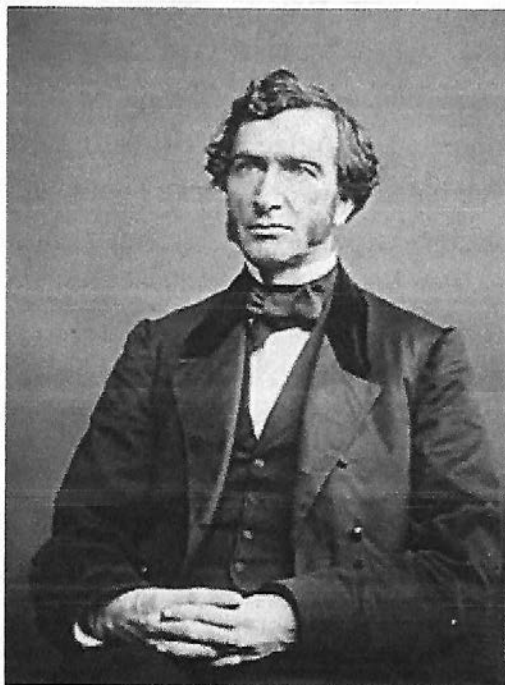


Figure 2. Justin Smith Morrill is the addressee on the cover shown in Figure 1.

Justin Morrill (1810-1898) of Vermont served in the U.S. House of Representatives (1855-1867) and the U.S. Senate from 1867 until his death in 1898.

Unfortunately, there are no contents with the cover. Perhaps Morrill was buying an item or items of Linton pottery for his U.S. House of Representatives office. Oh, if these covers could talk! But, if you listen hard enough, they do!

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/Justin_Smith_Morrill

<https://jeffersonpatterson.wordpress.com/2014/11/18/train-travel-in-comfort-courtesy-of-the-maulden-perine-pottery/#more-824>

Blood's Despatch

ASCC Type 15 Datestamp

November 22, 1858 thru November 26, 1858

By
Marc Stromberg

Blood's Despatch introduced a handstamp in late 1857 known currently as the ASCC¹ Type 15; this may change to type 21 based on the work being done by Dr. Vernon Morris. Type 15 is described as a DC-24 (double circle 24 mm), MDDH (month, day, date, hour), seen originally in black ink. **Figure 1** shows the EKU of the Type 15 datestamp Nov. 24, 1857.² A red variety of the datestamp was in use from Monday, Nov. 22, 1858, thru Friday, Nov. 26, 1858 **Figure 2**.

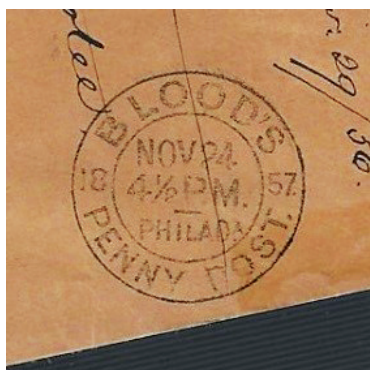


Figure 1. EKU of Type 15 datestamp.



Figure 2. The red datestamp used Nov 22-26, 1858.

This red variation is used on local and “to the mails” on folded letters and envelopes, with or without a Blood's stamp. The only Blood's stamp known in combination with the red variation is the 15L18.³ There is one United States Government issue known in combination with the red variety. It is the 3¢ 1857. Most known red examples are poorly struck but seem to be of the short line variety as categorized by Tom Clarke.⁴

Dr. Vernon Morris has provided his database of the red usages for this article **Figure 3**. The author has added two columns “Type” and “Stamp” to the database. The database currently has fourteen entries, but there are now two additional examples to be listed.

¹ David G. Phillips, “*American Stampless Cover Catalog*” 1987, page 67.

² Dr. Vernon Morris.

³ Scott 2018 “*Specialized Catalogue*”, page 596.

⁴ Tom Clarke “*A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS 18th Century to Present*” Part III 1992, pages 17-11.



Figure 4. Cover, listing #3 from the database.



Figure 5. The only “to the Mails” cover with the Blood’s red handstamp.



Figure 6. The Blood’s red handstamp on a large envelope.

Listing	Date	Addressee	Type	Stamp
1	Nov. 22, 1858	Randolph		15L18
2	Nov. 22, 1858	Shader		15L18
3	Nov. 22, 1858	Palmer	Envelope	15L18
4	Nov. 22, 1858	King		15L18
5	Nov. 22, 1858	Albeman	Envelope	3¢1857 only
6	Nov. 22, 1858	Howele		15L18
7	Nov. 23, 1858	Hood	Envelope piece	Stampless
8	Nov. 23, 1858	Belair		15L18
9	Nov. 23, 1858	Brewer		15L18
10	Nov. 23, 1858	Bickley	Envelope	15L18
11	Nov. 23, 1858	Bickley	Envelope	15L18
12	Nov. 24, 1858	Lippincott	Folded Letter	Stampless
13	Nov. 25, 1858	McAllister	Folded Letter Piece	15L18
14	Nov. 26, 1858	Roberts		15L18

Figure 3. Vern Morris' database for the red handstamp.

Figure 4⁵ is entry 3 in the database and a local delivery date of Nov. 22, 1858 bearing a Blood's Despatch 15L18⁶ and type 15 datestamp. Addressed to Miss Palmer, Colonnade Row 15th, and Chestnut. There is a name at the lower left which may indicate a boarding house.

Figure 5 is the 5th entry in the database and the only "to the mails" example I can locate. A Blood's datestamp and a 3¢1857 issue shows evidence of payment for services provided. The Blood's datestamp is not very legible, but the Philadelphia datestamp is Nov. 22, 1858. It is addressed to D. M. Albeman, Atty at Law, Harrisburg PA. There are no markings on the back and no content. The sender is unknown and the docketing gives no useful information.

Figure 6 is entry 7. It is a large piece of envelope. Opened at both ends and addressed to Samuel Hood Esquire, Atty & Counselor at Law. There are no markings on the back and no letter, unknown sender. Docketing on the front is of no help in identifying the writer.

Figure 7 is not listed in the database and is to the same addressee as entry number 13 but to a different address and the writer misspelled the recipient's last name.⁷ McAllister should have two "l's". The Philatelic Foundation described this as a "stampless 1858 dated circular". The subject matter is unknown, but probably related to McAllister's⁸ business located at 728 Chestnut Street.⁹

⁵ Philatelic Foundation certificate 322072.

⁶ Scott's Catalogue number 15L18.

⁷ McElroy's Philadelphia Directory 1859, page 430.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

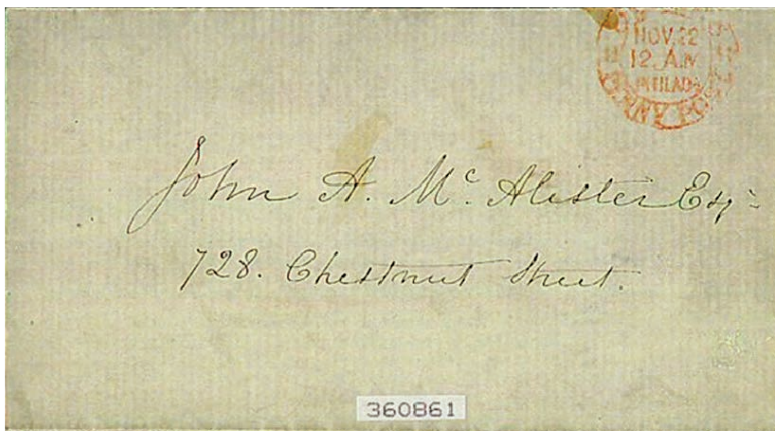


Figure 7. An additional cover with the Blood's red handstamp and not in the Morris database.

The next two examples are addressed to the same person, but at different addresses and are entries 10 and 11 in the database. **Figure 8** shows the home address for Mr. Henry Bickley at 1733 Locust Street while **Figure 9** is Mr. Bickley's work address; he was a stabler.¹⁰ Both examples are Nov. 23, 1858, and both are envelopes with no enclosures nor docketing.

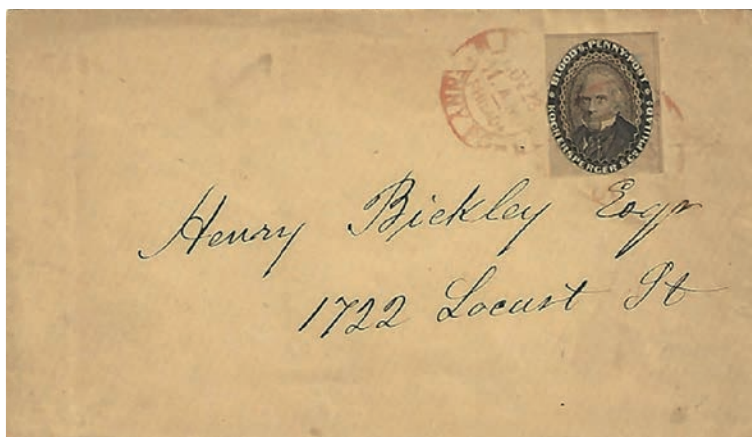


Figure 8. Blood's red handstamp on a cover addressed to Henry Bickley at his home address.

¹⁰ McElroy's Philadelphia Directory 1859, page 430.

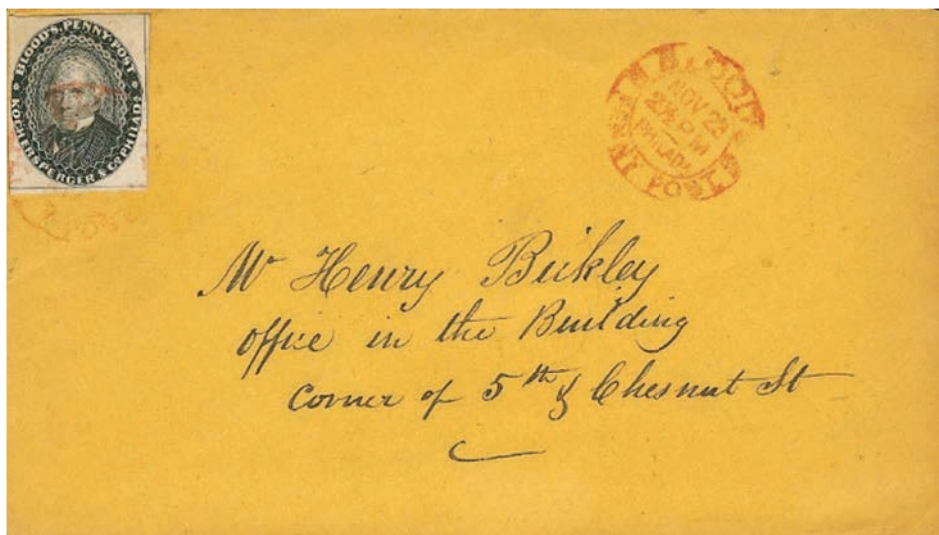


Figure 9. Blood's red handstamp on a cover addressed to Henry Bickley at his business address.

The remaining dates of November 24th, 25th, and 26th have one known example each. **Figure 10** shows the Nov. 24th date with **Figure 11** being an enlargement of the poor strike. The content is a printed notice shown in **Figure 12**. The 7AM is the earliest time stamp of any black or red type 15¹¹ datestamp, and the only known example of the red color. Of the five examples in my collection only **Figure 12** has content.



Figure 10. A stampless cover with the red handstamp dated Nov 24, 1858.



**Figure 11.
Enlargement of
strike.**

¹¹ A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, Part III, pages 17-31.

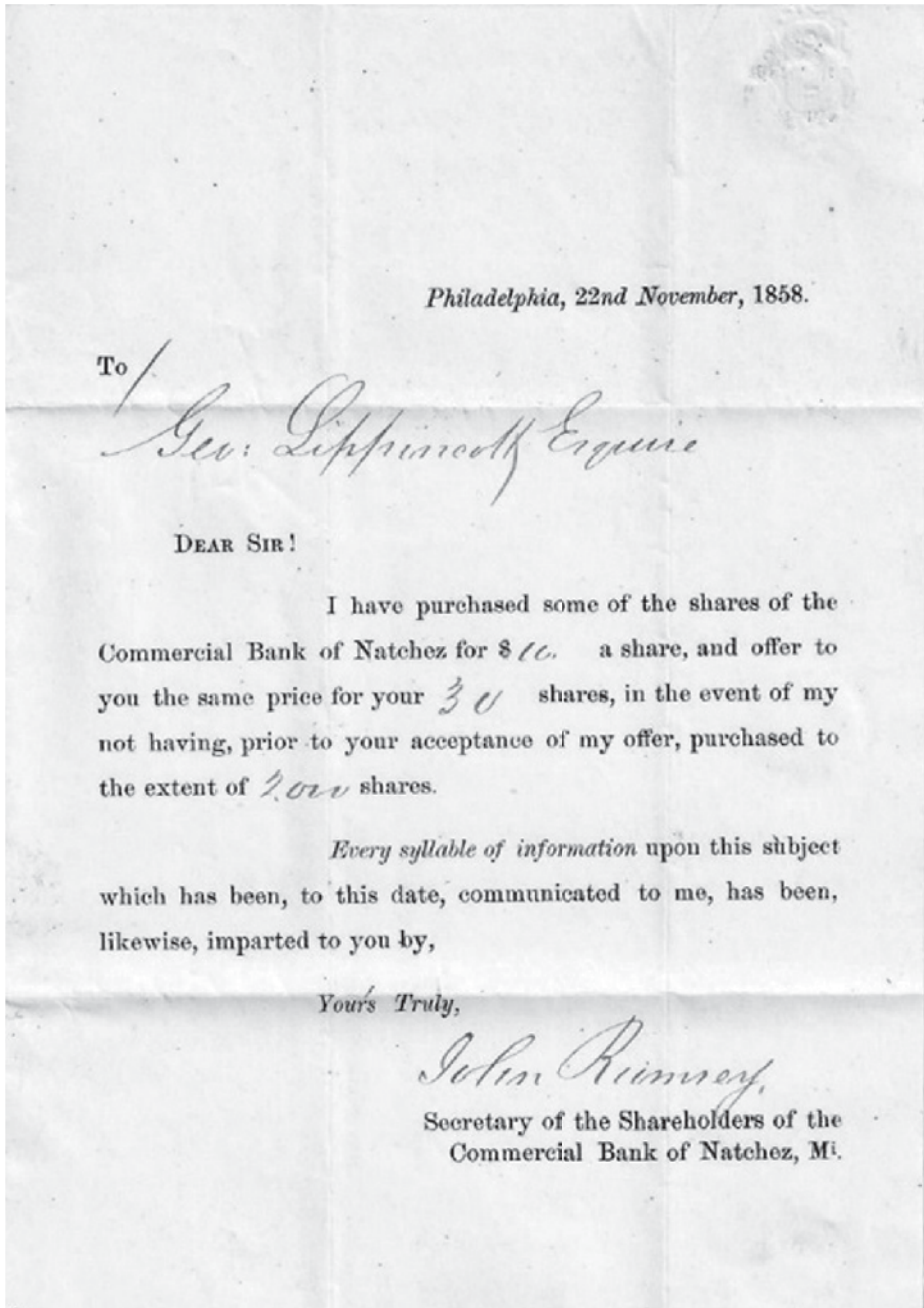


Figure 12. The contents of the Nov 24, 1858 letter.

The only known margin copy of the 15L18 used during this five-day period is shown in **Figure 13**. It's a duplicate addressee seen in **Figure 8**, but with the last name correctly spelled. I believe this was a circular with a section removed leaving only two blank pages. The writer is unknown.



Figure 13. Nov 26, 1858 example of the Blood's red handstamp and a margin copy of the 15L18 stamp.

Nov. 26, 1858, is the final example seen in **Figure 14**. Of the specimens studied I find this envelope to be the most interesting. It is addressed to Solomon Roberts, Superintendent North Pa RR, who was kind enough to docket the sender's name and letter topic; "engine chimneys." Philadelphia had two major locomotive manufacturers located in Spring Gardens. Norris Locomotive Works was the largest at this time followed by Baldwin Locomotive Works. Southern Methodist University has many volumes on the Baldwin and Norris companies. An online search of the Baldwin employee records only went back to 1906. I could not find files on the Norris employees.

