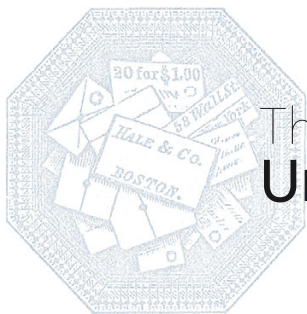


The Dr. Carmen A. Puliafito Collection  
**UNITED STATES INDEPENDENT MAILS**



Sale 1124 — Wednesday, May 4, 2016

*Robert A. Siegel*  
AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.



The Dr. Carmen A. Puliafito Collection  
**UNITED STATES INDEPENDENT MAILS**

Sale 1124—Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.



Live auction at 60 East 56th Street (Park/Madison), 4th Floor, New York City

All lots sold subject to a 15% buyer's premium and  
applicable sales tax or customs duty

Please carefully read the Conditions of Sale before bidding

Presale Viewing—Monday-Tuesday, May 2-3, 10am-4pm  
and by appointment

*Robert A. Siegel*

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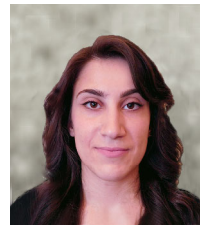
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## Information for Bidders

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The following means are available for placing bids:

- 1) Attending the Live Auction in Person:** All bidders must register for a paddle, and new bidders must provide references at least three business days in advance of the sale.
- 2) Live Internet Bidding:** Instructions for participating as a Live Internet Bidder are provided on the page opposite.
- 3) Phone Bidding:** Bidders can be connected to the sale by phone and bid through a member of staff. Requests for phone bidding are subject to approval (please contact our office at least 24 hours before the sale). A signed Bid Form is required.
- 4) Absentee Bids.** All bids received in advance of the sale, either by mail, fax, phone, e-mail or internet, are Absentee Bids, which instruct the auctioneer to bid up to a specific amount on one or more lots in the sale. Absentee Bids sent by phone, fax or e-mail should arrive at least one hour prior to the start of the sale session. Bids entered through Live Internet Bidding will be visible to the auctioneer during the sale. Written bids should be entered legibly on the Bid Form in the sale catalogue. E-mail and internet bids should be carefully typed and double-checked. All new bidders must provide references. We recommend calling or e-mailing to confirm that Absentee Bids sent by mail, fax or e-mail have been received and entered.

### Pre-Sale Viewing

Subject to availability, certain lots (except group lots) can be sent to known clients for examination. Requests must be made no later than 7 days prior to the sale. Lots must be returned on the day received. Postage/insurance costs will be invoiced.

In addition to regular viewing, clients may view lots by appointment. Our staff will be pleased to answer questions or provide additional information about lots.

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Individual items offered without a PF or PSE certificate dated within the past five years may be purchased subject to independent certification of genuineness and our description. **Please refer to the Conditions of Sale and Grading Terms for policies governing certification.**

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### Price Realized

Prices realized are sent with each invoice. Bidders with e-mail will receive a Bid Results report after the sale. Session results are posted immediately to [siegelauctions.com](http://siegelauctions.com)

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**Once you've been approved for bidding, you can listen to the auction and place bids with the click of a mouse.**

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**I'm a Siegel client, but I'm not registered with SAN.**

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### Log on to the auction at [stampauctionnetwork.com/siegel](http://stampauctionnetwork.com/siegel).

You can also log on at [siegelauctions.com](http://siegelauctions.com)

When you're logged on as a Live Internet Bidder, the bidding interface shows a photo and description of the lot, the current bid (and your bidding status), options for placing competitive bids and buttons with bid increments.

- After you click on a bid amount, the auctioneer is immediately notified of your bid.
- Retracting a bid is usually not acceptable, so please bid carefully.
- If you bid and then decide to stop, the "Pass" button will tell the auctioneer you are no longer bidding.
- You can send messages to the auctioneer (for example, a request for extension).
- You can track prior realizations from the bidding screen.



**"System Down" or "Lost Connection" events do occasionally happen.**

If you have any problems with Live Internet Bidding please call **212-753-6421** for immediate assistance.



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**THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS CATALOGUE WILL BE OFFERED AT PUBLIC AUCTION BY ROBERT A. SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES, INC. ("GALLERIES") ON BEHALF OF VARIOUS CONSIGNORS AND ITSELF OR AFFILIATED COMPANIES. BY BIDDING ON ANY LOT, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR BY OR THROUGH AN AGENT, IN PERSON, OR BY TELEPHONE, FACSIMILE OR ANY OTHER MEANS, THE BIDDER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OF SALE.**

1. The highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer shall be the buyer. The term "final bid" means the last bid acknowledged by the auctioneer, which is normally the highest bid offered. **The purchase price payable by the buyer will be the sum of the final bid and a commission of 15% of the final bid ("buyer's premium"), together with any sales tax, use tax or customs duties due on the sale.**
2. The auctioneer has the right to reject any bid, to advance the bidding at his discretion and, in the event of a dispute, to determine the successful bidder, to continue the bidding or to reoffer and resell the lot in dispute. The Galleries' record of the final sale shall be conclusive.
3. All bids are per numbered lot in the catalogue unless otherwise announced by the auctioneer at the time of sale. The right is reserved to group two or more lots, to withdraw any lot or lots from the sale, or to act on behalf of the seller. The Galleries will execute bidding instructions on behalf of clients, but will not be responsible for the failure to execute such bids or for any errors in the execution of such bids.
4. **Lots with numbers followed by the symbol ° are offered subject to a confidential minimum bid ("reserve"), below which the lot will not be sold. The absence of the symbol ° means that the lot is offered without a reserve. If there is no reserve, the auctioneer has sole discretion to establish a minimum opening bid and may refuse an offer of less than half of the published estimate. Any lot that does not reach its reserve or opening bid requested by the auctioneer will be announced as "passed" and excluded from the prices realized lists after the sale. The Galleries may have a direct or indirect ownership interest in any or all lots in the sale resulting from an advance of monies or goods-in-trade or a guarantee of minimum net proceeds made by the Galleries to the seller.**
5. Subject to the exclusions listed in 5(A), the Galleries will accept the return of lots which have been misidentified or which have obvious faults that were present when the lot was in the Galleries' custody, but not so noted in the lot description. **All disputed lots must be received by the Galleries intact with the original packing material within 5 days of delivery to the buyer but no later than 30 days from the sale date.**  
**(5A) EXCLUSIONS:** The following lots may not be returned for any reason, or may not be returned for the reasons stated: i) lots containing 10 or more items; ii) lots from buyers who registered for the pre-sale exhibition or received lots by postal viewing, thereby having had the opportunity to inspect them before the sale; iii) any lot described with "faults," "defects" or a specific fault may not be returned because of any secondary fault; iv) photographed lots may not be returned because of centering, margins, short/nibbed perforations or other factors shown in the illustrations; v) the color of the item does not match the color reproduction in the sale catalogue or website listing; vi) the description contains inaccurate information about the quantity known or reported; or vii) a certification service grades a stamp lower than the grade stated in the description.
6. Successful bidders, unless they have established credit with the Galleries prior to the sale, must make payment in full before the lots will be delivered. Buyers not known to the Galleries must make payment in full within 3 days from the date of sale. **The Galleries retains the right to demand a cash deposit from anyone prior to bidder registration and/or to demand payment at the time the lot is knocked down to the highest bidder, for any reason whatsoever.** In the event that any buyer refuses or fails to make payment in cash for any lot at the time it is knocked down to him, the auctioneer reserves the right to reoffer the lot immediately for sale to the highest bidder. **Credit cards (Visa, Mastercard and Discover only) can be accepted as payment but will be subject to a 3% Convenience Fee, which will be added to the total of the entire invoice (including hammer price, buyer's premium, shipping and transit insurance charges and any applicable taxes).**
7. If the purchase price has not been paid within the time limit specified above, nor lots taken up within 7 days from the date of sale, the lots will be resold by whatever means deemed appropriate by the Galleries, and any loss incurred from resale will be charged to the defaulting buyer. **Any account more than 30 days in arrears will be subject to a late payment charge of 1½% per month as long as the account remains in arrears. Any expenses incurred in securing payment from delinquent accounts will be charged to the defaulter.** A fee of \$250.00 per check will be charged for each check returned for insufficient funds.
8. All lots are sold as genuine. **Any lot accompanied by a certificate issued by The Philatelic Foundation or by Professional Stamp Experts within 5 years of the sale date is sold "as is" and in accordance with the description on the certificate. Such lots may not be returned for any reason, including but not limited to a contrary certificate of opinion.** Buyers who wish to obtain a certificate for any item that does not have a P.F. or P.S.E. certificate (dated as above) may do so, provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the purchase price must be paid in full, (2) the item must be submitted to an acceptable expertizing committee with a properly executed application form within 21 days of the sale, (3) a copy of the application form must be given to the Galleries, (4) in the event that an adverse opinion is received, the Galleries retain the right to resubmit the item on the buyer's behalf for reconsideration, without time limit or other restrictions, (5) unless written notification to the contrary is received, items submitted for certification will be considered cleared 90 days from the date of sale, and (6) in the event any item is determined to be "not as described", the buyer will be refunded the purchase price and the certification fee up to \$800.00 unless otherwise agreed to in writing.
9. Until paid for in full, all lots remain the property of the Galleries on behalf of the seller.
10. Agents executing bids on behalf of clients will be held responsible for all purchases made on behalf of clients unless otherwise arranged prior to the sale.
11. The buyer assumes all risk for delivery of purchased lots and agrees to pay for prescribed shipping costs. **Buyers who receive lots in the U.S. are obligated to pay whatever sales tax or compensating use tax might be due, and buyers outside the U.S. are responsible for all customs duties.**
12. **The bidder consents that any action or proceeding against it may be commenced and maintained in any court within the State of New York or in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, that the courts of the State of New York and United States District Court for the Southern District of New York shall have jurisdiction with respect to the subject matter hereof and the person of the bidder. The bidder agrees not to assert any defense to any action or proceeding initiated by Galleries based upon improper venue or inconvenient forum. The bidder agrees that any action brought by the bidder shall be commenced and maintained only in a Federal Court in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York or the State Court in the county in which Galleries has its principal place of business in New York. The bidder agrees not to use a public conflict resolution service and not to use any form of social media to publish comments or information about the Galleries and its employees which might harm the Galleries' reputation or business. These Conditions of Sale shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of New York, and shall constitute an agreement that shall be binding on the parties, and their respective heirs, administrators, distributees, successors and assignees.**

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*Revised 1/2016*

## Grades, Abbreviations and Values Used in Descriptions

### Grades and Centering

Our descriptions contain detailed information and observations about each item's condition. We have also assigned grades to stamps and covers, which reflect our subjective assessment. For stamps, the margin width, centering and gum are described and graded according to generally-accepted standards (an approximate correlation to numeric grades is provided at right). Although we believe our grades are accurate, they are not always exactly aligned with third-party grading terms or standards for all issues. **A lot may not be returned because a certification service grades a stamp lower than the grade stated in the description. Information from the P.S.E. Stamp Market Quarterly and P.S.E. Population Report<sup>SM</sup> is the most current available, but lots may not be returned due to errors or changes in statistics or data.**

**Extremely Fine Gem (90-100):** The term "Gem" describes condition that is the finest possible for the issue. This term is equivalent to "Superb" used by grading services.







**Extremely Fine (80-90):** Exceptionally large/wide margins or near perfect centering.

**Very Fine (70-85):** Normal-size margins for the issue and well-centered with the design a bit closer to one side. "Very Fine and choice" applies to stamps that have desirable traits such as rich color, sharp impression, freshness or clarity of cancel.

**Fine (60-70):** Smaller than usual margins or noticeably off center. Pre-1890 issues may have the design touched in places.

**Very Good (below 60):** Attractive appearance, but margins or perforations cut into the design.

### Guide to Gum Condition

| Gum Categories:   | MINT N.H.                                                                                                                                             | ORIGINAL GUM (O.G.)                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                        | NO GUM                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | <br><b>Mint<br/>Never Hinged</b><br><i>Free from any disturbance</i> | <br><b>Lightly Hinged</b><br><i>Faint impression of a removed hinge over a small area</i> | <br><b>Hinge Mark or Remnant</b><br><i>Prominent hinged spot with part or all of the hinge remaining</i> | <br><b>Part o.g.</b><br><i>Approximately half or more of the gum intact</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <br><b>Small part o.g.</b><br><i>Approximately less than half of the gum intact</i> | <br><b>No gum</b><br><i>Only if issued with gum</i> |
| Catalogue Symbol: | ★ ★                                                                                                                                                   | ★                                                                                                                                                                          | ★                                                                                                                                                                                         | ★                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | ★                                                                                                                                                                      | (★)                                                                                                                                    |
| PRE-1890 ISSUES   | <i>Pre-1890 stamps in these categories trade at a premium over Scott value</i>                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                           | Scott Value for "O.G."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                        | Scott "No Gum" Values thru No. 218                                                                                                     |
| 1890-1935 ISSUES  | Scott "Never Hinged" Values for Nos. 219-771                                                                                                          | Scott Value for "O.G." (Actual value will be affected by the degree of hinging)                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Disturbed Original Gum:</b> Gum showing noticeable effects of humidity, climate or hinging over more than half of the gum. The significance of gum disturbance in valuing a stamp in any of the Original Gum categories depends on the degree of disturbance, the rarity and normal gum condition of the issue and other variables affecting quality. For example, stamps issued in tropical climates are expected to have some |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                        |
| 1935 TO DATE      | Scott Value for "Unused"                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                        |

### Covers

Minor nicks, short edge tears, flap tears and slight reduction at one side are normal conditions for 19th century envelopes. Folded letters should be expected to have at least one file fold. Light cleaning of covers and small mends along the edges are accepted forms of conservation. Unusual covers may have a common stamp with a slight crease or tiny tear. **These flaws exist in virtually all 19th century covers and are not always described. They are not grounds for return.**

### Catalogue Values and Estimates

Unless otherwise noted, the currently available *Scott Catalogue* values are quoted in dollars with a decimal point. Other catalogues are often used for foreign countries or specialized areas and are referred to by their common name: *Stanley Gibbons* (SG), *Dietz*, *American Air Mail Catalogue* (AAMC), *Michel*, *Zumstein*, *Facit*, etc. Estimates are indicated with an "E." and reflect our conservative valuation in dollars. Reserves will never exceed the low end of the estimate range; they will sometimes exceed Scott Catalogue value for stamps in Extremely Fine condition.

Because of certain pricing inconsistencies in the *Scott Catalogue*—for example, blocks that have no gum, the absence of premiums for Mint N.H. items, etc.—we cannot guarantee the accuracy of values quoted for multiples, specialized items and collection lots. We generally try to be conservative, but buyers may not return a lot because of a discrepancy in catalogue value due to Scott pricing inconsistencies.

### Symbols and Abbreviations (see chart above for gum symbols)

|    |              |    |                   |      |                    |     |                        |
|----|--------------|----|-------------------|------|--------------------|-----|------------------------|
| ⊞  | Block        | E  | Essay             | pmk. | Postmark           | No. | Scott Catalogue Number |
| ⊞  | Cover        | P  | Proof             | cds  | Circular Datestamp | hs  | Handstamp              |
| FC | Fancy Cancel | TC | Trial Color Proof | var. | Variety            | ms. | Manuscript             |

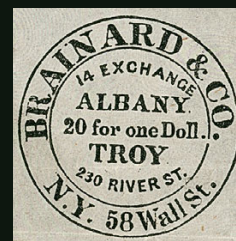


# STAMPS OF THE NINE ADHESIVE-ISSUING INDEPENDENT MAIL COMPANIES

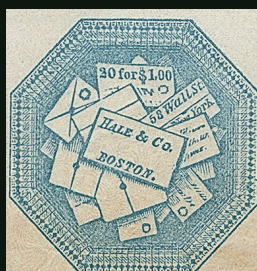
## American Letter Mail Company



## Brainard & Company



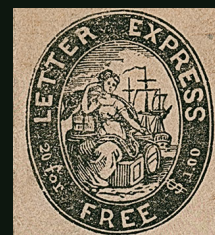
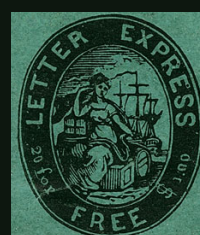
## Hale & Company



## Hartford Mail Route



## Wells' Letter Express



## Overton & Company



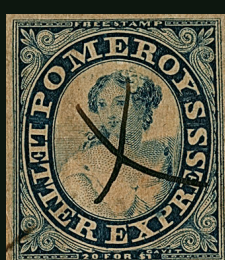
## Hoyt's Letter Express



## Pomeroy's Letter Express



## W. Wyman's Letter Offices



## THE INDEPENDENT MAILS

SINCE COLONIAL TIMES, THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HAVE EACH ASSERTED its right to carry the mail and printed news matter. Through its legal monopoly, the government finally achieved control over the routes and transportation modes, but the issue was fiercely debated during the first half of the nineteenth century, reaching its zenith in the 1840s. The conflict grew during the previous decade due to significant social, political, economic and technological developments. The combination of demand, opportunity and feasibility led to the entry of private express companies into the business of carrying letters between cities, mainly along the northeastern railroad corridor between Baltimore and Boston, but also along the waterways on the Long Island Sound, the Erie Canal, the Great Lakes, and the North Atlantic ocean. These companies carried the mail faster and charged less than the government, but for the most part they serviced only the more profitable high-volume routes.

Letter-carrying firms of the 1843-1845 period declared themselves the "Independent Mails" and the "Opposition Post Office." Despite their brief nineteen-month existence, from December 1843 until the end of June 1845, they prospered to such a great degree that the Post Office Department led a crusade to crush them through legislative reform. The result was the Act of March 3, 1845, which reduced and simplified government postage rates, making it the kind of progressive legislation postal reformers had sought. However, it also strengthened the government's monopoly by strictly prohibiting anyone from carrying any kind of mail, for any type of compensation, over any intercity route used by the federal post office. On July 1, 1845, the act's effective date, the Independent Mails stopped running.

Independent Mail operators claimed credit for the rate reductions in the 1845 postal reform bill and further reductions in 1851. The claim is bold, but not overstated, for without companies like American Letter Mail, Hale and Pomeroy, the U.S. Post Office Department might have successfully maintained the status quo for many more years.

### POSTAL REFORM AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

The roots of American postal reform are found in the religious and political movements of the early nineteenth century, and are closely tied to the country's expanding boundaries and population growth in the 1830s and 1840s. The advocacy of "cheap postage" was inspired and encouraged by the 1840 British postal reforms, and the business opportunities afforded to entrepreneurs were greatly increased during the same period by the rapid expansion of steamboat and railroad routes. These events and trends combined to create the conflict between the government and the private sector over the mails.

The question of competition between government and private mail-carrying operations had existed for decades prior to the rise of the Independent Mails. Several key components of postal legislation before 1845, going back to the establishment of the federal post office, contained definitions of "post roads" and restrictions on private conveyance of letters over those routes. For example, the Act of March 3, 1823, declared that the waterways regularly plied by steamboats were post roads. The Post Office claimed that these laws gave it the exclusive right to carry mail, a right that was protected against competition from private enterprise or interference by state governments.

Justification for the federal postal monopoly was based on the government's self-proclaimed obligation to provide mail service to all citizens throughout United States territory. In its simplest form, the justification for a postal monopoly was this: To ensure that citizens in remote, sparsely populated parts of the nation could regularly send and receive mail, fellow citizens in urban, more densely populated regions had to pay more. Monopoly proponents argued that the economics of providing mail service to the entire populace demanded an unequal allocation of postage charges and required protection against private competition along the most lucrative routes.

On the other hand, Cheap Postage and Postal Reform advocates argued that reducing rates would eventually have the effect of increasing revenue, a precursor to the economic theory behind the 1980s Reagan tax reforms. To counter the immediate loss of revenue from reduced rates, the reformers suggested making drastic cuts in stage subsidies and curtailing the franking privilege. The spirited defenders of free enterprise, who challenged the federal postal monopoly on constitutional grounds, claimed that the government had no right to prohibit private companies from operating competitive letter-carrying services.

In the decades before 1843, changing technology and circumstances compelled the courts and Congress to continually redefine what constituted illegal mail conveyance, and to defend relatively high postage rates against calls for significant reductions. The forces that laid the foundation and provided the catalyst for the Independent Mail system and 1845 postal reform may be neatly, albeit simplistically, categorized as Religion, Politics, Migration, British Postal Reform and Steam Power.

#### *Religion*

The Second Great Awakening, starting in the United States around 1800, brought a strong sense of community and purpose among Christians. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was chartered in 1812 and immediately began a series of missionary journeys to convert non-Christian populations. Church groups were strong advocates of social reform, including the abolition of slavery and the promotion of peace, suffrage, temperance, Sabbatarianism and charity for the poor.

Christian missionaries believed that the Gospel and their social causes could be better propagated through written communication. Therefore, education in reading and writing became a primary function of traveling missionaries, and, to encourage letter writing and strengthen the ties among Christians, the Cheap Postage movement was eventually promoted as one of their causes.

*continued*



### **Politics**

The United States and its post office were still very young when the Independent Mails came into being. In 1843 the end of the American War of Independence was just sixty years in the past. The American system of democratic government was still evolving when the issue of postal reform became a hot subject, and the debate was framed as much more than a matter of simple convenience and cost. Reformers and their opponents believed, or at least asserted, that the outcome would greatly influence the rising nation's future.

With the rise of the populist Jacksonian Democratic Party came a tremendous increase in voter participation. The popular vote more than doubled from 1828 to 1840, and there was a corresponding increase in the volume of letters, printed circulars and newspapers intended to inform and influence the voting public.

The postal system's ability to distribute news was viewed as an important instrument of the American system of democracy. Before electronic media, newspapers and printed matter were the only means to widely disseminate information to the public. They accounted for a significant portion of the postal system's volume, and the cost of carrying this class of mail was heavily subsidized by postage collected on letters, especially those carried on the most profitable routes. Furthermore, postal patronage—the chief executive's prerogative of appointing postmasters—proved to be an effective means of creating party loyalty and installing useful political allies in positions of local prominence throughout the country. Today we might call it a grass roots organization made up of government appointees.

The geopolitical map also factored into the conflict. The demand for cheap postage was concentrated in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states, primarily from businesses and religious organizations, and especially anti-slavery groups. The northeastern routes generated surpluses that were used to compensate for cost deficits from mail service in the southern and western regions, where low mail volume produced insufficient revenue to cover costs. The stage line subsidies also helped build transportation infrastructure, which had economic and political benefits for the South. It has been estimated that by 1840 nearly 50% of postal revenue in the mid-Atlantic states and 12% in New England were used to subsidize other routes.

The speed of mail and news transport was also an important consideration. The government was sensitive to complaints by Southerners that wealthy Northern businessmen used fast expresses to convey information and take advantage of those who relied on the slower federal mails. One such incident occurred in 1825, when Northern merchants learned of a sharp increase of cotton prices in England and rushed orders to Southern cotton brokers, using rapid private conveyance outside the mails. Sale contracts were written before Southerners learned of the London market reports by regular mail, and the Northerners scored huge profits.

Postal reformers wanted to change the existing government system by reducing and simplifying postage rates, and eliminating franking privileges and subsidies. Independent Mail operators wanted to challenge the postal monopoly and create a private mail-delivery system that was cheaper and faster (on routes of their choosing). They were opposed by postal officials and many congressional representatives who feared the consequences of creating massive operating deficits and dismantling the postal patronage system.

In 1843, when the first Independent Mail route opened, the cost of sending a letter from Philadelphia to Boston by government mail was 18¾ cents, at a time when the average laborer earned forty or fifty cents a day. The Independent Mail companies carried the same letter for five or six cents. This dramatic difference in cost was vigorously promoted by the Independent Mail proponents as a benefit for businesses and the public.

Post Office officials and advocates for the federal postal monopoly viewed competition from Independent Mails and the cry for postal reform as threats to the government's ability to provide mail service. In consequence, they argued, the Independent Mail companies were undermining democracy itself if nationwide postal service could not be provided cost-effectively. The chorus against rate reductions was joined by Southern representatives, who complained that lower postage rates would mostly benefit Northerners, and the deficits those rates created would have to be offset by increasing tariffs and customs duties, which would mostly hurt Southerners.

The free-franking privilege extended to congressmen and postmasters at the expense of the public was also seen as a necessity by advocates for the federal postal monopoly and defenders of high postage rates. They argued that postmasters in remote areas who received little compensation from their postage receipts greatly valued the franking privilege, and that congressmen obligated to correspond with their constituents needed the franking privilege to avoid burdensome postage costs. Opponents took a far more cynical view of these perquisites, and they suspected, not without good reason, that the entire system was tainted by political patronage.

### **Migration**

At the conclusion of the War of Independence, the Confederation's western frontier was situated along the Appalachian mountain chain. Very few whites—mainly fur trappers and traders—inhabited or traveled beyond this boundary, and there was no need for regular mail service in the remote wilderness. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 made substantial additions to the United States and pushed the country's frontier border much further west. The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 created a vital waterway connection between the urban cities and markets of the Northeast and the growing settlements and natural resources of the Great Lakes region. Emigration from England, Ireland, Scotland and Europe created a steady stream of settlers seeking opportunities in the West. In 1843, following the enactment of land grants in the Pacific Northwest, the first major migration on the Oregon Trail brought a large number of settlers and missionaries to this distant American outpost.

Each new wave of migration and settlement increased the mail volume between the Western population and their Eastern correspondents, thereby increasing pressure on the government to subsidize low-revenue-producing routes with surpluses from the lucrative East Coast routes. In 1800 there were 903 post offices and operating expenses were \$213,994. In 1840 the number of post offices climbed to 13,468, and the operating expenses were \$4,718,236, an increase of 15 and 22 times, respectively, over a forty-year period.

### ***British Postal Reform***

While religion, politics and migration were shaping the American public's desire and need for postal reform, events across the Atlantic provided the test upon which proponents (and opponents) would make their case.

Rowland Hill, who was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1860, first became interested in the British postal system in the mid-1830s. In 1837 he circulated his famous treatise, *Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability*, and gained the attention of the British government, not all of which was positive. In 1839 Hill's recommendations were put into effect. By February 1840 the basic letter rate was reduced to one penny (two cents) and franking privileges were curtailed. Lettersheets (the "Mulready") and adhesive stamps (the Penny Black and Two-Pence Blue) were issued in May 1840 and met with immediate success (the stamps more so than the lettersheets). The increase in mail volume and (eventually) postage revenues vindicated Hill's reforms. The British Uniform Penny Post became the shining example of the Postal Reform movement.

In June 1840 the spirit of Great Britain's postal reforms inspired the veteran senator and soon-to-be Secretary of State, Daniel Webster (1782-1852), to propose a resolution to reduce postage rates and to effect "the use of stamps, or stamped covers." Webster showed his colleagues examples of Great Britain's new issues, and facsimiles of the Mulready lettersheet and Penny Black were published in the *Senate Resolutions*. Webster's resolution never gained traction, but public agitation for lower postage rates provided the impetus for private express companies to start carrying letter mail.

### ***Steam Power***

The practical application of steam power to modes of transportation—steamboats, ocean-navigating steamships and railroad locomotives—contributed to the explosive growth of commerce throughout the United States and across the oceans, beginning around 1815, after the conclusion of the War of 1812. Steam power gradually changed the speed and capacity of American mail transportation systems, and made possible the Independent Mails.

Before the introduction of steam-powered transportation into the federal system of intercity post roads, the Post Office used an extensive network of stagecoach lines and relay stations, infrastructure that was funded through the generous awarding of stagecoach mail contracts in the 1820s. The privately-owned stage companies carried passengers and freight, but thrived on mail subsidies, and the stagecoach industry became a powerful force in the political patronage system.

Wherever necessary, stage routes were augmented by short-distance water transports, such as riverboats and coastal sailing vessels, but traveling against currents or without favorable winds limited the utility of water navigation for mail conveyance. Steam-powered navigation changed all of that, albeit gradually. Steamboats operated by Fulton and Livingston started carrying cargo, passengers and letters entrusted to their captains as early as 1807 on the Hudson River and 1812 on the Lower Mississippi River. However, records indicate that the Post Office Department did not sign any contracts for regular steamboat service until 1824. This delay was caused by a reluctance to take business away from the well-entrenched stage operators, and by concerns that the contracts would be costly due to the leverage of the Fulton-Livingston lines, which had a state-sanctioned monopoly over steam navigation on New York State waterways.

The Act of March 3, 1823, designated all navigable waters as post roads for the purpose of calculating the distance a letter traveled and the correct postage. In 1824 the New York State Supreme Court ruled that the monopoly granted to Fulton and Livingston was illegal, which immediately untethered others to develop steamboat lines throughout the country. Post Office Department records in the same year show the first mail contracts specifically designating steamboat service, and contracts grew from a total of six in 1830 to twenty by 1845.

Following the spread of steam-powered water navigation was the development of steam-engine railroads. Apart from a few trials and short-run lines, the first operational railroads in the United States started service in 1830. The railroad boom of the 1830s and 1840s added thousands of miles of track; by 1844 there were approximately 4,300 rail miles, including 2,500 in New England and the mid-Atlantic states. In particular, the cities of Boston, Baltimore and Charleston spawned a large number of rail lines to counter the rising prominence of New York City after the Erie Canal was completed in 1825, which greatly increased traffic on the Hudson River.

The Act of July 7, 1838, declared that all railroads in the United States were post roads and authorized the postmaster general to contract with railroad companies to carry the mail. The government's assertion of monopoly rights to mail conveyance on railroad lines had loopholes, which entrepreneurial individuals used to justify carrying mail "by express." Thus, by 1843 the stage had been set for the confrontation between the Post Office Department and the leaders of the express business, whose futures and fortunes were tied to the vessels and locomotives of the new age of steam power.

### **RISE OF THE INDEPENDENTS**

Private letter carriers operated in America for more than a century before the Independent Mail era. In some places they provided service where no government postal routes existed, and therefore were perfectly legal. Others surreptitiously carried letters on or near post roads, in violation of postal monopoly laws. The move toward the Independent Mails was not a matter of inventing an entirely new concept; it was more about efficiency, cost and promotion.

As steamboat and railroad lines developed in the 1830s and 1840s, they were able to provide faster and cheaper transportation, and private express agents used them to carry, among other things, bundles of letters, for which the Post Office received no payment. The use of direct transportation routes by water and rail allowed the expresses to bypass the stage lines and relay stations used by the government post. Boat captains and railroad conductors knowingly and unknowingly permitted mail to be carried on their runs, which created an informal parallel postal system. Its existence was anathema to postal officials, who grew extremely concerned over the

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siphoning of revenue from the federal post office and the unfair advantage in communication speed gained by businessmen (Northerners) over others (Southerners) who used the regular mails.

The person credited with organizing the first regular “express” business on railroad lines is William Frederick Harnden (1812-1845), known as “The Original Expressman.” In 1834 Harnden began working for the Boston & Worcester Railroad, first as a conductor on its passenger train and then in the ticket office. Sometime in late 1838 or early 1839, Harnden resigned from the B&WRR and traveled from Boston to New York City to discuss employment opportunities with his friend, James W. Hale, a steamboat agent and owner of the Tontine Reading Room, where newspapers were available and businessmen gathered.

The country was in a severe financial downturn in 1839, and jobs were scarce, but Hale suggested that Harnden could start a service for merchants and bankers by carrying small packages and running errands between New York and Boston. This led Harnden to establish what is considered to be the first railroad express business in the United States, starting with the New York-Boston route.

Harnden’s earliest advertisements appeared in February 1839 and offered to “accompany a Car himself, for the purpose of purchasing Goods, collecting Drafts, Notes and Bills,” and “take charge of all small packages of goods, bundles, &c.” Harnden’s advertisement gave his addresses in Boston (9 Court Street) and New York (10 Wall Street), and stated that departures from both places would be made every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. It made no mention of letters.

Harnden & Company grew to become one of the country’s largest express operations, handling packages, banknotes, specie and other material across a wide network of transportation lines. With the inauguration of Cunard Line transatlantic steam packet service between the U.S. and Great Britain, Harnden took advantage of an opportunity to carry mail by express to meet the steamship arrivals and departures at Boston. For this purpose, the Post Office awarded Harnden a contract to legally carry mail contained in locked bags between Boston and New York City, effectively making Harnden an official U.S. mail agent.

Harnden’s two-year government contract was in effect from July 1, 1839, through June 30, 1841. Months later, Harnden’s contract was renewed under slightly modified arrangements, and he served again as an official U.S. mail carrier from February 22, 1842, through January 31, 1844. Throughout this period, Harnden & Co. continued to run its domestic package express business and transatlantic mail-forwarding services, which facilitated prepayment of transatlantic and overseas postage through the firm’s offices on both sides of the Atlantic. Harnden also developed a business catering to the large influx of immigrants arriving from the British Isles and Europe.

Despite some letter-carrying activity on domestic routes and providing service for transatlantic mail forwarding, Harnden & Co. avoided openly competing with or challenging the government’s monopoly by carrying letter mail in a manner that defied the law. Harnden, who died of tuberculosis in 1845, was cautious about biting the hand that fed him through mail contracts, and he did not want to bear the expense and disruption of defending his firm against government lawsuits and fines. By 1843 he was also much more interested in developing his immigrant-related business. For these reasons, Harnden & Co. is not considered by certain postal historians to be one of the true Independent Mail companies.

Another major force in the express business was Alvin Adams (1804-1877), founder of Adams & Company in 1840. In 1854 Adams & Co. consolidated with seven other firms, including Harnden & Co., to form the Adams Express Company. Although Adams & Co. did not openly challenge the Post Office monopoly by promoting letter-carrying service, as did the Independent Mail companies, the firm clearly used its express routes to transport letters for customers. The company was sued by the government in 1843 for illegally carrying letter mail. Although the court ruled in favor of Adams & Co., the firm was probably loathe to provoke the government again by flagrantly carrying mail. It is also possible that Adams kept a secret hand in the Independent Mail business through his financial interest in various companies. Some postal historians have speculated that Adams might have backed Lysander Spooner and taken over the American Letter Mail Company when Spooner withdrew.

While mail was being covertly carried on steamboat and railroad lines prior to 1843, the Post Office was fretting over lost revenue and the challenge to its postal monopoly. So, what was their response, and what occurred to inspire the rise of the Independent Mails at the end of 1843?

The Post Office’s 1836-1839 Southern Express Mail was launched by Postmaster General Amos Kendall to improve communication speed between major commercial centers and to undermine the influence of newspaper publishers in the Northeast. The 1842 Express Mail between Boston, New York and Albany was Postmaster General Charles A. Wickliffe’s direct response to the carriage of mail by private expresses on railroad and steamboat routes. Neither government enterprise succeeded in thwarting the development and use of private mail conveyance.

Where service enhancements failed, Postmaster General Wickliffe hoped legal action would succeed. One way he attempted to eliminate private transmission of mail was by writing special restrictions in contracts with steamboat contractors. Wickliffe also started investigating and prosecuting express companies for violating the Post Office’s monopoly of post roads, but his plan backfired. The catalyst for the first Independent Mail companies was the November 1843 court decision in the case of *United States v. Adams & Company*, in which Judge Samuel R. Betts (U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York) ruled in favor of the defendants, concluding that the laws prohibiting the carriage of letters by steamboat operators did not apply to a passenger employed by a private express company. In April 1844 a similar conclusion was reached by Judge Peleg Sprague (U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts) in another case, in which private express employees were accused of illegally carrying mail on railroads (*United States v. Kimball*).

These decisions were viewed by entrepreneurs as a green light to start letter-carrying businesses. They also enraged Postmaster General Wickliffe, who vehemently urged Congress to protect the federal postal system by

enacting laws to close the loopholes used by express companies to violate the postal monopoly. However, with public opinion favoring postal reform, legislators became caught up in the debate over rate reductions and postal monopoly versus private enterprise. In the meantime, the Independent Mail companies made quick advances.

The earliest and largest of the Independent Mail operations, which openly advertised letter-mail service in competition with the government post office, was Hale & Company. The firm was founded by James W. Hale (1801-1892) in December 1843, immediately after the decision in *United States v. Adams & Company*. Hale, an experienced expressman and steamboat agent, had come to New York City from Boston in 1836 and worked at Hudson's News Room, which he bought and renamed the Tontine Reading Room. Hale had offered a variety of mail-forwarding services before starting his letter express, and he quickly emerged as the leader, with a vast network of offices and agents, and a purported 60% share of the Independent Mails.

The other major Independent Mail operator was the American Letter Mail Company, also known as the American Mail Company. This firm was founded in January 1844 by Lysander Spooner (1808-1887), a vocal anti-postal-monopoly advocate, abolitionist, and one of Postmaster General Wickliffe's chief antagonists. In defense of his mail-carrying service, Spooner published *The Unconstitutionality of the Laws of Congress Prohibiting Private Mails* in January 1844. Faced with arrests of his employees and onerous government lawsuits, Spooner gave up his role in the American Letter Mail Co. after several months, but the company continued in business until June 30, 1845, the day before the Independent Mails became illegal. Among the Independents, Spooner always considered himself the one true advocate of private mail enterprise and opponent of the postal monopoly.

While Harnden and Adams avoided directly competing with the government, and Hale and Spooner became the first movers in the private letter-carrying business, two other prominent expressmen established major Independent Mail routes extending westward to the Great Lakes region. They were George E. Pomeroy and Henry Wells.

George Eltwed Pomeroy (1807-1886) started his package express business in Albany, New York, in the spring of 1841, and entered into a partnership with Crawford Livingston, Henry Wells and George's brother, Thaddeus Pomeroy. In June 1844 Pomeroy established a separate firm, Pomeroy's Letter Express, for the purpose of carrying letters between Buffalo and New York City via Albany, using the east-west railroad lines and canal boats running along the Erie Canal.

Creating a separate entity was intended to protect the legal express business from lawsuits and fines, and to help Crawford Livingston distance himself from Pomeroy, at a time when the express company was eager to obtain government contracts. Livingston apparently threw Pomeroy "under the bus" by writing to Postmaster General Wickliffe and informing him that he "objected to the carrying of letters by the Express..." assuring the postmaster general that he obeyed all of the laws, and, remarkably, suggesting that the Post Office could hire a special undercover agent to catch one of the offending express messengers (he recommended Lewis Eaton for the job).

Pomeroy officially left the company around this time. It is difficult to say if Pomeroy was pushed out by Livingston, as Livingston would have others believe, or if it was just a clever ruse they used to create separation, so that Pomeroy could operate his Letter Express and Livingston could compete with Harnden without fear of government reprisals.

Henry Wells (1805-1878), the other partner in the Livingston-Wells-Pomeroy package express business, established his own Letter Express in mid-1844 to carry mail west of Buffalo. Using steamboat lines on the Great Lakes and the Central Railroad in Michigan, the Letter Express served the major port cities and intermediate points located on the upper and lower lakes, including Cleveland, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Wells and Pomeroy linked their routes at Buffalo and advertised "through" service to and from New York City. When Pomeroy announced he was discontinuing his letter express in August 1844, it seems that the same offices and agents continued to carry mail along the Albany-Buffalo route under the guise of Wells' Letter Express, and Pomeroy's stamps continued to be accepted for postage.

The Letter Express curtailed most of its letter-carrying activity by the end of 1844, but the latest recorded letter, carried from Detroit to Jackson, Michigan, on the Central Railroad, is dated February 18, 1845, which indicates that the Letter Express was still using railroads to carry letters, even after steamboat conveyance stopped. Wells and another partner, William G. Fargo, went on to establish Wells, Fargo & Company in 1852, perhaps the most famous of all express companies and recognized today as one of the world's largest banks.

Hale, Spooner, Pomeroy and Wells were the four leaders in Independent Mails, while others ran smaller companies that competed with or cooperated with the principal firms. The network of routes, offices and agents they established created a powerful alternative to the federal postal system. Indeed, their success represented the greatest argument in favor of the private intercity mails.

Cost and speed were two advantages of using the Independent Mails, but there were others. Well before the first U.S. postmaster's provisional stamp (1845) and the first general postage issue (1847), adhesive stamps were issued by private local posts and Independent Mail companies. Not only did the Independents start issuing stamps in 1844, they offered a quantity discount—twenty for one dollar instead of 6¼ cents each—which encouraged prepayment. Prepaid postage reduced the need to collect money from addressees and the number of unpaid letters carried to recipients, only to be refused.

Door-to-door service was facilitated through close relationships with or ownership of private local posts, such as the City Mail Company and Boyd's City Express in New York City. Evidence of these collaborations is found on letters with handstamped local post markings or "2" rates indicating an additional two cents for local delivery. A few Independent Mail letters even have local post stamps prepaying the delivery fee.

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## MONOPOLY AND THE END OF THE INDEPENDENT MAILS

The public's enthusiasm over greatly reduced postage charges and the convenience, speed and reach of Independent Mails terrified postal officials. They could not take the risk of losing this battle. The time for decisive action had come.

Postmaster General Wickliffe considered the Independent Mail companies to be criminals deserving of prosecution, and he derided the proposals of Cheap Postage and Postal Reform advocates as reckless public policy that would condemn the Post Office to deficits, service cuts and, without the postmasters' franking privilege, the closing of numerous post offices for want of willing appointees. Wickliffe's efforts to enforce his will through the courts failed, because the language of the old statutes was insufficiently specific about the new modes of transportation and their operators' obligations. He urged Congress to rewrite the laws and put teeth into the monopoly protection. Congress acted, but the outcome was not as Wickliffe had hoped.

At the time the Senate was controlled by the Whig Party (52.9% of the vote), and the House of Representatives by the Democratic Party (63.7% of the vote). President John Tyler, though technically a Whig, was struggling without the support of his own party. Tyler had ascended to the presidency after William H. Harrison died soon after taking office, but he quickly collided with Whigs and Democrats, and by 1844 had to withdraw from the election for lack of support. Tyler, a slave-owning Southerner who was publicly accused by Reverend Joshua Leavitt (of Postal Reform fame) of having fathered several children with his slaves, was probably not a fan of postal reform.

The postal reform bill (Senate bill 51, or "S. 51") was introduced on January 22, 1844, by Whig Senator William Merrick of Maryland, chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. The bill was created "to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department." It was revised on February 22.

On January 29, 1844, the House of Representatives authorized the Committee to "inquire if any person or persons have, in opposition to the laws of the United States, established offices, and provided conveyances for transporting letters, papers, and other mail matter, in violation of the regulations adopted by Congress..." About one month later, on February 28, the Committee reported that the postal laws were being "fraudulently evaded, and wantonly violated and defied, and that the government ought without hesitation to interpose its strong arm to arrest, and forever suppress such lawless conduct."

Congress asked Postmaster General Wickliffe to report on the steps he had taken to prosecute the offending private mail carriers. Wickliffe responded on March 30, 1844, with detailed allegations against Lysander Spooner and the American Letter Mail Co., including reference to Spooner's challenge to have his case go before the U.S. Supreme Court, provided that the Post Office would allow Spooner to continue his Independent Mail business until a decision was reached. Wickliffe scoffed at Spooner's impudent request.

Around this time, a no holds barred attack on the Merrick bill was published under the pseudonym "Franklin," which is believed to have been written by Wickliffe. For all of his long-stated reasons and with all of the dire predictions of the consequences should Merrick's bill pass, Wickliffe pleaded to maintain postage rates based on distance and sheets of paper, to leave intact the franking privilege and preferential treatment of newspapers and periodicals, and to make it illegal to carry (for compensation) any kind of mail on any post road. In each aspect of the federal postal system's operations, Wickliffe defended the manner in which it was conducted.

Wickliffe asserted in his "Franklin" monograph and in his official reports to Congress that the Post Office was already facing mounting deficits due to the activities of the Independent Mail companies. If postage rates dropped to the levels under consideration, Wickliffe warned, the Post Office would require financial transfusions from the public treasury to survive. This played to Southerners' fears that the money needed to make the Post Office whole would have to come from the poor farmers and crop brokers of the South, who would be most affected by higher tariffs and customs duties.

S. 51 in its final form was passed by the Senate on April 29, 1844, but the House delayed a vote before they adjourned on June 17, bowing to pressure from Southern and Western interests. Senator Merrick reintroduced his bill in December 1844, and, as procedure dictated, it was assigned a new number, S. 46. The Senate passed it again, and, after several substantive changes, the House approved the bill (Act of March 3, 1845, Ch 43, 2 Stat. 732, 28th Congress, 2d Session). The Act of March 3, 1845, was signed into law by President Tyler on his last day in office, which left the task of implementing the reform measures in the hands of James K. Polk's new postmaster general, Cave Johnson (1793-1866), a Democratic Party congressman from Tennessee and opponent of the Postal Reform movement.

So, who were the winners and losers in the Act of March 3, 1845?

Advocates of postage rate reductions scored a clear victory. The rates were reduced significantly and the distance parameters simplified to two tiers (5¢ under and 10¢ over 300 miles), and the "per sheet" rate was changed to "by weight" (a single rate applied up to a half-ounce). Postal reformers who wanted steeper reductions were disappointed, but six years later the Act of March 3, 1851, brought the rates down further.

The Post Office won its ban on private conveyance of letter mail on post roads (for compensation), but Congress was unwilling to extend the ban to all forms of newspapers, pamphlets, magazines and periodicals, fearing that such power in the hands of the government could be used to control the flow or content of information. The ban on private mail conveyance was worded to encompass all forms of transportation and all inter-city routes served by the Post Office. The relevant sections of the law read as follows:

[Section 9] ...That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to establish any private express or expresses for the conveyance, nor in any manner to cause to be conveyed, or provide for the conveyance or transportation by regular trips, or at stated periods or intervals, from one city, town, or other place, to any other city, town, or place in the United States, between and from and to which cities, towns, or other places the United States mail

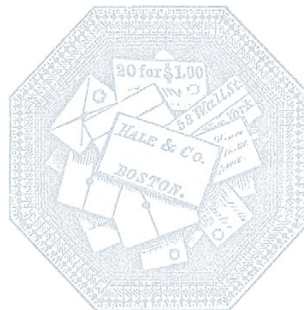
is regularly transported, under the authority of the Post Office Department, of any letters, packets, or packages of letters, or other matter properly transmittable in the United States mail, except newspapers, pamphlets, magazines and periodicals...

[Section 10] ...That it shall not be lawful for any stage-coach, railroad car, steamboat, packet boat, or other vehicle or vessel, nor any of the owners, managers, servants, or crews of either, which regularly performs trips at stated periods on a post route, or between two or more cities, towns, or other places, from one to the other of which the United States mail is regularly conveyed under the authority of the Post Office Department, to transport or convey, otherwise than in the mail, any letter or letters, packet or packages of letters, or other mailable matter whatsoever, except such as may have relation to some part of the cargo of such steamboat, packet boat, or other vessel, or to some article at the same time conveyed by the same stage-coach, railroad car, or other vehicle, and excepting also, newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals...

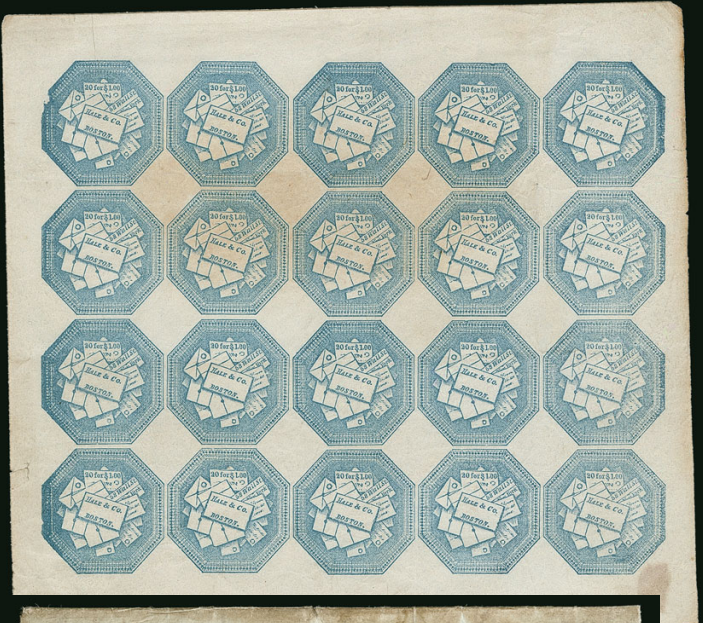
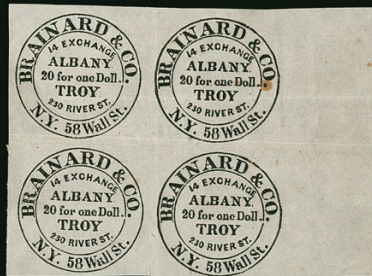
A significant provision of the Act of March 3, 1845, representing a major loss for the stagecoach industry, instructed the Postmaster General to award mail contracts to contractors based on their ability to carry the mail with “celerity, certainty, and security,” regardless of the transportation mode. The purpose of this provision was to shift contracts away from heavily-subsidized (high-cost) stagecoach lines when a postman on foot or horse could get the job done. These routes were marked in the contract ledger with three asterisks for “celerity, certainty, and security,” which gave them their name “Star Routes.” The effect of this provision was to end the Post Office’s role in building and subsidizing the stagecoach network.

Finally, to address problems with the franking privilege, Congress devised an accounting system, in which the Post Office would be reimbursed from the public treasury for franked postage on mail from the executive departments. Congress preserved the franking privilege for itself and postmasters. So, in this respect, the postal reformers who wanted to abolish the free franking privilege lost, and the Post Office (and Congress) won.

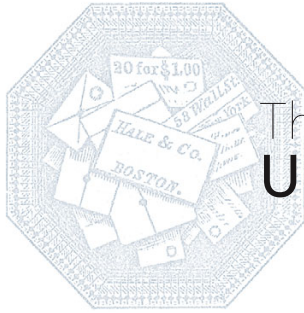
From March 3 until the new law’s effective date of July 1, 1845, the major Independent Mail companies continued to carry letters. The last mails were carried on June 30, bringing the short-lived era of Independent Mails to an end. Nonetheless, the fight between private enterprise and the federal postal office continued, not on the intercity roads, rails and waterways, but on the local streets of towns and cities where private local posts continued to carry mail. That war would be fought for another fifteen years, until Congress once again legislated the intracity private posts out of existence.











## The Dr. Carmen A. Puliafito Collection **UNITED STATES INDEPENDENT MAILS**

Commentary by Scott R. Trepel

**T**HERE ARE VERY FEW TIMES IN A COLLECTING FIELD WHEN IT MAY BE SAID, with complete confidence and certainty, that a collection is the greatest that has ever been assembled. I can say that about the collection of Independent Mails formed by Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA. It is the best that has ever been.

There is a simple reason that this collection is historically the most complete, with the largest number of important pieces ever gathered in one place. Dr. Puliafito started collecting Independent Mails in 1999, the beginning of the great generational transfer of material that took place in just two years. Three great name collections—Golden, Hall and Schwartz—reached the market in 1999 and 2000, and Dr. Puliafito was there to stake his claim.

For most of the twentieth century, Independent Mail stamps and covers were spread among several collectors. As collector interest in the subject developed before World War II, the pioneering collectors were (in alphabetical, not chronological order) Senator Ernest R. Ackerman, Alfred H. Caspary, C. E. Chapman, Frank Hollowbush, Edward S. Knapp and Laurence B. Mason. When these collections were dispersed, the principal buyers were John R. Boker Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hall Jr., and the Hon. J. William Middendorf II. Around the same time, three professionals—Robson Lowe, George Sloane and Elliott Perry—also studied and collected the Independent Mails. I never knew Sloane or Perry, but Robson Lowe was my employer, and I recall him telling me that he thought the great historical significance of the Independent Mails was generally underappreciated, mainly because the Scott Catalogue lumped them together with local posts.

Various “land grabs” of Independent Mail collections occurred during the 1970s. After Elliott Perry’s death, his wife sold his personal collection of Independent Mails to Richard Schwartz, who continued to add to the collection as he researched the subject. John Boker’s collection was sold privately and at auction, which gave David Golden the opportunity to build this part of his vast collection of private posts. Robson Lowe also sold his collection.

The next major holding to reach the market was Ambassador Middendorf’s, which was sold in 1990 by Richard C. Frajola in a net price catalogue. For the next nine years, very few Independent Mail items of any significance came to market. The vast majority were held by a few active collectors (Frajola, Golden, Gutman, Hahn, Lee Pomeroy, Schwartz, Stimmell et al) or contained in the long-dormant Hall collection, which very few people even knew existed.

The floodgates opened in 1999, right around the time Dr. Puliafito decided to sell his United States stamp collection. He acquired all of the Schwartz Independent Mails in one private transaction. In the Golden auction (Siegel Sale 817), followed by the Hall auction (Siegel Sale 830), Dr. Puliafito competed furiously for all of the significant items. He captured most of them, and several of those that escaped were bought when the competing collectors later sold (Kuphal, Gordon N. John, Geisler et al). Select items were also acquired from the Frajola, Hahn and Stimmell collections; as recently as last year, Dr. Puliafito bought Stimmell’s reconstructed block of the Pomeroy first issue.

Dr. Puliafito exhibited his collection, winning a Grand Award at Westpex in 2001 when he showed for the very first time. He achieved 91 points with his first five-frame FIP exhibit and later received 96 points in the 2010 London International.

My personal experience working with Dr. Puliafito to help him build and exhibit this collection has been richly rewarding. I hope other collectors who have observed Independent Mails from the sideline will step forward and seize the opportunity to acquire items in this collection. If the value of a collectible artifact lies in its power to please the eye and stimulate the mind, the items in this sale are surely among the most valuable in philately.

## ALPHABETICAL COMPANY INDEX TO LOTS

Covers involving conjunctive service with more than one company are listed under each company.

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Announcing the long-awaited reference book on Independent Mails...

### ***Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845***

#### **Seven Authors:**

John Bowman, Richard Frajola, Michael Gutman, William Sammis,  
David Snow, Gordon Stimmell and Scott Trepel.

#### **Comprehensive Content:**

Historical Overview of the Independent Mails

16 chapters that cover the Eastern Independent Mail companies, including:

American Letter Mail Company, Bates & Company, Brainard & Company, Brainard's Express, H.T. Crofoot's Newburyport Letter Office, Davenport & Company, Hale & Company, Hartford Letter Mail, Hoyt's Letter Express, J. W. Lawrence Letter Office, (Wells) Letter Express, Overton & Company, Pomeroy's Letter Express, A. Roberts & Company, Van Benthuyzen's News Office and Wm. Wyman's Express Mail.

25 chapters that cover the Express Mail companies, including:

Andrews Portland Express, Burbank & Company's Express, Child & Company's Express, Crossman & Company, Forbes's Newburyport Express, Gay's Express, Gilman's Express, Godfrey & Company New Bedford Express, Gray's Lowell Express, Gray's New Bedford Express, Gunnison's Express, Hatch & Company's Express, Jerome & Company, Kennebec Express, Livingston Wells & Pomeroy, Pomeroy & Company, Pullen & Company's Express, Pullen & Copps Express, Richardson's Express, Thompson & Company's Western Express, Virgil & Company's Express, Walker & Company's Manchester & Boston Express, Walker & Jackson's Portsmouth Express, William A. Livingston & Company and Winslow's Portland Express.

