

PHILADELPHIA LOCAL & INTERCITY POSTS  
AND  
THE U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

STEVEN M. ROTH

AS RECEIVED BY  
THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.  
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# PHILADELPHIA LOCAL & INTER-CITY POSTS and THE U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

The story of the Local Posts (operating within the City) and the Inter-City Mail Carriers (Independent Mails) represents the defeat of free enterprise when faced with a Government undertaking (the carriage of mail) which was unable to compete with the Private Sector other than on a legislated monopoly basis.

Both the Local Posts and the Independent Mail Carriers offered better and more convenient service at lower cost to the user than did the U.S. Post Office. Nonetheless, using the monopoly postal power inferred from the Constitution and the legislation which emanated from that power, as well as frequent and heavy fines against violators (such as the railroads on which the Independent Mail Carriers' messengers rode), the Post Office caused all of the Philadelphia Local Posts (other than Blood's Despatch) to cease doing business. It also forced the Independent Mail Carriers to end their letter carrying business on June 30, 1845. In due course, Blood's, too, succumbed to the effect of lengthy and costly court battles. It closed its doors on January 10, 1862.

The Philadelphia Carrier Department during this period of competition sought to compete with the Local Posts by adjusting its fees for the various services which it offered. For example, in the case of mail that came into the Philadelphia Post Office from another town or city, the Carrier Department acknowledged the control and, therefore, the practical monopoly which it had over this mail, and charged the maximum allowable fee under law (2¢). On the other hand, where the private Local Posts competed best (and successfully), e.g., the collection of mail from letter boxes and its delivery either to the Post Office ("*to the Mails*") or to a street address ("*City Mails*"), the Philadelphia Carrier Department reduced its fees to meet or to beat the private competition. Thus, at varying times the Government's fee to collect letters and to convey them to the Post Office was 1¢ or was free, depending on how well the private Posts were competing for this business. Too, the Government's fee for delivering City Mail began at 1¢, was raised to 2¢ in 1857, but was reduced to 1¢ again in 1858. There it remained during the balance of the fee paid period (through June 30, 1863).

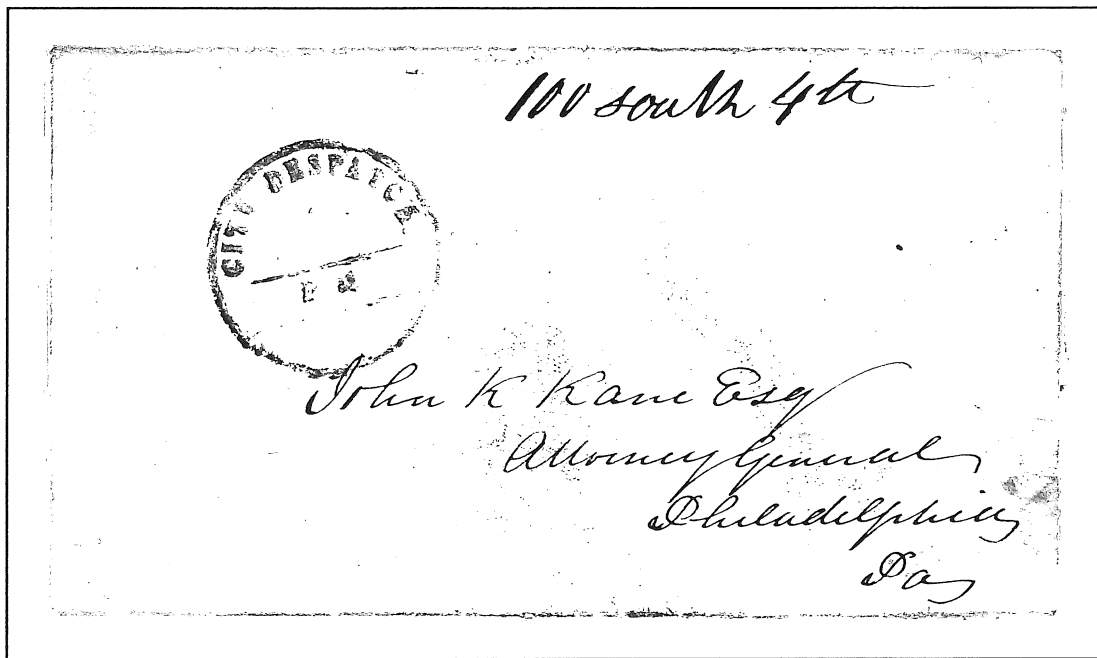
**The organization of this Exhibit is as follows:**

- \* Local Posts in Competition with the Carrier Department;
- \* Independent Mail Carriers; and,
- \* The Philadelphia Carrier Department.



## City Despatch Post

Very little is known about this Post. It was located at 48 South Third Street, and may have been the predecessor of Robertson & Co.

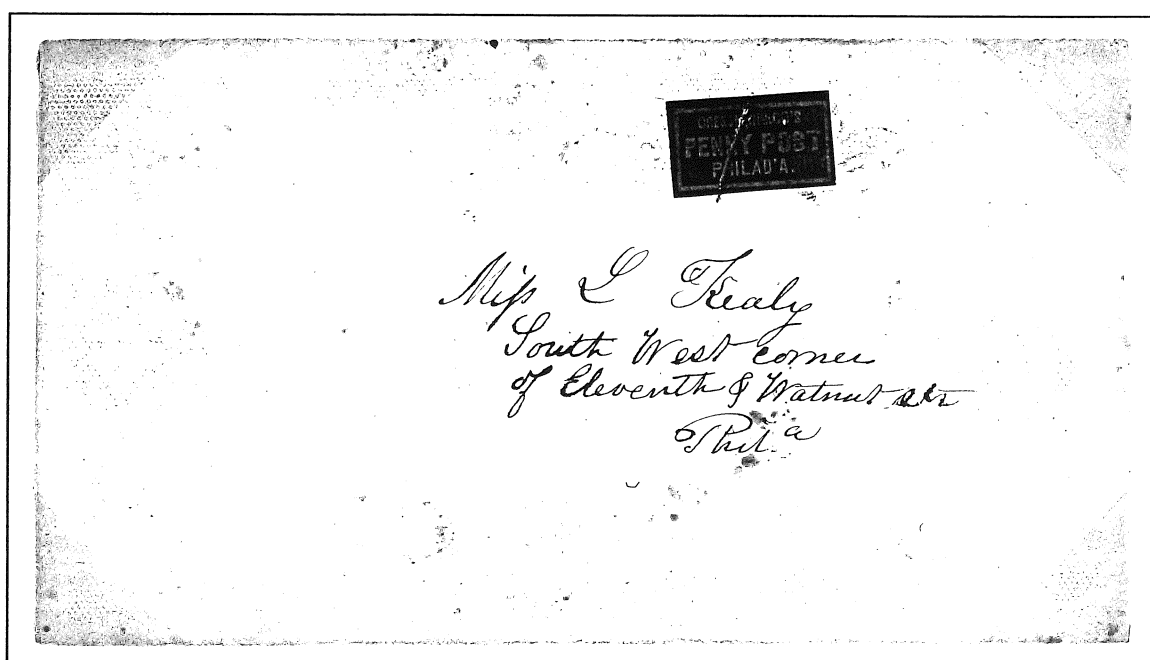


January 25, 1845. "PM".

All reported uses were in 1845. One example is known with "AM" in handstamp.

### Cressman & Co.'s Penny Post

This Post operated for approximately eleven months in 1856 from its office at the Southeast corner of Third and Buttonwood Streets (*Public Ledger*, April 6, 1856).

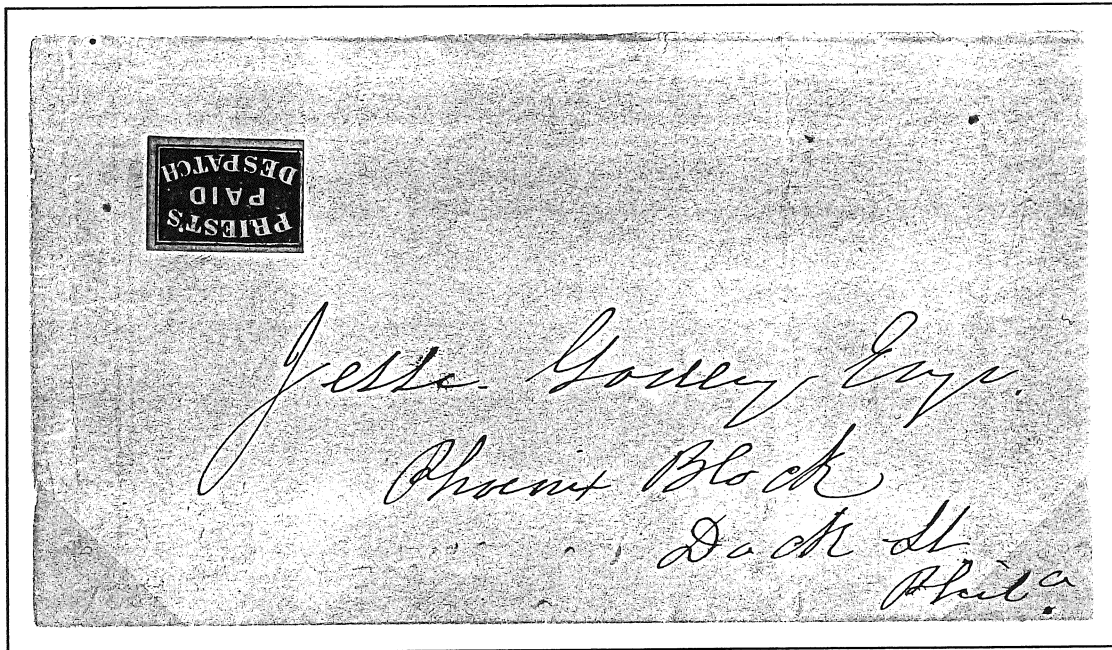


No year date. Valentine enclosure.

There are no known handstamps from this Post.

**Priest's Despatch**

*Black on Rose Paper*

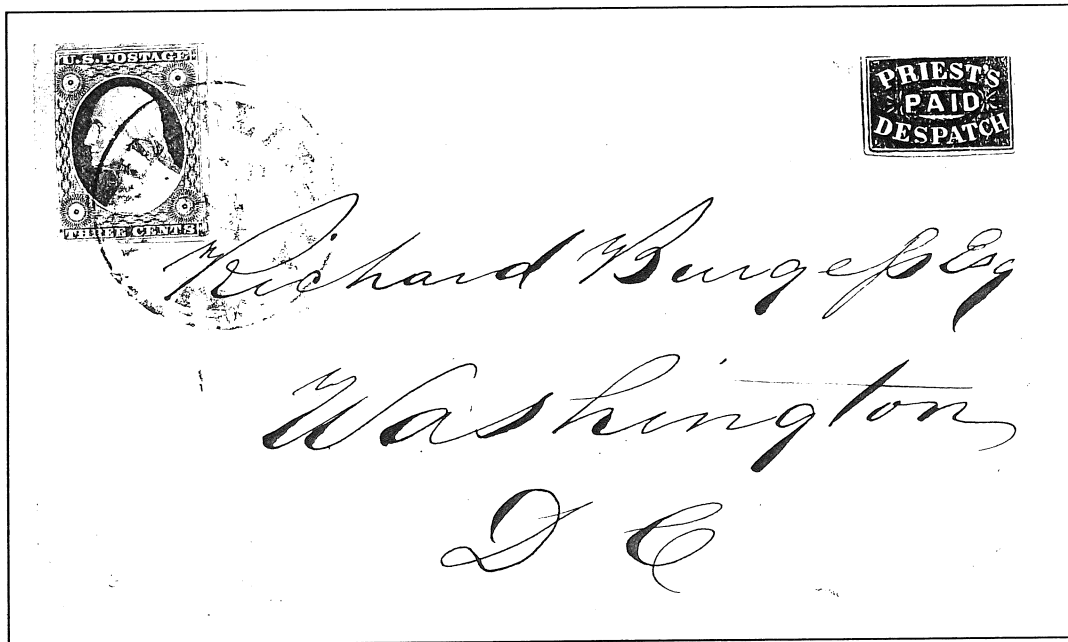


September 16, 1851.

Priest printed his adhesives on papers  
of several different colors.

Priest's Despatch

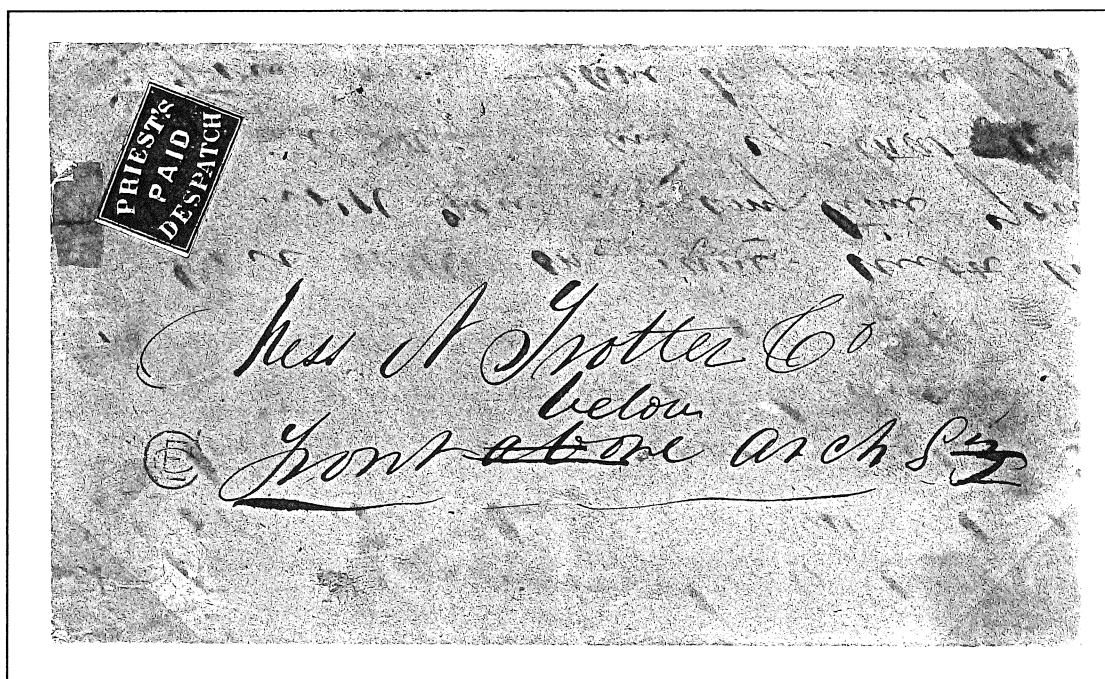
*Black on Yellow Paper*



There are no reported covers with cancelled adhesives or with Company handstamps.

## Priest's Despatch

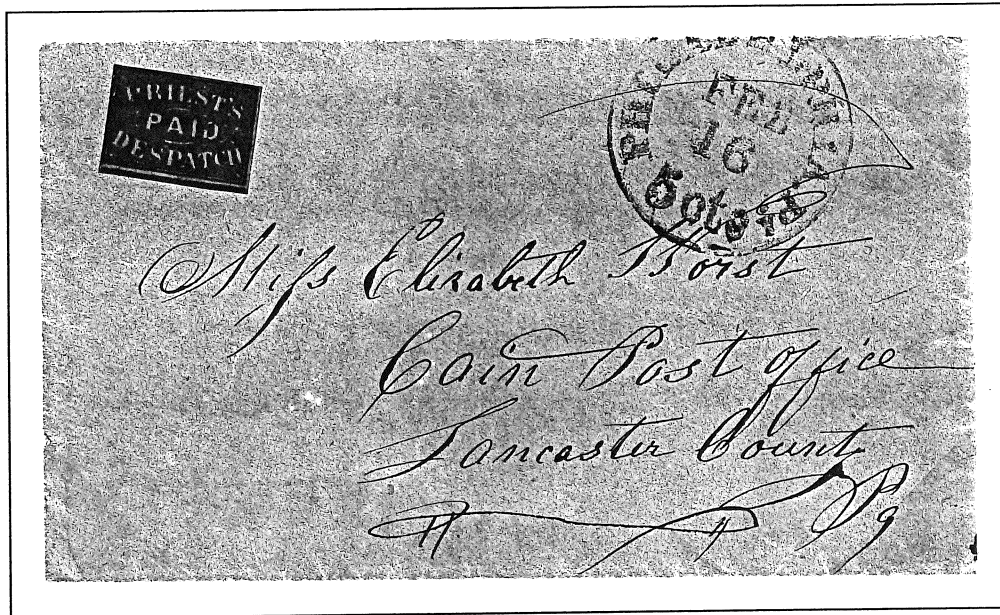
*Gold on Blue Paper*



One (1) of Two (2) examples of the "Gold on Blue" stamp reported on cover.

Priest's Despatch

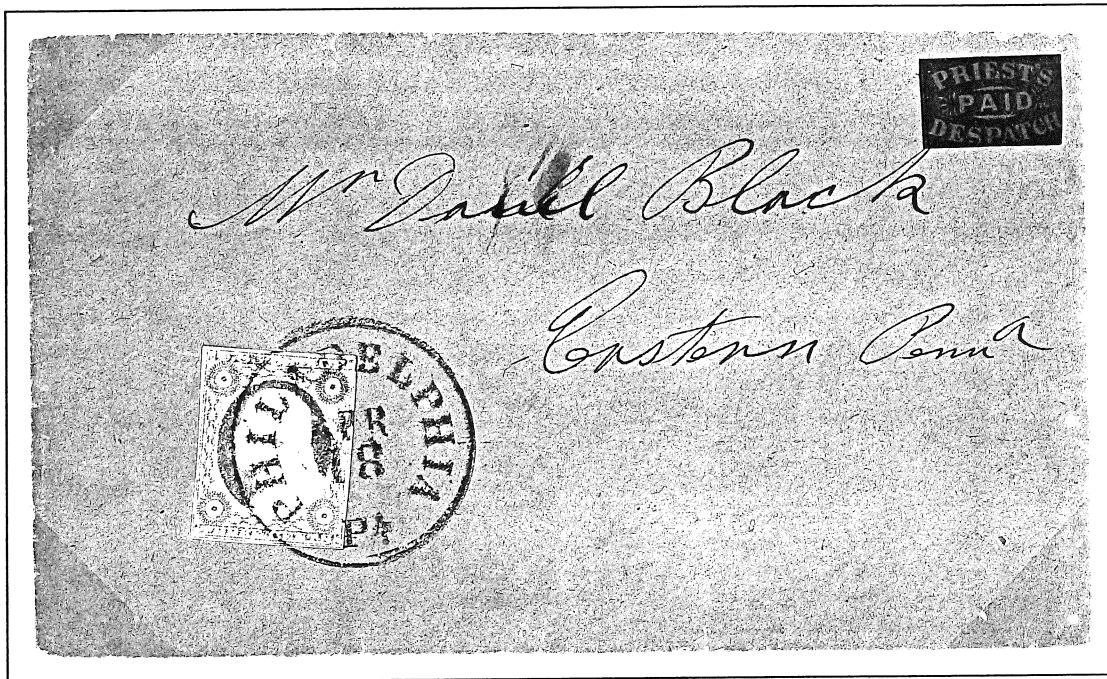
*Black on Blue Paper*



No year date, but Philadelphia CDS  
reported 1851-1852.

Priest's Despatch

*Black on Blue Paper*

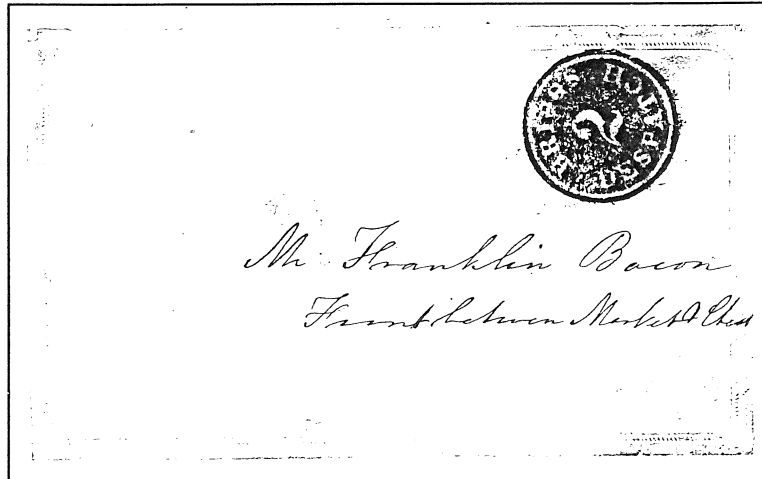


No year date, but Philadelphia CDS  
reported 1851-1852.

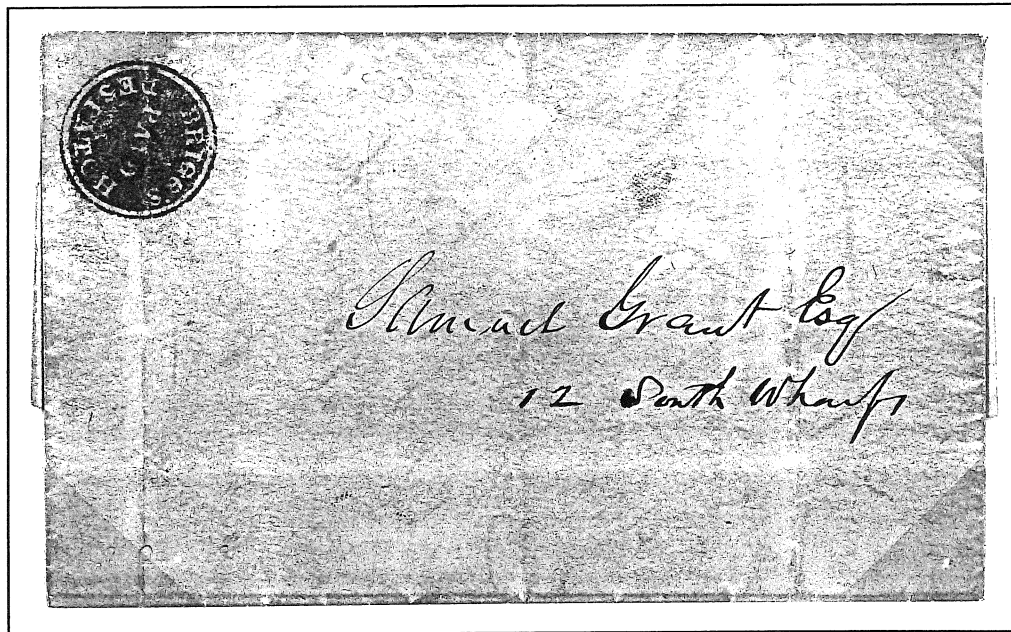
## Brigg's Despatch

This Post operated from its offices at  
61 South 8th Street in 1848 & 1849.

Type "2" (Due) Handstamp



Type "PAID" Handstamp

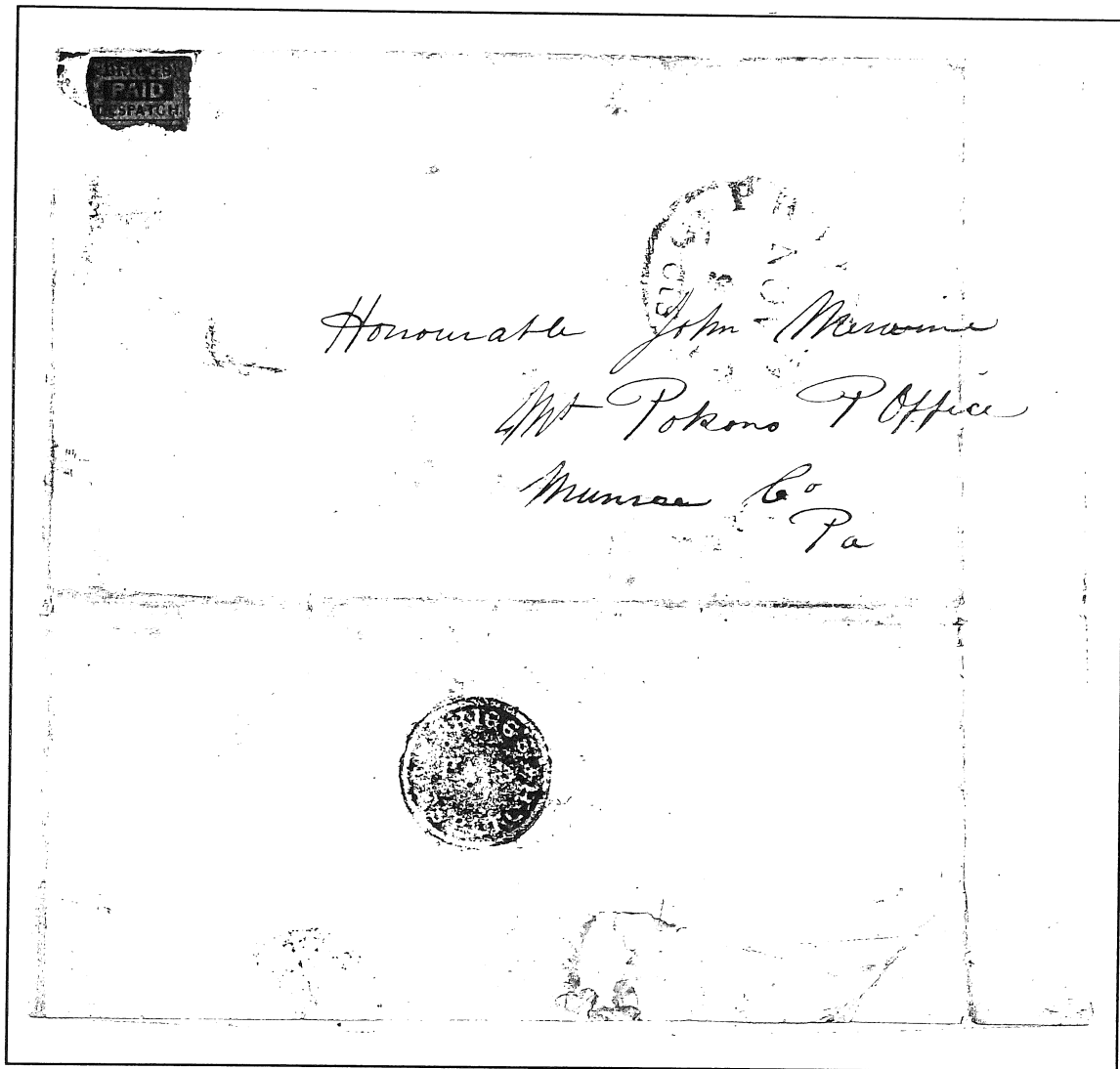


October 9, 1848.