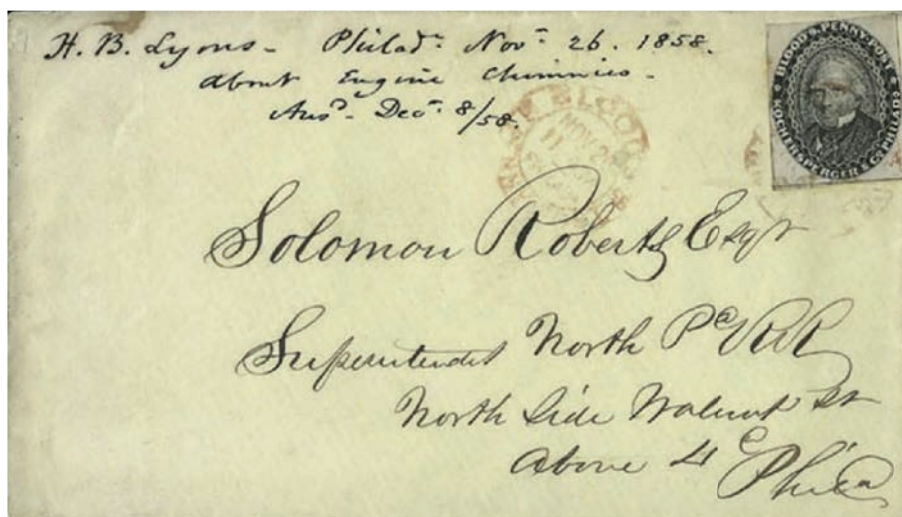


Figure 14. Nov 26, 1858, the LKU of the Blood's red handstamp.

Figure 15 illustrates the other datestamp and handstamp in use concurrently with the red type 15 datestamp. The type 13 and type 14 both were in use beyond the timeline for the red type 15 datestamp, however neither are known in red. I've not considered the special messenger handstamps, but they are also unknown in red.



Type 13



Type 14

Figure 15. Blood's handstamps in use concurrently with the red handstamp.

Nine examples of the red type 15 datestamp have been reviewed, and the following questions arise. Why was the red ink used only on the type 15 datestamp and only Monday thru Friday? Why was the usage skewed so heavily to Monday and Tuesday? Was this a test of some type? Thanksgiving week could be responsible for the skewed volume of mail. Thanksgiving was not a recognized holiday at that time, but the American people generally observed the month of November to give thanks.

The four most interesting to me are **Figures 7, 10, 13 - 14**. **Figure 7** is a circular; **Figure 10** is a printed form letter (circular); **Figure 13** appears to have been a circular, and **Figure 14** has docketing. My interest in these four examples is their point of origin and where they entered the Blood's Despatch system. With five hundred box stations in a circuit of twelve miles,¹² could an employee living in an outlying district have started work from his home and worked back to a meeting with one of the Blood's mail wagons?¹³ The employee could have picked up the contents of the collection boxes on his route, then proceeded to one of the larger stops, such as a printer. There he could use the shop as a sub-office, applying a datestamp, then meet the mail wagon and exchange his morning pickups for deliveries on his route. There seems to be no other good reason for the red usage other than a test. However, this is just a theory.

The second new listing to the database was found at PIPEX 2018. It's a cover front only to Anna M Potts and bears a 15L18 stamp with two very poor strikes of the type 15 datestamp. It could be Nov 24th, but it's such a poor strike I'll let Dr. Morris make the determination.

¹² Dr. Vernon Morris, *The Penny Post*, July 2016, front cover.

¹³ Steven Roth, *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, page 6.

The New Haven and N.Y. Exp. Post Fantasy of S. Allan Taylor

By
Clifford J. Alexander

In a 1998 article published in *The Chronicle*,¹ prolific philatelic author Calvet Hahn identified ten fantasy stamps sold by S. Allan Taylor with names of posts or express companies where Hahn found evidence that they did in fact exist in the mid-19th Century but did not issue stamps. He argued that these ten posts should not be called bogus and the stamps created by Taylor should be called “fantasies.” Hahn also wrote that “the evidence seems to support the existence of a genuine operation behind most local posts.”

One of Taylor’s fantasies is a rectangular stamp with a fancy ornamental frame and the words “NEW HAVEN/AND/N.Y. Exp. Post./10 Cents.” See **Figure 1**. This article reports on the author’s search for a company named “New Haven and New York Express Post.” With the assistance of *Carriers & Locals Society* members Mike Farrell, Casey White, and Pasqui Boussey, the article also provides new information on ink and paper colors of the fantasy.



Figure 1. A fantasy stamp attributed to S. Allan Taylor.

Summary of Lyons *Identifier*

A substantial percentage of the listings in the Lyons *Identifier* are fakes, fantasies or cinderellas.² The *Identifier* lists a total of 399 carriers, local posts, and express companies with fake and bogus stamps. 73 of the listings (or 18.3%) are characterized as bogus posts or Cinderella’s. One of these is the New Haven and N. Y. Exp. Post.

Some of the 73 are often found in collections of carriers and locals but were never intended to represent carrier, local post or express company stamps. These include the Army Frank military label, sanitary fair stamps, “railroad stamps” printed for movies, and the Tiny Town Parcel Post stamp that was sold in a children’s game. See **Figure 2**.

¹ “Are there Really Bogus Locals?” Calvet M. Hahn, *Chronicle*, (November 1998), P. 257.

² *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the U.S.* Larry Lyons, (1998), 3 Volumes.



Figure 2. Some stamps which can be found in Carrier and Local Post collections.

Earliest Reference

Taylor was one of the first to publish a philatelic journal, called *The Stamp Collector's Record*. The first issue, dated February 15, 1864, was published when he was in Montreal and the last in October, 1876, while he was in New York. Although the last issue was number 44, it appears Taylor only published 41 issues and might have lost count.

I found only one listing of the New Haven & N.Y. Exp. Post stamp in the *Record*. Issue No. 40, dated December, 1871, had in a full page price list titled "U.S. Local Stamps. ALL ONE CENT EACH." See **Figure 3**. This suggests the stamp might have been created in 1870 or 1871.

In addition to the New Haven & N.Y. Exp. Post stamp the price list offers 116 other stamps of carriers, local posts and express companies. Taylor's price list also includes 5 business college stamps, 6 sanitary fair stamps and 11 "U.S. envelopes" with express company advertisements. Issue 40 was the second to last published by Taylor.

Express Companies Operating Between New York and New Haven

A number of expresses operated between New Haven and New York in the 1840's and 1850's. New Haven and New York were important business centers at the time and the cities are only 80 miles apart. Until the end of 1848, packages were carried on steamboats from New Haven across the Long Island Sound to New York City. In late December 1848, the New York and New Haven railroad line was completed and express companies were able to carry packages between the two cities on that railroad instead of steamships.

I could not find a record of any local post or express company with the name "New Haven and N.Y. Exp. Post." in newspapers or city directories available on line. However, the 1856 issue of *Wilson's Business Directory of New York City* listed a "New York & New Haven Express Co." at 37 Canal and Fourth Avenue.

I could not find any reference to this company in 1855 or 1856 in New York City Directories available on line or any information about its business.

In 1858, based on his extensive personal experience in the express business, A. L. Stimson published an important reference book on express companies. Stimson revised and expanded the book in later years. He described a number of express companies that operated between New Haven and New York City, including Beecher Express, Hurlburt & Cos' New York, Hartford and Springfield Express, Webb's Daily Express, and Philips & Co's Express.³ Calvet Hahn also discussed these expresses in his *Penny Post* article on "Adams Express and Independent Mail."⁴

Beecher Express. From late 1841 or early 1842 until December 1843, Benjamin Beecher published advertisements for an express service between New Haven and New York. In New York Beecher was located in the Adams' Express Company offices.

Hurlbert Express. Jaren Hulbert began operating Hurlburt & Cos' New York, Hartford and Springfield Express at least by 1841. This company was sold to William Harnden in early 1842.

Webb's Express. Beecher's Express was acquired by Washington Webb in 1845 and renamed Webb's Daily Express. Webb sold his business to Adams Express in 1848, and remained in the business as an agent of Adams.

Phillips Express. Daniel Phillips was first listed as an expressman in an 1844 Hartford City Directory. He began advertising in 1845 that Phillips & Co. Express would operate from Hartford to New York via New Haven. And he continued to operate the company until it was acquired by Adams Express in 1854.

Hahn believed that Phillips likely acquired the operations of Hurlbut and William Harnden. If so, Phillips Express would have been a formidable business operation. In addition to its own letter and package business, Elliott Perry believed that Phillips also carried mail for Hartford Mail Route, American Letter Mail Co., Hale & Co., and Overton & Co.⁵

Advertisements for Phillips Express sometimes referred to the company as the "New Haven and New York" express. For example, an advertisement in the March 24, 1845, Hartford Daily Times newspaper⁶ states:

"On and after this day, the express for New Haven and New York will leave daily at 8 A.M. Packages must be handed in one half hour previous to that time to be forwarded same day.

April 1, 1845.
Philips & Co's Express."

³ *History of the Express Companies: And the Origin of American Railroads*" A. L. Stimson, (1858).

⁴ "Adams' Express and Independent Mail" (1990), Calvet M. Hahn, available on the *Carriers & Locals Society* website at www.pennypost.org/pdf/Adams-Express-by-Hahn-1999.pdf.

⁵ Perry-Hall manuscript draft.

⁶ Ibid.

Articles published by Taylor in the *Stamp Collector's Record* make it clear that he considered himself an expert on express companies, as well as carriers and local posts. He surely was familiar with many of the Eastern Express Companies that were in business during the 1840's and 1850's. Taylor in later years claimed that he always disclosed to customers when he offered "facsimile stamps." Nevertheless, he often included on his stamps a name that was similar to that of a well-known company in order to create an aura of authenticity for a stamp.

Although we cannot be certain that one or more of the express companies mentioned above was the inspiration for the New Haven & N.Y. Exp. Post stamp, I believe that Phillips Express is the primary suspect.

The Inks, Paper Colors and Paper Types

Based on the price list that appeared in the 1871 *Stamp Collector's Record*, Taylor likely had a wood printing block created for the New Haven fantasy in 1870 or 1871 when he was in Boston. Taylor continued to print and sell stamps into the late 19th Century.

Taylor's wood printing block began to deteriorate with use, producing stamps with some defects. The Lyons *Identifier* lists a Bogus 1 and a Bogus 2 of the New Haven & N.Y. Exp. Post fantasy. Bogus 1 is an earlier printing when the wood print block was complete. Bogus 2 is a version of the stamp with breaks in some of the letters.

The *Identifier* states that the principal difference between Bogus 1 and 2 is the broken left leg of the "N" in "N.Y." Pasqui Boussey has found that the absence of the left serif on the "N" of "NEW" might be a more consistent and notable difference. **Figure 4** illustrates the complete design and progressive stages of deterioration as Taylor continued to use the wood printing block. The differences primarily can be seen by comparing in each stamp both the top left serif in the "N" of "NEW" and the left leg of the "N" in "N. Y."

The New Haven fantasy is found in a number of colors and papers. In one of the principal sources of information on Taylor, Jan Kindler wrote that Taylor would print stamps on any piece of paper he could find.⁷ At times, Taylor would search trash bins outside of printers' shops for waste paper that he could use. This helps explain the extraordinary variety of ink colors and papers in which Taylor's fakes and fantasies are found.

The Lyons *Identifier* lists Bogus 1 as existing in one ink color on white wove paper, and twelve with different colors of ink on paper colored through. The *Identifier* lists Bogus 2 as existing in two colors on white woven paper, four colors on paper colored through, and one on surface colored paper.

⁷ "Caveat Emptor: The Life and Works of S. Allan Taylor," Jan Kindler, *Philatelic Literature Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (1966).

The following are the colors and types listed in the Lyons *Identifier*:

Bogus 1

- a. On white wove paper:
Black
- b. On paper colored through:
 - Black on Pale Grey
 - Black on Magenta
 - Black on Pink
 - Black on Purple
 - Black on Salmon
 - Black on Orange
 - Black on Light Blue
 - Red on Yellow
 - Red on Yellow (H.L.)
 - Dull Red on Cream
 - Brown on Yellow
 - Burgundy on Cream

Bogus 2 (Broken “N”)

- a. On white wove paper:
Brown
Blue (V.L.)
- b. On paper colored through
 - Black on Pink
 - Black on Pale Green (V.L.)
 - Black on Blue
 - Black on Yellow
- c. On surface colored paper:
Black on Red (Wmk.)

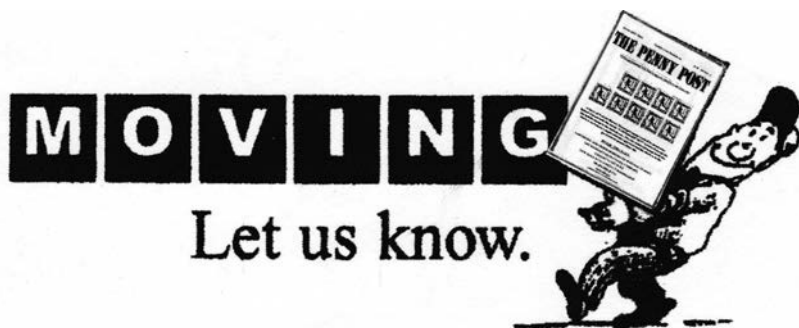


Figure 4. S. Allan Taylor fantasy stamps type I with the top left serif on the “N” in “NEW” intact and the left leg of the “N” in “N.Y.” not broken.

Mike Farrell has generously allowed the *Society* to include scans of his collection of genuine and fake stamps on the *Society* website. The attractive collection pages can be found under “Collecting Information” by clicking on “References.” As of the writing of this article, some issuers with names beginning in “A” and “B” have been added. Pages will continue to be added and also updates incorporated over time.

There is no evidence any express company named “New Haven & N. Y. Exp. Post” existed in the mid-19th Century. Taylor adopted the name for a fantasy stamp because collectors would likely associate the name with a real express company with a similar name operating between New York and New Haven. Taylor presumably believed that the name on the fantasy stamp sounded authentic and some collectors might consider the stamp legitimate. The likely candidate is Phillips Express, which began operation by 1845 and continued in business for at least nine years until it was sold to Adams Express.

I would like to thank Mike Farrell, Casey White, Pasqui Bouserry, Larry Lyons, and John Bowman for their assistance.





PRICE LIST
OF
U. S. Local Stamps.
ALL ONE CENT EACH.

Adams & Co.'s Express, (San Francisco.)
Arthur's City Post.
Barr's Penny Despatch.
Bancroft's City Express, (Montreal.)
Barnard's Carline Express.
Baldwin's R. R. Postage.
Bell's Despatch, (Montreal.)
Blood's Despatch, (Philadelphia.)
Blood's Penny Post, "
Blood's 1c. Despatch,
Blood's Post-Office Despatch, Philadelphia.
Blood's D. O. & Co. "
Blood's (Envelope.)
Brainard & Co., N. Y.
Brattleboro, Vt., P. O.
Broadway P. O., N. Y.
Browne & Co., 1c, Cincinnati.
Browne & Co., 2c, Cincinnati.
Boyce's Express Post.
Boyd's Express Post, N. Y.
Brooklyn Express Post.
Bouton's Manhattan Express, N. Y.
Buck's Richmond Express.
Bowery Post-Office, N. Y.
Brady & Co., N. Y.
Bradway's Despatch, (Millville.)
Bridge Despatch, C. & W.
Bronson & Forbes Express Post.
Bentley's Despatch, N. Y.
Clark & Co., 1c, N. Y.
City Despatch Post, (C. C.) N. Y.
Carnes' Letter Express, (San Francisco.)
Cheever & Towle, (Boston.)
Chicago Penny Post.
Carter's Despatch.
Cornwell's Madison Sq. P. O., N. Y.
Carriers' Despatch.
City Express Post.
City Despatch Delivery, New York.
Cunning's City Post, New York.
Chestnut St. Line, Philadelphia.
Charleston P. O.
Crosby's City Post, 2c, N. Y.
Clinton's Penny Post, Philadelphia.
Down's Despatch.
Deming's Penny Post, Frankford, Pa.
Dupuy & Schenck Penny Post.
Donaldson's Despatch.
East River Post-Office, New York.
Essex Letter Express, New York.
Eagle City Post, Philadelphia.
Florida Express.
Floyd's Penny Post, (Chicago.)
Franco-American Co.
Franklin City Despatch.
Flynn's Penny Post.
Gunn's Despatch.
Glen Haven Daily Mail.

Grafflin's Despatch, (Baltimore.)
Gordon's City Express.
Government City Despatch.
Grand Trunk Railway.
G. A. Mills Despatch Post.
Hackett's City Post.
Humboldt Express.
Hale & Co., (Boston.)
Hanford's Pony Express.
Hanley's Express Post.
Hall & Neill's Despatch Post.
Hartford Daily Mail.
Hunt's Despatch.
Hoyt's Letter Express, N. Y.
Jenkins' Camden Despatch.
Johnson's Box, Philadelphia.
Jefferson Market P. O., N. Y.
Jones' Express Post.
Ker's City Post, 2c.
Kidder's Express Post.
Knox & Lang, (Worcester.)
Letter Express Free, N. Y.
Lebeau's City Post.
Metropolitan P. O., N. Y.
Moody's Penny Post, Chicago.
Messenkope's Union Square P. O., N. Y.
Menant & Co.'s City Express Post, New Orleans.
New Haven and N. Y. Express Post, 10c.
N. Y. City Post.
Pomeroy's Letter Express, N. Y.
Priest's Despatch.
Prince's Letter Express, (Portland.)
Providence, R. I., 5c.
Providence, R. I., 10c.
P. O. 1c. Despatch.
Roadman's Penny Post.
Russell's 4th Avenue P. O., N. Y.
Robison & Co., (Brooklyn.)
Smith's Express Post, (N. Y.)
Steinmeyer's City Post.
Squier & Co., (St. Louis.)
Springside P. O., (Pittsfield.)
Swart's Chatham Square P. O., (New York.)
Swart's, (to the Mail.)
St. Louis Post-Office.
Stringer & Morton's City Express Post.
Teese & Co., (Philadelphia.)
U. S. P. O., (paid.)
Union Square P. O., New York.
Whittelsey's Express Post.
Walker's Penny Post.
Warwick's City Despatch, 2c.
Warwick's City Despatch, 6c.
Winan's City Post, (4 denominations.)
Westervelt's Post, (Chester, New York.)
Washington 1c Despatch.
Walton & Co., (Brooklyn.)
Wells, Fargo & Co., 1/2 oz.
West Town.

