

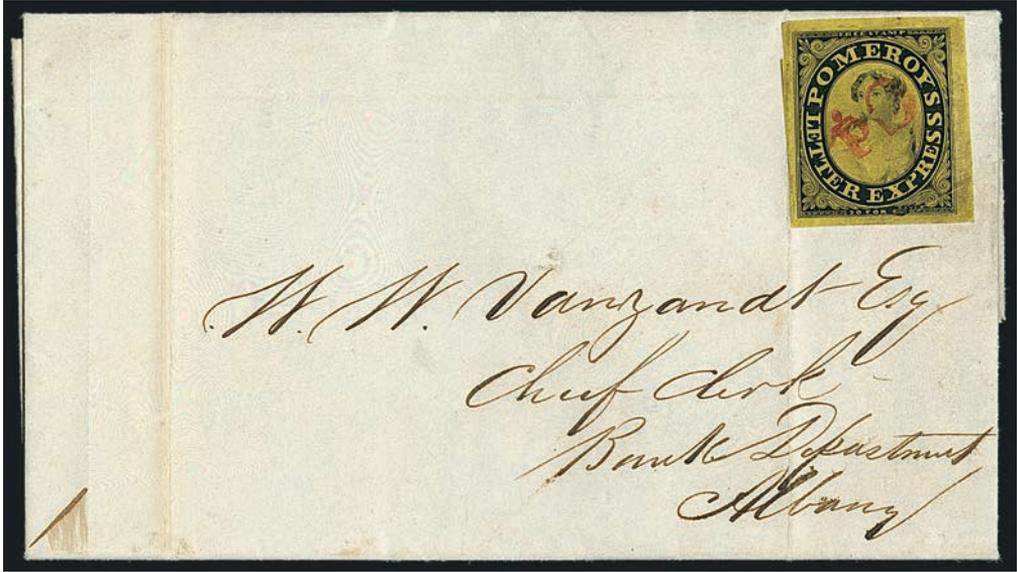
APRIL 2019

WHOLE NUMBER 107

VOL. 27 NO. 2

# THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



The Pomeroy black on yellow value erased stamp with a red “Cd” cancel on the stamp. The letter is dated July 10, 1844 and is from New York to Albany. The stamp can be plated to position 7R.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

POMEROY LETTER EXPRESS AND THE VALUE ERASED STAMPS

FAKED POMEROY LETTER EXPRESS COVERS

BLOOD’S 15L14: PART 17

AND MORE

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# Public Stamp Auction

**Carriers and Locals Society  
Auction #30**

**Auction Running Now!**

Auction Opens: May 1, 2019  
Auction Closes: June 30, 2019

Contact: Martin Richardson

# THE PENNY POST

VOL. 27 NO. 2

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The Carriers and Locals Society, Inc.  
APS Affiliate 211

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# Editor's Message

By  
Larry Lyons

The carriers and locals field is heating up! The Bill Gross sale brought many important covers to the marketplace and they achieved record prices. Now the Erivan collection is coming to market and there will be fantastic stamps and covers for sale which have been off the market for many years. The sale will be held June 22, 2019 at the Collectors Club in New York. See the center spread advertisement in this issue.

## Something New – Questions

In the last issue I began a new feature where questions would be posed to the readers. I posed three questions in the January *Penny Post* and so far I don't have any responses! Cliff Alexander says he will research Placido Ramón de Torres, the Spanish lithographer who made the Moens images and forgeries. We need to unravel and confirm which forgeries were made by Torres. Anyone going to attempt to answer the first two questions?

## In this Issue

My good friend Vern Morris has written an extensive research article on the Blood's 15L14 stamp. The census for covers with this stamp can be found on the *Carriers and Locals Society* website. It contains about 400 covers. Vern has analyzed the census he compiled and his analysis is presented in this issue of *The Penny Post*. Much thanks to Vern Morris for his exhaustive research on the Blood's small rectangular "Penny Post" stamp.

I have done extensive research on the Pomeroy value erased stamps and the ground-breaking results appear in this issue. In addition I have authored an article on "fake Pomeroy covers" for your enjoyment.

## Future Meetings and Gatherings

NAPEX, McLean, VA June 7-9, 2019  
See you there!

## Mission Statement

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

### **Auction**

Check out the *Carriers and Locals Society* auction on the website. The *Society* owns much of the material being sold so support the *Society* by making a purchase and at the same time add something to your collection!

### **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.

### **Final Message**

By the time you receive this issue of *The Penny Post* many of us will have seen each other and socialized at WESTPEX in San Francisco. Socializing together is one of the great perks of stamp collecting! Nothing like stamp stories and great food! Nothing like hearing the whine and drinking the wine! Please join us for festivities at NOJEX in McLean, Virginia. You will be pleased you did.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~

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# **Pomeroy Letter Express And the Value Erased Stamps**

By  
Larry Lyons

## **Introduction**

It is the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pomeroy Letter Express Company which announced the commencement of its business and issued adhesive stamps on June 26, 1844. The early postal history commentator, Dr. Wm. H. Mitchell said the following about the Pomeroy Letter Express “one of the greatest institutions of its kind in the world.” George Pomeroy was indeed a great businessman. He was first involved with the handling of packages and frequently carried letters along with those packages. Pomeroy & Co. had commenced a run from Albany to Buffalo twice a week on July 28, 1841. By November 1, 1841 they ran a daily express. Pomeroy had competed with Harnden’s Express on the route from New York to Albany. Pomeroy joined with Harnden’s agent, Henry Wells, at Albany and succeeded in obtaining control of the business and Harnden abandoned the route. Pomeroy’s Letter Express was evolved from Pomeroy & Co. in June of 1844 to shield Pomeroy & Co.’s Express from the government campaign against letter carrying expresses. George Pomeroy withdrew his public association with the express company and was replaced by his brother Thaddeus and headed up the new Pomeroy Letter Express Company. He secretly kept his equity in the express company.

## **Why was the Pomeroy Letter Express so appealing to the public?**

The post office department rate was 18¾ cents from Albany to New York and Pomeroy charged 6¼ cents. George felt he would make good money at 6¼ cents per letter and 18¾ cents was ridiculous. 6¼ cents represents the exchange rate in Spanish coins, a necessity due to the U.S. coin shortage that existed in 1844.

In addition to being much less costly than the post office, Pomeroy also provided much faster service. Pomeroy made the trip from Albany to Buffalo or back in 36 hours. Mail headed west was 12 hours ahead of the government at Utica. Pomeroy was 24 hours ahead at Rochester and 36 hours ahead at Buffalo.

In addition Pomeroy entered into an agreement with John T. Boyd for local delivery in New York City. The local delivery fee was collected by Boyd’s upon delivery or could be paid in advance.

## **The Pomeroy Letter Express Adhesives**

The Pomeroy Letter Express adhesives were printed and engraved for Pomeroy by John E. Gavit who was Pomeroy’s brother-in-law. It has previously been reported that no significance can be attached to the variety of colors as usages do not correspond to specific originating offices and the rates do not change on the various color stamps. The Pomeroy Letter Express adhesives were printed first in black on yellow. The colors that followed were blue, black, orange-red and lake. These are all known genuinely used.

Stamps printed in additional colors and types of paper are believed to be remainders. See **Figure 1**.

### **Why were the value erased stamps printed?**

In the great sale of the wonderful Dr. Carmen A. Puliafito collection of United States Independent Mails,<sup>1</sup> postal historian Scott Trepel gave the following overview and summary of the facts known to date.<sup>2</sup> An example of the Pomeroy black on yellow value erased stamp is shown in **Figure 2** and on cover in **Figure 2A**.

The Value Incomplete stamps are extremely rare, and, despite the best efforts of past experts, the reason for their existence remains a mystery. What we do know follows.

There was only one plate 40 subjects, arranged in left and right panes of 20 with a dividing line between the panes. The Value Incomplete stamps are always printed in black on yellow surface-colored paper (First Printing), never in colors other than black and never on the other papers.

Nine of the Value Incomplete positions on the plate have been identified, and there are probably others that will eventually be determined. The known positions are 8L, 16L, 5R, 6R, 7R, 10R, 12R, 15R and 16R. We also know that these nine Value Incomplete positions in sheets of other colors/papers show the entry of "\$1" in the value tablet; therefore, the plate was modified before the printings that followed the first on Yellow paper.

Finally, as far as we know, there are no First Printing Black on Yellow Value Complete stamps (117L1) from the same positions as Value Incomplete positions, which means that when this paper was used for printing, the plate had Value Incomplete positions that were subsequently re-engraved with the "\$1" value, but the Yellow paper was not used again in conjunction with the re-engraved plate. There are no recorded multiples of the Value Incomplete or with a combination of Value Complete and Incomplete. A se-tenant multiple would be irrefutable proof that the two varieties existed concurrently on the same plate.

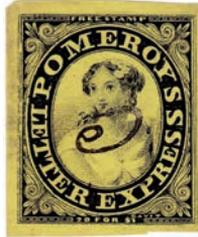
We can only guess as to why the plate was used with some values complete and others not. Pomeroy might have first intended to issue a 10c stamp ("20 for \$2") to pay the rate for the entire route from New York to Chicago, or in bisected form for a 5c rate for shorter distances. Having failed to reach an agreement with Wells, there would be no reason for Pomeroy to issue a 10c stamp, since the New York-Buffalo route would not require a rate higher than 5 cents.

In this scenario, rather than start the cumbersome stamp-bisecting practice, Pomeroy decided to have Gavit modify the plate. In each position on the plate the "\$1" value had to be engraved. The re-engraving process required time, and since there was an urgent need for stamps, the partly modified plate was used to print the initial supply of sheets, exclusively on Yellow paper. After the re-engraving process was complete, the plate was used to print all of the stamps in other colors on other papers.

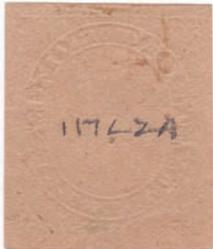
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<sup>1</sup> Siegel Auction Galleries, May 4, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, page 160.



**117L1**  
**Black/greenish yellow**  
**on dull yellow**



**117L2A**  
**Black/thick buff**  
**No gum**



**117L2B**  
**Black/thick yellow**  
**buff on back**  
**No gum**



**117L2C**  
**Black/thick yellow**  
**PCT**  
**No gum**



**117L2Ca**  
**Black/thick orange**  
**yellow PCT**  
**With gum**



**117L3**  
**Blue/thin bond**



**117L4**  
**Black/thin bond**



**117L5**  
**Red/thin bond**



**117L6**  
**Lake/thin bond**



**117L7**  
**Deep blue on**  
**thin pelure**



**117L8**  
**Black on thin**  
**pelure**



**117L9**  
**Chocolate brown**  
**on thin pelure**

**Figure 1. The genuine Pomeroy Letter Express stamps.**

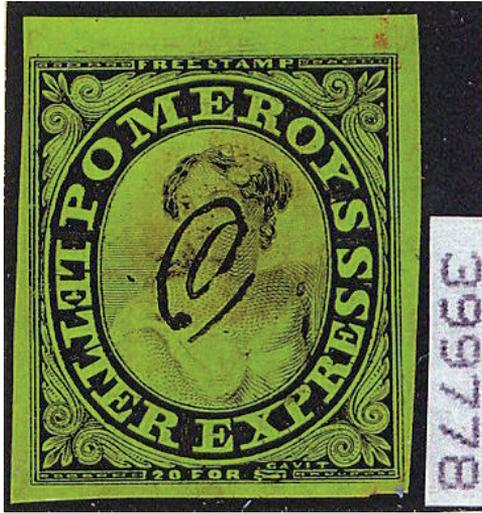


Figure 2. The genuine Pomeroy value erased stamp, 117L2.



Figure 2A. The genuine value erased stamp, position 5R, on a cover from Penn Yan dated August 9, 1844.

The story of the plate is one of discovery and loss. The plate and remainders of stamps were bought years later by John W. Scott. He donated the plate to The Collectors Club of New York, where Pitt Petri examined it in 1955. Tragically, efforts to locate it in the club's 35th Street townhouse have been unsuccessful, and it has apparently been lost to philately. Petri, the last one to physically examine it, was unable to learn anything about the plate's creation.

### **Another possible explanation for the existence of the value erased stamps**

It has occurred to me that perhaps the initial intent of the value erased stamps was for them to be a bookkeeping mechanism for letters being sent to a zone not covered by the Pomeroy Letter Express and therefore money would be paid or passed thru to another Independent Mail Company to complete the journey. Let me explain. A letter from Buffalo or Cleveland would be carried by Well's Letter Express to Albany and given to Pomeroy to carry it to New York. If it was going to Philadelphia, Hartford, Connecticut or Newburyport, Massachusetts, the services of either the American Letter Mail Co. or Hale & Company would also be required. For the long journey the mailing cost would be 18¾ cents or 15 cents if the stamps were purchased at the discount price of 20 for \$1. Wells would collect the entire 15 cents fee from the sender and would apply three Letter Express stamps. It is likely Wells prepurchased Pomeroy stamps. Two Pomeroy stamps would be affixed for the remaining two parts of the journey and Pomeroy would pay either the American Letter Mail Co. or Hale & Company five cents for the last leg of the journey to the destination. So Wells got 5 cents (15-10 cents to Pomeroy) and Pomeroy got 5 cents (10-5 cents to either ALM or Hale). Since Pomeroy really only received 5 cents one of the Pomeroy stamps did not result in money ultimately going to Pomeroy but was really pass-thru money to either ALM or Hale. I think the initial intended use of the value erased stamps was for the pass-thru to another Independent Mail Company. There are at least two covers and a piece with a Pomeroy 117L1 adhesive and 117L2 value erased stamp. See **Figure 3**.

There are no covers with two value erased stamps although there were adjoining positions where two value erased stamps could have been randomly removed from the pane and affixed on a letter. There are at least 10 letters with two Pomeroy adhesives that are both 117L1 stamps. This indicates that either a quantity of the value erased stamps was limited or the concept I have proposed was quickly dismissed. We know that after the first printing of black on yellow stamps with value erased positions printing were made in blue, black and orange without value erased position. So it is clear the need or desire for value erased stamps was abandoned.

### **Was there a second printing including black on yellow stamps?**

The question is really did any sheets of black on yellow stamps, 117L1, get printed in the second printing when the blue, black and orange stamps were printed? This will be evident but cannot be proven. The value erased positions (always black on yellow stamps) are also found without the value erased. Did they come first or second?



Figure 3. Two covers with one each of the Pomeroy black on yellow stamp, 117L1, and the black on yellow value erased stamp, 117L2.

### **Were there initially multiple sheets with value erased stamps?**

This question pertains to the first printing which has been deemed to be the one with value erased stamps in several positions. Worded another way, the question is are there multiple value erased stamps from the same position? This would confirm that there was more than one sheet printed.

### **The Project**

In order to answer the open questions about the Pomeroy value erased stamps I found it would first be necessary to plate as many value erased stamps, 117L2, and black on yellow stamps, 117L1, without the value erased. The results of this work could be very helpful and lead to the answers to the questions that have been posed.

My initial research found that there were at least three printings of the black Pomeroy stamps, 117L4. The first (truly 117L4) was printed in black on yellow on thin bond paper which is yellowish. A printing on thin pelure paper has catalogue number 117L8 and a printing on medium fibrous paper is believed to be remainders of a printing that was prepared but never issued for use. Stamps were also printed in black on yellow on thick wove paper and are designated 117L2A, 117L2B, 117L2C and 117L2Ca depending on the types of paper. 117L2A is black on buff without gum. 117L2B is black on yellow, buff tint on back without gum. The 117L2C is black on yellow paper colored through without gum and the 117L2Ca is black on orange yellow paper, colored through with gum. The 117L2A, 2B, 2C and 2Ca stamps are larger than the others and we will get to that later.