### Brigg's Despatch

*Black on Gold Paper*

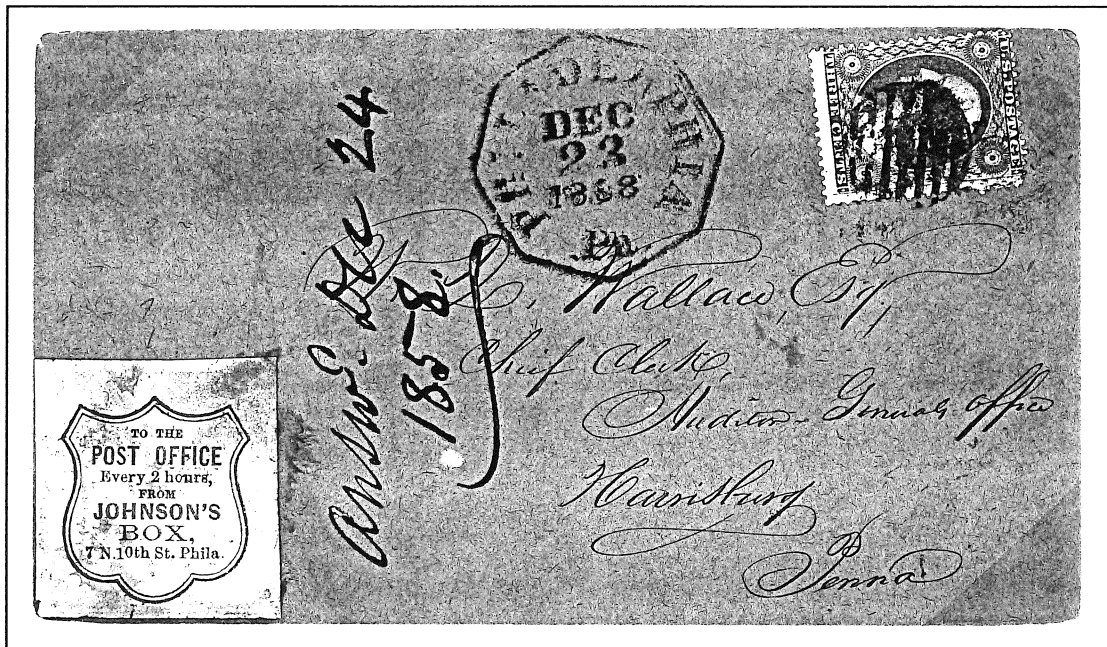


November 7, 1848.

Type "PAID" Handstamp.

## Johnson's Box

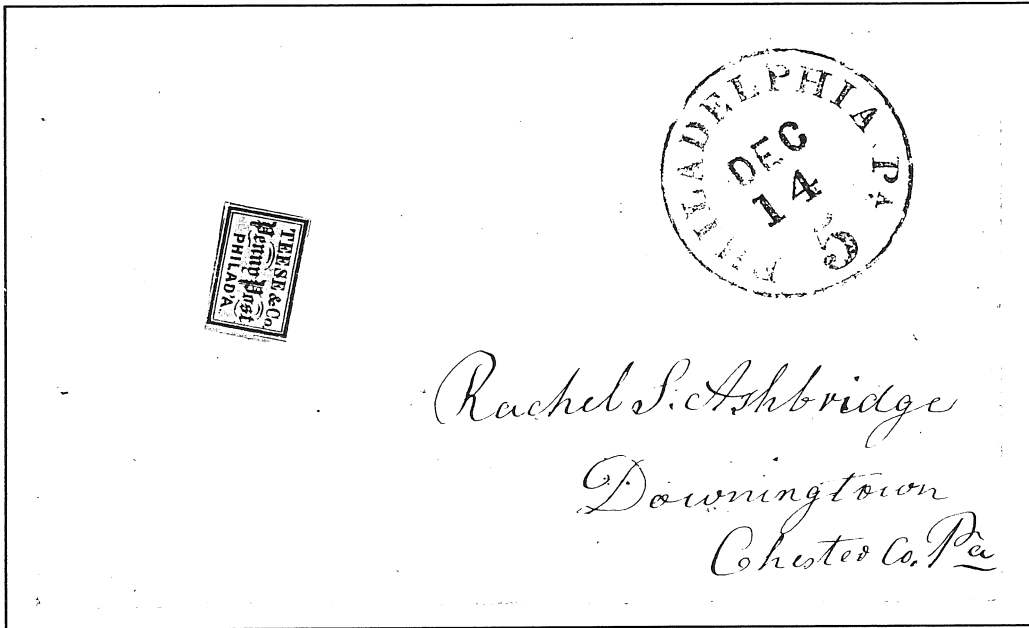
Operated 1852 - 1859.



This Post delivered mail "To the Post Office" without charge to customers of Johnson's store.

# Teese & Co. Penny Post

This Post operated 1852-1854. Very little  
is known about it.

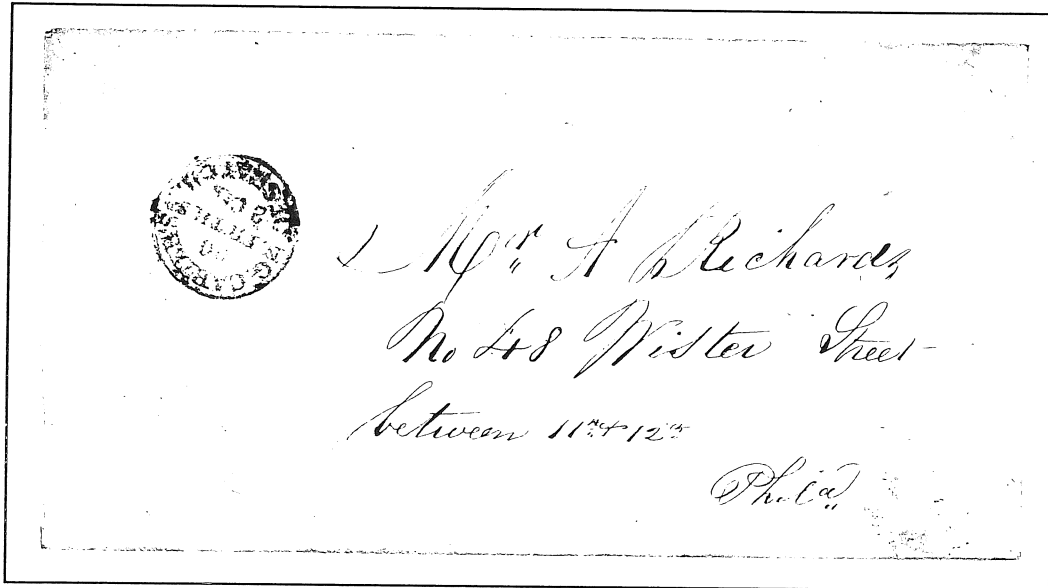


December 14, 1852.

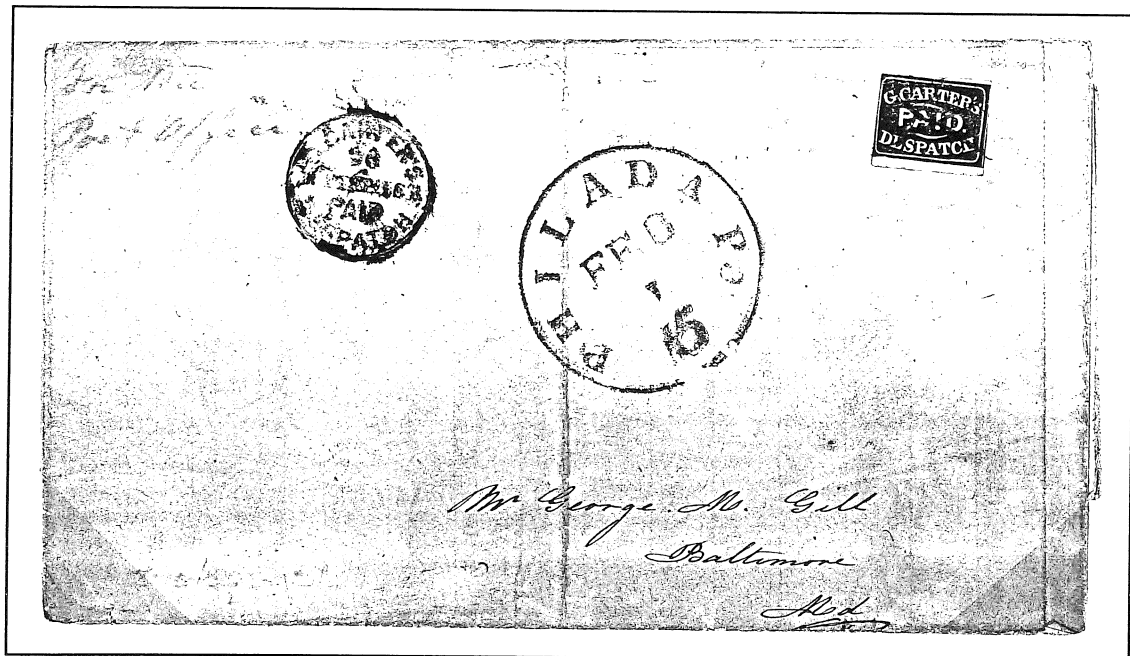
The Teese adhesive imitates contemporary  
*Blood's Penny Post* stamps.

## G. Carter's Despatch Post

Carter's Despatch operated from 1848 to 1852 from its office at 90 N. Fifth Street.



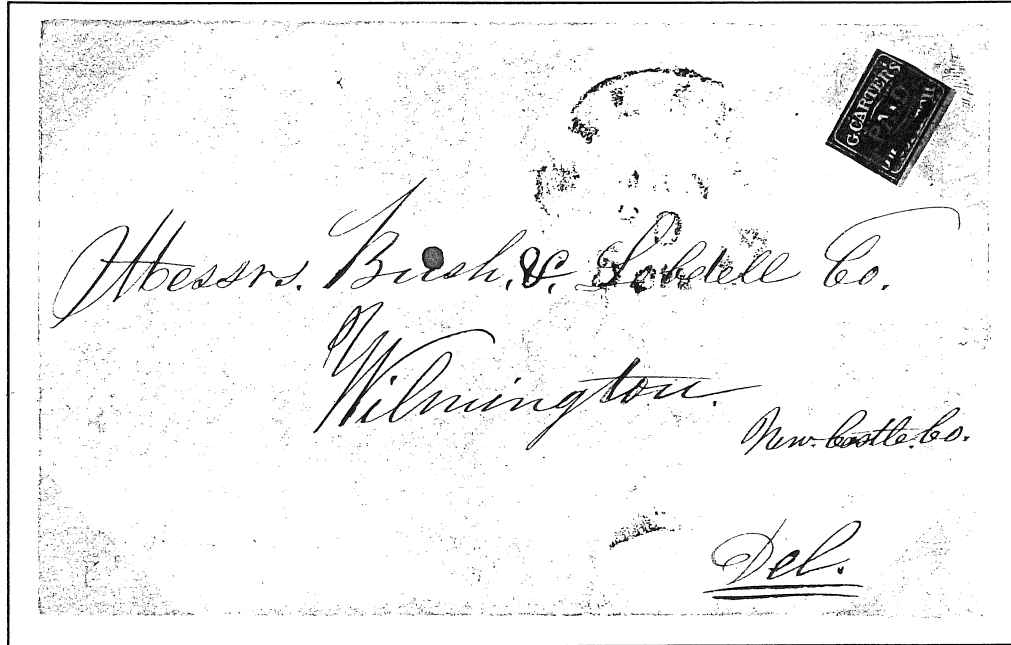
No year date. Type "2 Cts." handstamp.



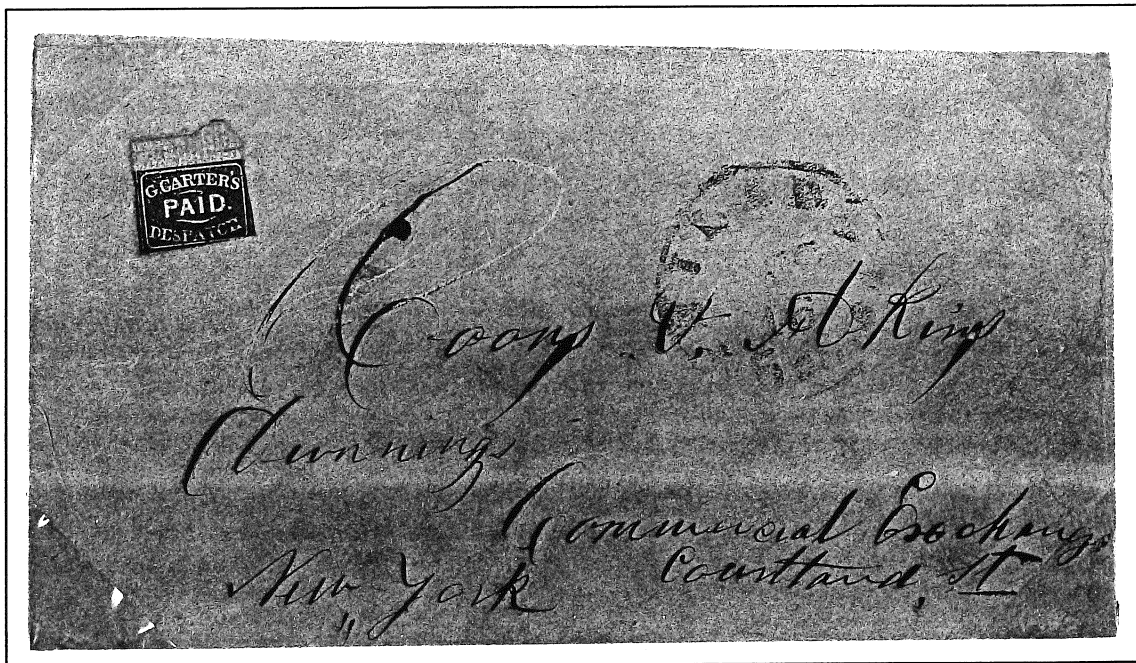
1849. Type "PAID" handstamp.

## G. Carter's Despatch Post

Red Stripe with Blue Stroke through "Despatch"



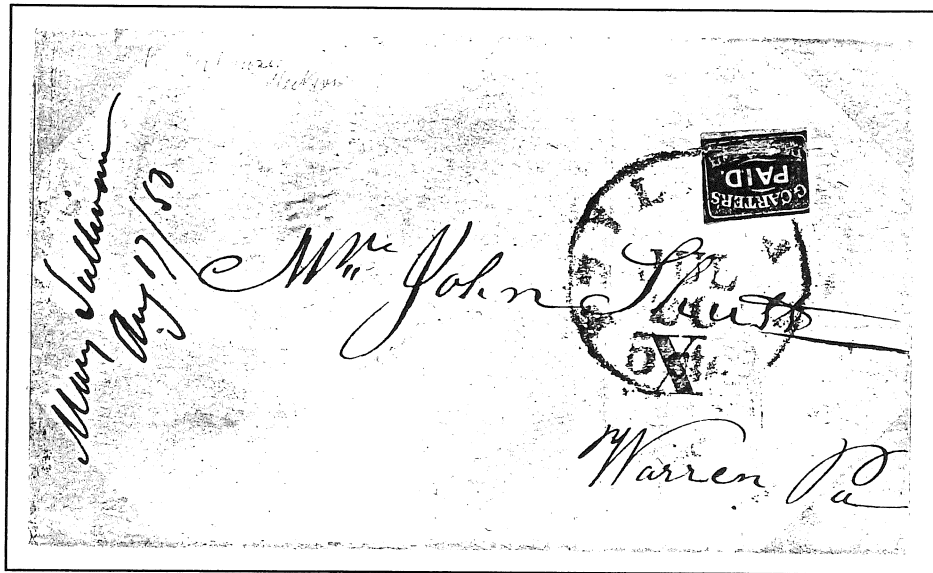
1851. Some students believe the red stripe was a Precancel; the blue a cancellation.



No year date. "LAID PAPER" variety; Red and blue stripes.

## G. Carter's Despatch Post

Example of the Word "*Despatch*" Scratched-Out

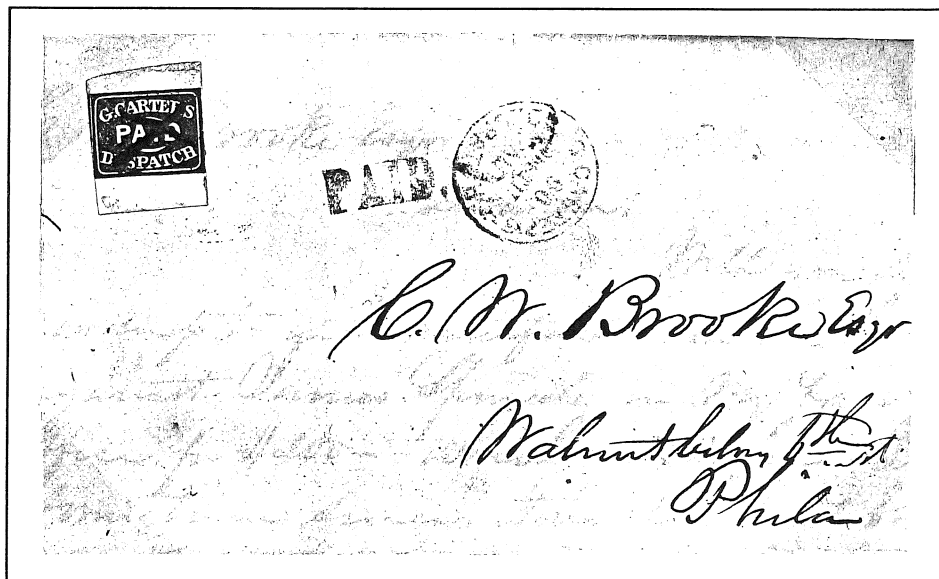


July 20, 1850.

We do not know why the word "*DESPATCH*" was eliminated, but four (4) examples have been reported.

G. Carter's Despatch Post

Straight-Line Gothic Handstamp "PAID"

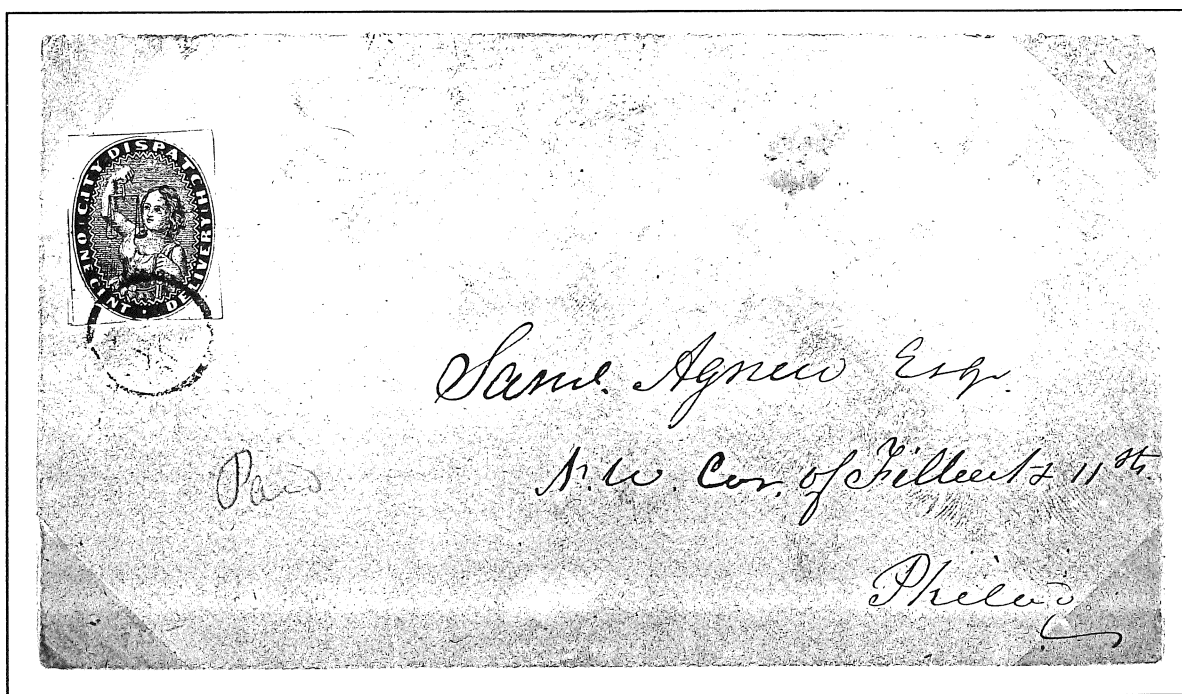
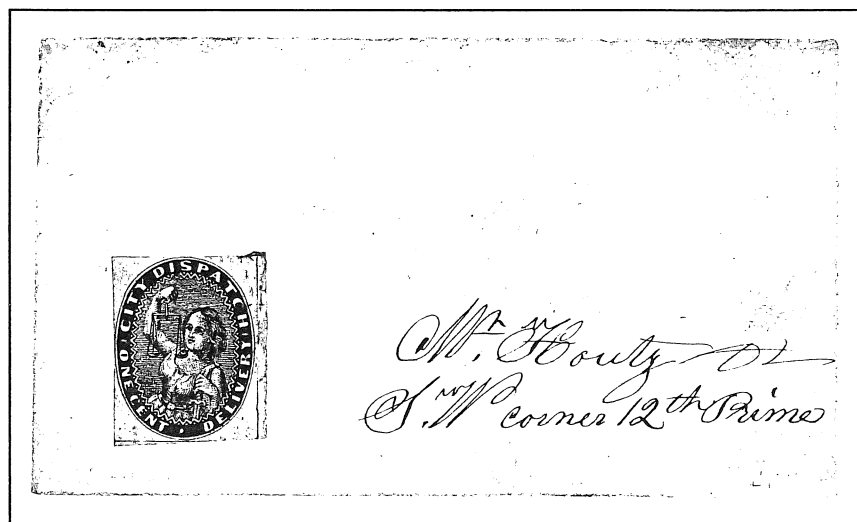


June 30, 1849.

Wide top and bottom gutter margins.

## City Dispatch Post

All datable covers carried by this Post  
are from the year 1860

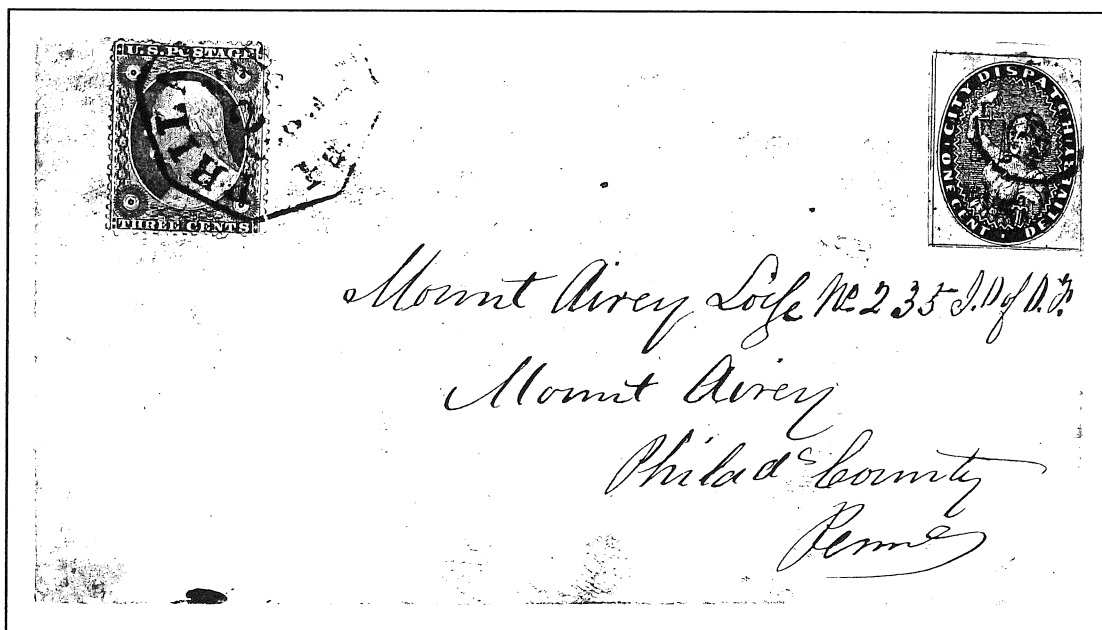


Some students believe that this Post was owned  
secretly by Blood's Despatch.



## City Dispatch Post

Local Post *prohibited* from delivering within  
Philadelphia City limits.

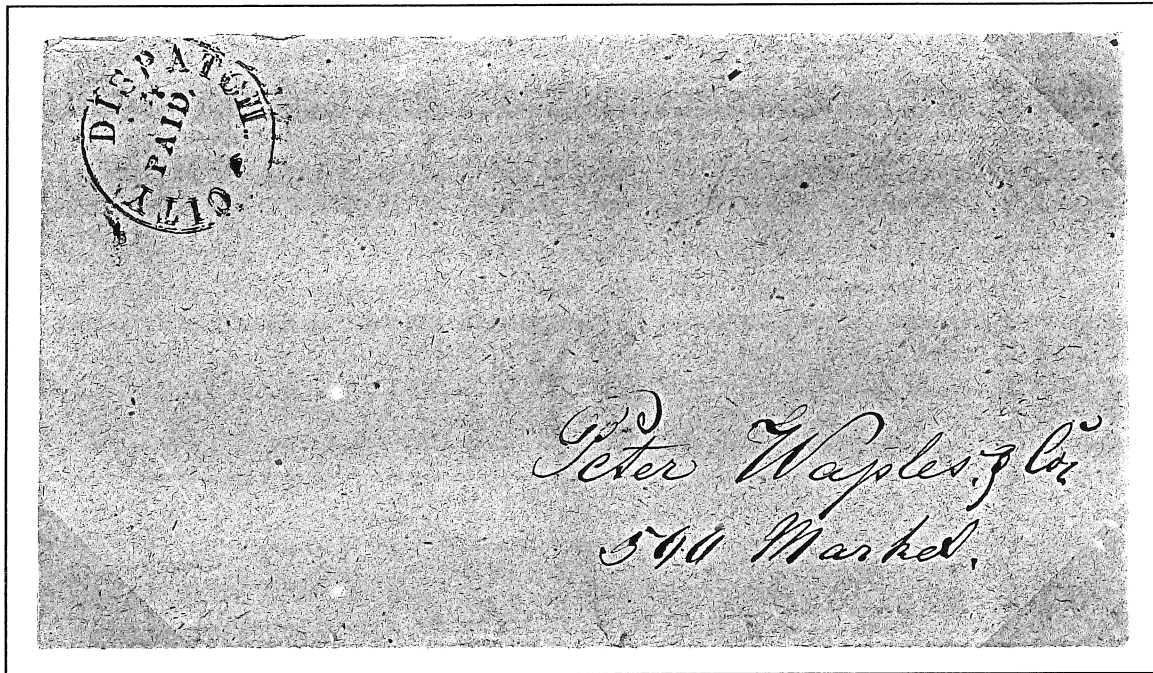


No year date, but octagonal CDS used 1854-1860.  
Mount Airy was incorporated into Philadelphia  
in 1854.

Because Mount Airy operated its own Post Office  
after 1854, letters to this Borough had to be  
placed into the Mails rather than delivered there  
directly by the Local Post.