BUSINESS COLLEGE STAMPS.

Bryant, Stratton & Co., Albany.
" " " Boston.
" " " Montreal.
British American College Stamp.
Eastman's College Stamp.

SANITARY FAIR BAZAAR STAMPS, &c.

Albany Bazaar.
Brooklyn Sanitary Fair.
Springfield Soldier's Fair.
Stamford Soldier's Fair.
Little Wanderer's Aid Society.
Fenian Bazaar.

ON U. S. ENVELOPES.

Swift & Co.'s Express, 10c. each.
Langton's Pioneer Express, 10c. each.
Holladay's Overland Mail, 20c. each.
Wells, Fargo & Co., Omaha, 25c. each.
Wells, Fargo & Co., (California and coast,) 5c. each.
Ward & Davis Express, 20c. each.
Bamber & Co., 20c. each.
Pacific Union Express, 20c. each.
Langton's Nevada Mail, 20c. each.
Freeman & Co., 20c. each.
Wheeler, Rutherford & Co., 20c. each.

Figure 3. S. Allan Taylor price list dated December 1871.

NEW HAVEN AND N. Y. EXP. POST

Supposedly operating between New York City, N.Y. and New Haven, Connecticut, this bogus was first reported in November of 1865. It was made by S. Allan Taylor, and quickly known for the fraud it is.



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM 1
10c BLACK
ON PALE PINK H. LAID



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM 1
10c BLACK
ON GREENISH V. LAID



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM 1
10c BLACK
ON SALMON



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM 1
10c BLACK
ON BLUISH



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM 1
10c BLACK
ON WHITE WMK



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM AA13
10c RED VIOLET
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM AA13
10c RED VIOLET
ON SALMON



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM AA13
10c RED VIOLET
ON YELLOW



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM AA13
10c RED VIOLET
ON YELLOW H LAID



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM AA21
10c BLACK
ON PEACH



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM AA21
10c BLACK
ON PALE ORANGE



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM AA21
10c BLACK
ON PURPLE



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM AB3
10c LIGHT BROWN
ON PALE YELLOW

Figure 5. The type 1 stamps in the Mike Farrell collection.

NEW HAVEN AND N. Y. EXP. POST



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR
10c BLACK
ON RED ORANGE SC



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR
10c RED
ON CREAM



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR
10c RED
ON PALE PINK



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR
10c RED
ON PALE PINK H LAID

The "New Haven and N.Y. Exp. Post" stamps known as "Bogus 2" are a variation of the first bogus stamp, with plate wear showing. Most notably is the missing top-left serif on the "N" of "NEW".

On some of these stamps, to the right side, you can see parts of the "Moody's City Dispatch" bogus Taylor made. All these stamps belong to form AB2, which has both stamps in it.



BOGUS 2
TAYLOR - FORM AB2
10c BLACK
ON PINK



BOGUS 2
TAYLOR - FORM AB2
10c BLACK
ON LILAC



BOGUS 2
TAYLOR - FORM AB2
10c BLACK
ON BLUE



BOGUS 2
TAYLOR - FORM AB2
10c BLACK
ON GREENISH



BOGUS 2
TAYLOR
10c BLACK
ON CREAM



BOGUS 2
TAYLOR
10c RED
ON CREAM



BOGUS 2
TAYLOR
10c BLUE
ON CREAM H LAID

Figure 6. The type 2 stamps in the Mike Farrell collection.

Moens, Torres, and Some U.S. Locals and Carriers Forgeries

A Critical Look at the Lyons *Identifier* Forgeries Attributed to Moens' Illustrations

By
Gerhard Lang-Valchs

Introduction

In 1998 Larry Lyons started publishing the first of the three volumes of his *Identifier*, a thorough compilation of the forgeries of the American local post issues. They contain a very detailed description and analysis of all fakes known up to that date, and present images or figures explaining the particulars and differences of the similar items allowing a clear identification of each. The bibliographic notes with the sure or possible attribution to the corresponding forgers complete this monumental work.

A work like the *Identifier* is an excellent data base for further research on this subject. And as the research goes on, sometimes discoveries emerge that provide new evidence that complete or even correct some aspects of our knowledge. One of those discoveries related to the Locals and Carriers [L&C] is the role played by the little known Spanish engraver, stamp dealer and forger Plácido Ramón de Torres (1847-1918) in this context.

Plácido Ramón de Torres is even in his home country nearly unknown, but was a widely underestimated lithographer and stamp forger. Born in Spain, he grew up in Italy, where his passion for stamp collecting together with his skills and abilities as a lithographic engraver were discovered by the Florentine editor and stamp dealer Carlo Elia Usigli. Aware of the world-wide perceivable boom of stamp collecting in the early 1860's, Usigli felt the need of images that could help dealers and collectors to identify the objects they wanted to sell or buy. With the help of the young Spaniard, who made the stamp illustrations, he built up a distribution network for those items that soon covered nearly the whole European market.¹

In my opinion, the Spaniard drew most of the images that the European editors of catalogues and philatelic magazines used for their illustrations. But his activities were not only limited to Europe but spread to America in my opinion. Some of the early American catalogues used his illustrations as well, although it is not yet clear to what extent.²

As it has been shown by this author that Torres made "private copies" of most of his illustrations putting them into stamp packages, and we must suppose that the American stamps are no exception from the rule. And indeed, it can be shown that

¹ Gerhard Lang-Valchs [GLV]: *Los grabadores de Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Eco Filatélico y Numismático, sept. 2017, p. 30-32 (1st part) and oct. 2017, p. 25-27 (2nd part).

² GLV: *The Early Scott Catalogues and Their Illustrations. Discovering a Spanish Forger's Footprints*, Collectors Club Philatelist, nº 96, Nov.-Dec. 2017, p. 205-210.

Torres forged a lot of CSA-stamps and even produced his “own” bogus stamps.³ So, it seems logical and obvious to suppose, that the same could have occurred with the US L&C-stamps.

Moens and/or Torres

The first work that illustrated stamps was produced by the Belgian Jean-Baptiste Moens. It was a supplement to his 1862 *Manuel du collectionneur de timbres-poste* published in 17 deliveries between 1862 and 1863. The two engravers of the illustrations are well known by their references in the footnotes of the lithographic sheets. See **Figure 1**.



Figure 1. Moens catalogue illustrations by lithographer Deraedemaeker at top and by lithographer Schmitz at bottom. Note the image similarity to Taylor forgeries. Which came first?

³ GLV: *The Moens-Torres Fantasy Stamps and Forgeries*, Stamp Lover, vol. 109, n. 2, April 2017, p. 52-53 (part I); n. 3, June 2017, p. 77-79 (part II); n. 4, August, p. 109-111 (part III).

In his 1864 *Catalogue Illustré* Moens bound the deliveries together with the catalogue. The new edition contained 10 further illustrations of a clearly different quality, integrated in the text, made by a different engraver, Plácido Ramón de Torres. Its English version, published half a year later, contained even 12 images more of recently published stamps, sometimes printed on the page margins or the reverse of the lithographic sheets. Torres is from this time on **the** engraver for Moens, his magazine and later catalogues.⁴ See **Figure 2**.

— 121 —

Type 6, ci-centre.

1864. — Nom, E. U. de Columbia correos nacionales, même écusson que le précédent, mais sur fond de coul., coins coupés et ornés, imp. coul. rect.

5 cents jaune, 10 cents bleu, 20 cents rouge.

NOTA. *L'unité monétaire est la pièce de 5 francs, qui porte le nom de peso (piastre). Le peso est divisé en décimes et en centimes, et par conséquent un franc vaut deux décimes ou 20 centimes.*



**Figure 2. An illustration in Moens Catalogue by lithographer Torres.
No forgeries are known exactly matching this design.**

Lyons and Moens

Larry Lyons presents in the introduction to the first volume of his *Identifier* a large list of forgers who have or might have produced some of the later listed and described forgeries. The name of Torres does, certainly, not appear in any of the three volumes. Moens, however, is omnipresent.

He writes: “These cuts [of the manual] were reproduced. It is not known, whether the forgeries were made before or after the printing blocks left his [Moens’] possession.”⁵ In other words, Moens himself or a supposed later buyer of the printing stones made or ordered forgeries with these clichés/stones. Lyons uses the term “after Moens” to describe forgeries made resembling the Moens cuts.

On the previous page we can read the following: “These illustrations [of the 1864 catalogue] were used to produce forgeries. When the stamp is exactly as the Moens illustration I call the forgery (Moens).”⁶ Here, Lyons seems to refer to two different types of forgeries: handmade copies that used the Moens illustration as model and copies made with the same cliché/stone (“exactly as the Moens illustration”).

Consequently, we have to suppose that Lyons based his analysis, as far it refers to Moens and the fakes that might be related with him, on the illustrations of

⁴ See GLV: Grabadores.

⁵ Larry Lyons [LL]: *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Post of the United States* [Identifier], vol. I, Springfield 1998, page viii.

⁶ Ibidem, p. vi. Underlining made by the author.

the above-mentioned supplements or the 1864 *Catalogue Illustré*, which are all the same. (See the Editor's note at the end of this article.)

Reconstructing his analysis by comparing the catalogue illustrations with what he takes for Moens-forgeries, we get a very strange result. Only three out of the 94 samples attributed to Moens seem to be exact copies one from the other. Five or six could be in doubt. One of the supposed forgeries can't be found among the images.⁷ Such an overwhelming number of errors needs to be explained because the items labelled as such could not have been made with the original stones.

The purported Moens Lithographics

I'll show now that the samples Lyons as well as other experts took for copies made with the original stones or for identical copies taken from those stones, are by no means what they have been represented to be. They are more or less well achieved hand-made copies inspired in their painting style in the Moens illustrations. They are in reality nothing but fakes that only claim to be copies made with the Moens-stones in order to sell better. See **Figure 3**.



Figure 3. Winans' City Post illustration in the 1864 Moens catalogue.

Lyons relied, as well as others, on the authenticity of those fakes and the accuracy of their inscription: "Lithograph from Postage Stamps Illustrated." J. B. Moens. London. 1864." The handwritten number of the corresponding plate in the last line is another element that pretends to underline their genuineness. As far as I could see, only Richard Frajola compared those purported Moens lithographs with those of the genuine publication.⁸ That's what I will do now.

⁷ The Pomeroy Express stamp is depicted at the centre of the front-page of the 1868 Moens book *Timbres d'Offices Américains*, together with other six L&C-stamps, all, by no means, the work of one of his two early engravers.

⁸ R. Frajola: *Mock United States Local Post*, [<http://www.rfrajola.com/mocks/mocksframe1.htm>; 20.00.2018, 12.40].

Most of those copies are easily recognizable. They don't hide their status as such, all showing an additional fine outer frame line, most uncommon on other fakes or forgeries, and above the upper frame of the stamp the numbers Moens had assigned to their "authentic" brethren in his catalogue. They are printed on an oblong piece of paper, the double of the original size, showing in its lower part a label with a hand-struck stamp that seemingly avails their provenience. By the way, the *Catalogue Illustré* presents about 600 stamp illustrations, but only from the American stamps exist such kind of labels, more than 100.

Let's have now a critical and comparing look at three of them, in order to show that my assertions are true. One of the examples is taken from the CSA-stamps, because it is self-explaining, the other two are L&C.

The high pictorial and reproduction quality of the lithographs of the *Catalogue Illustré* was widely known and recognized. Except for about ten pieces, the quality was such, that shortly after its publication, a British stamp expert, E. L. Pemberton, could identify half a dozen of forgeries of the Moens collection, that had served the engravers as basis.⁹

There are as well some few L&C-illustrations that are (very) poor copies. But after what has been just said and availed by the quality of the overwhelming majority of the cases, the only explanation for those poor copies is the poor conservation quality of the originals of Moens' collection they were copied from.

I mention this fact, because it gives us, beyond all further analysis, a first and decisive clue for declining the authenticity of the corresponding "labelled specimen," because they show a visibly superior quality than the poor originals of the Moens catalogue could depict. The lithographic stone that Moens used was engraved without the stamp inscription in both the French and English versions of the catalogue. Any further copy of this stone could have the inscription added.

Some Analytics

This first sample is not from the L&C. I think no analysis is needed to describe the clearly visible differences. The differences between the alleged original and its fake-copy are evident. See **Figure 4**.



Figure 4. Moens Catalogue illustration at right, Scott forgery at center and Swiss fake at left.

⁹ *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, May 1863, p. 27.

Although the illustration of the International Express shows a very simple design, the different frame is eye-catching. The adorning rectangular frame is formed now by simple crosses. See **Figure 5**.

Here is another example. The inscription, impossible to read and to decipher for the catalogue engraver because of the bad quality of the sample to copy, was reproduced as a kind of black banderol surrounding the eye. Now it has been wondrously reconverted in a clearly legible inscription. See **Figure 6**.

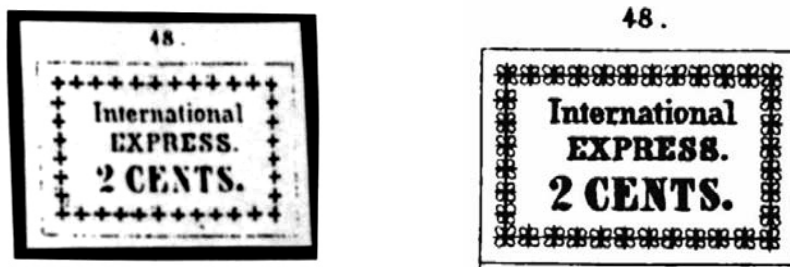


Figure 5. At right is the image attributed to Moens and used to make Bogus 2 stamps. The image at left is Bogus 5 attributed to Moens from which no forgeries are known.

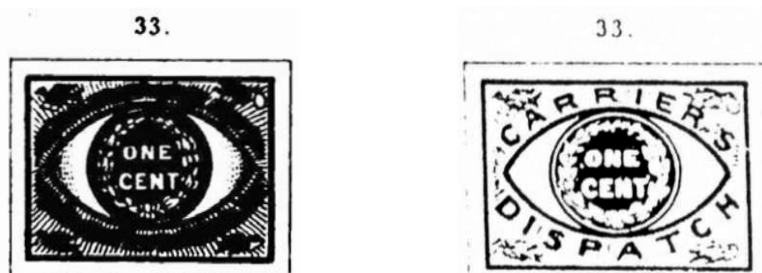


Figure 6. At right is Forgery F and G. which are attributed to Moen images and from which the gold sheet was printed. No forgeries exactly match the image at left.

I've presented only three samples, very easy to identify as far from exact or identical copies of the real Moens-illustrations.

80 out of the 94 forgeries Lyons attributes to Moens could be clearly identified as "copies imitating Moens illustrations," most of them not as bad, but as well as the three above analyzed samples, by no means copies made with the original stones. The remaining are doubtful. Thus it is clear that neither the original stones nor possibly later copies taken from them were ever used to produce those or other forgeries.

But this is not the only confusion in relation with Moens we find in the *Identifier*. In the text appear four different terms, when Lyons refers to Moens. No

clear indication is given, what he refers to, when he speaks of the Belgian. “Moens’ 1864” (86), “Moens’ 1864 cut” (1), “Moens’ (1865)?” (1) and “Moens’ forgery” (6) are the notes we find in the final bibliography.¹⁰ He obviously does not refer to the same provenance of the samples, but, except for the first, we don’t know which are the other points of reference.

There’s no doubt that of all the samples described and listed by Lyons, the supposed 1864 illustrations as well as the others, are forgeries. But their attribution to Moens as illustrations (made with the original stones or identical copies of them) can’t be accepted. All those samples are, in my opinion, the work of an American forger, who focused on the US issues. He reproduced only CSA and L&C-stamps thinking mainly of the American philatelic market.

The real Moens/Torres forgeries

Although, as demonstrated above, very few of the supposed Moens-fakes can possibly be attributed to the Belgian, there exist quite a lot of other forgeries, undoubtedly related to Moens. About 40 out of the 248 illustrations of the 1892 *Moens Catalogue* exist as identical forgeries described by Lyons, 8 are doubtful.¹¹ Some of the remaining 200 illustrations might exist as not yet discovered or described forgeries as well.