I believe the black on yellowish thin bond paper stamps were printed early and they are also the easiest color stamps on which to see the details. I believe they were printed early because they have the same identifiable characteristics as the genuine black on yellow, 117L1, stamps and the value erased 117L2, stamps. No sheets of the black on yellow 117L1 stamps are known today. The largest known multiple is a block of six which is two rejoined strips of three. See **Figure 4**. This block has been plated to be positions of 5-7 and 9-11.<sup>3</sup> The lot description fails to tell the reader whether this block is from the left pane or the right pane. I have determined it is from the left pane. The stamps were printed in two panes of 20, 4x5, with a wide gutter and line between the panes.

So, the black on yellowish thin bond paper stamps have the characteristics of the 117L1 and 117L2 stamps. Fortunately a few full sheets of these stamps have survived and I happen to have one. See **Figure 5**. It is this sheet that I will use to determine the position characteristics to plate the black on yellow Pomeroy stamps. My extensive research on this subject found that positions of some black on yellow stamps were given in the Hollowbush sale held by John Fox on January 4, 1966. In the ensuing 53 years auctions have quoted that information but no one has presented any new information—until now. In the Puliafito sale it is stated that the value erased stamps are known from positions 8L, 16L, 5R, 6R, 7R, 10R, 12R, 15R and 16R.<sup>4</sup> I believe I have seen one 117L1 stamp with a position given in my auction records on

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<sup>3</sup> Siegel Auction Galleries, Puliafito collection, May 4, 2016, Lot 257.

<sup>4</sup> Siegel Auction Galleries, Puliafito sale, May 4, 2016, page 160.



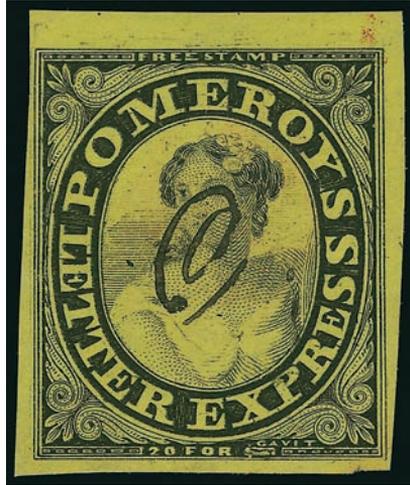
**Figure 5. A full sheet of the black on yellowish paper Pomeroy 117L4 stamps on thin bond paper. The sheet this author used for plating the stamps.**



Figure 4. The rejoined multiple of the black on yellow stamps. These are positions 5-7 and 9-11 from the left pane.



Figure 6. Plate damage between positions 14L and 18L on all the genuine Pomeroy stamps and remainders.



**Figure 7. No plate damage between positions 14L and 18L on the black on yellow value erased stamps. Position 14L pictured.**



**Figure 8. Remainder stamps show the plate damage between positions 14L and 18L as do the black on yellow stamps on thick wove paper.**

Pomeroy Letter Express which consist of over 800 pages. No one has attempted to plate these stamps. From these records, I have extracted a census and the information for this article. So we have gone nearly 175 years without anyone giving this a thorough study. In doing the research and study for this article I have plated 19 value erased stamps and more than 40 117L1 black on yellow stamps.

### **The Process of Plating**

I have not seen any records or information on how John Fox managed to plate (or from whom he obtained the information) the positions he gave in some of the Hollowbush lots. Presumably someone did what I have done using the black on yellowish thin bond sheet of stamps. The plating of the Pomeroy stamps is extremely difficult and I spent hundreds of hours extracting the plating information and then plating as many black on yellow, 117L1 stamps as I could find. It became obvious from the start that I would only be able to work from genuine stamps, genuine covers or very fine color images. Most if not all, old black and white or low resolutions color images would not be plateable. I was fortunately able to find nearly 60 images I could plate and use for this article. Typically I could not do the work from a copy of a *catalogue* page and had to go back to the *catalogue* itself.

### **Plating Characteristics for the First and Second Printings of the Pomeroy Adhesives**

What follows in **Table I** are 200% images and 400% close-ups of how to plate the 40 positions of the black on yellow Pomeroy Letter Express stamps.

### **Plated Value Erased Stamps, 117L2, and Black on Yellow, 117L1, Stamps and Conclusions**

What follows is **Tables II, III and IV** which provides a list of the plate positions for over 80 Pomeroy stamps that I have established. The number of positions on the 117L2 value erased stamps is increased by my study and is doubled from 9 positions to 18 positions. The number of different positions for which 117L1 black on yellow stamps have been plated and found is 26 out of 40. This is enough to conclude that the entire sheet of positions in the first printing were 117L1 stamps with a value of 20 for a dollar.

It has also been found that at least 9 matching positions were found for both the 117L1 stamps and the 117L2 value erased stamps. This supports the first conclusion that all of the positions were printed with a value of 20 for a dollar in the first printing. The duplication of value erased 117L2 stamps and 117L1 stamps with a value at 9 positions leads to a conclusion that the second printing of value erased stamps were most probably at all positions. This study has found 18 different positions of value erased stamps which supports a conclusion that all of the positions in the second printing were value erased stamps.

### **Additional Conclusions**

It is my belief that a second plate was prepared with the value erased at all positions. This plate produced only the 117L2 black on yellow value erased stamps. I found 4 value erased stamps from position 12R which leads to the conclusion that at least 4 pages of value erased stamps were printed.

**Table I.**  
**Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings**



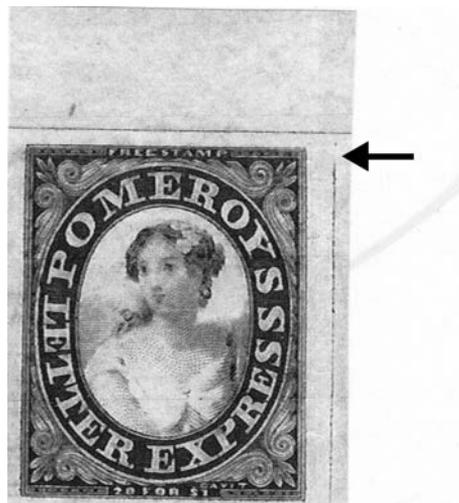
**1L**  
 Top and left border lines  
 Light left guide line ending in a dot  
 at bottom  
 Left guide line extends to the top of  
 the stamp



**2L**  
 Top border line  
 Dot in frame at upper right  
 Bottom right ornament is filled in.



**3L**  
 Dots at lower left corner  
 Line at top left corner  
 Top border line



**4L**  
 Top border line  
 Pane dividing line at right  
 Pane dividing line is broken at top.

**Table I. (cont'd)**  
**Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings**



**5L**  
**Border line at left**  
**Guide line at left does not extend to the top of the stamp.**



**6L**  
**Nearly fault free stamp**  
**Dots at right side of stamp border.**

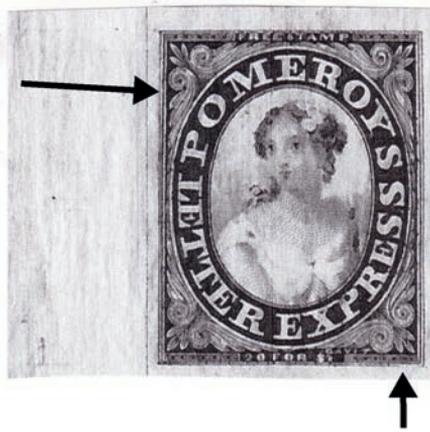


**7L**  
**None of the identifying characteristics of all the other positions**  
**Strong at top right**  
**Guide line at left**



**8L**  
**Very close and faint tiny portions of a guide line at left**  
**Pane dividing line at right**

**Table I. (cont'd)**  
**Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings**



**9L**  
 Top half of a faint guide line at left.  
 Stamp border break at bottom  
 right  
 Border line at left



**10L**  
 1 directly under the “G” in “GAVIT”

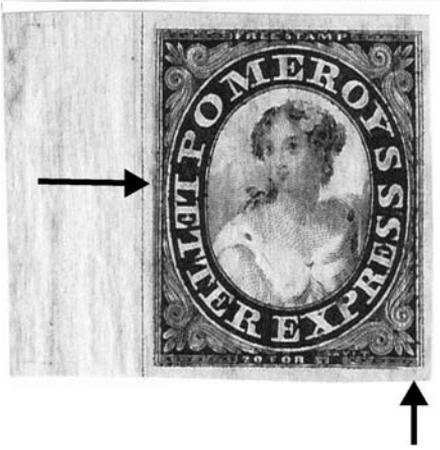


**11L**  
 1 slightly to the left under the “G” in  
 “GAVIT”



**12L**  
 Tiny stamp line extension at top left  
 and at bottom right  
 Pane dividing line at right

**Table I. (cont'd)**  
**Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings**



**13L**  
 Stamp border break at bottom right  
 Guide line at left  
 Border line at left



**14L**  
 Bottom left corner shows  
 distinctive damage  
 Stamp break at bottom  
 right



**15L**  
 Dots at bottom left corner  
 Faint guideline at top



**16L**  
 Stamp break at bottom right  
 Pane dividing line at right  
 No scratch at left breast

Table I. (cont'd)  
 Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings



17L  
 Guide line at left  
 Part guide line at bottom only at right  
 Border line at left and bottom



18L  
 Stamp break at bottom right  
 Border line at bottom  
 Top left corner shows distinctive damage



19L  
 "A" in "GAVIT" is faint  
 "G" in "GAVIT" has a weak leg?



20L  
 Stamp break at bottom right  
 Faint partial guide line at right  
 Borderline at bottom  
 Pane dividing line at right with distinctive bottom

**Table I. (cont'd)**  
**Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings**



**1R**  
**Border line at top**  
**Pane dividing line at left with**  
**break at top**



**2R**  
**Bottom right ornament is filled in**  
**Border line at top**



**3R**  
**Layout line at left with dot at**  
**bottom**  
**Border line at top**  
**(This stamp has a preprinting**  
**paper crease)**



**4R**  
**Stamp break at bottom right**  
**Appears to be a faint cross bar over the \$**  
**Border line at top**  
**Border line at right**

**Table I. (cont'd)**  
**Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings**



**5R**  
 Weak stamp line at bottom right  
 1 appears ahead of the "G" in  
 "GAVIT"  
 Pane divider line at left

**6R**  
 Layout line at left  
 Dot on right breast



**7R**  
 Very faint guide line at top  
 Part of "G" in "GAVIT" missing

**8R**  
 Border line at right  
 Dot at lower right of stamp

**Table I. (cont'd)**  
**Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings**



**9R**  
 Dot above the 5<sup>th</sup> ornament at  
 bottom left.  
 Pane divider line at left



**10R**  
 Two horizontal scratch lines outside  
 stamp design at right center



**11R**  
 Two horizontal scratch lines outside  
 stamp design at left center. Bottom  
 scratch crosses the stamp  
 Distinctive guide line at left.

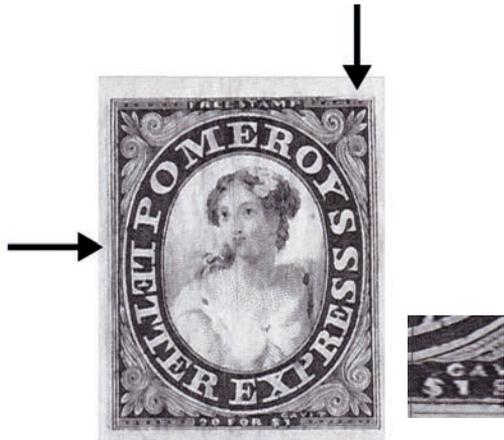


**12R**  
 Horizontal scratch line outside  
 stamp at left and on the body.  
 Border line at right  
 Dark dots under "0" in "20" and "F"  
 in "For".

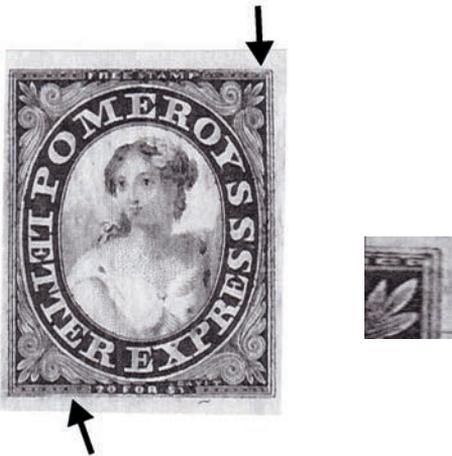
**Table I. (cont'd)**  
**Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings**



**13R**  
 Two lines under \$  
 Layout line at left with dot at bottom  
 Break in stamp design at bottom right  
 Break in stamp design at top right  
 Pane divider line at left



**14R**  
 "I" ahead of the "G" "GAVIT"  
 Guide line at Left  
 Stamp design broken at top right



**15R**  
 Light connecting lines at bottom left  
 Slight break in stamp design at top right

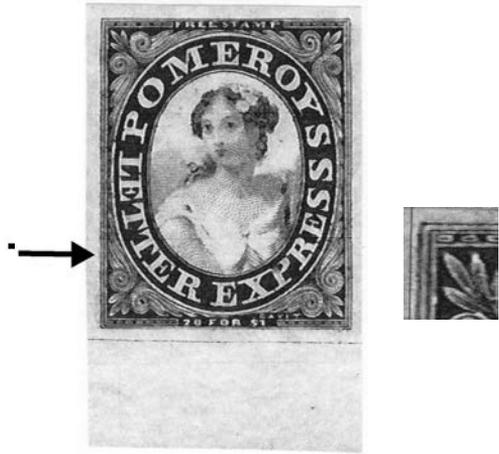


**16R**  
 Dot outside frame at bottom left  
 Very, very faint guide line at left.  
 Border line at right

**Table 1. (cont'd)**  
**Plating Characteristics for 1st and 2nd Printings**



**17R**  
 Pane divider line at left  
 distinctive at bottom  
 Border line at bottom



**18R**  
 Faint layout line very close at left.  
 Small partial layout line at top.  
 Border line at bottom



**19R**  
 Faint layout line at left  
 Faint parts of layout line at top  
 Border line at bottom



**20R**  
 Three inner oval frame dots over the "R"  
 in "EXPRESS"  
 Border line at bottom  
 Border line at right

**Table II.**  
**117L2 Value Erased Stamps**

S. Rumsey, Oct. 2008, Lot 3208	▲	On piece	14R
J. Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1411		Oct. 10, 1844 NY to Detroit	15R
J. Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1412		Sept 24, 1844 NY to Detroit	10R
J. Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1414	▲		12R
J. Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1415		June 28, 44 Utica to NY	
J. Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1416		July 15, 44 NY to Albany	8L
Robson Lowe, USA1 3-15-72, Lot 1189		Single	13L
Robson Lowe, USA1 3-15-72, Lot 1190		Single	12R
Siegel (DK) May 31, 2003, Lot 92		July 20, 1844 Albany to N.Y.	13R
Siegel (DK) May 31,2003, Lot 93		Single	14L
Siegel (Gordon N. John) 11-14-03, Lot 2126		July 10, 44 NY to Albany	4L
Siegel (Hall), 11-13-00 Lot 374		8-14-44 Geneva to N.Y.	12R
Frajola, 9-9-84, Lot 175		7-27-44 N.Y. to Buffalo	9R
Siegel, 7-25-17, Lot 789		8-15-44 Rochester to N.Y.	16R
PF 536,991		8-9-44	5R
Siegel, 3-17-06 Lot 4554		Single	14L
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-14-16, Lot 266		8-9-44 Penn Yan to N.Y.	5R
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-14-16, Lot 267		8-14-44 Geneva to N.Y.	12R
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-14-16, Lot 268		7-10-44 N.Y. to Albany	7R
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-14-16, Lot 269		8-7-44 Utica to N.Y.	17R

**Table III.  
117L1 Black on Yellow Stamps**

	<b>Cover Date</b>	<b>From - / To</b>	<b>Positions</b>
John Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1406	Aug 1	Milwaukee - Phila	9L, 13L
John Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1409	Boyd's Aug 17	Front	17L
John Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1410		Little Falls- Utica	6R, 10R
John Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1411	Oct 10	N.Y. to Detroit	13R
John Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1412	Sept 24	N.Y. to Detroit	9L
John Fox (Hollowbush) 1-5-66, Lot 1413	Blk of 8		9L – 16L
Robson Lowe, USA1 3-15-12, Lot 1191	July 18	Rome to Albany	11L
Robson Lowe, USA1 3-15-12, Lot 1192	July 22	Syracuse to Albany	18L
Siegel (Gordon N. John), 11-14-03, Lot 2128	July	NY to Rochester	1R
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 270	8-44	West of Albany to Newburyport	13L
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 232	10-4-44	Monroe Mich to N.Y.	20R
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 261	7-18-44	Buffalo to N.Y.	20R
Siegel 12-17-15, Lot 4303	7-20-44	Auburn to Boston	1-2L
Siegel 5-5-16, Lot 865	7-3-44	Albany to N.Y.	4L
Siegel 5-5-16, Lot 865	8-7?-44	to N.Y.	13L
Siegel 6-23-15, Lot 621	7-23-44	Schenectady to N.Y.	20L+
Siegel 6-23-15, Lot 622	7-10-44	N.Y. to Canandaigua	20L, 4L, 4R, 12L
Siegel 6-23-15, Lot 620	7-18-44	Buffalo to Albany	19-20L
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 218	9-14-44	Cuyahoga Falls,O to N.Y.	16R
PF 235,804	8-15?-44	to N.Y.	5L
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 258	7-3-44	Buffalo to N.Y.	1R
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 260	8-5-44	Whitehall to N.Y.	15L
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 262	8-16-44	Albany to Syracuse	9L

**Table III. (cont'd)**  
**117L1 Black on Yellow Stamps**

	<b>Cover Date</b>	<b>From - / To</b>	<b>Positions</b>
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 263	8-6-44	Albany to N.Y.	11R
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 264	8-7-44	Rochester to Albany	3R
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 265	7-18-44	Rome to Albany	11L or 15L
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 270	8-44	Albany to Newburyport	13L
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 271		Racine Wis to Phila	17L?