City Dispatch Post

"CITY DISPATCH\PAID"

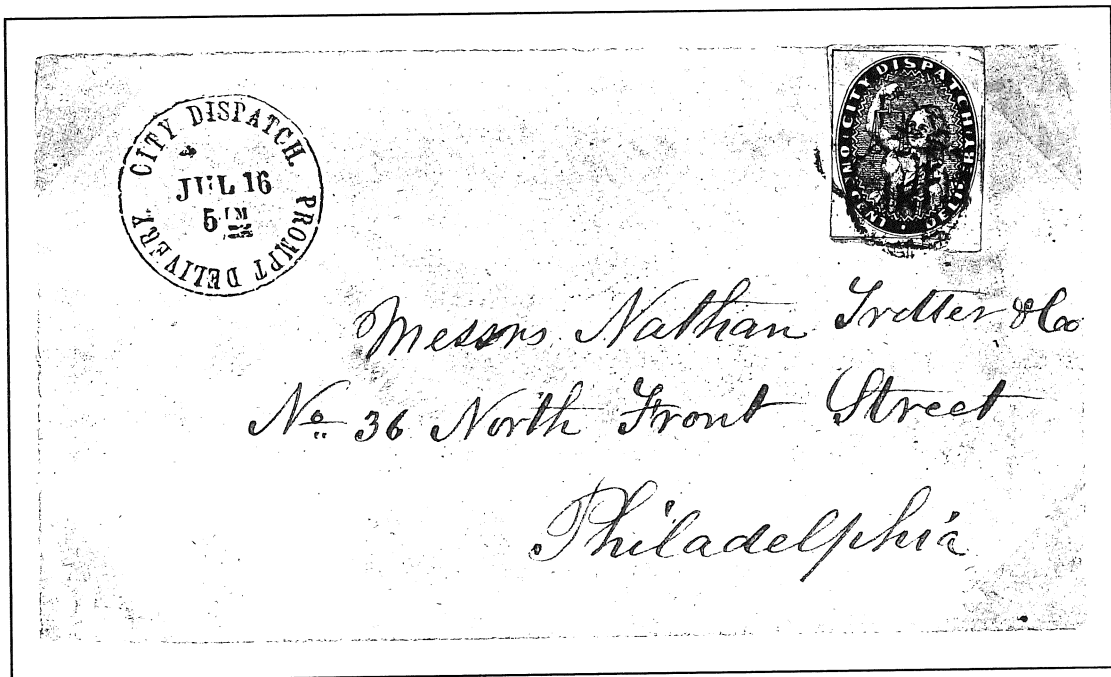


Docketed 1860.

A recent cover discovery has confirmed that this  
handstamp was used by the City Dispatch Post,  
not by a separate company.

City Dispatch Post

"CITY DISPATCH./PROMPT DELIVERY"

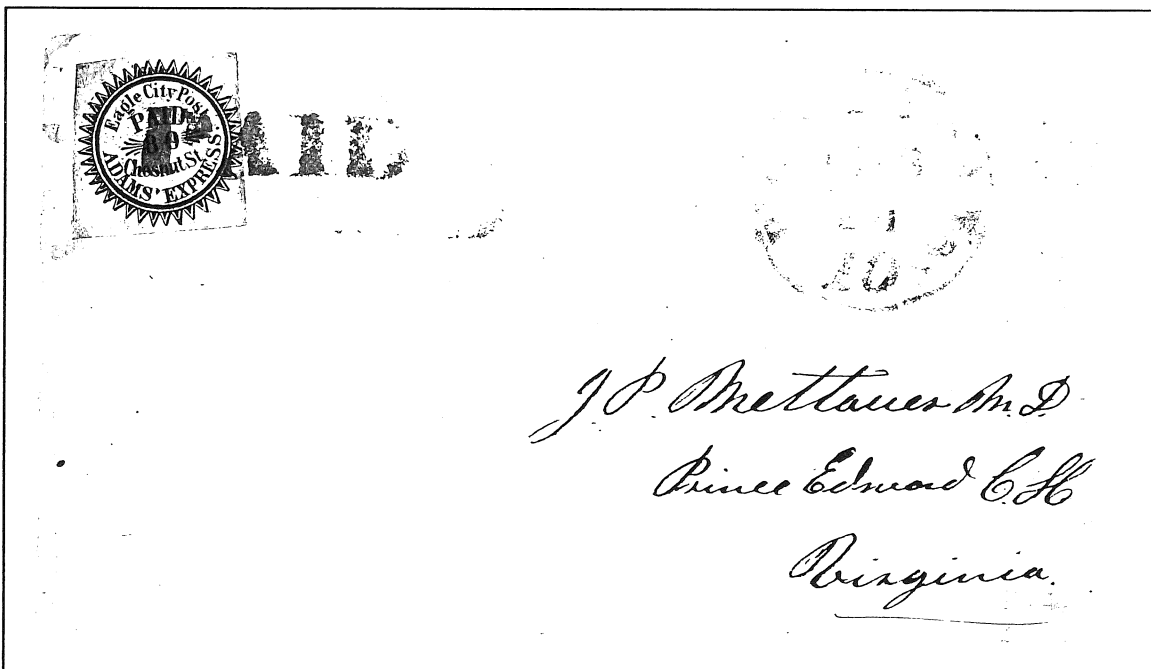


July 16, 1860. Grid cancellation.

This handstamp has been reported  
from July 13-25, 1860, only.

## Eagle Post

This local Post was started by The Adams Express Company to supplement its income after Congress passed the Act of 1845 prohibiting the *inter-state* carriage of letters by Express Companies.



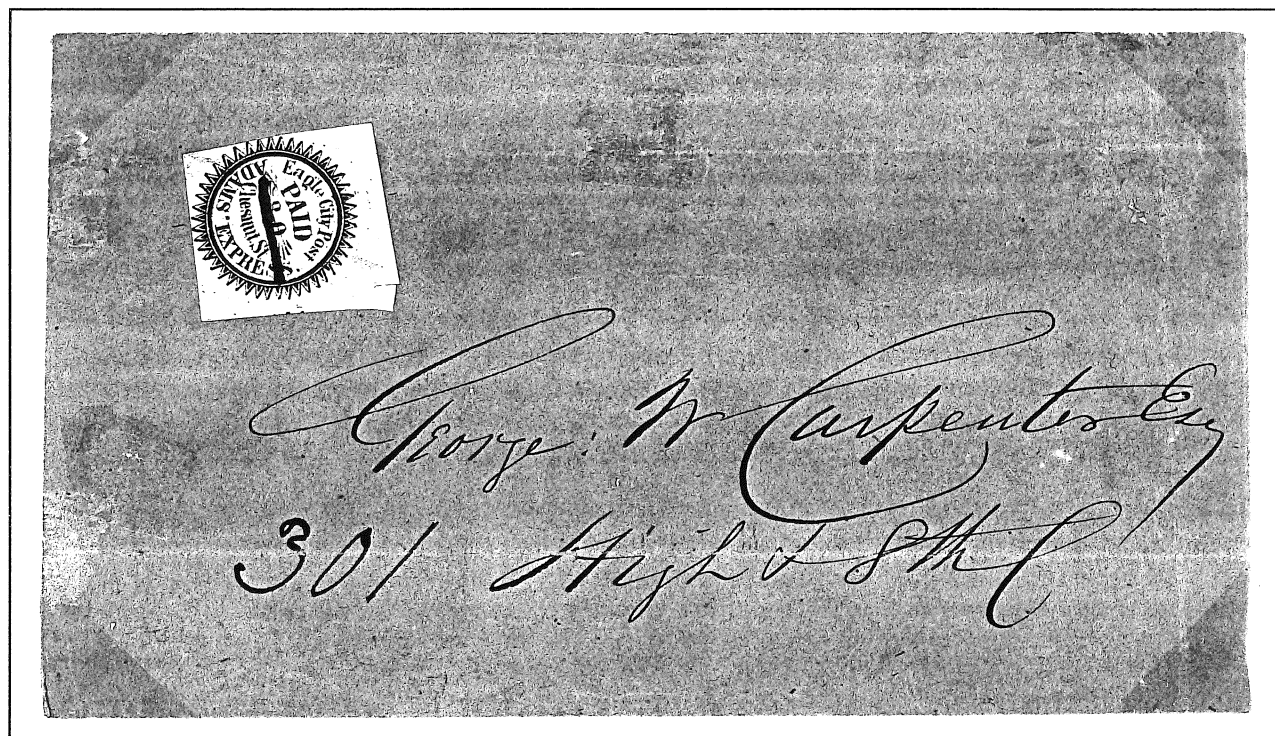
No date. CDS Type 46 (Reported 1848-1850).

This is the only reported example of this adhesive tied by the Company handstamp.

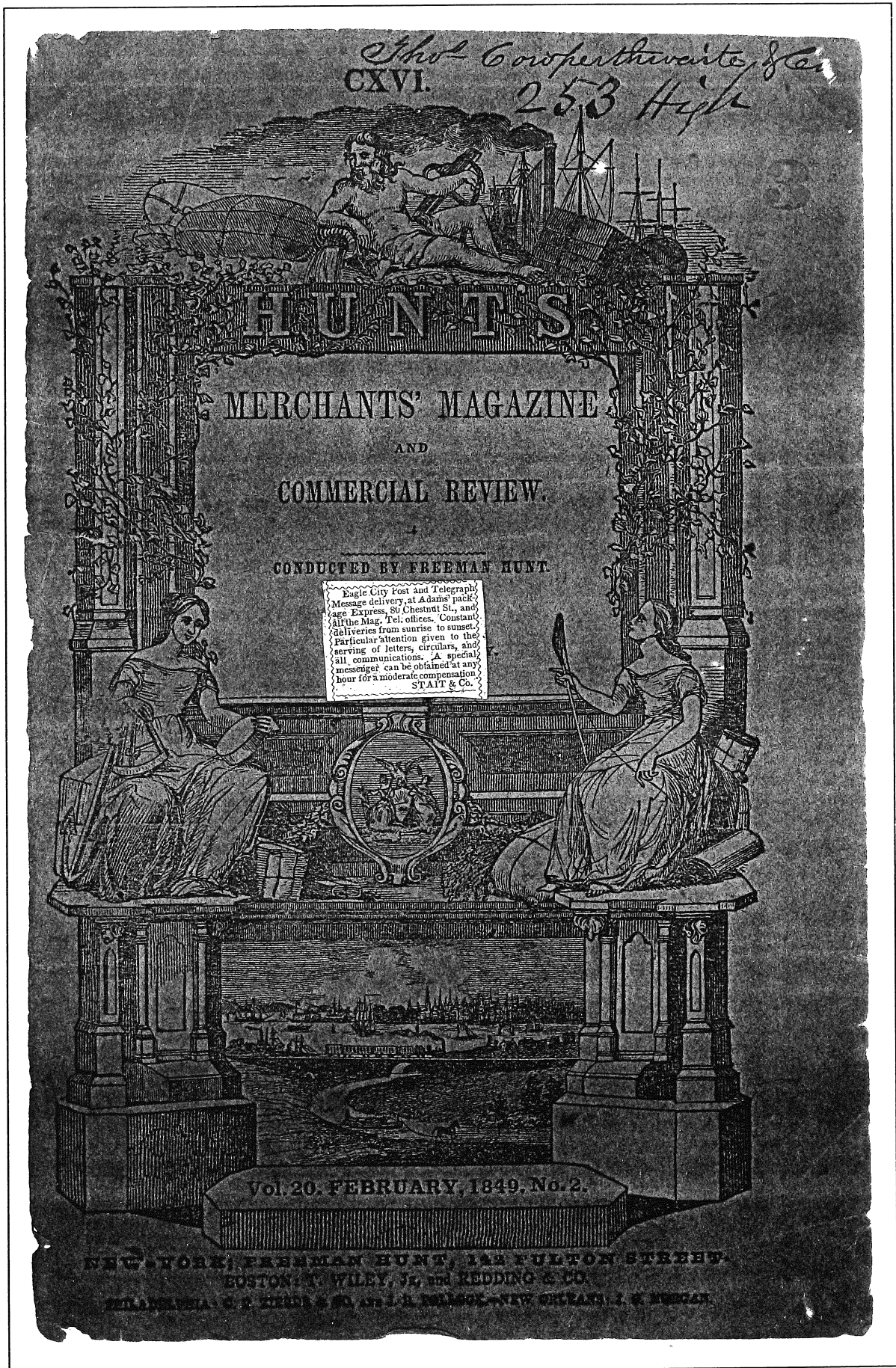
Type I adhesive (39 points)

This Post went through many name changes: Eagle City Post;  
Eagle City Post & Mag. Telegraph Messengering Dept.;  
and, Stait's Despatch Post.

Eagle Post



Type II adhesive (46 points)

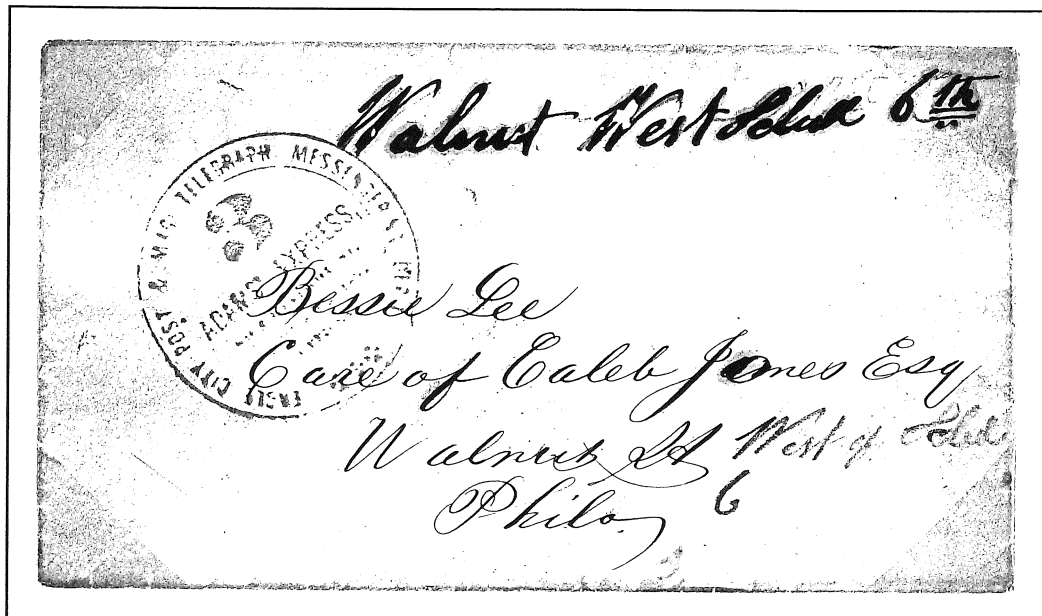


1849. Handstamp "3" (Due) upper-right corner.

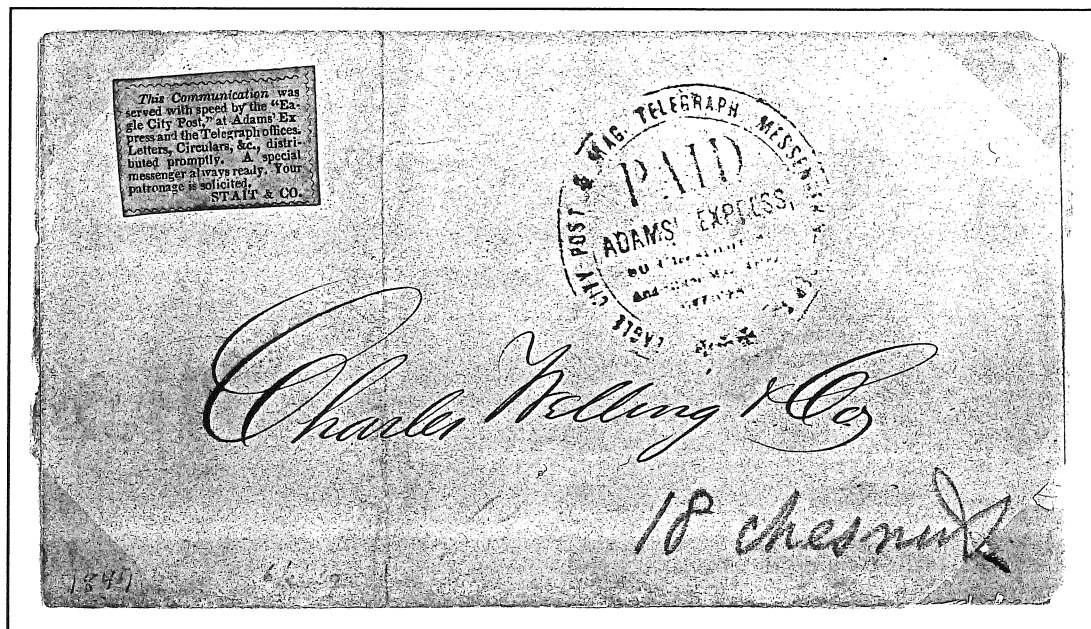


Eagle Post

"EAGLE CITY POST & MAG. TELEGRAPH MESSENGERING DEPT."



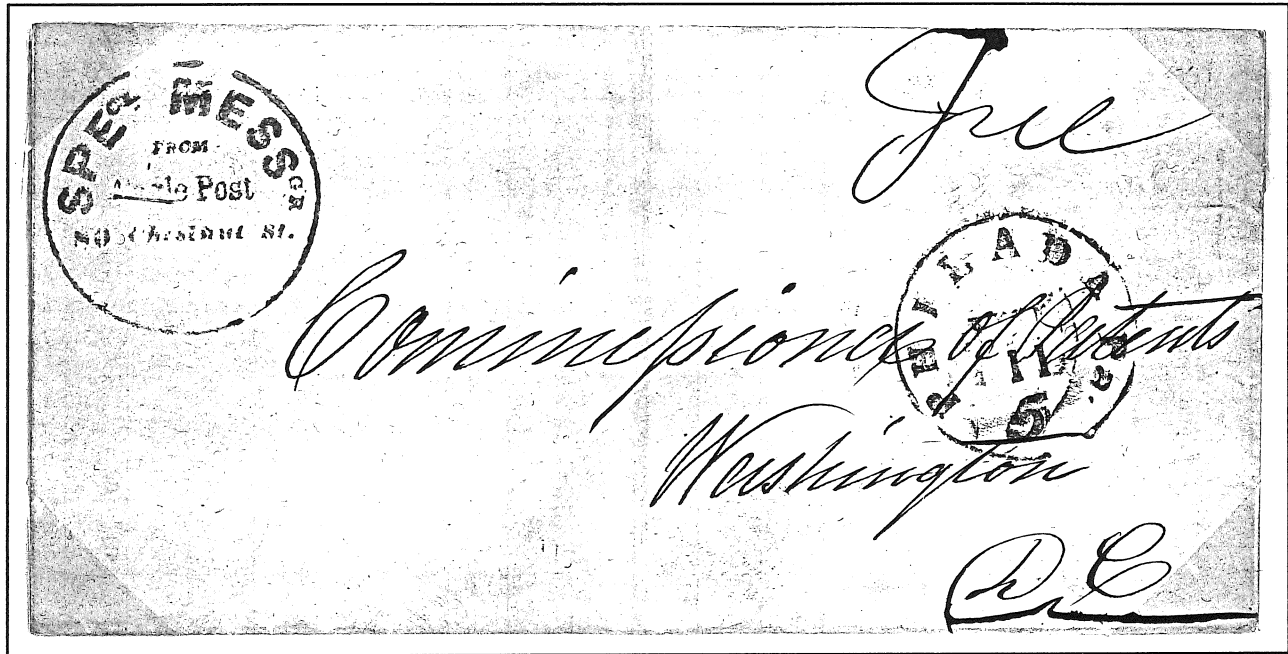
"3" (Due). 1851.



1849. Same handstamp, but with "PAID".

Eagle Post

"SPECIAL MESSENGER" Service



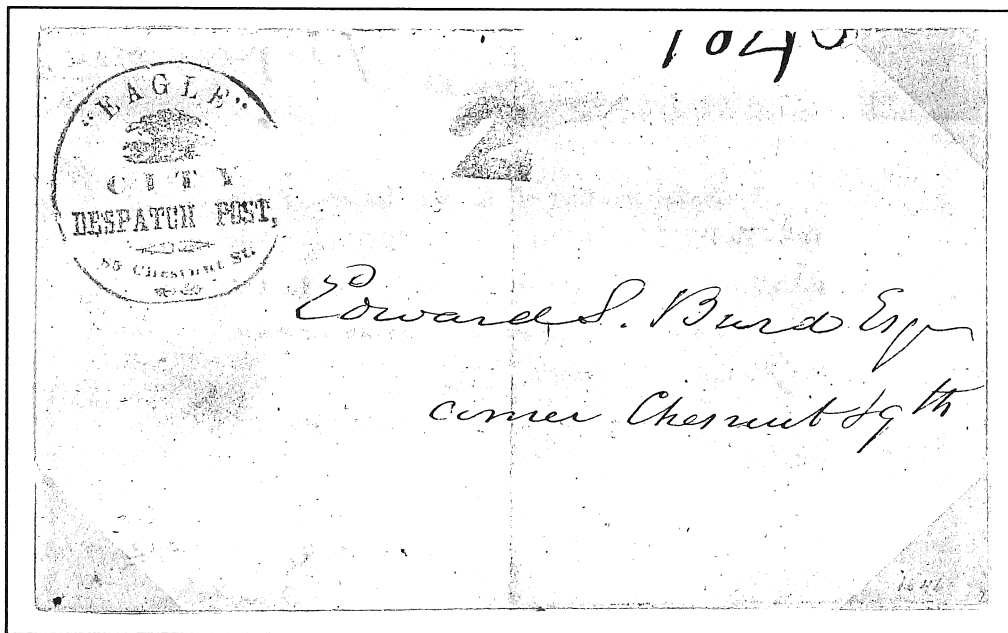
No date; Philadelphia CDS used 1848-1849.

William Stait began offering Special Messenger service in 1848 "...for City, State or any part of the World, at half an hour's notice." (*Philadelphia Public Ledger*, December 2, 1848).



## Eagle Post

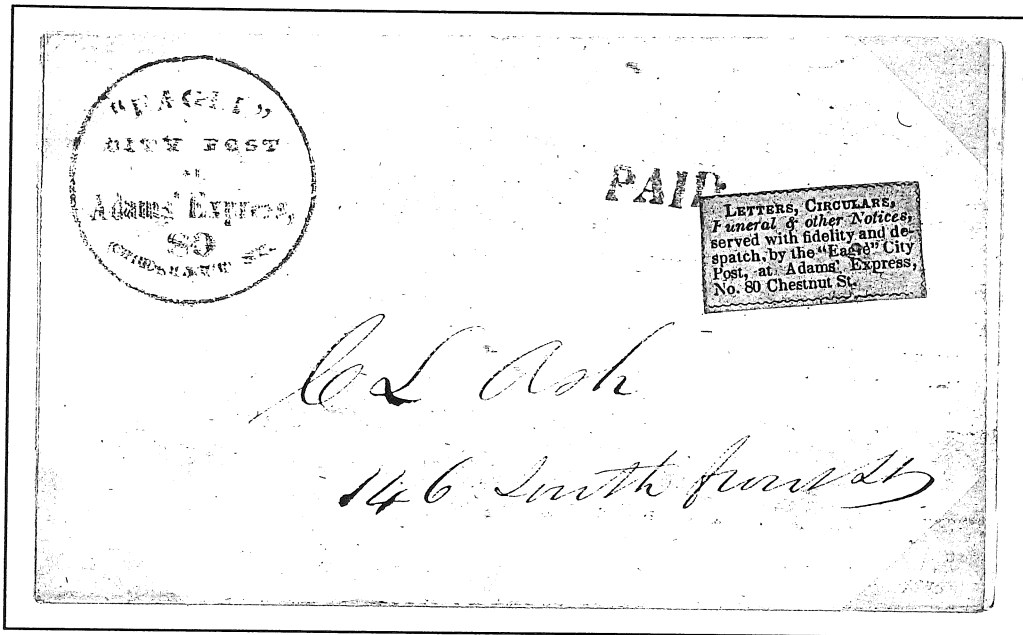
"EAGLE/CITY/DESPATCH POST" Handstamp



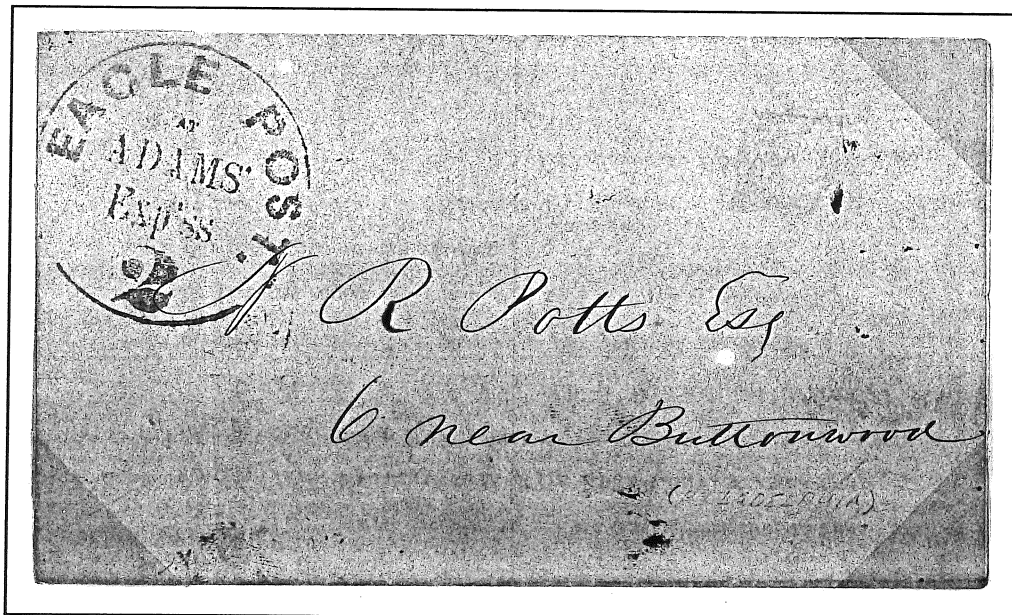
1846. Printed circular.

Handstamp with "Eagle" reflects the change of name.

# Eagle Post



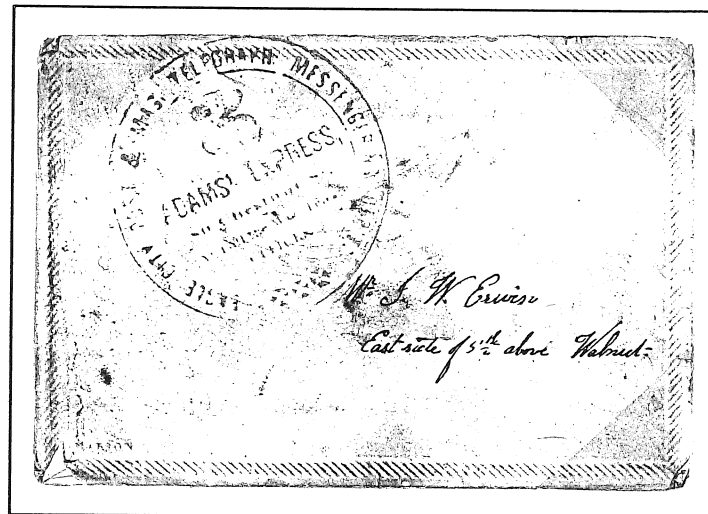
No date. "EAGLE/CITY POST/AT/ADAMS EXPRESS/80/CHESTNUT ST."