#### **Library Quality Production and Format:**

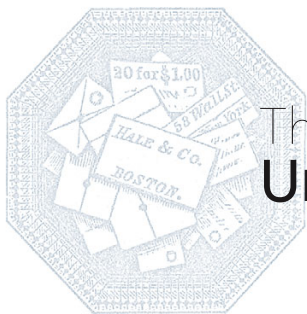
680 pages, hardbound, including histories of each company, over 800 color images of postal history and advertisements, hundreds of adhesive, handstamp and label images, census information, earliest and latest known uses, and adhesive platings

#### **Limited Publication Quantity:**

Printing quantity is just 125 copies and will be ready to ship in May 2016. The price is \$75. postpaid in the US via media mail. Check with order required, made to:

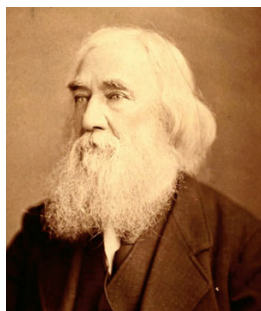
**Michael Gutman, P.O. Box 1108, Mashpee MA 02649**

Orders without payment will not be honored. Shipment outside the US is very expensive; for cost email [mikeg94@comcast.net](mailto:mikeg94@comcast.net)



# The Dr. Carmen A. Puliafito Collection UNITED STATES INDEPENDENT MAILED

Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.—Lots 1-303



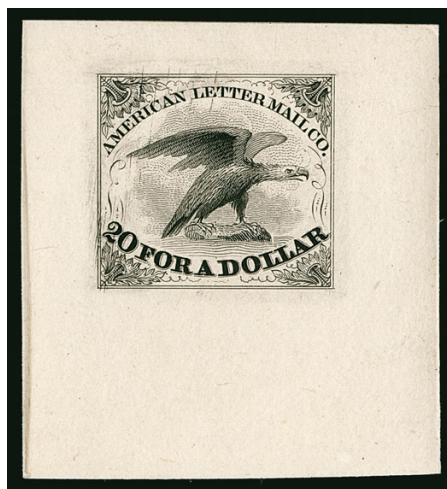
Lysander Spooner

## AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY

The American Letter Mail Company, the second largest of the Independent Mail firms, was founded by Lysander Spooner, an advocate for Cheap Postage and the most vocal opponent of the government's postal monopoly. Operations started in January 1844. Offices were established in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore (closed March 1844). Sometime in June 1844, Spooner sold his interest in the firm, but the company under new management continued to carry mail until June 30, 1845. The American Letter Mail Co. issued engraved stamps: the Small Eagle in black, followed by the Large Eagle in black and blue. The Small Eagle stamp has the value "20 for a Dollar" in the design. The Large Eagle has no stated denomination.

## JANUARY 1844 SMALL EAGLE ISSUE

According to Dr. Julius Blanchard, the Eagle vignette on the Small Eagle stamp was made from a stock die originally engraved by Durand, Perkins & Co. In 1832 the firm went out of business, and its assets were sold to Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, who probably printed the stamps. This is the third engraved stamp printed in the United States.



1EX

- 1 TC **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Small Eagle, Proofs, Stamps and Collateral (5L1P1, 5L1TC, 5L1).** Seven items, includes Black die proof on India, card mounted, two trial color die proofs in Dull Blue and Dull Red on India (minor hinge thins), single with original gum and complete sheet of 20 unused (no gum, probably a remainder from the estate of Lysander Spooner, the founder), two examples of Eagle vignette on security printing including \$100.00 1845 Treasury Note, Municipality No. Two, with Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson imprint (signed and cancelled, some missing paper from ink erosion) and 1851 promissory note (lithographed version), stamps and proofs are Very Fine or similar appearance, a desirable group of American Letter Mail Co. Small Eagle items well-suited for exhibition.....(Photo Ex/Website PDF) E. 500-750





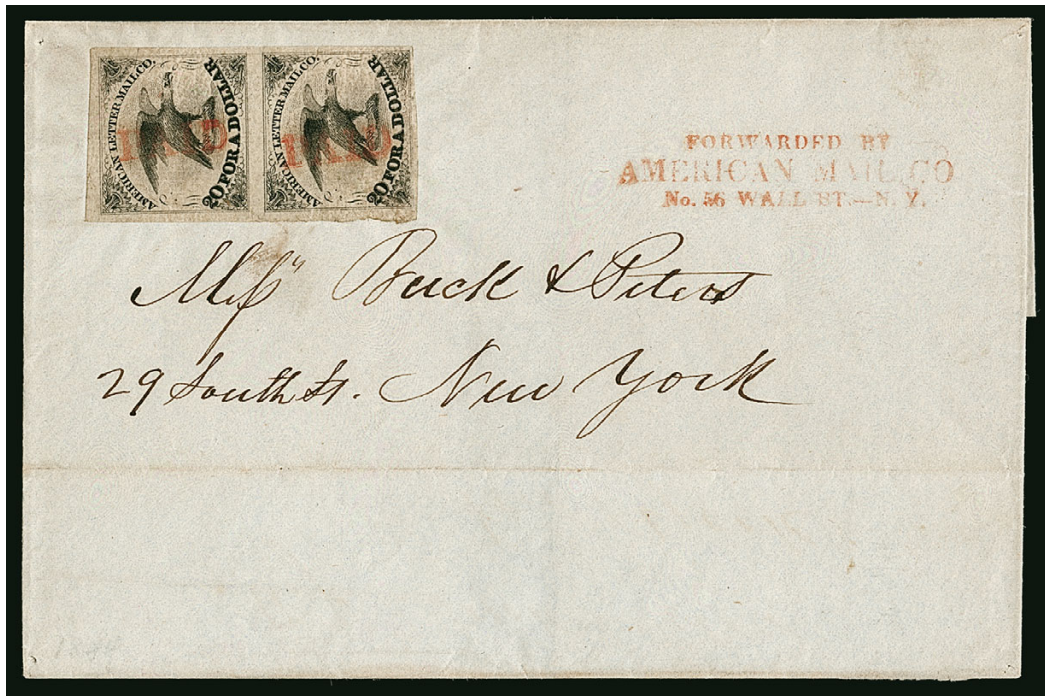
2

- 2 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black, Thick Paper (5L1).** First printing, full to large margins, less than usual faint gum toning for this printing, cancelled by clear strike of red "6" rate handstamp, used on Apr. 8, 1844 folded letter from New York City to Boston with street address for delivery, fresh and Extremely Fine, a superb cover and the only recorded use of the "6" cent collect handstamp to cancel an American Letter Mail Co. adhesive stamp, ex Schwartz ..... E. 500-750



3-BOTH

- 3 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black, Thick Paper (5L1).** First printing, two on separate folded letters to Boston, first is Feb. 9, 1844 from Philadelphia with four-margin stamp cancelled by manuscript "X", pencil "2c" for local delivery charge, second is Mar. 12, 1844 part-printed shipping bill of lading with full-rigged ship illustration, used from New York City, stamp has ample margins to in at top, magenta brush cancel, Very Fine covers, ex Schwartz..... E. 300-400



4

- 4 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Vertical pair, large margins, each stamp cancelled by red “Paid” (impression ties thru paper), matching “Forwarded by/American Mail Co./No. 56 Wall St.—N.Y.” three-line handstamp on double-rate folded cover to New York City with street address added for delivery, July 1 docketing (1844 — probably from Boston)

EXTREMELY FINE. THE FINEST OF ONLY SIX MULTIPLES OF THE AMERICAN LETTER MAIL SMALL EAGLE STAMP RECORDED ON COVER (ALL PAIRS). AN OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT MAIL USE.

Our records contain just six Small Eagle pairs used on five covers and one front. This four-margin pair with handstamped “Paid” cancels on a pristine cover is the finest of the group.

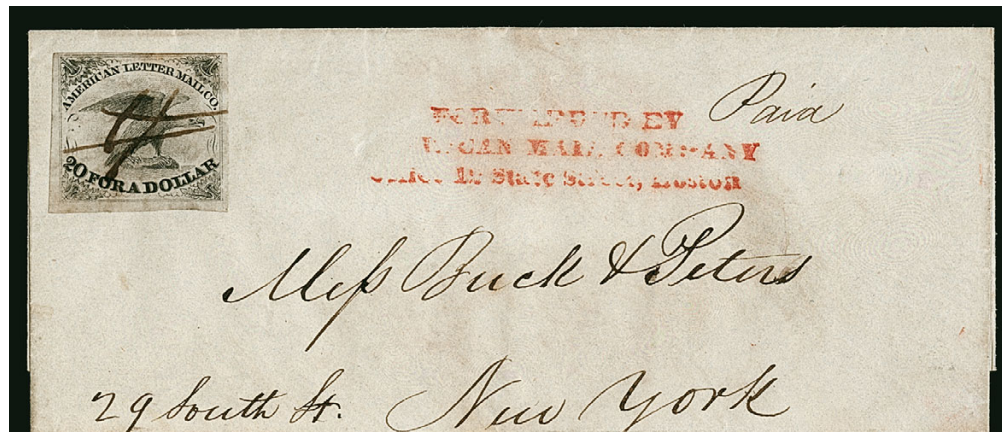
Ex Duckworth and Schwartz ..... E. 1,500-2,000





- 5 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Full to large margins, sharp impression, **tied** by exceptionally clear strike of **red Field of Stars** cancel on Mar. 9 1844, folded letter from Boston to New York City with street address for delivery, pristine and Extremely Fine, an outstanding example of this early fancy cancellation, ex Schwartz.... E. 500-750
- 6 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Position 4 with **double transfer** at top, full to large margins, **tied by red Field of Stars** cancel on Mar. 29, 1844 folded letter from Boston to New York City, addressed in blue to Front Street with number added by ALMCo. office in pencil, slight wear along file fold, Extremely Fine, a beautiful and very scarce tied Small Eagle, Sloane's pencil notes, with 2003 P.F. certificate..... E. 500-750
- 7 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Large even margins, cancelled by sharp strike of red "Paid", tied by impression thru paper on undated folded cover to New York City with street address added in pencil, probably originated in Boston, Extremely Fine, exceptionally choice example of the Small Eagle on cover, ex Emerson and Hall, with 2003 P.F. certificate ..... E. 500-750





8



9



10

- 8 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Three large margins, clear to ample at top, cancelled by manuscript "#", partly clear strike of red "Forwarded by/American Mail Company/Office 12 State Street, Boston" three-line handstamp on folded cover to New York City with street address added for delivery, Very Fine, ex Schwartz ..... E. 200-300
- 9 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Full to large margins, **double transfer**, cancelled by red handstamped killer, matching "Forwarded by/American Mail Co./No. 56 Wall St.—NY" three-line handstamp on folded cover to New York City, handstamped on arrival, probably originated in Boston, Extremely Fine, ex Schwartz..... E. 200-300
- 10 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Ample margins to slightly in, manuscript cancel, used on Aug. 3, 1844 folded letter from New York City to Boston, red "Forwarded by/American Mail Co./No. 12 State St.—Boston" three-line handstamp, Very Fine, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 200-300





- 11 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Three enormous margins, ample at bottom, cancelled by red handstamped killer, matching "Forwarded by American Letter Mail Co. from No. 109 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia" circular handstamp on folded cover to New York City, pencil street address, docketed with Aug. 6, 1844 origin date, Very Fine, a perfect strike of this circular handstamp, which was used briefly in 1844, ex Hall, with 2003 P.F. certificate ..... E. 500-750
- 12 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Large to huge margins, tied by manuscript "X" cancel, red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 101 Chestnut St. Philada. Oct. 14" circular datestamp on blue folded cover to Philadelphia, handstamped on arrival, 1844 docketing, file fold, Very Fine, ex Hall, with 2003 P.F. certificate ..... E. 300-400
- 13 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Large margins, cancelled by red "Paid" handstamp and manuscript line, red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 101 Chestnut Steet, Philadelphia" circular handstamp on folded cover from New York City to Philadelphia, handstamped on arrival, docketed with Aug. 8, 1844 origin date, file folds, half-inch tear at top center sealed with hinge, still Very Fine, ex Schwartz ..... E. 200-300
- 14 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Large margins, bright paper, cancelled by manuscript "C", red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 109 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia" circular handstamp on Aug. 24, 1844 folded letter to **New Haven, Conn.**, light file folds, Extremely Fine, very scarce use of Small Eagle on a cover to Connecticut, ALMCo. maintained offices in six towns including New Haven, ex Schwartz ..... E. 400-500



March 4 1844

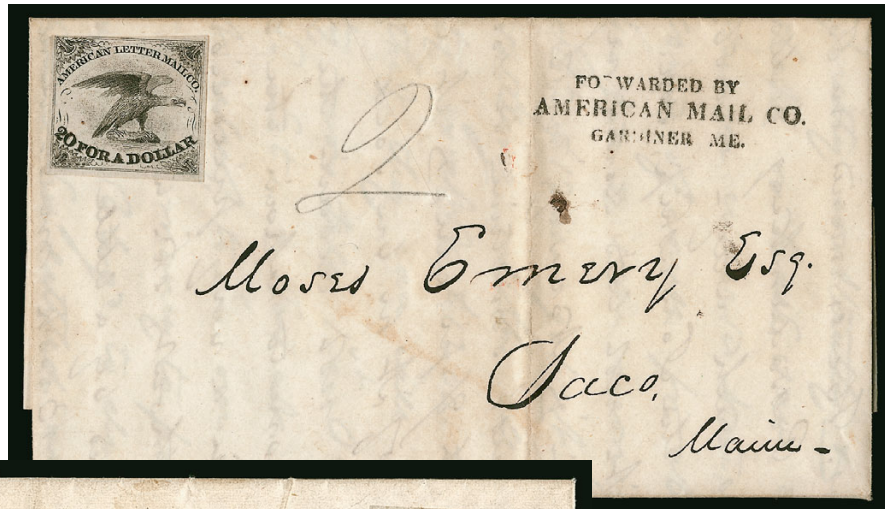
AMERICAN LETTER MAIL CO.  
EAGLE  
50 FOR A DOLLAR

Chas W. L. Ward  
105 Front St  
New York

MAY 4, 2016



17



18

- 17 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Ample margins to clear at top left, uncanceled, clear strike of “FORWARDED BY/AMERICAN MAIL CO./GARDINER, ME.” three-line handstamp on lengthy Aug. 6, 1844 folded letter from Phineas Pratt in Gardiner Me. to Moses Emery in Saco Me., manuscript pencil “2” for local delivery, central file fold does not touch the adhesive or handstamp

VERY FINE. ONE OF ONLY THREE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THE AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY SMALL EAGLE ISSUE ON COVER WITH THE RARE GARDINER, MAINE, HANDSTAMP.

There are three recorded examples of the rare American Letter Mail Co. Gardiner handstamp used with an adhesive stamp (all 5L1 Small Eagle), as follows in order of date: 1) July 26, 1844, from A. N. Gardiner to George Burgiss in Hartford Conn., Siegel Sale 1101, lot 560; 2) Aug. 6, 1844, from Phineas Pratt in Gardiner Me. to Moses Emery in Saco Me., the cover offered here; 3) Aug. 25, 1844 from Gardiner to Adam Crosby in Belfast Me.

We also record a stampless cover with the Gardiner handstamp, dated Aug. 20, 1844, ex Hahn (Siegel Sale 950, lot 2578). The cover offered here was found among the papers of the recipient, Saco Me. attorney Moses Emery. Phineas Pratt and Emery were business associates involved in lumbering, logging and land speculation. Allegedly they suffered severe losses attempting to sell shingles and lumber in San Francisco during the gold rush.

Ex Stimmell. With 2015 P.F. certificate..... E. 1,500-2,000

- 18 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Large margins, cancelled by red “Paid” handstamp (impression ties thru paper), used on folded letter datelined Philadelphia, July 18, 1844, to Albany N.Y., red “Forwarded by Pomeroy & Cos. Express from Albany” circular handstamp, slight diagonal wrinkles in lettersheet, Very Fine, the only recorded example of an American Letter Mail Co. cover handstamped by Pomeroy & Co. for delivery in Albany, ALMCo. advertised that it had an office in Albany, so it is unclear why Pomeroy would have been involved in delivering this letter (see also lot 156), ex Peltz and Schwartz ..... E. 1,000-1,500

WESTBOUND CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE TO DETROIT WITH  
WELLS' LETTER EXPRESS BISECT



19

- 19 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., 5c Black (5L1).** Horizontal pair, full to large margins, **tied** by one of two strikes of large "PAID" handstamp of Pomeroy's Letter Express, repeated at right, both strikes in a dirty red ink, used in combination with **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Pink Glazed, Horizontal Bisect Used as 5c (96L3a)**, bottom half of stamp with part of design cut into, tied across the cut by manuscript "V" on folded cover to Detroit Mich., of unknown origin (possibly Philadelphia) with pencil docketing "Sept 14th, 1844", the pair has minor gum toning and the bisect is slightly oxidized (as are most examples of this rare stamp), a few period-ink splatters at left

THE ONLY RECORDED CONJUNCTIVE USE OF AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY STAMPS AND A WELLS' LETTER EXPRESS BISECT.

The pair of American Letter Mail Co. 5c Small Eagle stamps pays the 10c rate to Detroit. ALMCo.'s agent turned the letter over to Pomeroy or Wells in Albany. The Letter Express 10c Black on Pink bisected stamp (worth 5c) represents half of the original postage paid to ALMCo., and it was probably applied as an accounting device to credit Letter Express for money received from ALMCo. The two red "Paid" handstamps (Pomeroy's device) were applied in Albany.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Signed by Costales and with a copy of letter from Richard Schwartz (Feb. 9, 1996), describing this as one of three known combinations of American Letter Mail Co. and Letter Express stamps. With 1996 P.F. certificate. Ex Kuphal..... E. 5,000-7,500



## LARGE EAGLE ISSUE

The Black and Blue Large Eagle stamps are recorded as early as August 1844, soon after Lysander Spooner sold out his interest in the firm. They were probably prepared by the new management.

The two different colors may have originally been intended for single (Black) and double (Blue) rates. Why? Because unlike the Small Eagle design, the Large Eagle does not have a denomination stated, and the color scheme is identical to Great Britain's Penny Black and Two-Pence Blue issued just a few years earlier in 1840. The two stamps were ultimately used to pay single rates (5c when sold at 20 for \$1.00).

The Large Eagle stamp design and the banknotes of the era have the imprint of W. L. Ormsby of New York. However, the vignette is known on printed material dated in the 1830's. It is likely that Ormsby incorporated the Large Eagle stock die into his engravings.



20 EX

- 20 P **American Letter Mail Co., Large Eagle Vignette Proof and Collateral (related to 5L2).** Black proof impression of Large Eagle vignette on card, accompanied by Hartford Exchange Bank \$2.00 note signed and dated 1859 with same vignette and imprint of W. L. Ormsby, New York, orange security design and Ormsby imprint on back, Very Fine, the perfect pair for exhibition, ex Schwartz .....(Photo Ex) E. 200-300



21

- 21 **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Two, one with ample margins to cut in at bottom, manuscript cancelled "J. Gray Agent", other with large margins, very ornate blue manuscript "TBS" initials and black pen line cancel, corner crease, Fine-Very Fine appearance, Large Eagle stamps with agents' names or initials are very scarce, ex Schwartz..... E. 200-300



## THE LARGEST RECORDED MULTIPLE OF THE LARGE EAGLE ISSUE



22

- 22 ★田 **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Block of twelve, Positions 5-8/9-12/13-16, small part original gum, mostly full to large margins, just barely in at bottom left, vertical and horizontal creases are hardly noticeable, a few toned spots

VERY FINE. THE LARGEST RECORDED BLOCK OF THE AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY LARGE EAGLE STAMP — FIVE BLOCKS AND A STRIP OF FOUR ARE THE ONLY KNOWN MULTIPLES. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS IN THE FIELD OF INDEPENDENT MAILS.

The Large Eagle stamp, issued in Blue and Black, was probably printed soon after Lysander Spooner left American Letter Mail Company in July 1844. It is reasonably scarce on cover, and multiples in any form are very rare. We record the following five blocks and one strip of four:

- 1) Pos. 5-8/9-12/13-16, block of twelve, part original gum, ex Worthington, Needham, Hollowbush, Golden and Gordon N. John, the block offered here
- 2) Pos. 1-2/5-6, original gum, part of rejoined block of eight with No. 3 in this list, lot 23 in this sale
- 3) Pos. 3-4/7-8, original gum, part of rejoined block of eight with No. 2 in this list, lot 23 in this sale
- 4) Pos. 1-2/5-6 and pair Pos. 9-10, rejoined block of six, lot 24 in this sale
- 5) Pos. 15-16/19-20, ex Lilly, Schwartz, Gordon N. John
- 6) Pos. 8/12/16/20, vertical strip of four with "ESS" watermark, ex Hall, lot 25 in this sale

Ex Worthington, Needham (exhibited at The Collectors Club, Feb. 18, 1925, reported in CCP Apr. 1925), Golden and Gordon N. John. With 2004 P.F. certificate ... E. 10,000-15,000



23

- 23 ★田 **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Positions 1-4/5-8 in two blocks of four rejoined at center, original gum, large margins, extraordinarily fresh, sharp impression, couple slight natural production creases at left and slight diagonal bend ending in a small crease at right, these trivial flaws are practically invisible without very close examination

EXTREMELY FINE. TWO OF THE FIVE RECORDED BLOCKS OF FOUR OF THE AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY LARGE EAGLE ISSUE, FORMING A REMARKABLE BLOCK OF EIGHT AS ORIGINALLY PRINTED.

Unlike the Small Eagle stamp, there were no unused Large Eagle stamps among the remainders in Lysander Spooner's estate. The two blocks that have been reunited in this multiple of eight represent 40% of the surviving blocks. We record a block of 12 (largest known multiple, see lot 22), four blocks of 4 (two in this lot and one in a rejoined block of six offered in lot 24) and a vertical strip of 4 (see lot 25).

Ex Schwartz ..... E. 2,000-3,000



- 24 ★田 **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Positions 1-2/5-6, top left corner margin block of four with horizontal pair (Positions 9-10) that came from the same original sheet, now rejoined with hinges, original gum, block has large margins all around including top left sheet margins, pair has large margins to slightly in and sheet margin at left

FRESH AND EXTREMELY FINE. THE FINEST OF FIVE RECORDED BLOCKS OF THE AMERICAN LETTER MAIL LARGE EAGLE ISSUE.

Unlike the Small Eagle stamp, there were no unused Large Eagle stamps among the remainders in Lysander Spooner's estate. We record a block of 12 (largest known multiple, see lot 22), four blocks of 4 (the block offered here and two in a rejoined block of eight offered in lot 23) and a vertical strip of 4 (see lot 25). This corner-margin block in sound original-gum condition is the finest of the five blocks. It was reunited with the pair from Positions 9-10 after the Hall sale.

Ex Hall. Block with 2001 P.F. certificate... E. 1,500-2,000



24



25

- 25 ★ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Positions 8/12/16/20, vertical strip of four with full bottom right corner sheet margins, original gum (hinged at top and bottom only, the pair at center is Mint N.H.), large margins all around, "ESS" portion of watermark in Position 12 (second stamp from top), faint crease between top two stamps

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF FIVE RECORDED UNUSED MULTIPLES (ALL WITH ORIGINAL GUM) OF THE AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY LARGE EAGLE ISSUE. THIS IS ONE OF TWO KNOWN AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY STAMPS WITH THE PAPER MILL'S WATERMARK.

Unlike the Small Eagle stamp, there were no unused Large Eagle stamps among the remainders in Lysander Spooner's estate. We record a block of 12 (largest known multiple, see lot 22), four blocks of 4 (see lots 23 and 24) and this vertical strip of 4. This strip and one recorded single are the only examples of the paper mill's watermark.

Ex Caspary, Lilly and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate.....  
..... E. 1,500-2,000

## THE LARGEST MULTIPLE OF THE LARGE EAGLE RECORDED ON COVER



26

- 26 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Positions 14-16, horizontal strip of three, mostly large margins, in at right, each stamp cancelled by clear strike of red "Paid" handstamp, matching "American Letter Mail Company, Office, No. 12 State Street, Boston" oval handstamp on folded letter datelined "*pr Amn. Letter mail Cy. New York, 5th Novr. 1844*" to Boston, handstamped on arrival, neatly docketed, horizontal fold thru strip has been carefully pressed out and is now virtually invisible

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. THIS IS THE LARGEST RECORDED USED MULTIPLE OF THE AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY LARGE EAGLE ISSUE ON OR OFF COVER. ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING ARTIFACTS OF THE INDEPENDENT MAIL ERA.

Used pairs of the Large Eagle issue are extremely rare, and the only used multiple larger than a pair is this strip of three. It is also one of the few triple-rate Large Eagle covers extant.

Ex Schwartz ..... E. 5,000-7,500





27

- 27 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Vertical pair, ample margins to just touching, one stamp cancelled “#” in manuscript, used on printed notice dated Jan. 1, 1845 from Boston to Howland & Aspinwall in New York City, red “Forwarded by American Letter Mail Company, Office, 56 Wall St., N.Y.” handstamp, Very Fine, the double rate was probably due to heavy contents mailed with this printed notice, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 500-750



28

29

- 28 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Two, ample to large margins, cancelled by pen lines, used on blue folded cover to New York City, additional street address for delivery, docketing indicates origin at Philadelphia on Feb. 14, 1845, vertical file fold thru one stamp, otherwise Fine, scarce double-rate use, ex Schwartz ..... E. 200-300
- 29 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Position 10, three large margins, ample at bottom, cancelled by bold bluish-black manuscript “Boston” on Dec. 19, 1844 blue folded letter to New York City, red “Forwarded by the American Letter Mail Company, Office, 56 Wall St., N.Y.” oval handstamp applied on arrival, light fold passes under bottom of stamp, faint toned spot on stamp is barely detectable but noted on certificate, still Very Fine, this is the only recorded example of the manuscript “Boston” cancel on an American Letter Mail Co. cover, ex Frajola, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 300-400





30

- 30 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Full to large margins, cancelled by manuscript "C", used on Aug. 26, 1844 folded letter from Philadelphia to Boston, red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 109 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia" circle and "American Letter Mail Company, Office, No. 12 State Street, Boston" oval handstamps applied at origin and on arrival, pencil "2 cts" for delivery to street address, file fold, Extremely Fine, a perfect Large Eagle cover with markings of sending and receiving offices, ex Schwartz..... E. 500-750



31

- 31 **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Margins clear to slightly in, tied by blue manuscript "Allegania" cancel, red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from 101 Chestnut St. Philada." circular handstamp applied on arrival to front only to Philadelphia, horizontal crease ties stamp, no indication of origin except for the "Allegania" marking (there was a river named Allegania but no town at this time), Fine appearance, only two examples of this "Allegania" marking are recorded, ex Schwartz ..... E. 400-500





32



33



34

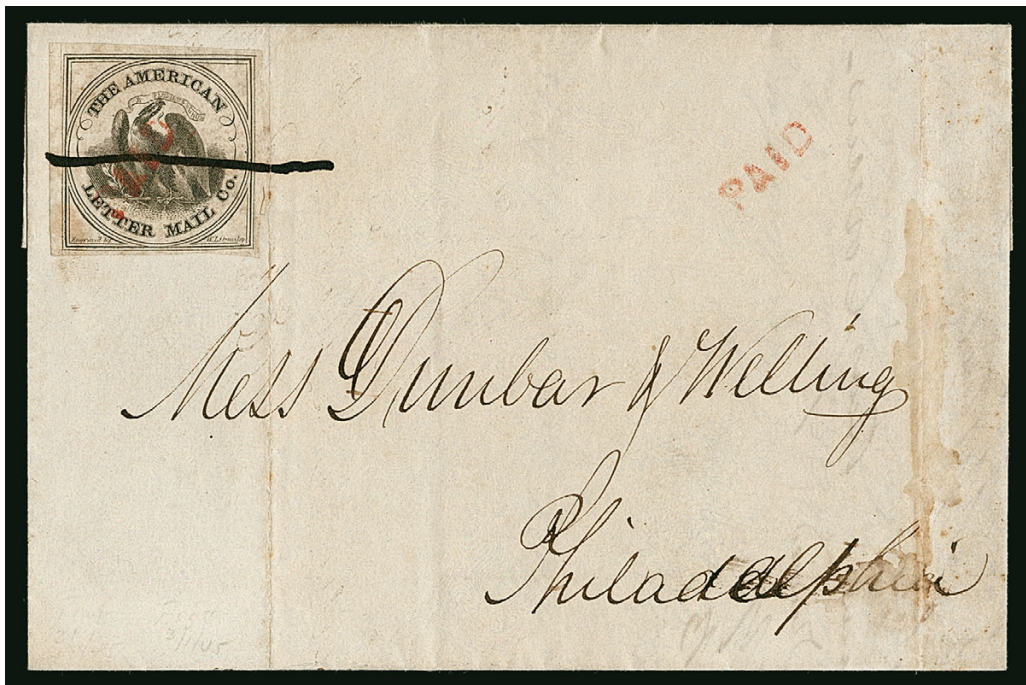
- 32 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Position 3, large even margins, cancelled by manuscript "X", red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 101 Chestnut St. Philada. Dec. 3" circular datestamp on 1844 folded letter to New York City, Extremely Fine, the dated circle is scarce, ex Frajola, with 2000 P.F. certificate..... E. 200-300
- 33 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Three large margins, manuscript cancel (not tied), used on Apr. 19, 1845 folded cover to New York, red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 101 Chestnut St. Philada." circular handstamp, sender's notation "Stamped" confirming usage, file folds, Fine, ex Golden..... E. 150-200
- 34 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Ample to large margins, touched at top, cancelled by manuscript "S", red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from 109 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia" circular handstamp on folded cover to Philadelphia, handstamped on arrival, docketing indicates Boston origin on Aug. 29, 1844, Fine and scarce ..... E. 200-300





35

- 35 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Full to large margins, **manuscript "EHB" initials**, additionally cancelled by manuscript "X", red "Paid" and "Forwarded by American Letter Mail Company, Office, 56 Wall St., N.Y." oval handstamps on part-printed folded invoice dated May 29, 1845 from New York City **to New London, Conn.**, stamp has tiny bit of creasing and nicks along margins from separation, inconsequential and otherwise Very Fine, very scarce example of American Letter Mail Co. service to Connecticut, ex Schwartz..... E. 300-400



36

- 36 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Large to huge margins, two strikes of red "Paid" handstamp (one on stamp), tied by manuscript line on Mar. 1, 1845 folded letter **from Providence R.I. to Philadelphia**, slight wear along file fold, Very Fine, rare use of the Large Eagle stamp from Providence with the distinctive sans-serif "Paid" marking used at that office (four recorded by Bowman, *Independent Mails* book), ex Schwartz..... E. 200-300



## WESTBOUND CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE WITH WYMAN AND POMEROY



37

- 37 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Three large margins, touched at bottom, cancelled by red "Paid" handstamp, tied by filing crease on folded letter dated Boston Aug. 9, 1844, to Buffalo N.Y., orange-red "**Wm. Wyman's Letter Office, 8 Court St., Boston, 3 Wall St., N. York**" framed handstamp with matching small "PAID.", manuscript "12½" to the right of "Paid" beneath stamp, a **third type of "PAID" handstamp** (Pomeroy) struck in dark red at lower left, Aug. 13 receipt docketing, the writer mentions sending reply via Pomeroy

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE TRIPLE CONJUNCTIVE USE, INVOLVING WYMAN'S, AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY AND POMEROY'S FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM BOSTON TO BUFFALO.

This remarkable cover was the subject of an article by Richard Schwartz (*The Penny Post*, Apr. 1995), in which he describes the process that involved three different intercity letter expresses. The sender gave the letter to Wyman, whose main office was located in Boston and whose principal route was New York-Boston. Because Wyman did not serve Buffalo, the letter was given to the American Letter Mail Co. in Boston for transmission to its Albany office. ALMCo. had an arrangement with Pomeroy, who served the area west of Albany, including Buffalo. It was Pomeroy who brought the letter to its final destination.

The total postage paid by the sender was 12½ cents, as indicated by the manuscript rate applied first (covered by the stamp). At the time Mr. Schwartz wrote his analysis, he was unaware of the 12½ rate next to Wyman's small "Paid" handstamp. It is uncertain how the prepaid postage was divided among the three firms. The Large Eagle stamp clearly indicates that ALMCo. received half of the 12½ cents paid. Pomeroy's large red "Paid" at lower left also indicates that nothing was expected from the addressee, and we presume Pomeroy was paid for its services. Wyman, who did nothing but convey the letter to ALMCo. within Boston, may have received a share of the postage or nothing at all. There are no records or contemporary instructions that provide the answer to this question.

In terms of rarity, Schwartz commented "I know of only two other triple conjunctive usages entirely by independent mails: a Pomeroy to Hale to Crofoot...[and] the other triple use cover originated in Cleveland, destination New Haven, bearing Letter Express, Pomeroy, and American Letter Mail stamps..."

Ex Golden. With 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000

38



- 38 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Large to huge margins all around, uncanceled but tied by gum toning, used on Sep. 22, 1844 folded letter from Boston to Troy N.Y., small red "PAID." straightline handstamp applied by Wm. Wyman

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE CONJUNCTIVE USAGE, INVOLVING WYMAN'S AND AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM BOSTON TO TROY.

This cover is comparable to the Wyman-ALMCo.-Pomeroy triple-conjunctive usage from Boston to Buffalo (see lot 37), which was the subject of an article by Richard Schwartz (*The Penny Post*, Apr. 1995). However, in this case, only two firms were involved, because the American Letter Mail Co. maintained offices in Albany and Troy. The sender gave the letter to Wyman, whose main office was located in Boston and whose principal route was New York-Boston. Because Wyman did not serve Troy, the letter was given to ALMCo. in Boston for transmission to its Troy office via Albany. The stamp prepaid the ALMCo. postage. We can speculate that Wyman, who did nothing but convey the letter to ALMCo. within Boston, probably applied the stamp after collecting 5c from the sender.

With 2003 P.F. certificate ..... E. 1,500-2,000

39



- 39 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black on Gray (5L2).** Two large margins, other sides slightly in, tied by manuscript "X" cancel, red "Gilman's Express, Office, No. 9 Court Street, Boston" oval handstamp on blue folded cover to New York City, docketed Sep. 14 (1844), no origin indicated but probably in the Penobscot River area, sealed cover tear passes under stamp but does not affect it (the stamp popped up from cover, but has since been refastened), Fine and extremely scarce conjunctive usage — Gilman's operated between Bangor Me. and Boston — ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 500-750



## THE BLUE EAGLE

This use of the rare Blue Eagle stamp probably occurred soon before the Independent Mail firms were effectively abolished by the government. On July 1, 1845, the postage rate for distances under 300 miles was reduced to 5c per half-ounce. By the same Act of Congress, Federal law prohibited the carrying of letters by private companies between cities where the Post Office Department offered intercity mail service. American Letter Mail Company, which had aroused popular support for cheaper domestic postage, was a catalyst for the 1845 legislation. The company closed on June 30, 1845.

The Large Eagle stamp in Blue is recorded on covers dated from August 1844 through June 1845, with about half of the reported covers addressed to Hopkins & Weston in New York. The Blue and Black color scheme for the American Letter Mail Co. Large Eagle stamps, which lack a denomination (unlike their predecessor issue, the Small Eagle), may have been modeled upon Great Britain's 1840 Penny Black and Two-Pence Blue. The Blue stamp was used for the single rate, but its original unfulfilled purpose might have been to pay a double rate.



40

- 40 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Blue on Gray (5L3).** Margins mostly clear of inner frame-lines, tied by manuscript "J. Gray" cancel applied by agent John Gray on June 13, 1845 folded letter from Philadelphia to New York, red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. No. 101 Chestnut St. Philada." circular handstamp with matching "Paid" straightline, one panel of lettersheet removed and refolded slightly at bottom

VERY FINE. ONE OF TWO TIED EXAMPLES AMONG THE TWELVE RECORDED COVERS BEARING THE RARE BLUE EAGLE STAMP OF AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY.

Ex Gibson, Middendorf, Roth and Kuphal..... E. 4,000-5,000



41

- 41 ☒ **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Blue on Gray (5L3).** Margins to just touching frame, manuscript "DB" cancel (not tied), used on June 12, 1845 folded cover (portions of flaps missing) from Philadelphia to New York, red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. No. 101 Chestnut St. Philda." circular handstamp with matching "Paid" straightline handstamp  
VERY FINE. ONE OF TWELVE RECORDED COVERS BEARING THE RARE BLUE EAGLE STAMP OF AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY.

Ex Golden. Backstamped Toasperm. With 1999 P.F. certificate..... E. 2,000-3,000



42

- 42 **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Blue on Gray (5L3).** Three large margins, full at bottom, manuscript "EHB" cancel, tiny pinhole in letter "E" of cancel caused by pen, slight thin spot, Very Fine appearance, ex Schwartz..... E. 300-400



## AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY STAMPLESS MARKINGS



43

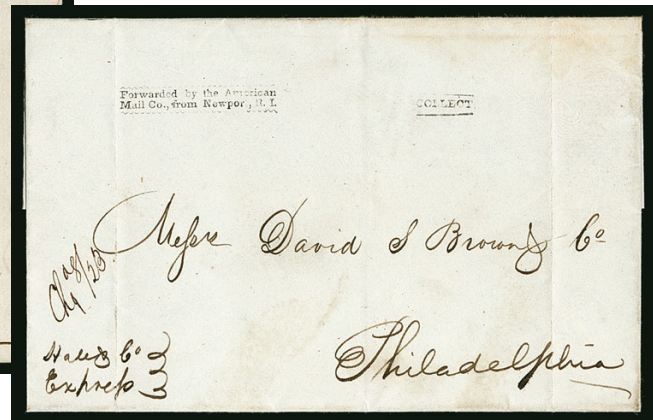


44

- 43 ☒ **Forwarded by/American Mail Co./No. 56 Wall St.—N.Y.** Red three-line handstamp with black "COLLECT." in ornamental frame handstamp on Jul. 18, 1844 folded letter from Philadelphia to Boston, half-inch tear at top clear of markings, otherwise Very Fine, Bowman records 12 examples of this type of "Collect" handstamp used at Philadelphia, ex Schwartz..... E. 100-150
- 44 ☒ **American Letter Mail Company, Office, 12 State Street, Boston.** Red oval handstamp and matching Collect box handstamp on folded letter **originating in Cavalla, Turkey**, May 5, 1844, addressed to New York City, entered regular mails at Boston with part strike of red "Boston Mass. Oct. 4" circular datestamp, matching "Ship" handstamp and ms. "20 $\frac{3}{4}$ " rate (18 $\frac{3}{4}$  plus 2c ship fee), returned to Boston by American Letter Mail Co., forwarding note on back dated Oct. 5, 1844, Very Fine, quite remarkable, sent from missionaries in Turkey to the U.S., entered government mails at Boston as a ship letter, then sent back to Boston by Independent Mail, ex Hall..... E. 500-750

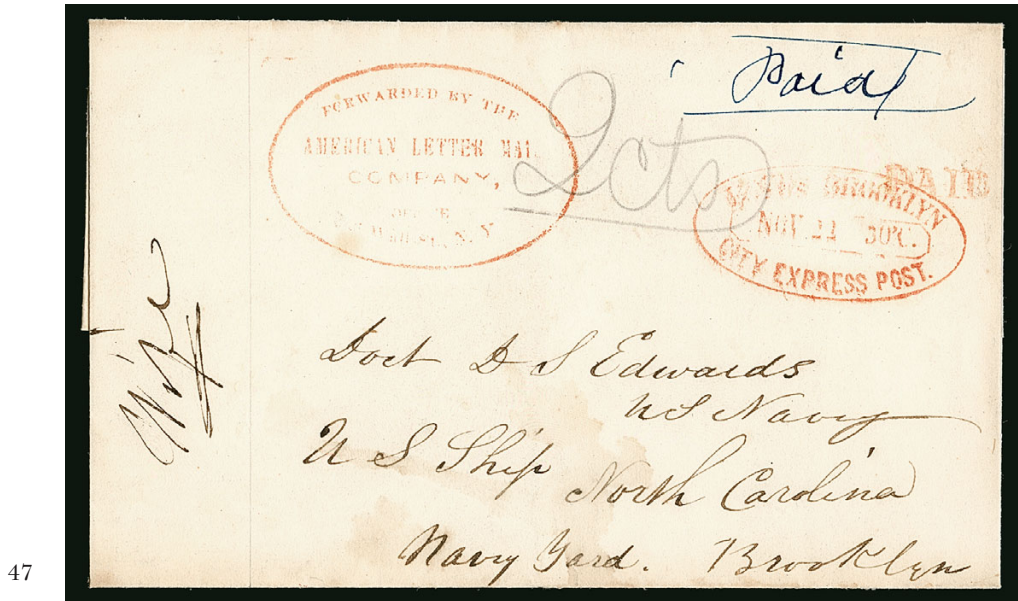


45



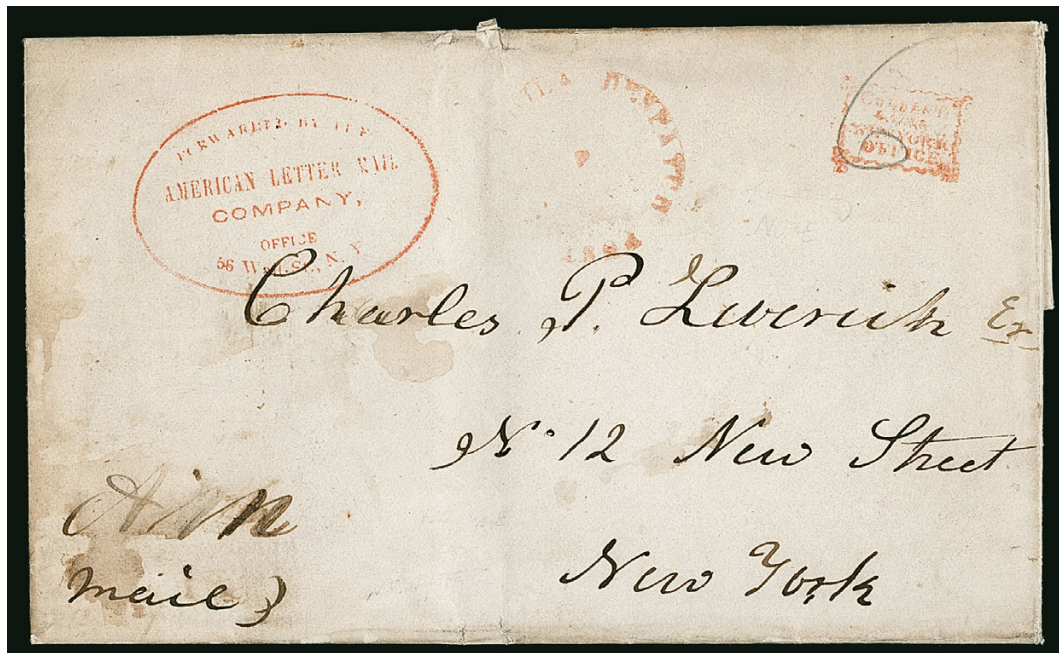
46

- 45 ☒ **Forwarded by the American/Mail Co., from Newport, R.I.** Tiny type in two lines between wavy-line rules, clearly struck with same style of "COLLECT." handstamp on Aug. 23, 1844 folded letter to Philadelphia (copy of Aug. 22 invoice), sender's directive "Express", red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 109 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia", manuscript "Charged 8th Mo 27", Extremely Fine, one of two recorded examples of this Newport R.I. marking (Bowman census gives date as Aug. 27 in error, *Independent Mails* book), ex Frajola..... E. 1,000-1,500
- 46 ☒ **Forwarded by the American/Mail Co., from Newport, R.I.** Tiny type in two lines between wavy-line rules, clearly struck with same style of "COLLECT." handstamp on folded cover to Philadelphia, sender's directive "Hale & Co. Express", manuscript "Chg Ag/23", docketing indicates origin at Newport on Aug. 21, 1844, Extremely Fine, one of two recorded examples of this Newport R.I. marking (Bowman census gives date as Aug. 25 in error, *Independent Mails* book), ex Schwartz..... E. 750-1,000



47

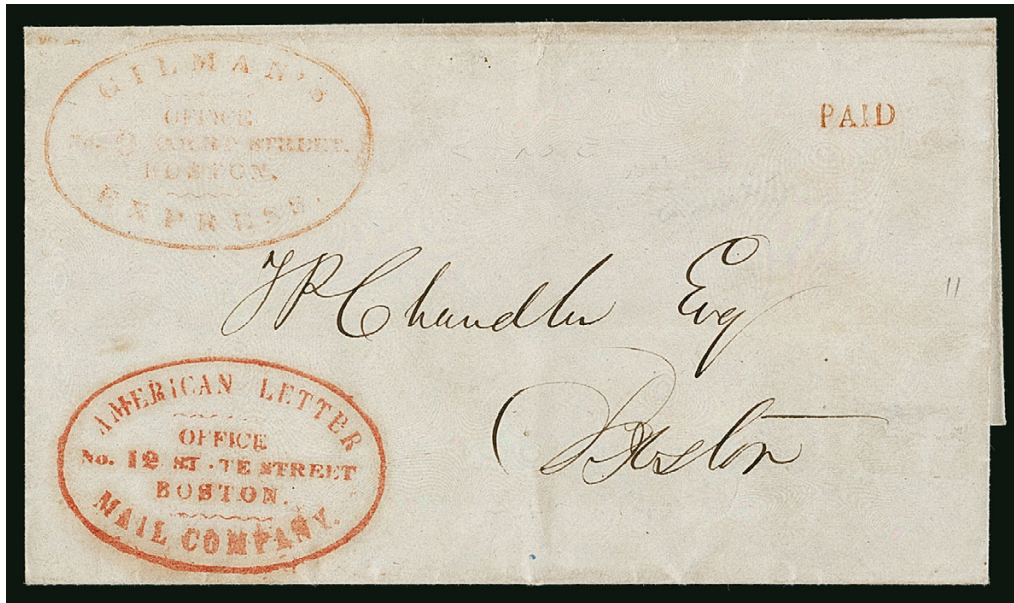
- 47 ☒ **Forwarded by American Letter Mail Company, Office, 56 Wall St., N.Y.** Red oval handstamp and matching "Paid" straightline handstamp on small folded cover to medical officer on board the U.S.S. *North Carolina* at Brooklyn Navy Yard, red "**Boyd's Brooklyn City Express Post Nov. 22 3 O'C**" oval datestamp, blue manuscript "Paid", pencil "2 cts" for local delivery in Brooklyn, lightly cleaned, Very Fine, one of two recorded examples of conjunctive service between American Letter Mail Co. and Boyd's Brooklyn City Express Post (at this time Brooklyn was another city), see lot 302 for a Wyman and Boyd's Brooklyn conjunctive use, Sloane notes on back, ex Schwartz ..... E. 750-1,000



48

- 48 ☒ **Forwarded by American Letter Mail Company, Office, 56 Wall St., N.Y.** Red oval handstamp and matching Collect box handstamp and pencil "6" rate on undated folded letter from Philadelphia to New York City street address, taken to the American Letter Mail Co. office in Philadelphia by **Philadelphia Despatch Post**, partly clear strike of red "Phila Despatch Post" circular datestamp, slight wear at top, Very Fine, the only recorded cover showing conjunctive service between the Philadelphia Despatch Post and an Independent Mail company, ex Schwartz ..... E. 750-1,000





49

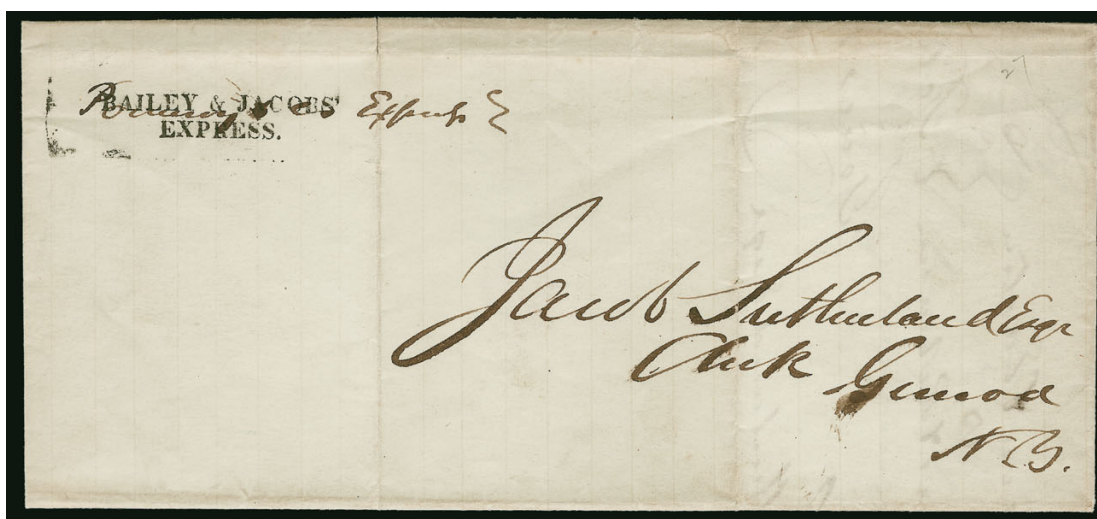
- 49 ☒ **Gilman's Express, Office, No. 9 Court Street, Boston.** Red oval handstamp and matching "Paid" straightline handstamp on folded cover to Boston, conjunctive service with red "American Letter Mail Company, Office, No. 12 State Street, Boston" oval handstamp perfectly struck, receipt docketing "John Appleton, Sept. 28, 1844" indicates probable origin at Portland, Very Fine, carried by Gilman from Portland to Boston on the Portland, Saco & Portsmouth and Eastern railroads, then handed to American Letter Mail Co. for service at Boston, ex Schwartz..... E. 300-400



50

- 50 ☒ **Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 101 Chestnut St. Philada. Jan. 3 (1845).** Red circular datestamp partly struck on blue folded cover to Philadelphia, **conjunctive use with slanted "Paid" handstamp** of unknown origin, Very Fine, the "Paid" is not recorded on any American Letter Mail Co. cover, ex Schwartz..... E. 200-300

## BAILEY &amp; JACOBS EXPRESS



51

- 51 ☒ **BAILEY & JACOBS' EXPRESS.** Two-line handstamp clearly struck over manuscript "*Pomeroy & Co. Express*" directive on legal-size folded cover to court clerk of Genoa N.Y., docketing on back with July 26, 1843 date from unknown origin, internal court docketing, file folds, Very Fine, the only recorded example of the Bailey & Jacobs Express handstamped marking, this short-lived competitor of Pomeroy was established in Buffalo with George P. Stevenson as agent (later Bailey & Howard's Express), it advertised service between Buffalo, Albany, New York, Boston and Toronto, the express under this name closed in September 1843..... E. 750-1,000

## BATES &amp; COMPANY



52

53

- 52 ☒ **Forwarded by Bates & Co. from New Bedford.** Perfect strikes of red oval handstamp and Collect 6c box handstamp on folded letter datelined at Harwich Mass., Nov. 16, 1844, to New York City, addressed in blue to ship captain with directive "*pr Sch. Eliza*", Very Fine, E. C. Bates operated a letter express between New Bedford, Boston and New York City in 1844 thru mid-1845, only 21 letters are recorded, including eleven with New Bedford oval and four with the 6c Collect box (Gutman census, *Independent Mails* book), ex Schwartz ..... E. 300-400
- 53 ☒ **Forwarded by Bates & Co. from New York.** Clear strike of red oval handstamp and Collect 6¼c box handstamp on folded cover to Taunton Mass., docketing indicates Feb. 21, 1845 origin date, small faint stain at top, Very Fine, E. C. Bates operated a letter express between New Bedford, Boston and New York City in 1844 thru mid-1845, only 21 letters are recorded, including four with New York oval (Gutman census, *Independent Mails* book), ex Schwartz ..... E. 200-300



## BRAINARD &amp; COMPANY

Brainard & Company operated to and from New York, Albany and Troy on the Hudson River steamboats, except during the winter when navigation was impossible. There are no advertisements for Brainard & Co., but a Hale & Co. June 22, 1844 advertisement identifies Brainard as Hale's agent in Albany (14 Exchange) and L. Farwell as the agent in Troy (200 River Street, later changed to 230 River Street).

The Gutman census in the *Independent Mails* book records 13 Black 24L1 covers and 19 Blue 24L2 covers. Based on recorded covers, it appears that the Blue stamps were accepted by agents in Albany (stamps initialed "B" in two different styles) and Troy (initialed "F"), and the Black stamps were used on mail carried by agents through Albany or Troy interchangeably. The initials on the Blue stamps may have been precancels applied to control distribution and accounting. The Black stamps do not have initials.

The "F" initial is believed to have been applied by Hale's Troy agent, L. Farwell. The Hudson River was frozen from December 11, 1844, to February 24, 1845, and therefore closed to navigation. The Housatonic Railroad to Bridgeport was used to carry mail to New York City during this period.

## THE ONLY RECORDED BLOCK OF ANY BRAINARD &amp; COMPANY ISSUE



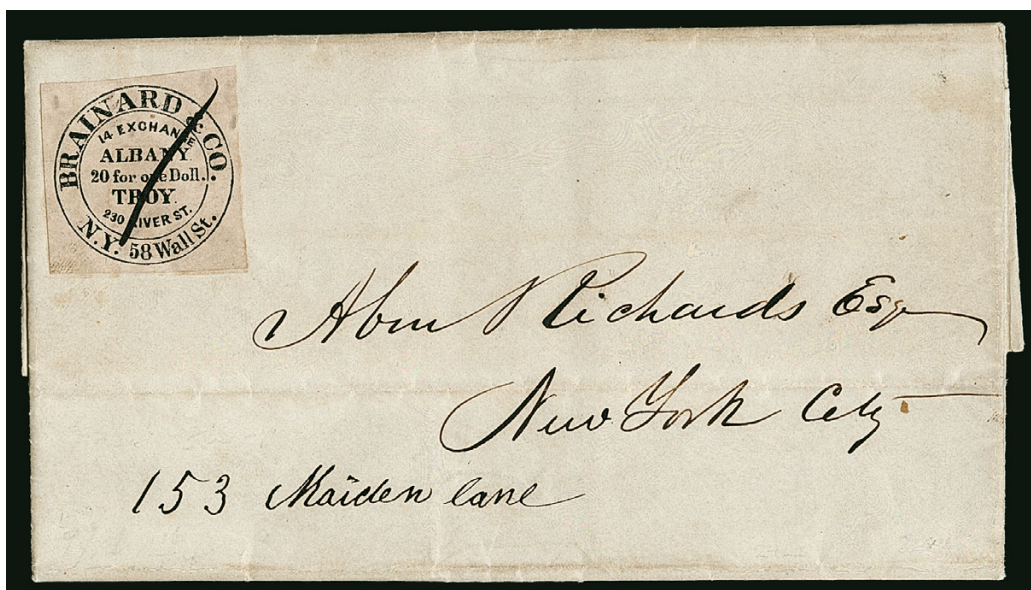
54

54 (★)田 **Brainard & Co., New York-Albany-Troy, 5c Black (24L1).** Unused block of four (no gum), large to huge margins including right sheet margin, sharp impression, a few creases in top pair and tiny stain spot in top right stamp

EXTREMELY FINE APPEARANCE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED MULTIPLE OF EITHER BRAINARD & COMPANY ISSUE. AN EXTRAORDINARY BLOCK, WHICH ONLY CAME TO LIGHT FIVE YEARS AGO.

None of the major collections of *Independent Mails* contained a multiple of the rare Brainard & Co. stamps, and no record of a multiple can be found in published or unpublished sources. This block of four surfaced in a 2011 Jacques C. Schiff auction and was acquired by Dr. Puliafito. It is the only recorded block of the Brainard Black or Blue stamps, and we know of no other multiples.

With 2011 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000



55

- 55 ☒ **Brainard & Co., New York-Albany-Troy, 5c Black (24L1).** Large margins all around, cancelled by diagonal pen stroke, used on Sep. 16, 1844 folded letter from Troy N.Y. to New York City with street address for delivery, perfect condition

EXTREMELY FINE. A SUPERB EXAMPLE OF THE RARE BRAINARD & COMPANY 5-CENT BLACK STAMP ON COVER FROM TROY, NEW YORK.

The Brainard & Co. Black stamps were used interchangeably on letters carried on the company's routes between New York City, Albany and Troy. This folded letter from Troy is one of the finest of all Brainard & Co. covers bearing stamps.