Let’s look at the Baltimore Carrier “eye” forgery. The present forgery bears the impress of the “trademark” Torres left not only on many of his illustrations, but also conserved, and not “corrected”, on some of his forgeries: The “E” instead of the final “S” in “CARRIER’S”, another of his so-called jokes. We, certainly, find another one on the “Hourly”-stamp, where he converted the final “Y” into “V”. See **Figure 7**.



Figure 7. The stamp pictured here is Forgery H which is known in five different colors.

¹⁰ LL, Identifier, p. 1242-96.

¹¹ Jean-Baptiste Moens: *Catalogue prix-courant de timbres-poste, tome I*, Bruxelles 1892, sheets 67-74, #1788-2026.

The bird in the upper right corner seems to carry a “C” in his beak. The knot at the bottom of the central circle that binds together the two leaves surrounding the central inscription, has the shape of a lower case “m”.

Next, let’s look at the Cummings’ “letter with a heart” forgery. The absence of the squarish dots at the upper left part of the envelope quickly identifies the forgery. The originally heart-shaped seal in the middle is now nearly round with a slight dent at the right. The number and distribution of the horizontal lines (7 at the left and 6 at the right) on the envelope, as well as the number and distribution of the background-lines shading the inner circle (21/18) is identical on the not genuine samples. See **Figure 8**.



Figure 8. This is Forgery D which has not previously been attributed to a specific forger.

We move on to the Gordon’s City Express forgery. The hat of the postman is white, without any shading, the same occurs with the shapeless face. His right foot has no shoe and even seems to be amputated. The whole lettering differs remarkably from the original, showing, however, all the same shape even in details on the two other samples. See **Figure 9**.

The coincidences of the Moens-illustrations with the forgeries and the corresponding Lyons’ descriptions leaves no doubt, that they are of the same origin. As initially referred, we know that Torres was from 1864 the engraver of J.-B. Moens. At the end of the article a chart will be presented that lists all until now detected Torres forgeries, indicating their Lyons’ and Moens’ references.

Conclusions and Doubts

There is space for doubts that the images that served to make the above presented fakes are the work of Torres. But are really all those fakes the work of Torres or were they only based on his illustrations, but made by others?



Figure 9. This is Lyons forgery J which has not been attributed to a specific forger. The image in the *Lyons Identifier* came from the Sloane reference collection. See the *Identifier*, page 1264.

Torres was a lithographer and made lithographic copies of his illustrations. Following Lyons' analysis, about half of the samples I identified as the work of Torres, are, however, typographed. In two other recently investigated cases I came across with the same or a similar problem. Some of the German private post issues (Hamburger Boten), forged as well by Torres, also exist in an identical typographed and a lithographed fake version. The same occurs with some supposed Scott-forgeries of the CSA-stamps, whose image-copy is undoubtedly from Torres. We are probably dealing with copies, made with the aid of photographic techniques that took the Torres-illustrations furnished by him or taken from their catalogue images as a model.

To prevent misunderstanding we should dedicate some lines to another term, introduced by Lyons: "after Moens"-copy or forgery, a term misused in many publications. As he explicitly explains, this term refers solely and exclusively to the imitation work of an unknown, in his opinion French forger, who printed his copies in gold ink, the author of the so-called "Gold-sheet".

Torres' own catalogue from 1879 (*Plácido Ramón de Torres: Álbum de sellos de Correos ...*, Barcelona 1879) normally serves to identify his forgeries previously furnished as illustrations to the main European editors like Edward Gray, Stanley Gibbons or Arthur Maury. For later forgeries or forgeries of later issued stamps, we usually draw on his illustrations found in Moens's magazine *Le Timbre Poste* or the French Maury catalogues and albums. In this case we can only rely on the Moens 1877 and 1892 catalogues, because none of the formerly mentioned works includes the L&C-stamps, nor other European catalogues do.

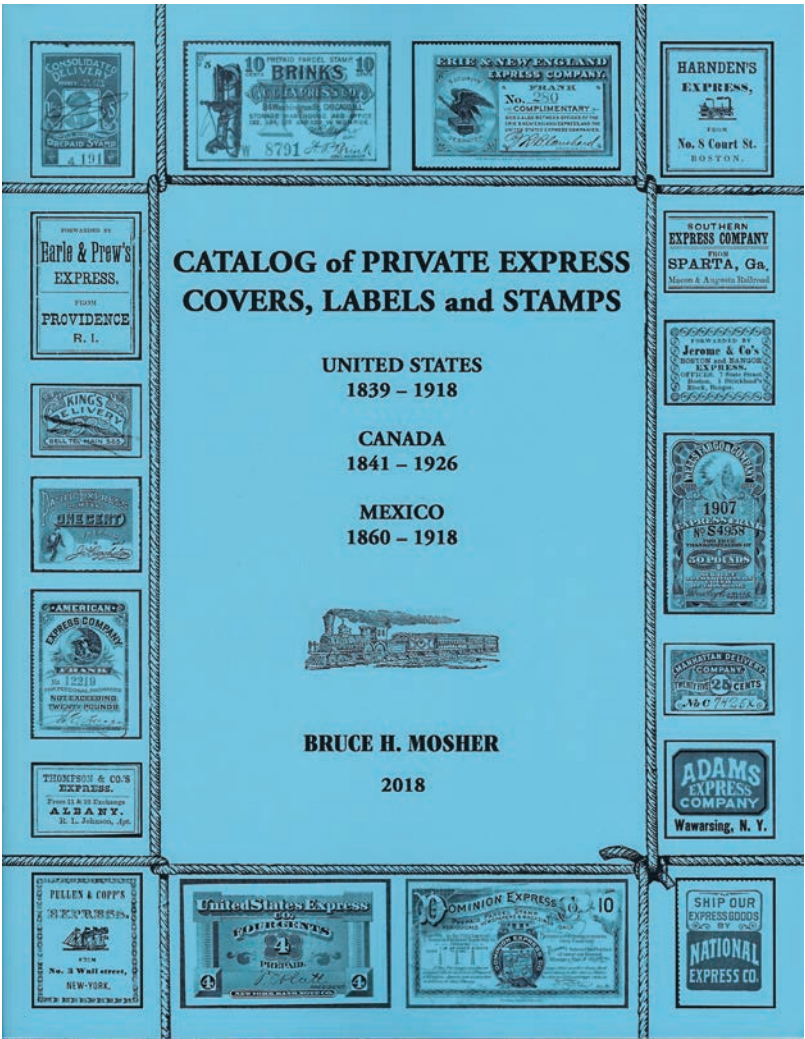
Name	Forgery	Moens #
Adams City Express	F	1791
American Express	H	1794
American Letter Mail	F	1795
Blood's City Despatch	Type IV/B	1806/07 (?)
The "Dove" Stamp	C E(?)	1809 (1810?)
Kochersperger	A (?)	1815
The "Henry Clay" Stamp	D (?)	1816
Boyd's City Express Post	F	
Boyd's City Express	Type 1, B Type X, N (?)	1822
Boyd's City Dispatch	A	1833
Brooklyn City Express Post	F (?)	1864
Clark & Co	D	1876
Clarke's Circular	B	1877
Cummings City Post	D	1882
Eagle City Post	Type III, D	1890
Gordon's City Express	J	1905
Hale & Co	E	1908
Hall & Neill's	Bogus 2	1910
Hoogs & Madison	Bogus 2	2024
Hourly Express	Bogus 1	1919
Pony Mail Carrier	Bogus	1999? 2000?
Roadman's Penny Post	Bogus 10	1971
Russells 8 th Avenue	C	1974
The Eye Stamp	H	1859
Smith's City Express	I	1976
Snows Despatch	A	1977
Snows Express	?	1978
Spence & Brown	Bogus 1 (?) Bogus 2 (?)	2026
Steinmeyers	E	1982
Swarts, Washington Stamp	A	1985
Teese	A	1987
Union Square	C1	1990
U.S.P.O.	G (?)	1994
Westtown	C	2029
Winan's City Post	Bogus O	2012
Wood & Co		2013

Reference: Moens' 1893 catalogue

Editors' Note: Since 1998 I have done extensive research into foreign stamp forgeries and their forgers. Torres' cuts and possibly a few forgeries attributed to him or his images have been recorded. No C&L stamp forgeries have previously been attributed to Torres. I did have access to several Moens Catalogues from various years. These various catalogues have different images and sometimes different cut numbers. The reason is there were at least three different lithographers! Over the years I did correspond with Bob Meyersburg on these differences in images.

This is the first of three articles by Gerhard Lang-Valchs which will appear here in **The Penny Post**. I am looking forward to actual proof that Torres may have made C&L stamp forgeries.

Larry Lyons



Catalog of Private Express Covers, Labels and Stamps

2018 Second Edition by Bruce H. Mosher

A Review

By
William W. Sammis

In 2002 Bruce Mosher published his two hundred and twenty three page *Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps*. He consolidated earlier work done by Harry M. Konwiser (*Express Company Labels*, #18 *The Stamp Specialist Mahogany Book*, 1947), Sherwood Springer (*Springer's Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps*, 8th edition, 1975), David G. Phillips (*American Stampless Cover Catalog*, volume II, 4th edition, 1987) and others. However, with persistent sleuthing over a ten-plus year period of time (reviewing collections such as that of the late Frank Q. Newton, Jr., reviewing auction catalogs and all other available sources) Bruce added items to the point that his work deserved the appellation, "pioneering". This catalog was devoted to the labels, free franks, parcel stamps, and cornercard covers of U.S. and Canadian express companies. These companies were listed alphabetically with thumbnail histories, Mosher catalog numbers, and value estimates being added. Now, sixteen years later, we have the second edition.

The general format remains the same but with cross footing to other sources; literature reference; footnotes; stamp identifier aids (by text and supplemental images), all being increased while indexes and appendices remaining useful. But there are significant improvements to the first edition.

United States listings (1839-1918) make up the bulk of the catalog with a not insignificant listing for the Commonwealth of Canada (1841-1926). Mexican express labels (1860-1918) have been newly added (more pioneering work) and appropriate listings of overseas items have been increased. North American Express Covers (cornercard and all-over advertising covers) have been segregated to their own section. (Some of these are of the very pretty cameo type.) Twelve pages of representative color images have been added. (Collectors who have previously encountered this material either on or off cover are well aware of its visual impact; others can look forward to that experience.) A section pertaining to U.S. mailing and shipping service labels and stamps has also been added.

Most importantly the catalog has been expanded. It was Bruce's hope and expectation that his first edition would lead to the discovery of further items. That hope was realized. Pages have been increased 128% to reach 508 with corresponding images running to over 5,100. The new total of listed items is 6,690 (over 850 businesses); add to this approximately 550 other items that are shown without catalog numbers or valuations. **Figure 1** is an excerpt of pictured contents.

Philatelists with appropriate holding should purchase this catalog to give form to their collections and to inform themselves. Additionally, this comprehensive and well-presented work should encourage others to enter the field as it encompasses varied, colorful, and fascinating philatelic material. The Mosher Catalog is there to guide, entertain, and educate.

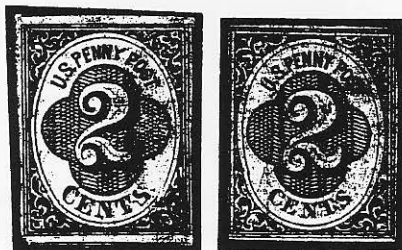
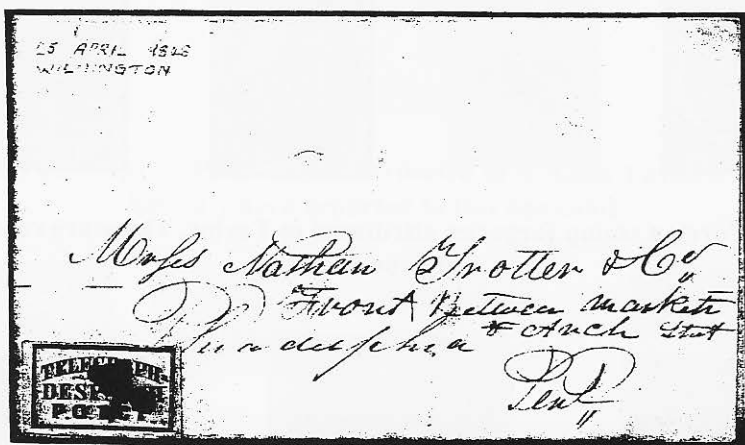
The softbound catalog is available from the author (expressbiz@earthlink.net), priced at \$80.00, postpaid in the U.S.



Figure 1.

Buying, Selling & Appraisals

- ★ Classic U.S. Stamps & Postal History
- ★ U.S. 19th Century Proofs & Essays
- ★ Confederate Stamps & Covers



STANLEY M. PILLER

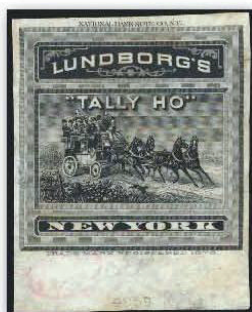
800 S. Broadway • Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Phone (925) 938-8290

Fax (925) 938-8812

Email: stmpdlr@aol.com

We are your best choice
when you consider selling your
specialized collection of Locals.



**NOTE: \$5,000,000 IS ALWAYS
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE OR
CASH ADVANCE FOR AUCTION
CONSIGNMENTS.**

Our reputation as a decades-long key source for U.S. classic stamps and postal history is unexcelled. And — as one might expect — there is no better venue in the world for you when it comes time to sell or consign your cherished collection to public auction.

Call Us Today Toll Free: 877-316-2895



Kelleher Auctions

Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC

America's Oldest Philatelic Auction House • Established 1885

60 Newtown Road • PMB #44 • Danbury, CT 06810 USA

+203.297.6056 • Fax: +203.297.6059

info@kelleherauctions.com

www.kelleherauctions.com



Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Inc.



We are one of the leading auctioneers for United States Stamps and Postal History offering many important carrier and local collections over the years. With our knowledge and passion, our auctions are the place to sell your collection.

Please visit our website at:
www.rumseyauctions.com
email: srumsey@rumseyauctions.com

Schuyler
Rumsey
Philatelic
Auctions

47 Kearny Street
San Francisco
California 94108
t: 415-781-5127
f: 415-781-5128

A Review of the Michael Farrell Collection

Posted on the C&LS website

By
Larry Lyons

The Farrell Collection Presentation

Since June we have been able to view sections of the Michael Farrell collection of Carriers, Locals and Independent Mail companies. The collection, as of this writing on September 19th, shows postings for about 77 companies. The Lyons' *Identifier* has 356 company listings so one can extrapolate that the postings on the website are only about 20% completed. Each of the subjects posted contain a well-researched internet history of the company in question. Casey White does the historical research and is also in charge of the website presentation. The presentation is absolutely professional and is greatly appealing to the eye. The intent of this website posting, as described in the collection introduction, is to get people interested in the fields of Carriers, Locals and Independent Mails. Based on the "eye appeal" of the presentation this goal is being achieved.

One of the other goals stated in the introduction to the Michael Farrell collection is for it to be a resource for collectors and dealers. The collection primarily avoid showing genuine stamps and covers from auction sites such as the Siegel Auction Galleries or identified examples from the Philatelic Foundation search site. Michael Farrell does not seem to collect rare, or valuable stamps and covers and since images are not being shown from available sites the presentation will be lacking in scope and completeness. The Farrell collection is strong on forgeries of the local posts but as a policy does not show images for stamp types missing from his collection. This is also a loss to the viewer. The lack of this missing information is in my opinion a serious flaw in the presentation.

A Further Commentary on the Content

The Farrell collection presentation is a mammoth task taking two people at least two years to assemble plus three years of research to study the forgeries. It is beautiful in appearance but could have more content without too much more effort. For example, it would be nice to see the EKU and LKU for each of the companies. It would also be helpful to know the known quantity of the stamps and covers for these scarce companies.

Statements in the company presentations show a lack of knowledge in certain areas. This is very understandable and will be addressed by articles in *The Penny Post*. Odds are that if the Farrell group has some misconceptions then many of our readers will also be in need of seeing further presentations in these areas. The Farrell collection presentation starts with a disclaimer that the views presented may not be those of the C&LS and also states that using additional references is highly recommended.

A Commentary on Colors

This subject has plagued the collecting field since the beginning of reproduced or described images. The Philatelic Foundation and other major entities

use the “Color Standards and Nomenclature by Robert Ridgways” as a handbook to describe colors. This book is not readily available and thereby falls short as being a universal color guide. The Michael Farrell collection has all colors presented as “Boussary colors.” This is a color guide and naming of colors available to only one person. This is not acceptable.

At a presentation in London one scientific expert explained that if a stamp is printed in a quantity of one million there are scientifically one million shades of that stamp. The key is to narrow the color groups down to 8-10 that humans can easily discern. In my opinion Boussary has shown too many color varieties of the same stamp coming from the same form or the same printing run. In my opinion the over description of color varieties is not of use except when there is a substantial difference or the paper on which the subject is printed is different, such as creamy, white laid or quadrilled.