**Table IV.**  
**117L1 Block of Black on Greenish Yellow**

<b>Rejoined Block</b>	<b>Positions</b>
Siegel (Puliafito) 5-4-16, Lot 257	5, 7, 9-11L

Keep in mind that the value erased stamps were only produced in one color, that being the black on yellow stamps, 117L2.

It is also possible that Pomeroy was going to print stamps in another denomination such as 20 for \$2 and therefore these would have been 10-cent stamps in the color of black on yellow. This idea was abandoned and the black on yellow stamps were accepted as 20 for \$1 whether or not they had that value or a value erased. I like this theory and I have some supporting information. Please follow the following ideas which lead to this conclusion.

### **Which color Pomeroy stamp was printed first?**

The earliest known use (EKU) of a Pomeroy stamp is June 27, 1844. It is a black on yellow stamp on a folded letter from Albany to New York. Pomeroy had issued its stamps on June 26<sup>th</sup> and announced the opening of the Pomeroy Letter Express on that day. The EKU for the red Pomeroy adhesive is July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1844. The EKU for the black on yellow value erased stamps is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1844. The EKU for the black Pomeroy stamp is June 29<sup>th</sup>. The EKU for the blue Pomeroy stamps is Jul 13<sup>th</sup> but some letters have no dates in the auction catalogues so there could be an earlier use. What does this information tell us about the order of printing? Pretty much nothing since most of the different color stamps were in use by the first week the company was in business. This means **all** of the different color Pomeroy stamps were printed at the same time. (Even the lake stamp is known used by July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1844). I do not have any more tricks up my sleeve. I do have one more observation. There is plate damage between positions 14L and 18L. See **Figure 6**. This can be found on all the various color Pomeroy adhesives except the value erased stamps! See **Figure 7**. What does this mean? To me this means there were two identical printing plates. One plate was damaged between positions 14L and 18L and was used to print all of the different color Pomeroy stamps without the value erased and the undamaged plate was used solely to produce the value erased stamps. Once the value erased stamps were printed in black on yellow, (117L2) the plate was not used again. For clarity I can also tell you that the plate damage between positions 14L and 18L can also be found on the later printings including the printings that produced remainders. See **Figure 8**. So the answer to the question of which color Pomeroy stamp was printed first is I'm not sure. It is probably not important. Personally I think the blue stamps were printed first based on the absence of some early minor damage to the first plate. This could have meant the various color Pomeroy stamps were going to be 20 for \$1 and the black on yellow stamps (before the value was erased) were going to be 20 for \$2. But since it was decided to erase the value on the black on yellow 117L2 stamps all stamps were to be considered the same value.

### **Additional Observations and Questions**

More than half of the value erased 117L2 stamps were used on the longer route from(or to) Detroit, Buffalo or Rochester going to New York. This led me to my original theory that the value erased stamps meant something but perhaps these are just the locations where the value erased sheets were mostly located. The value erased stamps did not get used up early and some are found used in September and October of 1844. This is a curiosity. Perhaps they were held back so as not to be confusing about the rate but were pressed into service when supplies of stamps ran

low. There are late uses of every color Pomeroy stamp. There are two late covers from Detroit to New York with two Pomeroy stamps on each letter where one is a black on yellow 117L1 stamp without the value erased and the other stamp is a value erased black on yellow, 117L2 stamp. One example from the Hollowbush sale, lot 1412, is dated 9-24-44 and has a 117L1 stamp from position 9L and a value erased 117L2 stamp from position 10R. The other example from the Hollowbush sale, lot 1411, is dated 10-10-44 and has a 117L1 stamp from position 13R and a value erased 117L2 stamp from position 15R. There is an example of a 117L2 value erased stamp on piece with a 117L1 black on yellow stamp without the value erased.<sup>5</sup> How strange. They clearly went out of their way to not use two value erased stamps on the same letter. If my theory and belief that Wells' Letter Express purchased Pomeroy stamps to pay for Pomeroy's services from Albany to New York (1 stamp) and further to Philadelphia or New Haven (2 stamps) then late uses of Pomeroy stamps by Wells were accepted because Wells had purchased sheets to use. There are at least six examples of pairs of Pomeroy 117L1 stamps on letters. There are no examples of a pair of 117L2 value erased stamps on a letter. To me it says they did not want to show a rate confusion by having two stamps with a value. A value erased 117L2 black on yellow stamp cannot be found used with any other Pomeroy stamp except the 117L1 black on yellow stamp. Previously it was thought the value erased stamps were only at certain positions on the sheet and the other stamps were 117L1 black on yellow stamps without the value erased. I have plated more value erased stamps and shown that it is most very probable that the value erased 117L2 stamps were full sheets and the 117L1 black on yellow stamps were indeed full sheets based on my plating study. It would be easier to clip a pair of stamps from a single sheet than clip one from one sheet and another from a different sheet; but that is what they did. I think they went out of their way to never use two value erased stamps on the same letter. Also the reason we cannot find a pair of stamps with one being value erased 117L2 and the other not being value erased 117L1, is that they were on separate sheets and were never printed together on the same sheet! Mystery solved! It only took 175 years!

### **Correction to Current Thinking**

The literature currently exposes the theory that the black on yellow stamps were printing 1 and the value erased stamps were printing 2. I believe there were two plates and since the 117L2 value erased stamps did not have a damage between positions 14L and 18L this was the first printing. All of the other colors were printed from the second plate and were a first printing of those colors. The second color printing (or printing #3 if the value erased stamps were printing #1), is evident by change in the sheet size, the color of the stamps and differences in the paper used. See **Table V** and **Figure 9**.

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<sup>5</sup> Schuyler Rumsey, October 2008, Lot 3208.



Figure 9. Differences in sheet sizes. Sheets aligned at top left corner. Black on yellowish sheet on top. Red on medium fibrous paper remainder in middle. Black on yellow 117L2B sheet at bottom.



**Figure 10.** The oval size on regular issue stamps is 13mm wide as compared to an oval width of 13.5mm on the remainder stamps.



**Figure 11.** A dot is visible on the right breast of all Pomeroy Letter Express stamps at only position 6R.



**Figure 12.** The Pomeroy stamps printed on thick wove paper are wider and taller than the printing on thin bond or thin pelure paper. Stamps shown here aligned at left.

**Table V.**  
**Sizes of the Printings and Stamps**

Printing	Description	Stamp	Stamp Size	Pane Size	Sheet Size
1	Black/yellow value erased	117L2			
2	Black/yellow	117L1	21mm x 26.5mm	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	7 <sup>15</sup> / <sub>32</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
2	Blue on thick bond	117L3	21mm x 26.5mm	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	7 <sup>15</sup> / <sub>32</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
2	Black on thin bond	117L4	21mm x 26.5mm	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	7 <sup>15</sup> / <sub>32</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
2	Red on thin bond	117L5	21mm x 26.5mm	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	7 <sup>15</sup> / <sub>32</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
2	Lake on thin bond	117L6	21mm x 26.5mm	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	7 <sup>15</sup> / <sub>32</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
	Deep blue on thin pelure	117L7			
	Black on thin pelure	117L8			
	Chocolate on thin pelure	117L9			
4	Orange, deep blue, black, red, brown medium fibrous	Remainders	22mm x 26.5mm	3 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " x 5 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub> "	7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 5 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub> "
3	Black/buff thick wove	117L2A	22.5mm x 26.75mm	4" x 5 <sup>25</sup> / <sub>32</sub> "	8 x 5 <sup>25</sup> / <sub>32</sub> "
3	Black/yellow buff on back thick wove	117L2B	22.5mm x 26.75mm	4" x 5 <sup>25</sup> / <sub>32</sub> "	8 x 5 <sup>25</sup> / <sub>32</sub> "
3	Black/yellow PCT, thick wove	117L2C	22.5mm x 26.75mm	4" x 5 <sup>25</sup> / <sub>32</sub> "	8 x 5 <sup>25</sup> / <sub>32</sub> "
3	Black/orange yellow PCT thick wove	117L2Ca	22.5mm x 26.75mm	4" x 5 <sup>25</sup> / <sub>32</sub> "	8 x 5 <sup>25</sup> / <sub>32</sub> "

### Medium Fibrous Paper Pomeroy Stamps

Special Note: The stamps printed on medium fibrous paper are believed to be remainders of a printing that was prepared for use but was never issued for use. These stamps are found in quantity and in full panes and in full sheets. As noted in **Table V** the stamps printed on medium fibrous paper are 1mm wider than the regular issue stamps. I also note that the oval on the medium fibrous paper stamps is wider than the regular issue stamps. The oval on the regular issue stamps is 13mm x 17mm and the oval on the stamps printed on medium fibrous paper is 13.5mm x 17mm. See **Figure 10**. This is a very positive way to identify and separate the remainder stamps from the regular issue stamps. (It appears to me that the picture in the *Scott Catalogue* is that of a blue remainder stamp and not the regularly issued stamp). When you hold the medium fibrous paper stamps up to the light you will see the fibers especially in the margins. I also have noted an oval size difference in the Pomeroy train labels but I will save that for next time.

It is also noted that the position identification given for the regular issued stamps hold true for the stamps printed on medium fibrous paper. These remainder stamps were printed later and the faint position identifications can be more difficult to see. The damage between positions 14L and 18L is still there and there is a dot on the right breast at position 6R. See **Figure 11**.

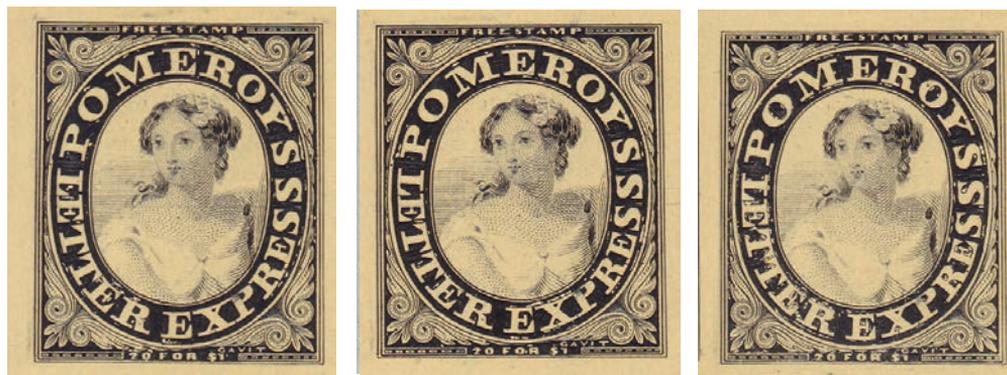
### **The thick wove paper Pomeroy stamps**

As noted in **Table V** the Pomeroy stamps printed on thick wove paper are 1.5mm wider and .25mm taller than the regular issue Pomeroy stamps. The thick wove paper sheets of Pomeroy stamps are  $\frac{17}{32}$ " (.53") wider and possibly slightly taller than the regular issue sheets. The more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ " increase in the width of the sheets is quite obvious. See **Figure 12**. The thick wove paper Pomeroy stamps can be plated using the descriptions given for the regular issue Pomeroy stamps. The guidelines are very clear.

The thick wove paper stamps not only have the guide lines showing clearly; they have the plate flaws between positions 14L and 18L and at 6R showing very, very clearly. See **Figure 11**. I'm thinking this is true because these stamps were printed very early on another new plate. Thus there were, in my opinion, three almost identical plates. The positions were all the same in all three plates but the plate producing the thick wove paper Pomeroy stamps had 13.75mm wide center ovals and 22.5mm width stamps by 26.75mm tall. Why didn't they stick with this design and use it to produce the Pomeroy stamps in other colors? I have another theory.

### **Flaws and printing problems on thick wove paper**

I believe that Gavit experienced printing problems on the thick wove paper. See **Figure 13**.



**Position 9R**  
**Thick wove paper**

**Position 10R**  
**Thick wove paper**

**Position 18R**  
**Thick wove paper**

**Figure 13. There are printing flaws on the thick wove paper stamps.**

There are printing flaws at almost every position on the thick wove paper. I own a sheet of the 117L2B stamps which are black on yellow, buff paper with a tint on the back. The stamps are ungummed. The *Scott Catalogue* states that the 117L2B

**Table VI-A. Plate study from 117L2B**

1L	Flaw over top left corner
2L	Dot on left eyebrow. Flaw in right margin
3L	White dot between the two "SS" of "EXPRESS"
4L	Corner dot and line
5L	Dot at right side of face, white dots over first "O" in "POMEROY"
6L	Dot after final "S" in "EXPRESS"
7L	Two lines under \$, scratches at bottom left
8L	Dark dot over hair
9L	White dot over first "S" in "EXPRESS"
10L	Dots over and under the frame
11L	Two white lines under "P" in "POMEROY"
12L	White dots over "S" in "POMEROYS." and final "S" in "EXPRESS"
13L	High dot in right breast
14L	Heavy flaw at bottom left, white dots in "S" of "POMEROYS"
15L	Big dots on throat and left of hair, line under "R" in "POMEROY"
16L	Streaks and smudges and scratches
17L	Dark mark in second "O" of "POMEROY", dark border dot at left
18L	Heavy flaw at top left, white marks in final "S" of "EXPRESS"
19L	Dark marks in "M" of "POMEROY", dot before first "E" in "LETTER"
20L	Dark dot in right margin

**Table VI-B. Plate Study from 117L2B**

1R	Darkness in oval between "P" and "O"
2R	White dot and line over "XP" of "EXPRESS"
3R	Dark marks in "E" and "R" of "POMEROY"
4R	Dark dot on right arm, nicks at tops of "ET" of "LETTER"
5R	White dot over "R" of "EXPRESS"
6R	White dot and line over "X" of "EXPRESS"
7R	White dot over "X" "EXPRESS"
8R	White dot after "S" of "EXPRESS" and above "Y" and in "Y"
9R	White dot under "P" over "O" at "E" and "S", after "1" in "\$1".
10R	White lines over and under "EX" of "EXPRESS"
11R	White squiggly line over first "S" of "EXPRESS"; white dot under "P"
12R	2 White dots and a line at "R" of "EXPRESS"
13R	White dots over "TER and under "E", "P" and "R"
14R	White mess everywhere. Dashes over "RE" and under "R", "E", dots in "S"
15R	White dot after "L." and over "POM" of "POMEROY"

Table VI-B. Plate Study from 117L2B (cont'd)

16R	Thin white line at "E" of "LETTER", dark lines vertically at face.
17R	Many white marks at "MER", 4 dots outside "O"
18R	Numerous white dots at most letters
19R	White dots at "P", under "E" and many at "LETTER"
20R	4 small white dots over "EROY" OF "POMEROY"



Figure 14. The Letter Express cover at the top has a Pomeroy Letter Express stamp 117L1 position 19R and the cover below it has the Pomeroy stamp from position 20R. They seem to be adjoining stamps. The author questions how this is possible? See Figure 14A.