Signed Stern. Ex Frajola. With 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000



56

- 56 ☒ **Brainard & Co., New York-Albany-Troy, 5c Black (24L1).** Cut octagonally, tied by pen line, red "Forwarded by Brainard & Co. Albany" oval handstamp on folded cover addressed in blue to New York City, pencil street address added for delivery, docketed with July 18, 1844 origin date, no side panels but it appears that is the way it was mailed, Fine, very rare and seldom found tied, ex Knapp and Schwartz ..... E. 1,000-1,500



CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE FROM ALBANY TO PHILADELPHIA AND  
THE EARLIEST RECORDED USE OF ANY BRAINARD ISSUE



57

- 57 ☒ **Brainard & Co., New York-Albany-Troy, 5c Blue (24L2).** Large margins all around showing trace of adjoining stamp above, cancelled by brownish-violet **manuscript "B" initial** — the earlier and more ornate version, presumably applied by Brainard in Albany — used on **July 5, 1844** folded letter from Albany N.Y. to Philadelphia, Cornelius & Co. correspondence, **conjunctive service with Hale & Co. or American Letter Mail Co.**, no markings but Brainard & Co. used other Independent Mail companies to carry letters south of New York City, file fold

EXTREMELY FINE. THIS IS THE EARLIEST RECORDED USE OF ANY BRAINARD & COMPANY STAMP. IT IS ALSO A RARE EXAMPLE OF CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE BETWEEN BRAINARD AND ONE OF THE LARGER COMPANIES THAT CARRIED MAIL BETWEEN NEW YORK CITY AND PHILADELPHIA.

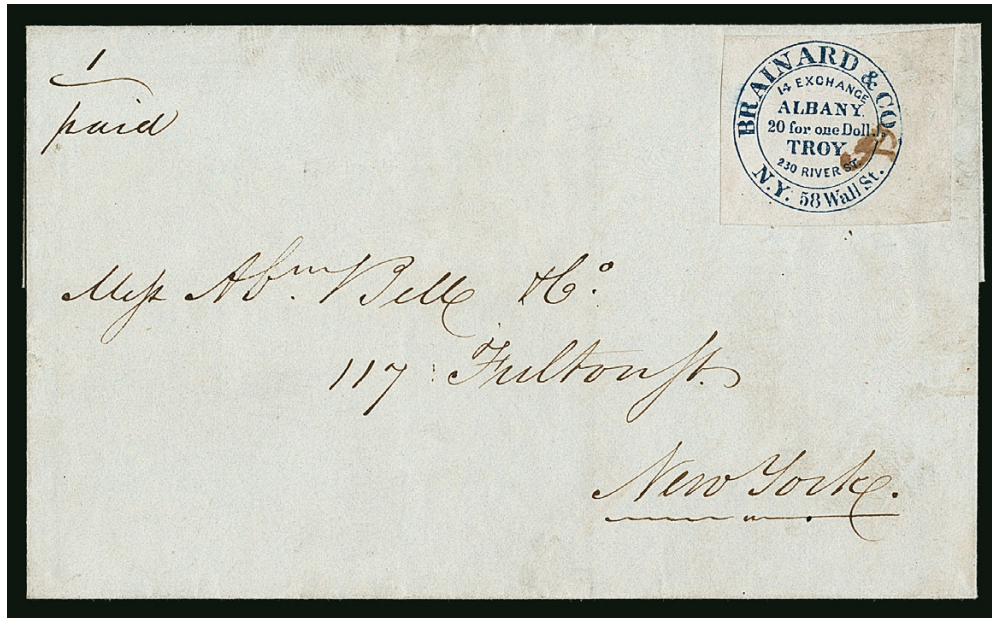
This is the earliest date of all recorded Brainard & Co. covers, including stamped covers with 13 of the Black 24L1 and 19 of the Blue 24L2 (Gutman census, *Independent Mails* book).

The cover offered here bears the Brainard & Co. Blue stamp, cancelled by the "B" in manuscript, of which there are at least two distinct versions. Brainard & Co. provided service from Troy and Albany, but not to Philadelphia, thus the letter was given to Hale & Co. or American Letter Mail Co. (transfer point unknown).

We record four Brainard & Co. 5c Black 24L1 covers from Albany to Cornelius & Co. in Philadelphia, each of which involved conjunctive service between Brainard (Albany to New York City) and Hale (New York City to Philadelphia). The dates are July (docketed "Jul/44"), Sep. 3, Sep. 9 and Nov. 26 (with two Brainard stamps). In three cases, the Brainard stamp paid half of the postage, and the other half (Hale's share) was represented by a "6" due marking and Hale's Collect box. In this case, the Blue stamp pays for Brainard's service, but it is unclear how the additional postage for service beyond New York City was collected, or which company handled the letter.

With 2006 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000

INITIALED "F" BY HALE'S TROY AGENT, L. FARWELL



58

- 58 ☒ **Brainard & Co., New York-Albany-Troy, 5c Blue (24L2).** Enormous margins including right sheet margin, cancelled by manuscript "F" initial of Hale's Troy agent L. Farwell, used on undated blue folded cover to New York City street address, sender's notation "1/Paid" corroborating use of stamp and Brainard's service

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THE FINEST OF ALL RECORDED BRAINARD & COMPANY STAMPED COVERS.

An advertisement placed by Hale & Co. on June 22, 1844, identifies the firm's Albany agent as Brainard & Co. and its Troy agent as L. Farwell with an office at 200 River Street (later changed to 230 River Street). Covers from Troy are known with Brainard stamps initialed "F" (Farwell).

Collector's pencil source notation on back "Barron Sept. 1936". Ex Schwartz .....  
..... E. 2,000-3,000



CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE WITH AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY  
FROM ALBANY TO BOSTON



59

- 59 ☒ **Brainard & Co., New York-Albany-Troy, 5c Blue (24L2).** Large margins, cancelled by brownish-violet manuscript “B” initial — the earlier and more ornate version, presumably applied by Brainard in Albany — faint red “Forwarded by Brainard & Co. from Albany” oval and conjunctive red “**American Letter Mail Company, Office, No. 12 State Street, Boston**” oval handstamp on Aug. 23, 1844 folded letter from Albany to Boston, pencil “Paid/ALM” (American Letter Mail Co.), file folds clear of stamp

EXTREMELY FINE. AN OUTSTANDING COVER BEARING THE RARE BRAINARD BLUE STAMP USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY SERVICE.

This cover bears the Brainard & Co. Blue stamp, cancelled by the “B” in manuscript, of which there are at least two distinct versions. The ornate “B” seen on this stamp is also found on a Blue 24L2 cover dated July 5, 1844, the earliest recorded use of any Brainard & Co. stamp (see lot 57). Other “B” cancels follow on Sep. 5, 1844, and in 1845, all of which are in a simpler style.

The cover offered here is one of only three Brainard & Co. stamped covers in our records showing conjunctive use with the American Letter Mail Company and one of only two with the Blue 24L2 stamp.

Ex Caspary and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate which opines that the stamp was lifted and replaced, which is utter nonsense..... E. 2,000-3,000



60



61



62



63

- 60 ☒ **Forwarded by Brainard & Co. from Troy.** Red oval handstamp with matching “6” handstamp and red “American Letter Mail Company, Office, No. 12 State Street, Boston” oval handstamp on Sep. 6, 1844 folded letter from Troy N.Y. to Boston, worn file fold, otherwise Very Fine, scarce conjunctive use of Brainard & Co. and American Letter Mail Co., ex Golden..... E. 150-200

## BRAINARD'S EXPRESS

- 61 ☒ **Forwarded by Brainard's Express, 82 Washington St., Boston.** Red oval handstamp and “Collect/3/Cents” box handstamp perfectly struck on Apr. 29, 1845 folded letter from New York City to Boston street address, Very Fine, this is the first 3c intercity rate in the U.S., only twelve covers are recorded, including eight from Boston (Gutman census, *Independent Mails* book), ex Schwartz..... E. 200-300
- 62 ☒ **Forwarded by Brainard's Express, 125 Fulton St. N. York.** Clearly struck red oval handstamp and matching “Paid” straightline handstamp on blue Jun. 13, 1845 folded letter from Boston to New York City, Extremely Fine, only four of the twelve recorded Brainard's Express covers have the New York marking and three have the “Paid” handstamp (Gutman census, *Independent Mails* book), ex Schwartz... E. 300-400
- 63 ☒ **Forwarded by Brainard's Express, 125 Fulton St., N. York.** Red oval handstamp and “Collect/3/Cents” box handstamp on Apr. 4, 1845 folded letter **from London, England, to New York City**, street address added in blue manuscript, minor erosion from ink thru lettersheet, Fine, this is the first 3c intercity rate in the U.S., only twelve covers are recorded and this is the only one originating outside the U.S. (Gutman census, *Independent Mails* book), ex Hahn ..... E. 200-300





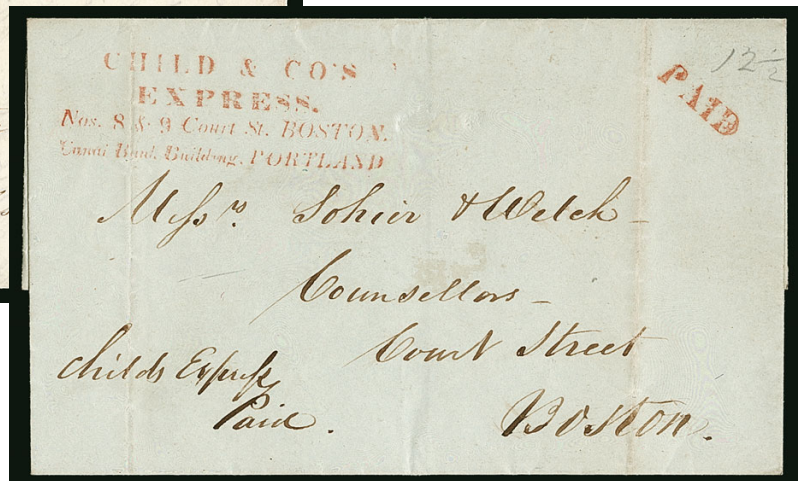
64

- 64 ☒ **"Brainards Express Paid 6"**. Unusual style of red manuscript express marking, faint but readable **"Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Albany"** oval handstamp and matching "Paid" straightline on Jun. 26, 1845 folded letter from Albany to New York City street address, mailed four days before ban on Independent Mails, Very Fine, extremely rare Brainard & Co. marking, ex Hahn..... E. 400-500

E. F. BROWN AND CHILD & COMPANY



65



66

- 65 ☒ **Forwarded from E. F. Brown's Periodical & News Office, No. 6 Merchants Row, Cabotville Ms.** Red six-line handstamp in double-line frame with matching script "Paid" handstamp on Sep. 23, 1844 folded letter to Charlestown Mass., file fold, lightly-inked but fully readable strike, Very Fine, extremely rare, Cabotville is situated on the Connecticut River three miles north of Springfield, Hale did not have his own office in Cabotville, but used Elisha F. Brown's news office as his agent, ex Hall..... E. 400-500
- 66 ☒ **Child & Co.'s Express, Nos. 8 & 9 Court St. Boston. Canal Bank Building, Portland.** Four-line handstamp in red with "Paid" and pencil "12 1/2" rate on folded cover to Boston with Mar. 15, 1845 receipt docketing on back identifies sender as Fessenden & Deblois (Portland attorneys), file folds, Very Fine, an outstanding strike of this extremely scarce marking (19 recorded in Sammis census, *Independent Mails* book), ex Golden..... E. 400-500

## H. T. CROFOOT'S NEWBURYPORT LETTER OFFICE



67

- 67 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Position 17 “Wail” instead of “Wall” variety, Second State of plate (undamaged), slightly irregular right margin but clear to large on other sides, manuscript “C” initial probably applied as a cancel, brownish “Forwarded by Hale & Co.’s Great Eastern Mail” oval handstamp used in conjunction with bold red “H. T. Crofoot’s Newburyport Letter Office” oval handstamp on Oct. 16, 1844 folded letter to Worcester, turned and re-used from Worcester to New York City with Hale’s red Collect box — the first letter is from John Balch to his brother, Benjamin, coldly informing Ben he will not lend him money; in response, Ben has forwarded the letter to Josiah Hale in New York City, with a letter explaining the situation and referring to his brother with an anti-Semitic slur — file folds thru stamp, still Fine, a very scarce and unusual conjunctive usage, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate. E. 500-750

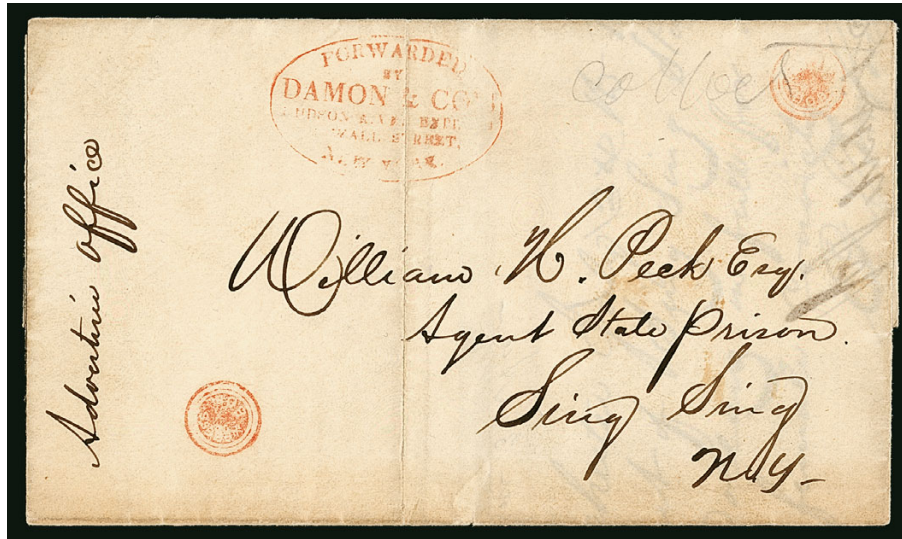


68

- 68 ☒ **H. T. Crofoot’s Letter Office, Newburyport.** Red oval handstamp and matching “Collect/6¼ cents” box handstamp clearly struck, conjunctive “Hale & Co.’s Mail, 23 State Street, Boston” oval handstamp and Collect box on Dec. 3, 1844 folded letter from Byfield Mass. to Brooklyn N.Y. street address, slight wear along top fold, the Independent Mail route operated by Hosea T. Crofoot linked with Hale and American Letter Mail Co. at Boston, ex Schwartz..... E. 200-300



DAMON & COMPANY



69

- 69 ☒ **Forwarded by Damon & Co's Hudson River Express, 3 Wall Street, New-York.** Red oval handstamp and two strikes of matching "XPRESS/BOB" small mirror-image letters in circle within double circular frame, pencil "Collect" on Aug. 25, 1844 folded receipt (payment for an ad notice for "letting female convicts") from newspaper publisher to state prison at Sing Sing N.Y., file fold, Very Fine, Hahn reports this as the latest Damon usage before it was absorbed by Overton, the small circular handstamp is only known on this cover, ex deLisle and Hahn ..... E. 500-750

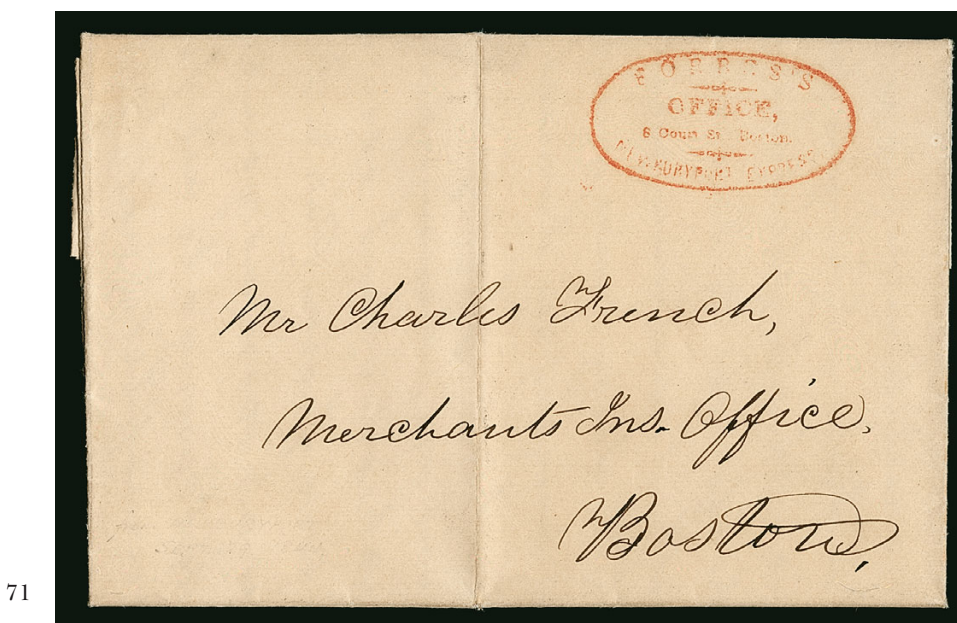
DAVENPORT & COMPANY



70

- 70 ☒ **Forwarded by Davenport & Co. 29½ State Street, Boston.** Dark reddish-brown oval handstamp with matching "5" rate handstamp, pencil "7" rate (5c plus 2c local delivery charge) on Jun. 16, 1845 folded letter from Boston to New York City, conjunctive use with partly clear strike of red "City Mail Office, Broad Street" oval handstamp, a small part of receipt docketing shows at top, soiling along file folds, still Very Fine and scarce, Perry believed Davenport & Co.'s express started in the spring of 1845 and was forced to discontinue soon after on June 30 by the Act of 1845, Hahn lists five examples, ex Golden ..... E. 300-400

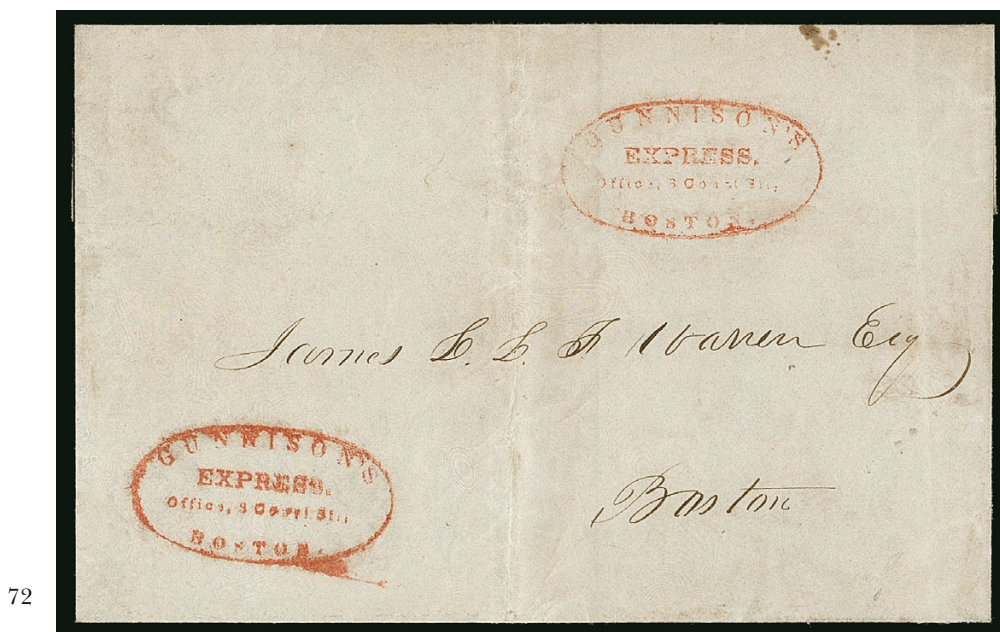
FORBES'S NEWBURYPORT EXPRESS



71

- 71 ☒ **Forbes's Newburyport Express, Office, 8 Court St. Boston.** Red oval handstamp on Sep. 29, 1844 folded letter to Charles French at Boston from his mother at Newburyport, fresh and Very Fine, extremely rare marking from this New England package express operated by William Forbes, only three recorded in Gutman census (*Independent Mails* book), ex Hall ..... E. 400-500

GUNNISON'S EXPRESS

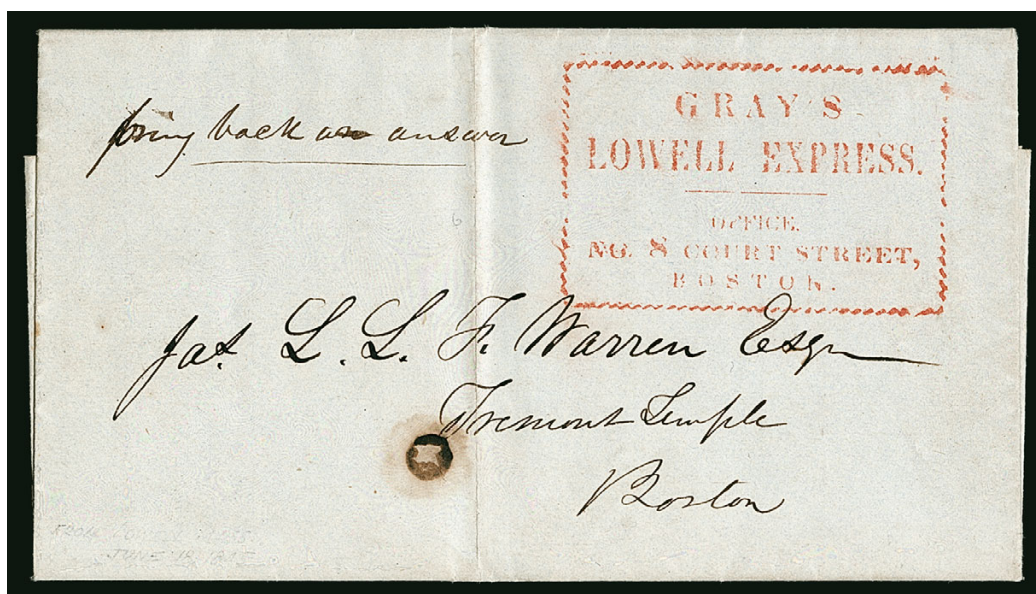


72

- 72 ☒ **Gunnison's Express, Office, 8 Court St., Boston.** Red oval handstamp struck twice on Apr. 29, 1845 folded letter from Eastport Me. to Boston, instructions on back "To be left at Gunnisons office 8 Court St. Saturday with your bill", Extremely Fine and exceedingly rare marking, Joseph G. Gunnison's express operated between Boston, Calais and Eastport Me., and St. Johns N.B., only six examples are recorded (Sammis census, *Independent Mails* book), ex Hall ..... E. 400-500



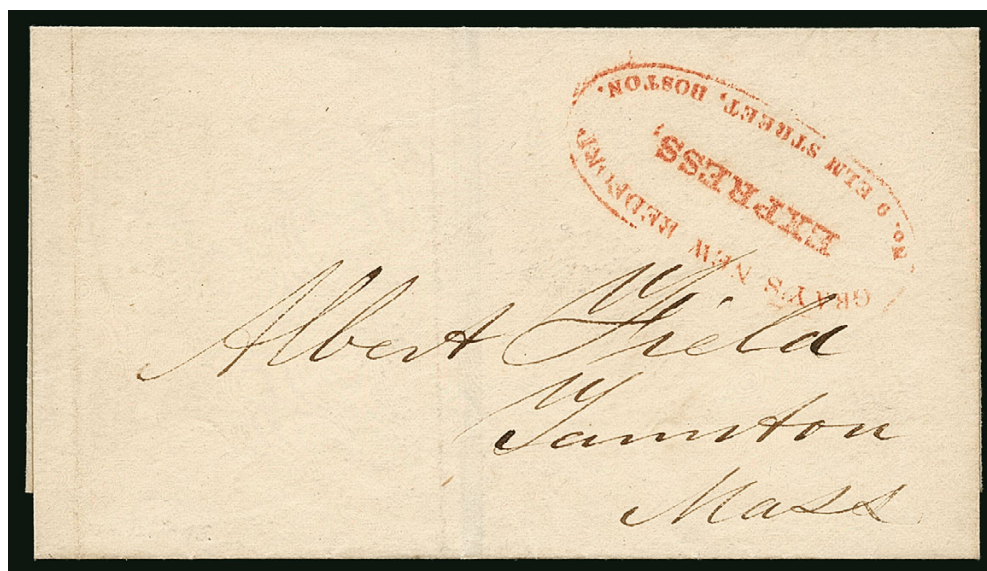
GRAY'S LOWELL EXPRESS



73

- 73 ☒ **Gray's Lowell Express, Office, No. 8 Court Street, Boston.** Five-line framed handstamp in red on June 18, 1845 folded letter from Lowell Mass. to Boston, sender's instructions "bring back an answer", small erosion spot from ink drop, still Very Fine and scarce, only twelve examples recorded (Gutman census, *Independent Mails* book), ex Schwartz..... E. 300-400

GRAY'S NEW BEDFORD EXPRESS



74

- 74 ☒ **Gray's New Bedford Express, No. 9 Elm Street, Boston.** Red oval handstamp clearly struck on folded cover to Taunton, origin unknown but docketed "Gwynneth & Co. Feb. 12/45" which points to New Bedford Mass., Extremely Fine, this package express is believed to have been founded by Gilbert Gray, only four examples recorded (Gutman census, *Independent Mails* book), ex Hall..... E. 500-750

## HALE &amp; COMPANY

## The Largest of the Independent Mail Companies

Hale & Company was founded by James W. Hale (1801-1892) in December 1843, immediately after the decision in *United States v. Adams & Company*, which seemed to green-light private competition with the U.S. Post Office on intercity mail routes. Hale, an experienced expressman and steamboat agent, had come to New York City from Boston in 1836 and worked at Hudson's News Room, which he bought and renamed the Tontine Reading Room. Hale had offered a variety of mail-forwarding services before starting his letter express, and he quickly emerged as the leader, with a vast network of offices and agents, and a purported 60% share of the Independent Mails.

The strength of Hale's business lay in its cooperative arrangements with other companies. In later life, Hale claimed to have had 110 offices and 1,100 employees, but most of them were probably independent operators who served as Hale's local agents. These smaller firms collected and delivered letters, and transported them over routes between large cities and smaller towns. Railroads and steamboats were used to carry the mail, either in a handheld valise or in an express rail car.

Through feeder routes and in cooperation with other companies that served the midwest, Hale & Co. was able to extend its reach to more than a thousand miles away, and at a fraction of the cost of the government mail service. A total of nearly 150 cities were served by Hale and his agents, according to advertised offices and agents. As Gutman points out in his Hale book and the *Independent Mails* book, some of the cities listed by Hale might have been used for promotional purposes, but actually carried little, if any, mail.

During Hale & Co.'s Independent Mail period, the firm also offered international service and advertised rates to different countries. The letter in this sale addressed to Nova Scotia via St. John, New Brunswick, is the only recorded example of a letter carried by Hale & Co. on one of its advertised international routes (see lot 128).

Hale & Company issued adhesive stamps. The design pictures overlapping envelopes, some with pertinent information, such as the company's addresses in New York City and Boston, and the twenty-for-a-dollar discount rate. The stereotype plate of twenty subjects (five across, four high) was built up from a matrix. The original matrix was used to create a block of four units (A-B/C-D). The A-B/C-D group was used to make four stereos. Finally, the original stereo was divided into units A/C and B/D and placed in the last vertical column. Thus, the plate layout reflects the following arrangement:

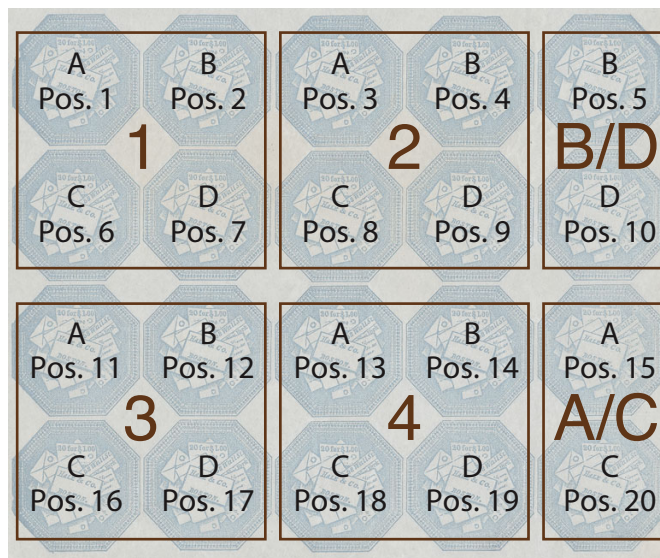


Diagram showing layout of stereotype plate. The letters correspond to units in the original stereo block of four. Stereos 1-4 made from the original four-unit stereo, which was divided and used in Positions 5/10 (B/D) and 15/20 (A/C).

There are three distinct states of the stereotype plate used to print Hale's stamps. In the First State, the "13 Court St." address is included in the design (Scott 75L1 in Blue and 75L2 in Red). The address line was removed from each position on the plate after Hale closed its 13 Court Street office, which gives us the Second State of the plate (Scott 75L5 in Blue only). This occurred sometime in May 1844, and the earliest recorded date of use of a stamp from the modified plate is May 20, 1844. The Third State of the plate resulted from damage to positions in the left and right vertical columns, especially Position 1, which shows a severe dent at upper left.



THE ONLY RECORDED BLOCK OF  
THE FIRST ISSUE WITH "13 COURT ST." ADDRESS



75

- 75 ★田 **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue (75L1).** First State Positions 1-3/6-8/11-13/16-18, block of twelve comprising first three vertical columns of sheet with huge sheet margins on three sides, right margin large to just touching, original gum, each stamp with **magenta manuscript "AB" control initials of Amos Bates, Hale & Company's New Bedford Mass. agent**, several vertical creases and one horizontal crease across center, some wrinkles and slight creasing in selvage, toned spots

THE ONLY RECORDED BLOCK OF THE HALE & COMPANY 5-CENT FIRST ISSUE WITH "13 COURT ST." ADDRESS. A SPECTACULAR MULTIPLE THAT WAS INITIALED BY AMOS BATES, THE HALE AGENT AT NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS.

Unused blocks of Hale's stamps are extremely rare. We record four, all offered in this sale of Dr. Puliafito's collection: 1) 75L1, block of 12 with original gum, ms. "AB" initials (Amos Bates, New Bedford agent), offered here; 2) 75L5, the unique complete sheet, Third State, ex Lilly, Hall, Gordon N. John, offered in lot 109; 3) 75L5, block of fifteen with original gum, Second State Positions 1-3/6-9/11-14/16-19, ex Hall, offered in lot 110; and 4) 75L5, unused block of nine, Third State Positions 1-3/6-8/11-13, ex Schwartz, offered in lot 111.

Until this block emerged from hiding in a 2013 Spink New York auction, not one block of the Hale & Co. First Issue with "13 Court St." address was known. The existence of this block was not even recorded in the published and unpublished references. As recently as 2005, when Michael S. Gutman published his book on Hale & Co., he stated "...no full plate or large multiple of the 75L1 exists..." The only complete sheet of the 5c with address deleted is offered in lot 109, and the few other unused multiples come from the modified plate.

The Hale & Co. agent in New Bedford, Massachusetts, was Amos Bates, whose office was located at 92 Union Street. Bates also ran his own express company under the name Bates & Co. The Hale stamps used from New Bedford are known with the manuscript initials "NB" (New Bedford) and "AB" (Amos Bates). This block of twelve dramatically shows how these initials were applied to each stamp in the sheet before sale. The same use of control initials would be practiced at the New York post office in 1845.

We are unable to provide provenance for this important artifact of the Independent Mail era. Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. .... E. 3,000-4,000

## STRIP OF THREE WITH "WAIL" PLATE VARIETY



76

- 76 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue (75L1).** First State Positions 17-19, horizontal strip of three, **left stamp "Wail" instead of "Wall" variety**, large margins to just barely in at top, deep shade and sharp impression, cancelled by three strikes of red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office 13/Court St., Boston" boxed handstamp, used on July 5, 1844 folded letter and part-printed bill of lading from Boston to New York City

VERY FINE. AN OUTSTANDING TRIPLE-RATE FRANKING PAID BY A CHOICE STRIP OF THE "13 COURT ST." ISSUE WITH THE "WAIL" PLATE VARIETY.

The Hale & Co. stamps were often cut into singles for convenience, making strips of three or larger extremely unusual. This strip contains Position 17, which shows the broken letter in "Wall" that produced the "Wail" variety.

Signed Robson Lowe. Ex Boker and Golden. With 2000 P.F. certificate ... E. 2,000-3,000



## STRIP OF THREE ON PELURE PAPER



77

- 77 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue on Pelure (75L1a).** First State Positions 2-4, horizontal strip of three, huge margins including **top sheet margin** and parts of four adjoining stamps, light pastel shade on very thin pelure paper, cancelled by three strikes of "Collect/6 Cents/for/Boston Office" in wavy-line frame handstamp (impression ties thru paper) on undated folded cover to Howland & Aspinwall, New York City, strip has small faint stain spot and a few insignificant flaws at the edge of the top sheet margin

EXTREMELY FINE. A SUPERB STRIP OF THE HALE & COMPANY "13 COURT ST." FIRST ISSUE ON PELURE PAPER, USED ON AN ATTRACTIVE TRIPLE-RATE COVER.

Sloane notes on back. Ex Souren and Schwartz. .... E. 2,000-3,000

## CORNER SHEET-MARGIN STRIP OF THREE



78

- 78 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue (75L1).** First State Positions 1-3, horizontal strip of three with **top left corner sheet margins** and large margins except where clear at bottom right, bright shade, **tied** by four strikes of red Boston "Paid" cancel on folded cover to New York City, docketing indicates Salem Mass. origin on Jun. 9 (1844), file fold

EXTREMELY FINE. A MAGNIFICENT SHEET-MARGIN STRIP OF THE FIRST HALE & CO. ISSUE USED ON AN ATTRACTIVE COVER.

The Hale stamps were usually cut into singles for convenient use, making multiples scarce and strips of three or larger rare.

Ex "German" sale and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000



## USED AS FORWARDING POSTAGE ON INBOUND SHIP LETTER



79

- 79 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue on Pelure (75L1a).** Early printing in deep shade on pelure paper, neatly cut to shape, used on blue folded letter **from Paris, France, to Boston, forwarded to New York City by Hale & Co.,** receipt docketing indicates Paris origin on Feb. 27, 1845, forwarder's notation on back "*Recd Boston 18 March 1845 3 PM SCT*" (S. C. Thiving), Paris and Liverpool transit datestamps, red framed "PD", red "Ship 6" in ribbon handstamp applied at Boston (paid by Thiving), stamp affixed at upper left and **typed** by red "Paid" straightline, file folds, one barely affects stamp (not noted on certificate)

VERY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED USE OF A HALE STAMP ON A SHIP LETTER ORIGINATING IN EUROPE. ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE INDEPENDENT MAIL COVERS EXTANT.

The letter was directed by the sender to go via "*Halifax Steamer of 4th March, via Liverpool, England*", but in fact it was sent by another ship. On arrival at Boston, it was marked 6c due for an inbound ship letter. The Boston forwarder, S. C. Thiving, paid the 6c and affixed the Hale stamp for transit to the addressee in New York City.

The Gutman Hale book records three covers from France, two of which have Hale stamps. These are the only covers of foreign origin with Hale adhesives. The letter offered here is the only cover that entered the U.S. as a ship letter with the appropriate 6c charge. The others were carried outside the mails and sent by Hale to their destinations.

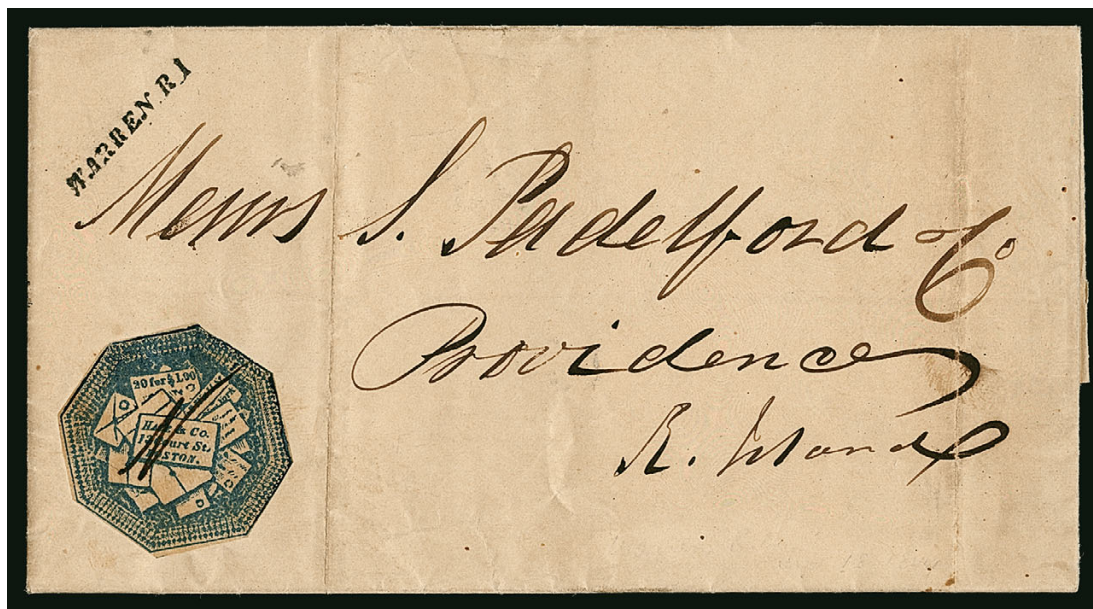
Illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 335). Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate as 75L1 var  
..... E. 2,000-3,000



- 80 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue (75L1).** Full margins to just touched, sharp impression, cancelled by large manuscript "P" initial, red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from 17 S. Third Street, Philadelphia" oval handstamp on folded cover to New York City, docketed with Nov. 21, 1844 origin date, one side panel missing, lightly soiled along file fold, Very Fine, scarce cancel, ex Schwartz ..... E. 200-300
- 81 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue (75L1).** First State Position 4, two ample to large margins, other sides touching, red Boston "Paid" cancel, matching strike on folded cover to "Box 23 Hales P.O. New York", docketing indicates origin at Salem on Jun. 10 (probably 1844), light soiling, Very Fine, unusual address reference, Hale & Co. kept boxes for their patrons, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 150-200
- 82 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue (75L1).** Neatly cut to shape with margins all around, tied by red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Boston" oval and "Paid" handstamp, second strike of Paid over Collect box on June 6, 1845 folded letter to New York City, Very Fine, ex Golden..... E. 150-200
- 83 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue on Pelure (75L1a).** Neatly cut to shape, beautiful color and impression from early printing on pelure paper, tied by red Collect box with matching "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Cour. & Enq. Building New York" oval handstamp on Aug. 30, 1844 folded letter to Boston, sender's directive "Per Hale & Co. Express", file fold, Very Fine, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate as 75L1 ..... E. 200-300
- 84 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue (75L1, 75L1a).** Two, each cut to shape and tied by handstamps on separate folded letters: No. 75L1 tied by red Boston "Paid", May 29, 1845 to New York City, late use of the "13 Court St." issue; No. 75L1a tied by red New York oval handstamp, Aug. 10, 1844, to Boston (with 2001 P.F. certificate as 75L1, but it is pelure paper), Very Fine.....(Photo Ex) E. 150-200



## THE ONLY RECORDED WARREN R.I. STRAIGHTLINE ON COVER



85

- 85 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Dark Blue (75L1).** Remarkable deep shade and heavy impression, cut to shape, **manuscript "N" initial** probably applied as a cancel at Providence R.I., perfect pitch-black strike of "**WARREN R.I.**" straightline in diminutive italic type on Sep. 18, 1844 folded letter from Warren to Providence, file folds clear of stamp, stamp has very faint toning and slight wrinkle

EXTREMELY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED GENUINE COVER WITH THE HALE & COMPANY WARREN OFFICE STRAIGHTLINE.

Warren lies between Providence R.I. and New Bedford Mass., approximately ten miles southeast of Providence. The "N" initial is probably a cancellation applied by one of Hale's agents in Providence. The unusual straightline handstamp used on this cover is possibly an independent agent's own creation, as it is unlike the standard markings used by Hale's offices. Only one other example is recorded, which is a stamp with two strikes that has been affixed to an 1838 stampless cover.

Illustrated and described in Gutman's Hale book (page 325) and in the *Independent Mails* book. Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 2,000-3,000

1844 FIRST ISSUE WITH "13 COURT ST." ADDRESS  
5-CENT RED (SHADES)



86



87

- 86 **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Full to large square margins, bright shade on very thin paper (possibly pelure), cancelled by red Collect box, small black speck, tiny thin, Extremely Fine appearance, ex Schwartz, Scott Retail \$300.00 ..... E. 150-200
- 87 **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Cut to octagonal shape, rich color, **manuscript** "Edgartown M.V." (Martha's Vineyard) and "Edgartown" with tiny "5", one applied as a control marking and the other as a cancel (probably the former and latter, respectively), Very Fine, this stamp was affixed to a folded cover (but did not originate) when it was illustrated and discussed in Gutman Hale book (pp. 173-174), it has been removed (cover accompanies), this is the only Edgartown Hale item recorded, ex Schwartz ... E. 300-400

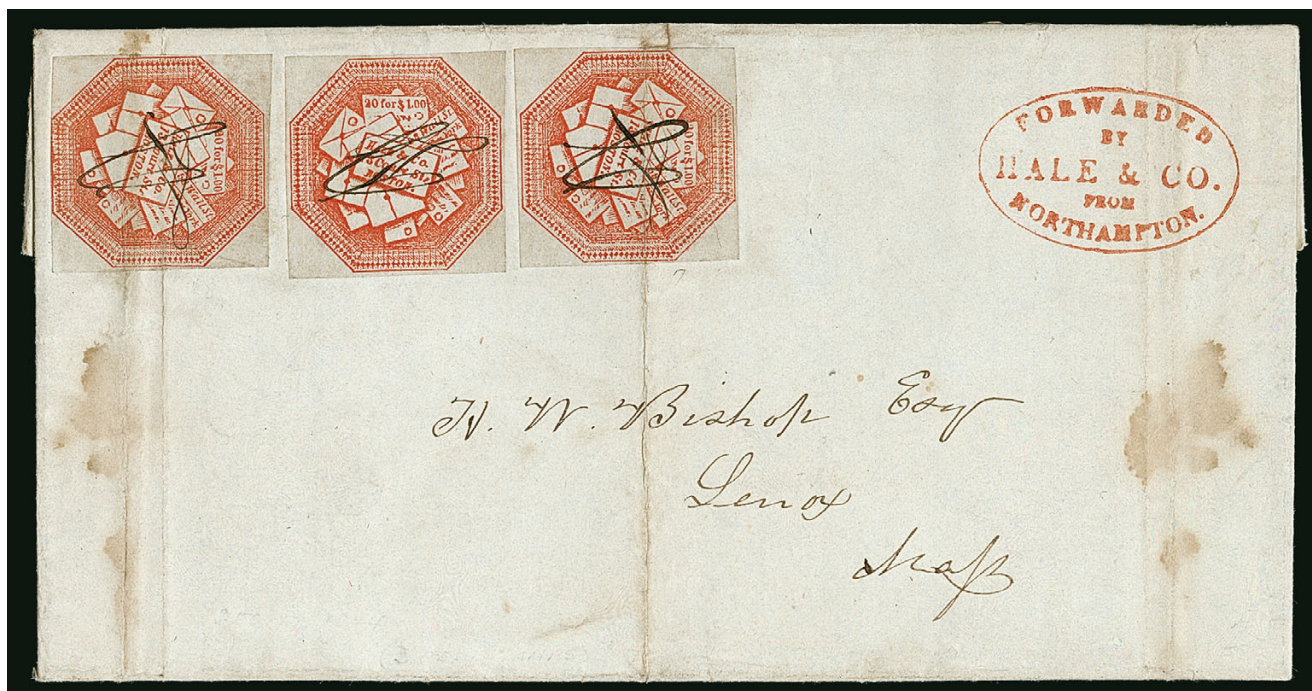


88

- 88 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Two, each cut to shape, bright color and impression, **tied** by multiple strikes of red "Hale & Co.'s Mail, Boston, Office 23 State Street" oval handstamp, additional strike at left on folded cover to New York City, inside with Feb. 27, 1845 date, file folds clear of stamps  
VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE DOUBLE-RATE FRANKING WITH THE HALE & COMPANY RED STAMP.  
Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 2,000-3,000



## THE LARGEST RECORDED FRANKING WITH THE 5-CENT RED



89

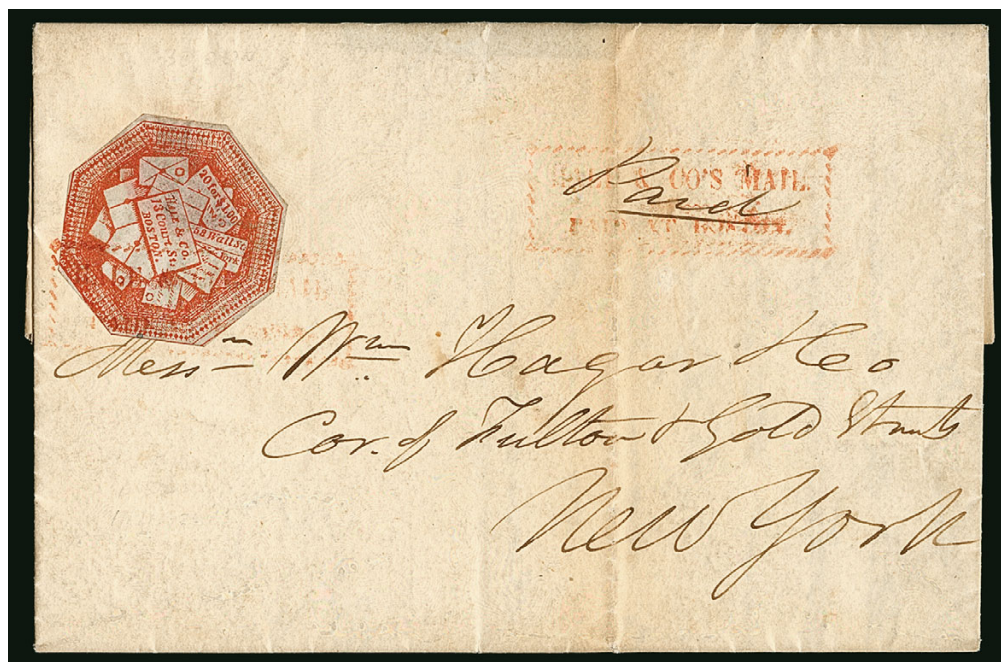
- 89 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Three, each with mostly ample to large square margins, bright shades on very thin paper (possibly pelure), each stamp has a **manuscript "T" control initial applied by Hale's Northampton agent A. W. Thayer**, each stamp also cancelled by manuscript "C" initial (Connecticut River?), bold red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Northampton" oval handstamp on legal-size folded letter datelined "Northampton Dec 17, 1844", addressed to Lenox Mass., letter mentions enclosing two deeds (thus the triple rate), vertical file folds thru two of the stamps, negligible stain spots

VERY FINE OVERALL CONDITION. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED COVER TO BEAR THE LARGEST NUMBER OF HALE & COMPANY'S 5-CENT RED STAMP. ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING HALE COVERS EXTANT.

Hale & Co. maintained an office in Northampton Mass., located about 17 miles north of Springfield on the Connecticut River. The office address was 17 Shop Row, and the agent was A. W. Thayer. All or some of the stamps that originated from this office have the initial "T" applied in manuscript, orientated to the design. Stamped letters that passed through the Northampton office were cancelled with a manuscript "C" of uncertain meaning (possibly Connecticut River).

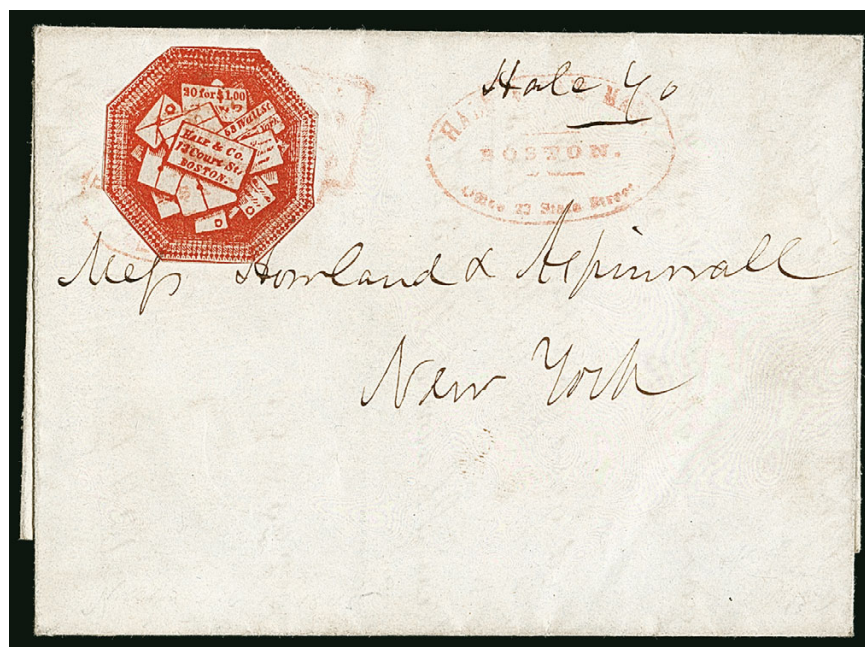
Multiple-rate frankings with the Red stamp are extremely rare. Only a few with two stamps are recorded (one with a pair), and this cover is the only one with more than two.

Illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 182) where described as the only known cover to Lenox and the largest franking with the Red stamp. Ex Schwartz..... E. 3,000-4,000



90

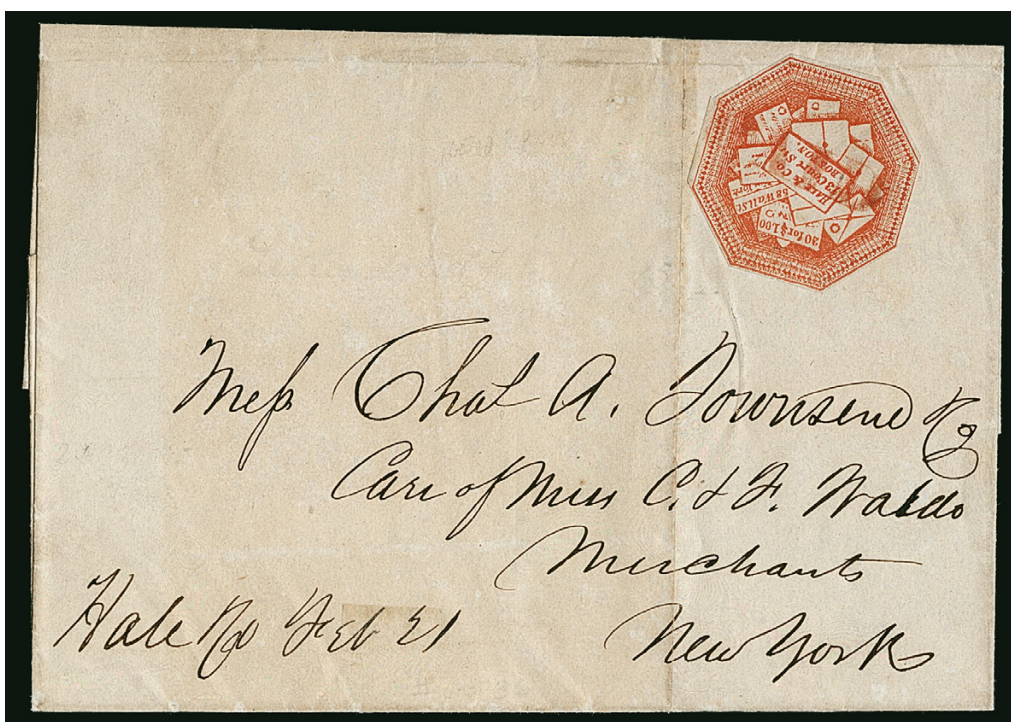
- 90 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Neatly cut to shape, affixed with wax seal and **tied** by red "Hale & Co's Mail/Paid at Boston" in wavy-line frame handstamp, second strike at right on Nov. 21, 1844 folded letter from Boston to New York City street address, Very Fine, scarce example of the Red stamp tied by a handstamped cancel, ex Schwartz..... E. 500-750



91

- 91 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Neatly cut to shape, vivid color and impression, **tied** by faint red Collect box and matching "Hale & Co.'s Mail, Boston, Office 23 State Street" oval handstamp, second strike at right on Feb. 15, 1845 folded letter to New York City, Extremely Fine, a superb and very scarce use of the Red stamp on cover, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 500-750





92

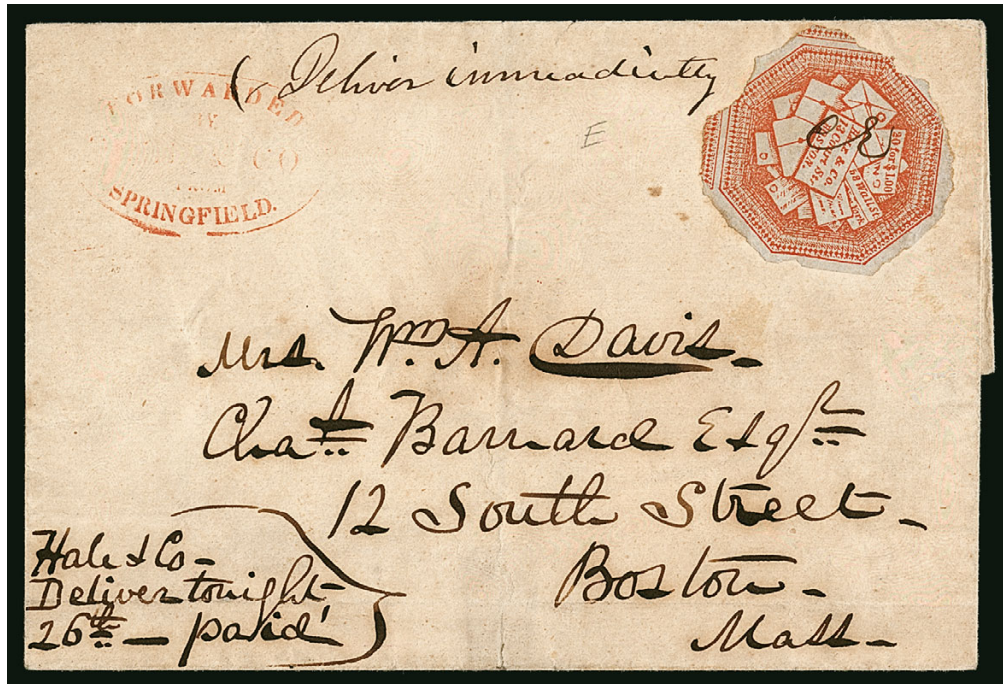
- 92 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Neatly cut to shape, cancelled by red Boston "Paid" cancel on folded cover to New York City, sender's directive "Hale & Co. Feb. 21", docketing confirms Feb. 21, 1845 mailing date, stamp has two nearly invisible creases, Very Fine appearance, ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500



93

- 93 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Cut to shape with ample to large margins all around, intense shade and impression, manuscript "Salem" control overprint, brownish "Hale & Co.'s Mail/Paid at Boston" in wavy-line frame handstamp on folded cover to New York City, docketing indicates Nov. 27, 1844 origin date at Salem, stamp has tiny scissors-cut at lower right, still Very Fine, extremely rare use of Hale's Red stamp with the Salem overprint, ex Mason and Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 750-1,000





94

- 94 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Bright shade on blue paper, physically torn from sheet cutting into design in places, **manuscript "CR" initials** (Connecticut River?), partly clear red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Springfield" oval handstamp on undated folded cover to Boston street address, sender's note to deliver immediately, a bit toned, file fold with small tear, Fine, very scarce, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate. E. 500-750



95

- 95 **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish (75L2).** Top sheet margin and large margins all around, vivid color, **manuscript "W" initial for Worcester**, probably applied as a cancel, affixed over file fold on Nov. 16, 1844 folded letter to Boston, red "Hale & Co.'s Mail Worcester" red oval handstamp — the stamp is unaffected by the fold and Worcester often applied its oval without any Collect box or rate marking — these two circumstances are reasons for us to offer this as an off-cover stamp in Extremely Fine condition, but the 2001 P.F. certificate states "genuine usage", ex Hall..... E. 300-400



## CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS OVERPRINTS

The change-of-address overprints — handstamped and handwritten — were implemented after Hale relocated from 13 Court Street to 23 State Street. Both addresses appear in advertisements running from March 11 to May 29, 1844. This fact, together with other evidence, indicates that both offices operated for a period of time, and 13 Court Street was closed sometime in May 1844.