A Commentary on the Taylor Forgery presentations

Jacqui Boussary, a Michael Farrell employee, has been working for three years on trying to reassemble the Taylor Forms beyond those presented by Sherwood Springer in 1962-1985. He calls this early development of subject groups a presentation of “Boussary Forms.” I have been working on this project for about 15 years and have to date developed over 80 new forms, many are more extensive and complete than the “Boussary Forms.” In most instances I have many more subjects in a form than Boussary and many more color groups than those presented by Boussary. This presentation would greatly benefit by collaboration with others to produce a more complete study. One must understand this is a terribly difficult task requiring long hours and extensive attempts and reattempts at finding matches. Errors are easy to make and changes must be constantly made. I strongly believe completing this work is beyond the capacity of any one individual. Boussary’s major problem is a lack of Taylor forgery examples in the Michael Farrell collection. I estimate he has about 1800 examples less than in the Lyons collection. This amounts to 25% of the pieces missing from a puzzle. This cannot yield effective results. I have checked the number of colors of the subjects that have been presented in the Michael Farrell collection and it is lacking uniformly across the board. For example on Barr’s Forgery E, the Michael Farrell collection has 29 colors and the Lyons collection has 39 colors. On the Bowery Post Office bogus 1 stamp the Michael Farrell collection has 37 colors and the Lyons collection has 54 colors. Carnes Forgery A is considered to be Taylor’s most prolific forgery. Some colors were printed in large quantities and others in small quantities. The Farrell collection contains 89 different Carnes colors. The Lyons collection contains 126 different color examples plus notes about 6 additional possible sightings. With so many forgery colors missing it is a severe limitation on the recreation of the missing Taylor forms.

I applaud the presentation of the Michael Farrell collection on the C&LS website. I am supportive of the effort and look forward to seeing more. I sincerely hope the Farrell group does the research and presentation of the Scott, Hussey, and Moens forgeries with the same intensity they have applied to the Taylor forgeries. This is an exciting presentation to see on the C&LS website.

Part 9: The American Letter Mail Company: Robinson's Blue Eagle ALM Covers

By
David R. Wilcox, PhD.

Introduction

This series has explored the covers and cancellations of the American Letter Mail Company (ALM) appearing under the company's new ownership. Purchasing ALM from Lysander Spooner in the summer of 1844, the new owner guided the company for twelve months from July 1844 through June 1845. The earlier parts of this series focused on the stamps and cancellations unique to this period. This article will focus on just five covers from June 1845 that shed light on the way the company operated and the unusual circumstances it faced in June as the US Government forced them to stop all operations.

Why The Five June-Dated Robinson Covers Are Of Interest?

The Daniel M. Robinson correspondence with brokers Hopkins and Weston spans two-thirds of the life of this Independent Mail Company under the new owner. Twenty covers have been identified mailed from Philadelphia to NYC by this Philadelphia stock broker. The correspondence can be divided into three time periods (Part 7, Table 7-1). During the earliest, Robinson wrote to his associates weekly from November into the middle of December 1844. The second period was the spring of 1845, and he wrote only once a month around the 6th or 7th. The richest part of the Robinson find are the covers listed in the final period.

There are seven covers in this third group, and all are franked with the uncommon ALM blue eagle stamp. Five of the seven are correctly dated covers and all franked with agent initials. The other two June covers are also genuine but with questionable dates. These two were discussed in Part 8.

The five correctly dated June covers will be considered here as a group. They were written very close together compared to Robinson's other letters, and this is particularly true when compared to his monthly letters in the spring just before this June cluster. Previously in the spring of 1845, Robinson wrote his contacts in NYC generally just during the first week of the month. In contrast, he completed five letters in just ten days in June 1845.

Four of the five Robinson June covers were plated in Part 2.¹ The June 10, 1845 cover recently reappeared in auction after being absent for forty-five years. This allowed for high resolution scans and ultimately a plating to Position 8 on the sheet.(Part 8²). So, the stamps from all five covers have now been successfully plated

¹ David R. Wilcox and John D. Bowman, "Plating Studies of the Scarce Blue American Letter Mail Company Stamp, Part 2" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 25 No. 4, October 2017, pages 22-51.

² David R. Wilcox, "Part 8: *The American Letter Mail Company: New Discoveries*" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 26 No. 3 July 2018, pages 67-80.

on the sheet of twenty. Description of the plating marks observed to reach these plating conclusions are detailed in the earlier articles (Part 2 and Part 8).

These five covers were written by Robinson in just ten days between Saturday June 7 and Monday June 16, 1845. Only the content of the June 10 and June 16, 1845 covers is known. Fortunately, Robinson's signature shows through on the front of each cover in mirror image near the address. From this and other clues, we are certain he was the author of not just these five covers but all twenty covers in the correspondence. (See Part 7³.)

Robinson's Five June Covers Revisited

One of the greatest advantages of studying a correspondence in its entirety is the ability to identify anomalies. The five Robinson covers in June are unlike any of the other fifteen identified covers in the Robinson correspondence. Like nearly all Robinson covers, the five June covers show his inside writing in mirror image on the front, his handwriting in the address and a characteristic file fold about 40% in from the right. So, they are undeniably Robinson's letters to Hopkins and Weston. But amazingly they are all franked with the seldom used ALM blue eagle issue. Also, they are all signed by "Agent Initials" and not by the typical simple "x" cancel that appears on almost all of Robinson's previous covers. Although they were conspicuously written and mailed much closer than Robinson's usual time frame, we know from the content of the June 10 and June 16 cover that there was nothing particularly unusual in what he was writing.

In the June 10th letter he was requesting a stock purchases from Hopkins and Weston even though ALM was closing by the end of the month. In the June 16 letter, he did not request a stock purchase, but he was chatty about "Old Hickory" and upbeat about the Philadelphia markets. Perhaps there is a later cover that did not survive, but in the June 16 letter (his apparent last communication), he does not even appear to be in a panic over the end of the ALM company. He never mentions the closing.

It is probable that Robinson had already decided the US Mail would work just fine for him. The US Post Office was even located closer to his work than the ALM office, and to top it all off, the Act of 1845 which decreed ALM's demise had also decreed that the postal rates now would be lowered. The US Government announced by this March Act that the US Mail would now charge just five cents to carry one of Robinson's single rate communications from Philadelphia to Hopkins and Weston in NYC (under 300 miles). This is the same amount he had been paying to ALM since November 1844 using his discounted black eagle sheet stamps.

So, on July 1, 1845, Robinson would travel a shorter distance to the post, and it would cost the same as before when he used ALM. His associates in NYC, Hopkins and Weston, were also very close to the NYC Government Post Office in the Merchant' Exchange on Wall Street. Like Robinson, Hopkins and Weston would pay the same to reply and would also travel a shorter distance to the post than when they were using ALM.

³ David R. Wilcox, "Part 7: *The American Letter Mail Company: A Customer's Perspective*" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 26 No. 3, July 2018, pages 24-66.

Robinson may have decided to send a few extra communications in June to the NYC brokerage, since he was about to change his communication avenue to Hopkins and Weston when he switched to the US Mail. However, if all worked out as planned, Robinson really did not need ALM anymore after July 1, 1845. For Robinson, other than writing letters closer together, he did not seem to be viewing his June communications as anything out of the ordinary. He may even have been looking forward to the July change and the Government's promised lower postal rates. So, what does this tell us about the five Robinson covers that were franked in June?

Robinson probably did not make the decision to use the blue eagle stamps on his covers; the ALM post office made that decision. Either the blue stamp had some significance for the ALM Company's mail, or the ALM office was simply running out of the black eagle stamps for Robinson to use. He had never used a blue eagle stamp before, and he never had his stamps canceled with an agent's initials. If the blue eagle stamps had any significance for the ALM mail system, Robinson probably did not care.

He was not apparently requesting any special service. He had never requested any special service ever since he started using ALM in November of the previous year. For Robinson, there was nothing unusual about his five, June letters in their destination. His letters were still just one folded sheet, so even their weight remained the same. There wasn't even anything unusual about their contents, and the information he was sending to his NYC associates varied only in business matters of the day. Although he expected his ALM letters to arrive in NYC by the very next day, there was not even a hint of greater urgency in the June 10 and June 16 letters compared to the past. After using this Independent Mail carrier for eight straight months or more, he had no reason to believe they would not follow through for him as in the past. Back in March 1845, they had continued as usual, even though the March 1845 Government Act declared that ALM must close their doors forever on July 1. Robinson probably had more anxiety over the US Mail deliveries coming in July than the letters he was sending through ALM in June.

This is a very important observation. One could have wondered if ALM was beginning a new service (using the blue eagle stamps) in June for its customers, perhaps since the company was going out of business. But there is no indication that is true from the Robinson communication. Since there are no known large black eagle stamps on dated covers used from Philadelphia in June, it would appear that the Philadelphia ALM office used the blue eagles in June simply because it was running out of black eagle stamps. Therefore, we can rule out that the decision to make these changes was made by this long-standing customer of ALM. Robinson's job responsibilities and the information he wrote about were just like during the previous eight months.

However, since these were Philadelphia's last mail runs to NYC before closing, it cannot be ruled out that Philadelphia was sending some kind of signal to the NYC office independent of the cover's contents. Both using a blue eagle stamp on Robinson's mail and then canceling them with "Agent Initials" were new to both Robinson's mail and to ALM in general.

There was indeed something very different happening particularly in Philadelphia. Using blue eagle stamps was uncommon on ALM mail throughout the company's history. Only 24 blue eagle stamps have survived (Part 1⁴ and Part 8). Also, "Agent Initials" are uncommon on ALM mail. Although two new examples are reported below, there are still only sixteen that have survived (Part 5⁵ and Part 7 for details). These are summarized and updated in **Table 9-1**.

Therefore, in just ten days of ALM's twelve-month existence under this new owner (less than 3% of that time frame), one customer (Daniel Robinson) mailed five covers that were franked by 20.8% of the surviving blue eagle stamps. Amazingly, the stamps on these five Robinson covers were canceled by 35.7% of all surviving "Agent Cancels." In fact, there are only three other blue eagles on or off cover with an "Agent Cancel." That means 62.5% of all "Agent Cancels" on blue eagle stamps originate from these ten days of Robinson's correspondences to NYC.

(Note: these well-known initials have been referred to as "Agent Cancels" or "Agent Initials" for years, but the number of initials that are from actual agents have been dwindling throughout this study. Even with only sixteen remaining, about half with the initials "DB" may not have been made by an agent with those initials but were meant to represent the word "debit." However, throughout this article, the phrase "Agent Cancels" or "Agent Initials" will continue to mean these sixteen remaining examples.)

The five Robinson June covers contain the only letters of this kind that can be genuinely dated. All other "Agent Cancels" on blue eagles are singles or on a cover that cannot be dated. It is quite possible every blue eagle with such a cancel came from this same two or three-week period in June 1845. Surely, there must be something to be learned here about ALM's use of both the blue eagle stamps, and above all, the company's use of these initials as a cancellation.

There are only six known types of "Agent Cancels" remaining. Fortunately, the analysis of the Robinson covers was made even simpler, since there are only two sets of initials that canceled his five June covers. One set was made by John Gray. He is listed in the 1845 McElroy *Philadelphia City Directory* specifically as an "agent Amer. Letter Mail Co." and working at "101 Chestnut." On one other John Gray single stamp (a black eagle issue), he even signed it "J Gray agent." So, there can be no question that the two Robinson June covers signed by John Gray are signed while Gray was an ALM agent carrying the two covers to NYC from Philadelphia. That was Gray's specific and only job description in the 1845 Philadelphia city directory.

The stamps on the other three Robinson June covers are each initialed with the letters "DB." Searching directory listings from all three ALM cities, identifying "DB" as an agent has been unsuccessful. A hypothesis laid out in the next article in this series argues that these are not agent initials after all but mean "debit" instead. "DB" is the most abundant of the "Agent Cancels" (50%) in **Table 9-1**.

⁴ David R. Wilcox, "Survey of the Scarce Blue American Letter Mail Company Stamp. Part I" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 25 No. 4, October 2017, pages 5-21.

⁵ David R. Wilcox, "Part 5: Place Cancels of The American Letter Mail Company" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 26 No. 2, April 2018, page 33.

TABLE 9-1 **"AGENT CANCELS" on American Letter Mail Company Stamps** ⁽¹⁶⁾

Co.	Iss	Canc.	N	M	D	Yr	"Name" *	pl pos	Auction **	Certification	Provenance	Comment
A	1	IDB	1	6	14	45	5L1 DB Cover					aBay
A	1	IDB	2				5L1 DB Single					eBay
A	2	ICOX	1				COX Single	4	C&L/28/14			
A	2	ICSP	1				CSP Single	14				"x" cancel also
A	2	IUG	1				J Gray agent	6	S/1124/21 S/830/224		Schwartz, Puliafito	
A	2	ITBS	1				TBS fainter	8				fainter than 2
A	2	ITBS	2				TBS darker	17	S/1124/21		Schwartz, Puliafito	single line cancel also
A	3	IDB	1	6	7	45	HW 7	13	S/868/2094	PF407383	Perry, Schwartz, John	tied by manuscript cancel
A	3	IDB	2	6	12	45	HW 12	9	S/1124/41, S/817/456), Hr/(6-4-80)/203	PF345569	Toasperm, Golden, Puliafito	part flap missing
A	3	IDB	3	no	no	no	Weeks	12	S/862/52	PF400561	Field, DK	
A	3	IDB	4	no	no	no	Cutting		S/301/1336 (5-12-66)			full cov, part pic ('66 auc)
A	3	IDB	5				5L3 DB Single	12	S/830/225		Hall	fake cov w/5L1, part pic
A	3	IDB	6	6	10	45	HW 10	8	Sp/166/124, L/(10-26-73)/2001	PF547607	Gibson	tied by "PAID" cancel, re-auctioned 2018
A	3	IUG	1	6	13	45	J. Gray	7	S/1124/40, S/925/1017), S/784/2198, F/Sale 4 /358, S/285/634 (4-1-65)	PF536844	Gibson, Middendorf, Roth, Kuphal	tied by manuscript cancel
A	3	IUG	2	6	16	45	J.G.	10	S/1125/861, HS/68/632	PF423916		
A	3	Iker	1				kerhoff Single	12				5-10% left. edge gone

* "Name"=addressee (even if fake)/cancel/auction; HW with number is Hopkins & Weston with day date

** Auction = Name/Number/Lot; C&L=Carriers and Locals Society, F=Frajola, L=Lowe (10-26-73), Hr=Harmer, HS= Harmer-Schau, S= Siegel, Sp=Spink International

Table 1. "Agent Cancells" on American Letter Mail Company Stamps.

The only event that is new for the Philadelphia office at that time was the imminent closing of the office at the end of the month. ALM was going out of business forever. We do not know of any other event occurring out of the ordinary for Robinson other than Robinson was about to have to use the US Government Mail. But he was probably not concerned about that. It seems highly likely, therefore, that the rare use of these five specific blue eagle stamps, all canceled with initials, was a direct consequence of the office closing.

This was a decision of the ALM postal clerks and not Robinson. This glaringly obvious fact was hidden until the complete survey was first completed. The “EHB” and “CC” cancels were found unlikely to be agent cancels, but rather, represented a function or service in the mail system. In addition, once the Robinson twenty-cover correspondence was reassembled, it was also obvious that this use of blue eagle stamps canceled by initials was a truly unique event even for Robinson. This was unique for both Robinson and the ALM office, and the only new event they shared was the company closing.

What Would We See If We Could Follow Robinson’s June 10 Cover Until Today?

To help follow the series of events in June 1845, the June 10, 1845 cover that Robinson sent to Hopkins and Weston has been dissected using a computer photoshop program to alter the cover seen today to appear at each stage as it passed through time beginning when it was first written. In the first frame of **Figure 9-1 (frame a)**, the Robinson June 10 letter has been opened and photoshop cleaned of toning, paper flaws, creases and owner notations that the letter acquired during the last 170 plus years. This is what the sheet of paper would have looked like to Daniel Robinson as he sat at his desk office on Dock Street in Philadelphia and completed one of his many letters to Hopkins and Weston. From comments he made in his letters, it probably was late afternoon after he had received a letter from his NYC associates the previous day.

The content of four of Robinson’s twenty letters have been published. His writing was very formulaic. The first sentence in his letters was usually that he had Hopkins and Weston’s last letter sitting in front of him, and he gave the date they had written their letter. He then described a stock purchase or requested a purchase from them or he just filled them in on the state of the Philadelphia markets. He always closed his letters in a sweeping style with “Yours Truly” and “Daniel Robinson.” His style was most noticeable in the capital letters, but the rest of his writing was equally distinctive, and his style was apparent again when he addressed the cover. Robinson appears to have written all twenty letters in the correspondence himself. He probably used the same format on all his letters to Hopkins and Weston, and his letter generally ended with his “Yours Truly” closing and signature showing through on the other side of the letter as the ink dried (**frame b**).