**Figure 14A. The Pomeroy stamps from the two covers shown in Figure 14 rejoined.**

stamps may be remainders or reprints. The *Scott Catalogue* also says that the 117L2A stamps may be proof impressions. I'm just regurgitating the printed record, which could be true or not. Certainly one can say that if the stamps on thick wove paper are larger than the issued stamps then the 117L2A could not be a proof impression; it would have to be a trial impression of some sort. I think the trials went badly. **Tables VI-A and VI-B** are my listings of the flaws found on my sheet of 117L2B stamps. They are a mess. I don't think Gavit would have been pleased seeing over 100 printing flaws. I believe he thought the thick wove paper was the problem and he changed to a thin bond paper and a thin pelure paper.

#### **Another Observation**

While I was plating all the black on yellow, 117L1 stamps I came across Puliafito lots 231 and 232. Lot 231 has a black on yellow 117L1 Pomeroy stamp from position 19R. I plated the black on yellow 117L1 Pomeroy stamp on the cover of Lot 232 and found it to be 20R. **Figure 14** shows the two Pomeroy stamps side by side. They are a perfect match! How could this be? The cover in Lot 231 is dated July 19 and is from Cleveland and the cover in Lot 232 is dated October 5 and is from Monroe, Michigan. How could this have happened? Scott Trepel believes the top cover is a genuine use of the Pomeroy stamp and the Pomeroy stamp has been added to the bottom cover. Both covers are genuine uses of the Wells Letter Express, 96L4 stamps. Plating the Pomeroy stamps caught the foul play.

#### **More for Later**

A lot of new ground has been covered so far in this research article. I have some more research information to present and this will appear in the next *Penny Post*. This first article has the "Lyons" share of the research.

# Faked Pomeroy Letter Express Covers

By  
Larry Lyons

While doing research on Pomeroy covers I came across ten covers that could not be genuine uses of Pomeroy adhesives. I thought it would make a good article and at the very least cause readers to submit their covers for certification even if the stamps are tied. The postal history of the cover must be correct for the cover to be genuine or the cover can be proven to be a fake. Here are the stories.

In the Philatelic Foundation Opinions series in *Opinions V* published in 1988 Richard Frajola wrote about the cover shown in **Figure 1**. The key to understanding this cover is the Boyd's handstamp. This is Type 6 which John Bowman has dated in use from September 27, 1844 to March 9, 1849<sup>1</sup>, so at the earliest this December 14th date would be late 1844. This is not possible. Pomeroy announced discontinuance of his Letter Express on August 3, 1844 saying he was closing on August 9th. There are genuine uses in September and October of 1844. I was able to find 35 covers carried in August 1844 after August 9th, 16 carried in September 1844 and 5 carried in October 1844. Covers dated long after October 1844 are not genuine uses. The cover in **Figure 1** received PF certificate number 162,024 stating it is not a genuine use.

**Figure 2** is another Pomeroy black on yellow adhesive on a cover with a Boyd's 20L4 stamp cut to shape and uncanceled. The Boyd's handstamp is again the Type 6 Boyd's handstamp with the same December 14th date as the cover shown in **Figure 1**. The Boyd's 20L4 adhesive is known used March 20, 1845 to March 3, 1851 so use with a Pomeroy Letter Express adhesive is impossible since Pomeroy was certainly closed in October 1844, in addition the "PAID/JTB." cancel is Type 3 which is only known used in 1848.<sup>2</sup> So this is probably a December 14, 1848 genuine Boyd's cover with the Pomeroy stamp added.

**Figure 3** is my favorite fake Pomeroy cover. It appeared in a Robson Lowe sale of March 15, 1972, Lot 1208. The Hoyt's stamp is a forgery, and the left Pomeroy adhesive is forgery E after Moens (or by Torres). (The right Pomeroy adhesive is probably a reprint). The vertical pair of Letter Express stamps (96L1) are genuine and are genuinely used on this September 24, 1844 folded letter from Cleveland. Eventually the Hoyt's and Pomeroy stamps that did not belong on the cover were removed and the cover found its way into the Boker and Puliafito collections. It is pictured in Lot 214 of the Puliafito collection sale 1124 held at Siegel Auction Galleries on May 4, 2016. See **Figure 4**. No mention is made of the adhesives that were removed. Also see page 35 of this journal for another cover from this same correspondence with a Pomeroy stamp added.

**Figure 5** is a cover that appeared in a Richard Wolfers sale on October 19-20, 1994, Lot 448. Bob Kaufmann wrote to Dick Schwartz about this cover and it was determined not to be a genuine use of the Pomeroy adhesive. The cover is believed to be a Hale's stampless cover with the 8cts being a due marking for 6¢ for

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<sup>1</sup> *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*, Larry Lyons, 1998, page Addenda 27.

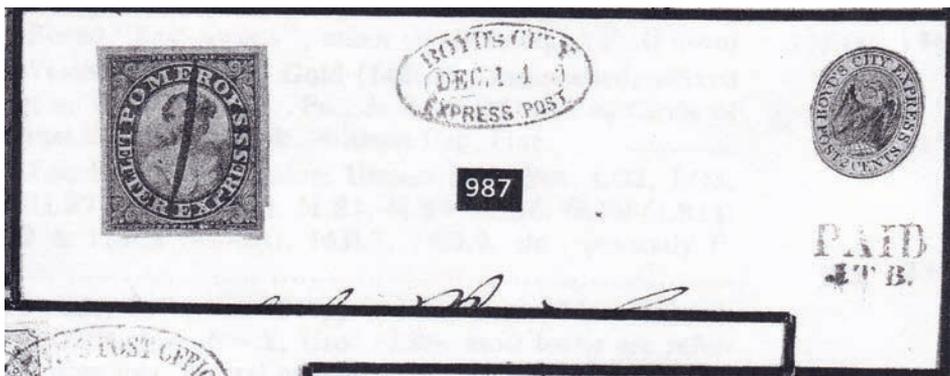
<sup>2</sup> *The Penny Post*, January 2000, pages 26-28.

delivery and 2¢ for local delivery in Boston. I suggest that perhaps plating of the Pomeroy adhesive would conclude it is not from the printings that were used for the genuinely used adhesives.

**Figure 6** is a blue Pomeroy Letter Express adhesive 117L3 on a folded letter with a New York datestamp of February 17th. The letter goes from New York to Rome, New York and has a magenta manuscript marking of 18¾. Perhaps a genuine cover carried by the post office to Rome. Pomeroy's Letter Express opened for business and started using adhesive stamps on June 26, 1844. The Independent Mail Co. operated primarily in July and August of 1844, with genuine usage continuing into September and October of 1844. There is no possibility of a use in February of either 1844 or 1845. The postal history also excludes the adhesive from being on this cover.



**Figure 1.** This cover was explained by Richard Frajola in *Opinions V* published in 1988, page 158 to be not genuine.



**Figure 2.** A black on yellow, 117L1, on a folded letter dated December 14, 1845 (or 1848) with a Boyd's 20L4 adhesive. Siegel, September 6-7, 1984, Lot 987.



**Figure 3. A genuine Letter Express cover with the Hoyt's and Pomeroy stamps added using forgeries. Levi records, H.R. Harmer, July 22, 1976, Lot 1768.**



**Figure 4. The genuine cover from Figure 3 with the Hoyt's and Pomeroy stamps removed. Siegel (Puliafito), May 4, 2016, Lot 214.**



Figure 5. Most probably a Hale's stampless cover with the Pomeroy stamp added. Richard Wolfers sale, October 19-20, 1994, Lot 448.



Figure 6. A blue Pomeroy stamp on a folded letter with a datestamp of Feb 17 from New York to Rome. The 18¾ cents manuscript is a post office marking and Pomeroy was not operational in February of any year.



**Figure 7. The Letter Express stamp is a forgery and the Pomeroy stamp is not possible on a January letter.**

**Figure 7** is a seemingly conjunctive use of a Pomeroy adhesive with a Letter Express adhesive. Markings indicate the stamps are 117L1 and 96L4. The folded letter has a Jan 15 datestamp from Detroit, Michigan and is addressed to New York City. As indicated in the previous paragraph a January use in either 1844 or 1845 is impossible. A closer look at the adhesives reveals that the 96L4 is a Scott forgery Type IIIA, and the Pomeroy adhesive is probably not from the plates used to produce the genuinely used adhesives. The black on yellow Pomeroy stamps from the later plates are very common. The manuscript “X” would not be a contemporary marking.

Lot 1426 from the Hollowbush sale held by John Fox on January 5, 1966 features the Pomeroy red stamp, 117L5 which is readily available as a remainder in great quantities. The write up says “Ex-Green”. The date of the use of the cover is given as May 1, 1844. The first printing and use of the Pomeroy adhesives is June 26, 1844 so this use is impossible and the adhesive has been added to the cover. This lot was not pictured.

Also in the Hollowbush sale we find Lot 1422 which is a supposed use of a black Pomeroy’s Letter Express adhesive, 117L4, on a folded letter dated May 17, 1847. As previously indicated this very late date is impossible and is therefore not a genuine use. This lot was not pictured.

Similarly a black Pomeroy adhesive on a cover dated June 7, 1844 is not possible. This one is Lot 746 in the Hollowbush sale. This lot was not pictured.

### **Summary**

A cover with an untied Pomeroy adhesive in black on yellow, blue, black or red could be a remaindered adhesive. Plating of the remaindered adhesives should be consulted for comparison to see if crookery is involved.

I’m sure there are more bad Pomeroy Letter Express covers with stamps on them that do not belong. Boyd’s stampless covers could furnish material for fakers to use. **Figure 3** is an enhanced genuine cover attempting to make it more valuable. One also cannot rule out completely fake covers where the faker created fake handstamps as well. At the very least the reader should submit their covers for certificates of genuineness.

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Private Transaction)  
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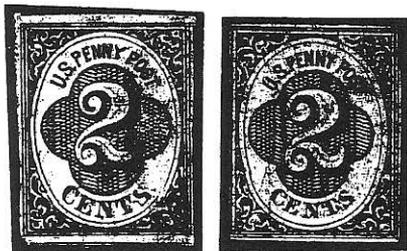
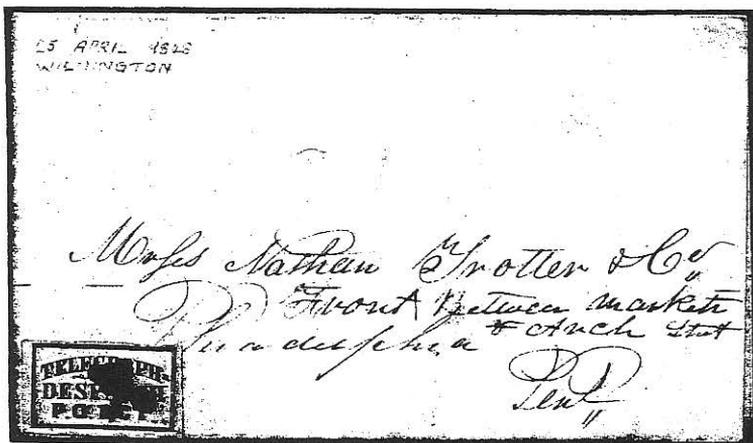
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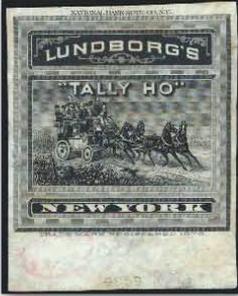
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# Blood's 15L14: Part 17

By  
Vernon R. Morris Jr. MD

D.O. Blood & Co. was established on June 30, 1845 by acquiring the Philadelphia Despatch Post and **the world's first pictorial stamps**, 15L3. On the infamous next day, July 1, 1845 private sector inter-city mail was eliminated, although the public was compensated with a major reduction of inter-city rates to competitive market levels. Over the next few years D.O. Blood & Co printed three varieties of historic "striding messenger" stamps<sup>1</sup> which soon became reserved for *local door delivery*, were considered "city stamps," and today the logo of the Carriers and Locals Society.

Within six months and by January 1846, D.O. Blood & Co. had also designed geometric double circle "post office stamps" inscribed "**For the POST OFFICE,**" the **world's first special purpose stamp**<sup>2</sup> as part of a paradigm shift to bifurcated private postal service. Outbound letters were less costly being easily taken across the street to the post office, but with *savings kindly passed on to the public*.

By January 1848 "**BLOOD'S DESPATCH**" appeared on the next five small rectangular stamps. By May 25, 1848 the company moved from Third and Walnut to Sixth and Chesnut Street,<sup>3</sup> across from Independence Hall. Within the span of only eight months single service charge had decreased from 3 cents in May 1848, to 2 cents by July, and **only 1 cent on January 8, 1849!**<sup>4</sup> Blood's volume discounts were no longer necessary, and bifurcated local service became obsolete.

By March 1849 the Philadelphia carriers likewise reduced their charge to only 1 cent, much like gasoline price wars during the 1950's. No other city including New York had ever matched such low market levels, generally half of the prevailing 2 cents in other large cities, although prepayment was required. Not for three years and April 1852<sup>5</sup> was collect service reinstated, but at double charge.

During the Spring of 1852 Blood's Despatch slowly introduced its new line of "**Penny Post**" stamps,<sup>6</sup> beginning with 15L15, which wasn't fully implemented until 1853. The following year Blood's Penny Post issued black 15L16 stamps.

## 15L14 "bronze, lilac"

The stamp design in **Figure 1** measured 11 mm high by 14.5 mm wide, and is listed in *Scott Catalog* as 15L14 "**bronze, lilac**, ('54)" largely correct as "1848-

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 14: 15L13," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 24, No. 3, July 2016, Whole No. 96, electronic pages 50, 54, 55, 76.

<sup>5</sup> Public Ledger, Vol XXXIII No.14.

<sup>6</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's 15L15: Part 15," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 25, No. 1, January 2017, Whole No. 98, electronic pages 2, 21, 37, 76, 77.

1854 for 1 cent,” with 1854 start.<sup>7</sup> Like contemporary 15L15 and 15L16 the company name BLOOD’S at top was no longer in bold capital letters; gone at bottom was inverted arch DESPATCH, replaced by more mundane PHILAD’A. The new name “**Penny Post**” in old English cursive fonts was properly in center. “BLOOD’S / Penny Post / PHILAD’A” 15L14 continued the new company name until the very end. For this article shortened Penny Post 15L14 will often be used.

“**Bronze, lilac**” was a pale bronze shade of lettering and double frame; outer frame wide and bold, inner frame thin. No connecting guide lines between stamps, and a clear blank space surrounding each 15L14 stamp. Several panes, and even one full sheet of 100 stamps, **Figure 2**, have survived. A sheet consisted of four panes of 25 stamps each, a pane being five rows and five columns, much like 15L15.<sup>8</sup>

For completeness, old auction catalogs on at least one occasion had perhaps incorrectly referenced 15L14 “bronze on blue.”<sup>9</sup> Never personally examined by the author, nor has any expertizing service authenticated 15L14 Bronze on blue variant.