The stereotype plate used to print stamps was modified by deleting the old address, leaving the second line at center blank (75L5, address omitted). The earliest use of a 75L5 stamp with the 13 Court Street address deleted from the plate is May 20, 1844. The earliest use of a stamp with a manuscript overprint deleting the address is May 23, 1844. A June 5, 1844, cover is recorded with the 75L5 stamp bearing a manuscript “23 State St.” overprint applied at Boston.

Stamps with and without the address, in Blue and Red, were used concurrently throughout 1844 and 1845, with Red stamp usage peaking between November 1844 and January 1845. Based on surviving covers, Hale’s Portsmouth N.H. office seems to have received an ample supply of Red stamps from an early printing, which they altered by drawing a line through the old address or changing the address to “23 State St.” After September 1844, there is an increasing number of Blue Type II stamps, evidently from a later printing in a lighter shade on more opaque paper. However, Type I stamps still appear on covers well into 1845.

The attempts by different offices to delete or change the old address were sporadic and short-lived. There are at least seven major overprint varieties, listed in Gutman’s Hale book as Types A to G. These are shown below.

Examining the patterns of usage, it seems that Type A was used at Boston, Types B and D at Portsmouth N.H., and Type C principally at New York City. The handstamp Types E and F were discovered in New York City (see below). The stampless cover with the same handstamp (Siegel Sale 830, lot 258) originates in New York City. Handstamp Type G — a similar device with “City Despatch” deleted — is found on a cover from Boston, dated June 22, 1844 (illustrated in Gutman Hale book, page 32).



Type A (Scott 75L5 var)



Type B (Scott 75L2 var)



Type C (unlisted in Scott)



Type D (unlisted in Scott)

Type A) blue or magenta ms. “23 State St.” on Blue 75L5 stamp with blank address — 2 recorded, each on cover, one dated June 5, 1844, earliest recorded use of a stamp with change of address

Type B) black ms. change of address to “23 State St.” on Red 75L2 stamp — 3 recorded, including 2 on separate covers (one with an additional Type D overprint) and one off cover

Type C) black line thru old address on Blue 75L1 stamp — 18 recorded on covers and several others off cover

Type D) black line thru old address on Red 75L2 stamp — 7 recorded covers (one with an additional Type B overprint), one front and 3 off cover

Handstamped  
Overprints



Type E (Scott 75L4)



Type F (Scott 75L3)



Type G (Scott 75L6)

Type E) “City Despatch Office, 23 State St.” red handstamp overprint on Blue Type I, Scott 75L4 — one recorded, unused

Type F) “City Despatch Office, 23 State St.” black handstamp overprint on Red Type I, Scott 75L3 — 3 recorded, including an unused pair and a single off cover

Type G) “Office, 23 State St.” red handstamp overprint on Blue Type II, Scott 75L6 — one recorded on Jun. 22, 1844 cover (photo from *Independent Mails* book)

THE ONLY RECORDED PAIR AND ONE OF THREE RECORDED  
EXAMPLES OF THE 5-CENT RED WITH OVERPRINT (SCOTT 75L3)



96

- 96 (★) **Hale & Co., 5c Red, Black “City Despatch Office, 23 State St.” Handstamp (75L3).** First State Positions 7-8, horizontal pair partly cut to shape, mounted on card, bright color, clear overprint impressions, right stamp with partly broken vertical crease and a scissors-cut in the margin far from design

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. THE ONLY RECORDED PAIR OF HALE & COMPANY'S FIRST ISSUE WITH THE CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS OVERPRINT, COMPRISING TWO OF THE THREE KNOWN EXAMPLES OF THE RED STAMP, SCOTT 75L3.

The single of 75L4 offered in lot 97 (ex Burger Bros., Lilly, Boker and Golden) and the pair of 75L3 offered here (ex Burger Bros., Lilly and Hall) were discovered in 1893 by Charles Gregory and reported in the January 1894 *Metropolitan Philatelist* (the article is quoted in the Gutman Hale book, page 30). Gregory's pencil signature appears behind each stamp on the back of the card on which the pair of 75L3 is mounted and on the back of the card of the single 75L4. Only one other Black on Red 75L3 overprint is recorded, ex Needham and Boker (R. Lowe sale, Oct. 26, 1973, lot 2015).

Gregory's report reads in part: "Last spring [1893] the Rev. Dr. Eaton, Pastor Emeritus, of St. Clement's P.E. Church, one of the oldest of the Trinity Church Parishes, died. My nephew, Mr. William King Gregory...received as a token of remembrance of him from his widow, a small old-fashioned, portable writing desk...my nephew accidentally noticed that there seemed to be a small compartment under it and raising a thin piece of mahogany, he found this was indeed so. In this compartment he found the three Hale & Co. stamps which I now exhibit..."

Both the pair and single later became part of the Burger Brothers stock, and they appeared in Sale 164 held by our firm in June 1953. Both became part of the Josiah K. Lilly collection, sold by our firm in September 1967. The pair was acquired by the Halls (sold in our Sale 830), and the single Red on Blue later appeared in the Robson Lowe sale of John R. Boker Jr.'s off-cover Carriers and Locals (Oct. 26, 1973) and our Golden sale (Siegel Sale 817).

Ex Burger Brothers, Lilly and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate. .... E. 15,000-20,00



THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF  
THE 5-CENT BLUE FIRST ISSUE WITH OVERPRINT (SCOTT 75L4)



97

- 97 (★) **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Red “City Despatch Office, 23 State St.” Handstamp (75L4).** First State Position 1, neatly cut to shape, mounted on card, thin spot in card and stamp

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. THE UNIQUE EXAMPLE OF HALE & COMPANY’S 5-CENT BLUE FIRST ISSUE WITH THE CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS OVERPRINT. ONE OF THE FEW STAMPS IN ALL OF PHILATELY OF WHICH JUST ONE EXAMPLE IS KNOWN.

The single of 75L4 offered here (ex Burger Bros., Lilly, Boker and Golden) and the pair of 75L3 in the lot 96 (ex Burger Bros., Lilly and Hall) were discovered in 1893 by Charles Gregory and reported in the January 1894 *Metropolitan Philatelist* (the article is quoted in the Gutman Hale book, page 30). Gregory’s pencil signature appears behind each stamp on the back of the card on which the pair of 75L3 is mounted and on the back of the card of the single 75L4. Only one other Black on Red 75L3 overprint is recorded, ex Needham and Boker (R. Lowe sale, Oct. 26, 1973, lot 2015).

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Both the pair and single later became part of the Burger Brothers stock, and they appeared in Sale 164 held by our firm in June 1953. Both became part of the Josiah K. Lilly collection, sold by our firm in September 1967. The pair was acquired by the Halls (sold in our Sale 830), and the single Red on Blue later appeared in the Robson Lowe sale of John R. Boker Jr.’s off-cover Carriers and Locals (Oct. 26, 1973) and our Golden sale (Siegel Sale 817).

Ex Burger Brothers, Lilly, Boker and Golden (we admit our research and presentation of this lot in the Golden catalogue was incomplete). With 2000 P.F. certificate stating “genuine, toned, and affixed to small piece” ..... E. 7,500-10,000

MANUSCRIPT "23 STATE ST." OVERPRINT ON 5-CENT BLUE  
WITH STREET ADDRESS OMITTED (GUTMAN TYPE A)



98

- 98 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, "23 State St." Blue Manuscript Overprint (75L5 var — Gutman Type A overprint).** Full to large square margins, tied by red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted on Aug. 7, 1844 folded letter addressed in blue from Boston to New York City

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THE "23 STATE ST." TYPE A MANUSCRIPT CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS OVERPRINT ON THE HALE & COMPANY BLUE STAMP. AN IMPORTANT COVER IN MAGNIFICENT CONDITION.

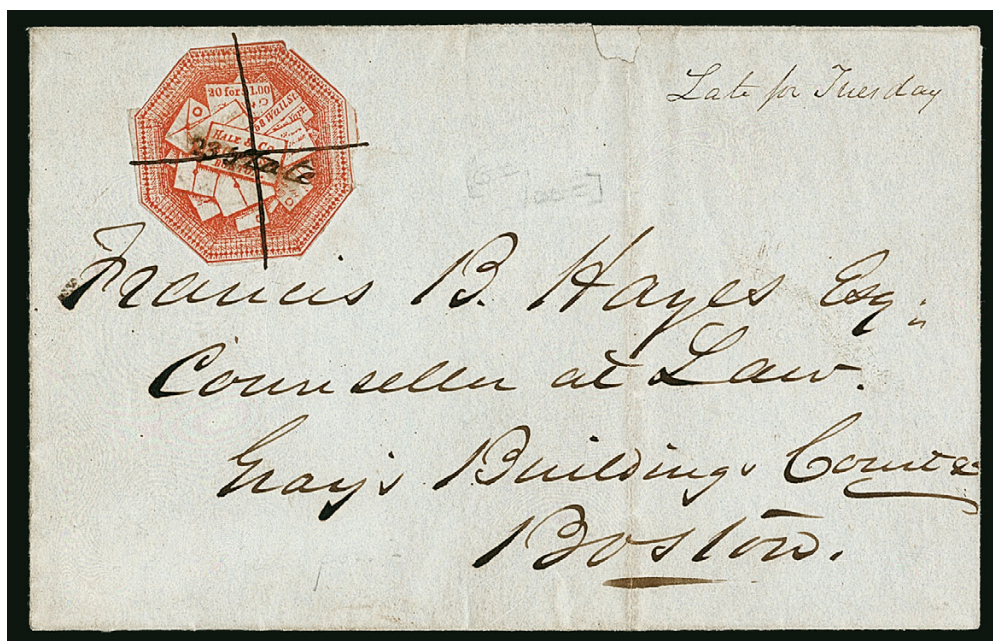
The change-of-address overprints — handstamped and handwritten — were implemented after Hale relocated from 13 Court Street to 23 State Street. Both addresses appear in advertisements running from March 11 to May 29, 1844. This fact, together with other evidence, indicates that both offices operated for a period of time, and 13 Court Street was closed sometime in May 1844. The stereotype plate used to print stamps was modified by deleting the old address, leaving the second line at center blank (75L5, address omitted). The earliest use of a 75L5 stamp with the 13 Court Street address deleted from the plate is May 20, 1844. The earliest use of a stamp with a manuscript overprint deleting the address is May 23, 1844.

A June 5, 1844, cover is recorded with the Blue Type II stamp (75L5, address omitted) and magenta manuscript "23 State St." Type A overprint applied at Boston (Robson Lowe sale, Oct. 26, 1973, lot 2016). The other recorded Type A manuscript overprint (in blue) on 75L5 is the stamp on the cover offered here, dated August 7, 1844, from Boston to New York City. In addition to the two Type A manuscript overprints on 75L5, there is a 75L5 stamp on cover with the handstamped overprint, which is now listed as Scott 75L6. These are among the greatest rarities of the Independent Mail era.

Ex Judd, Jarrett and Kuphal..... E. 4,000-5,000



MANUSCRIPT "23 STATE ST." OVERPRINT ON 5-CENT RED  
(GUTMAN TYPE B)



99

- 99 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish, "23 State" Manuscript Overprint (75L2 var — Gutman Type B overprint).** Position 2, octagonal design cut to shape, tiny tear, tied by manuscript cross strokes (in style of the precancel that was applied with ruler at Portsmouth) on bluish folded cover to Boston, docketing on flap dated Mar. 26, 1845 (pencil notation by discoverer that the origin was Worcester), manuscript "Late for Tuesday" applied by Hale agent, small cover tear at top center

VERY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED COVERS BEARING THE HALE & CO. RED STAMP WITH TYPE B MANUSCRIPT OVERPRINT STATING THE NEW 23 STATE STREET ADDRESS. A SIGNIFICANT INDEPENDENT MAIL RARITY.

Our records (corroborated by Gutman book) contain a total of 14 Red stamps with either type of manuscript address change — 3 of Type B ("23 State St.") and 11 of Type D (line thru address). There are only two covers with the Type B overprint, including one with both Types B and D (Portsmouth, Jan. 16, 1845), which was the subject of an article by Dr. Hubert C. Skinner (*Chronicle*, 166). This cover bearing the Type B overprint has a pencil note indicating the origin was Worcester on Mar. 26, 1845. There is also an off-cover Type B example (see lot 100).

Ex Kuphal. With 1973 P.F. certificate ..... E. 3,000-4,000

- 100 **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish, "23 State St." Manuscript Overprint (75L2 var — Gutman Type B overprint).** An interesting method of changing address — the "1" of "13 Court St." has been delicately changed to "2" and the word "State" is written to make "23 State St." — additional "P NH" initials of Portsmouth N.H. office, cut to shape, pen line precancel, Very Fine, extremely rare — of the Red stamp with Type B manuscript address change, Gutman records a single on cover (see lot 99) and a cover with two singles, Types B and D overprints (see article by Dr. Hubert C Skinner in *Chronicle* 166) — ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 500-750



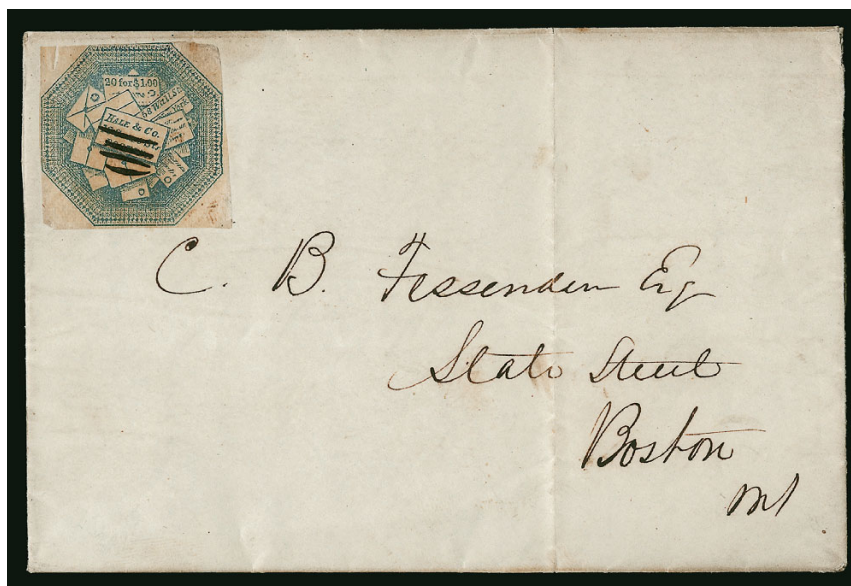
100

5-CENT BLUE FIRST ISSUE WITH ADDRESS DELETED IN MANUSCRIPT  
(GUTMAN TYPE C)



101

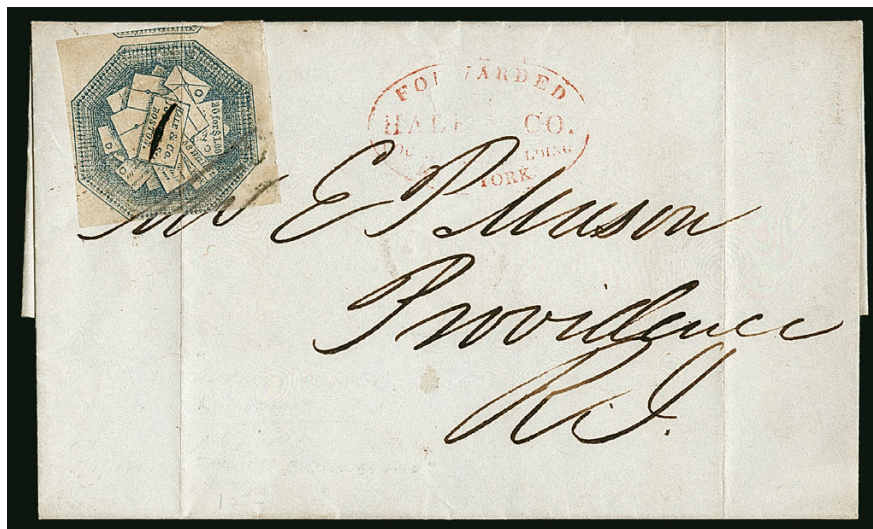
- 101 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue on Pelure, Address Deleted in Manuscript (75L1a var — Gutman Type C overprint).** Two singles, First State Positions 1 and 2, deep shade on thin pelure paper, large square cut margins to slightly in, each with two pen lines thru old address, uncanceled and used on double-rate Aug. 3, 1844 blue folded letter to New Haven Conn., pencil "2" cents for local delivery, stamps have trivial creases from placement along edge, the folds passing under the stamps are not filing folds and only bend the stamps, there is one vertical filing crease at center, Very Fine, extremely scarce cover (Gutman records 18), these stamps show how the lines were applied to sheets in advance of use and are orientated to the designs, ex Schwartz ..... E. 300-400



102

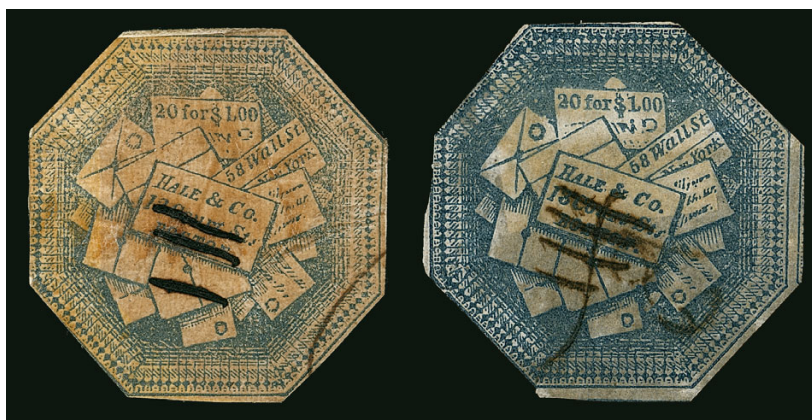
- 102 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Address Deleted in Manuscript (75L1 var — Gutman Type C overprint).** Bold manuscript lines thru 13 Court St. address, square margins, full to just touched, small scissors-cut in margin at top left, uncanceled on July 19, 1844 folded letter from New York City to Boston, file fold, internal edge splits, otherwise Very Fine and scarce..... E. 300-400





103

- 103 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue on Pelure, Address Deleted in Manuscript (75L1a var — Gutman Type C overprint).** Dark shade on thin pelure paper, large square cut margins to slightly in, single pen line thru old address, uncanceled and used on folded cover to Providence R.I., docketed "*Brooklyn White Lead Co. Letter Aug. 2 1844*" indicating this might have originated in Brooklyn, partly clear "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enq. Building, New York" oval handstamp, file folds, one thru stamp, which also has some wrinkles endemic to pelure paper, otherwise Very Fine, scarce use of the change-of-address stamp and possibly a very rare route from Brooklyn to Providence R.I., ex Schwartz ..... E. 150-200



104

- 104 **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, Address Deleted in Manuscript (75L1 var — Gutman Type C overprint).** Two stamps with manuscript lines thru 13 Court St. address — the provisional used after move to 23 State St. and 13 Court St. was closed — cut to shape, one on small piece, toned, other on pelure stamp paper, small faults, Fine and scarce, the stamp on piece is ex Golden and has 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 100-150

5-CENT RED WITH ADDRESS DELETED IN MANUSCRIPT  
(GUTMAN (TYPE D))



105

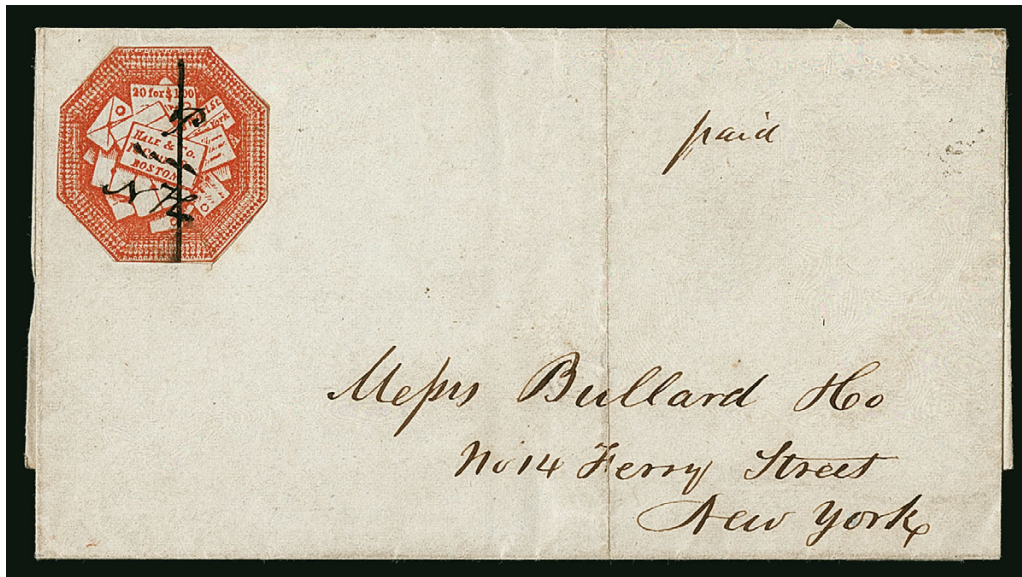
- 105 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish, Address Deleted in Manuscript (75L2 var — Gutman Type D overprint).** Pen line thru “13 Court St.” address, manuscript “P” and “NH” initials of Portsmouth N.H. office, cut to shape, vertical pen line **precancel**, used on Jan. 19, 1845 folded letter from Portsmouth N.H. to New York City, sender’s instructions “To be forwarded per first Packet from N.Y. sh’d he have left for N. Orleans to care Thomas A. Adams Esqr. New Orleans”, to the right of stamp in a different hand is “and delivery” — indicating prepaid fee for New York local delivery — the same hand used to write instructions on back “If Mr. Wendell is not at the Atlantic the Proprietor of the Atlantic will confer a favour by forwarding to New Orleans pr Packet” — evidently these instructions were written by Hale’s agent — file folds, one slightly creasing right edge of stamp, certificate describes a “tiny tear” at right, but it is nothing more than the tiny end of a scissors or knife cut from separation

VERY FINE. ONE OF SEVEN RECORDED COVERS BEARING THE HALE & COMPANY RED STAMP WITH THE OLD “13 COURT ST.” ADDRESS DELETED IN MANUSCRIPT (GUTMAN TYPE D OVERPRINT).

Our records contain a total of 11 Red stamps with the Type D manuscript overprint, including 7 on full covers, one cover front, and a single off cover. One cover bears both Types B and D (Portsmouth, Jan. 16, 1845), which was the subject of an article by Dr. Hubert C. Skinner (*Chronicle*, May 1995). All Type D overprints have the initials “P NH” and were used from Portsmouth N.H. (earliest Dec. 17, 1844; latest Mar. 26, 1845).

Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 2,000-3,000





106

- 106 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish, Address Deleted in Manuscript (75L2 var — Gutman Type D overprint).** Pen line thru “13 Court St.” address, manuscript “P” and “NH” initials of Portsmouth N.H. office, vertical pen line **precancel**, neatly cut to shape, used on folded cover to New York City Street address, manuscript “paid” confirms use of stamp, docketed with January 1845 origin date (Portsmouth N.H.), vertical file fold

VERY FINE. ONE OF SEVEN RECORDED FULL COVERS WITH THE HALE & COMPANY RED STAMP WITH TYPE D MANUSCRIPT ADDRESS CHANGE.

Our records contain a total of 11 Red stamps with the Type D manuscript overprint, including 7 on full covers, one cover front, and a single off cover.

Ex C. E. Chapman with his handstamp just over the letters “Bu” of addressee’s name. Also ex Schwartz. .... E. 1,500-2,000



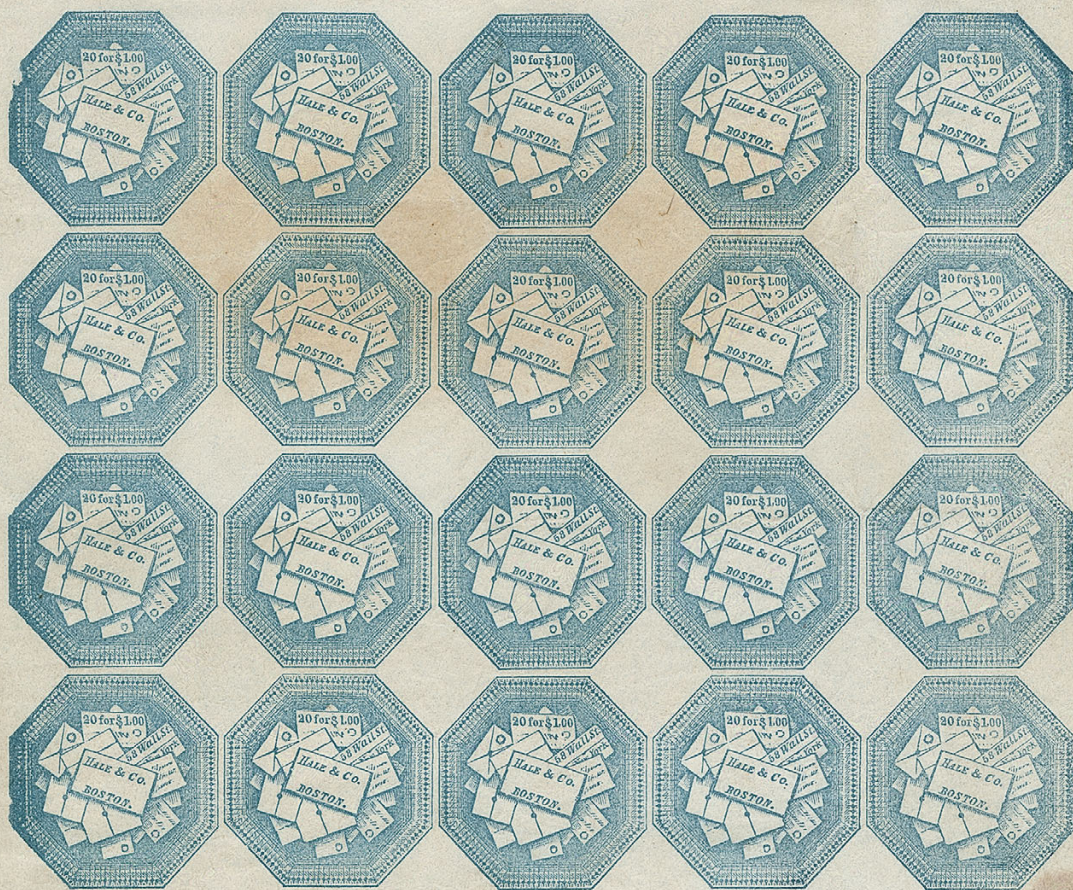
107



108

- 107 **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish, Address Deleted in Manuscript (75L2 var — Gutman Type D overprint).** Pen line thru “13 Court St.” address, manuscript “P” and “NH” initials of Portsmouth N.H. office, crossed pen lines **precancel**, neatly cut to shape (mostly clear), rich color, used on cover front only to New York City street address, manuscript “March 26” date (1845), red “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Boston” oval handstamp, sealed tear at top well clear of stamp, which is Very Fine, there are 11 recorded examples of this manuscript overprint variety, including 7 on covers (one with Types B and D), this cover-front and 3 off cover — with 2002 P.F. certificate..... E. 500-750
- 108 **Hale & Co., 5c Red on Bluish, Address Deleted in Manuscript (75L2 var — Gutman Type D overprint).** Cut to shape, pen line thru “13 Court St.” address and initials “P” and “NH” for Portsmouth N.H. applied before sale, crossed pen lines (cancel or precancel), Very Fine, 11 examples of this Type D overprint are recorded, ex Schwartz..... E. 300-400







## MODIFIED PLATE WITH “13 COURT ST.” DELETED

THE ONLY RECORDED COMPLETE SHEET OF  
ANY HALE & COMPANY ISSUE

- 109 (★)田 **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Complete sheet of twenty from the Third State of the plate (see notes below), unused (no gum), large sheet margins all around, bright fresh color and paper, several creases but hardly noticeable on the face of the sheet, couple tiny edge tears

EXTREMELY FINE APPEARANCE. THE ONLY RECORDED COMPLETE SHEET AND LARGEST KNOWN MULTIPLE OF ANY HALE & COMPANY ISSUE. AN IMPORTANT AND SPECTACULAR ARTIFACT OF THE 1844-45 INDEPENDENT MAIL ISSUES.

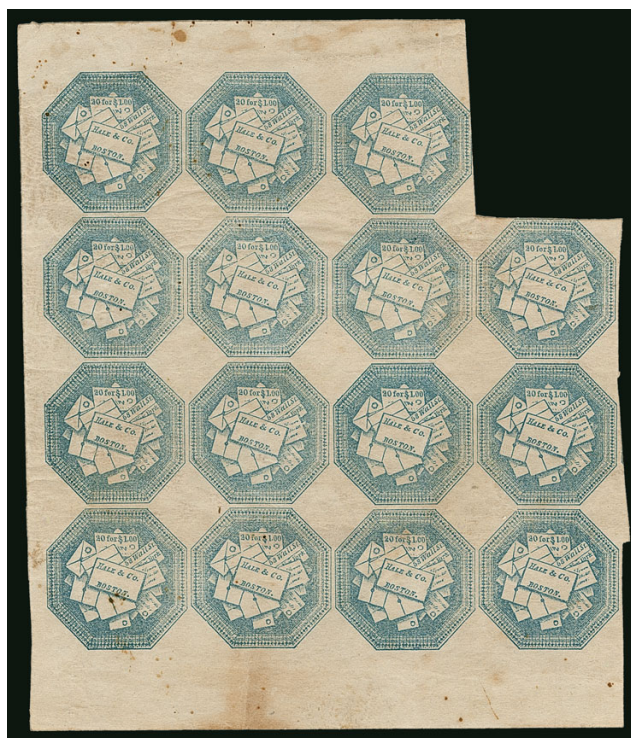
There are three distinct states of the stereotype plate used to print Hale's stamps. In the First State, the “13 Court St.” address is included in the design (Scott 75L1 in Blue and 75L2 in Red). The address line was removed from each position on the plate after Hale opened its Boston office at 23 State Street and left 13 Court Street, which gives us the Second State of the plate (Scott 75L5 in Blue only). The earliest recorded date of use of a stamp from the modified plate is May 20, 1844. The Third State of the plate resulted from damage to positions in the left and right vertical columns, especially Position 1, which shows a severe dent at upper left.

Unused blocks of Hale's stamps are extremely rare. We record four, all offered in this sale of Dr. Puliafito's collection: 1) 75L1, block of 12 with original gum, ms. “AB” initials (Amos Bates, New Bedford agent), offered in lot 75; 2) 75L5, the unique complete sheet, Third State, ex Lilly, Hall, Gordon N. John, offered here; 3) 75L5, block of fifteen with original gum, Second State Positions 1-3/6-9/11-14/16-19, ex Hall, offered in lot 110; and 4) 75L5, unused block of nine, Third State Positions 1-3/6-8/11-13, ex Schwartz, offered in lot 111.

In a letter from James W. Hale, dated Dec. 12, 1887, he stated (in part): “I gave all the unused sheets of stamps to my children for playthings and presumed they were destroyed. But within a few days my youngest son informed me that he believed he had a few ‘stowed away somewhere’ and would try to hunt them up.” (Gutman Hale book, page 33). This sheet may originate from the Hale family.

Ex Lilly, Hall and Gordon N. John. With 2004 P.F. certificate ..... E. 10,000-15,000

## THE ONLY RECORDED BLOCK FROM THE SECOND STATE OF PLATE



110

- 110 ★田 **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Positions 1-3/6-9/11-14/16-19, block of fifteen with original gum, Mint N.H. except two center stamps at bottom lightly hinged, Second State of the plate (see notes below), large sheet margins, just touched at upper right where stamp has been removed, four vertical creases and minor toned spots, Position 11 with a small hole

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. THE ONLY RECORDED BLOCK FROM THE SECOND STATE OF THE PLATE — AFTER THE “13 COURT ST.” ADDRESS WAS REMOVED BUT PRIOR TO THE STEREOTYPE PLATE BECOMING DEFECTIVE — AND THE SECOND LARGEST MULTIPLE OF ANY HALE STAMP.

After the first few months of operation, Hale relocated from 13 Court Street to 23 State Street. Both addresses appear in advertisements running from March 11 to May 29, 1844. This fact, together with other evidence, indicates that both offices operated for a period of time, and 13 Court Street was closed sometime in May 1844. The stereotype plate used to print stamps was modified by deleting the old address, leaving the second line at center blank (75L5, address omitted). The earliest use of a 75L5 stamp with the 13 Court Street address deleted from the plate is May 20, 1844. After the initial printing from the plate in its Second State (address removed), the edges of the designs at left (Positions 1/6/11/16) and right (Positions 5/10/15/20) were damaged to varying degrees. The defective plate is considered the Third State. The sheet offered in lot 109 shows the bruised-plate impressions and dent in Position 1 very clearly. This block has none of the bruising or Position 1 defect, and, therefore, it must be an early printing from the modified plate — or Second State — and as such is extremely rare.

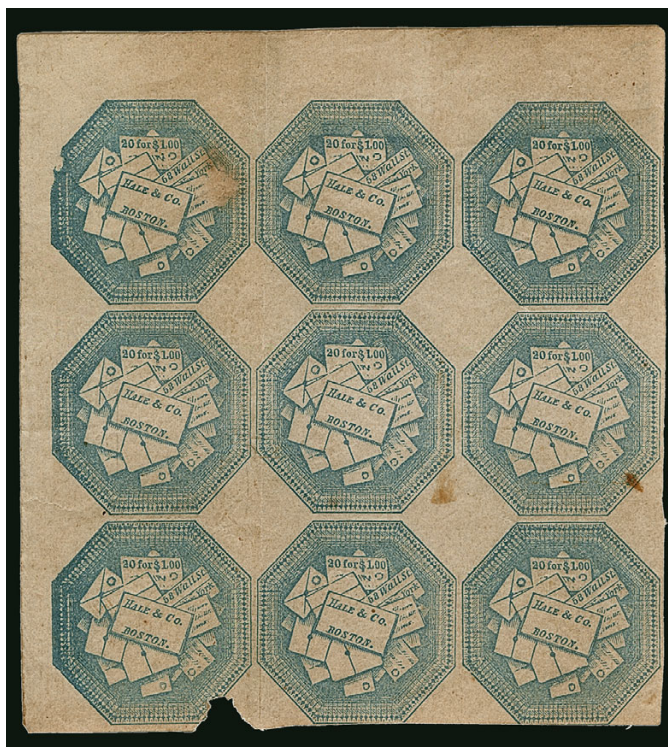
Unused blocks of Hale's stamps are extremely rare. We record four, all offered in this sale of Dr. Puliafito's collection: 1) 75L1, block of 12 with original gum, ms. “AB” initials (Amos Bates, New Bedford agent), offered in lot 75; 2) 75L5, the unique complete sheet, Third State, ex Lilly, Hall, Gordon N. John, offered in lot 109; 3) 75L5, block of fifteen with original gum, Second State Positions 1-3/6-9/11-14/16-19, ex Hall, offered here; and 4) 75L5, unused block of nine, Third State Positions 1-3/6-8/11-13, ex Schwartz, offered in lot 111.

In a letter from James W. Hale, dated Dec. 12, 1887, he stated (in part): “I gave all the unused sheets of stamps to my children for playthings and presumed they were destroyed. But within a few days my youngest son informed me that he believed he had a few ‘stowed away somewhere’ and would try to hunt them up.” (Gutman Hale book, page 33).

Illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 43). Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 5,000-7,500



## BLOCK OF NINE FROM THE THIRD STATE OF PLATE



111

- 111 ★田 **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Positions 1-3/6-8/11-13, top left corner margin block of nine from the Third State of the plate (see notes below), original gum, large sheet margins, others ample to just in, creases (one somewhat heavy vertical crease reinforced with hinges), few stained spots, nicked at bottom

FINE APPEARANCE. ONE OF FOUR RECORDED BLOCKS OF THE HALE & COMPANY STAMPS, OF WHICH THIS AND THE COMPLETE SHEET COME FROM THE THIRD STATE OF THE PLATE. AN IMPRESSIVE AND HIGHLY EXHIBITABLE MULTIPLE.

The Third State of the plate resulted from damage to positions in the left and right vertical columns, especially Position 1, which shows a severe dent at upper left.

Unused blocks of Hale's stamps are extremely rare. We record four, all offered in this sale of Dr. Puliafito's collection: 1) 75L1, block of 12 with original gum, ms. "AB" initials (Amos Bates, New Bedford agent), offered in lot 75; 2) 75L5, the unique complete sheet, Third State, ex Lilly, Hall, Gordon N. John, offered in lot 109; 3) 75L5, block of fifteen with original gum, Second State Positions 1-3/6-9/11-14/16-19, ex Hall, offered in lot 110; and 4) 75L5, unused block of nine, Third State Positions 1-3/6-8/11-13, ex Schwartz, offered here.

Ex Schwartz ..... E. 1,500-2,000

## CORNER SHEET-MARGIN STRIP OF THREE



112

- 112 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Positions 1/6/11, **vertical strip of three with top left corner sheet margins**, Second State of plate, two other sides mostly full margins but touching in places, each stamp has **magenta manuscript "N" initial control marking applied at Norwich Conn.**, cancelled by three light strikes of red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted, partly clear "**Forwarded by/Hale & Co./from/Norwich, Ct.**" four-line handstamp in black on undated folded cover to New Bedford Mass., slightly wrinkled and faintly toned, tiny negligible tears in extreme left sheet margin and bottom stamp

EXTREMELY FINE. AN INCALCULABLY RARE VERTICAL STRIP OF 75L5 USED ON A COVER FROM HALE & COMPANY'S NORWICH OFFICE — A REMARKABLE AND ALMOST CERTAINLY UNIQUE COMBINATION OF PHILATELIC AND POSTAL HISTORY ELEMENTS.

The strip on this cover comes from the Second State of the plate, after the "13 Court St." address was removed, but before the plate was damaged. Although the strip comes from Positions 1/6/11, where the damage occurred, it shows none of the bruising or Position 1 defect, and, therefore, it must be an early printing from the Second State plate.

We can point to five significant components of rarity present in this cover: 1) it bears a strip of three, which is rare; 2) it is a *vertical* strip of three, which is an even rarer configuration for a Hale multiple, and it comes from the corner of the sheet; 3) it is a strip from the Second State plate, showing the undamaged subjects in Positions 1/6/11; 4) the stamps have the "N" initial (Norwich), which is a very rare form of overprint, presumably for control purposes (it is *not* a precancel, as it is sometimes called, because the initialed stamps are always cancelled); and 5) the cover has the scarce and distinctive Norwich office handstamp.

Illustrated in Gutman Hale book (color Figure 63 and page 86). Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 3,000-4,000





113

- 113 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Positions 17-19, horizontal strip of three, left stamp “Wail” instead of “Wall” variety, used with fourth stamp, Position 9, **strip shows mechanical die-cutting but the stamps are unsevered**, tied by multiple strikes of red “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enquirer Building, New York” oval handstamp on folded cover to Boston street address with sender’s notation “4 Sheets” (proof that Hale rated letters per sheet at least some of the time), docketed with Jan. 18, 1845 origin date, vertical file fold thru one stamp, a few small sealed tears in strip at joining points, still Fine, a remarkable quadruple-rate cover, the characteristics of this strip and the manner in which it was created are suggestive of private vending machine coils that were created nearly 70 years later, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 281), ex Schwartz ..... E. 500-750



114

- 114 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Positions 1-2, horizontal pair from Third State of plate with plate damage on Position 1, beautiful bright shade, rectangular margins, large to just touched, **tied** by two strikes of vivid red “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enquirer Building, New York” oval handstamp on blue Apr. 18, 1845 folded letter to Philadelphia, Very Fine, a lovely double-rate cover, the 75L5 stamps were usually cut into singles, rare as a pair, ex Emerson (realized \$59 in the 1939 sale!), Knapp and Kuphal, with 1974 P.F. certificate ..... E. 500-750



115

- 115 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Four singles — from left to right, Positions 4, 15, 14, 8 — each with square margins, large to slightly in, manuscript cancels in a different shape on each stamp (we tried unsuccessfully to match them to shorthand), used on Oct. 17, 1844 legal-size folded letter to **New Haven Conn.**, originally enclosed real estate documents, vertical file folds thru two stamps, small tear at bottom, still Very Fine, an extremely rare quadruple-rate franking to Connecticut, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 282), ex Schwartz ..... E. 500-750

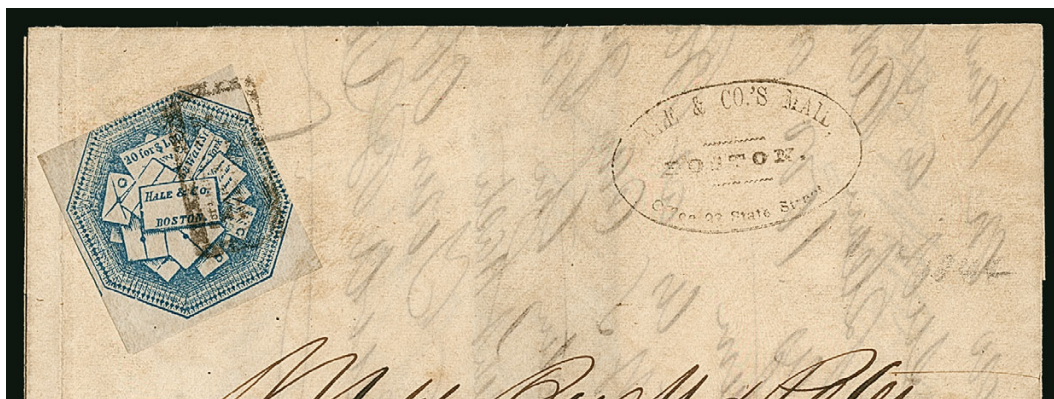




- 116 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Second State of plate, full to large margins, brilliant color, **tied** by red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted on June 1, 1844 folded letter to New York City, clearly dated with "May" crossed out and corrected to "June", docketing confirms origin date, Extremely Fine, early use of Hale's second issue with the old 13 Court Street address deleted from the plate (a May 20 letter from the same correspondence knocked this cover from its EDU position), illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 141), with 2003 P.F. certificate ..... E. 200-300
- 117 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Square margins, mostly ample but just slightly in at bottom, **tied** by red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted on July 1, 1844 part-printed folded bill of lading to New York City, Very Fine, ex Schwartz ..... E. 150-200
- 118 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Square margins, ample to slightly in, bright pastel shade, **tied** by one of two strikes of red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Boston" oval handstamp on Apr. 9, 1845 blue folded letter to New York City, pencil "Hale Express" contemporary directive, lightly soiled file fold, Very Fine, ex Knapp and Schwartz..... E. 150-200



119



120



121



- 119 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Deep Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Position 17 "Wail" instead of "Wall" variety, two large margins, others slightly in, tied by "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted, "Hale & Co.'s Mail, Boston, Office 23 State Street" oval handstamp on Sep. 24, 1844 folded letter to New York City street address, Very Fine, ex Emerson, Knapp and Schwartz..... E. 200-300
- 120 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Square margins, mostly large, slightly in at bottom with small scissors-cut, tied by "Hale & Co.'s Mail, Boston, Office 23 State Street" oval handstamp, second strike at left on Oct. 12, 1844 folded letter from Boston to New York City, sender's directive "*pr. Hale*", stamp very faintly toned, Very Fine, ex Knapp and Middendorf ..... E. 150-200
- 121 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Square margins including left sheet margin, other sides ample to slightly in, cancelled by Collect box handstamp, "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Boston" oval handstamp on Aug. 15, 1844 folded letter and part-printed bill of lading from Boston to New York City, Very Fine ..... E. 150-200





122



123

124

- 122 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Enormous margins including **sheet margin at bottom**, cancelled by red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted on July 13, 1844 folded letter from Boston to New York City, Extremely Fine Gem, ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 200-300
- 123 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Two, square margins, large to slightly in, bright shade, **tied** by one of two strikes of red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enquirer Building, New York" oval handstamp on folded cover to Springfield Mass., docketed with Dec. 19, 1844 origin date and notation that a power of attorney document was enclosed (thus the double rate), file fold clear of stamps, Very Fine, ex Schwartz ..... E. 300-400
- 124 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Two, each cut to shape and **tied** by red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted on undated folded cover to New York City, from the Howland & Aspinwall correspondence (Boston origin), sender's directive "*Hale & Co. Paid*", Extremely Fine double-rate franking, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 300-400





125

126

127

- 125 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Two, each cut to shape, affixed with an embossing instrument of some kind that has left tiny pin pricks in stamps (visible in cross-lighting), tied by red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted on Jul. 31, 1844 folded part-printed bill of lading to New York City, Very Fine, ex Schwartz..... E. 200-300
- 126 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Dark Blue, Blue (75L1).** Two, each cut to shape, one with very dark and heavy impression, one tied by red "Paid", other tied by impression thru paper, matching "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Boston" oval handstamp on Mar. 26, 1845 blue folded letter to New York City, file folds, one thru stamp at left, right stamp has small faults, otherwise Very Fine, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 150-200
- 127 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Position 5, square margins with **top right corner sheet margins**, huge at bottom, slightly in at left, Third State showing defective plate at right, cancelled by one of three bold strikes of red "Paid" cancel on May 14, 1845 folded letter **from Staten Island** to Boston, red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enquirer Building, New York" oval handstamp — the first "Paid" was applied to the letter, then the stamp was affixed *over* the "Paid" and cancelled by a second strike, followed by a third strike positioned at left — the "Paid" on the stamp is heavy enough to indent the paper thru the lettersheet, which leaves no doubt that the stamp originated, but the sequence of markings is very unusual, stamp has short faint horizontal crease, still Very Fine, this is the only Hale & Co. cover from Staten Island recorded by Gutman, illustrated in his Hale book (page 288) and *Independent Mails* book, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 750-1,000



## HALE &amp; COMPANY SERVICE TO ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK



128

- 128 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Third State of plate, neatly cut to shape, tied by red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted, matching "Forwarded by Hale & Co.'s Great Eastern Mail Co." oval handstamp on October 1844 folded letter from Bradford Mass. to Annapolis, Nova Scotia, via Hale's St. John, New Brunswick, office, entered regular mails at St. John with manuscript "7" — 7d currency rate for 61 miles distance between St. John and Annapolis — and "St. John N.B. No 1 1844" backstamp, letter dated first on Oct. 19 and again on Oct. 26, the writer states "Must finish this letter intending to put it in at Haverhill this afternoon", certificate notes a negligible scissors-cut in the stamp

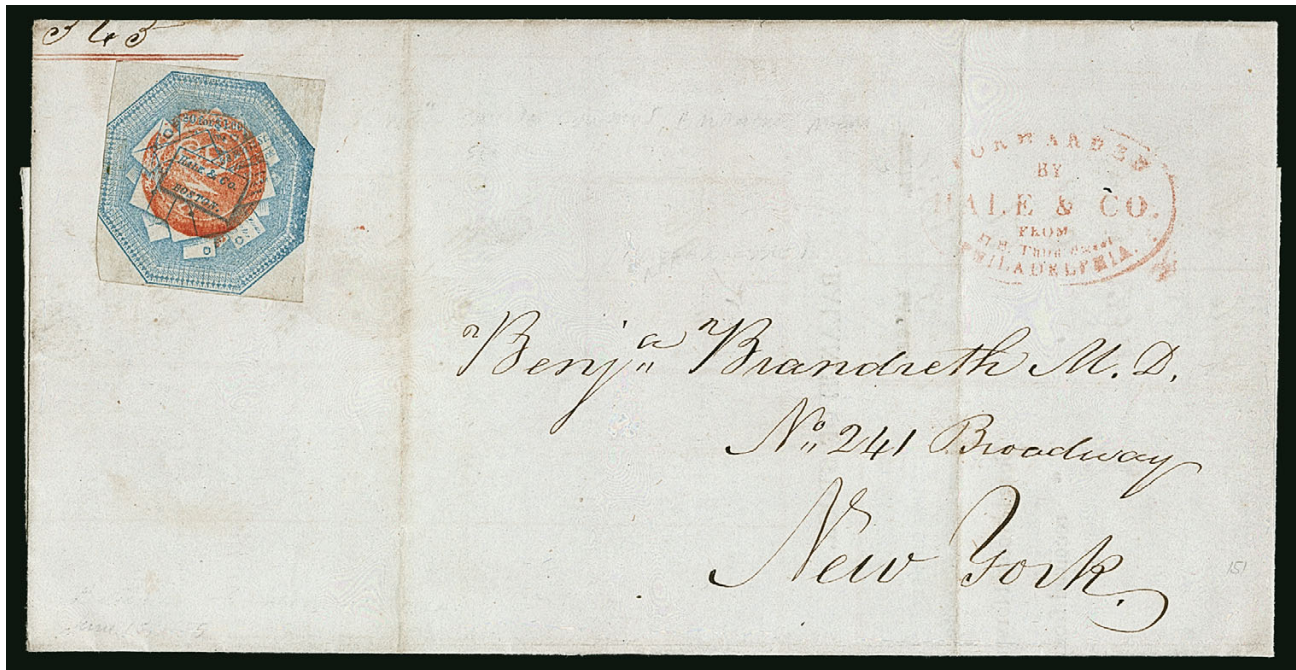
VERY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED COVER BEARING AN INDEPENDENT MAIL STAMP THAT PAID FOR SERVICE FROM THE UNITED STATES TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY. THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE THE EARLIEST USE OF AN ADHESIVE STAMP IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TO PAY A RATE FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL.

Service to Eastport Me., St. John and St. Andrews, New Brunswick, was announced by Hale & Co. in an advertisement appearing in the July 4, 1844, edition of the *Morning Courier and New York Enquirer*. Another advertisement dated July 25, 1844, named Thomas Simes as the Hale agent in St. Andrews and J. D. Andrews as the agent in St. John (Gutman Hale book, page 229). The rate to St. John was advertised as 12½c, which is double the value represented by the stamp on the cover offered here. The difference may have been paid in cash or disregarded. The markings applied at the St. John post office indicate it was put into the mails there and was not received as a ship letter. Therefore, Hale & Co. carried the letter from the United States to New Brunswick, rather than placing it on an outbound vessel from Boston or Eastport.

To the best of our knowledge, there are only two examples of Independent Mail stamps used to foreign countries. One is the Hale cover offered here. The other is a cover-front to Liverpool, England, with two pairs of Pomeroy's stamp paying for conjunctive service from somewhere between Buffalo and Albany (Pomeroy's route) and from Albany to Boston (Hale's route), where it was put onto a packet sailing for Liverpool (Robson Lowe sale, Mar. 15, 1972, lot 1196). Both are important postal history artifacts, but there is a significant difference between the two. The Pomeroy-Hale service carried the letter only as far as Boston, at which point it entered the regular mails to cross the Atlantic. The Hale cover offered here represents *actual service* beyond the borders of the United States. As such, it stands alone to represent the use of an Independent Mail stamp for service to another country. Other expresses carried mail to offices on foreign soil, but they did not issue stamps, as far as we know. This cover probably represents the earliest use of a stamp to pay postage for service from the United States to a foreign country.

Illustrated in Gutman Hale book (color Figure 226 and page 230). Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate  
..... E. 5,000-7,500

## BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



129

- 129 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Third State Position 5 showing damage to plate at right, mostly full to large square margins, slightly in at left, cancelled by bold red negative “WE” circular seal applied by Baltimore agent William Edwards, matching red “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from 37 S. Third Street, Philadelphia” oval handstamp on half of blue part-printed sales and expenses report from Baltimore to New York City street address, from the Dr. Brandreth correspondence, no origin date but sales reported from June 8-15, 1845, thus probably mailed June 17 or shortly after based on other mailing dates from this correspondence (see lot 132), file folds clear of stamp

VERY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED COVERS WITH “WE” HANDSTAMP, THE INITIALS OF HALE’S BALTIMORE AGENT, WILLIAM EDWARDS — THIS ONE WITH THE PHILADELPHIA OFFICE OVAL AND THE OTHER WITH THE BALTIMORE OFFICE OVAL.

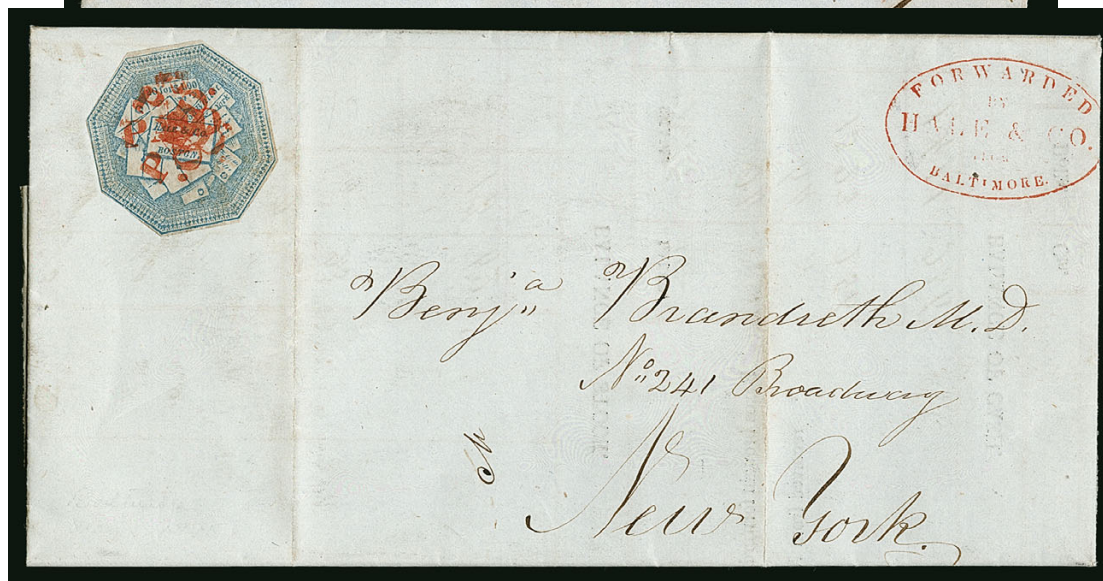
Hale & Co. commenced service in Baltimore in April 1845, and the whole letter-express operation was closed down on June 30. The *Independent Mails* book records eleven covers from Baltimore with the Hale stamp (all 75L5). There is only one other cover with the “WE” seal; the June 9, 1845 cover offered in lot 130 (ex Kelly and Golden), which has the Baltimore office oval.

Ex Boker and Schwartz ..... E. 2,000-3,000





130



131

- 130 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Third State, neatly cut to shape, cancelled by bold red negative “WE” circular seal applied by Baltimore agent William Edwards, matching red “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Baltimore” oval handstamp on June 9, 1845 blue folded letter from Baltimore to New York City street address, horizontal file fold with slight bleached spots, small sealed tear at top

VERY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED COVERS WITH “WE” HANDSTAMP, THE INITIALS OF HALE’S BALTIMORE AGENT, WILLIAM EDWARDS — THIS ONE WITH THE BALTIMORE OFFICE OVAL AND THE OTHER WITH THE PHILADELPHIA OFFICE OVAL

Hale & Co. commenced service in Baltimore in April 1845, and the whole letter-express operation was closed down on June 30. The *Independent Mails* book records eleven covers from Baltimore with the Hale stamp (all 75L5). There is only one other cover with the “WE” seal; the June (ca. 17) 1845 cover offered in lot 129 (ex Boker and Schwartz), which has the Philadelphia office oval.