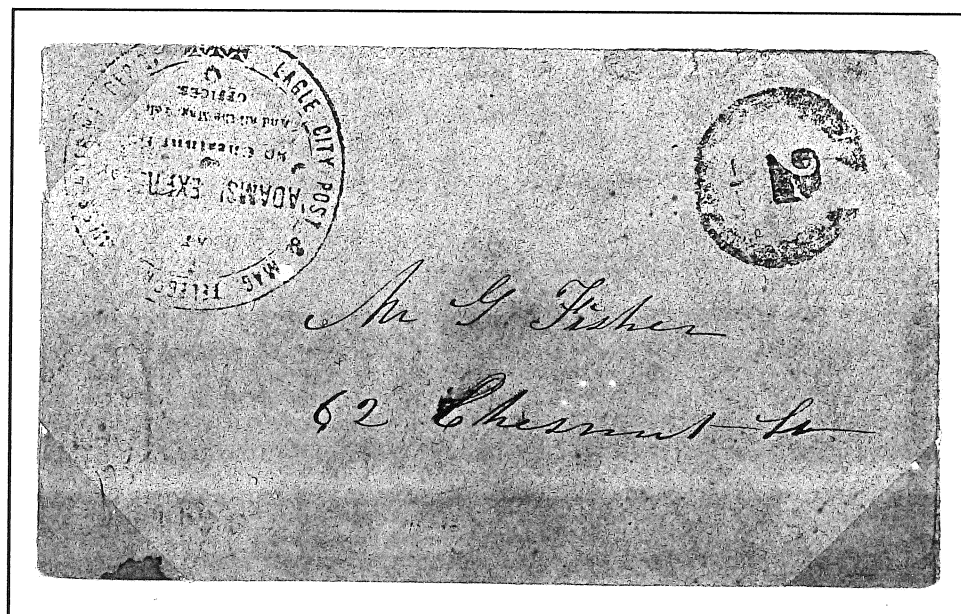
No date. "'EAGLE POST/AT/ADAMS'/EXP'SS/2"

Rates for Telegram Delivery by Eagle Post Varied

3¢ Rate

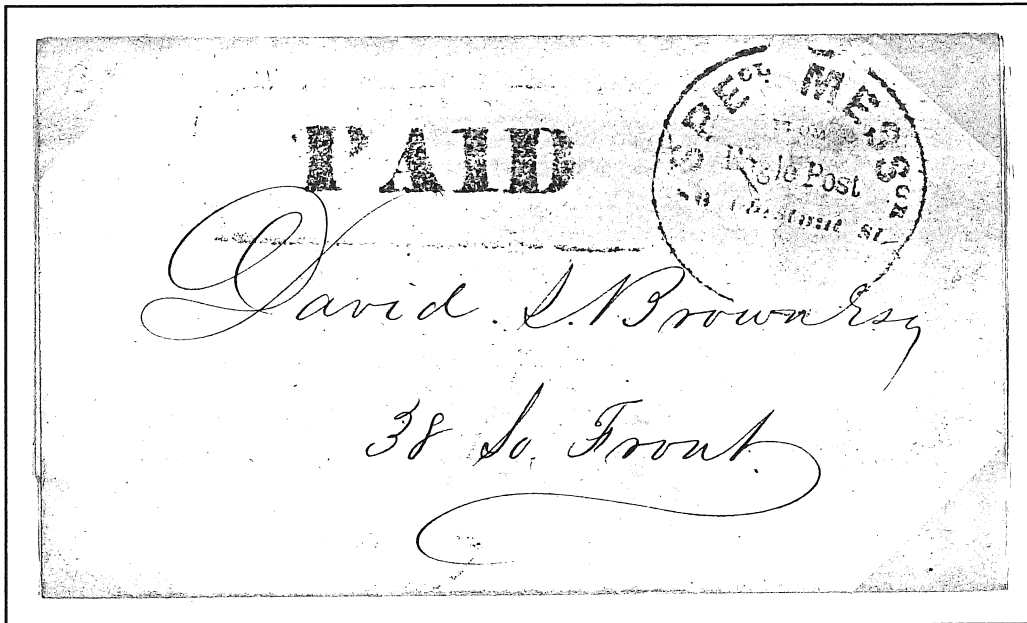


2¢ Rate



**Eagle Post**

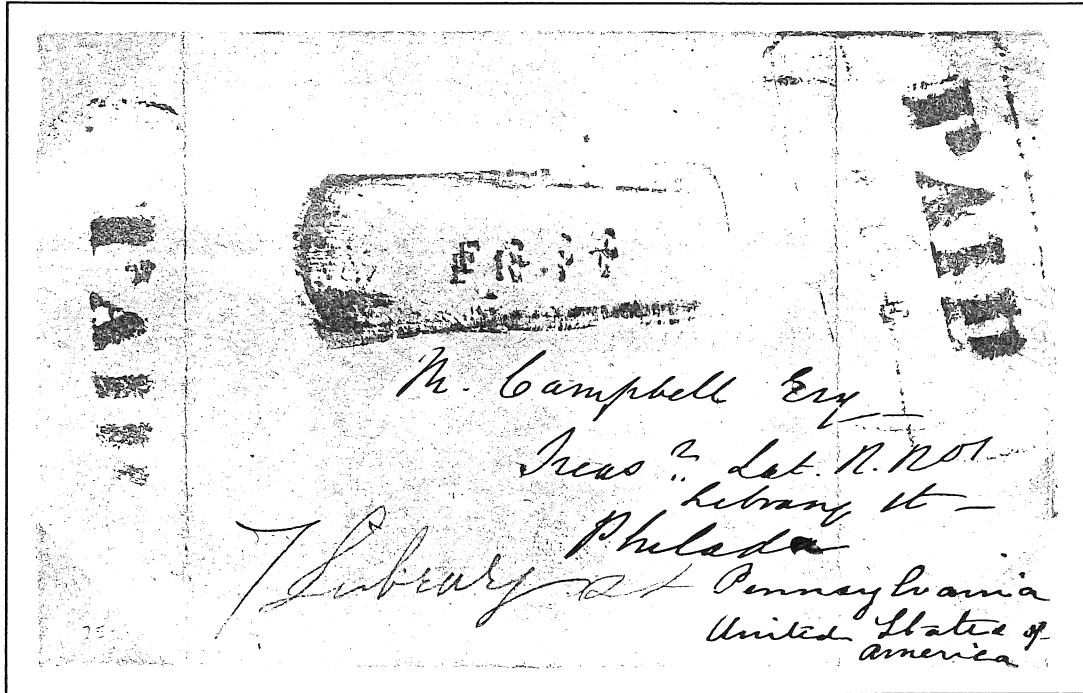
**"SPECIAL MESSENGER"**



March 26, 1850. Printed circular.

The "SPECI. MESSOR" handstamp is reported  
with "FREE" in box (1849) and "PAID" in  
box (1850).

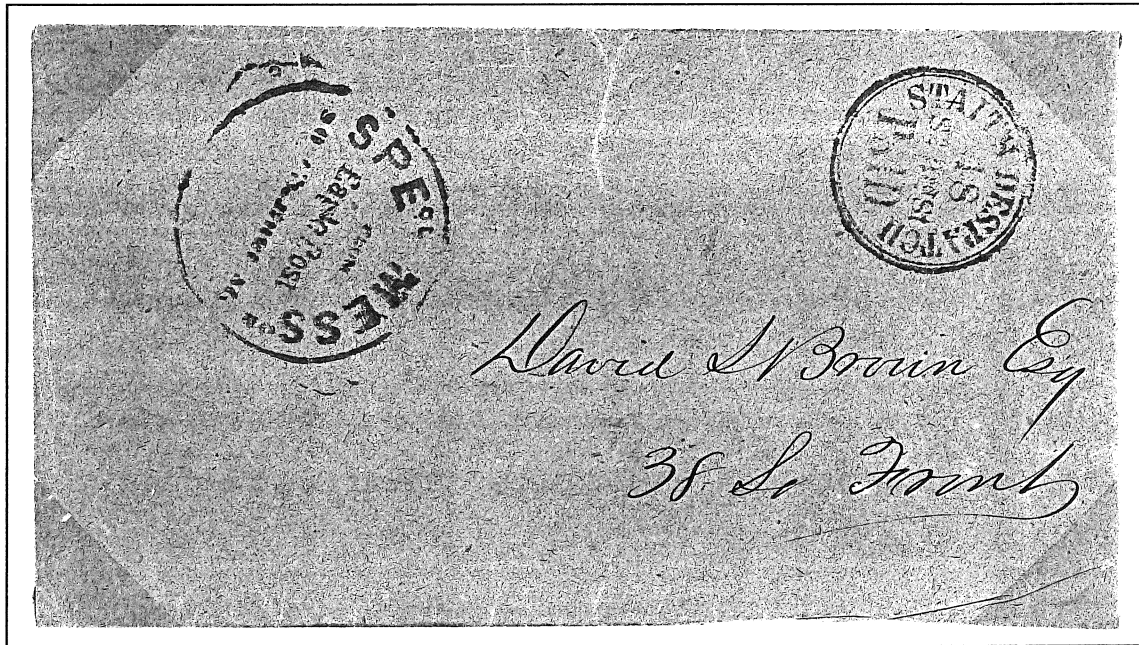
Eagle Post



February 22, 1850.

We do not know why this folded letter had both the "PAID" and the "FREE" handstamps on it.

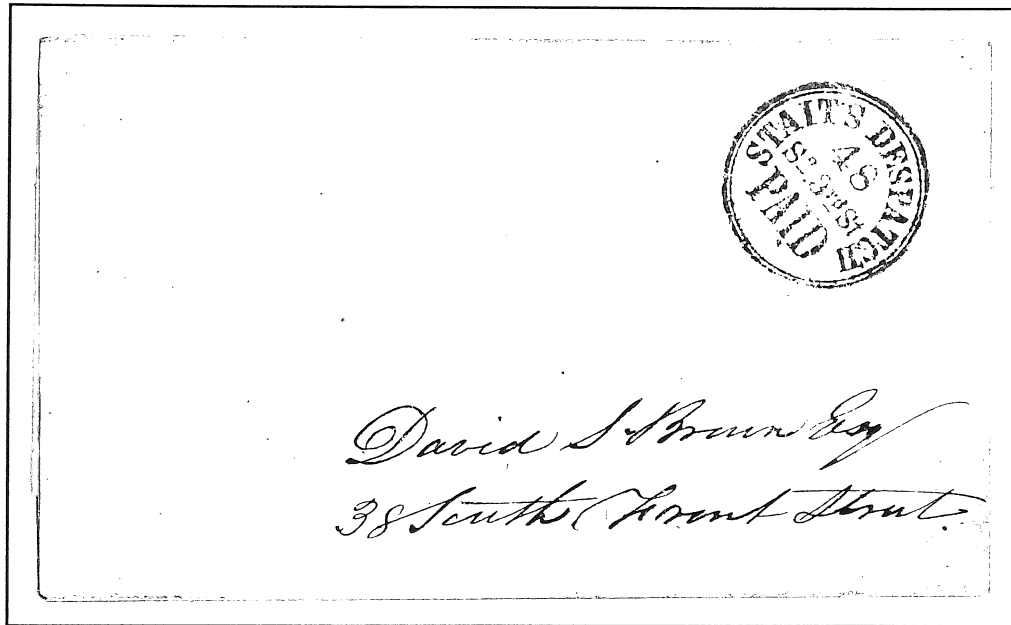
Eagle Post/Stait's Despatch Combination



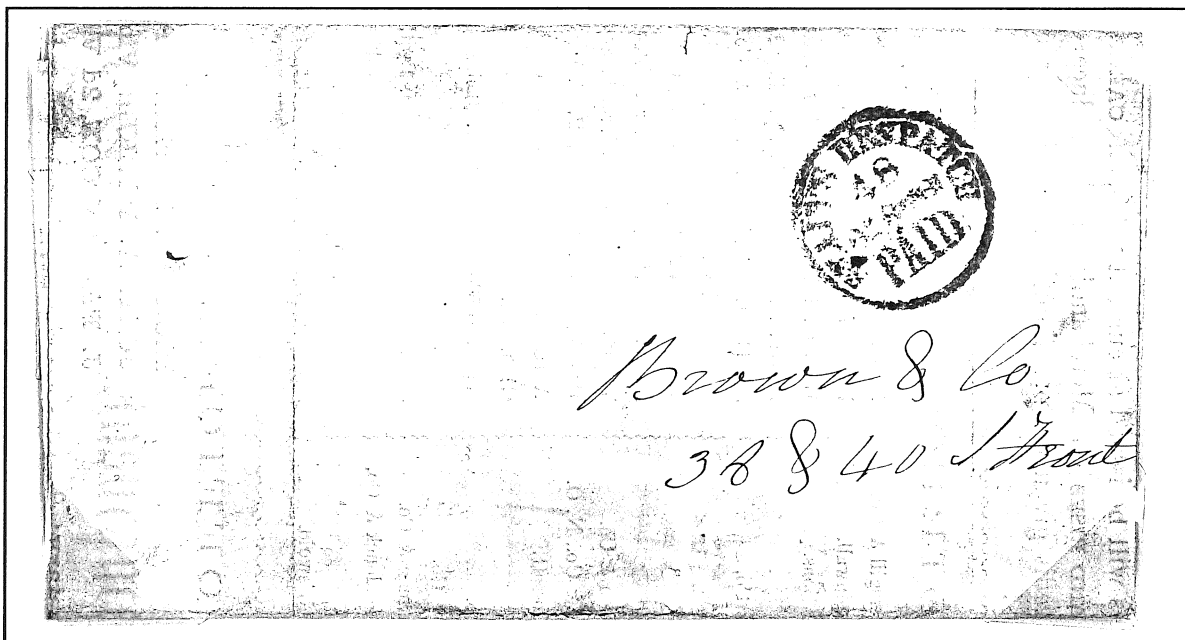
"Special Messenger" (Eagle Post); STAIT'S DESPATCH PAID"

This combination of handstamps demonstrates the transition when Stait acquired the Post from Adams' Express Co.

Stait's Despatch Post



1852. Printed circular.



1851. After Stait acquired City Despatch Post, he moved his office to 48 South 3rd Street, away from the Adams Express Company offices.

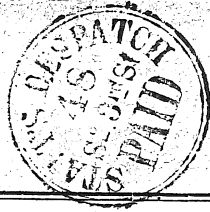
Stait's Despatch Post



May 1, 1850.

The *Blue* adhesive was the fourth stamp issued by Eagle Post/Stait's Despatch.



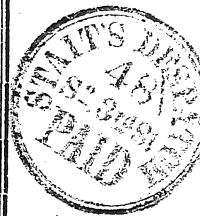


# A NEW SYSTEM OF SAVING FUNDS, OR, TONTINE ACCUMULATIONS, FOR DEFINITE PERIODS.

The PHILADELPHIA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, propose to take insurances on the plan of the well known *Tontine Associations*, with this difference, viz: That the payments are in the shape of an Annual Premium, and the risk for a definite period.

The following is the Scale adopted for \$100.

Age.	Expire in 10 years.	Expire in 15 years.	Expire in 20 years.	TONTINE ACCUMULATIONS.	Age.	Expire in 10 years.	Expire in 15 years.	Expire in 20 years.
10 <sup>or less</sup>	8 68	5 11	3 35		36	8 39	4 83	3 05
11	8 68	5 11	3 35		37	8 37	4 80	3 01
12	8 68	5 11	3 35		38	8 35	4 77	2 98
13	8 67	5 10	3 34		39	8 33	4 74	2 95
14	8 67	5 10	3 34		40	8 30	4 70	2 90
15	8 66	5 10	3 34		41	8 26	4 66	2 87
16	8 66	5 09	3 33		42	8 23	4 61	2 83
17	8 65	5 09	3 33		43	8 18	4 57	2 79
18	8 64	5 08	3 33		44	8 13	4 53	2 75
19	8 64	5 07	3 32		45	8 07	4 48	2 70
20	8 63	5 07	3 32		46	8 02	4 43	2 65
21	8 62	5 06	3 31		47	7 97	4 39	2 60
22	8 60	5 05	3 30		48	7 91	4 34	2 55
23	8 58	5 03	3 29		49	7 85	4 29	2 50
24	8 56	5 01	3 28		50	7 80	4 23	2 44
25	8 55	5 00	3 27		51	7 73	4 17	2 38
26	8 53	4 99	3 26		52	7 69	4 11	2 32
27	8 51	4 98	3 25		53	7 63	4 05	2 25
28	8 50	4 96	3 23		54	7 56	3 97	2 17
29	8 48	4 95	3 21		55	7 50	3 90	2 09
30	8 47	4 94	3 20		56	7 42	3 81	
31	8 45	4 93	3 18		57	7 34	3 72	
32	8 44	4 91	3 15		58	7 25	3 63	
33	8 43	4 90	3 13		59	7 15	3 53	
34	8 42	4 88	3 10		60	7 05	3 42	
35	8 40	4 86	3 07					



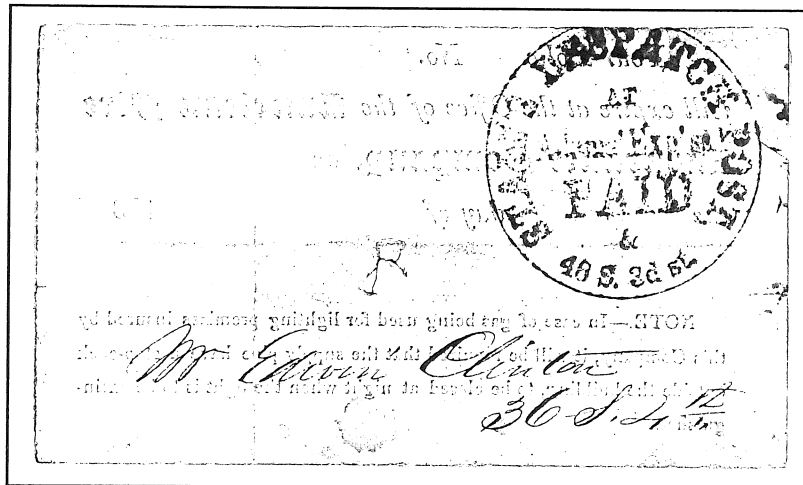
By the above plan, any man may connect himself with a *Tontine Accumulating Fund*, for any definite period, say 7, 10, 15, or 20 years, and at the end of that period, the *whole amount* that may have accumulated will be divided *pro rata* amongst the *surviving* insurers, according to the amount they may have insured. Any person may insure from \$100 to \$2000, and pay the premium and receive the dividend accordingly. The premiums paid by the *deceased* members, are forfeited for the benefit of the living. In this manner the surviving member or insurer may very readily receive three or four times the amount for which he nominally insures. The Philadelphia Life Insurance Company will pay all the charges and expenses in the management of the different classes of Tontines, and will likewise allow five per cent. interest, compounded annually, for the moneys paid in as premiums, and will also guarantee that each individual member shall receive the amount that he insures for, and as much more as the funds will divide. In return, the Company will charge as a commission, ten per cent. on the net amount received.

A Tontine of this kind is peculiarly applicable as a provision for minors; it is a saving fund of the most profitable kind, payable at a definite period if the child is alive. This office will annually furnish to each member an exact statement of the state of affairs of the Class to which he belongs.

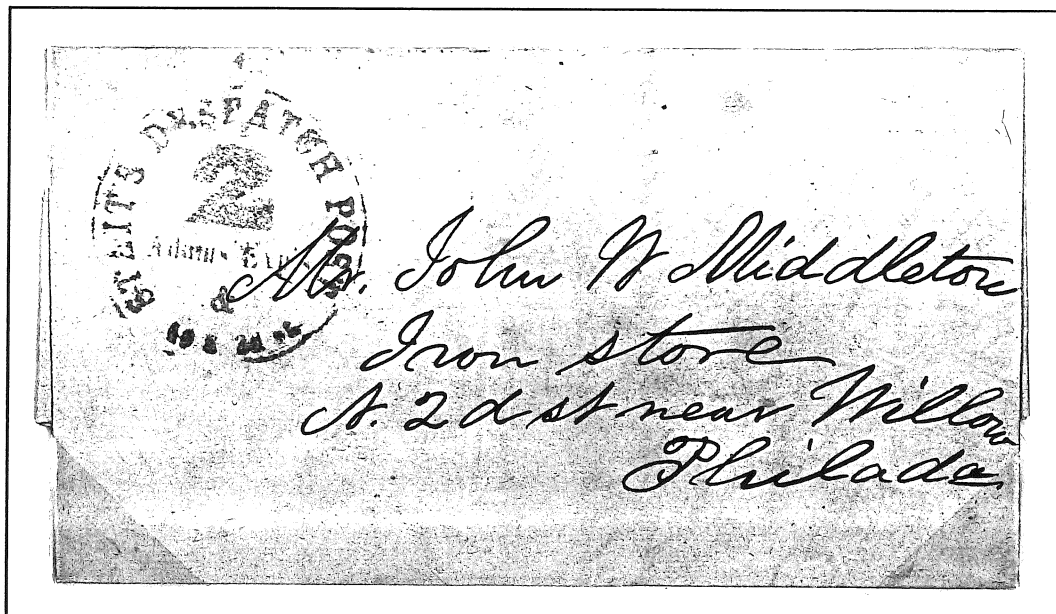
The books are now open for the first series of Tontines, and will close on the first day of May next.

# Stait's Despatch Post

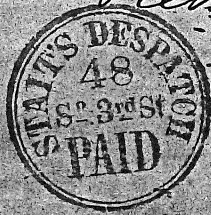
This handstamp shows that Stait maintained his relationship with Adams' Express after moving.



1850. "STAIT'S DESPATCH POST/AT/ADAMS' EXPR'SS/PAID  
&  
48 S.3d St."



1851. Same handstamp, but with "2" (Due).



*Wm. D. Lewis*  
*Rev. Dr. Duncanson*

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The Charges against the Collector and Surveyor of  
the Port of Philadelphia.

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REPLY OF CHARLES GIBBONS  
TO THE  
ARGUMENT OF DAVID PAUL BROWN, ESQ.  
WITH AN APPENDIX,  
CONTAINING THE STATEMENT OF THE  
HON. JAMES COOPER,  
IN ANSWER TO THE NARRATIVE OF WM. D. LEWIS.

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Pamphlet printed March 26, 1851.

Stait's Despatch Post



*Philadelphia, January 31, 1850.*

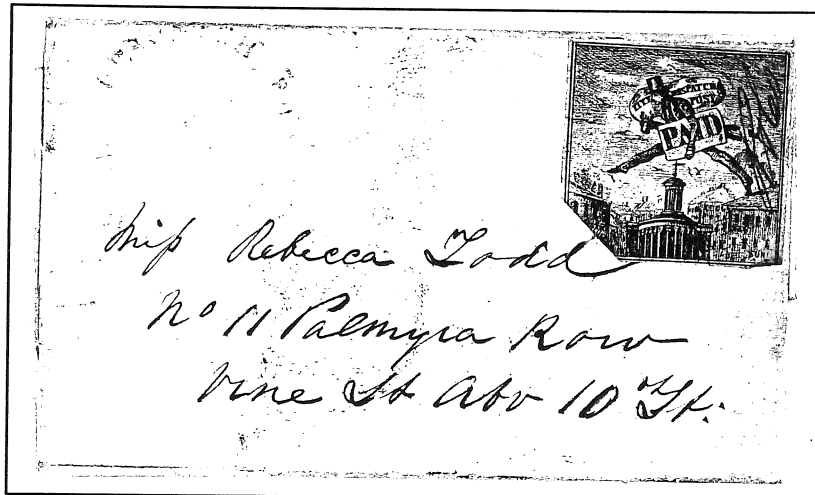
*In accordance with a Resolution passed at a Meeting of the Stockholders of the Pennsylvania Rail-road Company on 24th December, 1849, for the appointment of a Committee to procure subscriptions to the Stock of said Company, I have appointed George Hale as one of that Committee, and respectfully request his attendance at the Office, No. 70 Walnut Street, on February 1st, at 11 o'clock, A. M.*

**THOMAS P. COPE,**  
**Chairman.**

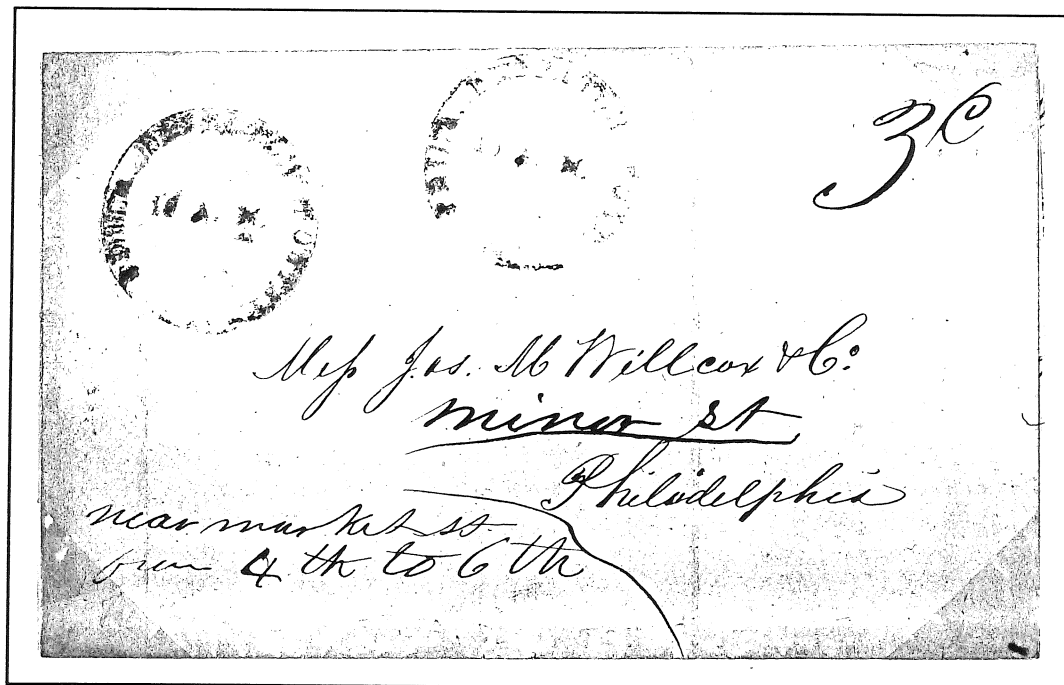
This handstamp also appears on the face of this locally delivered printed circular.

## Philadelphia Despatch Post

This Local Post, the first within Philadelphia City limits, was started in 1842 by Robertson & Co.