### 15L14 Description Census

- A. May 4, (1853); blue oval “H. BELFIELD & CO” negative corner advertisement envelope with dated letter contents; outbound Maryland; cut rectangle, uncanceled; Blood’s Handstamp Type 17; blue Clarke Type 63a Clarke Philadelphia cds double strike handstamp; manuscript “156”; non contemporaneous manuscript “May 1853”. To: “W<sup>m</sup>. A. Steward Esq / S of Del / Annapolis / M d”. Siegel 1063 December 19, 2013 lot 1800. February 27, 2014 PFC 518133. Ex Bowman. Morris collection.
- B. February 11, (1853-55); folded cover; local delivery; left margin cut rectangle acid cancel tied; Blood’s Handstamp Type 17. To: “Elizabeth T Troth / Care of S F Troth / No 102 North St below Race St / Pa”.<sup>10</sup> (Type 17 recorded as late as December 24, 1854 and January 11, (1855) October 26, 2017 PFC 548382. Stromberg collection.
1. May 3, 1854; buff envelope with dated letter; outbound Pennsylvania; top sheet margin cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood’s Handstamp Type 17; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11A, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied. To: “Thomas H. Walker Esq. / Pottsville / Pa”. Siegel 927 December 20 2006 lot 1140, Richardson. August 30, 2010 PFC 489840. Morris collection.
2. June 26, 1854; (folded cover); outbound Pennsylvania; left margin cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood’s Handstamp Type 17; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11, black Clarke 63b Philadelphia cds cancel tied; manuscript “*Doctor. J B. Ara / 29 June 1854*” and two mathematic calculations. To: “Joseph F George Esq / Salena / Chester Co / Pa”. Kennedi August 1, 1975 lot 502.

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

<sup>8</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Whole No. 98 electronic pages 2,36.

<sup>9</sup> RG Kaufmann, October 1979 lot 323.

<sup>10</sup> Type 17 recorded as late as December 24, 1854 and January 11, (1855).

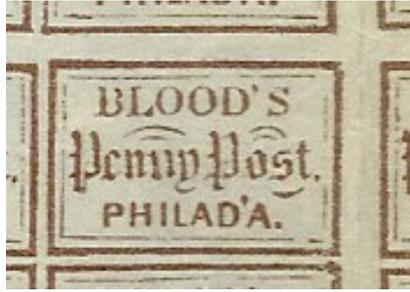


Figure 1. Single unused 15L14 straddle pane “Bronze on Lilac.”



Figure 2. Unused 15L14 full sheet of 100 stamps.

3. July 7, (1854); (folded letter); local delivery; bottom margin cut rectangle, (acid cancel); Blood's Handstamp Type 17. To: "Miss Lourie Stockton / Care of Carlton R. Moore Esq. / West Logan Square / Below Vine." Kennedy June 2, 1972 lot 554.
4. July 8, (1854); envelope; outbound New Jersey; left margin cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; black Clarke Type 76a Philadelphia cds. To: "Rev<sup>d</sup>. Charles W Nassau / Lawrenceville / N.J". Bowman collection.
5. July 31, 1854; enveloped reduced at left; outbound SCOTLAND; cut rectangle, acid cancel tied; Blood's Handstamp Type 17; 3 cent 1851 general issue Scott #11A horizontal **strip of five** (three missing), black grid in circle cancels, red Liverpool 1854 transit handstamp tied; red "PHIL<sup>A</sup> B<sup>R</sup> PK<sup>T</sup> 19 Jul 31" credit datestamp tied; reverse receiving backstamp; manuscript "*W. J Cody on 30<sup>th</sup> 7 mo, 54*" and "*ansd - 19 / 10 mo, / 1854*". To: "Lydia A. Barclay Aberdeen / Scotland". Siegel 927 December 20, 2006 lot 1154, Richardson. April 21, 2008 PFC 463567. Morris collection.
6. August 7, (1854); (folded cover); West Philadelphia; left margin cut rectangle, segmented circular cork cancel tied; black Clarke 76a Philadelphia cds; two **numeral 1 in double octagon** handstamp. To: "Dr. Mitchell / Blockley Hospital / W. Phila". Hinterboth February 1981 lot C1.

*The full census of 399 covers can be found on the Carriers & Locals Society website.*

399. February 8, 1861; (multicolor shield and eagle patriotic *not original*) envelope; Spring Garden District; bottom and right margin cut rectangle acid cancel (tied); Blood's Handstamp Type 21 tied, non-contemporary manuscript "501". To: "Miss Annie Whitby / 1813 Callowhill St". March 19, 2009 PF 474718: local removed, patriotic design added, and local replaced over design. Alexander collection.
- X. August 4, 1866; envelope; local delivery; right lower margin corner cut rectangle acid cancel; 3 cent 1861 Scott #65 general issue, B&O Aug 4 cds cancel tied; manuscript "*8/2/66 E.A.Jalleffie*". To: "Mr Ezeckiel Hunn Jr. / No. 813 Arch St. / Philadelphia". January 26, 2009 PFC 473122 WARNING "local did not originate." Morris collection.
- Z. June 2, 1858; multicolor flags and shield patriotic envelope; local address, cut rectangle acid cancel, Blood's Handstamp Type 21 tied. To: "Jos. B. Townsend / No. 813 Arch St". January 27, 2010 PF 483641 "envelope, address and postmark are fraudulent. Alexander collection.

### 15L14 Photographic Census

At least four hundred one "BLOOD'S / ~~Penny Post~~ / PHILAD'A" 15L14 stamps on original covers have been identified. Two additional genuine stamps, however, have been identified but on tampered/fraudulent covers (census number X and Z). *All 401 are photographed and posted on the Carriers and Locals Society website: 252 are in color, 63% of full data base; 149 in black and white represent 37% of data.*

All too often old auction catalogs showed small photo images which did not include an entire address. Catalog descriptions, however, often provided useful collateral information.<sup>11</sup> Unfortunately, 73 photos offered no address information, whereas 34 revealed partial address information. Altogether, 294 of 401 images **73% revealed complete address destinations.**

### 15L14 Cover Data Base

A 2% survival rate for private post covers had been selected early in this series of articles,<sup>12</sup> but no longer seems applicable. During the very early 1850's the quantitative scale of Blood's Despatch business had reached new heights as determined by huge numbers of collection boxes, numerous deliveries each day, cheap postal costs, all confirmed when enormous quantities were lost by fire in late 1851.<sup>13</sup> Although certainly far from complete, a meaningful data base has been compiled, providing a critical mass to appreciate, examine, understand, theorize, further interpret company behavior, and form logical conclusions for this historic private post. The term "unknown" may apply to addressee's name, municipality location, or both, and reached 56 in number.

### 15L14 Service Time

Evidence based philatelic research is unavoidably associated with varying degrees of certainty. **Table I** data included a sizable number of 290 date certain examples, 72% of all data, given *direct and specific* day, month, and year. Since another 16 are *indirectly* date specific and well supported by collateral information,<sup>14</sup> a total of 306 or **76% are sufficiently date specific.** Another 8 examples are specific for year only.

The remaining data can be arranged into many groups of less certain year dating. Eight examples fall within a *single and specific* year, although unknown month and date (census number 108, 109, 110, 347, 348, 349, 368, 371). Another eight examples fall within a 2 year consecutive period (census number 237, 248, 249, 250, 251, 361, 362, 363). Six examples fall within 3 consecutive years (census number B, 176, 177, 178, 170, 236). Twenty nine examples fall within 4 consecutive years. Seventeen examples fall within a 5 year period. Finally, twenty seven examples are entirely year uncertain.

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<sup>11</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 12: 15L17," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 4, October 2015, Whole No. 93, pages 21, 60.

<sup>12</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, Vol. 22, No. 2, Whole No.87, page 38.

<sup>13</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98, electronic page 77.

<sup>14</sup> Morris, op. cit. *The Penny Post*, April 2014, Vol. 22, No. 2, Whole No. 87, page 38.

An amazing 314 examples (290 & 16 & 8), **78%, are single year specific.** **Figure 3** reveals an unusual bimodal distribution. **Bimodal** is defined as having two modes, and in the context of statistical distribution as having two peaks. The initial five years demonstrated typical crescendo-decrescendo volume including a plateau circa 1856-1857. A second cluster spike, however, appeared late during 1861, perhaps attributable to civil war correspondence, as well as the final year of Blood's existence and likely public desire to use their remaining prepaid stamps before it was too late.

The earliest recorded *date certain and tied* 15L14 example, however, is **May 3, 1854** (census number 1), **Figure 4. Table I** data revealed that 15L14 Penny Post stamps may have been introduced as early as Spring 1853. *Earliest date possible* cover is May 4, (1853), confirmed by 1853 Blood's handstamp delivery, but with 15L14 stamp not tied or cancelled, hence given "census letter A." To the contrary, "census letter B" is acid tied although *year uncertain* February 11, (1853-1854), and may possibly be three months even earlier during 1853. These *two early possible outlier examples are genuine*, deserve early chronologic census ranking, but placement before date certain and tied census number 1 relegated to "letter" status. **Figure 5** demonstrates these two very early candidates.

The corresponding latest recorded date certain and tied 15L14 cover is **January 9, 1862** (census number 367), **Figure 6.** Although Blood's Penny Post ceased operations and service before mid-January 1862, *four late outlier* examples with 15L14 stamps exist on subsequent 1862 covers, of course without legible dated Blood's handstamp service confirmation (census number 368, 369, 370, and 371). The first one is an insurance policy termination of January 12, 1862 with Type 21 Handstamp without legible date and therefore date uncertain although possible delivery may have occurred on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> or even 13<sup>th</sup>. The other three have to have Blood's handstamp to confirm service by Blood's Penny Post.

**Philatelic lifespan** of Penny Post 15L14 ranged from May 3, 1854 (census number 1) until January 9, 1862 (census number 367) for a total of seven years eight months (92.2 months), **Figure 7.** During this period 399 numbered covers, adding 2 early "letter" covers, but excluding four late outlier numbered date reveals a total of 397 covers during 15L14 philatelic lifespan of 92.2 months, which yields a long term average rate of **4.30 covers per month.** **Figure 7** also allows for possible 15L14 relative exclusivity beyond 15L15 philatelic lifespan which had ended on January 7, 1858.

### 15L14 Service Location

Final destinations are summarized in **Table II.** By 1854 Blood's Penny Post had been collecting from five hundred boxes<sup>15</sup> with all sorted at the principal office for delivery to either local street address or nearby post office.

**Table II** tabulation identified a group of 46 with destination unknown. However, 38 are strongly believed to be outbound mail as each had been combined with a 3 cent 1851 government general issue stamp. To the converse, 8 were most likely delivered locally (census numbers 52, 144, 214, 291, 386, 387, 397, 398).

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<sup>15</sup> Morris, loc. cit., The Penny Post, July 2016, Vol. 24, No. 3, Whole No. 96, electronic pages 42, 49, 50, 73.

**Table II** data directly identified 228 outbound *certain* address destinations, which added to 38 *likely* outbound covers for a total of 266. Therefore, from the total data base of 401, **66% were outbound**, all easily given to the nearby post office. This incidence rate is almost identical with early contemporary 15L15 *Penny Post*<sup>16</sup> and 15L16 *Penny Post* stamps.<sup>17</sup> From 266 outbound covers 17 were addressed to foreign countries; 6% of the outbound subset, and 4% of the full data base.

Conversely, **Table II** had clearly identified 127 local Philadelphia *certain* address locations. Added to another 8 *likely* delivered locally, the Philadelphia subset increased slightly to 135 of the full data base of 401. Therefore **34% were local** deliveries. From the 127 address certain data, 84 remained in the *old city*; 66% of local address certain locations, and equal to 21% of full data base of 401. Therefore, from the 127 address certain data, 43 were addressed to surrounding Philadelphia *districts*; 34% of local delivery, and 11% of full data base of 401. The number one district was easily Spring Garden which received 26 (census number 15, 18, 19, 20, 33, 50, 55, 56, 73, 77, 81, 85, 150, 165, 166, 196, 245, 247, 254, 259, 286, 308, 357, 368, 372, 399). Second was Northern Liberties which received 7 (census number 76, 210, 238, 257, 266, 353, 389). Third was Southwark with 3 examples (census number 82, 90, 380). Three districts received two each: Moyamensing (census number 285, 378); West Philadelphia (census number 6, 251); and Penn District (census number 161, 272). Kensington received one (census number 370), **Figure 8**, but with the help of the carrier department.

*One inbound* cover (census number 221) had been given to Blood's Penny Post for local Philadelphia delivery. **Figure 9** originated in Perth Amboy, New Jersey across from New York City, and was probably carried privately to Philadelphia and Blood's Penny Post office for local door delivery. A one cent general issue stamp was attached and probably intended for carrier department delivery. However, a 15L14 *Penny Post* stamp is present, acid cancelled, tied, all confirmation of Blood's Penny Post service. In further testimony of Blood's aggressive service, and of philatelic fascination, Blood's handstamp had struck, cancelled, tied, and consumed the government postage stamp.

### 15L14 Cover Type

**Table III** summarized various cover types bearing a 15L14 *Penny Post* stamp. From 401 examples all but 27 were **envelopes, 93%**; more envelopes than folded letters in an ever increasing progression for a sixth consecutive data base. The highest percentage yet for envelopes and in a profound fashion. Many envelopes deserved special description, fit into more than one category, and were listed in **Table III** in bold type. For example, **Figure 10** was listed in three categories: large envelope, embossed envelope, and valentine enclosure. Accordingly, 401 covers were the source of 433 cover descriptions. **Figure 11** (census number 30) represented one of 19 small envelopes. "All over illustrated" envelopes proved very fascinating as in **Figure 12** (census number 28). A plethora of 57 advertisement and

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<sup>16</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98, electronic pages 40, 58, 78.

<sup>17</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, July 2017, Whole No. 100, electronic page 15.

15L14 VOLUME per YEAR										
NUMBER	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862
80										
60										
40										
20										
TOTALS	1	16	30	64	57	36	4	17	81	8



Figure 6. Latest date certain, tied, and serviced January 9, 1862.



Figure 26. 15L14 on cover addressed to France.

32 patriotic examples were identified. Embossed prepaid government envelopes had been commercially available in Philadelphia since July 7, 1853, and 14 were combined with 15L14 *Penny Post* stamps. Blood's Penny Post also sold prepaid envelopes, one apparently redundant since combined with a 15L14 *Penny Post* stamp (census number 166), but perhaps perceived necessary for distant northern Spring Garden District. **Figure 13** shows an example of both government and private prepaid postal stationary. No Blood's proprietary "self-sealing" envelopes with company name embossed on reverse flap have been identified.<sup>18</sup>

Folded covers accounted for only 16 examples, and another 5 were folded letter sheets, such as **Figure 9**. Although no wrappers had been identified with contemporary 15L15 and 15L16, **Table III** revealed 15L14 *Penny Post* stamps on six wrappers; four insurance company policies, and one holding a newspaper **Figure 14** (census number 114). Four cover fronts were identified, and one very special unique piece of cover, **Figure 15** (census number 214).<sup>19,20</sup>

### 15L14 Cancels

In order to prevent improper reuse of proprietary pre-paid Blood's stamps many methods of cancellation were available: manuscript, handstamp, or acid.

**Table IV** revealed that 397 of 401 15L14 covers were cancelled for a **99%** compliance rate, virtually all by **acid**, and consistent with early contemporary 15L15 and 15L16. Only four examples had no cancel (census number A, 170, 358, 371). Two special examples had been also incidentally cancelled by Blood's handstamp, **Figure 16** (census number 67, 111). Recently introduced Blood's Handstamp **Type E** rather than acid had cancelled two covers, **Figure 17** (census number 186, 238). An unusual segmented cork cancel appeared again, **Figure 18** (census number 6) lending further credence to its legitimacy. In past articles an absence of other corroborating cork examples had given pause and deferment. However, a third example has now reared its head, and must be taken much more seriously.<sup>21</sup>

As with the seven most recent issues, no 15L14 examples bear manuscript "X" penstroke, "group of dots," red PAID, or multiple puncture cancellations.<sup>22</sup>

### Blood's Handstamps

Although Blood's handstamp markings may have coincidentally cancelled its companion stamp, a Blood's handstamp's chief purpose was to confirm Blood's *service*. The lower portion of **Table V** demonstrated **87%** compliance, typically offering date and year of service, again comparable with contemporary issues.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, Vol. 24, No. 3, Whole No. 96, page 9.