Analyzing several cover sheets from this time frame, including some carried by ALM, the thickness of most sheets was 8 to 10 mm thick. Robinson’s June 10 cover was only 6.5mm thick. So, at first it appears the ink showed through because the paper was thinner than usual. However, another Robinson letter from March 6, 1845 measured 9.3mm, which was as thick as many other cover sheets from that time.

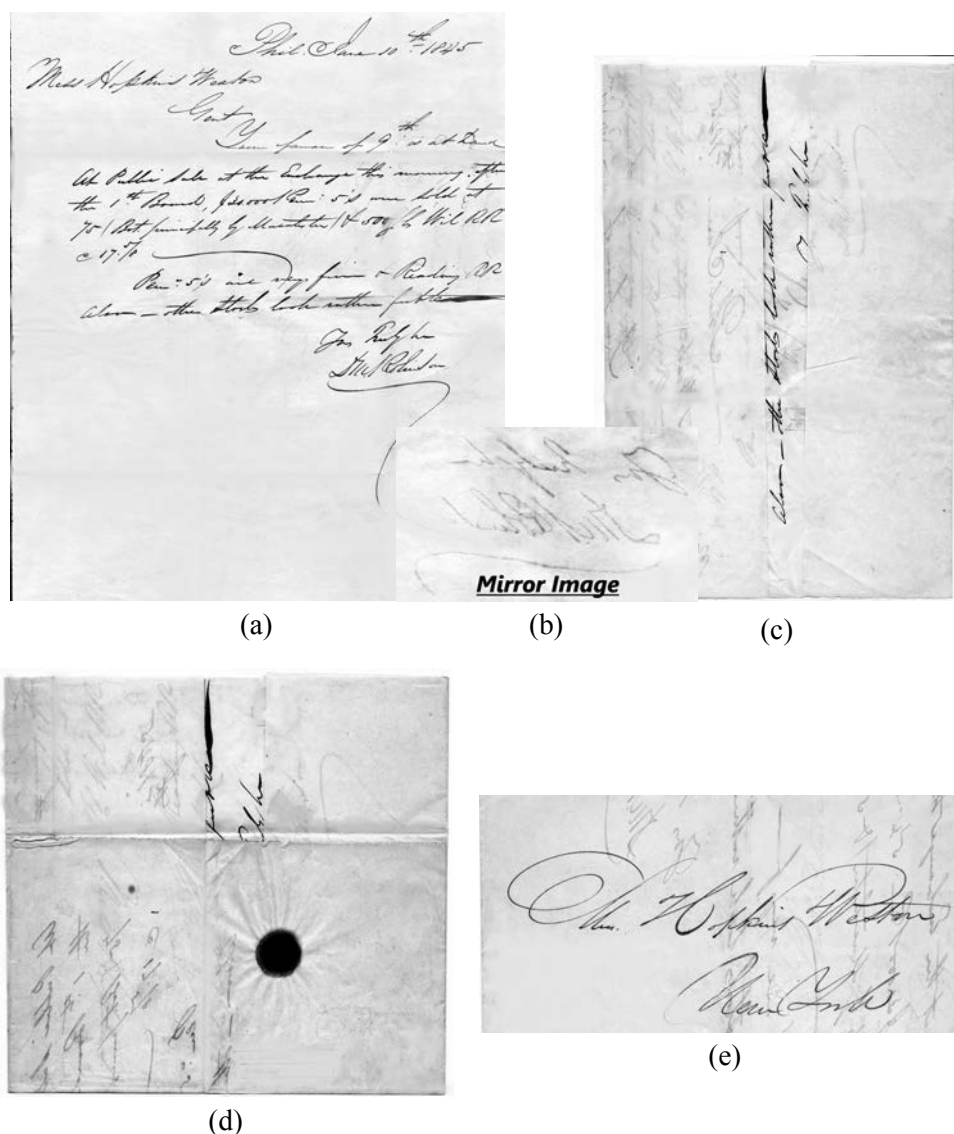


Figure 9-1: Robinson's June 10, 1845 cover photoshopped: unfolded as it looked immediately after writing at Dock Street, the signature showing through on front (b), folded vertically (c), folded horizontally and sealed (d) and finally addressed (e).

The ink showed through to the front clearly on the March 6 cover as it had on the June 10, 1845 cover. The conclusion seems to be that Robinson's writing could be seen on the front primarily because of the ink he used.

Robinson apparently changed paper between his March 6 and June 10 letters but then used a similar highly absorbent ink. It is interesting that Charles Macalester's letters (discussed in Part 7) also showed this same effect of transferring his signature in mirror image to the front cover. That is how his name was discovered without

knowing the letter's content. Macalester worked out of Robinson's building or nearby, so it appears the two brokers may have used ink from a similar source.

Once written, Robinson's June 10, 1845 cover was first folded vertically from both sides and then horizontally once (**Figure 9-1 frames c and d**). A dot of melted red wax seal was then applied, and the top flap folded down horizontally to seal the cover. Other letter writers sometimes sealed the letter by applying the seal outside and across the folded edge. This was a common way of folding and sealing letter sheets at that time to prepare the cover for mailing. So, although there were no envelopes used then, the folded letters from that period were often similar in size for mailing. Variation generally depended on the size of the original letter sheet. Robinson's June 10 cover was folded from a 9.5 x 11-inch letter sheet, and it ended up after folding about 6.5 inches across. Some postal patrons used an engraved handstamp to impress their insignia into the wax. If the seal was broken, the recipient knew the cover had been tampered with somewhere in transit. Robinson sealed his letters between the folding flaps as in **Figure 9-1 frame d** and without an insignia impressed in the wax.

After the letter was folded and sealed and readied for mailing, Robinson added the Hopkins and Weston address (**frame e**). Every one of Robinson's twenty letters showed the same handwriting in the address (although for some reason he varied his style of writing the capitals, but even there, with a flare). He probably completed all the steps in **Figure 9-1** well before he was off to visit the ALM office on Chestnut Street, presumably the next morning.

How Much Did Robinson Do To Prepare The Cover For Mailing?

A very recent observation put a new twist on the Robinson covers. Apparently, Robinson was allowed to sign the cover "Single Paid" in the upper right corner. These words had appeared in the upper right corner of every one of the twenty Robinson covers dating back to when he began his correspondence in November 1844. Early on, he wrote "Single P'd" (**Figure 9-2, frame a**) but in mid-December he changed to "Single Paid" (**frame b**). He continued this through his last cover June 16, although switched to "Single Pd" with no apostrophe for just the June 12 and 13 covers. For some unknown reason, Robinson sometimes changed his sweeping capitals slightly in the address also. In all cases however, the writing was still his handwriting. Robinson's only double rate cover was also signed in his handwriting in the upper right corner ("Double P'd").

Compare the frames in **Figure 9-2** which show examples of Robinson's manuscript paid markings found on the twenty Robinson covers (**frames a, b and c**) with the words "sold" and "Public sale" from his June 10, 1845 letter (**frames d and e**). The "s" in "Single" is the same as in "sold" and "sale." The "P" in "Paid" and "P'd" is the same as the "P" in "Public." Note the "le" at the end of "Single" and at the end of "sale." Also, notice the open "a" in "Paid" and "sale." As was the case with his signature and "Yours Truly," Robinson's writing is very distinctive and consistent.

At first, this was completely unexpected. A marking such as "Single Paid" might be expected to have been applied by the clerk when they received the cover to be franked with a stamp. Then, the clerk could set the cover aside and add a stamp



Figure 9-2: Daniel Robinson's writing compared between the paid markings in the upper right corner of various covers (a, b and c) and his inner content writing in the June 10, 1845 letter (d and e). The last frame (f) is an example of a non-Robinson cover also marked "single paid" by the customer.

later, if needed, knowing the customer had paid the fee and no more had to be collected from the recipient. If you buy something today, do you usually write out your own receipt? That is what Robinson was doing.

However, there are other examples where writers marked the cover "single" or "paid." David Snow noted that there are several examples on ALM covers as well as Hale & Co. covers (personal communication). For example, one cover certified by the Philatelic Foundation (PF371034, Siegel sale 834 lot 707) even used the same phrase as Robinson, "single paid." This cover is shown in **Figure 9-2 (frame f)**. Note that the "p" in "paid" and the "p" in "Newport" suggest both the marking and the

address were applied by the writer just as on the Robinson covers. Apparently, clerks allowed this, because customers were only trying to ensure that the clerk saw their intent and charged them accordingly.

David Robinson marked his covers consistently this way in the upper right corner. Even though the clerks must have known him well from his frequent visits to the ALM office, he never varied his preparation of his covers. He had entire sheets of the ALM stamps and systematically removed them from his sheets from top to bottom. He clearly favored purchasing the full sheets for his communications. There may have been many other customers that took advantage of ALM's discount of "20 for \$1" when their stamps were purchased in quantity. But it is also possible Robinson was an unusual case.

The truth is we have no idea how many customers bought entire sheets at the discount price of "20 for \$1." We assume that the company advertised this discount to draw customers, but we do not know how many customers responded. Twenty ALM stamps cost \$1.25 if bought singly from the clerk. Therefore, a customer had to use sixteen stamps before they gained by buying a full sheet at one time. If they generally sent just a single cover a month on average, it would have taken sixteen months for this customer to start to gain by buying a full sheet. That is longer than this issue was available as postage.

The customer had to be a regular writer to benefit significantly from the discount. Clearly, a businessman like Roberson was a good candidate for the discount. But some estimates discussed earlier (Part 5) suggest as many as 70% of ALM customers were still sending their letters stampless. Without a surviving ledger book, we cannot know how many customers bought sheets. Was Robinson a typical business customer or was he unusual? We just do not know. But it is possible that purchasing full sheets was not as common as the advertising would lead us to believe.

This is a fascinating insight into the daily workings of an Independent Mail office, and it is extremely important for the story of Robinson's five June 1845 covers. All five of Robinson's blue eagle June covers continued to receive Robinson's "Single Paid" manuscript marking in the upper right corner. All five were in Robinson's handwriting. This strongly suggests that Robinson had already also affixed the blue eagle stamp as he had the black eagle stamps in the past.

In other words, Robinson apparently had bought several blue eagle stamps at one point when his black eagle stamp supply ran out. It seems that he replenished his supply of stamps by buying several at once, and not one at a time. This allowed him to continue to prepare his covers for Hopkins and Weston in the very regimented way he had throughout the correspondence.

This is a key observation. Later in this series of articles it will be argued ALM went through a major audit as it prepared to close. The cancels applied to stamps before the audit and the ones applied after were different. If Robinson owned a cluster of the blue eagle stamps, he had to be holding them for later use, since his letter writing was methodical at only a couple a week to Hopkins and Weston. If he had purchased a cluster of stamps, some of his stamps used before the audit would have received a different cancel than the stamps on covers sent after the audit. A possible reason for these differences in the cancels will be explained later.

Robinson could have done three things. First, he might have bought a blue eagle stamps over the counter for 6 ¼ cents whenever he mailed a letter in June. He used sheets of the black eagle stamps for months and had never had to buy over the counter before. Being a man of habits, he would have avoided that if he could. The “Single Paid” markings on the blue eagle covers match the markings on the black eagle covers, so this argues that Robinson already had stamps to apply even before he went to the Chestnut Street office. It appears that he avoided buying over the counter.

Second, he could have bought a whole sheet of blue eagle stamps. He would have done this to be sure that he had enough stamps, but that would mean he was expecting to write at least twenty letters in June. His letter writing pace picked up in June, but it is difficult to believe he was anticipating the need for a whole sheet of twenty stamps. He would have had to use over sixteen of the stamps to justify the cost.

If he planned to use all twenty stamps, that meant he planned to write as many as five letters a week. His letters to Hopkins and Weston were sent at most three times a week and usually two. It seems unlikely Robinson would have anticipated more per week, especially since the final week in June the company would have been going out of business. As it turns out Robinson’s last cover to Hopkins and Weston was June 16, 1845. Writing a letter to them every day made no sense. Even a letter a day when all correspondences to other people are included (if there were any) seems excessive and unlikely.

Even if Robinson wanted a full sheet of the blue eagle stamps, he would have had trouble finding one. Part 2 of this series argued that no more than two sheets of blue eagle stamps were finally used from the Chestnut Street office. Philadelphia had two sheets, but there is no evidence that Philadelphia had many sheets or used more than the two that can be accounted for by plating studies. If Robinson bought an entire sheet, he was a lucky man in the right place at the right time. But he probably did not need a full sheet anyway.

From data presented later in this series, it appears Robinson chose a third option. He bought a cluster of stamps at one time but not a whole sheet. Eight or nine stamps would have been more than enough for the few weeks. There is no reason to believe Robinson would have thought he needed a full sheet before ALM went out of business. It took a couple of days of turn around between when Robinson wrote Hopkins and Weston, and they wrote back to him. Two or three letters a week to his NYC cohorts is all that Robinson had time to write and still wait for a reply.

Robinson did not need a full sheet, and a cluster of eight or nine would have been a good supply for him. He likely wanted to have stamps readily available for his letters, but he had to balance that need with his desire to save money. He knew any stamps he did not use would be wasted, since no other company or the US Government would honor ALM stamps after July 1, 1845. ALM stamps were good only on ALM mail. In October 1845, after ALM closed, someone did try and use an ALM stamp while mailing an Eagle Post cover and using the US Government mail. The stamp was not honored and was torn off. This is the Walker cover discussed in Part 2.

What Steps Did A Cover Follow After It Arrived At The ALM Office?

Figure 9-1 showed the events at Dock Street. **Figure 9-3** shows the expected events at the ALM Chestnut Street office. Robinson could have used a courier to drop

the letter at the ALM office, but there is reason he probably did not. The office was very close to his office, and Robinson was very exacting about his mailings. It is doubtful he would have felt comfortable with his letter out of sight until it was given over to the ALM clerk. But since Robinson apparently had already put a stamp on his cover and even wrote “Single Paid” in the upper corner with the clerk’s blessings, a courier might have been very expedient for a busy businessman like Robinson. On the other hand, there would have been a currier fee, and in other aspects of his mailings, Robinson was quite cost conscious. The courier fee would have at least partially negated the benefit of buying a full sheet of stamps in the first place. Taken all together, the data suggests he would have dropped his letters off in person.

A customer just before Robinson may have left the cover on the counter of the office with the 6 1/4c, so the clerk could take the cover and bundle it with others for transport. In a news account describing events during the ALM trials, this is what a customer did in Baltimore way back in spring 1844, so perhaps they still allowed this here in 1845. Then, the clerk would take the cover and coin and sometimes write that it was paid. The clerk put the coin in a cash box and made the cover ready for the agent to take it on its journey (usually later that day and likely sometime after 4PM). If the customer did not have a stamp but gave cash only, the cover was likely sent stampless. Covers were probably marked differently, in different cities and by different clerks, but our goal here is to focus down on just this one June 10 Robinson cover for the moment.

The first frame in **Figure 9-3 (a)** shows the expected appearance of Robinson’s folded letter just before it was turned over to the clerk and just after “Single Paid” was written in the upper right corner. As was demonstrated in Part 7, Robinson had always bought his black eagle stamps ahead of time in the form of whole sheets. We know he was a man of habit, so Robinson wrote the “Single Paid” on his cover and likely affixed the stamp himself (**frame b**). He might have waited until getting to Chestnut Street with a stamp in hand from his sheet, since he probably would have wanted the clerk to witness him applying the stamp. That would have fit Robinson’s meticulous personality and explain why the clerk had no problem with Robinson having already written “Single Paid” in the upper right corner himself. Whatever occurred, this is the point where Robinson left his letter behind.

Figure 9-3 shows this transition from the Robinson’s June 10, 1845 addressed cover with a “Single Paid” marking (**frame a**), then receiving the postage stamp (**b**), receiving the clerk’s red handstamps (**c**), and finally the “Agent Cancel” (**d**). This likely would have all occurred at the Chestnut Street office and definitely before the agent began his trip to NYC. The very last act of canceling the stamp by initials may have been just before the agent took possession of the cover. There are two examples where the manuscript initials tie the stamp to the cover. In these two examples anyway, the stamp must have been applied before the pen cancels.

When business was booming, and covers were arriving in quick succession, the clerk might have set the cover in a pile to complete its preparation later with others. This author feels the manuscript paid markings on some other covers, although uncommon, were a way for the clerk to be sure the cover was paid, even if he did not have a chance to finish stamping the cover with a red date stamp or other markings.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 9-3: The June 10, 1844 Robinson cover as it arrived at ALM's Chestnut Street, Philadelphia office: clerk accepted "Single Paid" (a), stamp affixed (b), handstamped & "Paid" (c), and agent "DB" Initialed (d).

In Robinson's case, the cover was apparently marked in the upper corner by Robinson, and already franked by one of his stamps in just one process. This would have occurred even before the clerk took possession of the cover. This seems like a lot of flexibility granted to Robinson. He was probably a frequent visitor to the Chestnut Street office and well known by the ALM clerks. It would not be a surprise if he used a favorite clerk.