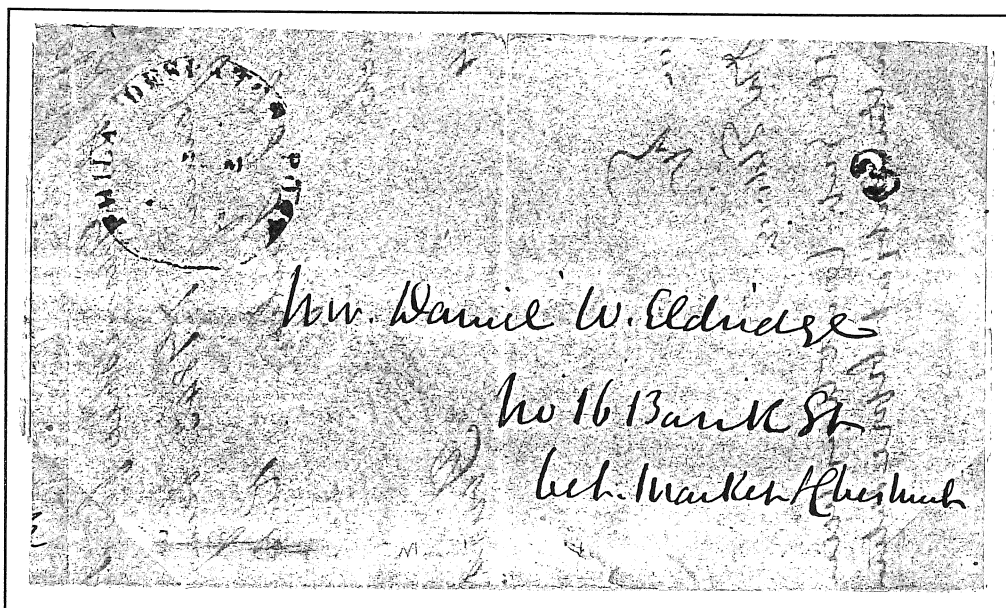


May 9, 1844. Initialled in ink: "R & Co."

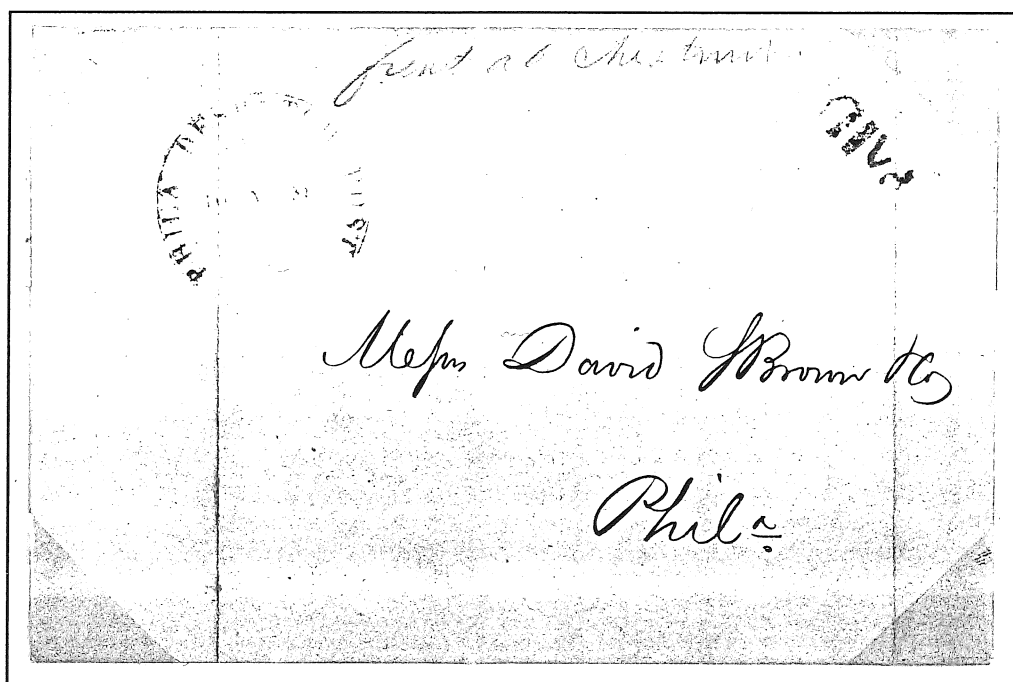


February 16, 1843. "3c" <Due> in manuscript

Philadelphia Despatch Post



March 4, 1844. "PHILA DESPATCH POST/time"; "3" (Due)

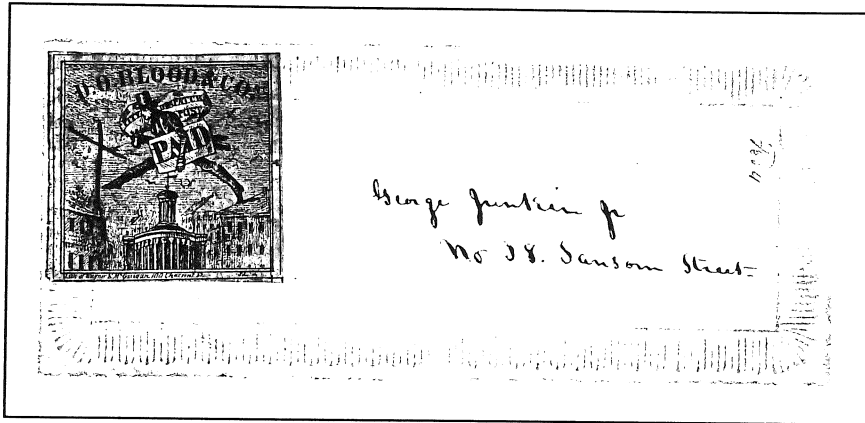


January 22, 1844. "PAID".

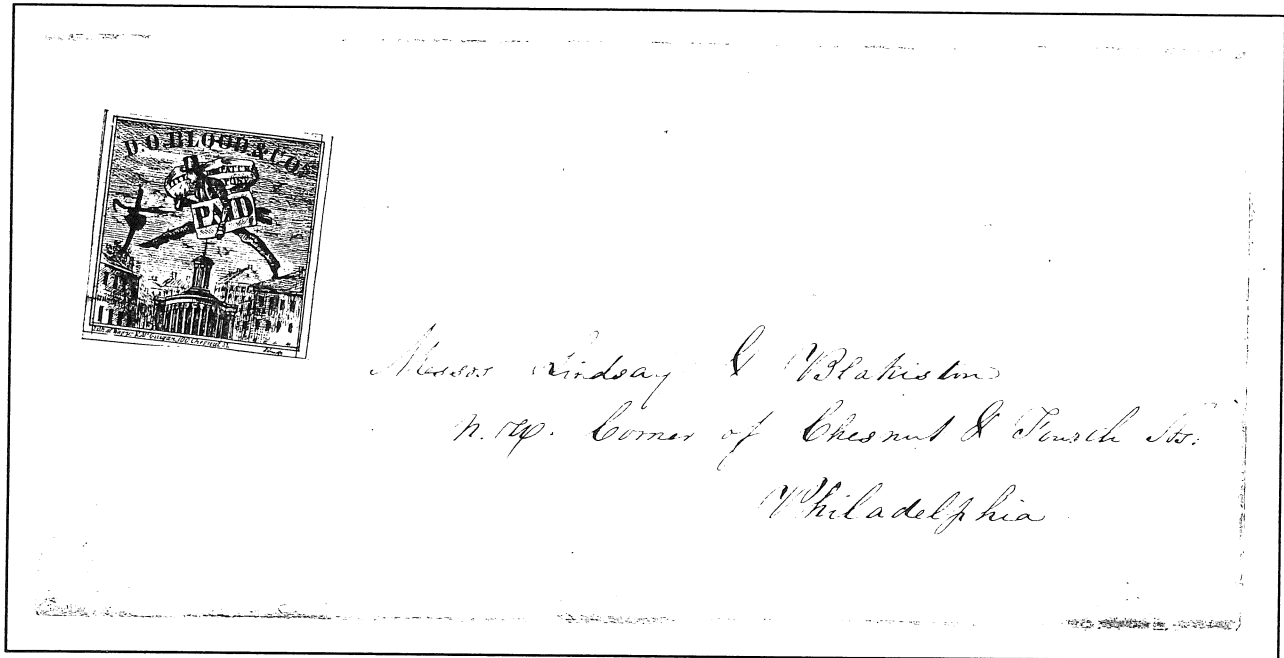


D.O. Blood & Co.

Daniel O. Blood acquired the Philadelphia Despatch Post from Robertson & Co. on July 7, 1845, renaming the business *Blood's Despatch*.



No year date.

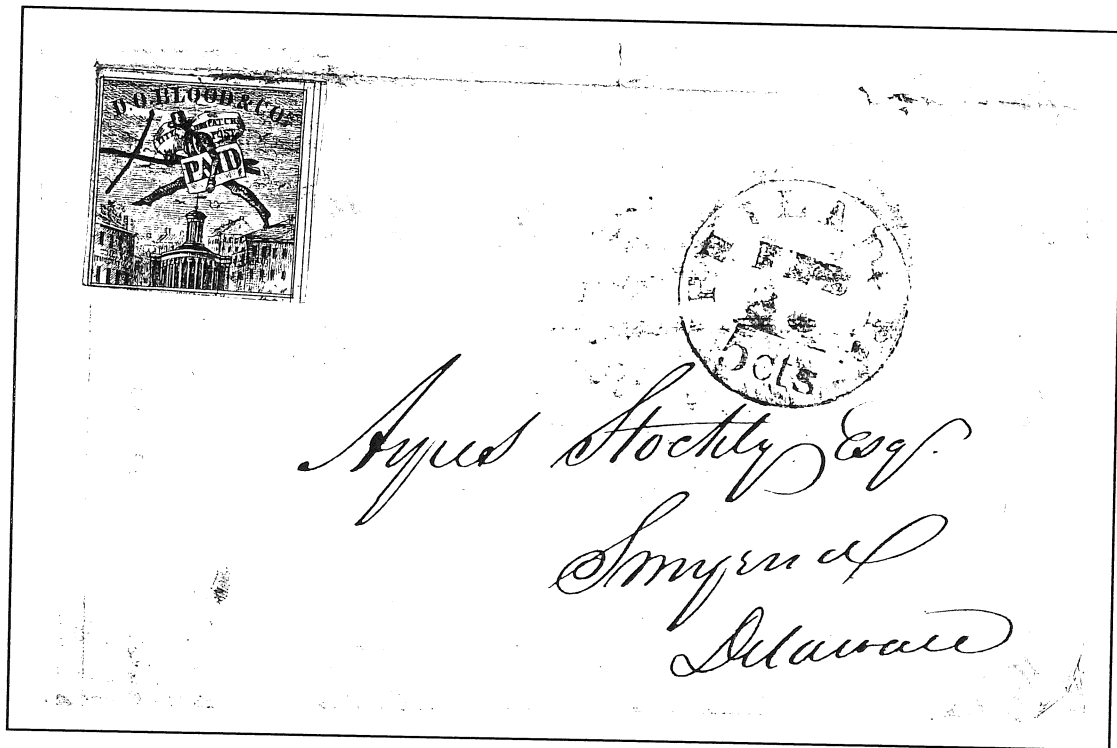


No year date.

After Blood's had exhausted the existing stock of "*Striding Messenger*" stamps he had acquired from Robertson & Co., Blood had new stamps printed with Blood's Company name at the top.

D. O. Blood & Co.

"To the Mails"



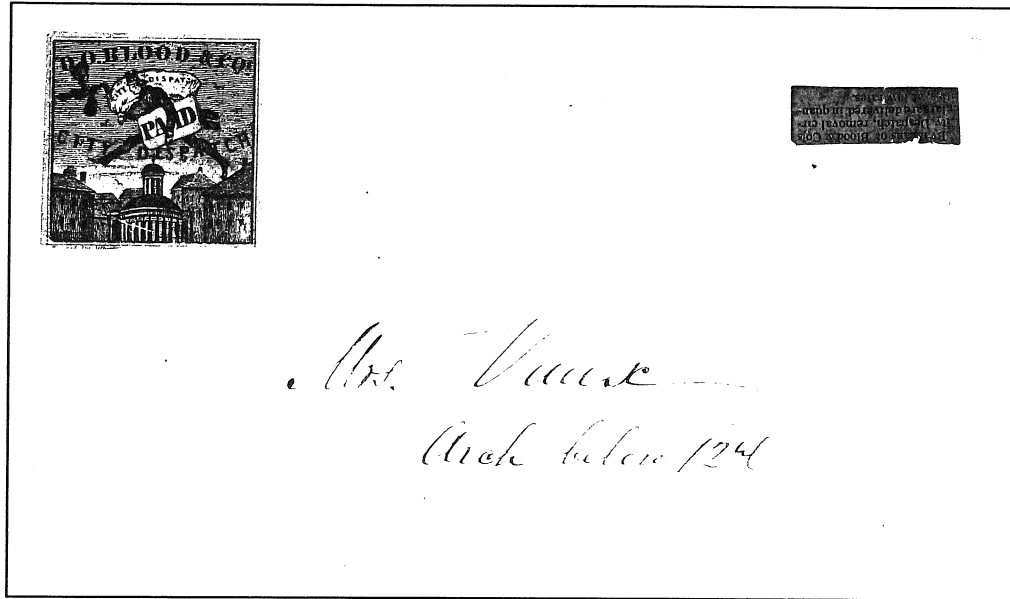
February 23, 1847.

Once Blood's issued stamps in 1846 to be used  
"FOR THE POST OFFICE", it was unusual to find  
the *Striding Messenger* used to the Mails.

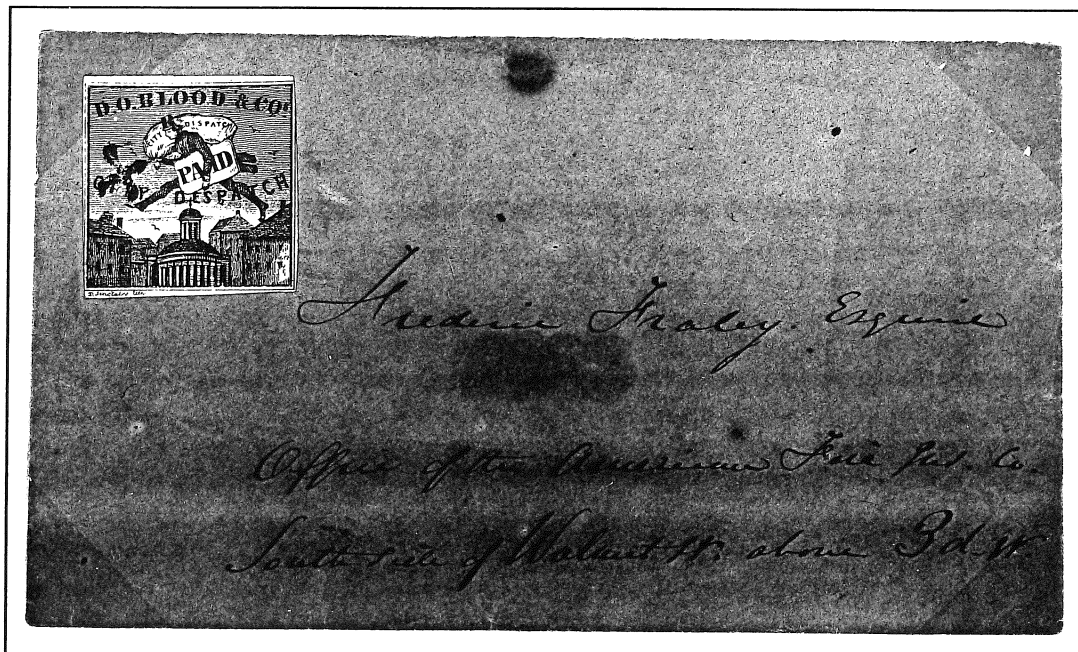


D. O. Blood & Co.

When the existing stock of stamps ran out, Blood replaced them with a newly engraved issue having the phrase "CITY DESPATCH" in the center.

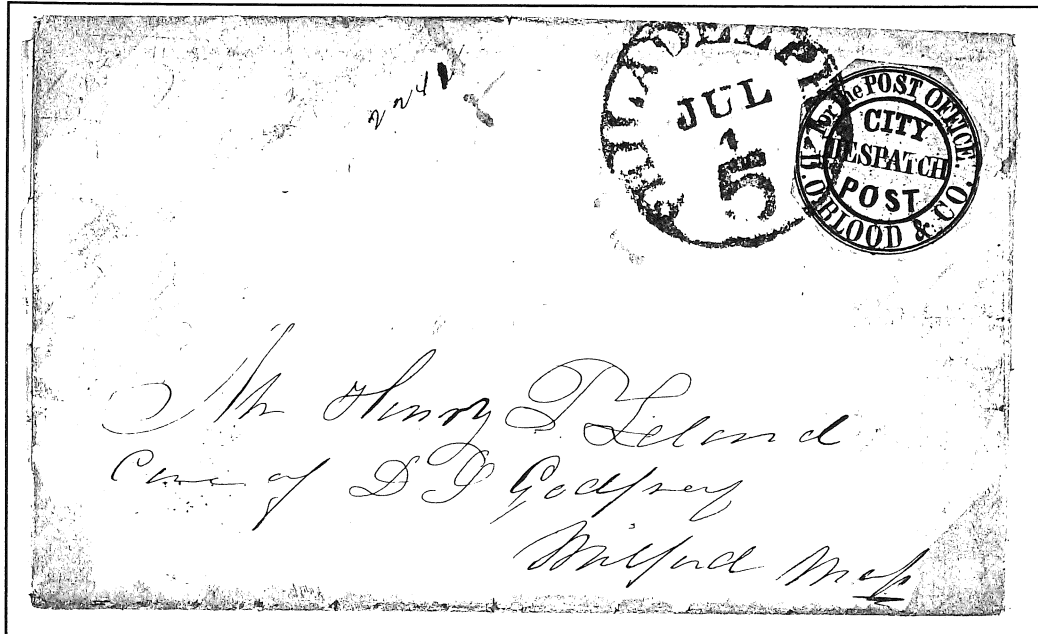


December 1847. Printed circular.

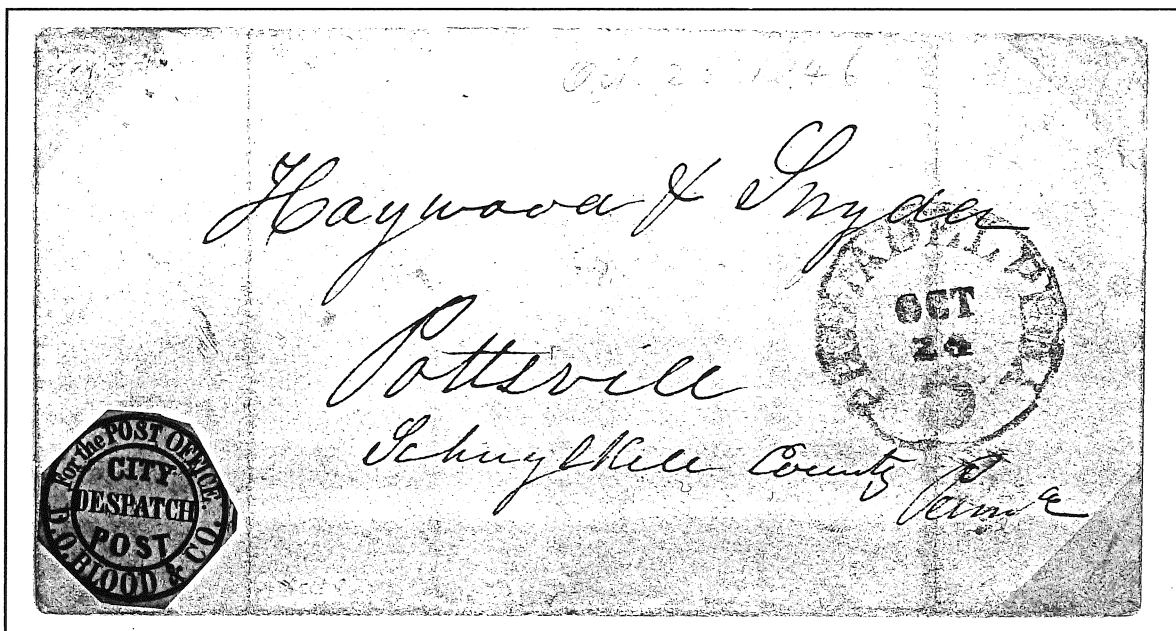


D. O. Blood & Co.

"FOR THE POST OFFICE"

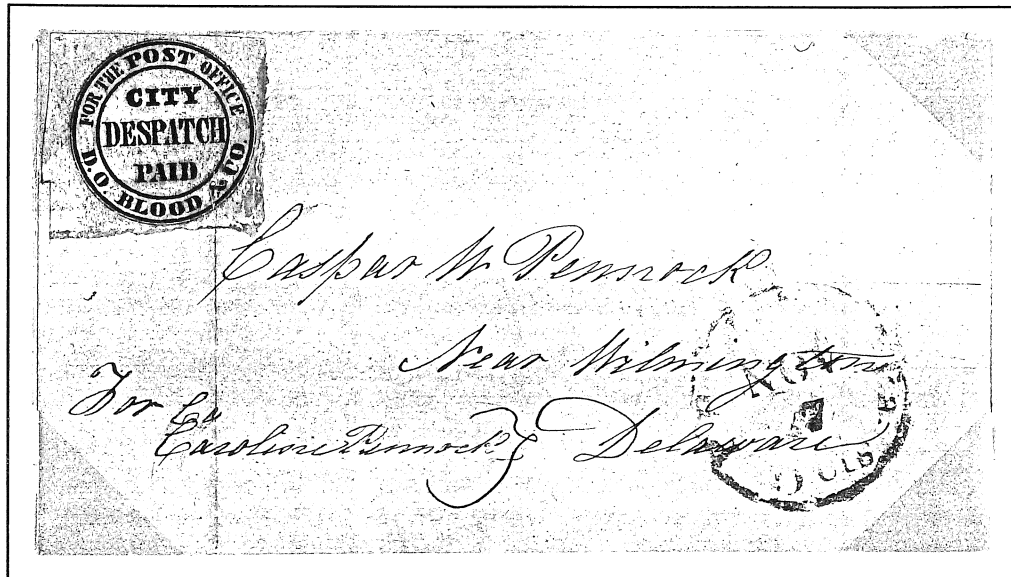


July 1, 1846. Type I ("POST") adhesive.

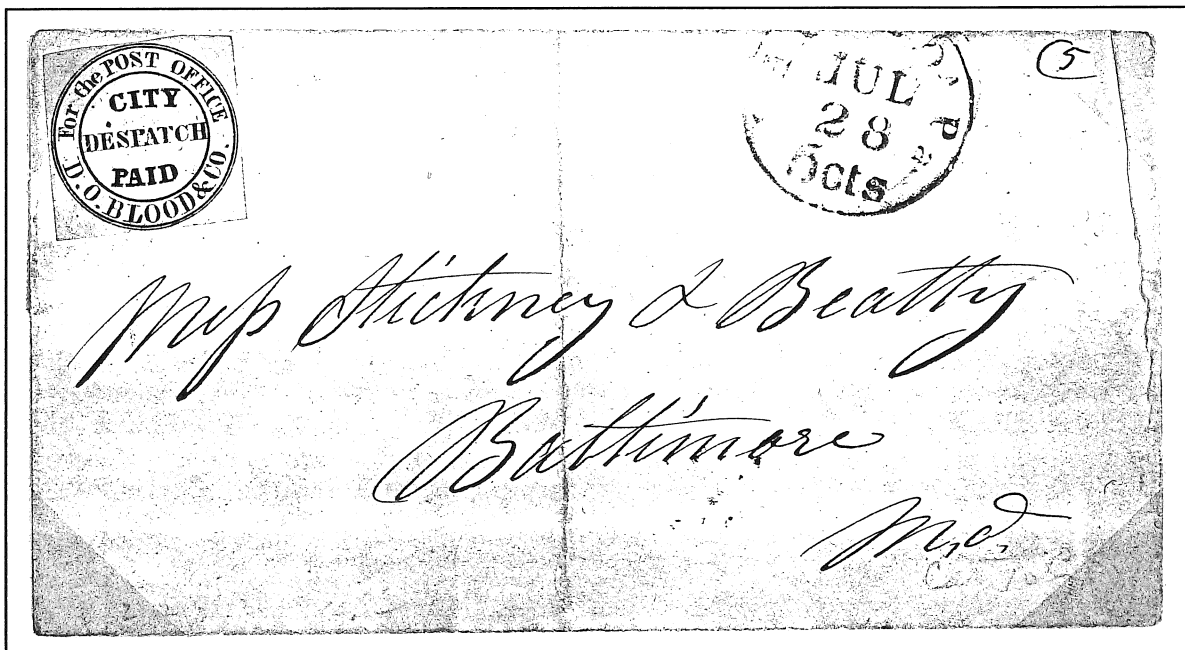


October 25, 1846. Type I.

D. O. Blood & Co.



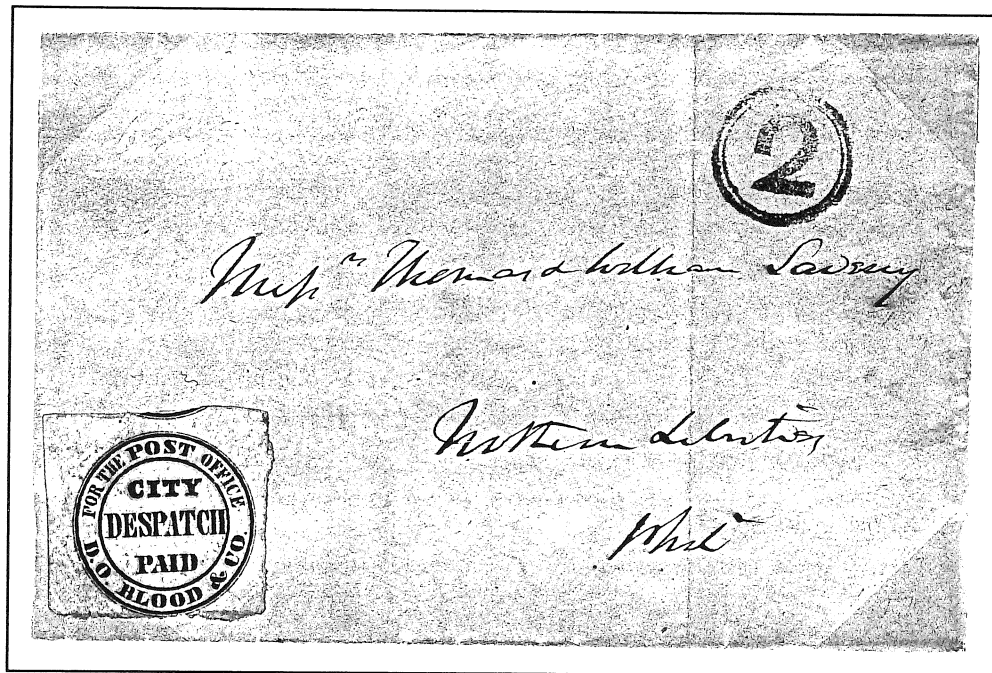
November 7, 1848. Type III ("PAID" in straight line).