<sup>19</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "The Philadelphia Eagle Carrier Cancellations: Two Discoveries," *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 88, No. 3, May-June 2009, pages 151-155.

<sup>20</sup> Tom Clarke email February 9, 2018 suggests 1858 as the likely year for killer 11 bar grid, making this example the latest Eagle carrier stamp serviced in Philadelphia.

<sup>21</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98 electronic version, pages. 20, 29, 36.

<sup>22</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 10: 15L10," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 2, April 2015, Whole No. 91, pages 33, 34.

<sup>23</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, Vol. 25, No. 1, January 2017, Whole No. 98, electronic pgs. 46, 76, 78.



Figure 14. 15L14 on newspaper wrapper.



Figure 15. Unique 15L14 in combination with Eagle carrier stamp.



Figure 16. 15L14 cancelled by both acid and Blood's handstamp.

Of 401 covers 348 showed a company handstamp whereas only 53 did not. From the 348 examples, a small subset of five covers had each possessed two different Blood's handstamps, the second of which was listed in **Table V** in bold type. These five break down into two small groups: three large embossed 1855 valentines (census number 18, 19, 20) **Figure 19**,<sup>24</sup> and two with a red numeral 1 in oval which cancelled the adhesive stamp (census number 186 and 238) shown in **Figure 17**. Total number of Blood's handstamp markings is 353 on 348 covers.

Almost half of the 348 covers, or 188 were confirmed by Blood's Despatch Handstamp Type 19,<sup>25</sup> the first fully dated Blood's marking. From recent articles, workhorse Blood's Despatch Handstamp Type 17<sup>26</sup> had been winding down, and identified on only eight early **Table V** data. The second most common was newcomer Blood's Penny Post Handstamp Type 21<sup>27</sup> which confirmed 147 serviced, all in latter portion of data base.

Year dated Handstamps Types 19 and 21 accounted for **84%** of all data, respectively 188 and 147 covers.

A very small albeit important set of undated Special Messenger Blood's Handstamp Type 23 were identified on five valentine covers (census number 18, 19, 20, 376, 377, 378).<sup>28</sup> A single example of Blood's Handstamp Type 18<sup>29</sup> had simply declared PAID (census number 382).

### 15L14 Cover Auxiliary Markings

Auxiliary markings provide additional philatelic information regarding postal handling and delivery. In the context of private posts, all markings *not* intended to prevent reuse of the private post stamp have been considered auxiliary markings whether manuscript, handstamp, government, or private. More than one marking may appear on a single cover. Identical markings repeated on a single cover were not "piled on" to needlessly enlarge the data base. To be clear, Blood's acid markings have been considered cancellation rather than auxiliary markings.

**Table V Penny Post 15L14** revealed only 8 examples without an identifiable domestic auxiliary marking, and perhaps due to incomplete photography. Therefore **98% of data base** did include some form of auxiliary marking.

Three large cohorts consist of federal government handstamps, Blood's company handstamps, and manuscript markings, the first two dwarfing the third. The first cohort and largest was **397 government** handstamp markings in three subsets. The largest subset was circular datestamps: 262 Philadelphia and 7 other cities markings (census number 7, 41, 71, 117, 190, 213, 267). American straightline datestamps were found on eight covers going overseas. Also, 73 Philadelphia black grid handstamp cancellations were identified. Carrier and drop letter markings totaled 23, and consisted of numerous types demonstrated in **Figure 20** (census

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<sup>24</sup> *The Penny Post*, Vol. 1 No. 4, November 1991 front cover.

<sup>25</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 13.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, Type 12

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, Type 15.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid, Type 17.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid, Type 14.

number 313) and **Figure 18** (census number 6). Special purpose handstamps were found on 24 examples. Three were FORWARDED handstamps (census number 71, 79, 213), **Figure 21**. Eleven FREE handstamps (census number 51, 63, 70, 93, 95, 120, 125, 158, 178, 234, 313), **Figure 22** (census number 63) which was the only one that serendipitously tied a 15L14 Blood's stamp to its cover; only one FREE was enclosed in circle, **Figure 20** (census number 313). **OLD STAMPS/NOT RECOGNIZED** with its companion **DUE3** were found on only two 15L4 covers, and of course soon after August 17, 1861 (census number 311, 314) **Figure 23**.

The second cohort derived from **353 Blood's** handstamp markings. The third cohort was **84 manuscript** markings: 25 postal rate/paid in nature; 22 were handwritten dates, **Figure 24**; 33 were handwritten docket; and 4 were intended messages for Blood's (census number 133, 166, 236, 238), **Figure 25**, which is also the other red numeral 1 in circle handstamp in addition to previously shown in **Figure 17**.

The greatest number of auxiliary markings on a single cover, however, were found en route to foreign destinations. Their great number of *foreign* transit markings were *not* included in this assessment, **Figure 26** (census number 105) to France.

An enormous **834 domestic auxiliary marking** on 393 covers, equaled **2.12 markings** per cover, an incidence higher than early contemporary 15L15 issue.<sup>30</sup>

### 15L14 Tied to Cover

**Table VI** summarized 15L14 **Penny Post** stamps tied to cover. Of 401 recorded data *only 26 were not* tied, and an amazing **375** for **93.5% were tied**. Blood's acid cancel tied a great majority of the stamps; 349 of 401 data for **87% were tied by acid**, **Figure 9**.

Blood's company handstamps also coincidentally tied 22 data. From two subsets, 14 were in combined with acid cancel, while another 8 were handstamp only (census number 6, 12, 144, 186, 205, 208, 238, and 248). Blood's handstamp Type 19 tied seven (census number 12, 67, 111, 112, 144, 146, 248) shown in **Figure 16**. Blood's handstamp Type 21 tied twelve (census number 165, 185, 187, 193, 197, 201, 205, 208, 260, 272, 328, 339), **Figure 27**. Blood's handstamp Type E tied two (census number 186, 238), **Figure 17**. Segmented cork cancel tied one (census number 6) shown in **Figure 18**. Therefore, 357 of 375 tied examples were by Blood's company, via acid and/or company handstamp (349 plus 8): **89% of full data base** of 401, or 95% of data base subset of 375 tied covers.

From **Table VI** data 74 covers or **18% were incidental government tied**: 67 outbound Philadelphia datestamps, 2 Philadelphia carrier department handstamps, and 5 other federal generic markings. From 67 Philadelphia dated handstamps, a circular configuration tied 58, **Figure 6**, whereas an octagonal configuration tied only 9. From the octagonal group, single line octagonal handstamp Clarke 100 accounted for 4 data (census number 211, 241, 252, 253), **Figure 28**; and double line octagonal handstamp Clarke 101 another 5 data (census number 278, 284, 299, 305, 347), **Figure 29**. Furthermore, the Philadelphia carrier

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<sup>30</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98 electronic pages 33, 46, 47, 78.

department contributed 2 examples: circle in octagon Clarke 1161 tied one (census number 361), **Figure 30**; and Clarke S1 double octagon tied another (census number 371).

Ancillary federal handstamp markings had coincidentally tied 5. The above mentioned FORWARDED handstamp tied one example (census number 71), **Figure 21**. FREE handstamp also tied just one example (census number 63), **Figure 22**. Handstamped numerals tied three examples (census number 26, 61, 105), one shown in **Figure 24**.

Lastly, **3 manuscript markings tied** less than **1%** of 15L14 stamps to cover. One was previously shown in **Figure 23** via handwriting; other possibilities included crayon/pen stroke (census number 146), **Figure 31**.

Only 16 examples were tied by *non-Blood's* mechanism only. Twelve by Philadelphia circular datestamp only (census number 51, 64, 86, 92, 97, 107, 137, 151, 170, 216, 233, 234). Two by Philadelphia carrier department handstamp only (census number 361, 371). Three by manuscript (census number 66, 146, 219).

Many covers were tied by two mechanisms with the redundant ones listed in **Table VI** with bold print. A singular example had been *triple tied* by Blood's Despatch handstamp, Blood's acid, and manuscript crayon **Figure 31** (census number 146), an anomaly identified only once before in any Blood issued stamps.<sup>31,32</sup> **Table VI** revealed 448 mechanisms tied 15L14 stamps to 375 covers.

### 15L14 Stamp Shape

**Table VII** summarized various types of 15L14 ~~Penny Post~~ stamp shapes. Mechanical separation has not been identified or recorded, consistent with early contemporary 15L15 and 15L16. Apparently all 15L14 stamps were manually separated. From the data base of 401 covers, only 4 **strips** of 15L14 were identified (census number 9, 75, 243, 376, 377), with single stamps on the remaining 396 covers. Only one **block of four** (census number 9), and which is the only block recorded from the entire series of Blood's articles, has not been viewed for 55 years, **Figure 32**. Therefore, five covers possessed conjoined multiples of 15L14. Another group of 12 covers had more than one single 15L14 stamp (census number 18, 19, 20, 56, 73, 102, 146, 163, 247, 257, 351, 375), **Figure 31**.

No thin guidelines had existed,<sup>33</sup> and separation was generally attempted outside of the thick outer frame line. From 396 covers with single stamps, 370 or **93% cut rectangles** were identified. Conversely, 7%, only 26 data, were cut trapezoid configurations. None had been completely torn apart, only one had been partially torn away (census number 148).

One full width margin between stamps was common, and identified on 195 examples, almost half of all data. A large sheet margin along one side of stamp was identified on 84 examples, **Figure 33** (census number 375). Corner examples required two contiguous large sheet margins, but only five examples were identified

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<sup>31</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, Vol. 24, No. 3, Whole No. 96 electronic pages 26, 45, 56, 64, 97.

<sup>32</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No.98 electronic page 47.

<sup>33</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, Vol. 23, No. 4, Whole No. 93, pages 10, 11, 43.



Figure 34. 15L14 sheet straddle margin on a patriotic cover.



Figure 35. 15L14 combined with 1 cent and 3 cent general issued stamps.

(census number 56, 148, 216, 351, 353), **Figure 10**, and by happenstance at least one for each of the four sides of the stamp design. Extremely wide straddle margins were located between panes within the sheet, but only seven examples were recorded (census numbers 20, 41, 44, 85, 193, 316, 325), **Figure 34**.

### 15L14 Government Combinations

**Penny Post** 15L14 was often found in combination with government issued prepaid stamps or postal stationary envelopes. While obviously several years late for 1847 general issues, possibilities included 1851 imperforate, 1857 perforated, and even early 1861 general issue stamps.

**Table VIII** identified various combinations: 22 covers in combination with 1 cent general issue stamps, **Figure 14**; 194 covers combined with 3 cent general issue stamps, **Figure 35**; five covers with 10 cent stamps, **Figure 36**; and 14 with postal stationary envelopes, **Figure 13**. The unique Eagle carrier stamp combination piece is shown in **Figure 15**.

The above total 236 combinations. Redundancy, however, resulted since more than one combination may occur on a single cover. Nine such complex examples exist (census number 36, 143, 151, 153, 167, 264, 319, 337, 347), are designated in **Table VIII** with bold print, and reduced the combination census to 227 covers. A **57% combination rate** of Blood's 15L14 and government prepaid postage was somewhat higher than early contemporary issues.<sup>34,35</sup>

### 15L14 Correspondence

From any philatelic group of covers, multiple examples sent to the same person or address constitute a philatelic correspondence. The greatest numerical correspondence in this data base is an incredible 8 covers addressed to James Hufty Esq, **Figure 34**. All were colorful illustrated patriotic covers (census number 287, 296, 297, 301, 317, 322, 325, 348). Although most were addressed to the Washington DC area, the earliest was Fort Schuyler in New York.

Second place with 4 covers each had been addressed to two persons. Miss Blanche Payne in Granby, East Canada (census numbers 139, 143, 151, 167). All were 10 cent rated. Three combined 3 cent and 1 cent government stamps, **Figure 35**, and one example was a single 10 cent stamp **Figure 36**. Also receiving four, and known from prior articles was Samuel Bispham (census number 40, 199, 295, 383).<sup>36</sup>

Third place was 3 covers to each of five individuals. Nathan Potts (census number 33, 81, 254) has been well known from the start<sup>37,38,39</sup> Charles Ellet (census number 118, 148, 213) was temporarily in Philadelphia<sup>40</sup> staying at the Girard

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<sup>34</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole 98 electronic pages 58, 78.

<sup>35</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, Whole 100, electronic page 27.

<sup>36</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, Vol. 23, No. 3, July 2015, Whole No. 92, pages 23, 33.

<sup>37</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2013, Vol. 21, No. 1, Whole No. 82, pages 20, 30, 33, 37.

<sup>38</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 41, 46, 50.

<sup>39</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, Vol. 24, No. 3, Whole No. 96 electronic pages 33, 46, 90.

<sup>40</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014,

House, **Figure 37**. Doctor Lassiter (census number 15, 55, 77) was the resident physician at Eastern Penitentiary.<sup>41</sup> George Whitney (census number 120, 125, 158) received all FREE in Washington D.C. Lastly in Baltimore was recipient G.W. Gail Esq (census number 131, 180, 233).

The minimal threshold for a correspondence of course is 2 covers, and identified to six persons and one business. First and foremost was the Honorable John Hickman M.C. of the House of Representatives in Washington D.C. (census number 63, 70),<sup>42,43</sup> **Figure 22**. Another Washington addressee was Mrs. John Calvert (census number 209, 216).<sup>44</sup> In New York City was Mrs. John Mulligan (census number 194, 197). In Chester County, Pa was Miss Annie Read (census number 336, 365). In Bucks County, Pa was the Ruckman family (census number 58, 98). Sixth was Philadelphia PO Box 1126 (census numbers 313, 362) shown in **Figure 20**. Seventh had been an insurance company Powers & Weightman, although at two different locations within only six months: 9<sup>th</sup> and Parrish in Spring Garden District (census number 308) and 510 Walnut St in old city (census number 368).

Persons known from prior articles also received 15L14 ~~Penny Post~~ covers. William Meredith received one (census number 75).<sup>45,46</sup> The family name of John Morfit surfaced (census number 161).<sup>47</sup> None were identified to other Philadelphia notables such as Campbell or Biddle.

### 15L14 Valentines

Large envelope valentines typically contained substantial fancy enclosures and required time sensitive handling “with love;” some to more distant city locations with of course additional expense.<sup>48</sup> Early February 1856 newspapers<sup>49</sup> reaffirmed valentine protocol, **Figure 38**, that “*Large or Costly Valentines will be delivered only by the Special Messengers of Blood’s Despatch. Price 5 and 10 cts...*” Somewhat a paradox for the company with cheapest delivery rates in the United States to seek an extravagant fivefold price for a love letter on Valentine’s Day. Table 1 data revealed an impressive group of 12 large valentines with 15L14 stamps (census number 18, 19, 20, 56, 193, 243, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380), a **3%**

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Whole No. 86, pages 23, 55.

<sup>41</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98 electronic pages 16, 17, 28, 42, 47.

<sup>42</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Blood’s Part 8: 15L8,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 4, October 2014, Whole No. 89, pages 6, 15, 16.

<sup>43</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98 electronic pages 6, 23, 50.

<sup>44</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98 electronic pages 17, 18, 28, 29, 50.

<sup>45</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, Vol. 23, No. 3, July 2015, Whole No. 92, pages 26, 33, 44, 46.

<sup>46</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Blood’s Part 12: 15L13,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 24, No. 1, January 2016, Whole No. 94, page 51.

<sup>47</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Blood’s Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 27, 34, 51, 57.

<sup>48</sup> Steven M. Roth, “Blood’s Despatch Revisited” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 1, No.4, November 1991, pages 15, 16.

<sup>49</sup> February 11, 1856 Public Ledger Vol. XL, No. 120, page 2.