Illustrated in Gutman Hale book (color Figure 105 and page 124). Ex Kelly and illustrated in his *CCP* series. Ex Golden. With 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000

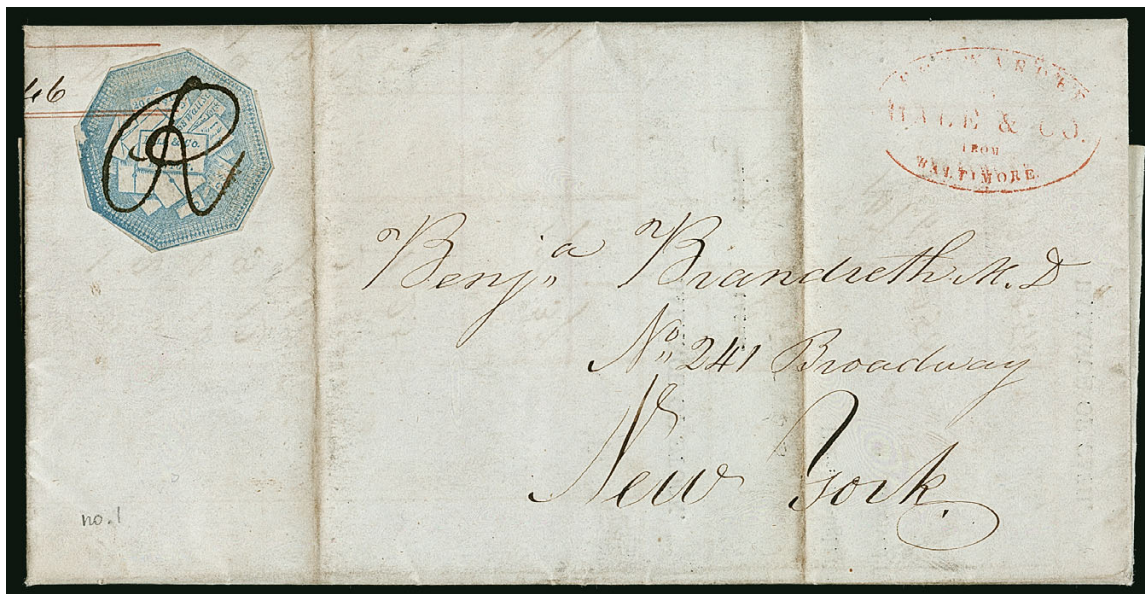
- 131 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Neatly cut to shape, cancelled by four criss-crossing strikes of red “Paid” straightline, tied by impression thru paper, matching “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Baltimore” oval handstamp on May 5, 1845 blue folded letter and part-printed sales and expenses report (April 27-May 3) to New York City, from the Dr. Brandreth correspondence

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF ELEVEN RECORDED COVERS FROM BALTIMORE WITH THE HALE STAMP — THIS IS THE ONLY COVER KNOWN WITH THE STAMP CANCELLED BY CRISS-CROSSED PAIDS.

This is the only cover with the stamp cancelled by four criss-crossed “Paid” strikes. Although active for a short time, Hale’s agent in Baltimore, William Edwards, seems to have used a wide variety of cancellations — four different cancels are found on the stamped covers originating in Baltimore.

In the expense portion of this report is an entry, “Pd. for 11 Stamps, Hale & Co. Exps. Mail — 56 [cents].”

Sloane’s notes on back. Ex Hollowbush and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 1,500-2,000



132

- 132 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Third State Position 1 showing severe damage to plate, cut to shape, cancelled by large manuscript "R" initial, tied by red manuscript docketing lines, red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Baltimore" oval handstamp on June 23, 1845 blue folded letter with sales and expenses report from Baltimore to New York City (June 15-21), includes entry for postage expense, from the Dr. Brandreth correspondence, two slightly soiled file folds, still Very Fine, extremely rare Baltimore origin, ex Kelly and Golden ..... E. 500-750



133

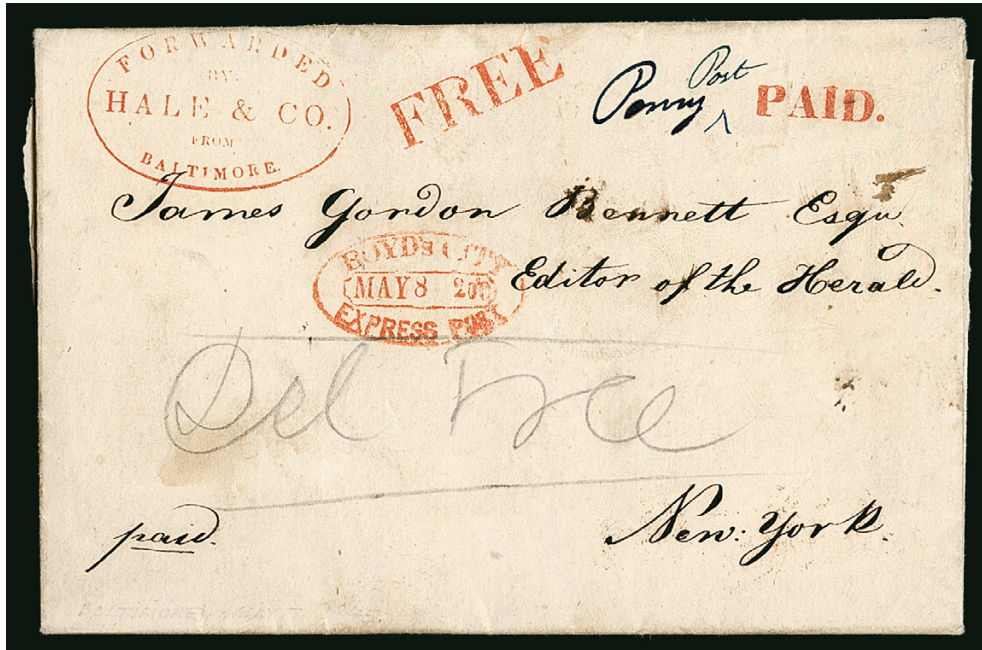


134

- 133 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Cut to shape with mostly large margins, cancelled by bold manuscript large "R" initial, red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from 37 S. Third Street, Philadelphia" oval handstamp on blue Apr. 14, 1845 folded letter from Philadelphia to New York City street address, Very Fine, ex Schwartz..... E. 200-300
- 134 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Light Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Cut to shape with mostly large margins, beautiful bright pastel shade, cancelled by red "Paid" straightline with matching strike and "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enquirer Building, New York" oval handstamp on folded cover to Baltimore, docketed with May 21, 1845 origin date, during the brief period when Hale had a Baltimore office, horizontal file fold, small spindle hole at upper left, fresh and Very Fine, ex Schwartz ..... E. 200-300



CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE WITH BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST  
FREE MAIL TO NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS



135

- 135 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Baltimore.** Perfect strike of red oval handstamp with matching "Paid." handstamp to which the words "*Penny Post*" have been added in blue manuscript on May 7, 1845 folded letter to **James Gordon Bennett, editor of the *New York Herald* newspaper**, red "**Boyd's City Express Post May 8 2 O'C**" oval datestamp, matching large red "Free" handstamp (applied by Boyd's), pencil "*Del Free*" (deliver free), the letter is a follow-up "pitch" for the Baltimore & Cuba Smelting and Mining Company, which was organized in 1845

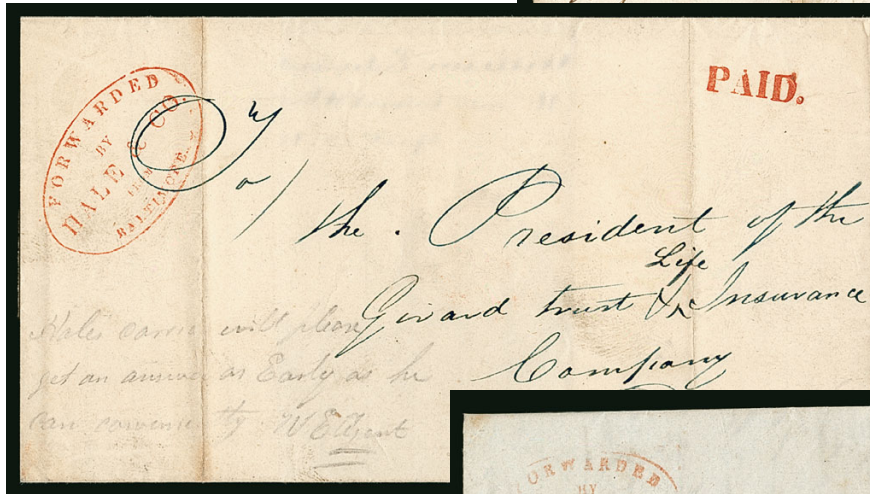
EXTREMELY FINE. AN OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER AND UNIQUE WITH THIS COMBINATION OF MARKINGS.

Several of the larger private posts and Independent Mail companies delivered letters to newspapers free of charge to earn the good will of the editors and publishers. Examples of free delivery are extremely scarce, and no cover demonstrates the service better than this famous Hale and Boyd conjunctive use to James Gordon Bennett, editor of the *New York Herald*. The combination of markings is unique to this cover.

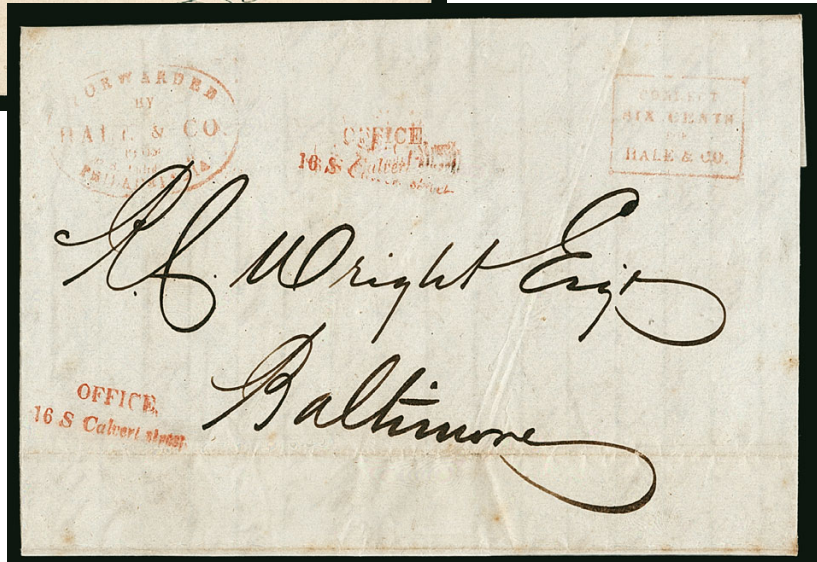
A comparison of the "*Penny Post*" writing to the notations by William Edwards (Hale's Baltimore agent) on another cover (see lot 137) leads us to conclude that he wrote the directive. The large "Free" handstamp is found on a few other Boyd's City Express covers.

Sloane notes on back. Illustrated in Henry Abt's series on Boyd's City Express, Denwood Kelly's series on Baltimore posts and Gutman Hale book (page 125). Ex Perry and Schwartz..... E. 1,500-2,000

138



137



136

- 136 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from 37 S. Third St. Philadelphia.** Red oval handstamp and matching Collect box on June 11, 1845 folded letter re tea auction to Baltimore Md., two strikes of red “OFFICE/16 S. Calvert Street” two-line handstamp on front and a third strike on back, file fold and light wrinkles, Very Fine, Gutman records this as the only known example of the two-line marking with Hale’s Baltimore office address (see Hale book, page 126, and *Independent Mails* book), ex Malcolm and Hahn ..... E. 1,000-1,500
- 137 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Baltimore.** Red oval handstamp struck on front and back of Apr. 28, 1845 folded cover to Philadelphia, matching red “Paid”, docketed “William Edwards, 16 South Calvert St. Baltimore MD April 28, 1845” with **Hale agent William Edwards’ pencil notation on front** “Hale’s carrier will please get an answer as Early as he can conveniently W.E. Agent”, evidently a letter written by Edwards, addressed in blue to the president of the Girard Life Insurance Co. in Philadelphia, probably soliciting business for the new express in Baltimore — Hale & Co. advertised service in Baltimore in April 1845, the whole Hale letter-express operation was closed down on June 30 — file folds, Very Fine, a significant cover from this short-lived period of Hale’s service in Baltimore, ex Kelly and Golden ..... E. 750-1,000
- 138 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Baltimore.** Red oval handstamp clearly struck with matching “Paid.” handstamp struck over Collect box handstamp on June 2, 1845 folded letter to Philadelphia, split down length of file fold and rejoined (slight staining), Very Fine strikes and rare enough to warrant proper restoration, illustrated in *Independent Mails* book, ex Kelly and Golden ..... E. 200-300



## OFFICES IN MASSACHUSETTS



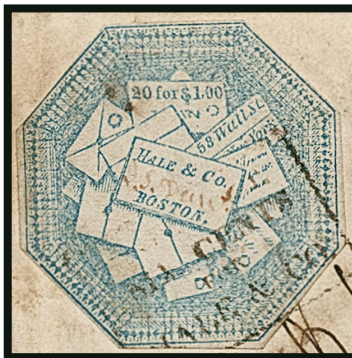
139

- 139 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Second State Position 15, cut to shape, **tiny red manuscript "J.S. Dans."** overprint in blank address space, initials of J. Shed, Hale's agent in South Danvers Mass., tied by framed "Collect Six Cents for Hale & Co." handstamp, brownish **"Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Danvers"** oval handstamp on folded cover (front with parts of four flaps) to Brooklyn N.Y., street address added by Hale's local delivery agent, sealed tear at bottom left, file folds, neither affecting stamp

VERY FINE. ONLY FOUR EXAMPLES OF HALE & COMPANY'S DANVERS OFFICE HANDSTAMP ARE RECORDED, AND ONLY THREE HAVE A STAMP WITH THE AGENT'S CONTROL OVERPRINT. AN OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT MAIL USE.

Gutman records four covers with the Hale & Company Danvers office handstamp, three of which have stamps with the agent's control overprint. An advertisement in the July 25, 1844 *Salem Register* identifies E. W. Stimpson as the agent for the Danvers New Mills office and "Doct. Shed" as the agent for South Danvers. Dr. Joseph Shed was an auctioneer and town clerk in South Danvers. The small manuscript overprint on this stamp was previously misdescribed as "E.S. Dans", on the assumption that it was written by E. W. Stimpson, but it is now correctly described as "J.S. Dans" based on the emergence of two additional Danvers covers, offered in our 2005 Rarities of the World sale (Sale 896, lots 553-554), one of which has the full "J. Shed" name in the same hand.

Illustrated in Gutman Hale book (color Figure 160 and page 172) and *Independent Mails* book. Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 2,000-3,000



139 detail

140



- 140 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Two, one has red manuscript “h” initial and other has manuscript “Haverhill” overprint, both applied before use, each stamp cut to shape and tied by red “Forwarded through/Hale & Co.’s/Letter Office — Boston” framed handstamp with “13 Court St.” deleted, matching bold strike of “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Haverhill” oval handstamp on folded cover to New Bedford Mass., docketing indicates Sep. 2 (1844) origin date, file fold thru both stamps

VERY FINE OVERALL CONDITION. A REMARKABLE HALE & COMPANY COVER WITH A COMBINATION OF STAMPS HAVING TWO DIFFERENT MANUSCRIPT CONTROL MARKINGS APPLIED BY THE HAVERHILL OFFICE.

Each manuscript overprint (“h” and “Haverhill”) is extremely rare in its own right. The combination of the two is extraordinary and suggests that the first stamp was applied by the sender and the second was applied at the Haverhill office to uprate the prepayment.

Illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 179) and *Independent Mails* book. Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 1,500-2,000

141



- 141 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Cut to shape, magenta manuscript “h” initial Haverhill control marking, tied by red “Forwarded through/Hale & Co.’s/Letter Office — Boston” framed handstamp with “13 Court St.” deleted on undated folded letter addressed in blue to New York City, mentioned “Hale’s Express”, stamp has pre-use crease, lettersheet lightly soiled, still Very Fine, ex Schwartz ..... E. 150-200



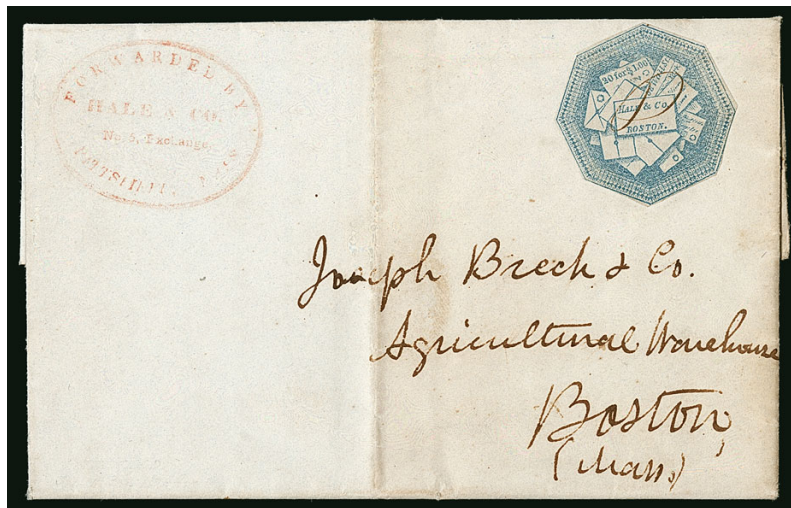


- 142 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Second State Position 17 “Wail” instead of “Wall” variety, neatly cut to shape, **magenta manuscript “AB” control initials** applied by Amos Bates (Hale’s New Bedford Mass. agent), perfect strike of red “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from New Bedford” oval handstamp on **envelope** to Boston street address, green wax seal on flap, Extremely Fine, a remarkable early use of an envelope with an Independent Mail stamp — at a time when the U.S. Post office charged an extra rate for an envelope, they were seldom used for correspondence sent thru the mails — ex Schwartz..... E. 300-400
- 143 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Second State Position 11, neatly cut to shape, **magenta manuscript “NB” initials for New Bedford**, used on Jul. 15, 1844 folded letter to Philadelphia, perfect clear strike of “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from New Bedford” oval handstamp in black, Extremely Fine, superb and very scarce, Gutman records only five covers with the “NB” control initials, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 500-750
- 144 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Cut to shape, **magenta manuscript “NB” New Bedford control mark**, red “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from New Bedford” oval handstamp on undated folded letter to Governor Briggs in Pittsfield Mass., pencil “**Penny Post free, AB**”, indicating local delivery charge was waived, Very Fine, Hale agents were Amos Bates in New Bedford and E. P. Little in Pittsfield, Bates used a straightline “Penny Post Paid” (Feb.-Mar. 1845), this appears to be a manuscript form of prepayment, ex Hahn ..... E. 400-500





- 145 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Neatly cut to shape, reddish-brown manuscript "T" initial applied by Northampton agent A. W. Thayer, cancelled by manuscript "C" on Aug. 21, 1844 folded letter from Northampton to Boston, perfect strike of red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Northampton" oval handstamp, Extremely Fine, letter mentions using Hale & Co., Sloane's notes on back, ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500
- 146 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Neatly cut to shape, magenta manuscript "T" initial applied by Northampton agent A. W. Thayer, cancelled by manuscript "C" on Aug. 27, 1844 folded letter from Northampton to Boston, perfect strike of red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Northampton" oval handstamp, file fold thru stamp, otherwise Very Fine, ex Schwartz ... E. 150-200



- 147 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Second State Position 20, neatly cut to shape, rich color, manuscript "P" initial cancel, red "Forwarded by Hale & Co., No. 5 Exchange, Pittsfield, Mass." oval handstamp on Jul. 30, 1844 folded letter from Pittsfield to Boston, usual under-inked strike but very sharp and readable, faint toning
- VERY FINE. ONE OF THREE RECORDED COVERS WITH HALE & COMPANY'S PITTSFIELD OFFICE HANDSTAMP, TWO OF WHICH BEAR STAMPS (BOTH 75L5).
- Six Hale & Co. covers from Pittsfield are recorded by Gutman, of which only three have the Hale & Co. Pittsfield oval. The cover offered here and one other (Jul. 30, 1844) are stamped, each with 75L5. The third cover with the oval handstamp is stampless (Jul. 29, 1844, ex Hall, Siegel Sale 830, lot 332).
- Accompanying this cover is an original newspaper clipping from the Jul. 25, 1844, edition of the *Berkshire County Whig*, with an advertisement placed by E. P. Little, Hale's agent and owner of a local bookstore.
- Illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 203). Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate... E. 1,500-2,000





148

- 148 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Two, different shades and different manuscript "Salem" control markings, left stamp from Position 6 Third State with plate damage at left, right stamp from Position 16 Second State (undamaged plate), each cut to shape and tied by faint strikes of red Collect box handstamp, left stamp also tied by brownish "Hale & Co.'s Mail/Paid at Boston" two-line framed handstamp on folded cover to New York City, Goodhue correspondence with name crossed out, docketing indicates Nov. 30, 1844 origin date, file folds, one barely affects left stamp, Fine, a remarkable and very rare cover that dramatically demonstrates the "Salem" marking was applied to sheets before use — in this case, by two different persons to two different sheets from two different printings made from two different states of the plate (!) — Gutman records fewer than ten covers with the "Salem" control marking (on both 75L2 and 75L5), illustrated in his Hale book (color Figure 205 and page 210) and *Independent Mails* book, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 750-1,000



149

- 149 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Two, each neatly cut to shape, both stamps have manuscript "Salem" control marking, "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Salem" oval handstamp applied at origin and stamps tied by "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Boston" oval handstamp applied en route on folded cover to New York City, docketed with Aug. 14, 1844 origin date, Goodhue correspondence with addressee's last name crossed out in pen causing some ink erosion, stained file fold thru one stamp, still Fine and extremely rare, Gutman records fewer than ten covers with the "Salem" control marking (on both 75L2 and 75L5), ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500





150

151

152

- 150 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Second State Position 4 with **top sheet margin**, other sides touching to slightly in, **red manuscript "S" initial control marking** applied at Salem Mass. before use, cancelled by red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted, used on Jun. 29 folded letter to Boston, faint pencil note "*Hale & Co. 23 State St. Mail for Salem closes at 4½ pm*", file fold, Very Fine, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 300-400
- 151 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Square margins, mostly large including **right sheet margin**, slightly in at top, bright shade, **manuscript "CR" initials control marking** (Connecticut River), cancelled by manuscript "X", clear red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Springfield" oval handstamp on folded cover to New York City, docketed with Jul. 22, 1844 origin date, file fold, Very Fine and extremely scarce, ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 300-400
- 152 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Square margins, ample to large except barely in at bottom, **manuscript "W" Worcester control initial**, used on Apr. 9, 1845 folded letter to Boston street address, red "Hale & Co's Mail Worcester" oval handstamp, manuscript "Paid" confirms use of stamp, Very Fine, ex Schwartz..... E. 300-400



## MAINE



153

- 153 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Neatly cut to shape, cancelled by small crossed pen strokes, used on folded letter datelined Sep. 5, 1844, at **Portland Me.** and addressed to Boston, small red "PAID." handstamp at upper right and manuscript "2c" for local delivery charge, docketed with wrong letter date "15" instead of Sep. 5, lightly soiled file fold, extraneous ink spots, Very Fine, scarce Portland origin, the source of the "Paid" handstamp is uncertain (possibly a Penny Post marking applied at Boston), ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500



154

- 154 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Square margins, huge on two sides showing parts of adjoining stamps, barely in on other sides, **precancelled with crossed ruled lines**, tied by pencil on Aug. 14, 1844 folded letter from **Frankfort Me.** to New York City, sender's "(Paid) 6" notation, **conjunctive service with Jerome & Company**, clear strike of "Jerome & Co.'s, Express, No. 8 Court St. Boston" in wavy-line frame handstamp in black, overstruck by red "Forwarded by Hale & Co.'s Great Eastern Mail" oval handstamp — Hale evidently struck out the Jerome marking on letters it received, presumably to downplay the other firm's involvement — horizontal file fold clear of stamp, Very Fine, Jerome & Co. carried this from Frankfort to Boston, then handed it over to Hale & Co. for the second leg from Boston to New York City, rare use of the precancelled Hale stamp on a conjunctive service cover, Gutman records five Hale covers originating in Frankfort (four with Jerome handstamps), this is the earliest, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 109), ex Schwartz..... E. 1,000-1,500

155



- 155 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from New London.** Small red oval handstamp, under-inked strike with matching Collect box on Nov. 4, 1844 folded letter to Frankfort Me., **conjunctive service** with “Jerome & Co.’s Express, No. 8 Court St., Boston” framed handstamp, Very Fine, extremely rare example of the New London office handstamp (Gutman records 10 examples) and the only recorded conjunctive use from this office, Hale carried the letter to Boston, and Jerome carried it to Frankfort, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 84), ex Hall..... E. 500-750

### CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE WITH POMEROY’S LETTER EXPRESS

156



- 156 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Providence.** Red oval handstamp clearly struck on undated folded cover to Albany N.Y., **delivered by Pomeroy’s Letter Express** with its Albany office red “POMEROY’S MAIL” straightline handstamp clearly struck, no rates indicated, faint pencil street address added for delivery, Very Fine, an interesting conjunctive usage, Pomeroy evidently delivered mail in Albany for the other Independent Mail companies, an example of similar conjunctive service with American Letter Mail Co. is offered in lot 18, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 322), ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500





157

- 157 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Ample to large square margins, magenta “S” control initial applied at Salem Mass., cancelled by red “Forwarded through/Hale & Co.’s/Letter Office — Boston” framed handstamp with “13 Court St.” deleted, used on Aug. 10, 1844 folded letter to Utica N.Y. with sender’s directive “Independent Mail Paid”, carried by Hale & Co. to Albany and handed over to **Pomeroy’s Letter Express** for transport to Utica, pencil “Collect 6¼” for Pomeroy’s service, Very Fine, a remarkable cover in several respects — the “S” initialed stamp, conjunctive service with Pomeroy, and, most important, it is the only cover we recall seeing with the term “Independent Mail” used to describe the route — Sloane’s note at bottom, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 292), ex Schwartz ..... E. 750-1,000



158EX

- 158 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Second State Position 5, clear to large square margins, magenta “S” control initial applied at Salem Mass., cancelled by red “Forwarded through/Hale & Co.’s/Letter Office — Boston” framed handstamp with “13 Court St.” deleted, “Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Salem” black oval handstamp on Aug. 4, 1844 folded letter to Utica N.Y. street address, carried by Hale & Co. to Albany and handed over to **Pomeroy’s Letter Express** for transport to Utica, pencil “Collect 6¼” for Pomeroy’s service, Very Fine, an attractive conjunctive service cover, ex Schwartz, accompanied by a stampless cover from Salem black oval and red Collect box from Salem to New York City (Aug. 23, 1844) .....(Photo Ex) E. 500-750

## CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE WITH ROBERTS' EXPRESS



159

- 159 ☒ **Hale & Co., 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5).** Third State Position 17 “Wail” instead of “Wall” variety, huge square margins showing parts of two adjoining stamps, affixed over “Forwarded by A. Roberts & Co.’s Eastern Letter Express” double-line oval handstamp and tied by “Forwarded through/Hale & Co.’s/Letter Office — Boston” framed handstamp with “13 Court St.” deleted, “Hale & Co.’s Mail, Boston, Office 23 State Street” oval handstamp, manuscript “Paid 5” on folded letter datelined at Concord N.H., Sep. 22, 1844, addressed to New York City with sender’s directive “Roberts’ Express”, horizontal file fold thru stamp, which has a tiny margin tear, partly lifted to show Roberts handstamp underneath

VERY FINE OVERALL CONDITION. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED ROBERTS EXPRESS COVER WITH A HALE & COMPANY STAMP. AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF INDEPENDENT MAIL CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE.

Andrew Roberts began advertising his “Cheap Independent Letter Express” in July 1844, providing service between Boston and points in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and upstate New York, and charging rates of 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, 9c, 10c and 11c. Sammis records ten covers with the Roberts oval handstamp, ranging in dates from Aug. 19 to Oct. 25, 1844, all but one of which are stampless. The cover offered here is the only Roberts’ Express cover with an adhesive stamp. In this case it appears that the stamp indicated payment for Hale’s service from Boston to New York City, and it was probably applied by Roberts’ office.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex Schwartz ..... E. 1,500-2,000

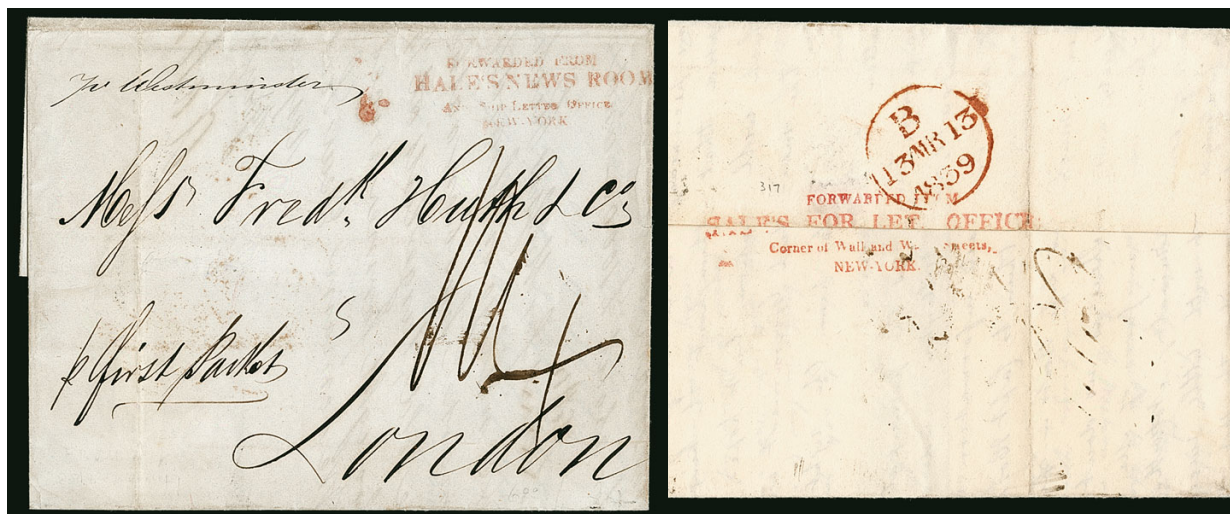


## HALE &amp; COMPANY STAMPLESS MARKINGS



160

- 160 ☒ **Forwarded Through/Hale's/Foreign Letter Office/New-York.** Four-line handstamp in red (Gutman Type NY-D) and two strikes of matching "Paid" in negative mirrored letters in oval "shield" (unlisted in Gutman Hale book) on Feb. 28, 1842 folded letter to **London, England**, sender's ship-name directive "*pr. Patr: Henry*", "1842 MR 27/Liverpool/Ship" framed ship-letter datestamp and red London receiving datestamp on back, ms. "8" pence due, minor tear at top right barely into marking, Very Fine, scarce handstamp (Gutman lists seven or eight, excluding this cover), the "Paid" handstamp is the only reported example thus far (Gutman does not list it), ex Hahn ..... E. 750-1,000

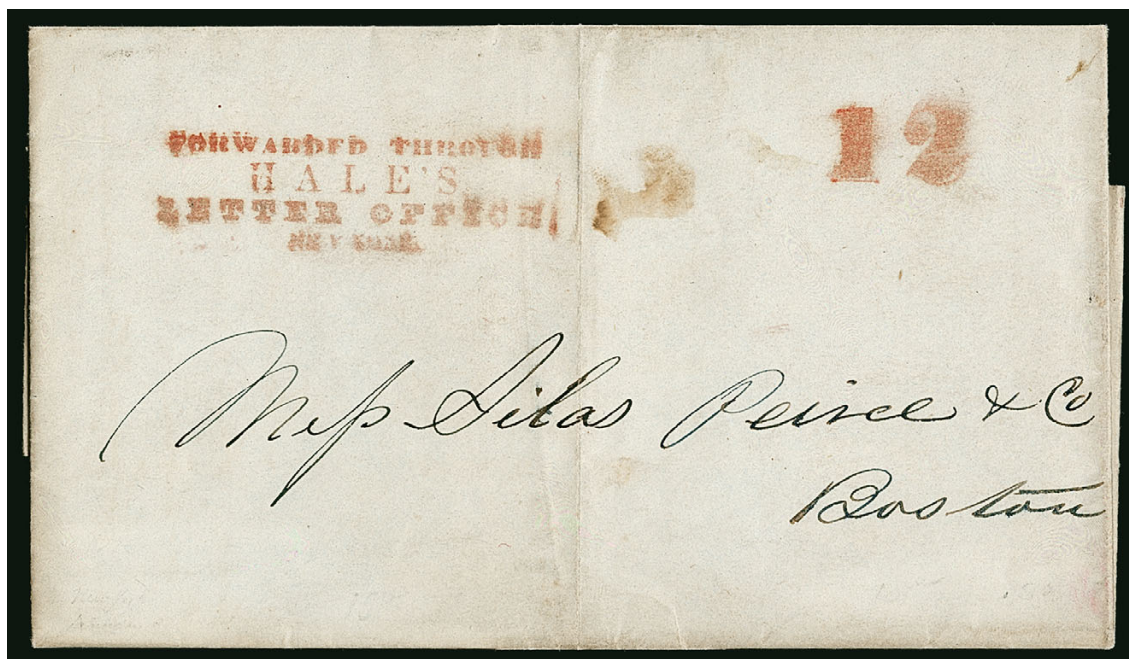


161

162

- 161 ☒ **Forwarded by/Hale's News Room/And Ship Letter Office/New-York.** Red four-line handstamp (Gutman Type NY-C) on Dec. 2, 1841 folded letter from New Orleans to **London, England**, Huth correspondence, forwarder's manuscript marking on back "*New York 20th Decr 1841, forwarded by, Your most obdt svs., pr Edw Bech & Co.*" and ship directive on front in same hand "*pr Westminster*", "Portsmouth/Ship Letter" handstamp and red London Jan. 15, 1842 receiving datestamp on back, manuscript "*1/4*" rate, Very Fine and scarce, Gutman lists five covers with this marking, ex Schwartz ..... E. 300-400
- 162 ☒ **Forwarded from/Hale's For. Let. Office/Corner of Wall and Water Streets, New-York.** Four-line red handstamp (Gutman Type NY-A) on back of 1839 folded letter to **London, England**, Huth correspondence, sender's ship directive "*pr Gt. Western*" with "Bristol/Ship Letter" handstamp and London Mar. 13, 1839 receiving datestamp on back, manuscript "*1/3*" rate, Very Fine, Gutman lists eight known examples of this scarce Hale's foreign letter service marking, ex Golden ..... E. 150-200





163

- 163 ☒ **Forwarded Through/Hale's/Letter Office,/New York.** Red four-line handstamp and matching "12" rate handstamp on Jan. 23, 1844 folded letter addressed in blue to Boston, Very Fine, scarce early Hale marking, ex Schwartz ..... E. 300-400



164

- 164 **Hale & Co.'s Mail/Paid at Boston.** Red wavy-line frame handstamp on Feb. 3, 1845 folded letter from Boston to Paris, France, sender's directive "Pr Havre Packet, Duchess d'Orleans, Feb 8 from N York", red "Outre-Mer Le Havre 25 Fevr 45" arrival datestamp, black "6" decimes due handstamp, Paris receiving backstamp, receipt docketing, Fine, very unusual outbound transatlantic cover handled by Hale's Independent Mail ..... E. 300-400





165

- 165 ☒ **Collect Six Cents/for/Hale & Co.** Red framed handstamp with manuscript rate change to "18¾" on Nov. 5, 1844 folded letter **from Liverpool, England, to Hartford Conn. via New York City**, manuscript "6", sender's directive "*Queen of the West*" on inside letter, file fold, faint toning, Very Fine, extremely rare use of Hale & Co. service to forward transatlantic mail, the 6c and 18¾c rates and absence of postal markings indicate that this was enclosed in another cover or carried into the U.S. outside the regular mails, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 330), ex Hall ..... E. 400-500

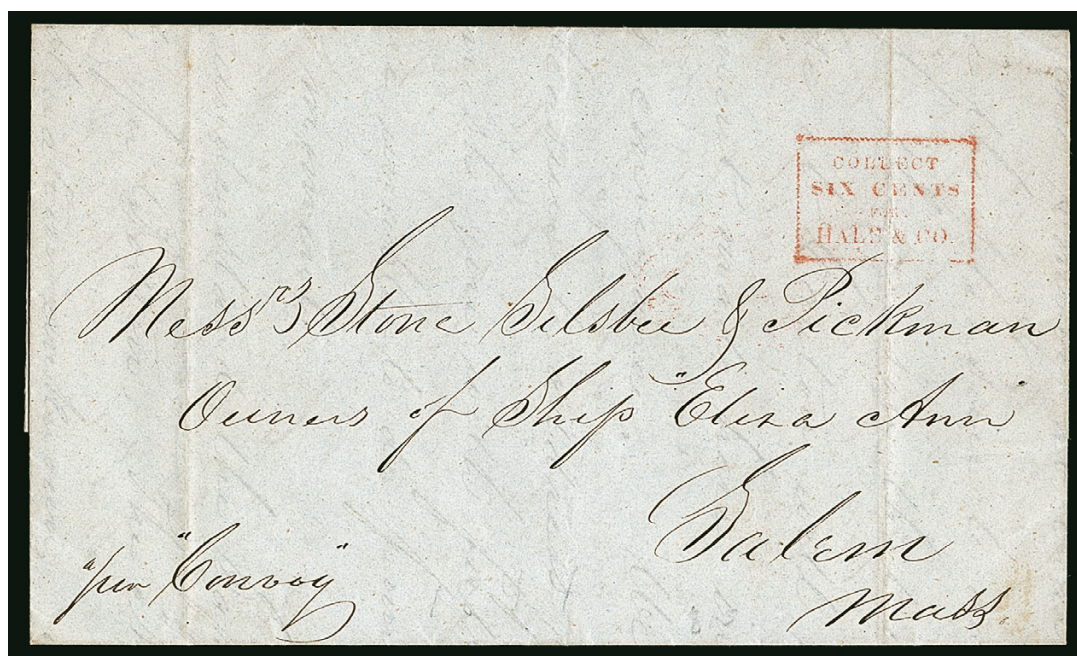


166

- 166 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Boston.** Red oval handstamp and matching Collect box handstamp with 6c rate changed in pencil to 18c for triple rate on Oct. 18, 1844 blue folded letter **from Manchester, England, to New York City**, sender's ship directive "*p Steamer 'Hibernia'*", letter mentions enclosures (thus triple rate), Very Fine, scarce transatlantic letter carried outside the mails to Boston and given to Hale & Co. for transport to New York City, ex Schwartz ..... E. 300-400



167



- 167 ☒ **Collect/Six Cents/for/Hale & Co.** Red framed handstamp on folded letter **from Macao to Salem, Mass.**, datelined "Macao, 19th July 1844" with sender's ship directive "per 'Convoy'", addressed to the owners of the *Eliza Ann*, red "Wetmore & Cryder New-York" oval forwarder's handstamp on back, file folds, Very Fine, carried from Macao to New York outside the mails, given to Wetmore & Cryder, who in turn gave it to Hale & Co. for its northbound mail to Salem Mass., an extremely rare inbound cover from China carried by Hale & Co., Gutman records only two from Macau and two from Canton, ex Hahn ..... E. 1,000-1,500

168



- 168 ☒ **Collect/Six Cents/for/Hale & Co.** Red framed handstamp on folded letter **from Macao to New York**, datelined "Macao, Dec. 6, 1844" with sender's ship directive "per 'Haugua'", Very Fine, carried from Macao to New York outside the mails, a similar cover to this one but addressed to Salem Mass. (see lot 167) was given to forwarder Wetmore & Cryder, who in turn gave it to Hale & Co. for its northbound mail, this is an extremely rare inbound cover from China carried by Hale & Co., Gutman records only two from Macau and two from Canton, ex Hahn ..... E. 1,000-1,500





169

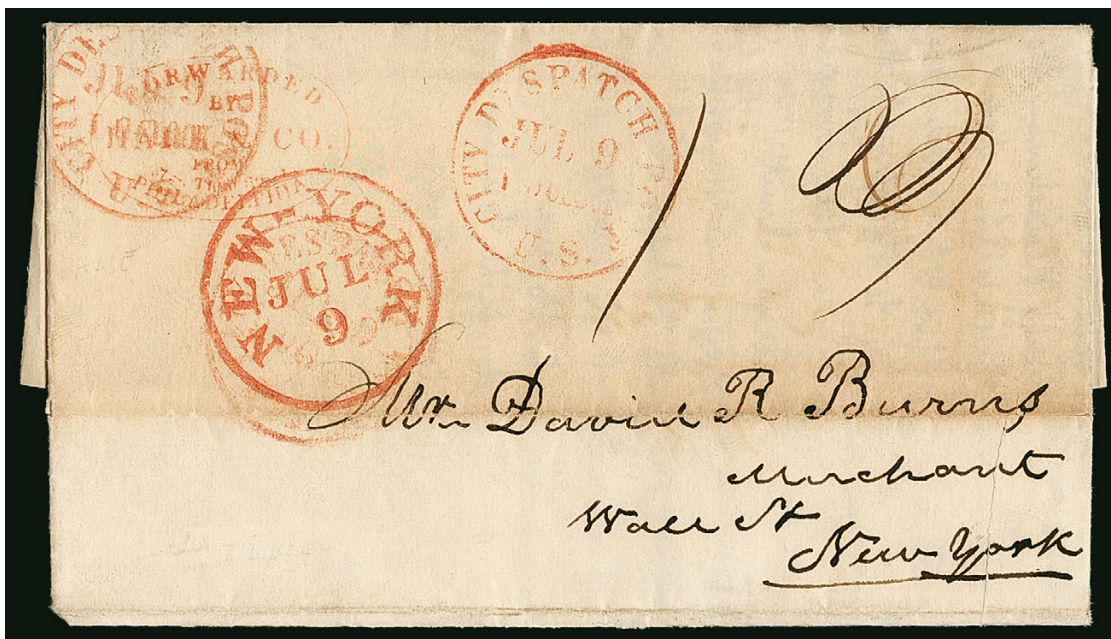
- 169 ☒ **U.S. Express Mail, Boston Mass., Jun. 11 (1845).** Route agent's red circular datestamp and large red manuscript "18 $\frac{3}{4}$ " rate on blue folded letter datelined at Dover N.H., Jun. 10, from John A. Burleigh (railroad agent) to Patrick T. Jackson, in care of the president of the Reading Railroad in Philadelphia, **forwarded by Hale & Co. back to Boston** with street address added for delivery, red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from 37 S. Third St., Philadelphia" oval handstamp and matching 6c Collect box, the letter concerns extending the U.S. mail contract by rail to Dover N.H. and offering terms and inducements to compete with the stage operators, Extremely Fine, this letter — mailed just weeks before the end of the Independent Mail era — perfectly demonstrates the cheaper rates offered by the private companies: 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c by government mail from Boston to Philadelphia, and only 6c for the return trip by Hale & Co., illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 303), ex Schwartz..... E. 500-750



170

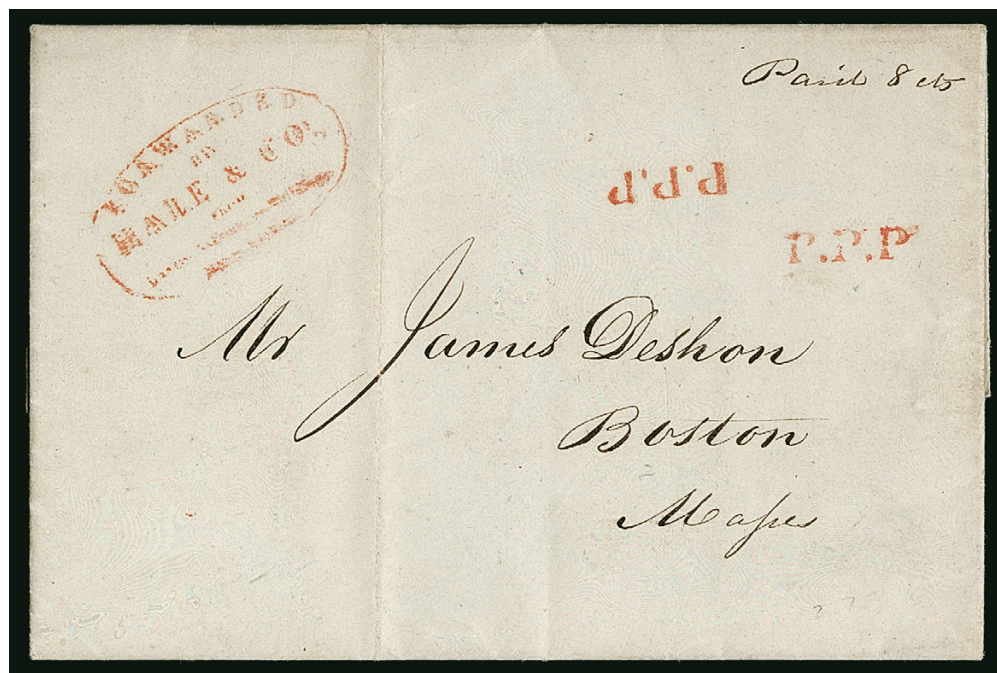
- 170 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from 37 S. Third Street, Philadelphia.** Red oval handstamp and matching Collect box on Oct. 7, 1844 folded letter to Webster Mass., red "Norwich Ct. Oct. 10" government circular datestamp and manuscript "10" rate, three days after mailing, pencil "Norwich", Extremely Fine, Webster was not served by Hale & Co., three letters to Webster are recorded in Gutman Hale book (page 220), two were put into the U.S. mail at Norwich and one at Worcester, ex Hall..... E. 500-750





171

- 171 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from 37 S. Third St., Philadelphia.** Red oval handstamp and manuscript "6" rate on Jul. 6, 1844 folded letter to New York City street address, evidently dropped into a mail box, three strikes of red "U.S. City Despatch Post Jul. 9 1 O'Clock" circular datestamp, bold red "New-York Jul. 9" circular datestamp probably applied after the carrier markings and held as a drop letter at the post office, Hale rate crossed out and re-rated "1", slightly toned file fold, otherwise Very Fine, an intriguing usage, our interpretation is logical but certainly open to revision, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 282), ex Schwartz ..... E. 300-400



172

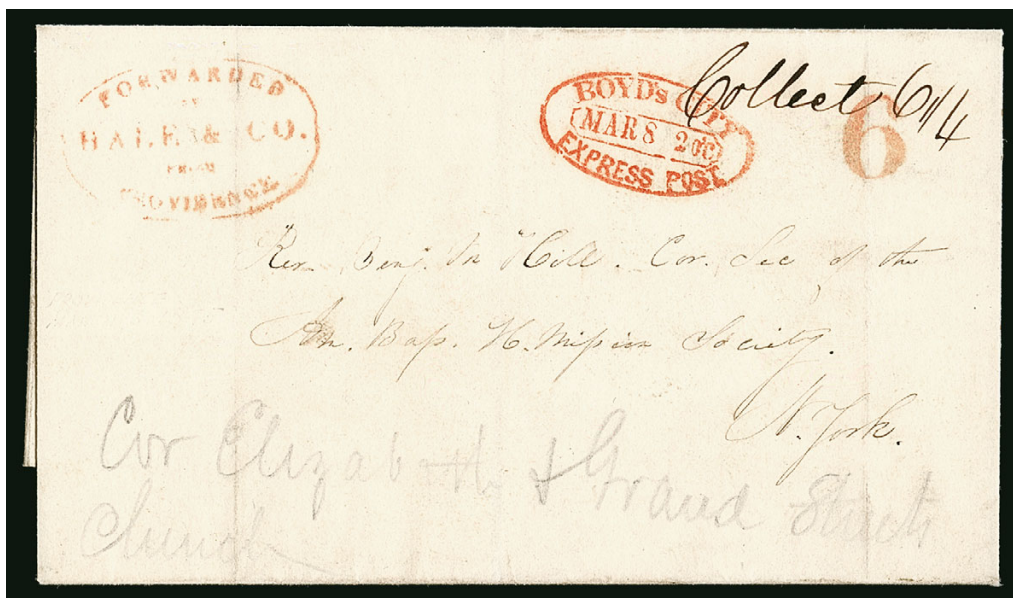
- 172 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enquirer Building, New York.** Red oval handstamp and two strikes of matching "P.P.P." (Penny Post Paid) straightline handstamp, manuscript "Paid 8 cts" (6c plus 2c delivery fee) on May 23, 1845 folded letter to Boston, Very Fine and rare, Gutman records only four examples of this New York City "P.P.P." marking, illustrated in his Hale book (page 277), ex Schwartz ..... E. 400-500





- 173 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enquirer Building, New York.** Red oval handstamp and matching "P.P.P." (Penny Post Paid) and "Paid" straightline handstamps on blue folded cover to Boston, tiny manuscript "Paid 8ct" for 6c rate and 2c local delivery, Very Fine, only four examples of this New York "P.P.P." handstamp are recorded in Gutman census (*Independent Mails* book), ex Hahn ..... E. 300-400
- 174 ☒ **(Boston Mass.) "PENNY POST/PAID".** Red two-line handstamp struck twice on May 26, 1845 folded letter from Boston to Brunswick Me. with May 31 reply on other side, sender's notation "single & paid in full", Very Fine, rare marking applied at Hale's Boston office, Gutman records seven examples, this is the only one with two strikes, illustrated in his Hale book (page 104), ex Schwartz ..... E. 400-500
- 175 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enq. Building, New York.** Red oval handstamp and matching Collect box with Portsmouth N.H. agent's pencil rate "Postage 8ct C.E. Blunt" on Aug. 14, 1844 folded letter from New York City to Portsmouth N.H., Very Fine, Charles E. Blunt was the Hale agent in Portsmouth, the additional 2c was for local delivery, ex Hahn ..... E. 200-300





176

- 176 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Providence.** Red oval handstamp and matching “6” handstamp rate on folded cover to New York City, manuscript “Collect 6¼”, vivid red “Boyd’s City Express Post, Mar. 8 2 O’C” oval datestamp, pencil street address probably added by Hale’s agent, docketing indicates Mar. 6, 1845 origin at Providence, cleaned and pressed, Very Fine, very scarce conjunctive use, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 322), ex Hall ..... E. 400-500



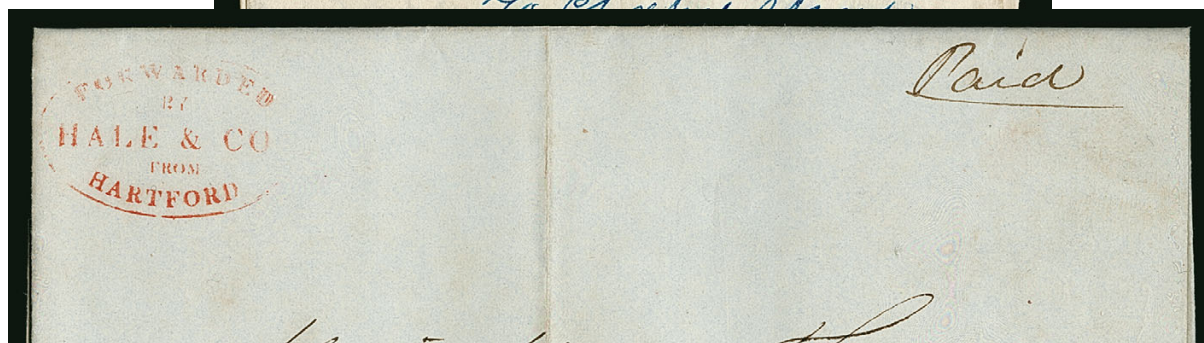
177

- 177 ☒ **FORWARDED BY/HALE BROOKLYN. N.Y.** Two lines in Eagle with branches and stars oval handstamp and Collect box handstamp on Apr. 20, 1845 folded letter addressed in blue to Springfield Mass., Very Fine, Gutman records only nine examples of this handstamp and notes that most are “poorly struck”, the marking was made by inserting type into a stock device used for various purposes, ex Schwartz ..... E. 500-750

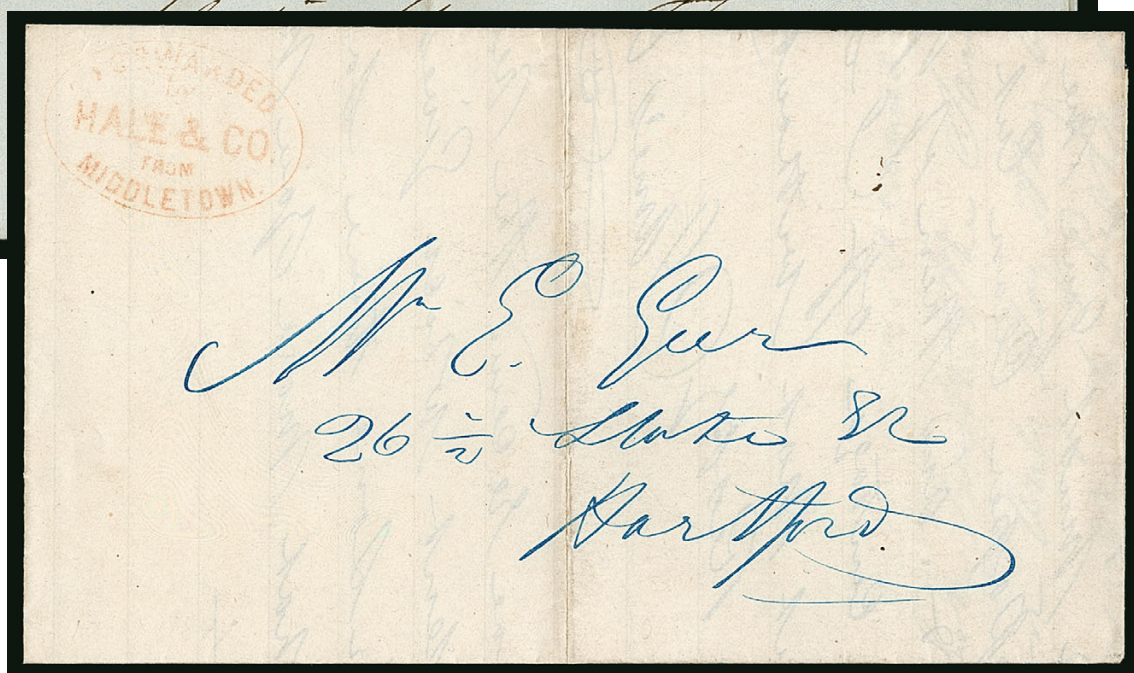




178



179EX

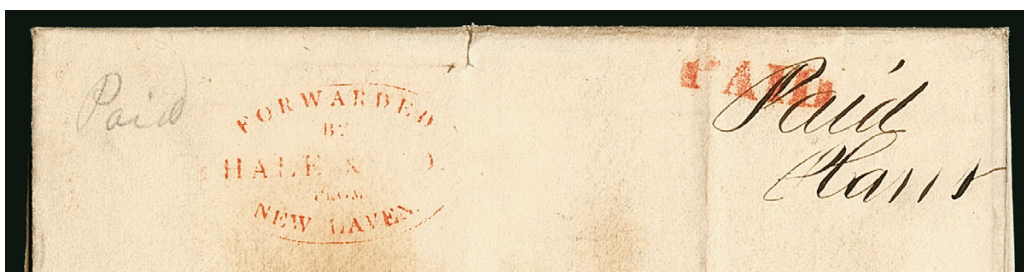


180

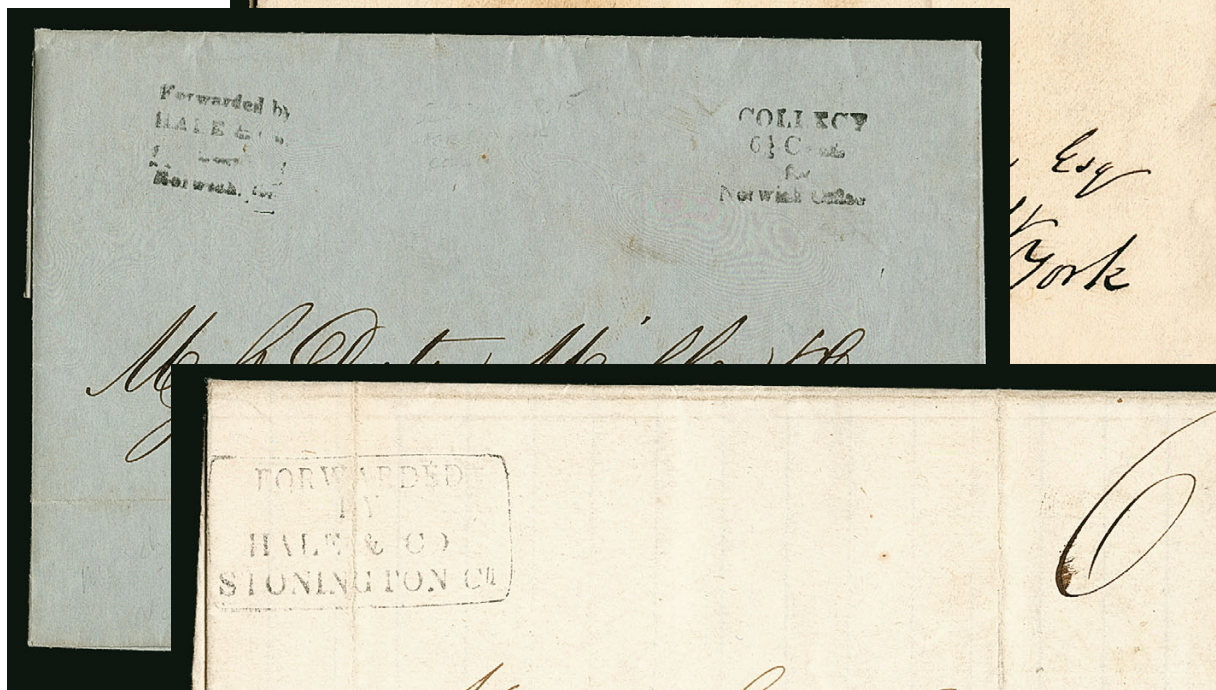
- 178 ☒ **(Hale & Co.) "Newark N.J. 6".** Manuscript rate and office designation over red Collect box, matching "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Courier & Enquirer Building, New York" oval handstamp on folded letter addressed in blue to Albany N.Y., datelined Newark, Sep. 3, 1844, docketed just below markings, Very Fine, Gutman lists three Hale covers from Newark with New York office markings (*Independent Mails* book), he speculates that they were privately carried to Hale's New York office, but the manuscript Newark marking on this cover indicates a Hale agent was involved, ex Hahn ..... E. 500-750
- 179 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Hartford.** Red oval handstamp on two folded letters to Boston, Sep. 11, 1844 with manuscript "Paid" (ex Golden) and Dec. 23, 1844 with black Collect box handstamp (extensive splitting along folds, ex Fay), scarce (26 recorded in Gutman census).....**(Photo Ex)** E. 150-200
- 180 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Middletown.** Usual lightly-inked strike but fully readable, without any rate marking on Dec. 10, 1844 folded letter addressed in blue to Hartford Conn., file fold, Very Fine, scarce Middletown handstamp and unusual use between Connecticut towns, ex Schwartz ..... E. 200-300



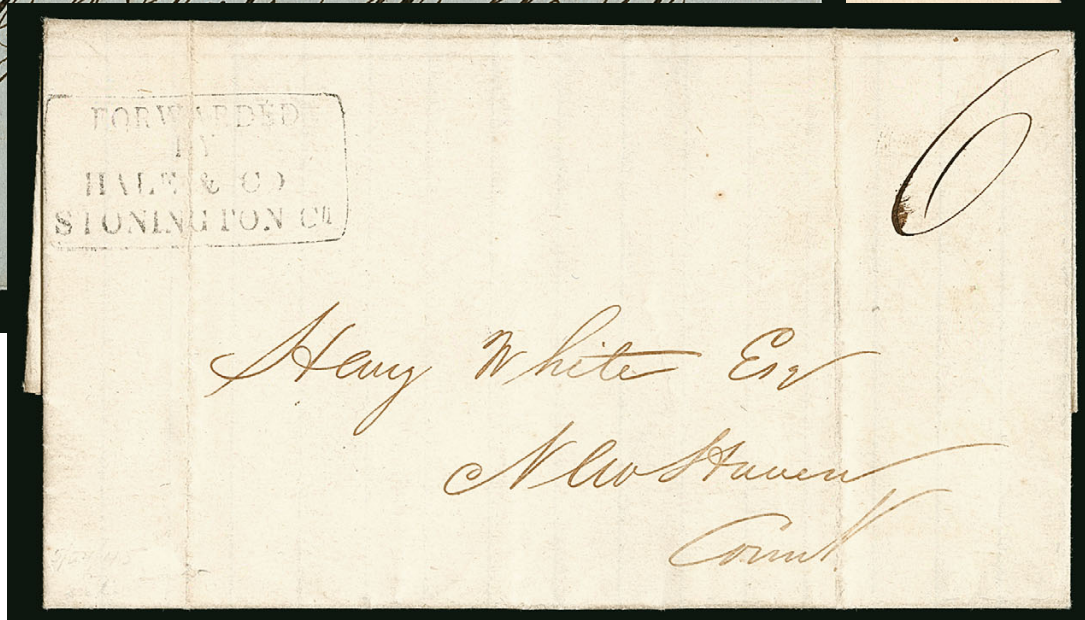
181



182



183



- 181 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from New Haven.** Red oval handstamp, mostly clear strike with red "Paid" straightline (probably applied in New York City, **manuscript "Paid Plant" endorsement of Hale's agent** on Apr. 21, 1845 folded letter from New Haven to New York City street address, pencil "Paid" and "87" street correction, faint toning, file fold, still Fine and very scarce New Haven marking, the manuscript marking is extremely rare, Henry B. Plant was an agent for Hale & Co., he went on to become a significant player in Adams Express and the railroad transportation industry, as well as a Florida real estate developer, Plant was put in charge of the Southern Express Co. during the Civil War, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 81), ex Hall..... E. 500-750
- 182 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co./from Norwich, Ct.** Four-line handstamp with "Collect/6 1/4 Cents/for/Norwich Office" four-line handstamp on Mar. 17, 1845 blue folded letter to Dater, Miller & Co. in New York City, pencil note on back "*Hale & Co. 58 Wall St., Courier & Enquirer Building*" appears to have been written at the time of mailing, horizontal file fold, Very Fine, these markings are very scarce (only 10 of the Collect handstamp recorded by Gutman) and usually struck as they are on this letter, ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500
- 183 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. Stonington Ct.** Framed four-line handstamp — an unusual and rare type — lightly-inked but readable strike with manuscript "6" rate on May 24, 1845 folded letter from Stonington to New Haven, file folds, Very Fine, only six recorded in Gutman census, ex Hall..... E. 500-750





- 184 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co., 95 Merrimac St., Lowell.** Clear strike of red oval handstamp with matching Collect box handstamp on Oct. 14, 1844 folded letter to Boston, sender's large directive "Hale & Co.", fresh and Very Fine, one of the scarcer Hale markings (eight recorded in Gutman census), ex Schwartz..... E. 150-200
- 185 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from New Bedford.** Clear strikes of red oval handstamp and "Collect/Six Cents/for/New Bedford Office" framed rate handstamp on April 1, 1845 letter to Boston, file fold does not touch either marking, Extremely Fine strikes on a fresh cover..... E. 200-300
- 186 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Springfield.** Bold strikes of oval handstamp and Collect box in **red and green**, the former on Sep. 4, 1844 folded letter to New Haven Conn. (small tears), the latter on a front only to Hartford Conn. with pencil "8" including 2c delivery fee (toned file fold), Very Fine strikes and an attractive matching pair, Springfield was the only Hale office to use green ink.....(Photo Ex) E. 200-300



## UTILITY OVAL WITH "NANTUCKET" AND "WAREHAM"



- 187 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co. "Nantucket" in Manuscript.** Red oval handstamp, modified by removing lower portion and inserting "Nantucket" by hand, matching red "Collect 6 Cents for N. Bedford Office" framed handstamp on Jan. 10, 1845 folded letter from Nantucket to Providence R.I.