July 27, 1847. Type II ("PAID" curved).

D. O. Blood & Co.

"Local Delivery" use of the "FOR THE POST OFFICE" stamp.

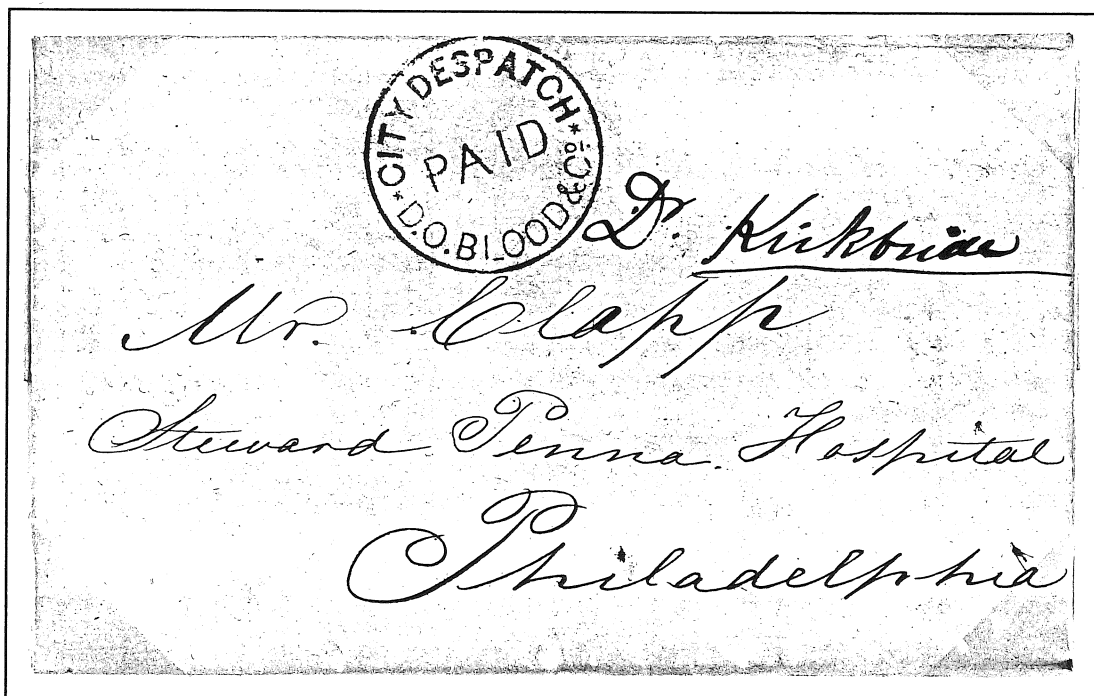


1848. 2¢ Drop Letter rate.

Northern Liberties, the destination, was serviced by the Philadelphia Post Office at this time, so the letter was treated as a Drop Letter.

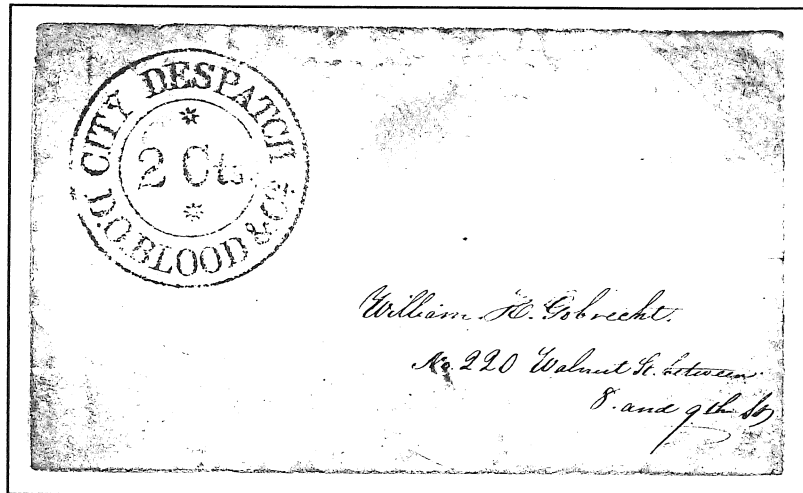
## Introduction of Blood's Handstamps

In 1847, Blood's introduced two handstamps, one showing prepayment and one showing payment due.



October 5, 1847.

2¢ Payment Due



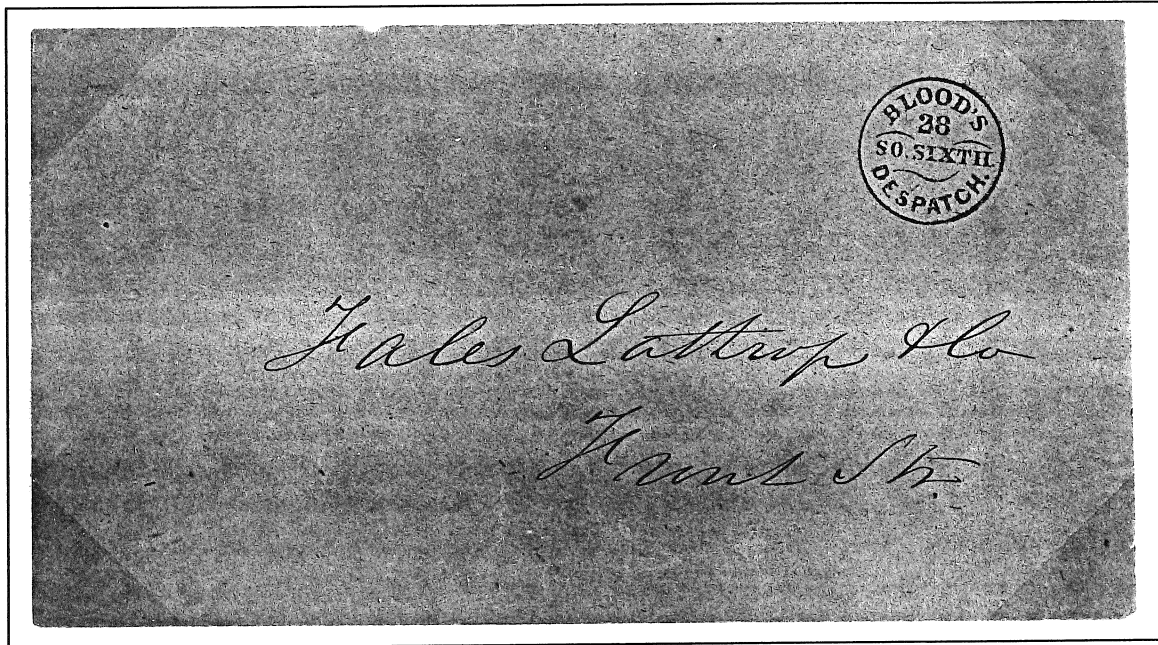
Red

1847.

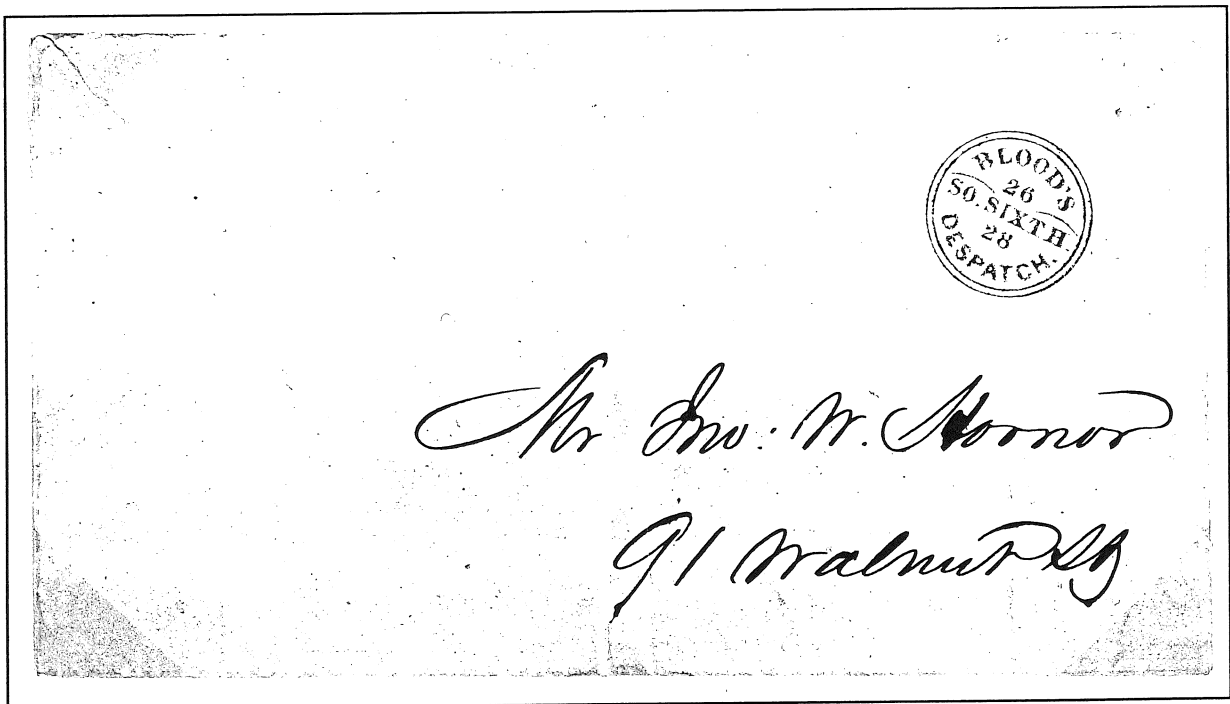


Black

## Blood's Expands His Office

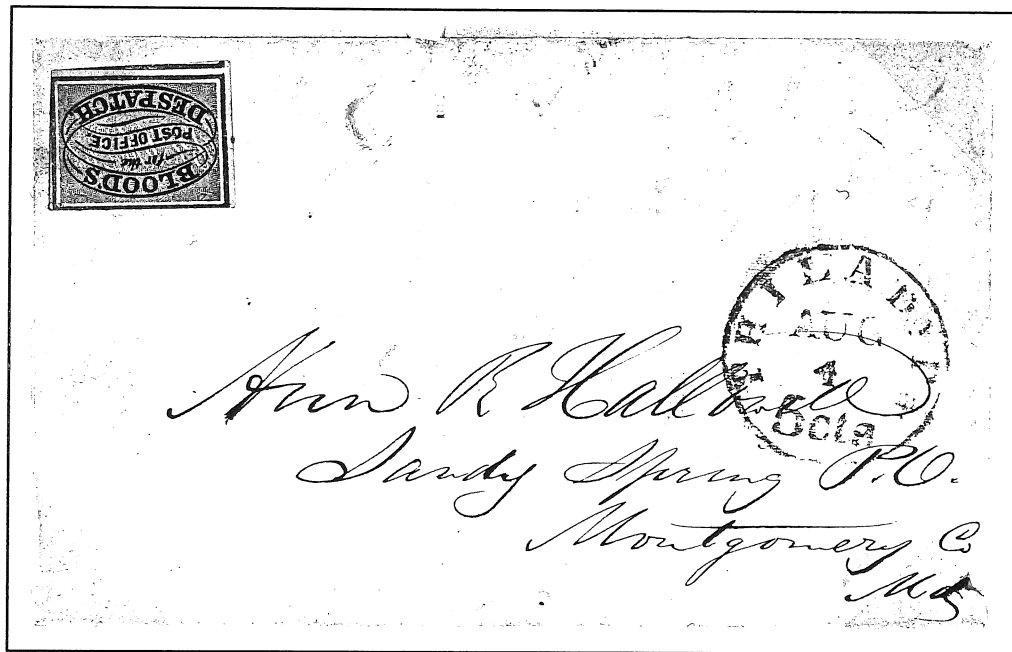


No date, but likely 1849 since Blood's moved its office to 28 So. Sixth Street in 1849, and expanded next door to 26 So. Sixth in 1850.



Blood's Introduces Three New Stamps in 1848

One of the stamps issued in 1848



August 4, 1848

We do not know why Blood's issued *three stamps*,  
since each represented a value of 2¢.



One of the New Stamps Issued in 1848  
with 2¢ Value



Myers Lindsay & Blackiston  
S.W. corner 4<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut  
Philadelphia

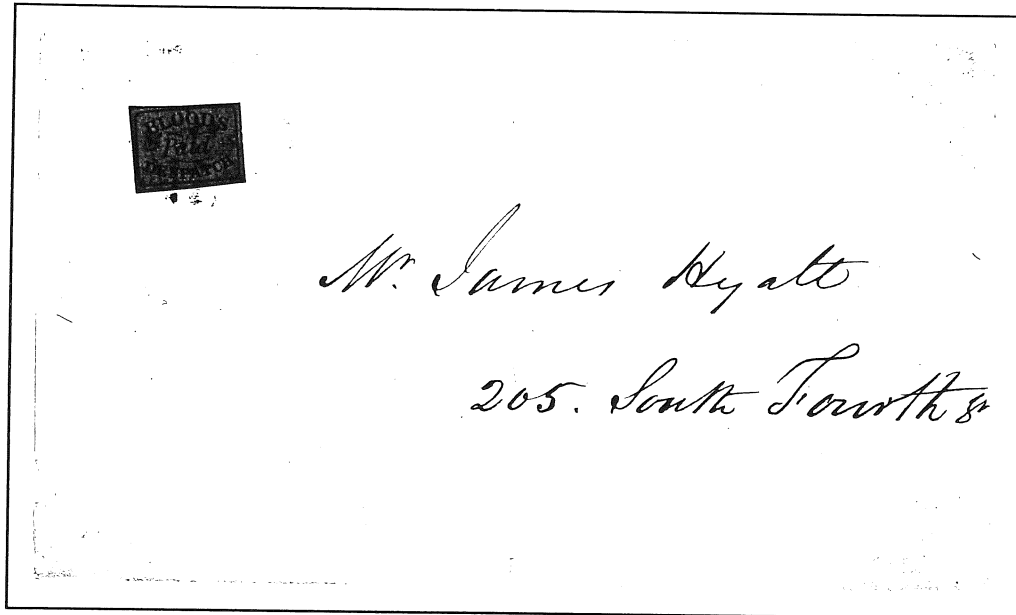


John Haseltine Gage  
No 10 South  
St James  
Phila

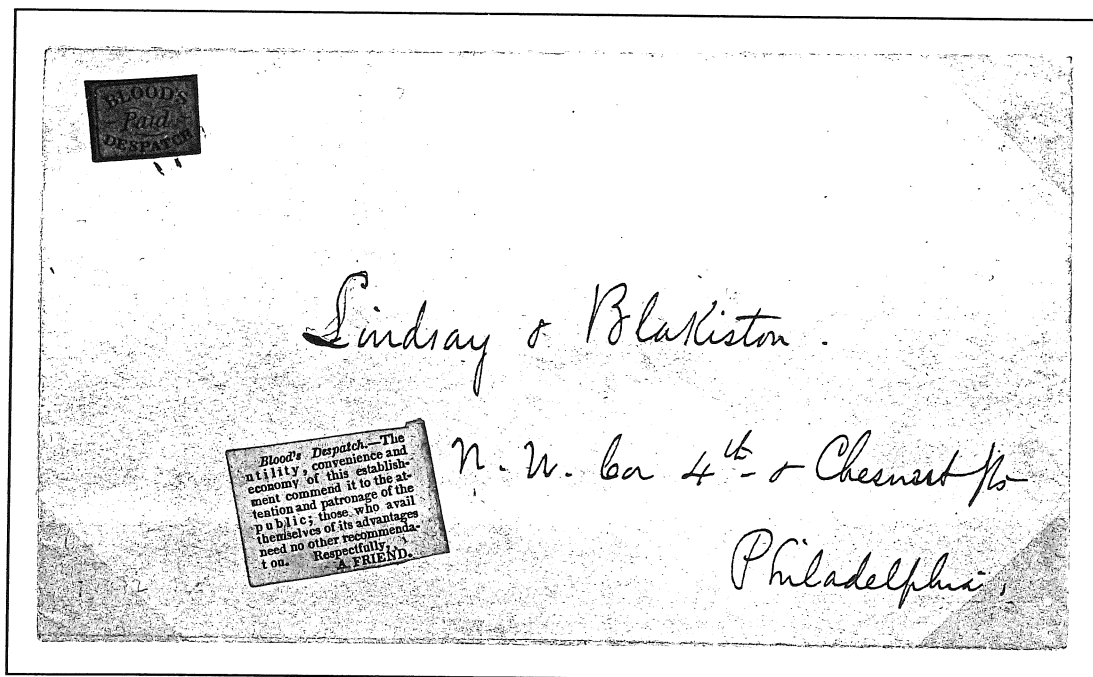
July 8, 1848.

One of the Stamps issued in 1848

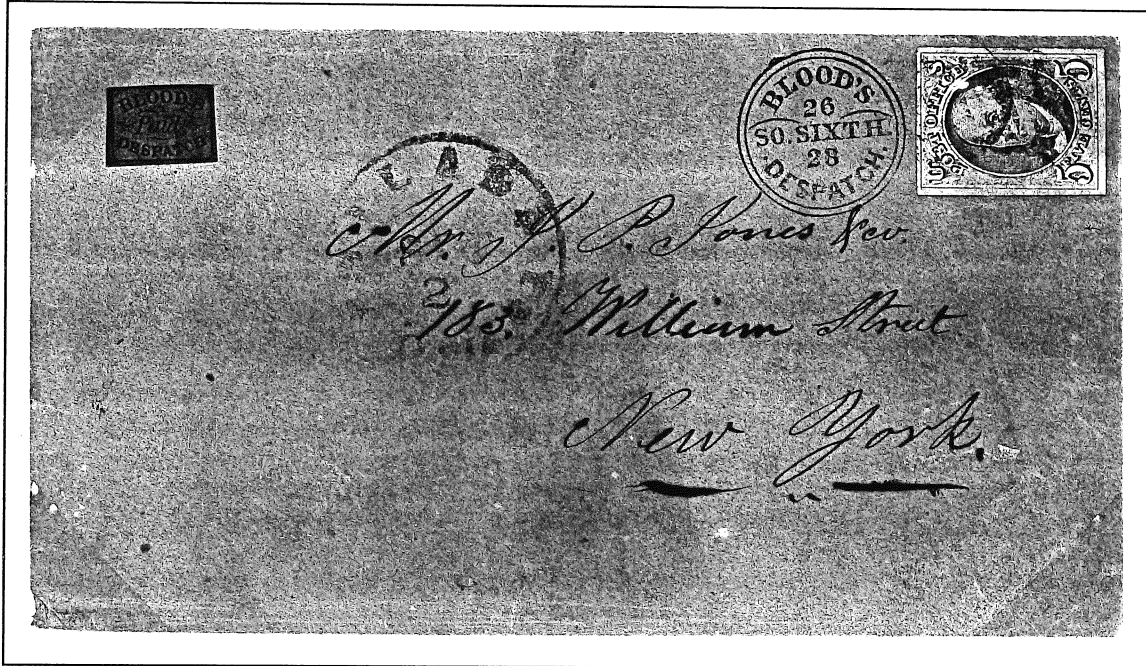
The Center "PAID"



December 27, 1848.

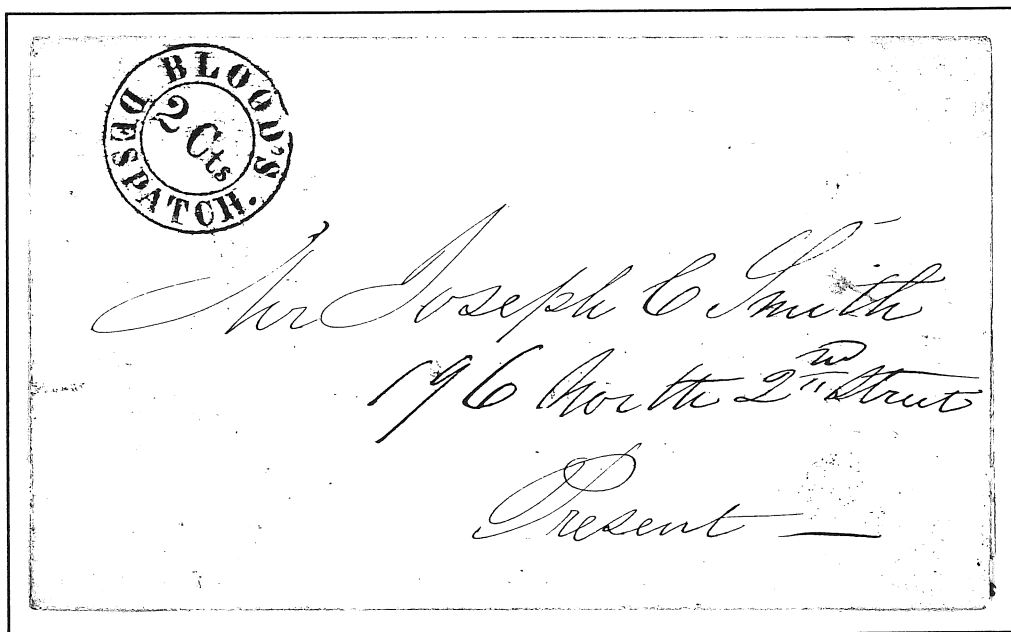


The Center "PAID"

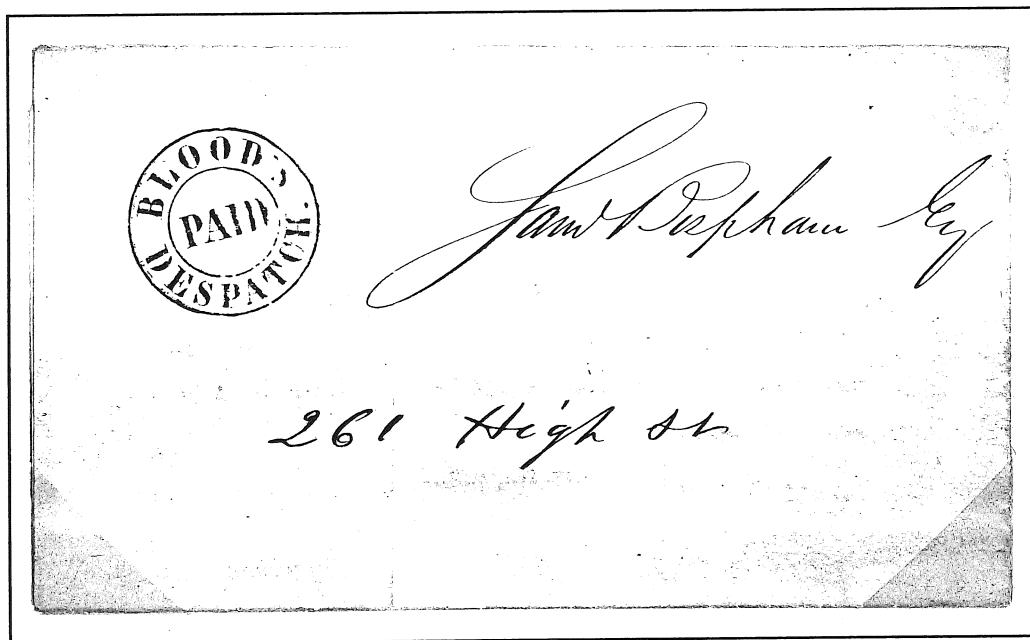


No date, but Blood's handstamp Type 10 was in use 1850-1851;  
the Philadelphia CDS (Type 43) was in use 1848-1850. The  
overlap dates this cover as 1850.

Latest Reported Use of "2¢" (Due)

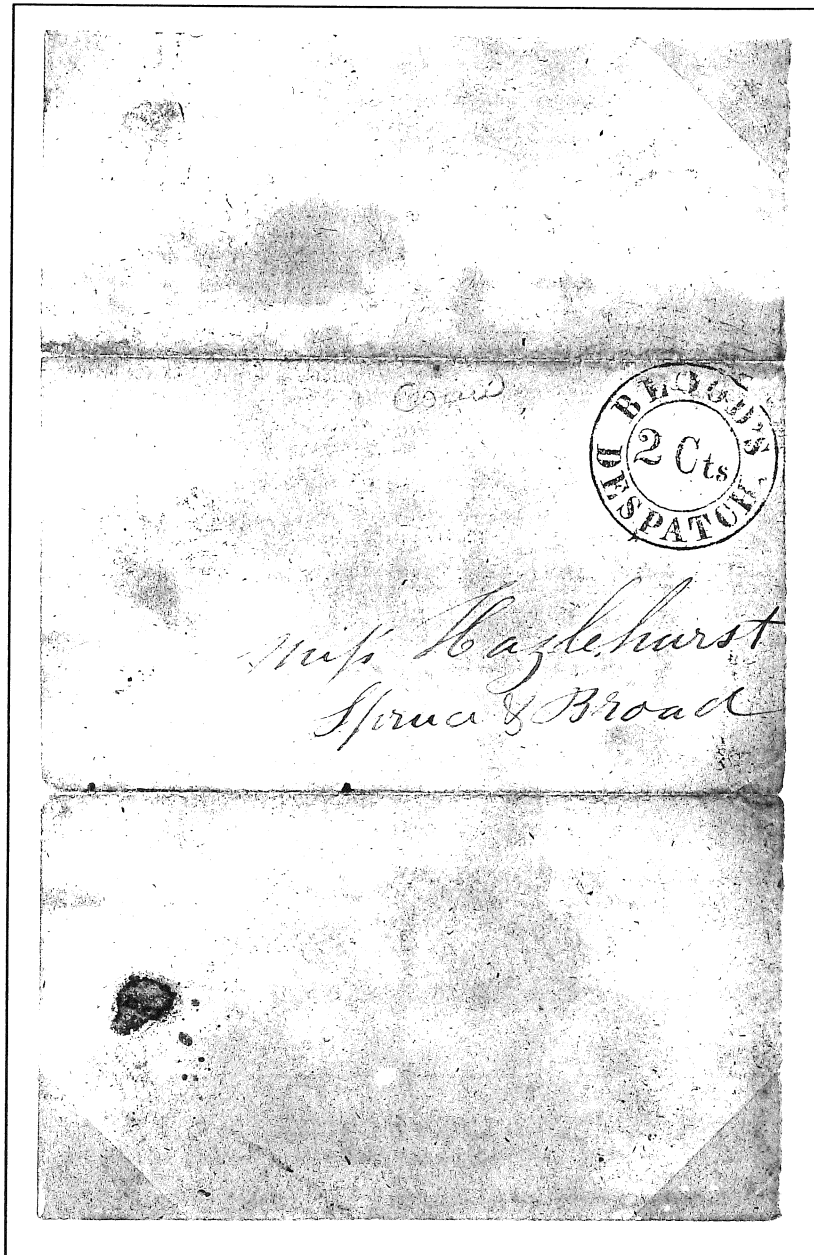


November 10, 1848.