This is completely in line with the way Robinson removed stamps from his ALM sheet. He was a very regimented man. His letters were very formulaic, and his stamps were applied to the covers from the sheet in order from top to bottom (discussed in Part 7). This may seem of course somewhat humorous to observe Robinson's repetitive habits while writing and mailing his letters, but it fits well his occupation as a broker working in a very exacting and timely way to complete stock purchases or sales. This is probably also why we can today trace successfully his actions throughout the eight months he was using ALM. Similarly, Hopkins and Weston were meticulous in preserving his correspondence in their files.

Robinson's five June covers each received his "Single Paid" marking and one of his blue eagle stamps. Sometime before the agent was ready to leave Philadelphia, the cover was stamped by the clerk (**frame c**) with the Philadelphia red forwarding handstamp (ALM-PHL-12) and the distinctive "PAID" stamp (ALM-PHL-P03). Philadelphia had different types of these handstamps in the past, but these two were

the only ones in use during this last month before the company closed.⁶ The June 10, 1845 cover even seems to have two red “PAID” markings, with one tying the blue eagle stamp to the cover (see Part 8 for details).

Up until five months earlier, Philadelphia had used the same red handstamp used on the Robinson June covers, but the earlier handstamp included the date of forwarding (ALM-PHL-F11). It seems likely this dated handstamp helped the Philadelphia office with its accounting and made it easier to satisfy customers who wanted to know when the cover they had dropped off had finally been sent. Later, the Philadelphia office used the same forwarding handstamp but often the date slug was removed, and no date appeared in the center of the handstamp on the cover. This probably saved time in the day-to-day operations, since the date slug did not have to be changed each day.

Apparently, at some point, the ALM clerks decided the date stamp was unnecessary, or at least not worth the hassle of changing the date slug every day. However, it is difficult to imagine that Philadelphia did not continue to record its cover departures in some form of accounting book. Their customers and probably the new owner would have insisted. In the 1800s, large companies, then as today, must have had ledgers to determine their profits and debts. If David Brown was the new owner (as argued in Part 10), he would have insisted on ALM having ledgers, since this Independent Mail Company would have been only just one part of his larger textile business. In later years, Brown’s empire would become a conglomerate of subsidiaries interacting together. Unfortunately, ALM’s account books did not survive.

When the dated handstamp was in use, the clerk’s regiment was likely to handstamp the cover only on the day the cover was ready to be given to the agent to carry away. Then the date would indicate the day the cover was forwarded as intended. Normally, the letter was taken to the next city later in the same day or on the very next day. If there was a delay of any kind, the date slug showed when the letter was finally sent.

Some business recipients probably noted the date on the forwarding handstamp for their records. Many more recorded the cover’s arrival in their docketing. Later, when the date slug was not used, the handstamp was probably still applied just on the day the cover was to be taken. Then, the cover was recorded in the company ledger of the sending office. If only those ledgers had survived, we would know so much more about ALM’s day-to-day office operations.

In each case of initialing that has been grouped under “Agent Cancels,” the initials match each other in handwriting. This is seen in the “DB”, John Gray and “TBS” cancels where we have more than one set of initials to compare. Where we have only one example, they all differ from each other.

In other words, the initials were generally being made by the person representing the initials, and it was not someone else initialing the stamp for them. This is an important observation. It seems the initials were personally applied to the stamp as if to take some responsibility for the cover, or it is what they were told they must do by their manager. There is no reason to believe that someone else was writing

⁶ John Bowman, Chapter 1, “The American Letter Mail Company.”, *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845*, ed. Michael S. Gutman, 2016, (Eastern Independent Mail Company Study Group.), Scott Publishing Co., page 43, Table 3.

the person's initials for them. For example, a manager could have been initialing all stamps ahead of time with each agent's initials. In this way, the agent knew which covers were his to take. But this does not seem to have been happening. Instead, the agents were initially the stamps themselves.

A big question we would like to answer is why did ALM ask its agents to personally sign the stamp and apparently just before they left with the cover on their trip to NYC? And why just around those ten days in June? ALM had apparently never asked agents to do this before June 1845, not in the history of the company even when Spooner owned ALM. Only two of sixteen "Agent Cancels" were re-canceled, so the initials generally acted as a cancel too. So, why were the stamps initialed? It took longer to apply an initial than a simple "x" cancel. Did it send a message? If it did, was the message for the sending office or the receiving office or was it for both?

One of the John Gray signings ties the stamp to the cover. One of the "DB" cancels does so also. This obviously means the stamp was affixed first. This is significant, because one could wonder if a few agents had a supply of their own stamps that they precanceled for their own accounting purposes in June. It is not clear why they would do that, but some of these stamps do not appear precanceled anyway. Not only do a couple of initials tie the stamps to the cover, but in all cases where the stamp is on a cover, the John Gray and "DB" initials were made parallel with the address, even when the stamp was affixed sideways. In general, the orientation of cancels on precanceled stamps were usually constant in orientation to the stamp design but not the address, and they never tied the stamp to the cover.⁷

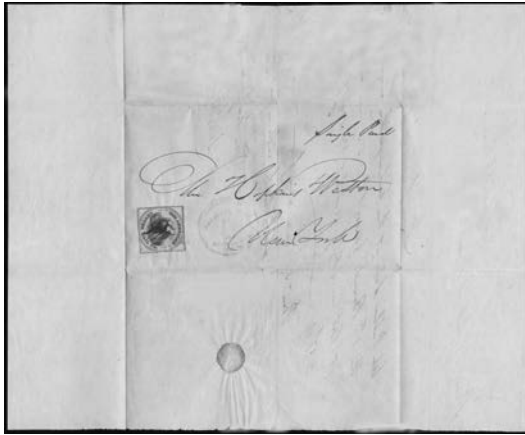
However, the remaining six examples of "Agent Cancels" (other than John Gray's and the "DB" cancels on cover) are all on single stamps and all parallel to the stamp design, so precanceling cannot be ruled out for these few cases. Unfortunately, the precancel test mentioned above can only be applied if the stamp is on cover.

How Did The Cover's History End?

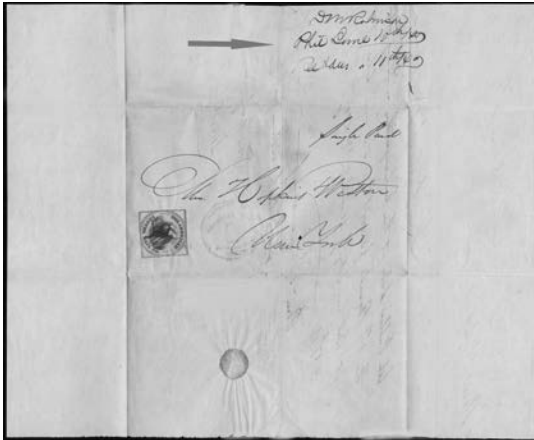
To continue the June 10th letter's journey, **Figure 9-4** illustrates the letter opened at the Hopkins and Weston office to be read (frame a). It has been photoshopped here to remove flaws it acquired years late. When a cover is opened, it is sometimes torn by the recipient as the wax seal is broken. Lost pieces from this area probably occur more often later in the life of the cover from handling. The tear starts the process. There are exceptions, of course, but the wax seal is the culprit.

Once the cover is read for content, the cover is docketed. The docketing shows the date of acceptance, the sender's name, perhaps when the letter was read and sometimes what action was taken (**frame b**). This is typical of business covers from that time. In this case, the Robinson June 10 cover was then folded in thirds vertically and placed in a Hopkins and Weston file, so the docketing could be easily read at the top edge of the file folder amongst the many other letters in that file (**frame c**). Robinson's twenty covers and Macalester's four covers were apparently all filed away in the same way, and they may have even ended up in the same file.

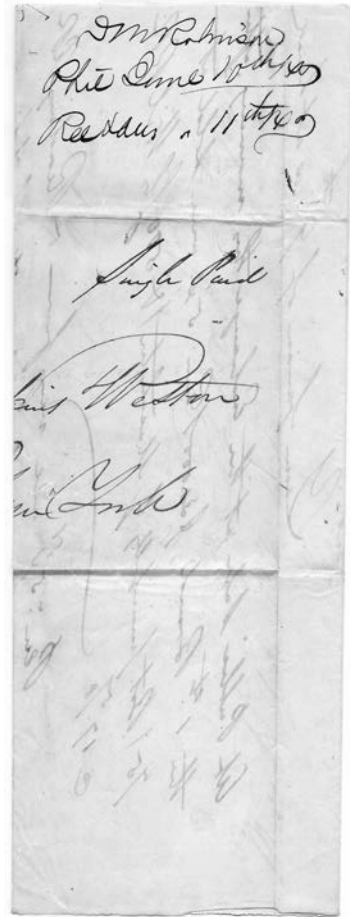
⁷ David R. Wilcox, "*Part 5: Place Cancels of The American Letter Mail Company.*" *Ibid.* page 15.



(a)



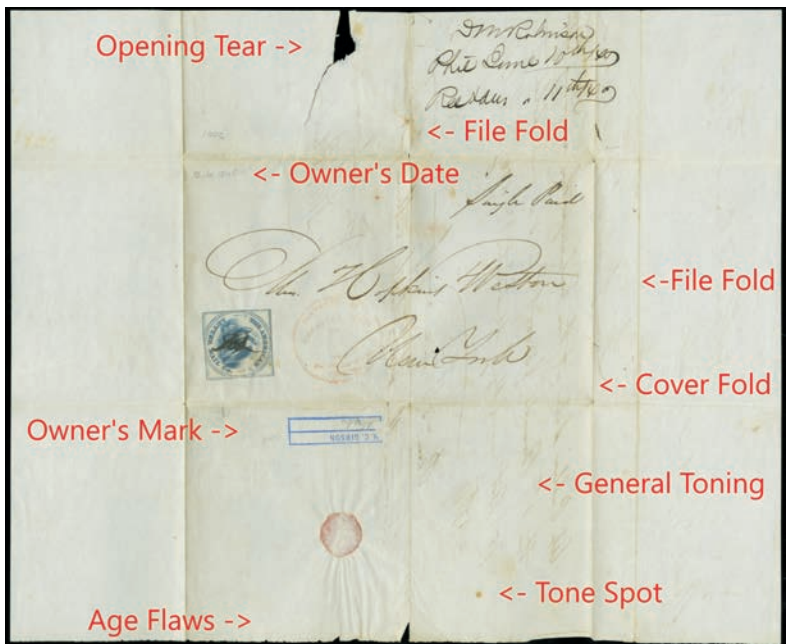
(b)



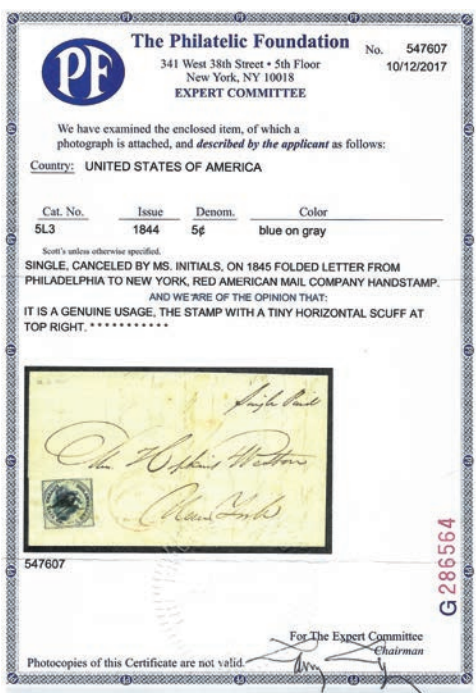
(c)

Figure 9-4: The June 10, 1845 Robinson cover as it appeared upon arrival at Wall Street, NYC to be read (a), later docketed (b), and finally folded for filing (c).

Notice that this means of filing results in two new folds on the sheet that do not line up with the folds caused when Robinson first folded his letter sheet on Dock Street back in Philadelphia. The June 10 cover now has two long horizontal filing creases in addition to the original cover folding creases. All Robinson and Macalester letters today show both sets of creases. Even if the cover is only shown in an auction photo refolded as the cover was carried through the mails, the filing fold still appears near the center of the refolded cover. In almost all Robinson and Macalester covers today, one of the filing creases appears about 40% in from the right on the folded



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 9-5 a, b and c: The June 10, 1845 cover as it appears today with flaws, notes and labels (a). This cover was then certified and placed in an album to end its journey (b and c).

cover. During mailing, this file fold would not have been there (they have been removed in **figure a and b**).

Covers for auction or sale are usually refolded to show the stamp and the address, and the cover markings which are of most interest to collectors. Because of space constraints, sellers seldom show the cover unfolded or the other side of the sheet to show its contents. In older catalogs, even important covers were sometimes shown with part of the front of the cover blocked out by the photo of the next cover lot.

Happily, today's auction houses do not do that anymore. Some auction houses and dealers will even send more scans of the cover, if you explain why you need that. Don't be afraid to ask. It is your money that you are thinking about spending.

For the sake of completeness, **Figure 9-5** finishes the June 10 cover's journey. The first frame (**a**) shows what the June 10, 1845 cover looks like today after 170 plus years of handling. Folding creases, filling creases, general toning and tone spots are part of the cover today. Flaws and lost pieces as well as notations and labels (or sometimes owner's marks) by subsequent owners are also part of the today's covers. Then, the cover might be certified and put into an album page for display (**frame b and c**). That's what many of us stamp collectors do. Like Robinson, we can be meticulous that way. This then completes the "Life History" of the June 10, 1845 Robinson cover. But Robinson wrote five letters in June 1845. What can be said when considering all five covers together?

A New Way Of Looking At The Blue Eagle Stamps Franked During June 1845

Table 9-2, 3 and 4 depict a possible scenario that explains the handling of the five Robinson June covers. Using the sequence of events discussed above for the June 10, 1845 cover as a guide, the five covers can be aligned against each other. The scenario depicted in **Table 9-2, 3 and 4** makes some assumptions that may not prove to be completely true. However, the scenario seems to accommodate all the facts we know currently. This tells a story about the covers travels and shows how each cover was handled in relation to the other four covers and over these two weeks in June. The scenario does not attempt to suggest that ALM always functioned this way. We are only attempting to follow these five covers over these two weeks in 1845. Different ALM offices at different times of the year might have had different protocols. The ALM Chestnut Street office may have had a significantly different protocol before this time in June.

In fact, ALM probably did do things differently before June, and the US Government made that happen. ALM was not allowed by Federal law to carry letters ever again after July 1, 1845. This was not just a store in a chain of store closings, or even a company moving across town or to a new place in the country. By law, this was an industry being permanently put out of business by their own country's Government decree. After July 1, 1845, ALM and all the Independent Mail Companies had no future.

We need to keep this in mind while trying to reason what was going on in the early part of June in Philadelphia. It appears that many if not almost all "Agent Cancels" were applied during this early June 1845 period. The hope is that by following just these five covers we can gain some insight into why ALM

uncharacteristically franked all five of Robinson's covers with their seldom-used blue eagle postage stamp, and then, just as uncharacteristically, canceled each stamp with a set of initials. We must remember that all ALM's offices were preparing for July 1, 1845, and they had no future to plan after that.

The upper images in **Table 9-2** show stamps from the five June covers that will be discussed in this article (written June 7, 10, 12, 13 and 16). Here, however, the five covers have been photoshopped to appear as they would as Robinson delivered them to the Philadelphia Chestnut Street office of ALM. The image shown has not yet received Robinson's "Single Paid" manuscript marking, or one of the blue eagle stamps he had purchased, since he may not have wanted to do that until in front of a clerk. The week and individual days of writing of the cover's letter is over each image. The days of the week are taken from an 1845 calendar.

The content of two of the five covers is published. The other three are well known and their datelines have been seen by several auctioneers or owners. Robinson was very exacting, and without a question, every one of his letters must have been datelined inside at the top in the same way for someone to have recorded the day of writing correctly. So, as our starting point, we can feel very confident these dates are correct.

Below the cover images are Robinson's "Yours Truly" closing and his internal signature of "Daniel Robinson." The image appears on the front of the cover in mirror image, but the image here has been cropped, enhanced and flipped, so it now reads as it would on the letter on the other side. Below this are images of the stamp alone and the plating information that lead to the determination of each stamp's plate position. Red arrows indicate plating marks, and the plate positions appear in green (p13, p8, p9, p7 and p10). The very bottom row images show each cover stamped with a 5L3 blue eagle stamp, the "PAID" markings and the circular Philadelphia forwarding handstamp. The stamp has been initialed, and the cover is ready to be taken to the NYC office.

A Hypothesis Applied To The Two Philadelphia Sheets

The hypothesis is that Robinson ran out of his black eagle stamps. He went to buy more stamps from ALM on Chestnut Street in late May before the company audit. He needed a few immediately that week but bought the five plated in **Table 9-2** and probably a few more before returning with them to his Dock Street office to continue his letter writing as usual. The five plated in **Table 9-2** were all mailed later into June after the company-wide audit. This explains their special cancellations.