EXTREMELY FINE. POSSIBLY THE FINEST OF THE FOUR RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THE HALE & COMPANY OVAL HANDSTAMP WITH "NANTUCKET" MANUSCRIPT NAME.

Elliott Perry reported that "Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, the steamer *Massachusetts* connected at New Bedford with the train from Boston in the morning and to Boston in the evening."

Gutman records four covers with the "Nantucket" office oval marking. The manuscript "Wareham" office name was also inserted into this blank oval handstamp, which has the same break in the right side (see lot 188). It is possible that the Hale agent in New Bedford used a utility oval and inserted the originating office name in manuscript.

Ex Hall ..... E. 1,500-2,000

- 188 ☒ **Forwarded by Hale & Co., "Wareham" in Manuscript.** Red oval handstamp, modified by removing lower portion and inserting "Wareham" by hand, matching red "Paid" handstamp on Apr. 15, 1845 folded letter from Wareham to New Bedford Mass.

VERY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE HALE & COMPANY OVAL HANDSTAMP WITH "WAREHAM" MANUSCRIPT NAME.

In both his Hale and *Independent Mails* books, Gutman records this cover as the only known example of the Wareham office oval marking (illustrated in Hale book on p. 219). The manuscript "Nantucket" office name was also inserted into this blank oval handstamp, which has the same break in the right side (see lot 187). It is possible that the Hale agent in New Bedford used a utility oval and inserted the originating office name in manuscript.

Ex Chambers, Sloane, Lowe and Hahn ..... E. 1,500-2,000



## HARNDEN &amp; COMPANY



William F. Harnden

The person credited with organizing the first regular "express" business on railroad lines is William Frederick Harnden (1812-1845), known as "The Original Expressman." In 1839 Harnden established what is considered to be the first railroad express business in the United States, starting with the New York-Boston route.

Harnden & Company grew to become one of the country's largest express operations, handling packages, banknotes, specie and other material across a wide network of transportation lines. With the inauguration of Cunard Line transatlantic steam packet service between the U.S. and Great Britain, Harnden took advantage of an opportunity to carry mail by express to meet the steamship arrivals and departures at Boston. For this purpose, the Post Office awarded Harnden a contract to legally carry mail contained in locked bags between Boston and New York City, effectively making Harnden an official U.S. mail agent.

Despite some letter-carrying activity on domestic routes and providing service for transatlantic mail forwarding, Harnden & Co. avoided openly competing with or challenging the government's monopoly by carrying letter mail in a manner that defied the law.



189

- 189 ☒ **Harnden & Co's Express from No. 43 South Third St., Philada.** Black on pink label with steamship illustration used on folded cover from Philadelphia to New York City, J. & J. Stuart correspondence, manuscript "Paid P", docketed with Jul. 15, 1844 origin date, file fold ties label, few minor edge faults, still Fine, Hahn recorded three examples of this Harnden Philadelphia office label but we believe a few more exist, a rare example of Harnden's short-lived foray into carrying domestic intercity mail (he did not participate extensively in the 1844-45 Independent Mail service), ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500

## HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE

The most recent and best-documented history of the Independent Mail company commonly known as the "Hartford Mail Route" (there is no contemporary documentation of that name) has been self-published by Richard C. Frajola and will appear as a chapter in the *Independent Mails* book. As Frajola has persuasively shown, the Hartford Mail Route was operated by Francis A. Fuller, an express agent. Previous accounts credit Edward Parsons as the source of the stamps, but his role in the company was probably minimal.

The Hartford Mail Route started carrying southbound mail in August 1844, using Phillips' Express agents from New Haven to New York City. Later in 1844, Fuller made arrangements with Thompson's Express to carry mail northbound to Springfield, Massachusetts, with continuing service eastbound to Boston or westbound to Albany. The company stopped service on all routes on June 30, 1845. The Phillips and Thompson express companies both served as sub-contractors for Hale & Company. The evidence supports Frajola's claim that Fuller, a former employee of Phillips' Express, was tasked by Hale & Company to make arrangements for northbound and southbound letter express service from Hartford.

The Hartford Mail stamps were used exclusively in Hartford on outbound mail. They were printed from a plate of twelve subjects, arranged in two rows of six. Each position was hand-engraved and shows slight variations. The stamps were printed on yellow and pink glazed paper. Frajola has dispelled the long-held claim that the Yellow was a 5c stamp and the Pink a 10c. Based on an analysis of covers, it is believed that the Yellow was used exclusively on southbound mail (Phillips' Express) and the Pink was used exclusively on northbound mail (Thompson's Express). Frajola's analysis has merit, but the unanswered question is how the public could be expected to affix one color or another to letters, depending on direction.



190

190

**Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 3, uncanceled and without precancel, margins clear of frameline almost all around, slight thin and usual traces of oxidation, Very Fine appearance, ex Schwartz..... E. 750-1,000

- 191 ★ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 10, two ample margins, just barely in to clear on other sides, manuscript "South" applied before use, usual slight oxidation and tiny margin tear at right, still Very Fine, scarce and seldom offered example of the manuscript "South", ex Kupal, with 2007 P.F. certificate..... E. 750-1,000



191



192

192

**Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 6, paper color appears as light buff, large margins showing part of adjoining stamp at left, Extremely Fine, at one time it was thought that the Hartford Mail Route stamps were printed on light buff paper, but the consensus is now is that stamps such as this have been treated or have naturally lost their yellow coloring — in this case, the glazing is intact — ex Caspary (offered as light buff) and Schwartz..... E. 500-750



THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF A HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE  
STAMP TIED BY A HANDSTAMPED MARKING



193

- 193 ☒ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 3, ample margins all around, unusually bright paper, **tied by two strikes of Hale & Company's New York office red "Paid" straightline**, third strike at right on Feb. 2 (1845) folded letter from Hartford to Philadelphia street address, sender's endorsement "Single Paid"

EXTREMELY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE COVER WITH THE STAMP CANCELLED AND TIED BY A HANDSTAMPED MARKING. A SPECTACULAR COVER THAT WAS CARRIED IN THE HALE & COMPANY NETWORK FROM HARTFORD TO NEW YORK CITY, WHERE THE RED "PAID" STRAIGHTLINE WAS APPLIED, THEN SOUTH TO PHILADELPHIA.

The Hartford Mail Route stamps were usually pre-cancelled with the words indicating the direction (South, West, East) or location (Hartford). No effort was made to cancel the stamps. One cover is recorded with a manuscript "Paid Jan 30" notation over the stamp, tying it to the cover. A few covers are known with "Paid" handstamps, but none of those strikes are on the stamps. On this cover, the Hale & Company New York office struck the "Paid" handstamp three times, two of which landed on the stamp itself, thus creating the only "tied by handstamp" example of the Hartford Mail Route stamp.

Notation on back "Chicago, Ill., Dr. A. B. Merrill, Sept. 30, 1909 @ 4.00" appears to be a past philatelic sale record. Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 15,000-20,000

CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE BETWEEN HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE  
AND OVERTON & COMPANY'S CITY MAIL LOCAL POST



194

- 194 ☒ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 2, large margins to clear at upper right, **manuscript "South" precancel**, used on greenish May 15, 1845 folded letter to Egleston & Bartlett in New York City from Clark, Gill & Co., sender's directive "*Hale & Co.*" and "*Paid*", just below the "*Paid*" notation is a faint red "**OVERTON & Co.'s City Mail, Office, 7 Broad Street**" oval handstamp, red crayon "*166 Worth*" street and "*2*" cents delivery charge, faint overall toning, pressed vertical file fold thru stamp effectively ties it

VERY FINE OVERALL CONDITION. REPORTED TO BE THE ONLY COVER SHOWING CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE BETWEEN THE HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE AND OVERTON & COMPANY'S CITY MAIL LOCAL POST.

The City Mail Company was the successor to the New York office of Overton & Company, a letter-and-package express and foreign-mail forwarding agency founded by Richard Carleton Overton prior to July 3, 1844. The change in name was announced in the February 15, 1845, edition of the *New York Daily Express* and soon after the company's address changed from 3 Broad Street to 7 Broad Street. The faintly struck handstamp on this cover shows the modified "3" appearing as a "7", reflecting the move.

Sloane's note on back. Ex Mason and Schwartz. .... E. 5,000-7,500



ONE OF TWO RECORDED COVERS WITH A PAIR OF  
THE HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE ISSUE



195

- 195 ☒ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Positions 1/7, vertical pair from the left of the sheet of twelve, large margins showing framelines except where slightly ragged and into design at upper right, one stamp creased from file fold, faint traces of oxidation, without precancel or cancel, used on June 25, 1845 folded letter from Hartford to Philadelphia street address, sender's endorsement "Paid 2" for two rates, red "Paid" straightline handstamp applied at Hale & Company's New York office, file folds FINE AND ATTRACTIVE. THE FINER OF TWO RECORDED COVERS WITH A PAIR OF THE HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE STAMP. AN OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER.

This cover is a late use of the Hartford Mail Route, just five days before the Independent Mail companies were declared illegal. The "Paid 2" notation at upper left confirms that two rates were paid. The letter was carried in the Hale & Company network from Hartford to New York City, where the "Paid" handstamp was applied, then south to Philadelphia.

One other pair of the Hartford Mail Route stamp is recorded on cover (ex Ferrary, Stern and Conland). It is photographed in Richard C. Frajola's monograph on the subject and in his chapter in the *Independent Mails* book. The pair is also in vertical format from Positions 1/7, cut into at left and creased across both stamps from a file fold. Each stamp has the manuscript "South" precancel and an additional "Nov 19" cancellation. The pair pays the double rate on an 1844 folded letter from Hartford to Clark & Coleman in New York City.

Ex Boker and Golden. With 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 15,000-20,000



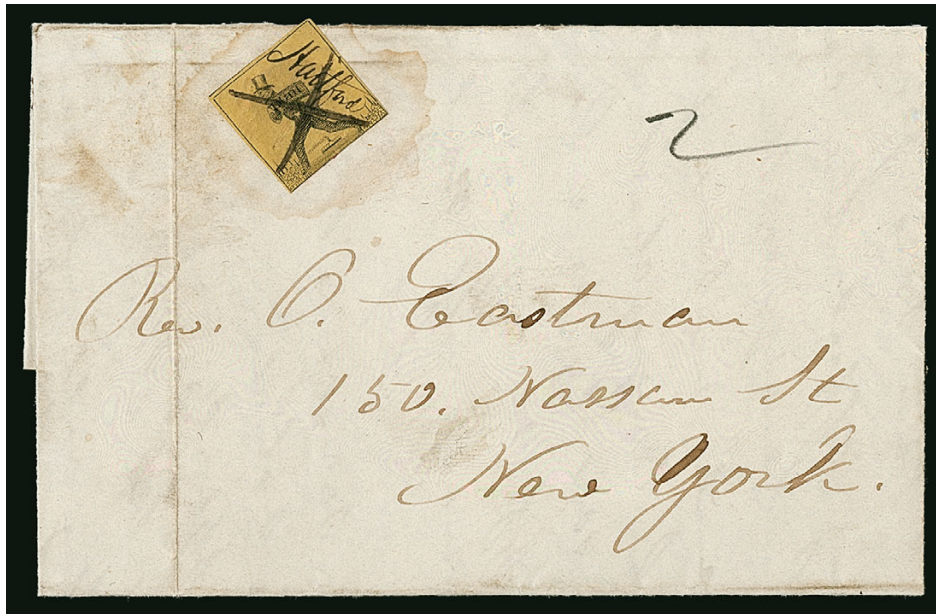
196

- 196 ☒ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 6, top right corner position on plate of twelve, ample to large margins, uncanceled, small corner crease, used on Jan. 20, 1845 folded letter from Hartford to New York City, Jessop & Sons correspondence, manuscript "Single"

VERY FINE STAMP ON AN ATTRACTIVE SOUTHBOUND COVER CARRIED BY THE HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE. AN EXTREMELY RARE STAMP WITHOUT ANY PRECANCEL OR CANCEL.

Ex Kuphal. With 2007 P.F. certificate (mentions small corner crease and oxidation, which has been removed — the color is brilliant)..... E. 5,000-7,500



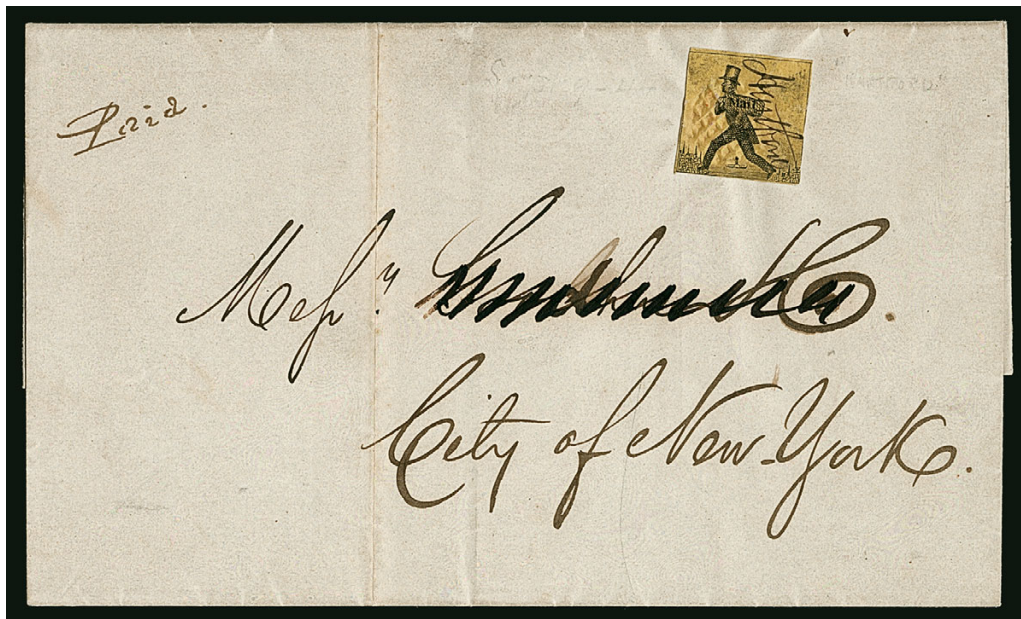


197

- 197 ☒ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 9, full to large margins showing frameline of adjoining stamp above, **manuscript "Hartford" precancel**, cancelled by pen "X", affixed with red wax wafer on folded cover (with part of content) to New York City, docketed as originating in Hartford on Dec. 10, 1844, pencil "2" for local delivery, file fold clear of stamp, some water stains around stamp, presumably from someone trying to lift it before realizing it was affixed with wax

VERY FINE. A VERY RARE EXAMPLE OF THE HARTFORD MAIL STAMP WITH "HARTFORD" MANUSCRIPT OVERPRINT APPLIED BEFORE MAILING.

Ex Golden. With 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 3,000-4,000



198

- 198 ☒ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 3, ample margins to just barely in, **manuscript "Hartford" precancel**, affixed with wax wafer and embossing instrument on folded cover from Hartford to New York City, Goodhue correspondence with last name inked out as usual, manuscript "Paid", docketed with Sep. 9, 1844 origin date, stamp has slightest traces of oxidation

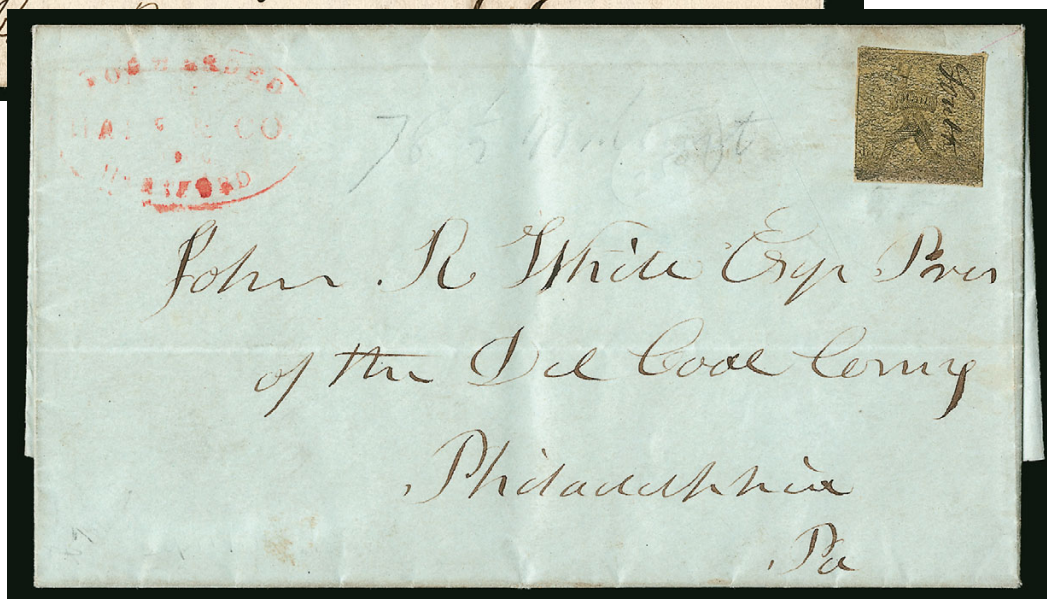
VERY FINE. A SCARCE "HARTFORD" PRECANCEL ON THE HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE STAMP, USED ON A OUTHBOUND COVER.

Ex Mason, Ackerman and Schwartz ..... E. 2,000-3,000





199



200

- 199 ☒ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 3, full to large margins all around showing part of adjoining stamp at right, bright color without any oxidation, **manuscript "South" precancel**, used on Feb. 27, 1845 folded letter from Hartford to New York City street address, Goddard correspondence, sender's note "*Hale's Express paid feb. 27.*", a few letters of address changed in ink, some paper erosion on back and very slightly worn along file fold, certificate mentions small tear at bottom right of stamp, but we cannot see it
- VERY FINE AND ATTRACTIVE SOUTHBOUND COVER CARRIED BY THE HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE.
- The relationship between the Hartford Mail Route and Hale & Co. was extremely close. The sender's notation on this cover demonstrates how the public perceived the Hartford Mail Route.
- Ex C. E. Chapman with his handstamp struck over "h" of "Joseph" in address; also ex Ackerman and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 3,000-4,000
- 200 ☒ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Yellow Glazed (80L1).** Position 10, large margins to barely touched at top, **manuscript "South" precancel**, used on folded letter datelined "*Hartford Sept. 19th 1844*" to Philadelphia, red "**Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Hartford**" oval handstamp, stamp slightly oxidized with small sealed tear and faint diagonal crease, light file folds
- VERY FINE APPEARING SOUTHBOUND HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE COVER WITH THE HALE & COMPANY OVAL HANDSTAMP. CARRIED BY HALE FROM NEW YORK CITY TO PHILADELPHIA.
- With 2015 P.F. certificate..... E. 3,000-4,000



## THE HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE “PINK”



201 and detail

201 ☒ **Hartford Conn. Mail Route, (5c) Black on Pink Glazed (80L3).** Position 7, two full margins, other sides slightly in, **manuscript “West” precancel**, usual slight oxidation, pre-use creases, used on folded letter datelined Hartford, Nov. 21, 1844, with addressee’s name and location cut out of cover, content mentions Springfield Mass., which would be the appropriate destination for a cover bearing the Pink stamp

A FINE APPEARING COPY OF THE HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE STAMP ON PINK GLAZED PAPER — ONE OF THE RAREST OF ALL INDEPENDENT MAIL STAMPS, WITH APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN CONFIRMED EXAMPLES, INCLUDING FOUR GENUINELY USED ON COVERS.

The monograph by Richard C. Frajola on the Hartford Mail Route lists four covers with the Pink stamp, as follows:

- 1) “West”, Pos. 7, Hartford Nov. 21, 1844, folded letter with address cut out, ex Hall, the cover offered here
- 2) “West”, Pos. 8, on 1844 folded cover to J.L.L.F. Warren, Boston, red Hale & Co. Hartford oval, ex Conland
- 3) “East”, Pos. 5, Hartford Jun. 23, 1845, to Eliha Geer, Boston, pencil “postage 2c”, ex Conland
- 4) “West”, Pos. 2, undated folded cover to Boston, red Hale & Co. Hartford oval, ex Chapman, Caspary

In addition to the four covers listed by Frajola, there are six stamps that, in his opinion, did not originate on the covers to which they are affixed. We also record another half-dozen stamps off cover or on piece.

Ex Hall (acquired from Charles J. Phillips in 1925). With 2001 P.F. certificate .....  
 ..... E. 7,500-10,000

HOYT'S LETTER EXPRESS—THE “CANAL BOAT STAMP”  
“LETTCR” ERROR AND THE ONLY RECORDED MULTIPLE



202

202

**Hoyt's Letter Express, Rochester N.Y., (5c) Black on Vermilion Glazed, “Lettcr” (85L1a/85L1).** Vertical pair, top stamp has the “Lettcr” typographic error — the result of an actual “c” used instead of “e”, rather than a broken or malformed letter — sheet margin at bottom, large at sides and just touched at top, tied by pen stroke, used with **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Blue on Thin Bond (117L3)**, vertical pair, full to large margins, tied by crossed pen strokes on front only to New York City, red **“Boyd's City Express Post Aug. 8 6 O'C”** rectangular framed datestamp and matching **“Paid/J.T.B.”** handstamp, 66 South Street address added for delivery, the back of the address panel has writing that mentions using *“two stamps”* and *“stamps of the Express”*, indicating that the sender was giving the recipient instructions for using Pomeroy's Letter Express, crease thru Pomeroy pair and top stamp of Hoyt's pair, stains at right have been professionally removed, some minor faults

FINE APPEARANCE. OF THE NINE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF HOYT'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMP, THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED MULTIPLE, ONE OF TWO WITH THE “LETTCR” ERROR, AND ONE OF FIVE RECORDED ON COVER (THIS FRONT IS COUNTED AS A COVER), OF WHICH ONLY FOUR ARE IN PRIVATE HANDS.

The Hoyt's Letter Express stamp is known as the only “Canal Boat Stamp,” because it was used on mail carried by boats along the Genesee Valley Canal. David Hoyt, a bookseller in Rochester, was an agent of Pomeroy & Co. before and after he operated his short-lived letter express in July, August and early September 1844. Hoyt's Letter Express was not connected to the railroad, but instead utilized Genesee Valley Canal boats to bring mail between Rochester and Danville, New York. As advertised in the *Rochester Advertiser* (Jul. 27-Aug. 31, 1844), Hoyt's Letter Express made intermediate stops at Mt. Morris, Cuylerville, Geneseo, Spenser's Basin, Piffordina, Avon and Scottsville. Hoyt connected with Pomeroy's Letter Express and through Pomeroy's with Boyd's for local New York City delivery.

According to the census by David Snow in the *Independent Mails* book, only nine Hoyt's Letter Express stamps are known, including four singles on covers, the pair on cover front offered here, an uncanceled stamp and two stamps on pieces. Four of the single stamps (including the other known “Lettcr” error) are used on covers in conjunction with Pomeroy's Letter Express Blue stamp: Aug. 5 (Geneseo to Geneva, ex Middendorf), Aug. 10 (Scottsville to NYC, ex Boker), Aug. 23 (“Lettcr” error, Cuylerville to Albany, Perry files), and Sep. 5 (Scottsville to NYC, Tapling Collection, not available to collectors). The unique pair offered here, in which one stamp has the “Lettcr” error, is used on a cover-front in combination with a Pomeroy's pair and Boyd's datestamp. The uncanceled single was offered in the Caspary sale, as was the piece sold by our firm (Siegel Sale 817, lot 1189). Another single on piece is shown in a photo from the Costales files.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. With 1981 P.F. certificate issued to Robson Lowe (shows the item before stain was removed)..... E. 15,000-20,000





## JEROME & COMPANY

- 203 ☒ **Jerome & Co's/Express/No. 8 Court St.,/Boston.** Four lines in wavy-line frame handstamp struck in red on Dec. 31, 1844 folded letter from Newport R.I. to Newburyport, manuscript notations "25\$", "Take Recpt" and "25c" rate for money enclosure, Very Fine, accompanied by a second folded letter from Charlestown Mass. to Bangor Me., Dec. 24, 1844, with same red handstamp and matching Collect handstamp, sender's notation "Jeromes Express with a package Dec. 27", slightly toned, otherwise Fine, both ex Schwartz.....(Photo Ex) E. 150-200

## KENNEBEC EXPRESS

- 204 ☒ **Kennebec Express, Office, No. 8 Court Street, Boston.** Well-struck red double-line oval handstamp on Aug. 20, 1844 folded letter to Augusta Me., Extremely Fine, very rare and extremely early example of this express, which operated between Boston and places located in the valley of the Kennebec River, Sammis records seven examples (one in black, others in red), this is the earliest of the strikes in red (*Independent Mails* book), Sloane note on back, ex Hall..... E. 500-750

## J. W. LAWRENCE'S LETTER OFFICES

- 205 ☒ **J. W. Lawrence's/Letter Offices/8 Court St. Boston/1 John St. Lowell.** Four lines in red rectangular wavy-line frame handstamp on Oct. 24, 1844 folded letter addressed in blue from Lowell to Boston, file fold, typically lightly inked but mostly readable strike of the rare Lawrence marking, Very Fine, J. W. Lawrence's Letter Office was an Independent Mail line that operated in conjunction with Wyman and American Letter Mail Co., in this case Lawrence carried the letter solo between Boston and Lowell, he charged higher rates than Hale, which probably explains the rarity of the covers (only four recorded by Gutman in *Independent Mails* book, ex Schwartz..... E. 300-400

## WELLS' LETTER EXPRESS



William F. Harnden

Henry Wells (1805-1878), the other partner in the Livingston-Wells-Pomeroy package express business, established his own Letter Express in mid-1844 to carry mail west of Buffalo. Using steamboat lines on the Great Lakes and the Central Railroad in Michigan, the Letter Express served the major port cities and intermediate points located on the upper and lower lakes. Wells and Pomeroy linked their routes at Buffalo and advertised "through" service to and from New York City. When Pomeroy announced he was discontinuing his letter express in August 1844, it seems that the same offices and agents continued to carry mail along the Albany-Buffalo route under the guise of Wells' Letter Express, and Pomeroy's stamps continued to be accepted for postage. Wells and another partner, William G. Fargo, went on to establish Wells, Fargo & Company in 1852, perhaps the most famous of all express companies and recognized today as one of the world's largest banks.



206

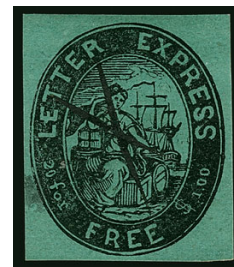
- 206 **Letter Express (Wells), Vignettes Used on Stamps.** Vignettes used for 5c and 10c stamps, Goddess of Commerce on People's Line receipt for payment dated Sep. 30, 1847, and American Marine Charging with Sword on Embreville (Pa.) Store 10c script dated Nov. 18, 1862, folds, Very Fine pair, ideally suited for exhibition ..... E. 200-300

## 5-CENT GODDESS OF COMMERCE ISSUE

The stamps issued by Wells' Letter Express are remarkable both for the purpose they served and for their distinctive designs. The oval 96L1-96L2 stamps depict the Goddess of Commerce surrounded by bales and barrels with a merchant vessel in the background — symbols of private enterprise and the robust economic growth of America during the 1840s.



207



208

- 207 **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Green Glazed (96L2).** Horizontal pair, large to enormous margins (possibly top right corner sheet margins), uncanceled, vertical crease thru right stamp, both have tiny pinholes and wrinkles, overall Extremely Fine appearance, this uncanceled pair was removed from a cover offered in our Golden sale (a third stamp was cut out from the cover), for all practical purposes it is an unused multiple, no blocks are known and multiples are very rare ..... E. 500-750
- 208 ✉ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Green Glazed (96L2).** Large margins, manuscript "X" cancel, Extremely Fine, remarkably choice example of this scarce stamp, ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 400-500



WESTBOUND CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE BETWEEN  
POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS AND WELLS' LETTER EXPRESS



209

- 209 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Green Glazed (96L2).** Large margins to clear, clipped corner prior to use, tied by magenta manuscript "X" on folded letter to Cleveland O. datelined "335 Broadway, New York N.Y., July 20th 1844", sender's notation *paid*, **conjunctive use with red "POMEROY'S MAIL"** straightline handstamp and red "PAID." handstamp probably applied at Albany office, black "PAID" handstamp of unknown origin — possibly applied at originating office in New York City or in transit at Buffalo — pencil "*Buffalo*" where letter was transferred from Pomeroy to Wells' Letter Express for the remainder of the trip to Cleveland

VERY FINE. A SPECTACULAR INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER, SHOWING WESTBOUND CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE BETWEEN POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS AND WELLS' LETTER EXPRESS.

Advertisements for the "Letter Express" operated by Wells & Co. first appeared on July 12, 1844. By connecting with Pomeroy's Letter Express, the Letter Express advertised service to and from Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago, using Great Lakes steamboats during the navigation season and also operating on the Michigan Central Railroad line. The postage for this extended service was 12½c, or one of the circular stamps or two oval stamps. Mixed-franking covers with Pomeroy and Wells stamps are extremely rare and usually originated in one of the western cities served by Wells. This cover is an extremely rare *westbound* usage. Pomeroy's Letter Express carried it from New York City to Buffalo, and from there it was transported by Wells' Letter Express to Cleveland.

Illustrated in the *Independent Mails* book (Pomeroy's Letter Express chapter). Ex The Western Reserve Historical Society. With 2007 P.F. certificate ..... E. 4,000-5,000





## THE ONLY RECORDED INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER WITH STAMPS OF THREE DIFFERENT COMPANIES

210 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Green Glazed (96L2).** Vertical pair and single, large margins to slightly in, tied at Letter Express office by single neat pen stroke on August 5, 1844 folded letter from W. Bingham & Co. in Cleveland to Pierpont & Hotchkiss in New Haven, Conn., **conjunctive service and mixed franking with Pomeroy's Letter Express and American Letter Mail Company stamps**, two singles of **Pomeroy's Letter Express 5c Black on Yellow (117L1)**, each with full to large margins, cancelled by red "Cd." handstamp (impression ties thru paper) and **American Letter Mail Co., (5c) Black (5L2)**, large margins to just touched at top left, uncanceled but tied by offset from address visible on back of upper right corner, red "PAID" straightline handstamp applied by American Letter Mail Co. New York office, matching "Forwarded by the/American Letter Mail Co/Office 56 Wall Street N.Y." three-line handstamp on back, vertical file fold thru one Pomeroy's stamp and top stamp in Letter Express pair (trivial flaws), letter refolded at bottom to show the backstamp

VERY FINE OVERALL CONDITION. THIS IS THE ONLY INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER EXTANT WITH STAMPS OF THREE DIFFERENT COMPANIES. UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE THE MOST VALUABLE AND IMPORTANT COVER OF THE INDEPENDENT MAIL ERA.

This spectacular cover demonstrates the cooperation among Independent Mail companies that allowed them to provide service across a huge area for significantly lower rates than the U.S. Post Office charged. It also shows how postage was divided among the participating service providers by using each other's stamps. To explain the journey and the accounting procedure that produced this important artifact of the Independent Mail era, we will begin at its origin.

The letter was written from Cleveland on August 5, 1844, by W. Bingham Company, a hardware company founded by William Bingham in 1841. This firm supplied shipbuilding, mining, and railroad businesses in the region. The letter is written to Pierpont & Hotchkiss, a New Haven manufacturer of doorknobs and locks. The firm was founded by Asabel Pierpont and John G. Hotchkiss in 1836. Benton Mallory joined as the company's bookkeeper in 1840, and, after Hotchkiss died, Mallory became a partner and the firm was renamed Pierpont, Mallory & Company. The letter concerns a shipment of goods by express.

As a thrifty businessman, Bingham took advantage of the lower postage rates offered by the Independent Mail companies and used the new Letter Express company in Cleveland to send his letter to New Haven for 15c, instead of 25c charged by the Post Office. The three oval Goddess of Commerce stamps could be purchased individually for 6¼c each, or in quantity at 20 for \$1.00, as the stamp itself states. The word "Free" on the stamp indicated that the letter would be delivered without cost to the recipient, in contrast to the custom of sending letters postage due. To visualize what this letter looked like at the Letter Express office in Cleveland, imagine it without the Pomeroy and American Letter Mail Co. stamps and markings, bearing just the three green Letter Express stamps.

To carry eastbound mail beyond Buffalo, Henry Wells relied on Pomeroy's Letter Express, founded by George E. Pomeroy, who had been a partner with Wells in the Livingston-Wells-Pomeroy package express business prior to June 1844. A fair number of letters are known showing conjunctive service between Wells and Pomeroy at the 12¼c rate, or 10c in stamps (two ovals or one circular). Since Pomeroy only operated its route from Buffalo to New York City and intermediate points in New York State, a letter addressed to locations that required the services of a third company was charged 18¼c, or 15c in stamps (three ovals or one-and-a-half circular). The Letter Express advertisement in the *Cleveland Herald* (July 12, 1844) lists New Haven as a destination at the 18¼c rate, payable with "one and a half stamp" (at this date only the circular stamp was available).

To credit the other companies with their share of the 15c postage, two Pomeroy stamps were affixed by the Wells office (note that they were positioned to avoid covering the address). Upon receipt, Pomeroy cancelled the stamps with the "Cd." handstamp. Pomeroy could have taken the letter all the way to New York City or transferred it to the American Letter Mail Co. agent in Albany. Either way, Pomeroy credited American Letter Mail Co. for its one-third share of the postage by affixing a Large Eagle stamp with a "silent" denomination of 5c. When the letter was processed at ALMCo.'s New York office, it was backstamped and the "Paid" marking was applied to the front of the letter to indicate no postage was due from the recipient. The letter was carried by a Long Island Sound steamboat to New Haven (the rail line between New York City and New Haven was not completed at this time).

Considering that the first United States Postmasters' Provisionals would not be issued until nearly one year after this was mailed, and the first General Issue two years after that, the presence of six stamps in three colors from three different stamp-issuing entities on this letter must have been perceived as extraordinary, even in 1844 when it was delivered to Pierpont & Hotchkiss. Today, it is one of the undisputed icons of American postal history.

This triple mixed-franking letter has been illustrated in numerous articles and books. To the best of our knowledge, it has never been offered at auction. It was part of Elliott Perry's personal collection of Independent Mails, which was acquired intact from the Perry estate by Richard Schwartz. ....

..... E. 30,000-40,000

## THE ONLY RECORDED BLOCK OF ANY LETTER EXPRESS ISSUE



211

- 211 ★田 **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Pink Glazed (96L1).** Top left sheet margin block of ten, original gum, mostly large margins, slight soiling at upper left, creases in two directions (slightly breaking paper in places)

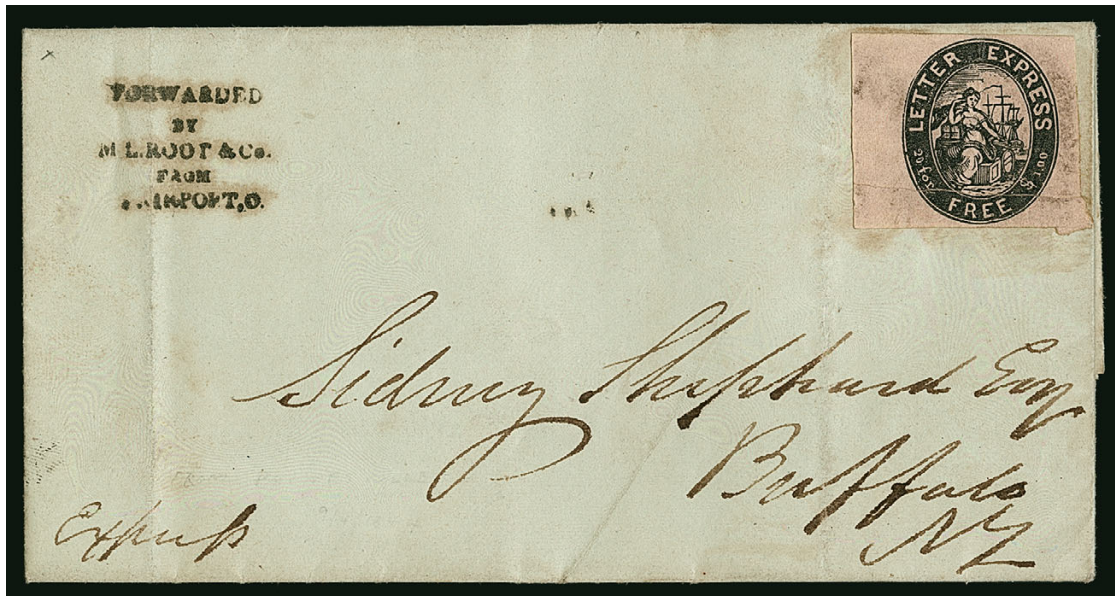
VERY FINE DESPITE INSIGNIFICANT CREASING. THE ONLY RECORDED BLOCK OF ANY OF THE WELLS' LETTER EXPRESS ISSUES. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PHILATELIC ITEMS SURVIVING FROM THE INDEPENDENT MAIL ERA.

The stamps issued by Wells' Letter Express are remarkable both for the purpose they served and for their distinctive designs. The oval 96L1-96L2 stamps depict the Goddess of Commerce surrounded by bales and barrels with a merchant vessel in the background — symbols of private enterprise and the robust economic growth of America during the 1840s.

All of the Letter Express stamps are scarce to rare. Used pairs and strips are rare. Unused or uncanceled multiples are extremely rare. This is the only block, unused or used, of any of the Letter Express issues we have located among the Sloane, Costales and Abt files.

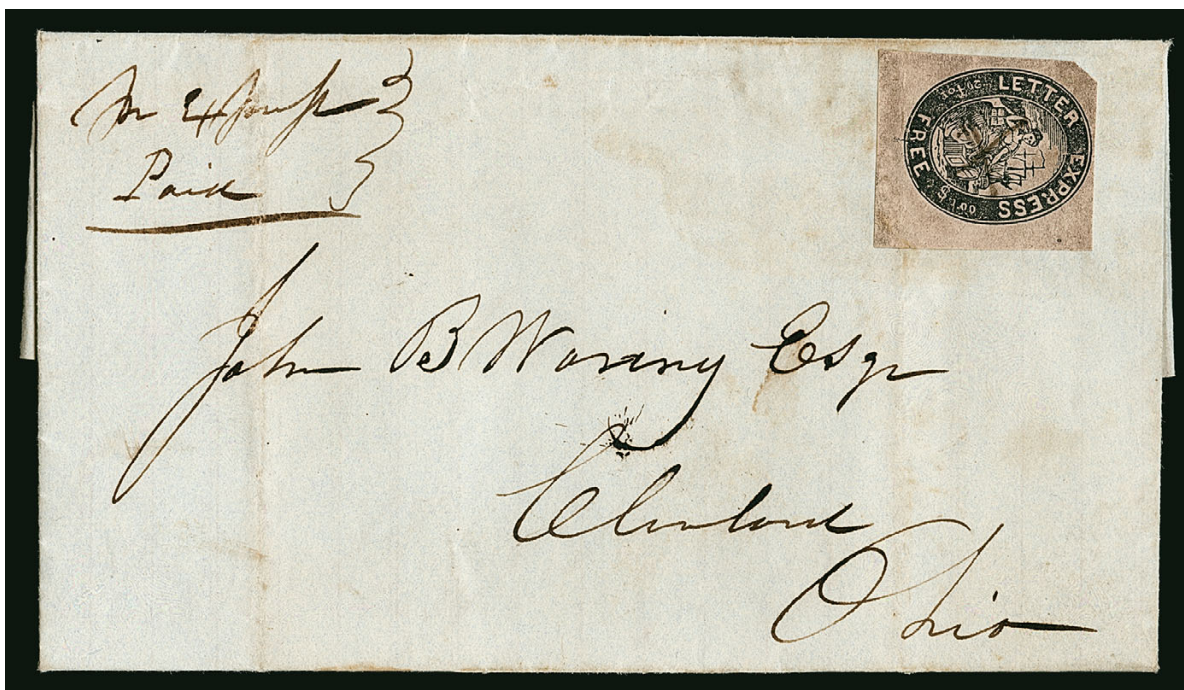
Ex Weekes, Boker, Golden and Gordon N. John. With 2004 P.F. certificate .....  
 ..... E. 10,000-15,000





212

- 212 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Pink Glazed (96L1).** Full to huge side margins, pre-printing paper fold, light vertical wrinkle, uncanceled on greenish cover datelined "Painesville (O.) Sep. 4, 1844" to Buffalo N.Y., from the Sidney Shepard correspondence, bold strike of "Forwarded/ by/ M. L. Root & Co./ From/ Fairport, O." five-line hand-stamp, manuscript "Express" at bottom, Very Fine, a rare use of Wells' Letter Express with Matthew L. Root's handstamp, the town of Fairport Harbor on Lake Erie is three miles north of Painesville, where Wells had an office, this could have been carried by Root to Painesville or possibly given to a Wells messenger on a steamer that passed thru Fairport, illustrated in *Independent Mails* book, ex Petri, with 2013 P.F. certificate..... E. 750-1,000



213

- 213 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Pink Glazed (96L1).** Full to large margins, cancelled by manuscript "X", tied by filing crease on Sep. 5, 1844 blue folded letter from Detroit Mich. to Cleveland O., sender's notation "Pr Express Paid", Very Fine despite barely visible crease thru stamp, carried by steamboat from Detroit to Cleveland before the end of the navigation season, with 2003 P.F. certificate..... E. 400-500





214

- 214 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Pink Glazed (96L1).** Vertical pair, large to huge margins all around, neat manuscript cancels, used on Sep. 24, 1844 folded letter from Cleveland to New York City street address, Dwight Johnson correspondence, Extremely Fine, a superb pair of the oval Letter Express stamp paying the 12½¢ (or two stamp) rate from Cleveland to New York City, ex Boker ..... E. 500-750



215

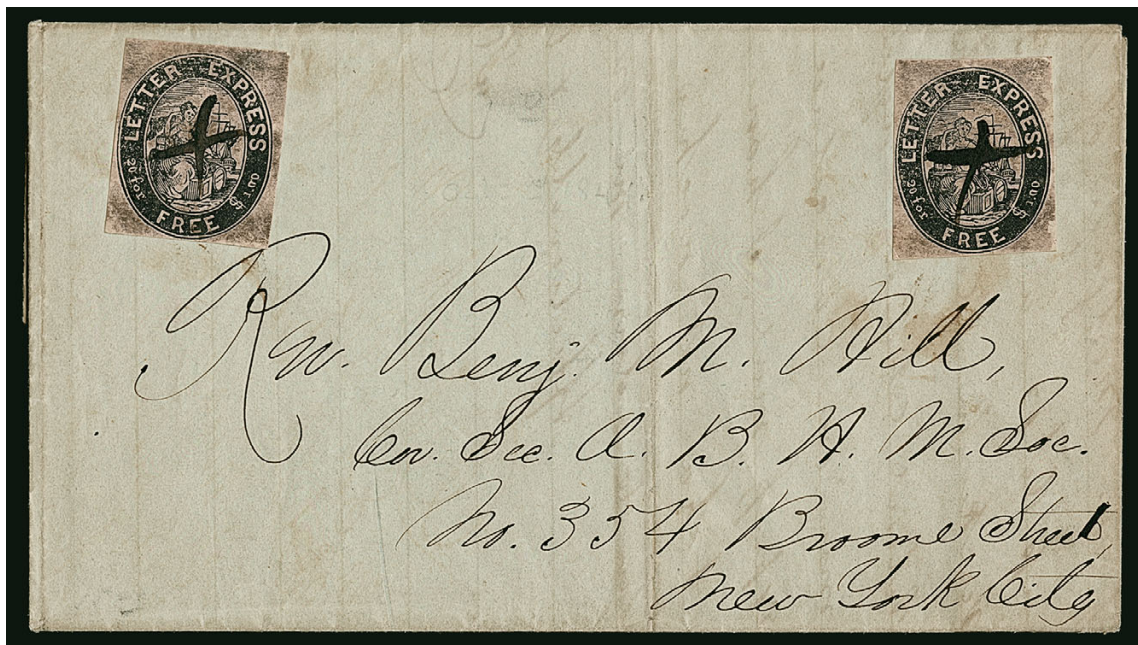
- 215 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Pink Glazed (96L1).** Horizontal pair, huge margins showing part of one adjoining stamp, manuscript "X" cancels, used on folded cover to New York City street address, docketing indicates Detroit October 1844 origin, missionary society correspondence, vertical file fold thru left stamp, otherwise Extremely Fine, ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500





216

- 216 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Pink Glazed (96L1).** Vertical pair, large margins to clear at right, tied by neat manuscript cancel on Oct. 19, 1844 folded letter from Cleveland to New York City street address, Dwight Johnson correspondence, top stamp slightly creased by file fold, otherwise Very Fine, ex Frajola, with 2000 P.F. certificate .... E. 400-500



217

- 217 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Pink Glazed (96L1).** Two singles, each with ample to large margins and manuscript "X" cancel, used on greenish undated folded cover to New York City street address, missionary society correspondence, stamps slightly oxidized, otherwise Very Fine, ex Schwartz ..... E. 400-500





218



219

- 218 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Pink Glazed (96L1).** Four cut-to-shape stamps neatly arranged in slightly overlapping positions, each with small manuscript "X" cancel, properly used on Sep. 14, 1844 folded letter from Cuyahoga Falls O. to New York City, Dwight Johnson correspondence, letter mentions draft enclosed — double the 12½c (two stamps) rate — file fold clear of stamps

VERY FINE. A SPECTACULAR AND PROBABLY UNIQUE COVER WITH FOUR LETTER EXPRESS STAMPS FOR THE DOUBLE RATE.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex Golden and Kuphal..... E. 1,500-2,000

- 219 **Letter Express (Wells), 5c Black on Pink Glazed (96L1).** Horizontal pair, three large to huge margins, clear at top, manuscript "X" cancels, **conjunctive use with Pomeroy's Letter Express 5c Black on Yellow (117L1)**, full margins to clear at lower right, cancelled by red "Cd." handstamp (impression ties thru paper) on front only to L. Barton Stout at Allen's Hill, New York (south of Rochester), probably originated in Cleveland, sender's directive "By the 'Express Mail' — care of Ralph Chapin, Canandaigua, who will re-mail it at C. if necessary to get it to Mr. S. soon. C.B.S.", docketed with Aug. 6, 1844 mailing date (probably a later notation) and pencil Aug. 15 receipt date, small edge nicks, Pomeroy stamp has small tear and corner crease at bottom right, Letter Express pair slightly creased at top right

FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTREMELY RARE MIXED FRANKING AND CONJUNCTIVE USE OF WELLS' LETTER EXPRESS AND POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMPS.

Half of the advertised Letter Express rate of 12½c (two oval stamps or one circular) for destinations between Buffalo and New York City was allocated to Pomeroy's Letter Express, which actually carried the mail west of Buffalo. Some letters have only Letter Express stamps, while others have a Pomeroy stamp affixed by the Wells office to credit Pomeroy for its share of postage. Such mixed frankings are very rare.

This front was completely missing from the record of *Independent Mail* covers until it surfaced a few years. Illustrated in the *Independent mails* book (Pomeroy's Letter Express chapter). ... E. 1,500-2,000



## 10-CENT MARINE WITH SWORD AND FLAG ISSUE

The circular 96L3-96L4 stamps depict an American marine charging ashore with sword raised and Union Flag waving, and a naval vessel in the background. This design, chosen for stamps that would be used in the Great Lakes region, has been described as a commemoration of the Battle of Lake Champlain during the War of 1812.