November 29, 1848. "PAID".

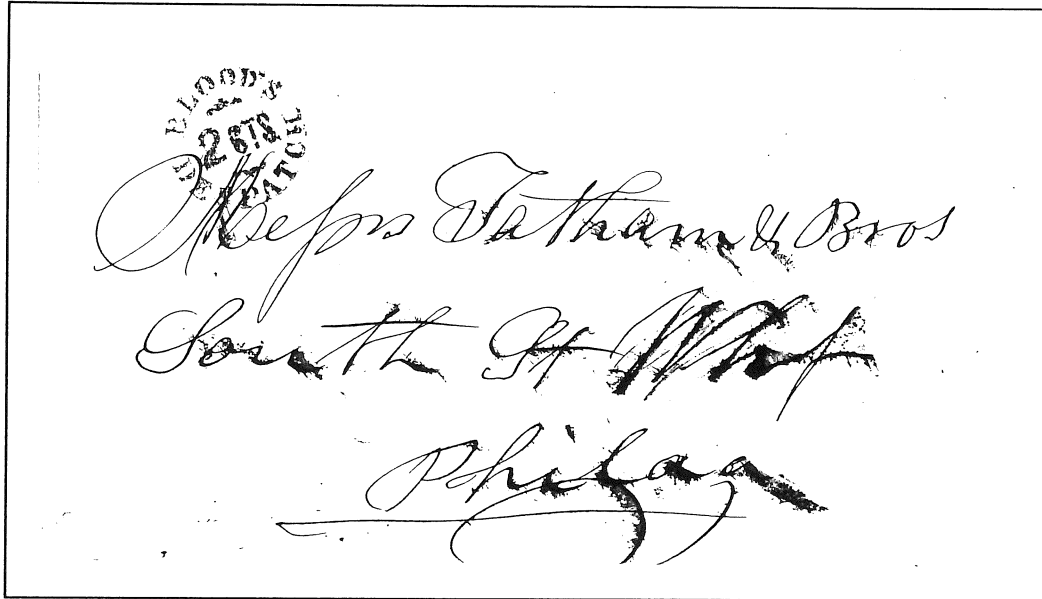
Blood's Handstamp on a Wrapper



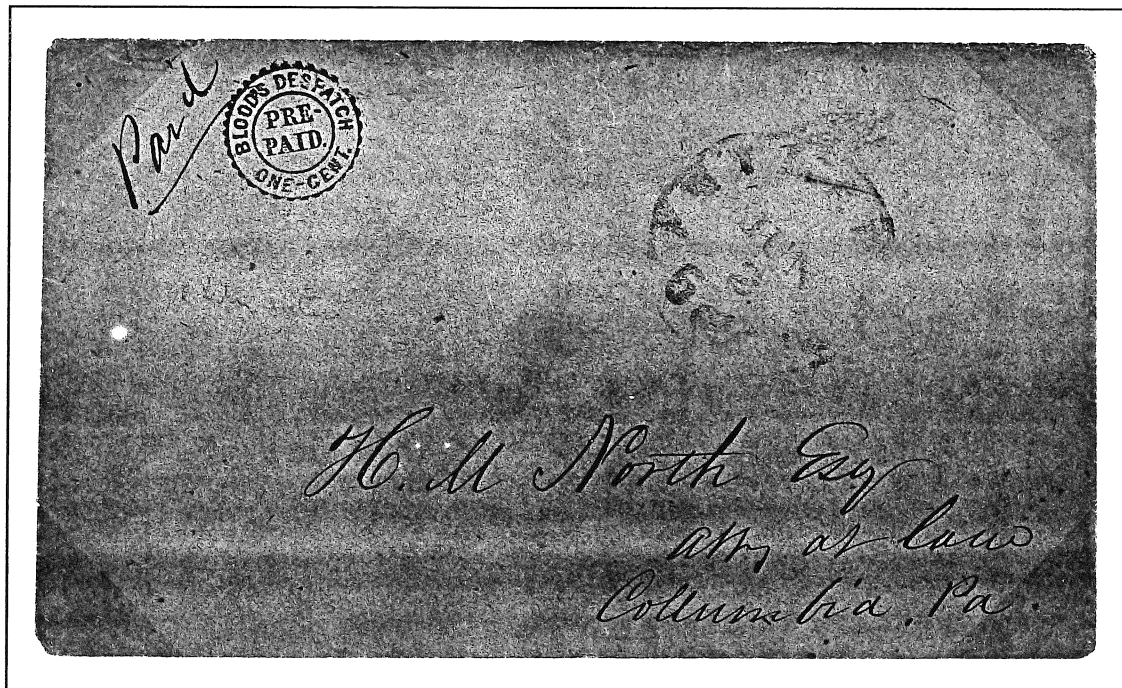
No date.

## Blood's Again Carries Unpaid Letters

In 1851, Blood's advertised (*Public Ledger*, April 8) that it would begin to transmit *UNPAID* letters for 2 cents each, and *PREPAID* letters for 1 cent each. New handstamps were then introduced to reflect this service.

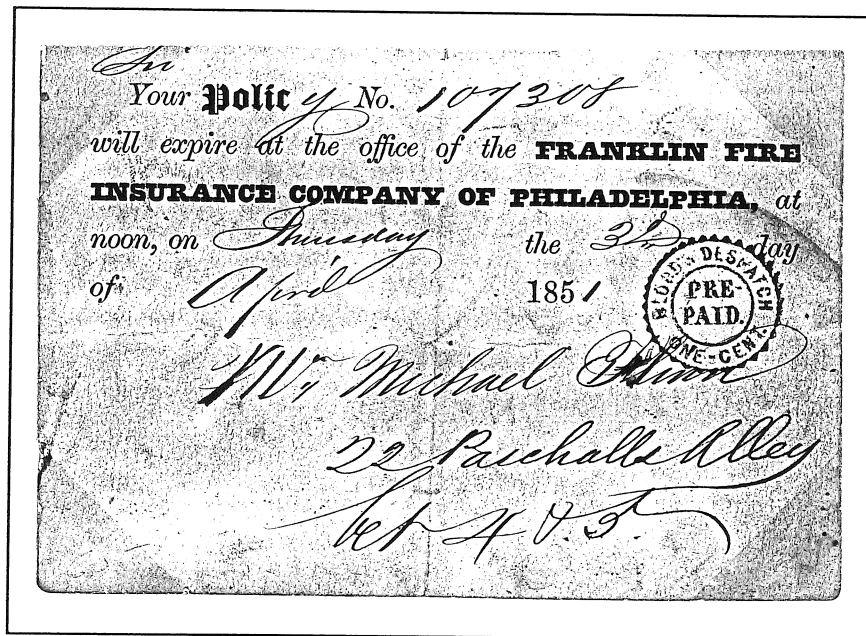


November 4, 1852.



June 4, 1851.

Eariest Reported Use of "PREPAID" Handstamp

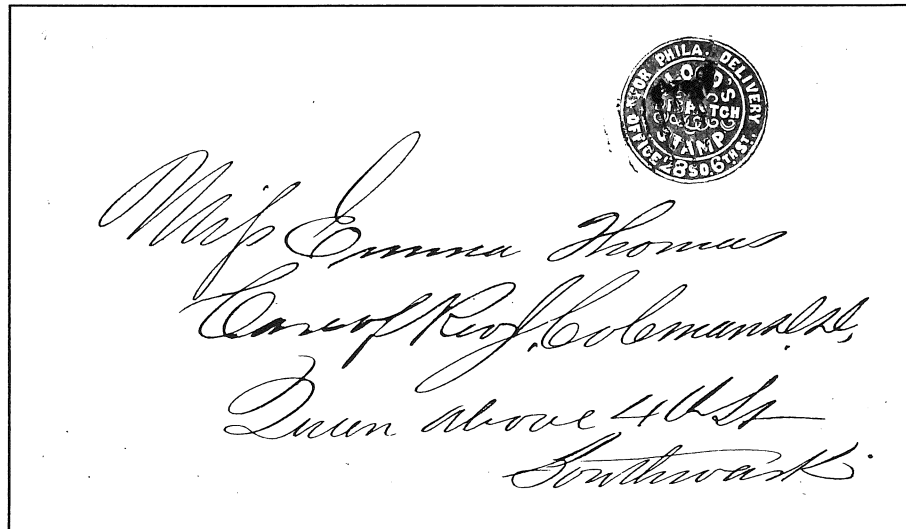


April 3, 1851.

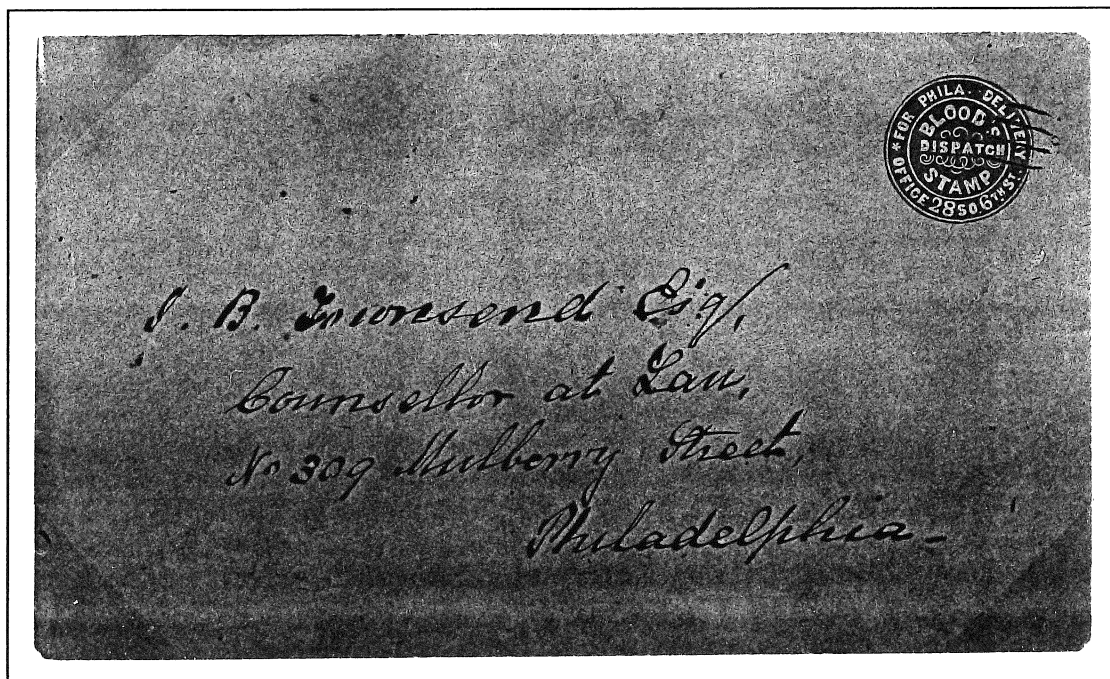
Pre-Paid Notice of Insurance Premium Due.

Type I Embossed Envelope

28 So. 6th St.



White laid paper.

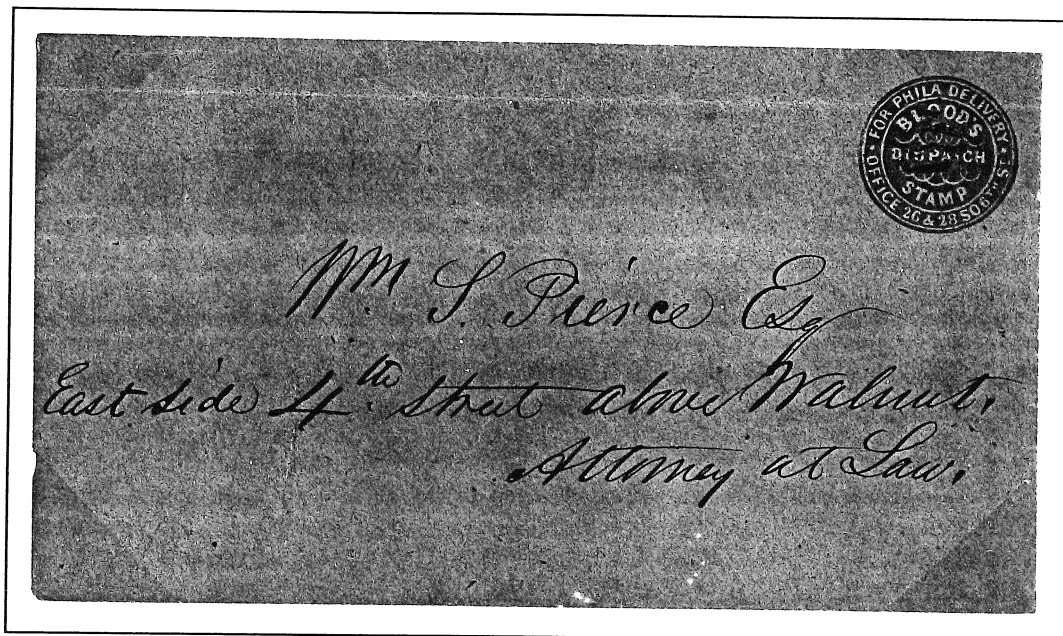


Buff paper.

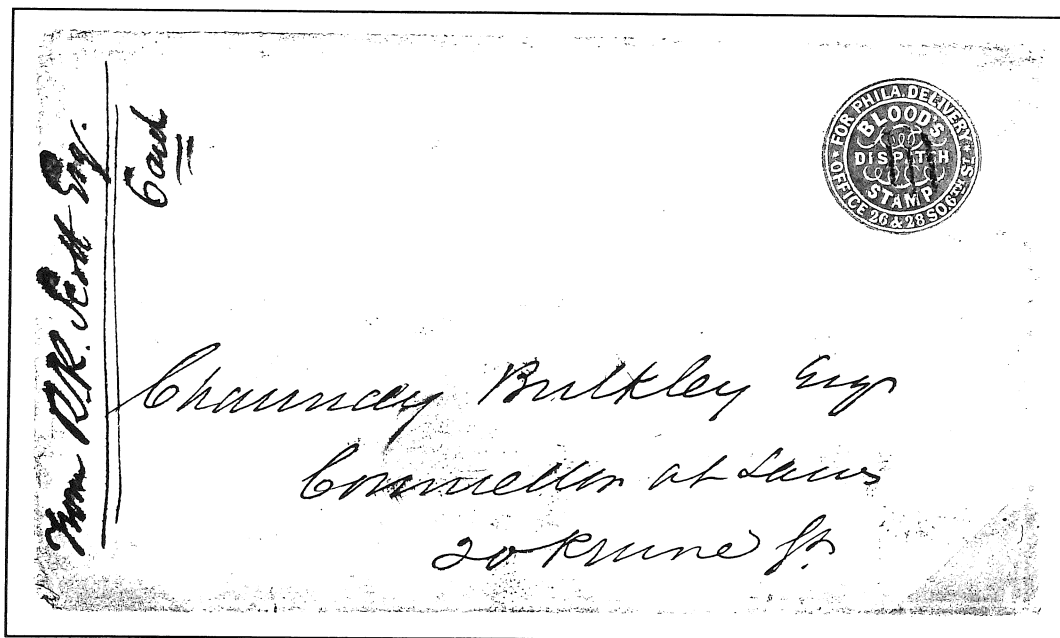


Type II Embossed Envelope

26 & 28 So. 6th St.



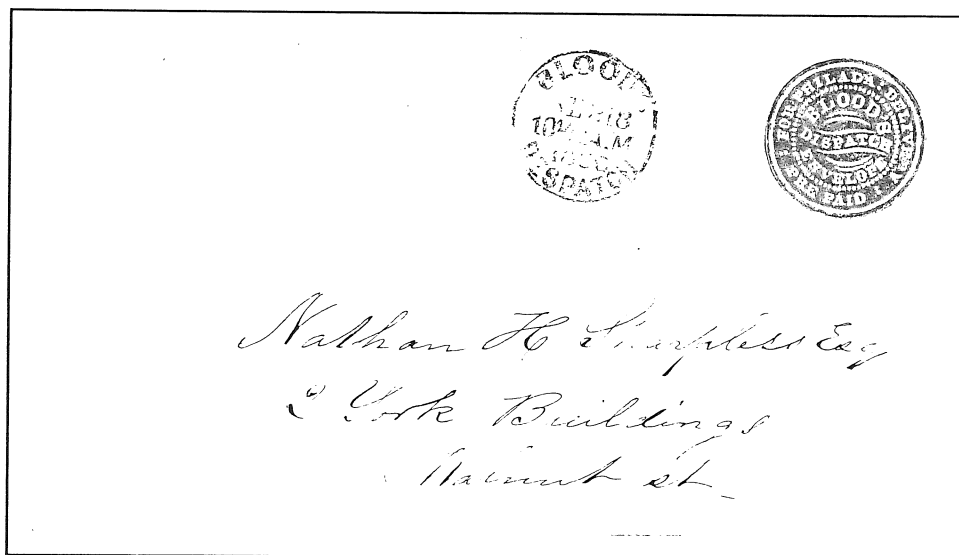
Buff paper.



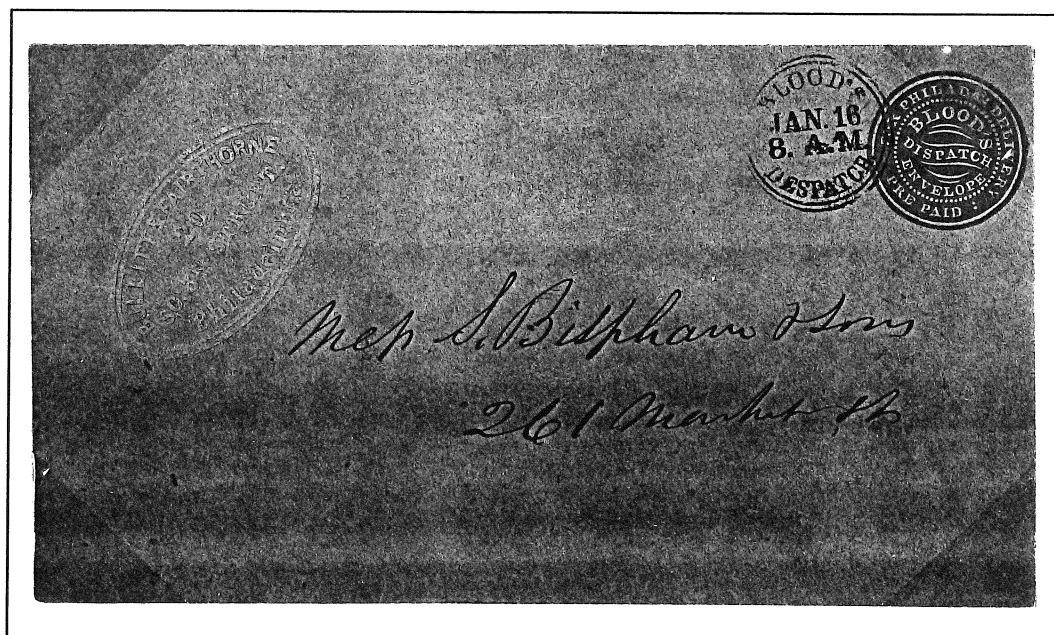
White paper.

Type III Embossed Envelope

PREPAID



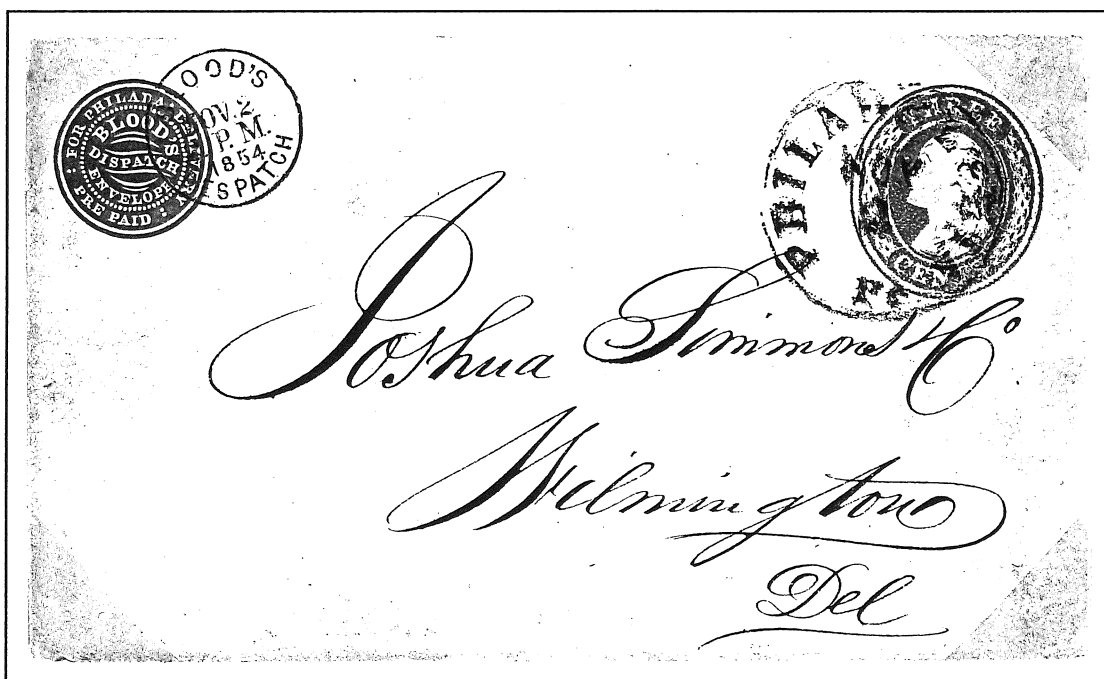
White wavy paper.



Buff paper.

**A Blood's Innovation for the Convenience of its Customers**

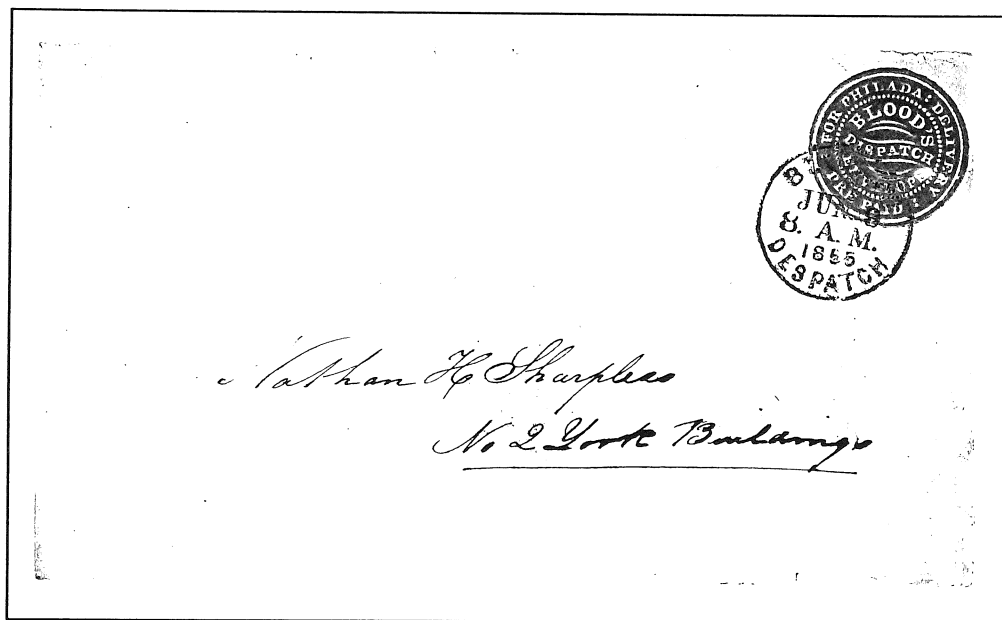
Blood's offered embossed envelopes well in advance of the Post Office. It also offered its customers the Government issue envelope with its own embossing on it.



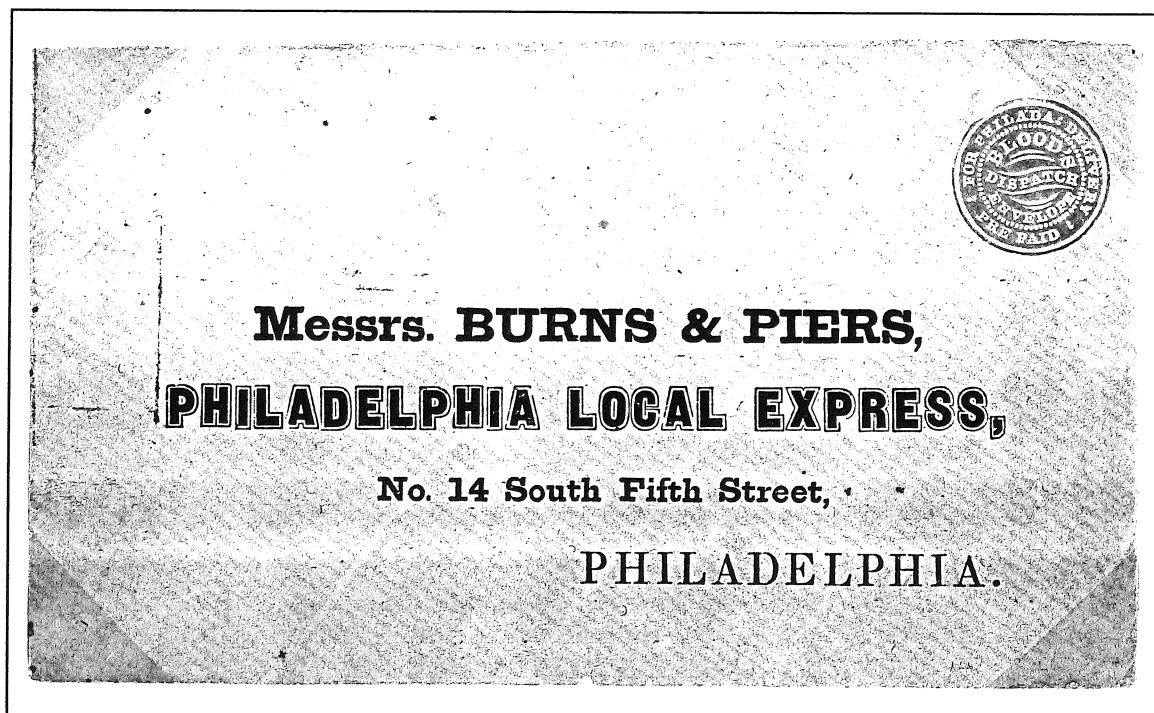
November 2, 1854.