The couple of stamps he needed for letters before the company May 1845 audit might have been used on the misdated cover fronts known as H22 and HW23. These both received the common "x" cancel and were mailed perhaps a day or two apart during the week before the end of the monthly audit or perhaps even two weeks before. The dates are wrong on the covers, so we do not know when these two stamps were used, but they were canceled normally with an "x" cancel which is what would be expected before the audit. Notice the five covers we are following mailed week two and three of June did not receive a normal "x" cancel. They received a "DB" or a John Gray cancel. The timing was important, and the reason the May 1845 audit was the key will be explained later.

ROBINSON'S BLUE EAGLE JUNE COVER PREPARATION

TABLE 9-2

		2 nd Wk June 7th-13th (Sat-Fri)				3 rd Wk June 14th-20 th (Sat-Fri)			
Week		June 7 (Saturday)				June 13 (Friday)			
Date (Day) Written		June 10 (Tuesday)				June 16 (Monday)			
Robinson Folded Letters (Dock Street)									
"Yours Truly" or Signature on front (flipped)									
Plate Number (green) Plate Marks (red)									
Robinson Letters Ready to Mail (Chestnut Street)									

Table 9-2. Robinson's Blue Eagle June Cover Preparation.

Proposed Robinson Cluster Sheet 2 Philadelphia

June Removal From Sat to Fri

Table

9-3

2nd Wk June 7th-13th
3rd Wk June 14th-20th

Column 4

Column 3

Column 2

Column 1



Row 2



Row 3



Row 4

Table 9-3. Proposed Robinson Cluster Sheet 2 Philadelphia.

ROBINSON'S BLUE EAGLE JUNE COVER HANDLING

3rd Wk June 14th-20th (Sat-Fri)

THE PENNY POST / Vol. 26 No. 4 / October 2018

Robinson realized that the Chestnut Street office was running out of stamps, so sometime in May he bought a couple of stamps from the first blue eagle sheet and some more from the second blue eagle sheet. He may have bought the stamps from sheet one and two together or a few days apart, but they were all bought in May 1845. The primary reason for suggesting his blue eagle stamps came from two different sheets is that two of Robinson's blue eagle stamps plate to the same Position 10. The only way that could have happened with just two sheets available is that the two stamps came from separate sheets. The clerk probably cut them out for Robinson this way, because the first sheet was nearly all used up. The first sheet had seen service from nine months earlier, beginning in August 1844.

One of the two plating to Position 10 is the HW22 stamp. We do not know for sure when Robinson wrote this HW22 letter. However, the second Position 10 stamp was definitely used on the cover canceled by John Gray "JG" and datelined June 16, 1845. Based on its common "x" cancel, the HW22 stamp cover was likely the one used in May. Whereas the "JG" canceled cover was the last known cover in the Robinson correspondence, and it was written in June. This was a span of four or more weeks, and the May 31, 1845 ALM audit occurred right in the middle.

Based on the similarities in their cancels and their plating positions, the HW22 and HW23 stamps probably came from the same sheet. HW23 plates just below HW22 probably on sheet one (**Table 9-5**). Similarly, the five Robinson June stamps also plate next to each other in the center of the sheet probably on sheet two (**Table 9-3**). From this second sheet, several stamps were taken from the outer edges of the sheet. These outer edge copies will ultimately be canceled with a "DB" cancel. The three with interest to us here were used on Robinson's June 7, 10 and 12 letters, all in the second week of June 1845.

Table 9-3 shows the stamps on the five Robinson June covers plating to positions 8, 9 and 13. All three of these stamps were cut from the outer left or right sides of the sheet. Positions 13 shows a portion of position 9's lower border, so these two definitely were together on the same sheet before removal. Plating marks are shown with red arrows and the details of the plating were presented in Part 2 of this series.

The very light gray stamps shown in **Table 9-3** are included to represent other positions around these five stamps. It is possible some other stamps purchased by Robinson in May (that ended up receiving a "DB" cancel) came from some of these other positions. For example, there are three other "DB" canceled blue eagle stamps known (discussed in Part 1 of this series) but not included in **Table 9-3**. One stamp could not be plated and is on a questionable cover auctioned many years ago. A second is a single and could have been part of any correspondence. The third is on a genuine cover sent to NYC from Philadelphia to a Mr. J(ason) C. Meeks on Nassau Street, NYC. It was likely from Frederick Porter, the secretary of the American Sunday School Union on Chestnut Street. This third "DB" example was probably carried at the same time as the Robinson covers, but it is undated and not part of the Robinson correspondence.

There were two sheets in Philadelphia (Part 2). The Meeks stamp and single "DB" listed above both plate to position 12. So, one stamp came from the same sheet Robinson bought his June stamps (the second sheet, **Table 9-3**), and the other came

from the first sheet. Since the Meeks stamp was not owned by Robinson (not part of his correspondence), it seems most likely the Meeks stamp came from sheet one. Similarly, it seems likely that the single “DB” plating to position 12 originally was removed from the same sheet as the three Robinson “DB” stamps we are following here. It plates near them in row 3 just below Position 8. Unfortunately, the stamp was removed from its original cover many years ago, so we cannot be sure if it was also part of the Robinson correspondence, but this seems likely.

All six of the known “DB” canceled stamps were probably used during early June, but only the three we are following here can be dated, are on their original cover and are clearly part of the Robinson correspondence. For now, we are focused on the three “DB” in the cluster of five Robinson’s covers where we are confident of their date of use. The three other “DB” listed above have no date, so we will have to return to them later. The Meeks cover was, of course, not part of the Robinson correspondence, and more likely came from sheet one, and therefore, would not belong in **Table 9-3** (sheet 2). But the other two “DB” canceled stamps may have been originally on Robinson covers and could have been from a position in **Table 9-3** represented by the very light gray stamps.

The first column to the right of the partial sheet in **Table 9-3** are the three stamps from the sheet at the left that were used by Robinson during the second week of June on his three covers written June 7, 10 and 12. In the second column to the right, are the two stamps used the third week of June 14 -20. These two stamps were on letters written by Robinson June 13 and 16 and canceled and carried to NYC by John Gray.

An important observation the reader should note here is that the “DB” stamps appear to have been removed before the John Gray stamps. After the three “DB” stamps were removed from the edges of the sheet, the John Gray stamps were now more accessible. So, the plate positions corroborate when the stamps were removed for mailing. Three stamps removed one week (“DB”) exposed the two stamps removed the next week (John Gray).

How Might The Five Robinson June Covers Have Reached NYC?

Table 9-4 continues our travels with the five Robinson June covers. It shows the five covers as they would appear arriving in NYC with all their markings and with the agent-canceled stamp. Each of the agent’s initials are shown cropped and magnified in the images below the cover images. The top line gives the days the covers were probably forwarded to NYC, if the cover left the same day Robinson wrote the letter or the next business day. The bottom line gives the day the letter was read by the recipient, and also, often the day the agent was likely to have been returning to Philadelphia.

These dates are hypothetical, but they are based on the known date that the covers were written. The dates assume the covers were handled expediently, and that they were carried at least two days apart since the agent had to be returning on the off days (and probably with covers from NYC). This fits the dates of writing of the letters and comments made by Robinson about when he received the previous Hopkins and Weston cover. This assumption is blind, since there were no ledgers that survived, but it fits the data and does not detract particularly from the conclusions.

For example, we know from the docketing for the June 10 cover that it arrived in NYC on the 11th, the day after it was written. Hopkins and Weston responded the very same day (based on the docketing), but we do not know when that reached the ALM Post office or when Robinson received their reply. However, in the June 10 letter, Robinson indicated he was writing about their letter that they wrote on the 9th. So, the assumption made here is all five Robinson June letters were generally received in NYC the day after they were written, and the agent returned that same day but perhaps later into the evening. The recipient read the letter on the next business day following its arrival.

There is an exception however. It is highly likely that the ALM agents did not travel on Sundays. This is as expected for workers in 1845. If David Brown was indeed the new owner, this seems very reasonable, since he was a Quaker.

The conclusion drawn, from the scenario outlined in **Table 9-4**, is that there were two different kinds of cancels applied to Robinson's letters to NYC in the early part of June 1845. "DB" was applied to covers carried by agents going to NYC during the week of June 7 (Saturday) through June 13 (Friday). "DB" might have been applied by a clerk, but whoever it was, it was the same person based on the handwriting. The hypothesis of this article is that "DB" meant the cover was a "debit" and not someone's initials.

On Saturday June 14, more letters were ready to go to NYC. John Gray began his first run to NYC for that week on Saturday, June 14, 1845, and continued his runs until at least Wednesday June 17 when he returned to his hometown Philadelphia with his very last run as an ALM mail agent. He then started looking for a new job in Philadelphia. (Gray may have had some more runs to and back from NYC after the 17th, but these covers never survived, so we do not know.)

What we do know is all three of the Robinson "DB" covers were carried in the same week and before the John Gray covers. What we also know is that John Gray was an agent, and he signed these two stamps with his initials the week after the "DB" covers. Unlike the "DB" covers, we know John Gray was an agent. On the three stamps that survived, he actually wrote his last name on two (not just initials like other "Agent Cancels"), and on one he wrote that he was an "agent."

Why Were The Blue Eagles Used?

We would like to know why Robinson started using the blue eagle stamps, and then, why they were canceled with initials rather than the usual "x" pen mark. The author feels there is a different answer for each part of this question. The apparent explanation of why he changed to blue stamps will be tackled first. The simple reason seems to be that the ALM Chestnut Street office in Philadelphia ran very low on the black eagle stamps and had to dig deep into its supplies and pull out the blue eagles for service.

Since absolutely no stamps (blue or black eagle) are recorded used from Boston or NYC in June 1845, these two cities may have run completely out of stamps. They had apparently only one blue eagle sheet each, which they had used only rarely. Why these other two cities did not turn to the blue eagles to replenish their supply is unknown, but it could be simply that it never occurred to them as being important. Without a stamp, ALM still was able to make a profit from stampless covers which

made up as much as 70% of their service. Only the Brinckerhoff single suggests one of these cities (NYC) used part of their blue eagle sheet around this time. In the previous nine months, both cities combined seem to have used less than a handful of their blue eagle stamps, whereas Philadelphia probably had used a large portion of one of their sheets.

The hypothesis in Philadelphia goes as follows. Robinson had run out of his large black eagle stamps. So, he bought two blue eagle stamps from the Chestnut Street office to put on his first blue eagle covers. The hypothesis is that these two are the ones we see today misdated and surviving as cover fronts only (HW22 and HW23). These are the covers discussed in Part 8 that are clearly genuine usage, but the dates were recorded wrong by subsequent collectors. We cannot know the correct dates, but late May seems likely since the two blue eagle stamps were canceled with the normal “x” mark. The Robinson blue eagle covers that followed were canceled differently, apparently because he mailed them after the May 31, 1845 audit.

The Philadelphia office was down to its last black eagle sheets, so it had started to use up the last of the blue eagle stamps it had started to use way back in August 1844 on the Thompson “EHB” cover. In Philadelphia, this blue eagle sheet (the one we will refer to as number one) had been used sporadically over the last nine months, but now it was needed to replenish the office supply for general use. The fact the stamps were blue did not matter. Customers were looking to buy stamps, and the office was digging deep to find stamps for them. Even if there were still a few black eagle sheets remaining, there were probably at least two or more clerks working their stations, so all sheets were pulled into service. Once the last few sheets of both colors were gone, there were no more stamps to sell.

Throughout May and June, many covers could still be sent stampless as in the past. Covers with stamps were estimated in Part 3 to be only 30% of the covers serviced. It is doubtful the clerks were in any kind of panic over running out of postage stamps, and the office was in no danger of shutting down. But the supply of stamps was running out. If a customer brought in a cover to mail with 6 ¼ cents in hand, the cover could be mailed on the spot and sent stampless. For a while, the cover could probably be sent collect also.

However, if the customer wanted stamps as a supply to take back home or to their office, they were soon to be out of luck. Robinson was such a customer and had been buying stamps to use later for the last seven months. His letters were always a few days apart, so having a supply for when he needed them was only natural. Even the two blue eagle covers he seems to have mailed quickly after his purchase in late May (HW22 and HW23) were probably not mailed together. His communications to Hopkins and Weston over the last six months and even in June were generally two or more days apart (some a whole month apart) and never on the same day. Presumably, this was because he needed to wait for a reply before his next response.

Once these few last sheets were used, ALM had no more stamps left to sell, even if they wanted to. The two Philadelphia blue eagle sheets (one partially used the other probably unused) were pulled into service in May 1845. Since their different color had no significant meaning anyway, the receiving office would not be confused by the stamps color. The blue stamps were probably produced for a specific use (perhaps on “EHB” mail), but they were finally used in other random ways.

Sometimes they were used just like the black eagle stamps and were canceled with the same simple “x” or “#” pen cancel. The two “CC”, one EHB and the Brinckerhoff stamps may have been used from Boston or NYC, but otherwise blue eagles from cities other than Philadelphia were hardly used at all, even until the end.

The hypothesis continues that Robinson, Porter (who will mail to Meeks) and others bought from the first of these two salvaged blue eagle sheets in late May. Porter finally used his copy a few weeks later in June on his cover to Meeks. His stamp was canceled with the “DB” cancel. Robinson had used ALM stamps for months, but his sheets of the black eagle stamp ran out. He went to buy more but noticing the office was running out of stamps. He bought a supply of blue eagles before there were no more stamps to buy. He bought perhaps eight or nine stamps. A couple of these stamps came from sheet number one, but the rest were from the second blue eagle sheet, simply because the first sheet was almost all used up. His batch was bought in May like Porter’s stamps. Robinson used a couple immediately in late May, but like Porter, he did not use the rest of them until into June. Stamps Robinson used before the May 31 audit were canceled by a simple “x” cancel (HW22 and HW23). The rest of Robinson’s May purchase of blue eagle stamps were used in early June, and they were all canceled with manuscript cancels.

The reason the stamps were blue is because the office was running out of stamps to sell. The reason certain blue eagle stamps received different types of cancels before and after the May 31, 1845 audit was revealed by a new discovery discussed later in the next article.

Conclusion

This article focused on the five ALM blue eagle covers from June 1845 written by Daniel M. Robinson. It was concluded that the blue eagle stamps in this final month of ALM’s existence were called into service because the company had run very low on its supplies of its workhorse-issue, large black eagle stamps. It is proposed that Robinson purchased several blue eagles in May 1845 and perhaps a couple more in June 1845 when his own supply of the black eagle stamps was exhausted. Although the cancellations on Robinson’s blue eagle stamps were significant, the change in color had no consequence to the processing of these ALM covers.

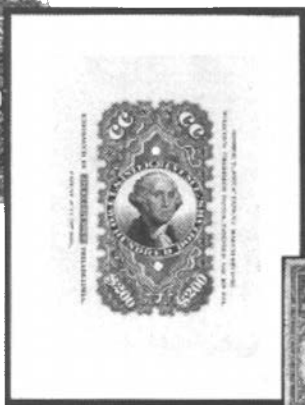
The author is deeply indebted to John D. Bowman whose assistance, insights and guidance throughout this project allowed it to finally happen. Access to his extensive database of ALM covers and stamps was invaluable. Many thanks to Clifford Alexander, Vernon Morris, Mike Farrell and Casey White for their email communications. Thank you to David Snow for some unique and invaluable insights. A sincere thank you goes to Spink USA Auction House for supplying the scans of the June 10, 1845 Robinson letter. Special thanks also go to The Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries and The Philatelic Foundation for allowing generous use of their excellent search engines that made researching the many ALM varieties possible. The author welcomes comments and additional information at dwilcox1@comcast.net.

Phenomenal.

Our Website Is Always Changing. Shop Our Auction & Hundreds of Stamps In Full Color!



By the way, you can view our latest giant price list at our site...or send for it by mail. It's free!



U.S. Revenue Stamps

Penny Post readers can relax in the comfort of their home and review one of the world's largest stocks of revenue stamps at our Internet web site. Locals and Carriers are there, too!

But wait, there's more! Our very large web site is one of philately's most exciting. It's full of entertaining full-color graphics and up-to-date information on the revenue stamp world. And it changes all the time...so one visit is never enough.

Scott listed revenues, embossed & stamped paper, beer stamps, taxpaid revenues, possessions revenues, proofs & essays, local stamps, and philatelic literature. America's finest stock. Write, call or visit our site to get our latest price list or send your want list for custom approvals tailored to your needs.

Eric Jackson

P.O. Box 728 · Leesport PA 19533-0728
(610) 926-6200 · Fax: (610) 926-0120

Email: eric@revenueer.com

www.ericjackson.com



The world's number one auction firm for United States Carriers, Local Posts and Independent Mails



For buyers or sellers, the Siegel firm offers unparalleled expertise, a worldwide client base, financial reliability, intelligent marketing, and the best internet resources and search tools.

6 WEST 48TH STREET, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
Phone (212) 753-6421 • Email: stamps@siegelauctions.com

Robert A. Siegel
AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.
siegelauctions.com