220



221

- 220 **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Pink Glazed (96L3).** Large margins to slightly in at top, angled at bottom right, manuscript cancel, Fine and scarce..... E. 200-300
- 221 **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Pink Glazed (96L3).** Horizontal pair, octagonal margins just slightly in at top, manuscript "X" cancels, small toned spot (not mentioned on certificate), otherwise Fine, multiples of the 10c Pink are extremely rare — the largest is a used strip of three (see lot 222), ex Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 750-1,000



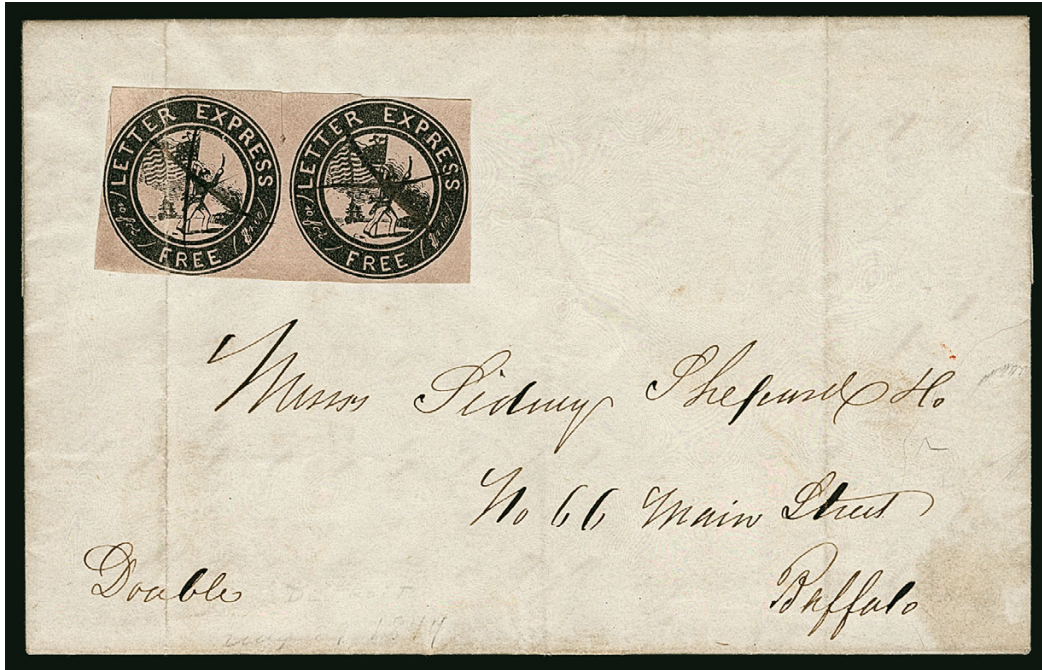
222

- 222 **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Pink Glazed (96L3).** Horizontal strip of three, full to large margins, neat manuscript cancel and tied by small part of red Boyd's City Express Post framed datestamp on piece, vertical crease thru center stamp and usual but very slight oxidation

VERY FINE DESPITE CREASE. THE LARGEST MULTIPLE OF THE SCARCE 10-CENT LETTER EXPRESS STAMP ON PINK PAPER. ONLY TWO STRIPS OF THREE ARE RECORDED.

Multiples of these stamps are extremely rare, and this is the largest size known. One other strip is recorded; it is cancelled with nearly identical pen marks and used on a mixed-franking cover with Pomeroy stamps (Paige sale, June 7, 1957, lot 801).

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex Boker (probably acquired by him from the Weekes collection), Golden and Kuphal. .... E. 3,000-4,000



223

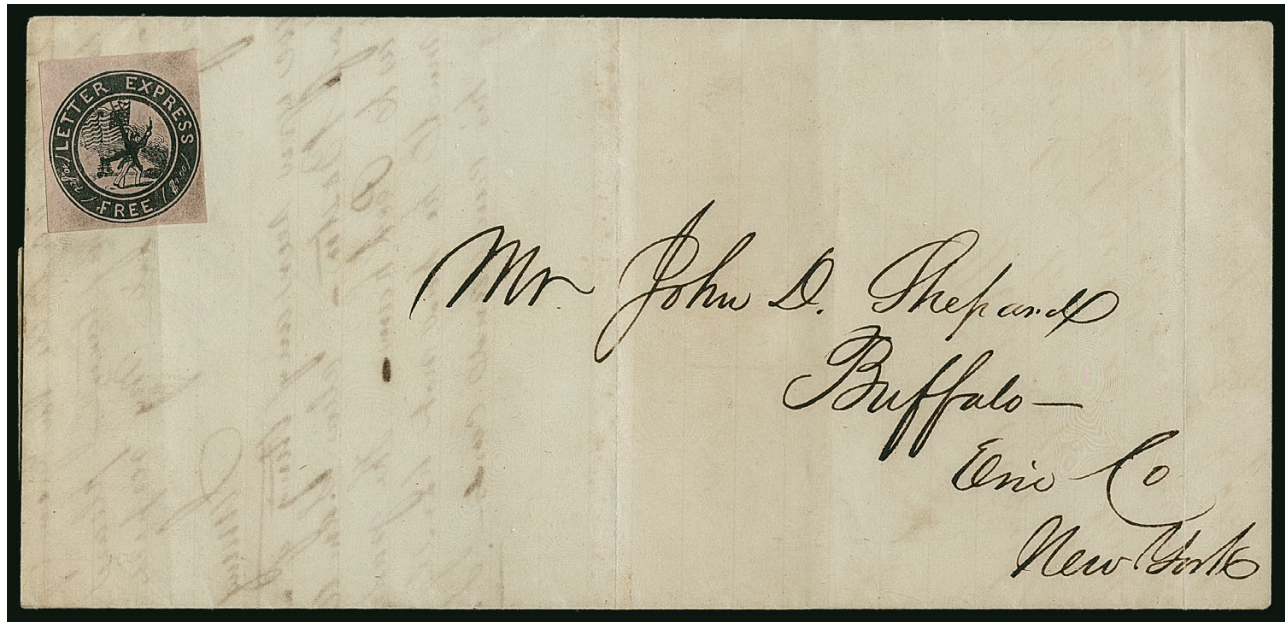
- 223 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Pink Glazed (96L3).** Horizontal pair, ample margins to barely touched at left, manuscript cancels, file fold thru left stamp ties pair on folded letter to Buffalo N.Y., Sidney Shepard correspondence, datelined "Detroit August 29th, 1844", manuscript "Double" at bottom left, pair has negligible scissors-cuts

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTREMELY RARE COVER BEARING A PAIR OF THE WELLS' LETTER EXPRESS 10-CENT STAMP DEPICTING A MARINE CHARGING ASHORE WITH SWORD AND FLAG.

Letter Express advertisements list two different rates to Buffalo: a 6¼c rate (one oval or one-half circular stamp) and a 12½c rate (two ovals or one circular stamp). There must have been some confusion over prepayment, because some covers from Detroit to Buffalo are prepaid at the lower rate, and others at the higher rate. In this case the pair of 10c prepaids double the higher rate.

Ex Petri. With 2013 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000





224

- 224 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Pink Glazed (96L3).** Full to large margins, unusually bright and fresh color, cancelled by manuscript "X" and used on Aug. 8, 1844 legal-size folded letter to Buffalo, Shepard correspondence, double rate for an enclosure mentioned in letter, stamp appears unaffected by a light fold that passes underneath (probably a stationery fold, not a filing fold), Very Fine, scarce use of the 10c stamp, ex Schwartz..... E. 500-750



225

- 225 **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Pink Glazed, Half Used as 5c (96L3a).** Right half, affixed by wafer and uncanceled on folded letter to Buffalo datelined "Milwaukee, September 16, 1844", Sidney Shepard correspondence, slight cut into bisected edge of stamp, docketed on back, Very Fine, a rare bisected use of the 10c stamp — Letter Express advertisements list two different rates to Buffalo: a 6½c rate (one oval or one-half circular stamp) and a 12½c rate (two ovals or one circular stamp); there must have been some confusion over prepayment, because some covers from Detroit to Buffalo are prepaid at the lower rate, and others at the higher rate — ex Petri, with 2013 P.F. certificate ..... E. 750-1,000

10-CENT TYPE II ON SCARLET GLAZED PAPER



226

- 226 **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Scarlet Glazed, Ty. II (96L4).** Ample to large margins, manuscript "X" cancel, much better color than usual with only minor oxidation, Extremely Fine, the 10c Scarlet is exceedingly rare, probably fewer than 12 exist on or off cover (there are five recorded covers), illustrated in *Independent Mails* book, ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 1,000-1,500



227

- 227 **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Scarlet Glazed, Ty. II (96L4).** Ample to clear margins, manuscript "X" cancel, usual minor oxidation, Very Fine, the 10c Scarlet is exceedingly rare, probably fewer than 12 exist on or off cover (there are five recorded covers), ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 1,000-1,500



THE ONLY RECORDED TÊTE-BÊCHE MULTIPLE OF  
ANY WELLS' LETTER EXPRESS ISSUE  
BISECTED TO PAY 18¾-CENT RATE



228

228 **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Scarlet Glazed, Ty. II, Tête-Bêche Pair, One Stamp Bisected (96L4a).** Originally a horizontal pair with stamps in tête-bêche arrangement — either a work-and-turn printing or inverted cliché — one stamp was then bisected with a horizontal cut, leaving the lower half joined with the full stamp, neatly cancelled by pen stroke and remaining on small piece, excellent color and impression without any of the oxidation usually found on the Scarlet

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THE RAREST STAMPS IN AMERICAN PHILATELY. AN EXTRAORDINARY COMBINATION OF TÊTE-BÊCHE MULTIPLE AND BISECTED USAGE OF A STAMP THAT IS RARE EVEN AS A NORMAL SINGLE.

In this unique piece we have three distinctly rare elements combined as one. In the first place, the Letter Express 10c Scarlet stamp is extremely rare — we estimate that no more than 12 exist in total, on or off cover. This rare stamp is not known in any multiple, so there has been almost no material to provide knowledge of the plate composition or sheet arrangement. This pair shows conclusively — and quite strikingly — that the 10c Scarlet comes in tête-bêche arrangement. The head-to-foot orientation of two stamps in a pair means that the sheets were printed in a work-and-turn method or, less likely, that one or more subjects on the plate were inverted. The third aspect of this unique item is the use of a bisect joined with a full stamp for the 18¾c rate (or 15c in stamps). The *Cleveland Herald* of July 12, 1844, carried an advertisement from Wells' office that specifically authorized the use of "one and a half stamp to those rated at 18¾ [cents]." Bisected stamps on cover are well-known, very rare and desirable, but this is the first and only recorded bisect still joined with a full stamp.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex Golden. With 1995 P.F. and 1991 P.S.E. certificates..... E. 5,000-7,500



229

- 229 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Scarlet Glazed, Ty. II (96L4).** Large margins, bright color with only negligible oxidation, tied by manuscript cancel on folded cover to Dater, Miller & Co. (grocers and merchants) in New York City, "161 Front" street address written in faint red crayon, receipt docketing "Curtis & Root Sep. 29/44" — Curtiss & Root were commission and forwarding merchants in Buffalo N.Y. — some light soiling on address panel

VERY FINE. ONLY FIVE GENUINE COVERS EXIST WITH THE 10-CENT SCARLET LETTER EXPRESS STAMP, MAKING THIS ONE OF THE RAREST OF ALL INDEPENDENT MAIL ITEMS.

Our records contain five 10c Scarlet covers as follows:

- 1) Jul. 19, 1844 Boyd's delivery date in NYC, sent from Cleveland with Scarlet 96L4 and Pomeroy's 117L1, ex Worthington, Hollowbush, Hall, offered in lot 231
- 2) Sep. 29, 1844, folded letter from Buffalo to Dater, Miller & Co., NYC, double rate, stamp tied by ms., ex Caspary, Golden and Kuphal, the lot offered here
- 3) Oct. 4, 1844, folded letter from Monroe Mich. to Dwight Johnson, NYC, with Scarlet 96L4 and Pomeroy's 117L1, ex Perry, Schwartz, offered in lot 232
- 4) [Date unknown] 1844, folded letter from [origin unknown] to Willet P. Ward, NYC, with Scarlet 96L4 and Pomeroy's 117L1, Sloane's records
- 5) [Date unknown] 1844, folded cover from [origin unknown] to Mrs. Jane Bruce, Boston, ex Petri, offered in lot 230.

The three combination frankings each bear a Pomeroy's stamp, affixed by Wells to credit Pomeroy with their share of the prepaid postage. This cover, originating in Buffalo, is evidence that by late September the Buffalo-Albany route previously operating under Pomeroy's name was run by Wells' Letter Express.

Ex Caspary, Golden and Kuphal. With 1999 P.F. certificate..... E. 4,000-5,000





230

- 230 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Scarlet Glazed, Ty. II (96L4).** Large margins to barely in at top, manuscript "X" cancel, used on folded cover to Mrs. Jane Bruce, Boston Mass., undated and no indication of origin, although some offset manuscript can be read, which identifies the sender as "Your affectionate granddaughter, Margaret B.", overall toning

VERY FINE. ONLY FIVE GENUINE COVERS EXIST WITH THE 10-CENT SCARLET LETTER EXPRESS STAMP, MAKING THIS ONE OF THE RAREST OF ALL INDEPENDENT MAIL ITEMS.

Our records contain five 10c Scarlet covers, which are listed in the description of lot 229. Wells' Letter Express and Pomeroy's Letter Express did not serve Boston, so this must have been given to a third carrier (possibly Hale), but there are no markings to indicate who carried it.

Ex Petri. With 2013 P.F. certificate..... E. 2,000-3,000

## CONJUNCTIVE USE WITH POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMP



231

- 231 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Scarlet Glazed, Ty. II (96L4).** Large to huge margins, bright color with unusually mild oxidation, **conjunctive use with Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow (117L1)**, large margins to slightly in at upper left, each stamp cancelled by manuscript "X" on 1844 reddish-brown folded cover from Cleveland to Battelle & Renwick (chemical distributors), New York City, "163 front" street address written in different hand and **delivered by Boyd's City Express Post**, red "Boyd's City Express Post, July 19 9 O'C" framed datestamp and matching "Paid/J.T.B." handstamp, letter has been removed, but docketing confirms Cleveland origin and postscript states "P.S. We send this by private express postage 12½ prepaid. If you have facilities please reciprocate to encourage the enterprise", horizontal file fold thru bottoms of both stamps, causing creases and small tears that are not very noticeable (certificate describes Letter Express stamp with small repair at bottom right, but that statement is not accurate — there is no repair, just a bit of red pencil touch-up), the cover has some creases, minor erosion spots in address reinforced with paper

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. ONLY FIVE GENUINE COVERS EXIST WITH THE 10-CENT SCARLET LETTER EXPRESS STAMP, OF WHICH THREE ARE MIXED FRANKINGS, EACH USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS.

Our records contain five 10c Scarlet covers as follows, which are listed in the description of lot 229. The three combination frankings each bear a Pomeroy's stamp, affixed by Wells to credit Pomeroy with their share of the prepaid postage. This cover is the only one of the three with a Boyd's delivery marking.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book (Wells' Letter Express chapter). Ex Worthington, Hollowbush and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 10,000-15,000



## CONJUNCTIVE USE WITH POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMP



232

- 232 ☒ **Letter Express (Wells), 10c Black on Scarlet Glazed, Ty. II (96L4).** Huge bottom margins, other sides clear to ample, black printing a bit rubbed at top, bright color with mild oxidation, **conjunctive use with Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow (117L1)**, large margins to slightly in at left, each stamp cancelled by manuscript "X" on Oct. 5, 1844 folded letter from the Bank of River Raisin at Monroe Mich. to New York City street address, Dwight Johnson correspondence, horizontal file fold clear of stamps

VERY FINE. ONLY FIVE GENUINE COVERS EXIST WITH THE 10-CENT SCARLET LETTER EXPRESS STAMP, OF WHICH THREE ARE MIXED FRANKINGS, EACH USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS.

Our records contain five 10c Scarlet covers as follows, which are listed in the description of lot 229. The three combination frankings each bear a Pomeroy's stamp, affixed by Wells to credit Pomeroy with their share of the prepaid postage. Wells was running the Buffalo-Albany route by the date this letter was mailed, so the Pomeroy stamp was presumably unnecessary. However, the stamp appears to have originated, and the cover was considered completely genuine by Elliott Perry and Richard Schwartz.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book (Wells' Letter Express chapter). Ex Perry and Schwartz  
 ..... E. 7,500-10,000

CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE FROM CHICAGO TO MAINE,  
INVOLVING THREE OR FOUR COMPANIES



233

- 233 ☒ **Wells & Co. Express Mail from Chicago.** Small circular handstamp clearly struck **three times** on Aug. 25 (and 27), 1844 folded letter from Chicago to Calvin Spaulding in Hallowell Me., written by two different people, sender's directive "*Agent of the american letter mail co.*" and "*Free*", the latter crossed out and overstruck by Wells' handstamps, manuscript "*18 3/4*" rate, each handstamp probably represents 6 1/4c, red oval "*Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Albany*" and "*Collect Six Cents for Hale & Co.*" framed handstamp with manuscript "*18 3/4*" written over "*Six Cents*", religious contents mentions hope of sending mail free

VERY FINE. A UNIQUE TRIPLE-RATED LETTER BEARING THE RARE WELLS' CHICAGO OFFICE HANDSTAMP IN CONJUNCTION WITH HALE & COMPANY'S ALBANY OFFICE MARKINGS — ANOTHER COMPANY, THE KENNEBEC EXPRESS, WAS INVOLVED IN TRANSPORTING THE LETTER TO ITS FINAL DESTINATION IN MAINE.

This highly-regarded cover has been illustrated and discussed in several publications. In an article published in *The Penny Post* ("Wells & Company and Hale and Company: Another Look at a Well-Known Cover," January 2014), William Sammis presents a fresh insight into the final leg of the cover's journey from Chicago to Hallowell, Maine. According to Sammis, the sender wrote the directive "*Agent of the american letter mail co.*", because he was aware that Calvin Spaulding, the nominal addressee, was ALMCo.'s agent in Hallowell. The letter was marked "*Free*" by the sender with the hope that it would pass through the ALMCo. system without charge. However, Sammis states that a conjunctive service arrangement existed between Wells' Letter Express and Hale & Co., so at Albany the letter was turned over to Hale for transport to its Boston office. Hale applied its Albany office oval handstamp and marked the letter due 18 3/4c. On the final leg of the trip, from Boston to Hallowell, the Kennebec Express Company was used, as usual for Hale's mail to and from Maine.

In August 1844, Wells' Letter Express worked with Pomeroy's Letter Express to carry mail eastward from Buffalo to Albany, so there could be yet a fourth silent partner in this journey. Pomeroy's Letter Express covers to New England were typically carried by Hale & Co.

Illustrated in Gutman Hale book and *Independent Mails* book. Ex Knapp, Hennan and Golden ..... E. 2,000-3,000



CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE FROM CHICAGO TO NEW YORK CITY  
WITH BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST DELIVERY MARKING



234

- 234 ☒ **Wells & Co. Express Mail from Chicago.** Small circular handstamp clearly struck on Sep. 19, 1844 folded letter from Chicago to Rev. Milton Badger at New York City street address, manuscript “Paid 12½” rate, red crayon “Paid” at upper left, red “**Boyd’s City/Express Post./Sep. 28 9 O’C.**” framed datestamp for local delivery, Very Fine, an extremely rare Wells’ Letter express Chicago office marking (Snow records nine examples in *Independent Mails* book), a fascinating cover that demonstrates the competitive edge the private companies had over the U.S. Post Office — for 12½ cents, versus 25c charged by the Post Office, this letter was carried from Chicago to the door of 150 Nassau Street (this presumes Boyd’s received its share from the prepaid amount) and the letter reached its destination in less than ten days (in 1844) — ex Hennen and Golden..... E. 750-1,000

## OVERTON &amp; COMPANY

Overton & Company was a letter-and-package express and foreign-mail forwarding agency founded by Richard Carleton Overton prior to July 3, 1844, the date of the earliest advertisement. The company's route between New York City and Boston was covered by steamboats and railroad. The rates were 5c between the principal cities and 6c for other locations. Local delivery service was also available for 2c per letter. Overton & Co. issued stamps for use on intercity letters, using one design that depicts a bird carrying a letter over land. The word "Free" was printed in the margin below certain positions in the sheet of 20, believed to be the last four, which would represent the 20% discount for buying 20 stamps.



235



236

- 235 **Overton & Co., (5c) Black on Greenish (113L1).** Uncancelled, large margins to clear at bottom, slight thin and crease in top margin at left (could be trimmed off), Very Fine, scarce, ex Schwartz ..... E. 200-300
- 236 **Overton & Co., (5c) Black on Greenish, "Free" below Circle (113L1).** Large margins with "FREE." printed in bottom margin below design, cancelled by red "Cd." handstamp (Pomeroy's old device), sealed tear into design at top, pinhole near edge in bottom right margin, otherwise Very Fine, according to a hypothesis advanced by Richard Schwartz, the "Free" imprint was added below four positions in the sheet to indicate the discount for purchasing a sheet of 20 stamps, we record three off-cover stamps and four covers with this variety (see lot 240 for details), ex Caspary, Middendorf and Schwartz.. E. 500-750



237

- 237 **Overton & Co., (5c) Black on Greenish (113L1).** Large to huge margins, manuscript "X" cancel (bleed-thru effectively ties stamp), faint red "Forwarded by Overton & Co. 3 Broad Street, New York" oval handstamp on folded cover to Providence R.I., docketed "July 29" (1844)

EXTREMELY FINE STAMP ON AN ATTRACTIVE COVER. THE JULY 29, 1844, DOCKETING DATE IS THE EARLIEST RECORDED USE OF THE OVERTON STAMP.

There are 28 recorded stamped covers in John Bowman's census (*Independent Mails* book), dated from July 29, 1844 (the docketing date of this cover) through June 30, 1845, the day before the Independent Mail companies were forced out of business by the July 1845 postal laws. On July 22, 1844, Overton announced expanded service, including Providence R.I., the destination of this cover.

Ex Ackerman and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000





238

- 238 ☒ **Overton & Co., (5c) Black on Greenish (113L1).** Large margins, cancelled by pen stroke and red "Cd." handstamp (Pomeroy's old device) applied by Overton on small folded Valentine poem to a student at Yale College in New Haven Conn., red "Overton & Co's City Mail, Office, 3 Broad Street" oval handstamp, **put into the mails with red "New-York Feb. 15" (1845) circular datestamp**, blue manuscript "20" rate

EXTREMELY FINE. A REMARKABLE USE OF THE OVERTON & CO. STAMP ON A VALENTINE COVER TO NEW HAVEN VIA NEW YORK CITY.

This is one of the most remarkable Independent Mail covers we have ever encountered. The red "Cd." cancel on the Overton stamp was originally used by Pomeroy's Letter Express. After Pomeroy discontinued its letter-mail service, Overton apparently used the "Cd." and "Paid" devices. This letter was carried outside the mails to New York City, where Overton's City Mail Co. local post delivered it to the post office for transmission to New Haven. For an unknown reason, Overton did not use the services of another Independent Mail firm. The 20c rate is puzzling. Perhaps the New York City post office was wise to the letter's origin and charged full postage to New Haven.

Ex Geisler. With 2009 P.F. certificate..... E. 1,500-2,000



239

- 239 ☒ **Overton & Co., (5c) Black on Greenish (113L1).** Large margins but oddly cut round at one corner, cancelled by three pen strokes, small toned spot, used on large part of folded cover to Providence R.I., red "Forwarded by Overton & Co., 3 Broad Street, New York" oval handstamp, refolded at top and bottom, Fine, scarce, ex Knapp and Schwartz... E. 500-750

## THE ONLY RECORDED MULTIPLE WITH THE "FREE" IMPRINT



240

- 240 ☒ **Overton & Co., (5c) Black on Greenish, "Free" below Circle (113L1).** Horizontal pair, both stamps with "FREE." printed in large bottom sheet margin, huge margins all around, filing crease thru left stamp, pen lines thru each "Free" and tied by manuscript "X" cancels on folded letter to Detroit date-lined New York City, Oct. 19, 1844 with Oct. 18 invoice, **conjunctive use with Wells' Letter Express** from Albany to Detroit, overall even brownish toning or soiling

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. THE ONLY RECORDED MULTIPLE OF THE OVERTON "FREE" VARIETY, ON OR OFF COVER. THE FINEST OF THE THREE RECORDED OVERTON MULTIPLES ON COVER (ALL PAIRS) AND ONE OF FOUR KNOWN COVERS WITH THE "FREE" VARIETY. AN OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER.

The 113L1 stamps are known both with and without the "Free" imprint below the circle. In an article by Richard Schwartz (*Penny Post*, Oct. 1994), a sensible theory explaining the meaning of the Free imprint is set forth. According to Overton's advertisements, the stamps were sold singly at 6¼ cents each, or 20 stamps for a dollar (5c each). Therefore, the purchaser of a sheet of 20 stamps would essentially receive four *free* stamps. To make the point, the imprint "Free" was added below four positions in the sheet. The existence of a bottom left corner margin stamp without the "Free" rules out a sheet of five rows of four. However, if the sheet were four rows of five, the four last stamps in the sheet would have the "Free".

Our records contain only three off-cover "Free" stamps: 1) cancelled "Cd.", ex Patton and Golden; 2) cancelled "Cd.", ex Caspary, Middendorf and Schwartz, offered in lot 236; and 3) cancelled "Cd." Siegel Sale 1117, lot 4302.

We record another four "Free" stamps on separate covers: 1) Oct. 4, 1844, NYC to J. H. Austin, Buffalo, single stamp showing part of "Free" (clipped), tied by ms., large red "Paid", conjunctive use with Letter Express, ex Petri; 2) Oct. 18, 1844, to R. H. Hall, Detroit Mich., **pair** with "Free" below both stamps, conjunctive use with Letter Express, ex Chapman, Hollowbush, Golden, the cover offered here; 3) Feb. 8, 1845, single cancelled "Cd." on folded letter to local NYC address, City Mail oval, Mazza collection; and 4) date unknown, 1845 folded letter, stamp shows traces of "Free" at bottom (clipped), City Mail oval and "5" handstamp, ex Lilly. Looking at the record, there are really only two "Free" covers (the other two are mostly cut away) and of the two, only this cover has a pair, the largest known multiple of any Overton stamp.

The usage itself is rare. Only three covers with a pair of 113L1 are recorded, all from the Hall correspondence to Detroit. All three are offered in this sale. Overton brought the letters to Albany and Wells' Letter Express carried them to Detroit. It is believed that Wells' Letter Express took over the Pomeroy route between Albany and Buffalo by October 1844 at the latest, and possibly as early as August.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex C. E. Chapman (handstamp), Hollowbush (erased cost code on back) and Golden. With 1999 P.F. certificate ..... E. 5,000-7,500





241



242

- 241 ☒ **Overton & Co., (5c) Black on Greenish (113L1).** Vertical pair, margins at sides, cut in at top and bottom, each with manuscript "X" cancel, used on Oct. 3, 1844 folded letter from New York City to Detroit Mich., red handstamped "PAID" struck from the device previously used by Pomeroy's Letter Express, right stamp with pre-use crease, left stamp creased from file fold

ONE OF THREE RECORDED COVERS WITH A PAIR OF THE OVERTON & COMPANY STAMP. FROM A POSTAL HISTORY PERSPECTIVE, THIS IS A VERY RARE WESTBOUND INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER TO THE GREAT LAKES REGION.

Only three covers with a pair of 113L1 are recorded, all from the Hall correspondence to Detroit. All three are offered in this sale. Overton brought the letters to Albany and Wells' Letter Express carried them to Detroit. It is believed that Wells' Letter Express took over the Pomeroy route between Albany and Buffalo by October 1844.

Ex Schwartz ..... E. 2,000-3,000

- 242 ☒ **Overton & Co., (5c) Black on Greenish (113L1).** Horizontal pair, margins at sides, cut in at top and bottom, each with smudged manuscript "X" cancel, used on Oct. 11, 1844 folded letter from New York City to Detroit Mich., red handstamped "PAID" struck from the device previously used by Pomeroy's Letter Express, right stamp creased from file fold

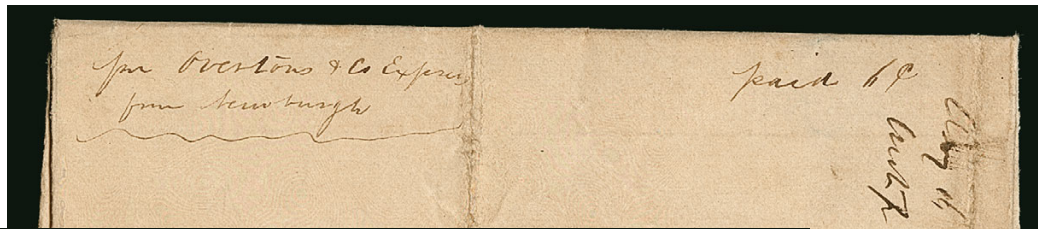
ONE OF THREE RECORDED COVERS WITH A PAIR OF THE OVERTON & COMPANY STAMP. FROM A POSTAL HISTORY PERSPECTIVE, THIS IS A VERY RARE WESTBOUND INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER TO THE GREAT LAKES REGION.

Illustrated in the *Independent Mails* book. Ex Schwartz ..... E. 2,000-3,000

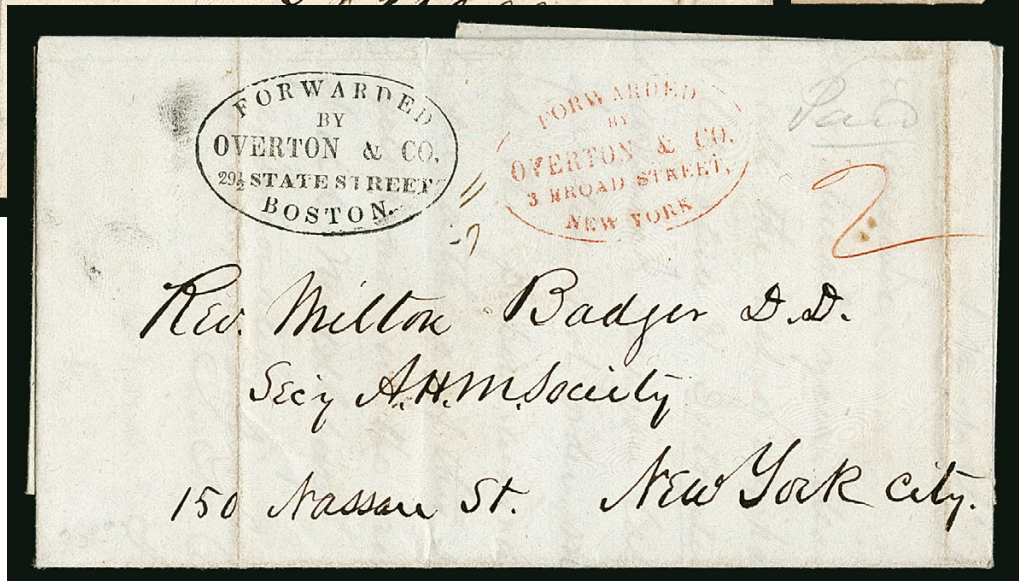


## OVERTON &amp; COMPANY STAMPLESS MARKINGS

243



244



245

- 243 ☒ **"per Overton & Co. Express from Newburgh".** Manuscript express marking and "paid 6c" rate on Aug. 15, 1844 folded letter from Newburgh to Kingston N.Y., slightly worn and soiled file folds, otherwise Very Fine, Overton took over this route from Damon in August 1844, according to Hahn this is the earliest reported Overton usage along this route, ex Hahn..... E. 300-400
- 244 ☒ **FORWARDED BY/OVERTON & COS EXPRESS.** Two-line handstamp in an unusually small type, clearly struck with manuscript "6" rate on folded letter to the comptroller's office in Albany, the writer (Elisha Crawford, president of the White Plains Bank) is returning a letter received from W. W. Van Zandt, a bank auditor in Albany, original letter datelined Aug. 9, 1844, docketing indicates Aug. 15 mailing date (Overton & Co.), file folds, Very Fine, this is the only recorded example of the two-line Overton handstamp, ex Schwartz..... E. 750-1,000
- 245 ☒ **Forwarded by Overton & Co., 29 1/2 State Street, Boston.** Clear strike of black oval handstamp and red "Forwarded by Overton & Co. 3 Broad Street, New York" oval handstamp on Aug. 19, 1844 folded letter from Boston to New York City street address, pencil "Paid", red crayon "2" local delivery charge, file folds, one thru the Boston marking, Very Fine, ex Golden..... E. 200-300

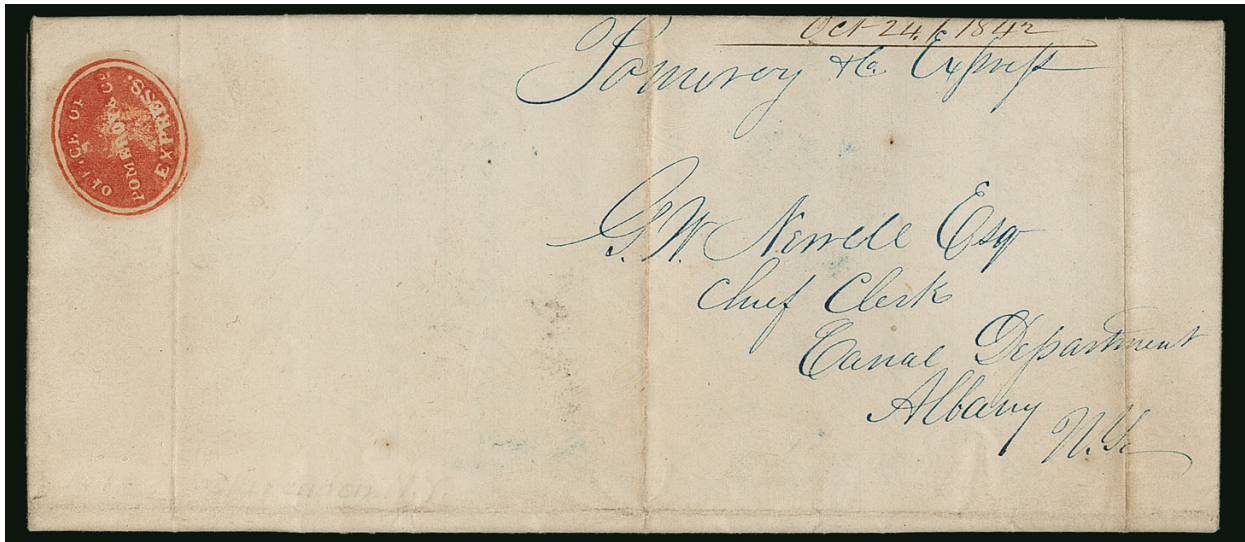




- 246 ☒ **(Overton & Co.) "COLLECT/6"CENTS**. Three-line handstamp in a distinctive font, perfectly struck on May 22, 1845 folded letter from Lansingburgh N.Y. to local street address, manuscript "Collect 6¼", red **"Boyd's City Express Post, May 6 9 O'C"** oval datestamp, Extremely Fine, choice combination of intercity Independent Mails and Boyd's local-post service, the "Collect 6 Cents" marking is very rare, a comparison of the elements of this marking with the Overton "6" and the small-type handstamp (lots 244 and 247) provide convincing visual evidence that this was carried by Overton, who took over Pomeroy's Albany-New York City route, ex Golden and Hahn..... E. 500-750
- 247 ☒ **Forwarded by Overton & Co., 29½ State Street, Boston**. Oval handstamp and "6" rate handstamp on Apr. 11, 1845 folded letter from Boston to Gardner Me., handed to **American Letter Mail Co.** for transport, red "American Letter Mail Company, Office, No. 16 States Street, Boston" oval handstamp struck over Overton's, Very Fine... E. 150-200
- 248 ☒ **Overton & Co's City Mail, Office, 3 Broad Street**. Clear strike of red oval handstamp and black "Paid" handstamp on Jan. 1, 1845 folded letter from Concord N.H. to New York City street address, manuscript "Paid 6", Very Fine, ex Schwartz ..... E. 200-300
- 249 ☒ **City Mail Co./Office/6 Wall Street**. Clear strike of red framed handstamp on Aug. 25, 1845 blue folded letter from Boston to New York City street address, small manuscript "2" rate for local delivery, Very Fine, sent after the Independent Mail companies were put out of business by the new postal law that took effect July 1, the City Mail local post continued to operate and obviously was clandestinely handling intercity mail ..... E. 150-200

## POMEROY &amp; COMPANY

George E. Pomeroy founded the firm of Pomeroy & Company in 1841. It was succeeded by Livingston, Wells & Pomeroy in April 1844. Pomeroy & Co. was never advertised as a letter express or Independent Mail company. It carried freight letters related to cargo and money packages (permitted by law) between Albany and Buffalo, a distance of about 290 miles, using railroad lines and stagecoaches. Postal officials suspected that Pomeroy was carrying letters in violation of postal laws and investigated the operation. The Postmaster General launched the U.S. Express Mail of 1842 to counter the competition from the illicit private letter-carrying companies.

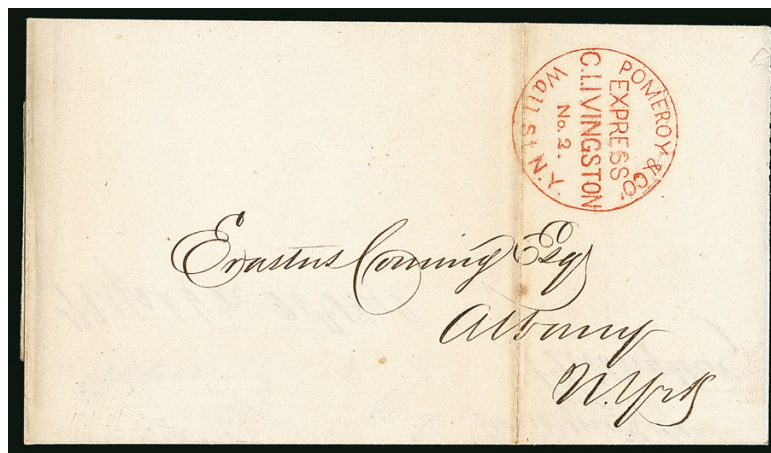


250

- 250 ☒ **Office of Pomeroy & Co. Express.** Red **negative oval** handstamp clearly struck on Oct. 24, 1842 legal-size folded letter from Clarendon N.Y. to Albany, addressed in blue, used to transmit report on Canal to Chief Clerk of Canal Department, file folds far from marking EXTREMELY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE NEGATIVE OVAL HANDSTAMP USED BY POMEROY & COMPANY.

This negative oval and the illustrated locomotive oval are the two rarest types of Pomeroy markings. The David Snow census in the *Independent Mails* book records just one of this type. It was used by Pomeroy & Co., prior to the Independent Mail period.

Ex Petri and Hahn ..... E. 1,500-2,000



251

- 251 ☒ **Pomeroy & Co. Express, C. Livingston, No. 2, Wall St. N.Y.** Crawford Livingston's personal circular handstamp perfectly struck in red on folded cover to Erastus Corning (president of the Utica & Schenectady Railroad) in Albany, datelined New York City Dec. 28, 1842, apparently written and signed by Livingston but possibly secretarial, "Please accept of the accompanying Can of Choice Selected Oysters", slightly toned file fold, otherwise Very Fine, only two recorded in David Snow census in *Independent Mails* book, ex Schwartz ..... E. 300-400





- 252 ☒ **Pomeroy & Co. Express, Paid.** Rimless red circular handstamp and manuscript "*pr. Pomeroy & Co. Express*" on Jan. 13, 1844 folded letter from New York City to attorney general's office in Albany N.Y., two ink strokes below "Paid" probably indicates double rate, file fold thru handstamp, Very Fine, very scarce marking, ex Schwartz . E. 400-500
- 253 ☒ **Forwarded by Pomeroy & Cos. Express from Albany.** Red circular handstamp clearly struck on Dec. 19, 1842 folded letter from Albany to New York City street address, an order for bibles, Very Fine, only three recorded in David Snow census in *Independent Mails* book, ex Frajola ..... E. 200-300
- 254 ☒ **Pomeroy & Co.'s Express.** Train adhesive in Black on Glazed Vermilion, used on undated folded cover to A. C. Flagg, comptroller at Albany, sender's directive "*By Pomeroy & Cos. Express. To be delivered as soon as it reaches Albany.*", pencil "*Express paid*" and blue pen "*Paid*", probably originated in Buffalo sometime in 1843, split along folds (need to be rejoined), small edge tears, otherwise Very Fine, ex Schwartz ..... E. 500-750
- 255 ☒ **Pomeroy & Co.'s Express.** Train adhesive in Black on Glazed Vermilion, small scrapes at bottom, tied by filing crease on folded cover to New York City, ms. "*Free Ontario Bank*" (Ontario Bank, located in Utica), manuscript "*22 Wall*" street address for delivery, receipt docketing indicates Oct. 26, 1844 mailing date, Fine, very rare use of Pomeroy label on letter mail, ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 500-750

## POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS

To protect the core express business from government lawsuits, George E. Pomeroy resigned from Livingston, Wells & Pomeroy and launched Pomeroy's Letter Express in June 1844. The company carried mail between Buffalo, Albany and New York City, using the same infrastructure that served the express and linking with other Independent Mail companies. Pomeroy also made arrangements with Boyd's City Express Post for local delivery in New York City.

After a strong start, Pomeroy's Letter Express was targeted by postal officials. The most effective weapon was the government's implementation of penalty clauses in railroad contracts, which prescribed stiff penalties for permitting private messengers to carry letters on rail cars. In early August 1844, Pomeroy announced the discontinuance of the Letter Express. However, Pomeroy's stamps and some of its markings were still being used on letters into the fall of 1844. It appears that Wells took over the Albany-Buffalo route, and Overton & Co. carried the mail between Albany and New York City.

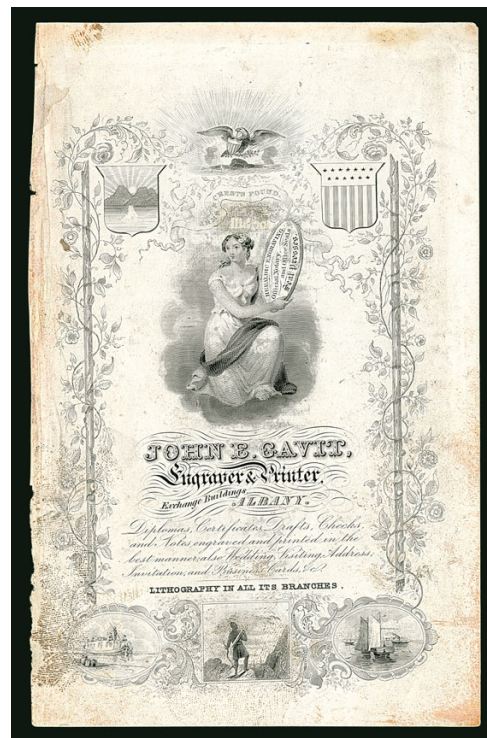
Pomeroy's Letter Express adhesive stamps were engraved by John E. Gavit of Albany, a prominent security printer also known for the unissued Albany postmaster's provisional stamp featuring Benjamin Franklin in a beaver hat. Gavit and George Pomeroy were married to sisters, which made them brothers-in-law and explains why Pomeroy employed Gavit to engrave and print express package labels prior to 1844 and stamps for the 1844 letter-mail operation.

The engraved steel plate of 40 subjects was divided into two panes of 20, an arrangement that facilitated the sale of stamps offered at 20 for \$1.00. "Gavit" is inscribed in tiny letters beneath the lower right of the oval with "Pomeroy's Letter Express." The words "Free Stamp" are engraved at the top (the term "Free Stamp" indicates the letter was prepaid and no money was due from the addressee). At the bottom is the value label, which either reads "20 for \$1" or "20 for —" with the dollar amount omitted (Value Incomplete).

Stamps were first printed in black on a yellow surface-coated paper. The plate used to print stamps on this paper had a number of positions with the Value Incomplete variety (see page 160). After engraving the "\$1" value on the blank positions, more stamps were printed in black and other colors on different papers.



Detail of vignette



256EX

256

**Pomeroy's Letter Express, John E. Gavit and Engraving Collateral.** Three interesting items: autograph letter signed John E. Gavit, engraver of the Pomeroy stamp, the Albany postmaster's provisional essay and others, dated Aug. 9, 1835; large sheet with Gavit advertisement showing engraved calling cards of presidents and address at 4 Exchange Building, Albany; and a second smaller advertising leaf with beautiful engraving including female figure used on the Pomeroy stamp, minor faults, but all highly exhibitable and ideal for a specialized collection.....(Photo Ex/Website PDF) E. 150-200



JUNE 1844 FIRST ISSUE

BLACK ON YELLOW SURFACE-COLORED PAPER



257

257 ★ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Greenish Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Two strips of three rejoined to form the original **block of six**, Positions 5-7 and 9-11 on the plate of 40, large margins to full at left, bright color, few flaws including bottom strip with horizontal crease which causes a couple small paper breaks, top left stamp tiny thin spot

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A SPECTACULAR RARITY OF INDEPENDENT MAILED AND CLASSIC UNITED STATES PHILATELY. THIS RECONSTRUCTED BLOCK OF SIX CONTAINS THE LARGEST RECORDED UNUSED MULTIPLES OF THE POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS 1844 5-CENT BLACK ON GREENISH YELLOW.

Prior to the sale of this block in our recent Sale 1101 (Stimmell collection), in all of our auctions dating back to 1993 and Rarities sales since 1964, we had not offered even a single unused example of the Pomeroy 5c on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1). Unlike the common unused stamps on thick wove and thin bond, which are remainders, there were no supplies of this first issue left to collectors.

Ex Sloane and Stimmell. With 2015 P.F. certificate..... E. 4,000-5,000



258

- 258 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Large to huge margins, proof-like impression on brilliant colored paper, cancelled by perfect strike of red "Cd.", impression ties thru paper on **July 3, 1844** folded letter from Buffalo to New York City street address, red "**Boyd's City Express Post, July 5 9 O'C**" framed datestamp, letter states "*Pomeroy & Co. are carrying letters now between here & N.Y. for 6c each or 20 stamps for a dollar. It reduces the expense.*"

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THE EARLIEST COVERS SHOWING GENUINE USE OF POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMP AND WITHOUT QUESTION ONE OF THE FINEST POMEROY COVERS WE HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED — PERFECTION..

It appears that Pomeroy's Letter Express introduced stamps immediately upon announcing service on June 26, 1844. The earliest recorded cover is datelined Albany, June 27, 1844 (ex Hollowbush, John A. Fox sale, Jan. 4-5, 1966, lot 1407, illustrated in *Independent Mails* book), followed by covers dated June 28, July 1 and 3. This July 3rd cover is a first-week use of the new stamps.

Ex Emerson and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 1,500-2,000





259

- 259 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Full to large margins, beautiful bright shade, tied by smear from red "Cd." cancel, matching "POMEROY'S MAIL" straightline (associated with Albany office) on Jul. 20, 1844 folded letter from Buffalo to New York City street address, Extremely Fine, a superb example of Pomeroy's stamp and the scarce straightline handstamp, one of the finest Pomeroy covers we have encountered, illustrated in *Independent Mails* book, ex Steinmetz and Hall, with 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 1,000-1,500



260

- 260 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Large even margins, cancelled by red "Cd." handstamp, bold red "Boyd's City Express Post, Aug. 8 9 O'C" framed datestamp on folded letter in blue manuscript datelined "Whitehall Aug. 5, 1844" to New York City street address, Extremely Fine, desirable example of Pomeroy and Boyd conjunctive service, ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 750-1,000





261

- 261 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Ample to huge margins, cancelled by red "Cd." handstamp (impression ties thru paper), matching red "POMEROY & CO'S/EXPRESS" two-line handstamp with parts of circle at sides (probably applied at New York City office) on Jul. 18, 1844 folded letter from Buffalo to New York City, Dwight Johnson correspondence, Very Fine, ex Worthington, Stephen D. Brown, Petri and Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate..... E. 400-500



262

- 262 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Position 18L, full to large margins, cancelled by red "Cd." handstamp (impression ties thru paper), matching "POMEROY'S/MAIL" two-line handstamp with "Pomeroy" arched (probably applied at Albany) on Aug. 16, 1844 folded letter from Albany to Syracuse N.Y., some wear along folds, otherwise Very Fine, illustrated in *Independent Mails* book, Sloane's notes on back (including plating), ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500





- 263 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Full to large margins, cancelled by red "Cd." handstamp (impression ties thru paper) on Aug. 6, 1844 blue folded letter from Albany N.Y. to New York City street address, Very Fine, ex C. E. Chapman (handstamp) and Schwartz ..... E. 400-500
- 264 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Ample to large margins, slight oxidation, tied by **manuscript "C" cancel** applied by Rochester agent, Daniel Hoyt (operator of Hoyt's Letter Express, see lot 202), on folded letter to Albany datelined Rochester, Aug. 7, 1844, Very Fine, ex Knapp and Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 400-500
- 265 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Large even margins, gorgeous shade, **manuscript "Rome" cancel**, used on folded cover with Rome Jul. 18, 1844 dateline still intact, one interior panel removed, file folds, Very Fine, the only recorded Rome N.Y. cancellation on a Pomeroy's stamp, from the Albany Comptroller correspondence, ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 400-500

## VALUE INCOMPLETE — “20 FOR —”



“20 for \$1” at top  
“20 for [blank]” at bottom

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 (marked on the plate diagram below). 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.

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.

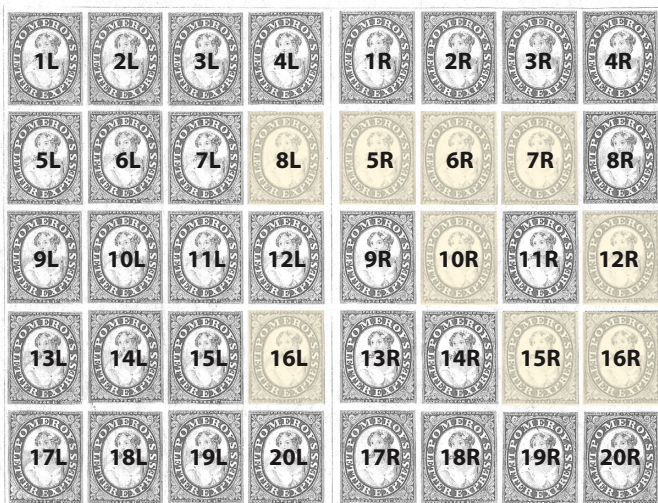


Diagram of the Pomeroy plate showing the Value Incomplete positions that have been identified (highlighted). All known examples are on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper used for the First Printing.

These positions on other papers or in other colors always have the value “\$20 for \$1” complete.

No stamps on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper that come from these positions show the value complete.

It appears that when the plate was used to print stamps on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper, there was a combination of Value Complete and Value Incomplete positions. A se-tenant multiple would prove that to be true.

Further study and plating of stamps on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1 and 117L2) will confirm which positions have the “\$20 for \$1” engraved and which are Value Incomplete.





266

- 266 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, (5c) Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper, Value Incomplete (117L2).** Position 5R, large to huge margins, **manuscript "WCS" cancel**, used on folded letter datelined "*Penn Yan Augst. 9, 1844*" to New York City, sender's notation "*Express*" and "*Contract*", partly readable brownish red "Pomeroy & Co.'s Express" handstamp with parts of circle at sides and matching "Paid" straightline handstamp (both probably applied on arrival in New York City), bold red "**Boyd's City Express Post, Aug. 12 9 O'C**" framed datestamp, stamp has tiny pinpoints in surface

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THE FINEST OF THE 21 RECORDED COVERS BEARING THE EXTREMELY RARE POMEROY FIRST ISSUE WITH BLANK VALUE TABLET.

This stamp comes from one of the positions on the plate with the value "20 for \$1" incomplete ("1" removed). This state of the plate was used only for printing stamps in Black on Yellow paper. The *Independent Mails* book reports 21 covers with the Value Incomplete stamp in the Pomeroy census.

Sloane's notes on back (including plate position). Ex Golden. With 2000 P.F. certificate ..  
..... E. 2,000-3,000



267

- 267 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, (5c) Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper, Value Incomplete (117L2).** Position 12R, ample to large margins, cancelled by "Cd.", manuscript "Paid P&Co." next to stamp, used on Aug. 14, 1844 folded letter from Geneva N.Y. to New York City street address, red "Boyd's City Express Post, Aug. 16 9 O'C" framed datestamp, file folds, one passes under stamp but does not affect it (according to certificate — it is either a stationery fold or the stamp popped up and was not creased)

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THE FINEST OF THE 21 RECORDED COVERS BEARING THE EXTREMELY RARE POMEROY FIRST ISSUE WITH BLANK VALUE TABLET.

This stamp comes from one of the positions on the plate with the value "20 for \$1" incomplete ("1" removed). This state of the plate was used only for printing stamps in Black on Yellow paper. The *Independent Mails* book reports 21 covers with the Value Incomplete stamp in the Pomeroy census.

Ex Caspary and Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000





268

- 268 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, (5c) Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper, Value Incomplete (117L2).** Large to huge margins, beautiful bright Lemon Yellow shade, cancelled by perfectly clear red "Cd." (impression ties thru paper) on Jul. 10, 1844 folded letter from New York City to chief clerk of the New York State Bank Department at Albany, stamp has trivial pre-use corner crease at bottom right

EXTREMELY FINE APPEARANCE. ONE OF THE FINEST OF THE 21 RECORDED COVERS BEARING THE EXTREMELY RARE POMEROY FIRST ISSUE WITH BLANK VALUE TABLET.

Ex Gordon N. John and Geisler. With 2009 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000

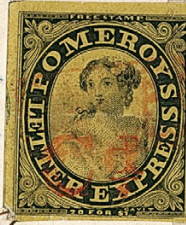


269

- 269 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, (5c) Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper, Value Incomplete (117L2).** Full to large margins, slight traces of oxidation, cancelled by clear red "Cd." (impression ties thru paper) with second strike at right on Aug. 7, 1844 folded letter from Utica N.Y. to New York City street address, stamp has minor pre-use corner crease at bottom right, Very Fine appearance, this stamp comes from one of the positions on the plate with the value "20 for \$1" incomplete ("1" removed), this state of the plate was used only for printing stamps in Black on Yellow paper, the *Independent Mails* book reports 21 covers with the Value Incomplete stamp in the Pomeroy census, ex Schwartz..... E. 1,000-1,500



POMEROY'S MAIL



Mr. William T. Marou,  
care Rev. L. F. Diminick,  
Newburyport,  
Ves.

single.



# TRIPLE CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE COVER WITH MIXED FRANKING APPLIED AT ORIGIN

270 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Ample to large margins, **conjunctive use and mixed franking with Hale & Company 5c Blue, Street Address Omitted (75L5)**, Second State Position 1, full to large margins including top left corner sheet margins, both stamps **affixed at origin** on folded cover (undated and no origin, probably August 1844) to Newburyport Mass., addressed to William T. Marona, in care of Reverend Luther F. Dimmick (Third Religious Society of Newburyport), notation on one panel "Father", red "POMEROY'S MAIL" straightline handstamp (associated with the Albany office), red "Forwarded by Hale & Co from Albany" oval handstamp, Hale stamp cancelled by manuscript "X" and both stamps tied by three strikes of red "Forwarded through/Hale & Co.'s/Letter Office — Boston" framed handstamp with "13 Court St." deleted, **transported from Boston to Newburyport through H. T. Crofoot's Newburyport Letter Office** with partly clear strike of blue "H. T. Crofoot's Newburyport Letter Office" oval handstamp tying Pomeroy's stamp along left margin, slight wear along vertical file fold, Pomeroy stamp has tiny part of bottom left corner scuffed and minute tear in bottom margin (utterly trivial flaws mentioned only for complete accuracy)

EXTREMELY FINE. AN IMPORTANT AND TRULY SPECTACULAR MIXED-FRANKING INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER CARRIED BY THREE DIFFERENT COMPANIES AND STAMPED AT THE ORIGIN POINT WITH POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS AND HALE & COMPANY ADHESIVES.

Just as the triple mixed franking on the cover offered in lot 210 demonstrates the cooperation among Independent Mail companies, this cover is a visually striking display of service provided by three different firms involved in transporting mail from western New York to the small New England coastal town of Newburyport, Massachusetts. However, there is a significant aspect to the mixed franking on this cover, which sets it apart from all others. In this case, *both companies' adhesive stamps* were affixed at the point of origin to prepay the Pomeroy and Hale rates. On other covers, the secondary frankings were applied by one Independent Mail company to credit the next with its share of the original postage, thus a 15c prepayment will have a 10c credit in stamps, and so on.