**incidence** rate, and consistent with recent and contemporary Blood issues.<sup>50</sup> Was special messenger service intended to add pomp and circumstance to the valentine experience, much like today's birthday parties in chain restaurants bring on a team of singing servers? From this index group of 12, **two thirds of 15L14 valentines** were likely delivered by **Special Messenger**: 6 confirmed by undated Blood's Handstamp Type 23<sup>51</sup> (census number 18, 19, 20, 376, 377, 378); and 2 without handstamp confirmation, but prepaid by five stamps (census number 56, 375) consistent with Special Messenger requirements. Only five are date certain (census number 18, 19, 20, 56, 193), one determined to within several years (census number 243), but 6 totally undated. Compliance rate, however, with newspaper declared protocol was zero as no 15L14 examples displayed *both* 5 stamps and Special Messenger handstamp! **Table III** data revealed that only 3 of the 12 examples (census number 56, 378, 380), a mere **25%** have retained the original fancy **embossed valentine enclosure**.

Five stamps were present on each of 2 valentine covers (census number 56, 375), **Figure 39** and were shown individually as **Figure 10 and 33**: neither as block or strip of stamps, but instead by many singles; surprisingly neither displayed a Special Messenger handstamp! The top example addressed to Mr. Brush was datestamped February 11, 1856; the sender apparently was aware of the required 5 cents prepaid, but not the required submission to Blood's Principal office for proper Special Messenger treatment, and hence delivery by ordinary messenger and too early. Bottom example addressed to Mr. During also was prepaid by five stamps, but also apparently not taken to Blood's Office for appropriate handling, and of concern no handstamp whatsoever to confirm any Blood's service. Assuming both senders were ladies to their gentleman, they were knowledgeable of the cost, but not the mechanics.

Four stamps appeared upon just 1 valentine cover (census number 243), and it included a vertical strip of 3, **Figure 40**. Handstamped one day late on February 15, (1855-59) did confirm service, but did not confirm Special Messenger service. Unfortunately this valentine was likely a late deposit into a Blood's box. From the entire series of articles, this is the first large valentine with four Blood's stamps.<sup>52</sup>

Three stamps appeared on each of 3 valentine covers (census number 20, 376, 377): the former shown in **Figure 41 top**, and the latter two by 15L14 strips of 3. Since Special Messenger service was confirmed by handstamp and likely on February 14<sup>th</sup> the balance of two cents may have been due at the door.

Two stamps appeared on 2 valentine covers (census number 18, 19), respectively **Figure 19** and **Figure 41 bottom**. However, Special Messenger service, likely on February 14<sup>th</sup>, was again confirmed by handstamp. Unfortunately, each big proud fancy envelope has an upper corner with small dainty pencil manuscript "3 C" due.

Only one 15L14 stamp appeared on 4 valentine covers (census number 193, 378, 379, 380). **Figure 42 top** to Miss Lash February 15, 1858 was several years later, whereas the other 3 were entirely undated and likely years later as well. At

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<sup>50</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98, electronic page 56.

<sup>51</sup> Op. cit., American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, 1987, page 67, Type 17.

<sup>52</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, Whole 100, electronic page 34.

bottom addressed to Catherine Brown is an undated ornate large valentine not even blessed with any Blood's Handstamp, although acid cancelled. One member of this grossly under paid group did receive Special Messenger treatment. Addressed to Moyamensing District and Doctor Williams, (census number 378), **Figure 43**, was eligible for charge greater than 5 cents. However, a presumed lady inappropriately believed Blood's would accept 3 cent government stamp, but instead Dr. Williams received a manuscript 7 cents due at the door. Perhaps this grossly underpaid group may have descended from late 1850's when Blood's extravagant Special Messenger was losing favor.<sup>53</sup> **Figure 42** was also the earliest valentine confirmed with new Blood's Penny Post Handstamp 21, and not surprisingly without Special Messenger marking.

Ann Dickerson was a "person of interest" who in 1855 received two valentines by Special Messenger. Shown in **Figure 41**, each was paid short: only two 15L14 stamps on the top example (census number 19), and three on bottom (census number 20). The upper right corner of each with dainty manuscript *3 cents due at delivery*. Each is dated by Type 19 handstamp: top example February 14<sup>th</sup>; the bottom example February 16<sup>th</sup>, probably deposited late at Blood's office. Both 1855 valentines were addressed to 250 Marshall St! Was this one passionate lover, or perhaps two boyfriends? McElroys 1855 and 1856 City Directory, however, did not identify Ann Dickerson, Ann Dickinson, or Ann Dickson. **Figure 44**, however, did confirm a Dickerson at 250 Marshall Street, but *Valentine Dickerson*. Is that because Ann received so many valentines? The directory clarified "*gent*" Valentine Dickerson, shortened version of gentleman. Was he Ann's father, Ann's sugar daddy, Ann's husband, or perhaps named for manufacturing valentines, or just a dude? Moreover, the previously mentioned valentine in **Figure 19** also lived on Marshall Street, just down the road.

From the group of 12 valentines with 15L14 stamps, 9 were addressed to females and 3 to males (census number 56, 375, 378). From the group of 12 covers, only 6 were in the old city, and the other 6 to adjacent districts, including 4 to Spring Garden (census number 18, 19, 20, 56), and 1 each to each Southwark (census number 380) and Moyamensing (census number 378).

Lizzie Taylor (census number 18) in **Figure 19**, had also received an earlier valentine in 1854 with a 15L16 stamp<sup>54</sup>

### Cumulative Special Messenger Data

Special Messenger service was required for large valentines, registration at Blood's office, and charged no less than 5 cents, **Figure 38**.<sup>55</sup> Previous evidence, however, revealed company compromise, perhaps pragmatic and market driven.<sup>56</sup> **Table 1** has provided considerably more corroborative data.

**Figure 45** is a cumulative tabulation of large valentines from all 17 Blood's articles. The first 16 articles produced only 12 large valentines (6 with fancy

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<sup>53</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98, electronic page 53.

<sup>54</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, Whole No. 100, electronic pages 2, 12, 24, 36, 38.

<sup>55</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98, electronic page 51.

<sup>56</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98, electronic pages 52-56.

valentine enclosure), whereas this article incredibly doubled the data. A grand total of 24 large valentines is now available. Only 9 of 24 retained their original **valentine enclosure**. Furthermore, only **9 of 24 valentines were Special Messenger certain, delivered for 37%** and confirmed by Handstamp Type 22 or 23:<sup>57</sup> six with 15L14 stamps (census number 18, 19, 20, 376, 377, 378); two with 15L13 stamps; and one with 15L15 stamps. Another two of 24 valentines were *eligible but unlikely* Special Messenger delivered, bearing five prepaid stamps but apparently not taken to the Blood's office: two with 15L14 stamps (census number 56, 375), but none with earlier Blood's stamps issues.

Special Messenger handstamps should also be examined with the number of accompanying Blood's prepaid stamps. Three covers displayed 5 Blood's prepaid stamps each: two 15L13 examples (census number 237, 280); and one 15L15 cover (census number 139). Three covers displayed only 3 prepaid Blood's stamps: all were 15L14 (census number 20, 376, 377). Two covers displayed only 2 prepaid Blood's stamps: both were 15L14 (census number 18, 19).

Data suggests two possibilities. Special Messenger handstamps trended during the mid-1850's to require fewer number of prepaid Blood's stamps, and even as few as two stamps.

From the set of **24 valentines only 3 were fully compliant with newspaper advertised protocol**: a single 15L15 cover;<sup>58</sup> and both 15L13 examples, one of which being the "*piece de resistance*" sole example possessing a strip of five Blood's stamps, Special Messenger handstamp with retained fancy valentine enclosure.<sup>59</sup> From the set of 24 valentines, the old city of Philadelphia was the destination of 75%; the balance were largely Spring Garden receiving 4 covers, and one each to Southwark and Moyamensing.

The greatest recorded charge was 8 cents, shown in **Figure 43** addressed to the Moyamensing district, prepaid by only one 15L14 stamp with remarkable 7 cents due! From the set of 24 valentines 8 had been prepaid by just **one cent, a surprising 33%** incidence. Perhaps 3 cents prepaid was acceptable and any balance considered a tip or bonus. To put this astonishing fact into perspective, no other large city private posts or carrier department delivered even tiny letters for less than two cents!

### **Blood's Handstamp Type 21**

Of 29 individual Blood's handstamps identified by the author, only Type 21<sup>60</sup> had included the company name "Blood's Penny Post."<sup>61</sup> Only eight examples, some on stampless covers, date back to late 1857. The earliest recorded Type 21 was an October 21, 1857 stampless Blood's cover overstruck by Blood's Handstamp Type 19 dated November 21, 1857.<sup>62</sup> **Figure 17** revealed Type 21 in addition to Type E.

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<sup>57</sup> Morris, op. cit. *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, Whole No. 100, electronic pages 24, 36.

<sup>58</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98., electronic page 52.

<sup>59</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2016, Vol. 24, No. 1, Whole No. 94, electronic page 65.

<sup>60</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, op. cit., 1987, page 67, Type 15

<sup>61</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, Whole No. 100, Figure 21, electronic page. 21.

<sup>62</sup> September 16, 2018 email from Marc Stromberg.

### **Blood's Penny Post Office**

**Table II** had clearly identified 127 local Philadelphia address certain locations. Only two were held at Blood's office (census number 273, 282), **Figure 46**, and listed in bold print.

Blood's Despatch had been located in the Arcade building<sup>63,64</sup> for many years with its final listing in newspapers on July 1, 1854.<sup>65,66</sup> An incidental finding in newspapers on **February 11, 1856**<sup>67</sup> was the companies new location at **28 South Fifth Street, Figure 38**, identified in **Figure 7** with a thin yellow line. Two months later in April 8, 1856 newspapers,<sup>68</sup> **Figure 47** the companies new name **Blood's Penny Post** was listed, and at 28 South Fifth Street.

### **PO Box Delivery**

**Table II** had clearly identified 127 local Philadelphia address certain locations. Only six were addressed to a post office box number (census number 30, 261, 279, 313, 326, 362), two of which have been shown previously in **Figures 11 and 20**. These 6 comprise only 1.5% of the entire data base, but almost **5% of the local** delivery subset actually given over to the government, and designated in **Table II** with italicized print.

### **15L14 Hotel Delivery**

Of the 127 local Philadelphia address locations, only two were addressed to a hotel in the old city (census number 148, 249), one shown in **Figure 37**.

### **15L14 Circulars**

Mass business circulars had always been encouraged by D.O. Blood & Co. From **Table III** four printed circulars (census number 122, 150, 368, 369) were identified from six listed wrappers. All four were insurance company printed policies. The earlier two were sent by the Spring Garden Fire Insurance Co. The latter two by the Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company, **Figure 48**.

### **15L14 Patriotic covers**

Patriotism ran high throughout 1861 as the Union was challenged. **Table III** data revealed 32 of 401 examples, or **8%** displayed patriotic themes and images. **Figure 49** (census number 341) and earlier **Figure 6** vividly depicted union support. Two unusual anti-rebel Jefferson Davis themes (census number 301, 322) are shown in **Figure 50**.

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<sup>63</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, Vol. 24, No. 3, Whole No. 96 electronic pages 78, 79.

<sup>64</sup> W. Otis Blood, Sr., "Recollections of Blood's Despatch Post," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No.2, April 1995, pg.9.

<sup>65</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, July 2017, Whole No. 100, Figure 23, electronic page 44.

<sup>66</sup> July 1, 1854 Public Ledger, Vol. XXXVII, No. 8, page 2.

<sup>67</sup> February 11, 1856 Public Ledger, Vol. XL, No. 120, page 2.

<sup>68</sup> April 8, 1856 Public Ledger, Vol. XLI, No. 14, page 2.



Figure 52. One 15L14 on cover to Italy.



Figure 54. 15L14 on cover to Germany.

### 15L14 Advertisement covers

**Table III** data revealed 57 of 401 examples, or **14%** advertised a wide array of business interests, such as the two examples in **Figure 51**. Earlier **Figure 22** revealed a subtle albino advertisement. An unusual double advertisement cover was shown in **Figure 31**.

### 15L14 Transatlantic

**Table II** data yielded 17 examples to foreign countries. Only 6 **Penny Post** 15L14 covers were transatlantic, for a **1.5%** incidence rate. One example reached France, **Figure 25** (census number 105), one was addressed to Italy (census number 268), **Figure 52**, one to Scotland (census number 5), **Figure 53**, with another to England (census number 57). Two were addressed to Germany (census numbers 61, 136), **Figure 54**.<sup>69</sup>

### 15L14 Canada

Nine **Penny Post** 15L14 covers were addressed to Canada. Only two of those were to Canada West<sup>70</sup> (census number 26, 36), **Figure 55**. The great preponderance of seven went to Canada East (census numbers 47, 139, 143, 151, 167, 264, 265) shown in earlier **Figure 35** and **36**.

### 15L14 Cuba

New to the series of Blood's articles was destination Cuba. **Table II** identified two such examples (census number 117, 190), **Figure 56**.

### 15L14 Transcontinental

Only 1 **Penny Post** 15L14 cover was recorded addressed to the United States west coast.<sup>71,72</sup> California (census number 212) was the destination of **Figure 57**, one of only three combined with general issue 10 cent government stamp.

### 15L14 Volume – Time Analysis

The **Penny Post** 15L14 data during its 92.2 month **philatelic lifespan** included 397 covers in bimodal cluster distribution with an overall rate of **4.30 covers per month**, **Figure 58** (see 15L14 Service Time). Outbound service has been determined to be 266 minus 2 post termination census number 369, for 265 covers during 92.2 months or *2.87 covers per month*, Local delivery total included 135 covers minus 3 (census number 368, 370, 371) for *1.43 covers per month*.

### 15L14 Time Line

During this series of articles, the cluster period of greatest business activity has been defined as date specific and monthly *consecutive* examples. Accordingly,

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<sup>69</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, Whole No. 100, electronic pages 5, 14, 27, 38.

<sup>70</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98 electronic pages 6, 22, 61.

<sup>71</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, Vol. 24, No.3, Whole No. 96, page 14, 28.

<sup>72</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98, pages 56, 62, 75.

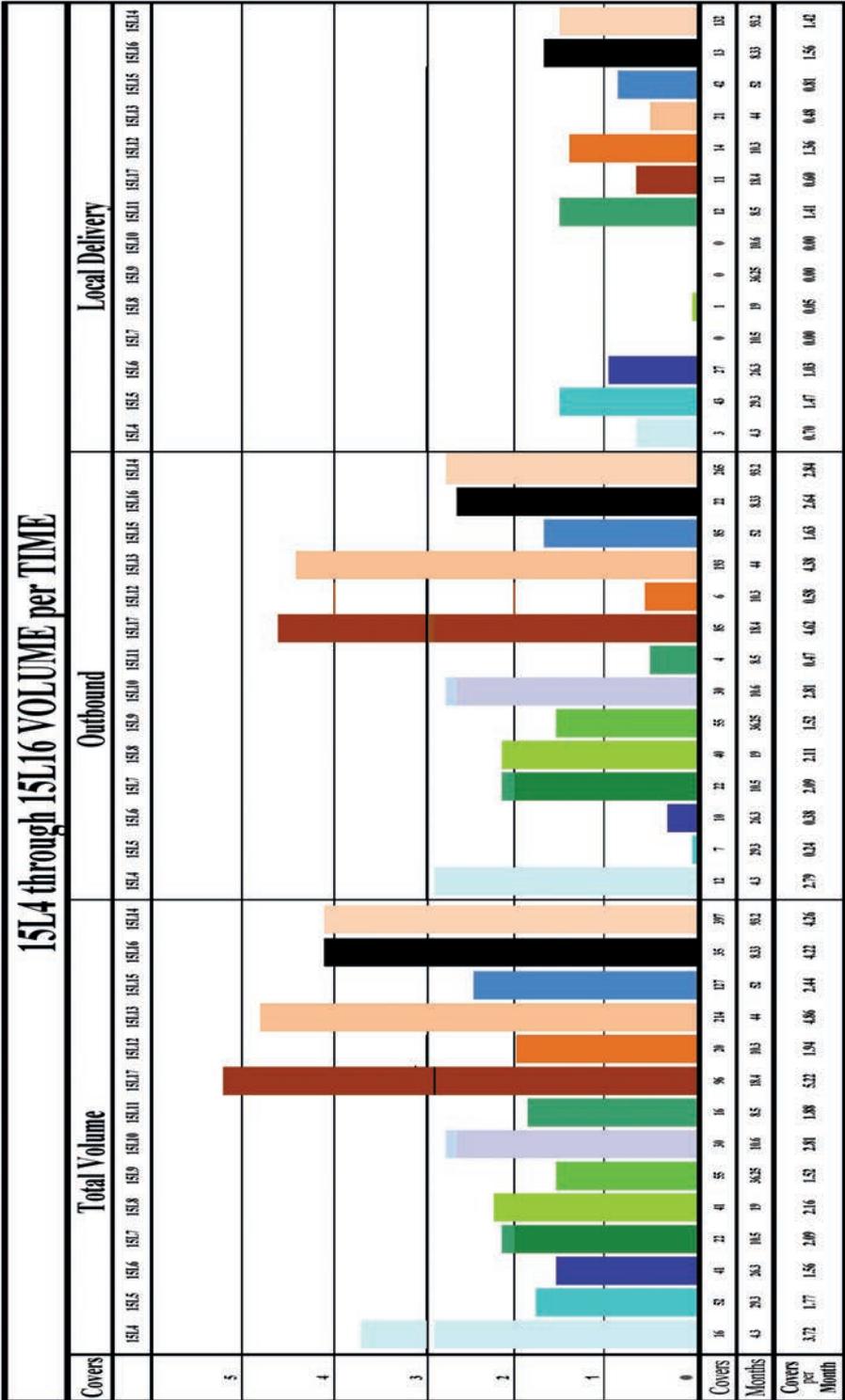


Figure 58. Business activity for all Blood's stamp issues.