Type III Embossed Envelope

Type III Embossed Envelope



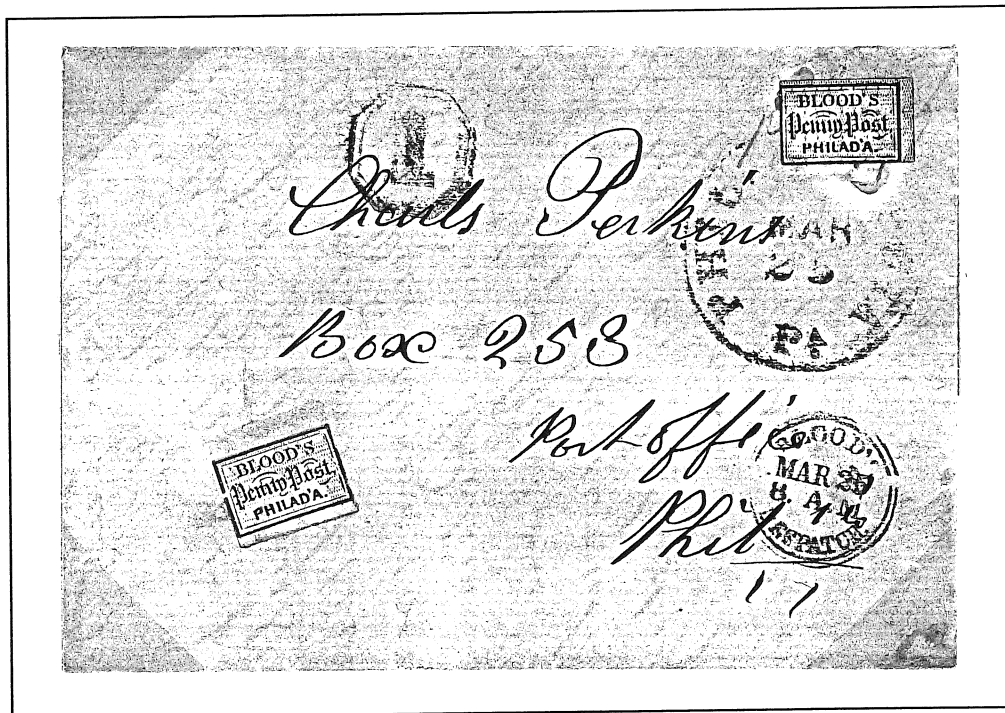
White wove paper.



Laid paper.

### *Two Services Provided by Blood's*

It appears that this folded letter (which is internally dated "March 23") was delivered by Blood's to the Post Office, was placed in "Box 253", and was rated 1¢ [Due] as a Drop Letter. This would account for one adhesive.



No year date. Blue on pink paper adhesives.

Thereafter, it appears that Blood's retrieved the letter from the Post Office (and paid the 1¢ due) and probably delivered the letter to Mr. Perkins, charging the additional penny for this service.

*Dr. J. R. Paul*

*Spruce ab. 10<sup>th</sup> St.*

Vol. II.

NEW SERIES.

No. 4.

QUARTERLY SUMMARY  
OF THE  
TRANSACTIONS OF THE  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
OF PHILADELPHIA.

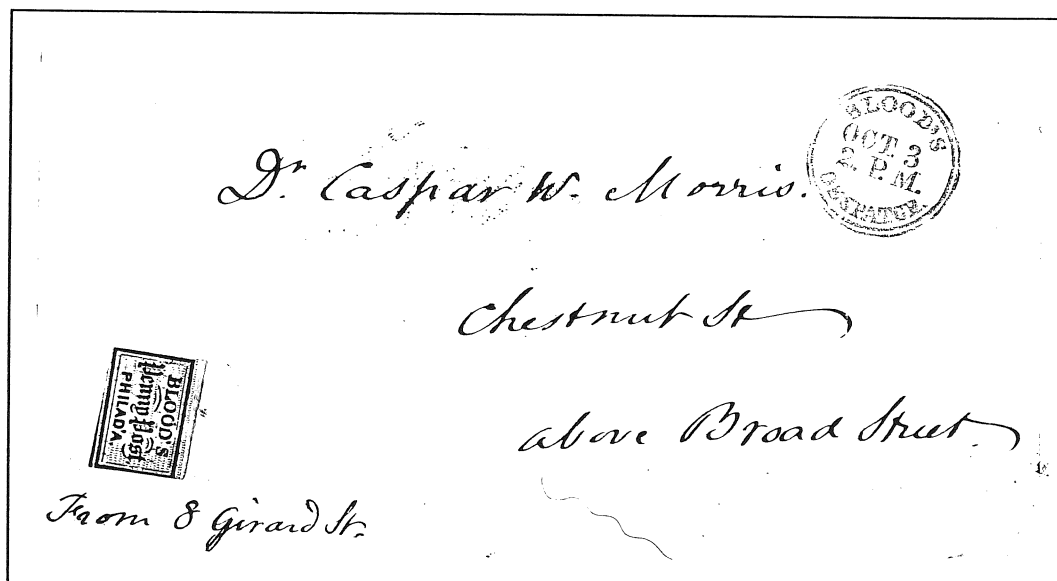


From FEBRUARY 1, 1854, to APRIL 5, 1854, inclusive.

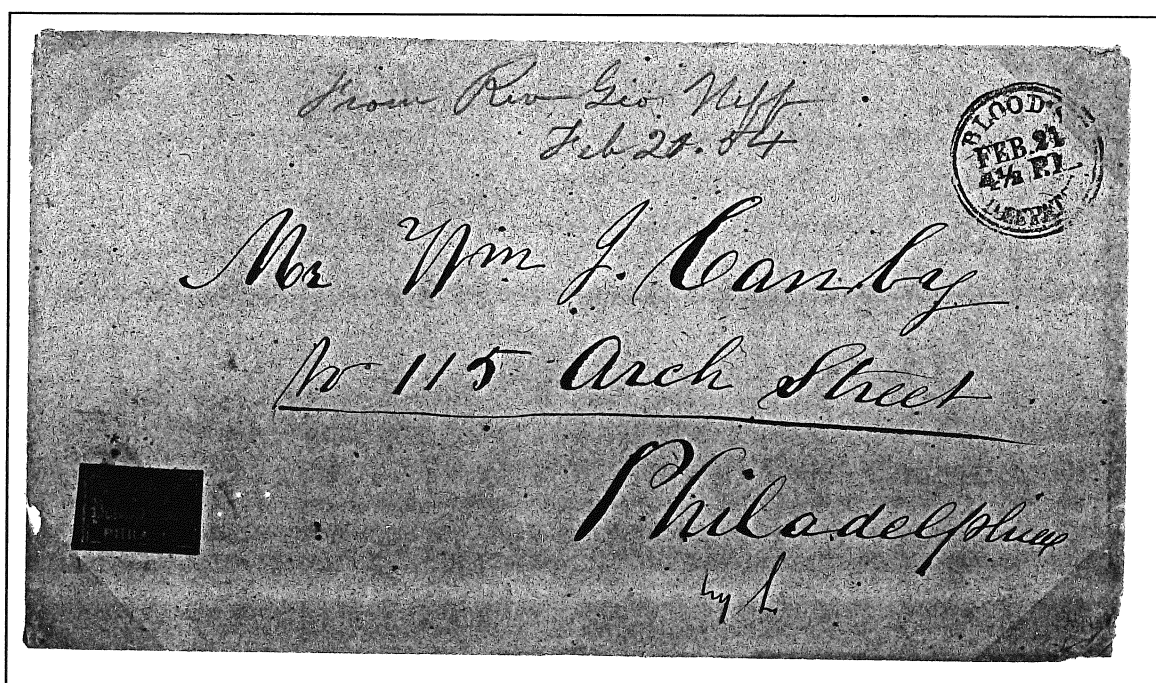


PHILADELPHIA:  
LIPPINCOTT, GRAMBO AND CO.,  
SUCCESSORS TO GRIGG, ELLIOT AND CO.,  
1854.





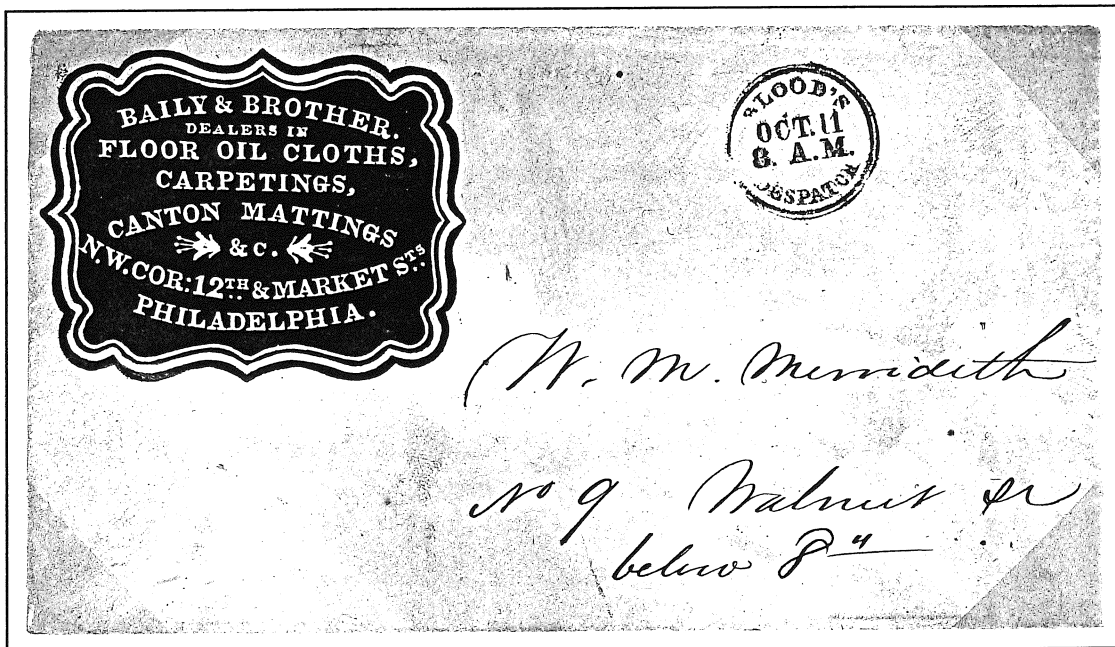
"PENNY POST". Blue on pink paper.



"PENNY POST". Bronze on black paper.

## Introduction of "Time Identified" Handstamps

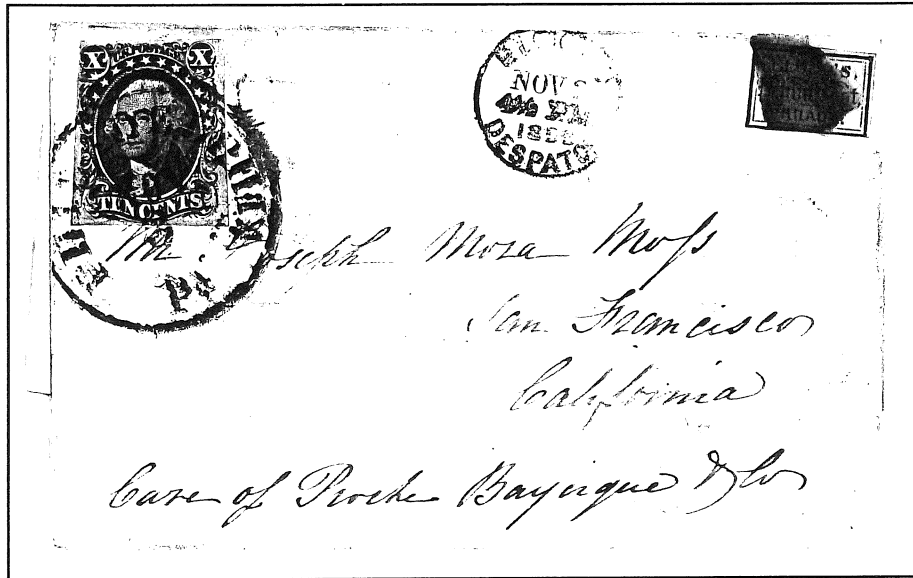
In response to complaints to the *Public Ledger* that there was no way to confirm the efficiency of Blood's Despatch, in 1851 Blood's introduced handstamps that showed the time of collection from the despatch boxes.



These handstamps show us that Blood's pickups became more and more extensive, from five (5) times each day in 1851, to fourteen (14) times each day in 1857.



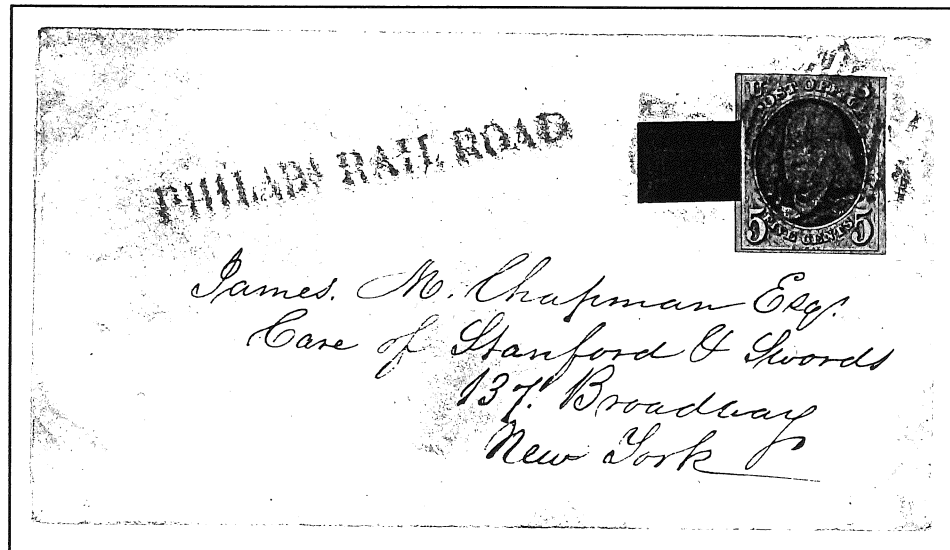
Blood's "To the Mails" to California



1856.

There have been only five (5) Blood's covers reported on mail to the West Coast.

"Favor Bag" Mail

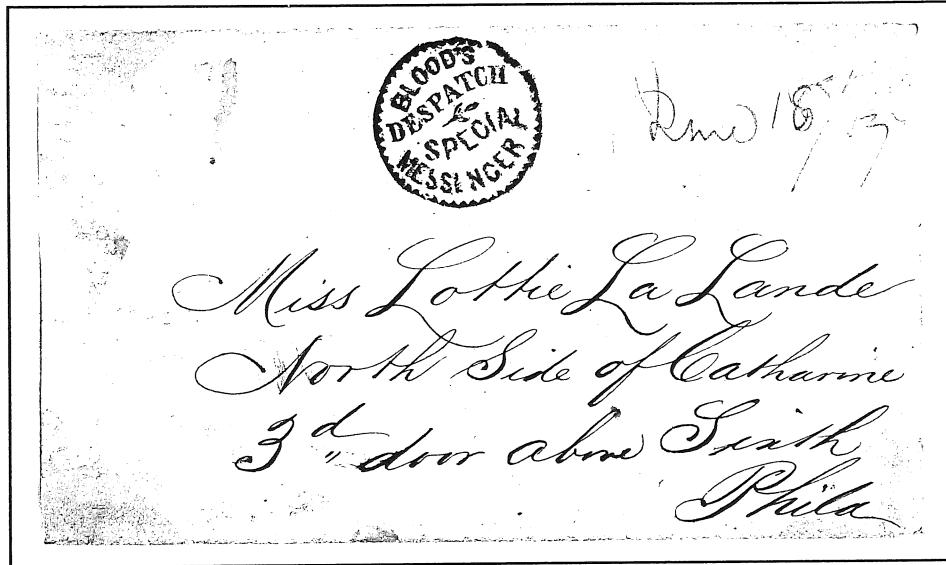


"PHILAD. RAILROAD"

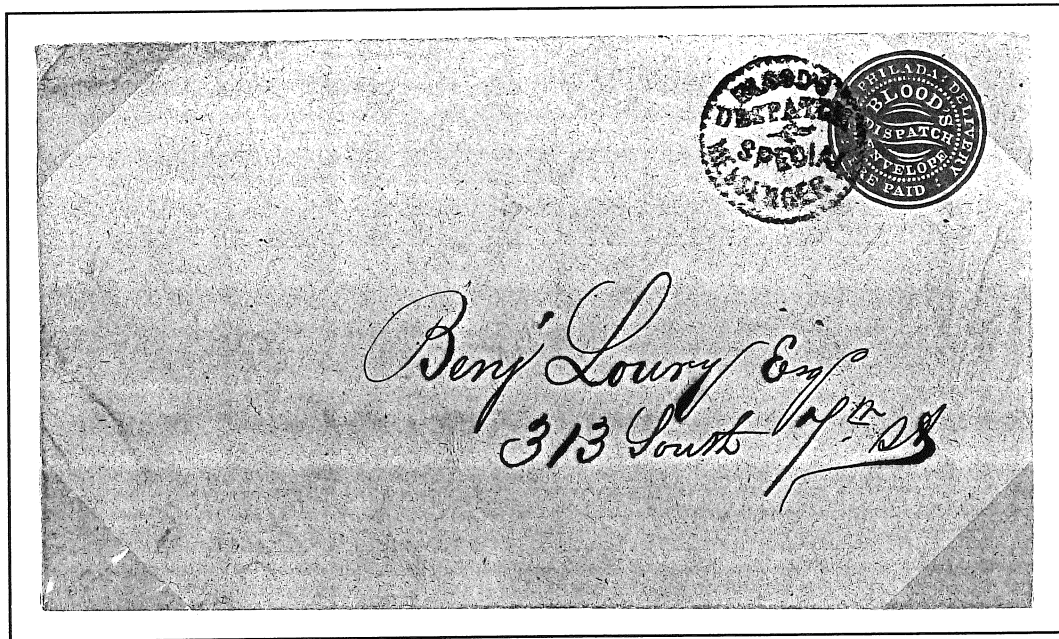
This letter was carried by Blood's Despatch  
to the train station; it was placed in  
the "late mail favor bag" and carried to  
New York City where the handstamp was applied.

Blood's SPECIAL MESSENGER Service

Blood's offered the equivalent of modern Special Delivery service upon the payment of a 5¢ or 10¢ premium, depending on the distance serviced.

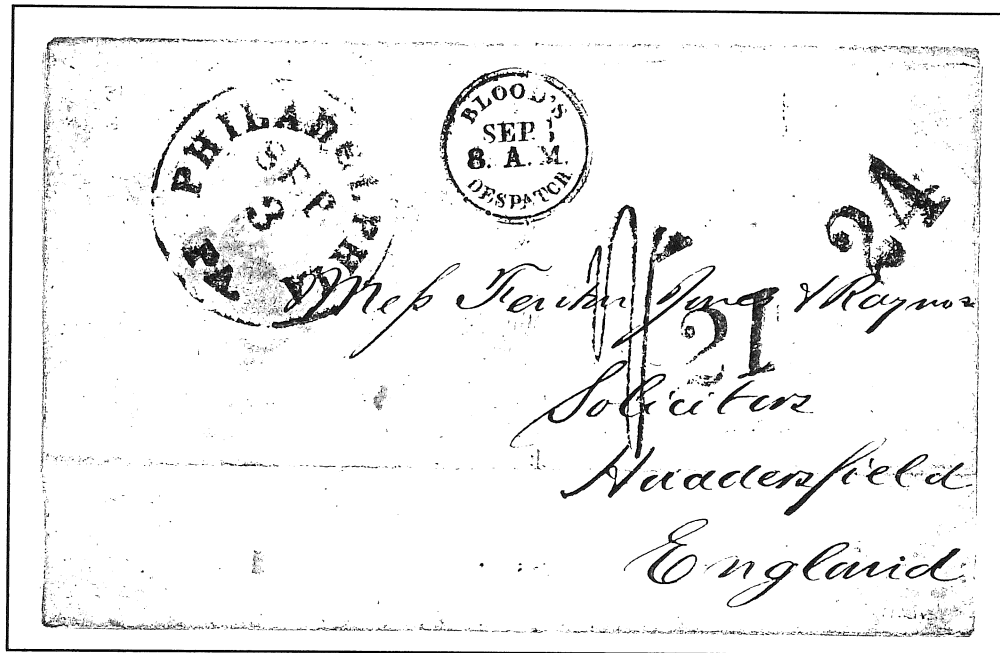


June 18, 1857. Rate not expressed.



No year date. Embossed envelope shows prepayment.

Letter to England Carried by Blood's  
to the Post Office



1852.

Letter wholly unpaid, so debited 24¢, of which  
21¢ was due U.S. (5¢ inland postage + 16¢ ship  
carriage). 1 sh. (3¢) due Britain.

Blood's to Canada West

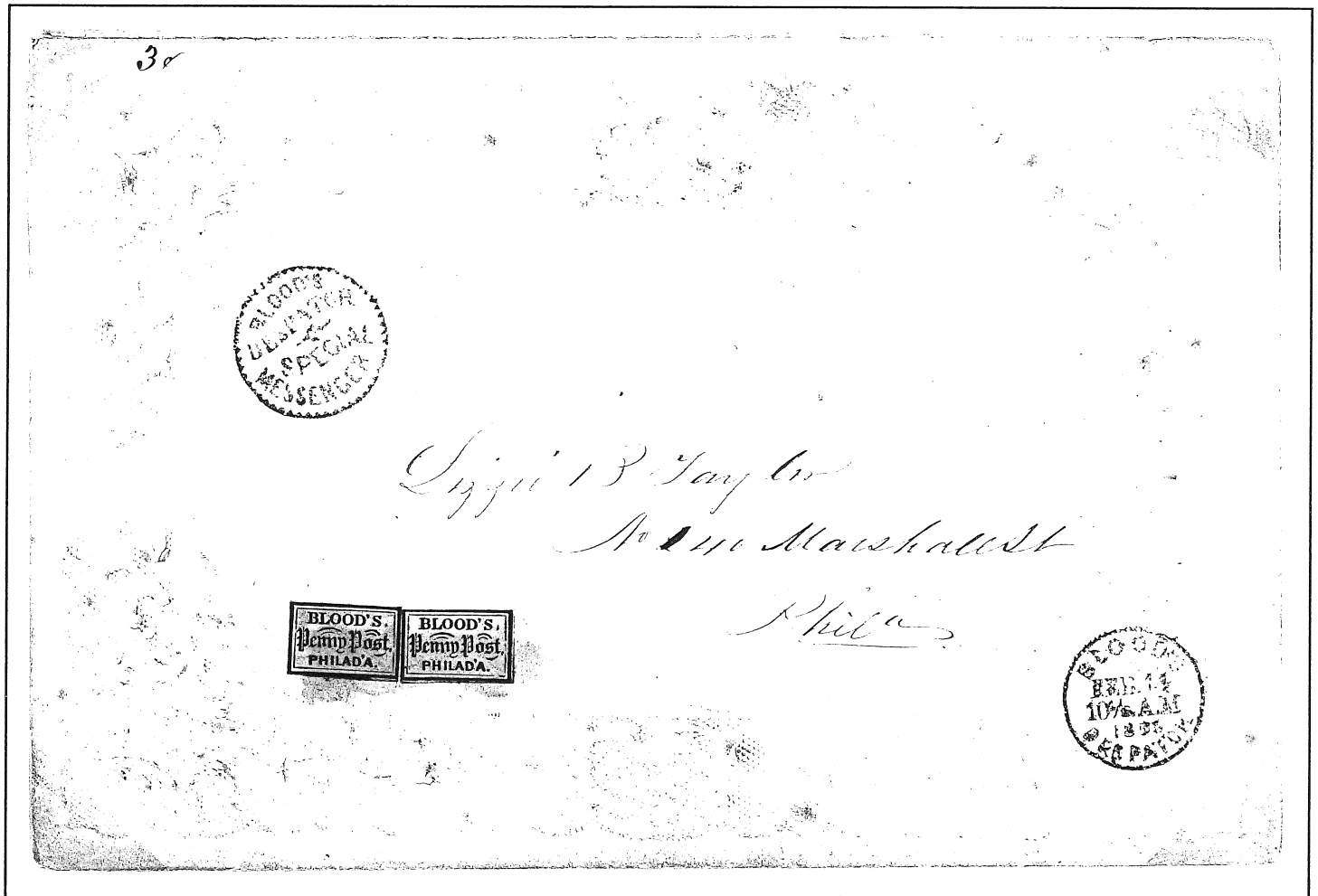


October 12, 1853.

Blood'd carried the letter to the Philadelphia Post Office  
which sent it to the Border Exchange Office.

**A Valentine Partially Paid in Cash and by Stamps**

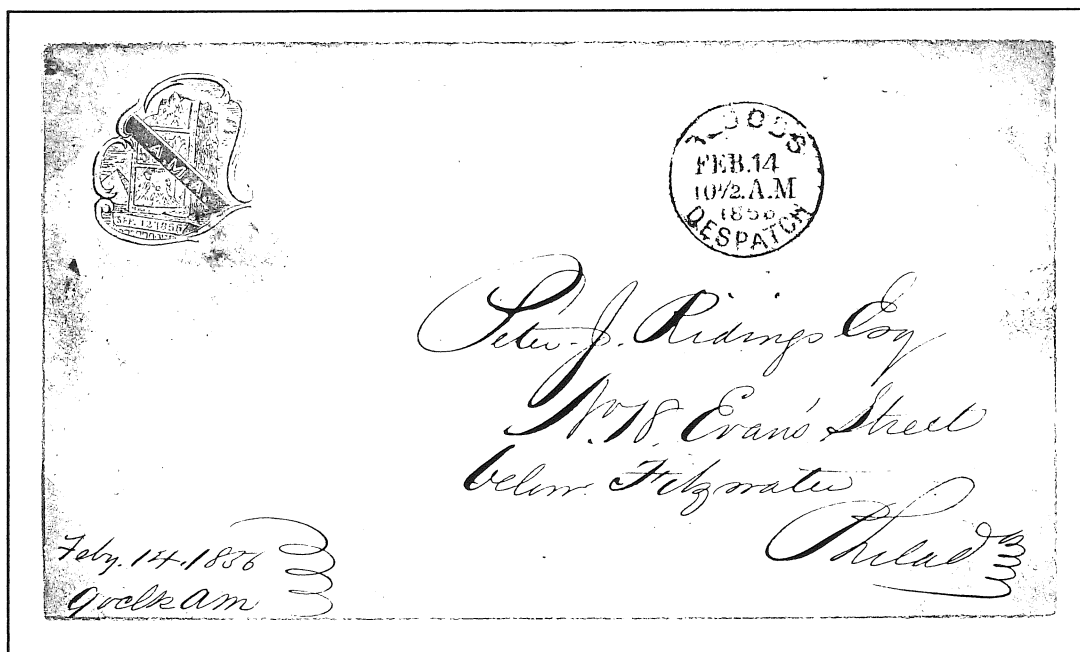
Blood's advertised in the *Public Ledger* (January 10, 1850)  
that large Valentines would only be delivered by *Special  
Messenger*, and at a prepaid fee of 5¢ each.



February 11, 1856. *Special Messenger* handstamp.  
Valentine enclosure.

The 5¢ Fee was paid by two 1¢ Blood's adhesives and  
by 3¢ Cash (as indicated in the upper left corner).

## Valentine's Day City Delivery



February 14, 1856.

Generally, Blood's on Valentine's Day would deliver only by *Special Messenger*, and so indicated by a special handstamp, not present here.