The cover offered here is a true 5c plus 5c mixed franking, which paid for all of the postage, and the positions of the stamps — Pomeroy to the left toward center and Hale to the right at the edge — leave no doubt they were affixed at the original point of mailing, not in succession. We know of no other Independent Mail cover that has a mixed franking of this kind: two different companies' stamps paying separate rates and applied at origin.

Our search for information about the location of the sender was unsuccessful. However, the "Father" notation suggests that the sender might have been a resident of Newburyport, which would explain why he had a supply of Hale's stamps to use on letters from western New York.

Regardless of the point of origin, it was carried by Pomeroy's Letter Express to Albany, where it was handed over to Hale & Co. for the eastbound trip to Boston and from there to Newburyport. Hosea T. Crofoot, a bookbinder and expressman, had an agreement with Hale to carry mail between Boston and Newburyport, and presumably he was paid for his services out of the postage Hale received. The earliest Crofoot cover recorded by William Sammis (*Independent Mails* book) is dated August 10, 1844, and shows conjunctive service with Hale & Co.

Illustrated in the Gutman Hale book (color Figure 189A and page 197) and the *Independent Mails* book. Ex Perry and Schwartz ..... E. 15,000-20,000

CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE BETWEEN POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS  
AND AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY



271

- 271 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Yellow Surface-Colored Paper (117L1).** Large margins, slight surface oxidation, cancelled by red "Cd." handstamp (impression ties thru paper) on undated folded survey of Wisconsin school system (name, date, number of teachers, superintendent, etc.) to Philadelphia, **conjunctive service with American Letter Mail Company**, partly clear red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 109 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia" circular handstamp on back, street address added for local delivery, notation on inside indicates this originated in Racine Wis. but that cannot be confirmed, if so it was carried by Wells' Letter Express to Buffalo and then given to Pomeroy for transport to New York City, from there it was carried by American Letter Mail Co. to Philadelphia (no indication of how ALMCo. was paid), minor splits along folds, Very Fine, ex Schwartz..... E. 750-1,000



## 1844 ISSUE ON VARIOUS PAPERS



272

272 **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c 1844 Issue (117L2A, 117L2B, 117L2C, 117L3-117L9 and varieties).** 29 stamps on an exhibit page with every stamp identified by paper and color, some duplicates to show the face and back of the stamp, this is the classification system created by Scott Trepel which is the basis of the Scott listings (*The Penny Post*, January 2004), includes the rare Black on Buff thick wove paper (117L2A) which is considered by some to be an actual plate proof impression, 6 stamps on pelure (Blue, Black and Chocolate Brown, 2 of each to show pelure on back, all unused), 11 on thin handmade bond including Blue (2, unused and used), Black (2, unused and used), Lake (2 used), Orange Red (2, unused and used), Chocolate Brown (2, unissued) and an unlisted but evidently genuine Bright Yellow (the only recorded example), also 5 on yellow paper and 6 on medium fibrous paper which are unissued remainders or reprints (all very common), mostly large margins, some minor faults, overall a Very Fine group of stamps that would be very difficult to reassemble, illustrated in the *Independent Mails* book, Scott Retail for the items listed with prices is \$2,645.00, but that does not include 117L2A, any of the stamps on pelure paper or the unlisted Bright Yellow ..... E. 1,500-2,000



273

- 273 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Thin Bond (117L4).** Horizontal pair, huge margins all around, each stamp cancelled by red "Paid" handstamp, tied by impression thru paper, matching red "POMEROY & CO'S/EXPRESS" two-line handstamp with parts of circle at sides (probably applied at New York City office) on Aug. 17, 1844 blue folded letter from New York City to Buffalo N.Y., refolded slightly at right

EXTREMELY FINE GEM. ONE OF THE FEW POMEROY COVERS KNOWN WITH A MULTIPLE OF ANY SIZE. A SUPERB COVER.

The cover offered here travelled from New York City north to Albany, then west to Buffalo via Utica, Syracuse and Rochester. This "Pomeroy's Express" marking — cut down from its earlier circular version — is found only on covers to and from New York City. The "Paid" cancel is found on covers originating from or passing through the Albany office.

The largest multiple of any Pomeroy's Letter Express issue on cover is a strip of four of the Black 117L4 printing. We record one other cover with a pair of this printing.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex Hall. With 2001 P.F. certificate stating "genuine usage" ..... E. 3,000-4,000



CONJUNCTIVE USE OF POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMP  
AND BOYD'S LARGE EAGLE & GLOBE FIRST ISSUE



274

- 274 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Thin Bond (117L4).** Pen-cancelled, completely covered by **Boyd's City Express, New York N.Y., 2c Black on Green Glazed (20L1)**, large margins, natural printing crease toward top (not noted on certificate), cancelled by red "Free" handstamp on folded letter datelined Lake Champlain, Aug. 24, 1844, to New York City street address, red "**Boyd's City Express Post, Aug. 27 3 O'C.**" framed date-stamp, file folds clear of stamps

EXTREMELY FINE. A UNIQUE AND INTRIGUING COVER, SHOWING THE APPLICATION OF BOYD'S LARGE EAGLE & GLOBE FIRST ISSUE STAMP TO CONCEAL THE POMEROY LETTER EXPRESS STAMP ON AN INDEPENDENT MAIL COVER SENT FROM LAKE CHAMPLAIN IN AUGUST 1844.

Yielding to pressure from the government, Pomeroy announced the suspension of its letter-carrying business in early August 1844. However, dated covers prove that Pomeroy continued to carry mail through September. This cover, originating at Lake Champlain on August 24, 1844, was franked with Pomeroy's 5c Black stamp and handed over to Boyd's for delivery within New York City. Boyd's fee was prepaid by the 20L1 stamp, which was carefully affixed over the Pomeroy adhesive, covering the entire stamp. The absence of any "Collect" notation or the "Paid/J.T.B." marking used in this period confirms the prepayment of Pomeroy's and Boyd's charges by stamps. Looking at this cover and considering the circumstances in which it was carried, one is drawn to conclude that the concealment of Pomeroy's involvement was a deliberate attempt on Boyd's part to avoid any problems with the post office.

John R. Boker Jr. made reference to this cover in his presentation to members of The Royal Philatelic Society on March 18, 1965: "This cover, reported in the philatelic Press in the 1870's, 'disappeared' for many years and was acquired by me about twenty years ago from a collection that had long lain dormant. Boyd had an agreement for delivery within the city of New York of letters brought to their office from upstate New York by Pomeroy. It is possible that Boyd had several motives in making his stamp 'large' and that an obligation was raised." (*London Philatelist*, Vol. 75, No. 881). The 1870s report to which Mr. Boker refers is an account of the first stamp auction in England, held by Sotheby's on March 18, 1872. The highest price in the sale, 155 shillings, was paid for this cover: "This copy was stuck over a Pomeroy stamp (female bust) and was a very desirable acquisition."

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex Boker and Golden. Signed Costales. With 1999 P.F. certificate..... E. 4,000-5,000



275

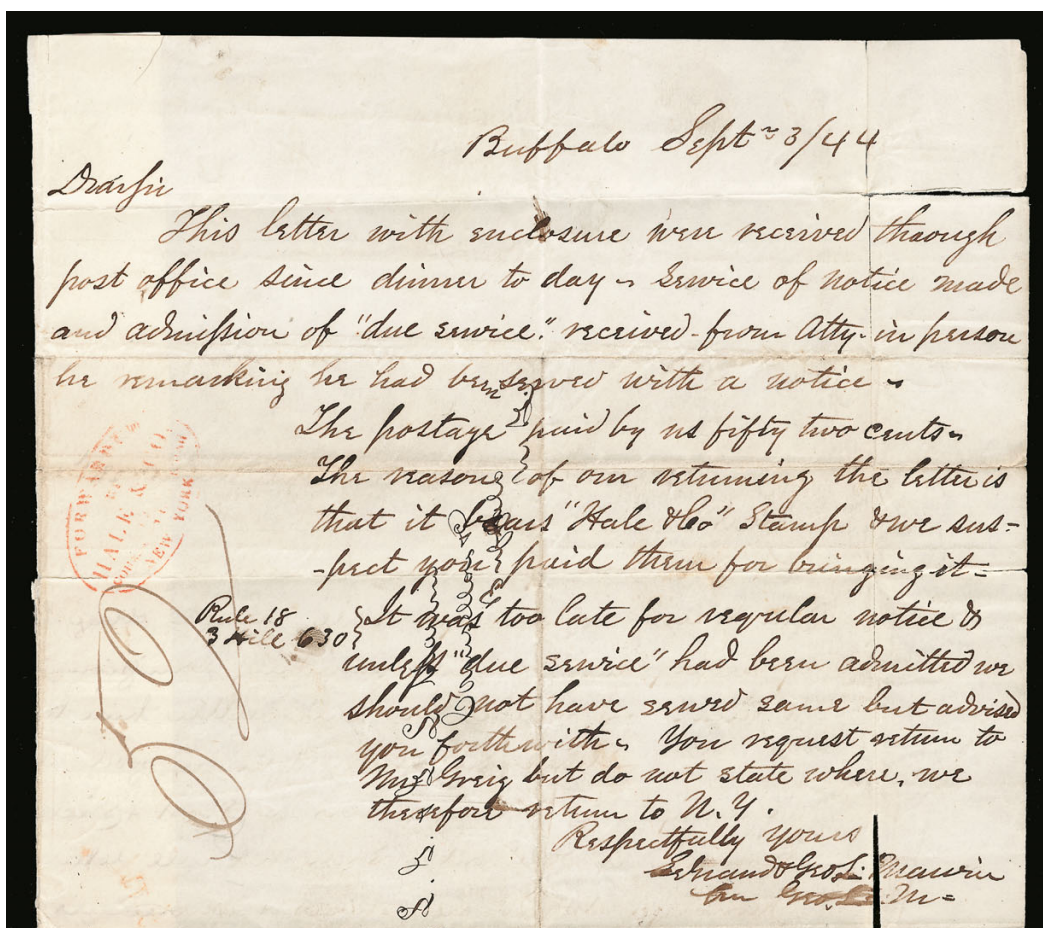
- 275 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Thin Bond (117L4).** Position 4R, full to large margins, cancelled by red "Cd." handstamp impression ties thru paper), red "POMEROY'S MAIL." straightline handstamp, bold red "Boyd's City Express Post, Jul. 23 9 O'C" (1844) framed datestamp and matching "Paid/J.T.B." handstamp on salmon-colored folded letter to New York City street address, stamp has very faint gum toning as often for this issue, still Extremely Fine, desirable example of Pomeroy and Boyd conjunctive service, Sloane's notes (including plating), ex Schwartz..... E. 750-1,000



276

- 276 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Thin Bond (117L4).** Three large margins, touched along right side, cancelled by manuscript "X", red "Boyd's City Express Post, July 15 9 O'C" framed datestamp and matching "Paid/J.T.B." handstamp on folded cover to Dater, Miller & Co. in New York City, street address added for delivery, marked "Paid" in pencil and pen, stamp creased by file fold, otherwise Fine, desirable example of Pomeroy and Boyd conjunctive service, ex Schwartz..... E. 400-500





277

- 277 ✉ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Black on Thin Bond (117L4).** Two singles, each cancelled by manuscript "X", red "Boyd's City Express Post Sep. 7 9 O'C" framed datestamp on Sep. 3, 1844 folded letter to New York City street address, a **turned usage** that was originally sent by Hale & Company, but it was received as a steamboat letter with 52c postage due, letter explains why it is being returned, file folds, splitting along folds and minor faults, still Fine and presentable (the inside has been scanned for exhibition), undoubtedly a unique Independent Mail item, ex Schwartz..... E. 500-750



278

- 278 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Lake on Thin Bond (117L6).** Full to large margins, beautiful rich color and impression, **cancelled by red "Paid" handstamp** (impression ties thru paper), used on Aug. 6, 1844 blue folded letter from New York City to Albany, from the A. Flagg (Albany Comptroller) correspondence

EXTREMELY FINE. AN OUTSTANDING AND RARE EXAMPLE OF THE POMEROY LAKE STAMP CANCELLED BY A HANDSTAMP ON COVER. PROBABLY THE FINEST SINGLE FRANKING EXTANT.

Of the 15 recorded Pomeroy's Letter Express 5c Lake covers known to us (this number corroborated in *Independent Mails* book), this is the only one with a handstamped cancellation instead of manuscript.

Ex Hall and Geisler. With 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 3,000-4,000





279

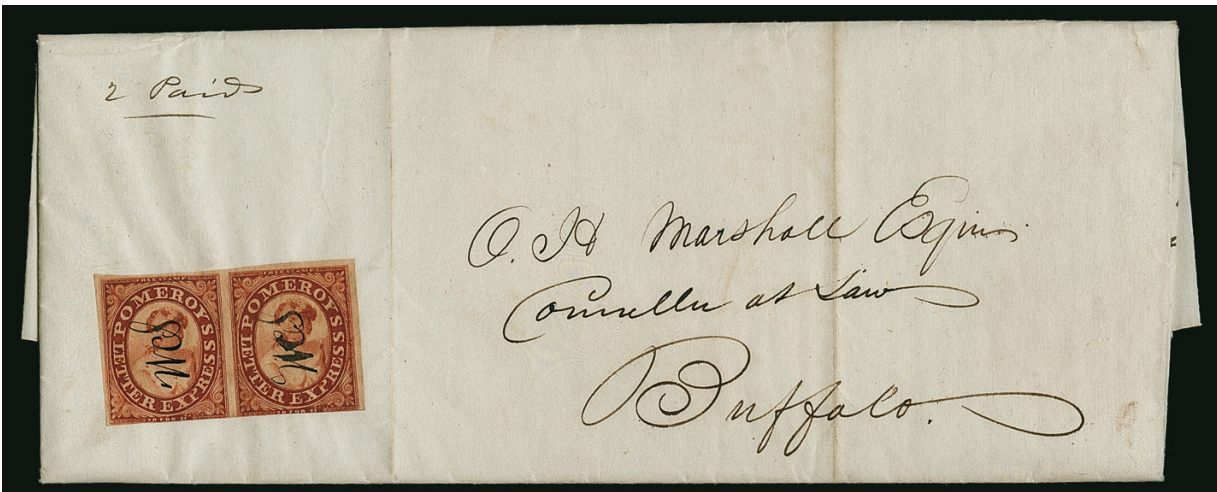
- 279 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Lake on Thin Bond (117L6).** Ample to large margins, deep rich color and sharp impression, **manuscript "RLC" cancel**, red "POMEROY & CO.'S/EXPRESS" two-line handstamp with parts of circle at sides (probably applied at origin) on Jul. 31, 1844 blue folded letter from New York City to chief clerk of State Bank Department at Albany, file fold thru stamp, otherwise Very Fine, rare initialed cancel (similar to the "NYk" in lot 280 and probably written by same person), ex Petri ... E. 400-500



280

- 280 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Lake on Thin Bond (117L6).** Ample to large margins, rich color, **manuscript "NYk" (New York) cancel** ties thru paper on Aug. 18, 1844 blue folded letter to Utica N.Y., written in two directions (some bleed-thru of writing), file fold thru stamp, otherwise Very Fine, the only recorded example of this "NYk" cancel (similar to the "RLC" in lot 279 and probably written by same person)..... E. 400-500





281

- 281 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Lake on Thin Bond (117L6).** Horizontal pair, large margins to slightly in at bottom, each stamp with **manuscript "WCS" cancel**, used on Jul. 30, 1844 part-printed legal notice with enclosed subpoena judgement for mortgage foreclosure, from New York City to Buffalo, sender's notation "2 Paid" for double rate, file folds clear of stamps

FRESH AND VERY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED PAIR OF THE POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS 5-CENT LAKE ON COVER.

Multiples of any of the Pomeroy's Letter Express stamps on cover are extremely rare. The Lake printing is exceedingly rare in any form of multiple, and we record one unused block of four and this pair on cover.

With 2006 P.F. certificate ..... E. 1,500-2,000



282

- 282 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Lake on Thin Bond (117L6).** Ample margins to just touching, tied by manuscript cancel, matching "Collect 6" due notation applied by **Wells' Letter Express** on folded cover to Detroit Mich., docketing indicates Aug. 14, 1844 origin in New York City, from the Hall correspondence (see Overton lots 240-242), small stain at top, file folds, Very Fine and extremely rare westbound Pomeroy-Wells conjunctive usage, illustrated in the *Independent Mails* book (Pomeroy's Letter Express chapter), ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate..... E. 750-1,000



THE LARGEST RECORDED MULTIPLE OF  
THE ORANGE RED PRINTING USED ON COVER



283

- 283 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Orange Red on Thin Bond (117L5).** Positions 12/16/20, vertical strip of three, true Orange Red printing, large margins all around, bright shade, each stamp with neat manuscript cancel, used on Aug. 16, 1844 triple-rate folded letter from Albany to Norwich N.Y., red "POMEROY'S/MAIL" two-line handstamp with "Pomeroy's" arched, matching "Paid" handstamp, both markings probably applied at Albany office, letter concerns the return of a shipment of ale, receipt docketing indicates "Letters" which must mean there were enclosures that required the additional two stamps, top and bottom stamps with faint creases from file folds (only the top so described on certificate)

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. THIS IS THE LARGEST RECORDED MULTIPLE OF THE POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS ORANGE RED ON COVER AND ONE OF THE FEW COVERS EXTANT WITH ANY PRINTING IN A MULTIPLE LARGER THAN A PAIR.

One other multiple of the Orange Red stamp on cover is recorded — the vertical pair offered in lot 284. The stamps on these covers are the true Orange Red shade, not to be confused with Lake.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex Petri and Frajola. With 2000 P.F. certificate .....  
..... E. 5,000-7,500

284



- 284 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Orange Red on Thin Bond (117L5).** Vertical pair, large margins to ample at upper right, each cancelled by small manuscript "X", used on undated blue folded cover with part of letter, probably originated in Albany N.Y., addressed to Milwaukee Wis., apparently carried by Wells' Letter Express

VERY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED MULTIPLES OF POMEROY'S ORANGE RED STAMP ON COVER.

The other recorded multiple is a strip of three on a folded letter from Albany to Norwich N.Y., dated August 16, 1844, which is offered in lot 283. The stamps on these covers are the true Orange Red shade, not to be confused with Lake.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex Geisler. With 2009 P.F. certificate ..... E. 2,000-3,000

285



- 285 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Orange Red on Thin Bond (117L5).** True Orange Red printing, which is often confused with Lake, large margins, trivial corner creases, cancelled by manuscript "Paid", lightly inked **tiny red "PAID" straightline** at right applied by Pomeroy's office in Utica N.Y., red **"Boyd's City Express Post, July 3 9 O'C"** framed datestamp on 1844 folded letter from Alfred Churchill (hotel proprietor in Utica) to Dater, Miller & Co. in New York City, probably mailed on July 1 or 2, file fold, lettersheet is slightly toned (not beneath stamp, which effectively ties it) and a bit fragile with some splitting along folds

VERY FINE. THIS EXTREMELY RARE EXAMPLE OF THE ORANGE RED PRINTING ON COVER IS THE EARLIEST RECORDED USE OF A POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMP OTHER THAN THE BLACK ON YELLOW FIRST PRINTING.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Ex Golden. With 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 1,500-2,000





286

- 286 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Blue on Thin Bond (117L3).** Large margins to just in at bottom, tied by single penstroke on blue folded cover to New York City, receipt docketing "1844, E. F. Smith & Co., Aug. 2d", this firm was located in Rochester N.Y. where the Pomeroy Blue stamps usually originate, Very Fine, a rare example of the Blue stamp tied on cover, signed Meyersburg, ex Geisler, with 2009 P.F. certificate..... E. 750-1,000



287

- 287 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Blue on Thin Bond (117L3).** Horizontal pair, large margins to slightly in, creased, manuscript cancels, used on folded letter datelined Rochester, Jul. 31, 1844 (second dateline Aug. 4), to Boston street address, red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. Albany" handstamp, a son writing to his father, followed by a second letter written by a third party, pencil docketing, Fine appearance, this letter was carried by Pomeroy from Rochester to Albany, then by Hale & Co. to Boston, the stamps paid the Pomeroy 5c and Hale 5c rates, no more than six pairs of Pomeroy's Blue stamp on cover are recorded, illustrated in Gutman Hale book (page 284), ex Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate..... E. 1,000-1,500





288

- 288 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Blue on Thin Bond (117L3).** Horizontal pair, huge margins to clear at bottom right, slight corner crease at bottom left, manuscript "X" cancels, tied by bleed-thru from address at lower left on July 1844 folded letter from Rochester to Boston street address, a son writing to his father, talking about July 4th fireworks and asking for an extra 25 cents to buy a better fishing pole, followed by a second letter written by a third party, fresh and Very Fine, this letter was carried by Pomeroy from Rochester to Albany, then by Hale & Co. to Boston, the stamps paid the Pomeroy 5c and Hale 5c rates, no more than six pairs of Pomeroy's Blue stamp on cover are recorded, ex Malcolm and Golden, with 2000 P.F. certificate..... E. 1,000-1,500



289

- 289 ☒ **Pomeroy's Letter Express, 5c Blue on Thin Bond (117L3).** Horizontal pair, large to huge margins, uncanceled but effectively tied at bottom right corner by ink toning from address, **used to forward a letter first sent by U.S. mail**, blue "Mount Vernon O. Aug. 23" circular datestamp and manuscript "37 1/2" double rate to Rochester N.Y., confirmed by sender's notation "Double", forwarded to New York City with pair of Pomeroy's 5c Blue stamps paying double rate, the key to validating the use of Pomeroy's Letter Express is the red "Boyd's City Express Post, Aug. 31 9 O'C" framed datestamp, which could not be on this cover unless it was a conjunctive use with an Independent Mail company to carry it from Rochester to New York City, long tear across the front affects Boyd's marking, it is sealed with document tape but the certificate incorrectly states "scotch tape", despite condition issues this is a unique cover and very exhibit-worthy, this is the only recorded example of Pomeroy's Letter Express used with U.S. government mail to reach the addressee, with 2001 P.F. certificate..... E. 750-1,000



## POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMPLESS MARKINGS



290

- 290 ☒ **POMEROY'S MAIL/PAID.** Red straightline with **spelling error** "I" for "E", appears to be joined with "PAID." in a unified handstamp, manuscript "6c" rate on Aug. 5, 1844 folded letter from Auburn to Albany N.Y., letter mentions using Pomeroy to save two-thirds of expense in sending letters, Very Fine, extremely rare, this is illustrated as the only recorded example in the David Snow census in *Independent Mails* book, but there might be one other example (Siegel Sale 1101, lot 618), ex Hahn ..... E. 750-1,000



291

- 291 ☒ **POMEROY'S MAIL.** Red straightline handstamp and "PAID." handstamp on bluish gray folded letter datelined "Albany August 5, 1844" and addressed to Boston street address, handed to **Hale & Company for transport to Boston**, red "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Albany" and "Forwarded by Hale & Co. from Boston" oval datestamps struck over the Pomeroy "Paid" marking, which suggests Hale collected something for their effort, Extremely Fine, an unusual cover that proves these two types of Pomeroy markings were applied at the Albany office ..... E. 150-200

POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS CONJUNCTIVE USE WITH  
BOYD'S LARGE EAGLE & GLOBE FIRST ISSUE



292

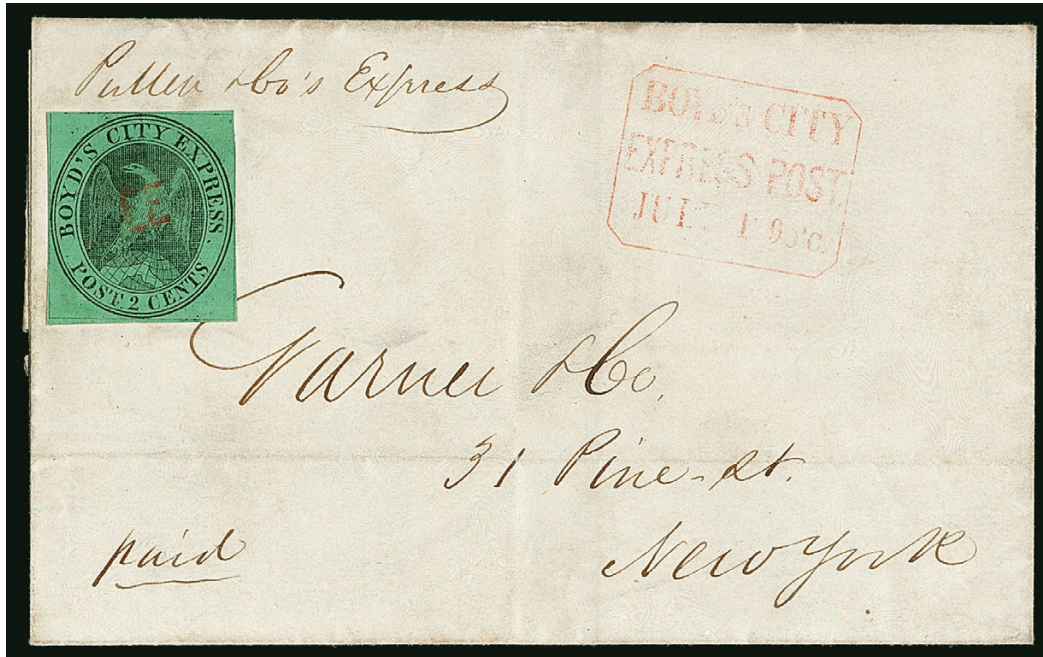
- 292 ☒ **Boyd's City Express, New York N.Y., 2c Black on Green Glazed (20L1).** Large margins, negligible corner crease at bottom left (not noted on certificate), cancelled by red "Free" handstamp, used on folded letter written in blue manuscript, datelined at Auburn N.Y., Jul. 5, 1844, to New York City street address, manuscript "*Paid 6c Pomeroy's Post*" and "*auburn July 6/44*" (beneath Boyd's stamp), red "**Boyd's City Express Post, Jul. 8 3 O'C**" framed datestamp, slight wear along vertical file fold

VERY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS LARGE EAGLE & GLOBE FIRST ISSUE USED ON A COVER WITH THE POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS MANUSCRIPT MARKINGS APPLIED AT AUBURN, NEW YORK.

Ex Frajola. With 2000 P.F. certificate..... E. 3,000-4,000



PULLEN & COMPANY CONJUNCTIVE USE WITH  
BOYD'S LARGE EAGLE & GLOBE FIRST ISSUE



293

- 293 ☒ **Boyd's City Express, New York N.Y., 2c Black on Green Glazed (20L1).** Full even margins, bright shade, cancelled by red "Free", impression ties thru paper, matching "Boyd's City Express Post, Jul. 1 9 O'C." framed datestamp on 1844 folded cover to Garner & Co., 31 Pine St., New York City, sender's directive "*Pullen & Co.'s Express*" at top left, receipt docketing "*CH & J Merritt, June 29, Ans July 1st*", probably Charles H. Merritt and Jacob Merritt of Troy N.Y.

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THREE RECORDED INDEPENDENT MAIL COVERS WITH THE BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST LARGE EAGLE & GLOBE FIRST ISSUE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED PULLEN & COMPANY'S EXPRESS COVER.

Boyd's City Express Post made a smart strategic move when it first started in June 1844 by aligning itself with the Independent Mail companies bringing mail to New York City. A fair number of covers show conjunctive service with Boyd's providing local delivery, but most of these have Boyd's handstamped markings, not adhesive stamps. This is the rare exception. Docketing indicates that it was dated June 29, 1844, at Troy N.Y., a location serviced by Pullen & Co. At the time Major John A. Pullen and a partner, E. L. Stone, were operating an express between Troy, Saratoga Springs and New York City. The letter was handed to Boyd's City Express and delivered on July 1. There is no indication of Pullen & Co.'s fee.

Illustrated in Abt's *CCP* series (Vol. 27, No. 4, p. 279) and the *Independent Mails* book. Ex Mason, Abt and Golden. With 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 3,000-4,000

# J. H. VAN BENTHUYSEN'S NEWS OFFICE

Based on the little known about Van Benthuisen's News Office, it is probable that it collected letters and payment for Independent Mail service from local patrons and arranged to have the mail brought down the Hudson River by one of the better-known Independent Mail companies. J. H. Van Benthuisen is listed at 262 State Street in Lansingburgh in the 1844 and 1845 editions of *The Gavel*, a Masonic publication.

294



295



- 294 ☒ **From J. H. Van Benthuisen's News-Office, No 223 State Street, Lansingburgh.** Red double-line circle handstamp with "PAID" handstamp struck separately in blank area (slightly doubled, which proves it was struck separately) on Jan. 10, 1845 folded letter from Lansingburgh N.Y. to Philip Dater of Dater, Miller & Co., located at Front Street in New York City, docketed in error with July month instead of January

VERY FINE. ONE OF THREE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF VAN BENTHUYSEN'S NEWS OFFICE EXPRESS MARKING AND THE ONLY EXAMPLE OF THE "PAID" VERSION.

Illustrated in *Independent Mails* book. Sloane notes on back. Ex Schwartz..... E. 1,500-2,000

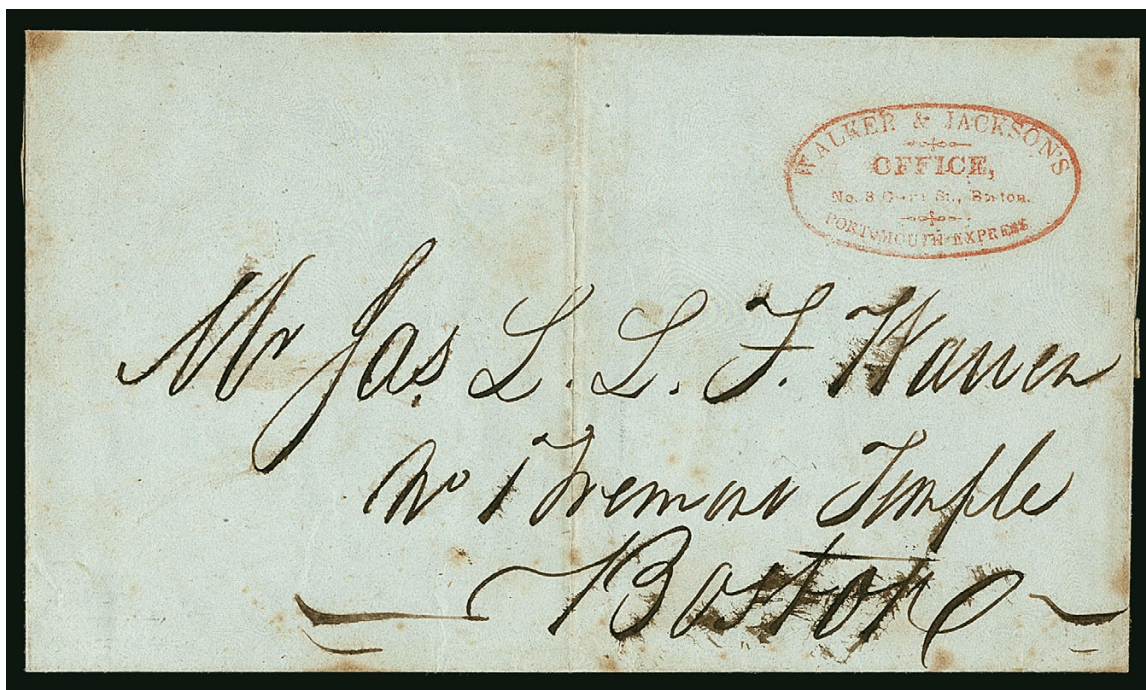
- 295 ☒ **From J. H. Van Benthuisen's News-Office, No 223 State Street, Lansingburgh.** Red double-line circle handstamp with "6 1/4" rate handstamp struck separately or embedded in device, boldly struck on undated folded cover to Alfred M. Tredwill at 145 Pearl Street in New York City, part of interior panel removed, file folds with wear and a few breaks reinforced with hinges

VERY FINE STRIKE AND OVERALL ATTRACTIVE CONDITION. ONE OF THREE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF VAN BENTHUYSEN'S NEWS OFFICE EXPRESS MARKING, OF WHICH TWO HAVE THE 6 1/4 CENTS RATE.

Ex Schwartz..... E. 1,500-2,000



WALKER & JACKSON'S PORTSMOUTH EXPRESS



296

- 296 ☒ **Walker & Jackson's Portsmouth Express, Office, No. 8 Court St., Boston.** Clearly struck red oval handstamp on folded cover from Portsmouth to Boston, pencil Nov. 22, 1844 date inside, Very Fine, extremely rare marking from this small New England express, operated by Gideon Walker and C. C. Jackson between Boston and Portsmouth with offices at Hampton and Newburyport, William Sammis records only two examples in the *Independent Mails* book, this is the later of the two, ex Hall ..... E. 400-500

## WILLIAM WYMAN'S LETTER OFFICES

William Wyman was an agent for Harnden & Company in New York City and Boston prior to 1844, when he started his letter express. The period of operation was brief, from late July 1844 until the middle of December 1844, probably due to failing health. Wyman's wife is listed as his widow in the 1845 Boston directory, so he must have died before May of that year. He published notices announcing the end of his "Letter Business" in Boston on December 14, 1844, and in New York City on December 17. Wyman's last ads referred patrons to Overton & Company, explaining that his stamps could be "redeemed" at their offices. Covers exist with Wyman's stamps and Overton & Co. markings (see lots 299-301).

The Wyman adhesive is the world's first denominated stamp to depict a railroad locomotive. The design also gives the 8 Court Street and 3 Wall Street addresses in Boston and New York City, and the value "20 Stamps for One Dollar." There is some debate as to the method used to print Wyman's stamps—engraving or lithography—and the plate composition is unknown due to the total absence of multiples.



297

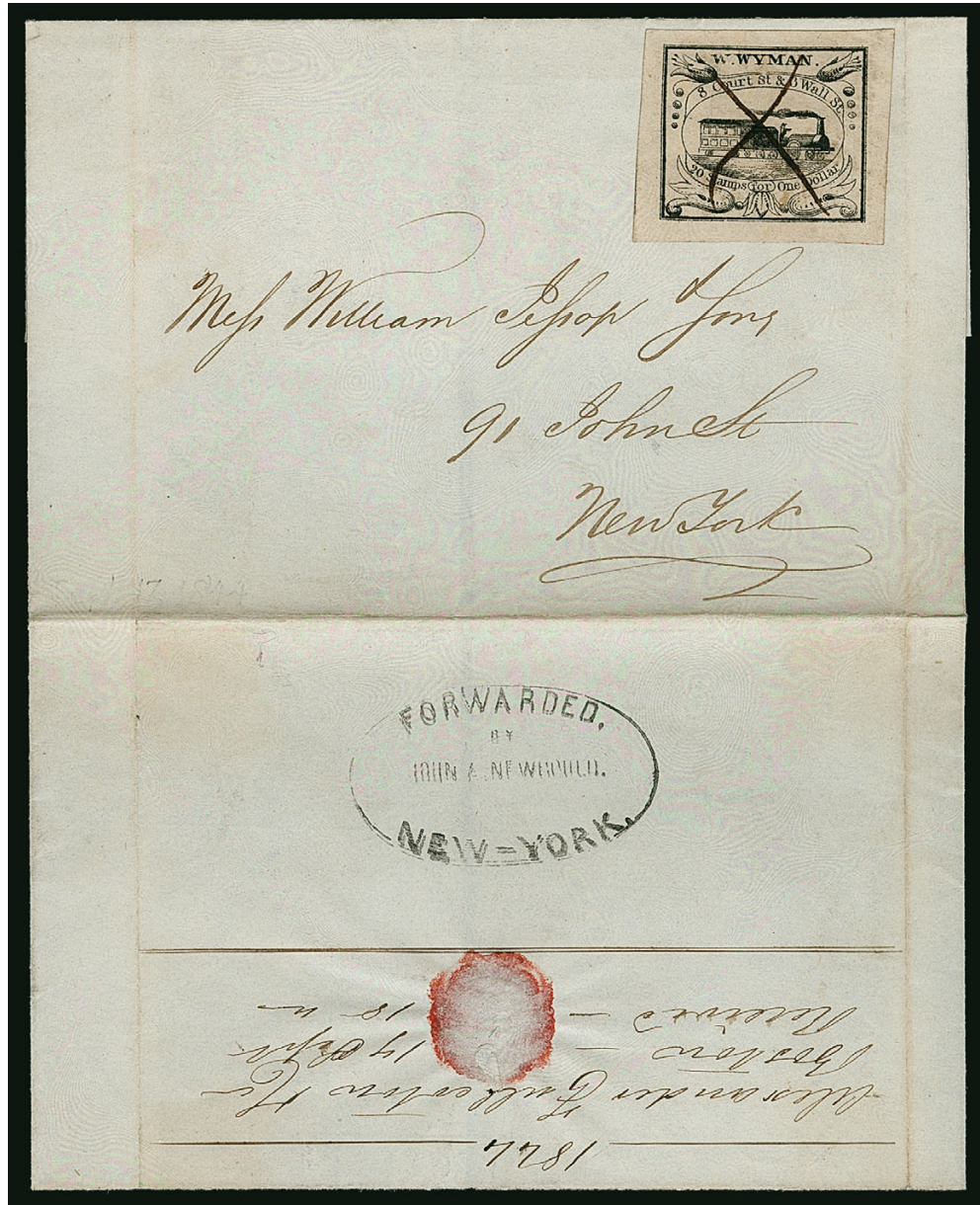
- 297 ☒ **W. Wyman, Boston Mass., 5c Black (149L1).** Large to huge margins, small scissors-cut at top left still leaves huge margin, cancelled by manuscript "X" and also **tied by red "Wm. Wyman's/Letter Offices/8 Court St., Boston/3 Wall St. N. York"** four lines in wavy-line frame handstamp on Nov. 20, 1844 folded letter written in blue from Boston to Geo. S. Robbins in New York City

EXTREMELY FINE. A SUPERB EXAMPLE OF THE RARE WYMAN'S LOCOMOTIVE STAMP USED ON AN ATTRACTIVE COVER FROM THE ROBBINS CORRESPONDENCE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED COVER WITH THE STAMP TIED BY A HANDSTAMPED MARKING.

The updated census of Wyman stamped covers started by Gordon Stimmell and published in the *Independent Mails* book lists 37 covers. This November cover is listed as the only example *tied by handstamp*. There are nine covers with stamps tied by manuscript cancels (or smudges from the cancel).

Ex Hyzen and Schwartz..... E. 2,000-3,000





298

- 298 ☒ **W. Wyman, Boston Mass., 5c Black (149L1).** Huge margins all around, manuscript "X" cancel, used on folded cover to New York City street address, docketing indicates origin at Boston on Sep. 17, 1844, oval "Forwarded by John A. Newbould, New-York" hand-stamp on back

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED WYMAN STAMPED COVERS WITH THE NEWBOULD FORWARDING OVAL.

Signed Meyersburg. With 1991 P.F. certificate ..... E. 1,500-2,000

WYMAN'S STAMP USED AFTER TAKEOVER BY OVERTON & COMPANY



299

- 299 ☒ **W. Wyman, Boston Mass., 5c Black (149L1).** Three huge margins, slightly in at bottom, tied by large manuscript "X" cancel on Dec. 31, 1844 folded letter written in blue from Boston to Geo. S. Robbins in New York City, red "**Overton & Co's City Mail, Office, 3 Broad Street**" oval handstamp, file fold

VERY FINE. EXTREMELY RARE USE OF WYMAN'S STAMP AFTER TAKEOVER BY OVERTON & COMPANY.

William Wyman established his "cheap postage" letter express in July 1844, with service between New York and Boston. On December 14, 1844, Wyman sold the business to Overton & Co. and announced that his distinctive Locomotive stamps — the first stamps in the world to depict a train — could be redeemed or used on mail given to Overton. Only three recorded covers show acceptance of Wyman's stamps by Overton (according to updated Stimmell census in *Independent Mails* book). In a postscript to the letter offered here, the writer informs us "*I will use Wymans last stamp on hand today*".

Ex Abt and Golden. With 2000 P.F. certificate ..... E. 3,000-4,000



THE ONLY RECORDED DOUBLE-RATE FRANKING WITH  
WYMAN'S STAMP USED AFTER TAKEOVER BY OVERTON & COMPANY



300

- 300 ☒ **W. Wyman, Boston Mass., 5c Black (149L1).** Two, both have large margins and manuscript "X" cancel, left stamp tied, on blue folded letter datelined "*Boston January 28, 1845*" to New York City, clear strike of red "**Overtton & Co's City Mail, Office, 3 Broad Street**" oval handstamp, light vertical file fold does not affect stamps, certificate nitpicks a very slight crease along the top left margin from placement near edge of letter

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THREE RECORDED COVERS WITH WYMAN'S STAMP USED AFTER THE TAKEOVER BY OVERTON & COMPANY AND THE ONLY DOUBLE-RATE FRANKING AMONG THEM.

William Wyman established his "cheap postage" letter express on August 1, 1844, with service between New York and Boston. On December 14, 1844, Wyman sold the business to Overtton & Co. and announced that his distinctive Locomotive stamps — the first stamps in the world to depict a train — could be redeemed or used on mail given to Overtton. Only three recorded covers show acceptance of Wyman's stamps by Overtton (according to updated Stimmell census in *Independent Mails* book). This is the only double-rate cover among them. There is one other double-rate franking, used during Wyman's ownership.

Signed Costales. Ex Geisler. With 1987 and 2009 P.F. certificates..... E. 5,000-7,500



301

- 301 **W. Wyman, Boston Mass., 5c Black (149L1).** Full margins, manuscript "X" cancel and red "Overton & Co's City Mail, Office, 3 Broad Street" oval handstamp, tiny corner crease and small thin specks, Very Fine appearance, on Dec. 14, 1844, Wyman sold his business to Overton & Co. and announced that his distinctive Locomotive stamps could be redeemed or used on mail given to Overton, only three recorded covers show acceptance of Wyman's stamps by Overton, this stamp is remarkable because the Overton oval is struck on the stamp itself, ex Schwartz..... E. 500-750

## CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE WITH BOYD'S BROOKLYN LOCAL POST



302

- 302 ☒ **Wm. Wyman's/Letter Offices/8 Court St., Boston/3 Wall St. N. York.** Four lines in wavy-line frame handstamp, mostly clear strike in red on Dec. 7, 1844 folded letter from Boston to Brooklyn N.Y. street address, sender's directive "Hale's Express" crossed out and "Wymans" written in pencil, red crayon "6" and another smaller pen "6" rate, **conjunctive use with red "Boyd's Brooklyn City Express Post, Dec. 11 3 O'C"** oval datestamp, Very Fine, the only recorded Wyman's cover delivered by Boyd's according to the updated Stimmell census in the *Independent Mails* book, where this cover is illustrated and discussed, see lot 47 for an American Letter Mail Co. and Boyd's Brooklyn conjunctive use, ex Schwartz..... E. 1,000-1,500



CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE WITH AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY



303

- 303 ☒ **Wm. Wyman's/Letter Offices/8 Court St., Boston/3 Wall St. N. York.** Four lines in wavy-line frame handstamp and matching Collect box handstamp on Aug. 13, 1844 folded letter from Boston to Philadelphia, **conjunctive use with red "Forwarded by American Mail Co. from No. 109 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia"** circular handstamp, sender's notation "Wyman", file folds, Very Fine and rare conjunctive use, there are six recorded examples of Wyman and American Letter Mail Co. conjunctive service (see lots 37-38), this cover is illustrated in the *Independent Mails* book (Wyman chapter), ex Golden ..... E. 750-1,000

END OF SALE—THANK YOU

# *The* CARRIERS AND LOCALS SOCIETY



Established in 1991, the Carriers and Locals Society is a not-for-profit association of people interested in the carriers, local posts, independent mails and eastern expresses of the 19th century, their stamps and postal history. The society publishes a quarterly gold-medal winning journal, *The Penny Post*.

## THE SOCIETY'S GOALS

- To further the understanding of the operations of the private mail companies in the United States during the nineteenth century. These companies frequently made innovations in the handling of the mail that were later copied by the Government postal service.
- To study the postal emissions and the postal history of these private mail companies.
- To study the postal emissions and postal history of the government carrier service that came into being largely to compete with the private companies.

## MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Membership dues are \$35 annually for persons residing in the United States and include four issues of *The Penny Post*.

Foreign memberships are welcome. Please refer to the dues schedule on the application form, which may be downloaded from the society's website.

The Carriers and Locals Society is an IRS 501.3c tax exempt non-profit educational organization.

Contributions above the \$35 level are entitled to tax deductions to the extent permitted by law.

**For more information, please go to [www.pennypost.org](http://www.pennypost.org)**





# BIDS

Use this form to submit absentee bids  
or to confirm telephone bids

# Sale 1124

May 4, 2016

PADDLE #

# 1

Please provide the following information:

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ADDRESS .....

CITY/STATE/ZIP .....

PHONE ..... MOBILE .....

EMAIL .....

# 2

Have you purchased from us in the past 5 years? ☐ Yes (please go to Section 3)  
☐ No (references required below)

STAMP FIRM ..... PHONE .....

STAMP FIRM ..... PHONE .....

Please submit references at least **2 business days** before the sale. Bids from new clients will not be executed if satisfactory references are not received in time to be contacted.

# 3

- Enter the lot number and your corresponding maximum bid in the space below
- Use whole dollar amounts and bid according to the increments (see back of form)
- Bids do not include the 15% Buyer's Premium, taxes, duty or shipping charges
- Absentee bids will advance at one increment over the next highest competing bid
- "Plus", "Break Tie" or "Buy" bids will not be executed
- Indicate any "Or" bids between lot number/bid entries and bracket your choices
- If you wish to limit the total amount of your bids, follow the instructions below

| Lot # | Bid \$ | Lot # | Bid \$ | Lot # | Bid \$ |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |

☐ **Limit Bids:** Check this box if you wish to limit the total hammer price of your bids (excluding 15% Buyer's Premium, taxes, duty and shipping costs). Your bids will be executed until your bidding limit has been reached. The total amount you wish to bid is \$ .....

# 4

By signing this form, you agree to all of the Conditions of Sale printed in the sale catalogue (printed and digital), including but not limited to a) payment in the manner demanded by the Siegel firm, and b) payment of the 15% Buyer's Premium, any sales tax or customs duty, shipping costs, late charges and

other prescribed charges. You agree that your bids will be executed as courtesy by Siegel, but you waive the right to make any claim against Siegel or its employees arising from these bids or your participation in the sale. You agree to honor all bids as submitted, regardless of any errors or omissions.

SIGNED ..... DATE .....

Mail the signed form to Siegel Bid Department, 60 East 56th St., New York, NY 10022  
or email to [stamps@siegelauctions.com](mailto:stamps@siegelauctions.com)  
or fax to 212-753-6429



# Additional Bids

# Sale 1124

May 4, 2016

PADDLE #

| Lot # | Bid \$ | Lot # | Bid \$ | Lot # | Bid \$ |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |
|       |        |       |        |       |        |

## Shipping & Insurance

We will be pleased to arrange for shipping and transit insurance for purchases in this sale, except for lots marked or announced as "floor sale only." To expedite billing and delivery to hundreds of buyers in each sale, we use standard charges for postage and insurance under our policy. These charges are based on the package weight and mailing requirements, according to the schedule shown here. Our standard charges do not include a fee for our services, and they may be slightly more or less than the actual postage or Fedex fee. We ask all buyers to remit the invoiced amount for shipping and insurance.

Transit insurance is provided in all cases, except when the buyer has furnished us with documentation that insurance is effective under the buyer's own policy.

There will be no added insurance charge for shipments of less than \$75,000 value. Shipments valued in excess of \$75,000 may require supplemental insurance and/or special courier service, the estimated cost of which will be furnished to the buyer prior to shipment. If the buyer refuses to pay the estimated charges or furnish proof of self-insured coverage, the buyer will be responsible for picking up the lots at our office and any resulting sales tax.

### Standard Shipping Charges

| Weight Class | Shipping Method         | Charge         |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Up to 2 lbs. | Fedex Envelope          | \$20           |
| Over 2 lbs.  | Fedex Box               | \$35 - \$50*   |
| Outside US   | Fedex                   | \$50 - \$100** |
| Bulky Lots   | Fedex Ground or Express | By weight      |

\* Up to \$75,000 value and up to 5 lbs; additional charge may apply to packages exceeding limits

\*\* Buyers outside United States are liable for any applicable customs duty and clearance charges. An accurate declaration of contents and value will be made on all packages and import/export documents. **Siegel may refuse to ship lots to certain countries with a high risk factor.**

2/2015

## Bidding Increments

The auctioneer may regulate the bidding at his discretion. However, to assist absentee bidders in establishing their maximum bids, the increments shown here will be used in most cases. We recommend that written bids conform to these increments—bids that do not will be reduced accordingly.

| Bid           | Increment | Bid               | Increment |
|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Up to \$200   | \$10      | \$7,000-20,000    | \$500     |
| \$200-500     | \$25      | \$20,000-30,000   | \$1,000   |
| \$500-1,000   | \$50      | \$30,000-75,000   | \$2,500   |
| \$1,000-3,000 | \$100     | \$75,000-140,000  | \$5,000   |
| \$3,000-7,000 | \$250     | \$140,000-300,000 | \$10,000  |



**PRICES REALIZED FOR SALE 1124---05/04/2016**  
**The Dr. Carmen A. Puliafito Collection of U.S. Independent Mails**

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.  
60 East 56th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10022  
Tel (212) 753-6421 Fax (212) 753-6429

| Lot# | Realized | Lot# | Realized | Lot# | Realized | Lot# | Realized | Lot# | Realized | Lot# | Realized | Lot# | Realized |
|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|
| 1    | 700      | 45   | 800      | 89   | 4,000    | 139  | 1,200    | 182  | 225      | 228  | 7,500    | 277  | 600      |
| 2    | 850      | 46   | 600      | 90   | 400      | 140  | 1,200    | 183  | 325      | 229  | 3,500    | 278  | 5,250    |
| 3    | 550      | 47   | 1,100    | 91   | 550      | 141  | 140      | 185  | 110      | 230  | 1,600    | 279  | 500      |
| 4    | 1,100    | 48   | 1,200    | 92   | 300      | 142  | 375      | 186  | 225      | 231  | 11,000   | 280  | 375      |
| 5    | 750      | 49   | 550      | 93   | 800      | 143  | 325      | 187  | 1,500    | 233  | 5,250    | 281  | 800      |
| 6    | 750      | 50   | 300      | 94   | 300      | 144  | 275      | 188  | 2,000    | 234  | 1,600    | 282  | 1,400    |
| 7    | 700      | 51   | 750      | 95   | 500      | 145  | 375      | 189  | 650      | 235  | 700      | 283  | 4,750    |
| 8    | 325      | 52   | 300      | 96   | 15,000   | 146  | 180      | 190  | 400      | 236  | 550      | 284  | 1,300    |
| 9    | 450      | 53   | 300      | 97   | 10,000   | 147  | 800      | 191  | 550      | 238  | 1,500    | 285  | 1,200    |
| 10   | 350      | 54   | 4,750    | 98   | 4,000    | 148  | 650      | 192  | 700      | 239  | 275      | 286  | 950      |
| 11   | 350      | 55   | 1,200    | 99   | 3,000    | 149  | 450      | 193  | 25,000   | 240  | 5,000    | 287  | 850      |
| 12   | 225      | 56   | 550      | 100  | 900      | 150  | 170      | 194  | 4,500    | 241  | 1,300    | 288  | 1,100    |
| 13   | 110      | 57   | 1,100    | 101  | 650      | 151  | 350      | 195  | 13,000   | 243  | 225      | 289  | 800      |
| 14   | 225      | 58   | 3,250    | 102  | 250      | 152  | 160      | 196  | 3,500    | 244  | 475      | 290  | 650      |
| 15   | 600      | 59   | 1,700    | 103  | 170      | 153  | 350      | 198  | 1,300    | 245  | 600      | 291  | 225      |
| 16   | 350      | 60   | 300      | 104  | 70       | 154  | 800      | 199  | 1,700    | 246  | 475      | 292  | 3,000    |
| 17   | 1,400    | 61   | 250      | 105  | 1,400    | 155  | 375      | 201  | 5,000    | 247  | 400      | 293  | 3,500    |
| 19   | 9,000    | 62   | 275      | 106  | 1,200    | 156  | 500      | 202  | 10,500   | 248  | 325      | 294  | 1,000    |
| 20   | 225      | 63   | 275      | 108  | 425      | 157  | 600      | 203  | 250      | 249  | 375      | 295  | 1,000    |
| 21   | 250      | 64   | 400      | 109  | 9,000    | 158  | 475      | 204  | 400      | 250  | 1,600    | 296  | 650      |
| 22   | 6,250    | 65   | 275      | 110  | 4,250    | 159  | 1,500    | 205  | 300      | 251  | 425      | 297  | 1,900    |
| 23   | 1,900    | 66   | 350      | 112  | 3,250    | 160  | 600      | 206  | 160      | 252  | 250      | 298  | 1,200    |
| 24   | 1,400    | 67   | 325      | 113  | 475      | 161  | 425      | 207  | 750      | 253  | 275      | 299  | 2,000    |
| 26   | 5,250    | 68   | 375      | 114  | 750      | 162  | 80       | 208  | 550      | 254  | 500      | 300  | 4,250    |
| 27   | 550      | 69   | 800      | 115  | 550      | 163  | 550      | 209  | 3,250    | 255  | 450      | 301  | 325      |
| 28   | 350      | 70   | 450      | 116  | 450      | 164  | 275      | 210  | 28,000   | 256  | 325      | 302  | 1,500    |
| 29   | 475      | 71   | 425      | 117  | 90       | 165  | 250      | 211  | 6,250    | 258  | 3,000    | 303  | 650      |
| 30   | 550      | 72   | 650      | 118  | 80       | 166  | 225      | 212  | 900      | 259  | 1,600    |      |          |
| 31   | 275      | 73   | 450      | 119  | 100      | 167  | 750      | 213  | 550      | 260  | 475      |      |          |
| 32   | 350      | 74   | 950      | 120  | 90       | 168  | 750      | 214  | 400      | 261  | 250      |      |          |
| 33   | 150      | 75   | 2,100    | 121  | 90       | 169  | 950      | 215  | 450      | 262  | 375      |      |          |
| 34   | 130      | 76   | 2,100    | 122  | 375      | 170  | 650      | 216  | 550      | 263  | 400      |      |          |
| 35   | 425      | 78   | 6,000    | 125  | 150      | 171  | 275      | 217  | 350      | 264  | 650      |      |          |
| 36   | 350      | 79   | 5,000    | 126  | 80       | 172  | 450      | 218  | 1,000    | 265  | 225      |      |          |
| 37   | 1,500    | 80   | 275      | 127  | 450      | 173  | 325      | 219  | 2,800    | 266  | 2,600    |      |          |
| 38   | 1,000    | 81   | 180      | 128  | 6,000    | 174  | 375      | 220  | 130      | 267  | 1,600    |      |          |
| 39   | 475      | 82   | 180      | 129  | 2,000    | 175  | 300      | 221  | 400      | 270  | 23,000   |      |          |
| 40   | 5,250    | 83   | 225      | 130  | 1,900    | 176  | 600      | 222  | 2,100    | 272  | 4,000    |      |          |
| 41   | 1,900    | 84   | 250      | 132  | 350      | 177  | 325      | 224  | 375      | 273  | 6,000    |      |          |
| 42   | 425      | 85   | 2,600    | 134  | 160      | 178  | 550      | 225  | 400      | 274  | 3,000    |      |          |
| 43   | 350      | 86   | 225      | 135  | 1,900    | 179  | 180      | 226  | 800      | 275  | 500      |      |          |
| 44   | 550      | 87   | 2,700    | 136  | 1,100    | 181  | 425      | 227  | 750      | 276  | 275      |      |          |