**15L14 Penny Post** cluster period had been very lengthy, and extended from **October 13, 1854** (census number 7) until **January 9, 1862** (census number 367). Special to 15L14, however, were two cluster periods, in **bimodal** format.

The first cluster period displayed the classical **crescendo** from introduction consistent with new issue slow replacement of outstanding previously sold stamps;<sup>73</sup> arbitrarily ranged six years from 1854 through its high water mark during 1856 and lowest period during 1859. More specifically, monthly consecutive examples ranged from October 13, 1854 (census number 7) through February 22, 1859 (census number 239); 233 examples during 57.5 months was a healthy average **4.05** covers per month average throughout the entire first cluster.

An unusual second cluster period, ranged from 1860 through 1861, likely resulted from Civil War correspondence and perhaps anticipated closure of Blood's company. More specifically monthly consecutive examples confirmed ranged from April 10, 1860 (census number 252) through January 9, 1862 (census number 367 plus 361-363) with the great preponderance falling within 1861. Altogether 120 examples during 22 months revealed a very robust **5.45** covers per month average during the second cluster. If the 1861 subset only is considered, 81 covers (census number 269 to 349) over 12 months was the record high rate of **6.77** covers per month survival.

At first glance a period of virtual exclusivity may have started on January 7, (1858) date of the latest previous issue **Penny Post 15L15** during its cluster period, shown in **Figure 7**.<sup>74</sup> However, the jury is still out since the final Blood's issue **Penny Post 15L18** has not yet been factored into cumulative data.

### **15L14 Spring Garden District**

Juggernaut Spring Garden data continued to soar. As mentioned earlier, 27 examples represented **20%** of 135 Philadelphia county uses, or **7%** of total data base, and has been included in every article since 15L11.<sup>75,76</sup>

Accordingly, from the 15L14 subset of 12 large valentines, Spring Garden was over-represented with **33%** and 4 examples (census number 18, 19, 20, 56), **Figure 19 and 41**.

### **15L14 West Philadelphia and Kensington**

Although the 1854 Philadelphia Act of Consolidation Act greatly expanded the city to the far reaches of the county, the transition lasted well over five years as it involved thirteen townships, six boroughs, and nine nearby districts as they became branches of the post office system.<sup>77,78</sup>

Ever the opportunist Blood's Penny Post followed city expansion into surrounding districts. By late 1856 Blood's Despatch advertised delivery to West

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<sup>73</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, Vol. 24, No. 3, Whole No. 96 electronic pages 49, 55.

<sup>74</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98 electronic page 38.

<sup>75</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, Vol. 23, No. 3, Whole No. 92, page 52.

<sup>76</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2016, Vol. 24, No. 1, Whole No. 94, pages 56, 59, 60, 61.

<sup>77</sup> *Philadelphia: A 300 Year History*, Russell Weigley, Norton & Company, 1982, page 359, 375.

<sup>78</sup> Stets, Robert J. and Kay, John L. "Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County, 1800-1867", Associated Stamp Clubs of Southeastern Penna. And Delaware, Inc., Horsham, Pa. 1979.

Philadelphia, **Figure 59**.<sup>79</sup> Service across the Schuylkill River was confirmed by two 15L14 examples (census number 6, 251), the latter in **Figure 60**.

For many years secluded Kensington had cooperated closely with the Philadelphia Carrier Department<sup>80</sup> and had been forbidden to Blood's delivery. Although **Figure 8** (census number 370), was apparently intended for Blood's delivery to Kensington, it unfortunately had been sent shortly after company termination, and by default sent via the Philadelphia Carrier Department. **Figure 61** (census number 389) was also addressed to Kensington. However, **Figure 62** city map revealed this location to be exceedingly close to the Kensington Post Office, but technically in Northern Liberties District.

### 1855

The old city of Philadelphia needed updated public facilities<sup>81</sup> such as the post office.<sup>82</sup> By March 1, 1855 the Philadelphia post office facility moved into Dr. Jaynes new building between Chesnut and Dock Streets and between Second and Third, **Figure 63**<sup>83</sup> and very close to their former location in the Merchants Exchange building. Dr. Jaynes Building address had been 84 and 86 Chesnut Street before 1857, which thereafter had been renumbered to 242 and 244 Chesnut Street.

### 1856

**Figure 47** included the new company name, promoted newly painted store Blood's Despatch boxes, and alerted the public not to leave letters on store counters as they may not be placed into the correct box. Christmas Eve and Morning Special Messenger service was offered, **Figure 64**.<sup>84</sup>

City streets were not renumbered until another year or so, shown in number **Figure 65** (census number 266). City map **Figure 62** revealed the new and former post office location, and new and former Blood's office; the new locations for each displayed with larger letters due to the exceedingly high number of data within the old city, only locations in adjacent districts have been plotted.

### 15L14 Theory

- (1) Blood's **Penny Post** only recorded sheet of 100, **Figure 2**.
- (2) Blood's longest philatelic lifespan and greatest volume, **Figure 7**.
- (3) Blood's only bimodal cluster activity, **Figure 3**.

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<sup>79</sup> Public Ledger December 2, 1856, Vol. XLII, No. 62, page 1.

<sup>80</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, Whole No. 100, electronic pages 35, 48, 52.

<sup>81</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2017, Vol. 25, No. 3, Whole No. 100, electronic pages, pgs. 35, 47, Figure 34.

<sup>82</sup> Public Ledger September 21, 1854, Vol. XXXVII, No. 155, page 2.

<sup>83</sup> Public Ledger February 28, 1855, Vol. XXXV111, No. 135, page 2.

<sup>84</sup> Public Ledger December 23, 1856, Vol. XLII, No. 80, page 2.



**THE NEW POST OFFICE.**—The Post office will be removed this evening to Dr. Jayne's new building, directly opposite, in Dock street. The arrangements there will be found far more convenient to the public than the present location. We think, however, that there is another improvement which could be made, which would add to the number of these conveniences, and that is, to open a door in Dock street, at the western end of the building. The main passage, running north from one end of the building to the other, is on the western side; yet the door is on the eastern side, obliging persons to pass through the entry from one side of the building to the other, before they reach the letter boxes. If the door on the western side were opened, there would be a straight passage through to Carter street, the entrance on that side being on the west. This would better accommodate the business east and west of the building, and leave no cause of complaint of unnecessary delay.

**Figure 63. Contemporary Chesnut Street dominated by tall Dr. Jaynes Building at left, and Public Ledger far right.**

- (4) Blood's final issue in the Arcade building.
- (5) Possible relative 15L14 exclusivity beginning early 1858.
- (6) Dominant Blood's Despatch Handstamp was Type 19.
- (7) Blood's Penny Post Handstamp Type 21 was second.
- (8) Doubled large valentine data.
- (9) First Blood's delivery to West Philadelphia.
- (10) First Blood's delivery to Cuba.
- (11) Third Blood's cork cancel.
- (12) The second recorded triple tied Blood's stamp, **Figure 31**.

#### **15L14 Summary.**

The name Blood's Penny Post appeared by Spring 1852 on 15L15 stamps,<sup>85</sup> was advertised in newspapers later in the year, and appeared on 15L14 stamps perhaps as early as 1853. While the new company name was successful and became long lasting, handstamps such as Type 17 which yielded to Type 19 during early Fall 1854, had retained the shorter name Blood's Despatch. The only "Blood's Penny Post" Handstamp Type 21 didn't appear until November 1857, and soon became dominant.

In 1854 the Act of Consolidation enlarged the city of Philadelphia to the county limits, and presented an opportunity for Blood's to soon extend its service further and enter West Philadelphia and Kensington. By March 1, 1855 the Philadelphia Post Office relocated back near the Merchants Exchange building. 1856 was very eventful for Blood's Despatch too. The company moved from the Arcade building to 28 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street by February 11, 1856. Second, the company revealed its new name Blood's Penny Post just two months later by April 8, 1856. Third, the company began delivery across the Schuylkill River by December 2, 1856. Fourth, by December 23, 1856 Blood's Penny Post advertised delivery on Christmas eve and Christmas day.

**Penny Post's** 15L14 data base of 401 covers included 397 prior to company closure in January 1862. A **philatelic lifespan** for **Penny Post** 15L14 ranged from May 3, 1854 until January 9, 1862. Therefore, 397 covers during 92.2 months yielded an overall average rate of 4.30 covers per month. Cluster business activity, however, displayed an unusual **bimodal** distribution. The initial five years demonstrated a classical crescendo-decrescendo volume plateau circa 1856-1857. A second cluster, however, appeared during Blood's final year 1861, perhaps attributed

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<sup>85</sup> Morris, op. cit., The Penny Post, January 2017, Vol. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 98, electronic pages 2, 21, 37, 76, 77.

to civil war correspondence compounded by Blood's final year and likely desire by the public to use remaining prepaid stamps.

Outbound letters were a clear majority encompassing **66%** of data base, from which seventeen covers were addressed to **foreign countries, 4%**. City letters comprised 34%, virtually identical to early contemporary 15L15 and 15L16. Foreign destinations included six trans-atlantics and for the first time France and Italy. Also new to the Blood series destinations were 2 covers addressed to Cuba. Nine were addressed to Canada, of which only 2 for Canada West.

Trends toward envelopes had increased further and reached **93% envelopes**, the highest percentage yet. No shortage of advertisement and/or patriotic theme envelopes were present during the late 1850's.

In order to prevent reuse **99% were cancelled**, virtually all by **acid**, and consistent with early contemporary 15L15 and 15L16. Only four examples were uncanceled, one had been cancelled by Blood's handstamp, and another by Blood's handstamp only.

Service by Blood's company was confirmed by **handstamp on 87%** of 15L14 covers, also comparable with early contemporary issues, typically revealing the date and often the year.

Some form of auxiliary handstamp/manuscript marking appeared on **98%** of 15L14 data. Altogether **834 domestic auxiliary markings** on 393 covers averaged **2.12 markings** each, an incidence even higher than early contemporary 15L15 issue. Three auxiliary subsets are comprised of 397 government handstamp markings, 353 Blood's handstamp markings, and 84 manuscript markings. Of intense philatelic interest were **OLD STAMPS/NOT RECOGNIZED** with companion **DUE3**, placed into effect after August 17, 1861, shown in **Figure 26**.

Amazingly 375 data for **93.5% were tied** to their cover by various means. Blood's Despatch acid and/or handstamp tied 89%; government markings tied 18%; but manuscript markings tied less than 1%. Whereas 74 data had been double tied, only a singular example had been **triple tied** by Blood's Despatch handstamp, Blood's acid, and manuscript crayon **Figure 31**.

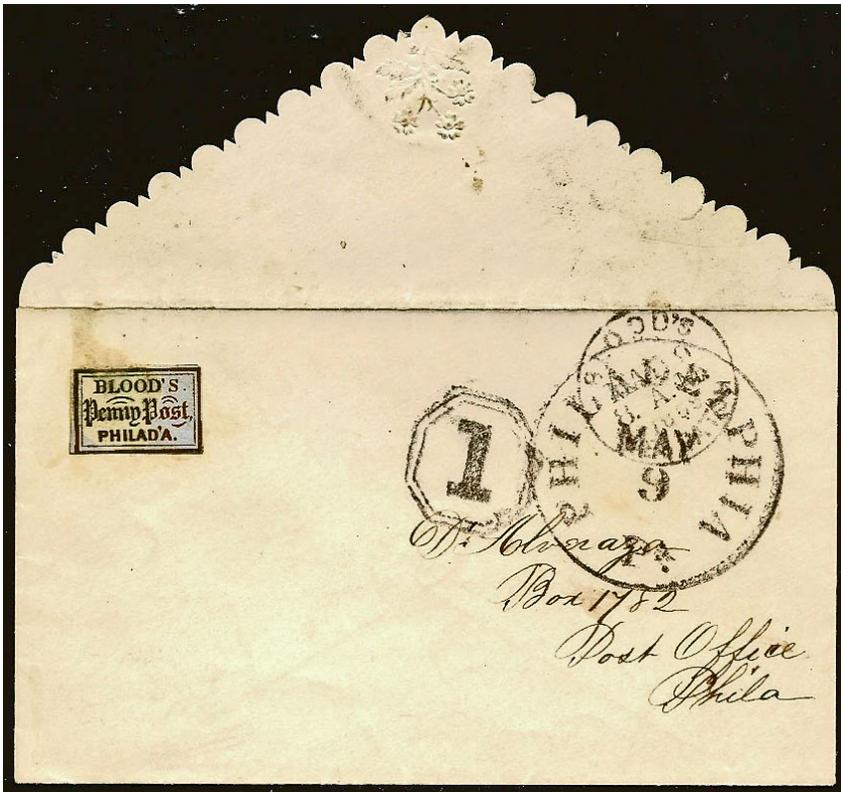
Prepaid Blood's 15L14 was combined with prepaid government postage in **57%**, similar to early contemporary 15L16. Although 236 combination covers have been identified, redundancy resulted from multiple stamp combinations on a single cover. Nine such complex examples reduced the number to 227 covers.

A treasure trove of 12 large valentines bearing 15L14 stamps surfaced, and doubled the universe of Blood valentines. Only **25%** had retained the original fancy **embossed valentine enclosure**. From the 15L14 group of 12, **two thirds of valentines** were likely delivered by **Special Messenger**: 6 confirmed by specific Blood's Handstamp Type 23; and 2 without handstamp confirmation, but displayed five prepaid stamps as required for Special Messenger service. Full compliance with newspaper declared protocol, however, was zero since no 15L14 examples included both. Apparently pragmatic valentine policy in the streets had required modifications suggesting the local market did not support their grandiose and extravagant policy. Not surprising that no other large city private posts during the 1850's had embarked upon such specialized valentine service. Furthermore, no other large city private posts or government carrier departments during the 1850's had delivered pedestrian

mail for a mere one cent, and Blood's was earlier than the post office, just ask their patrons.<sup>86</sup>

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat **nor fire**<sup>87</sup> nor gloom of night stays Blood's' special messengers from the swift completion of appointed rounds." While not physically displayed near Independence square, the Philadelphia spirit lived on at Blood's Penny Post. Only one more Blood's stamp issue remains to be scrutinized for this historic company.

*Editor's Note: The data bases, census and images will be posted to the Carriers & Locals Society website.*



**Figure 11. 15L14 on small envelope addressed to post office box.**

<sup>86</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, Vol. 24, No. 3, Whole No. 96 electronic page 75.

<sup>87</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, Vol. 24, No. 3, Whole No. 96 electronic page 57.

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