



U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

Volume: 70 Number: 2 Year: 2018 Chronicle: 258

Article: Backward-Slanting "PAID" Independent Mail Handstamp
Author(s): David W Snow, John D. Bowman

The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues



After the opening of California, Congress established a transcontinental letter rate of 40¢. A few covers bearing 1847 stamps are known paying the 40¢ rate from the east coast, but only this one is known paying the rate *from* California. Posted at San Francisco on New Year's Day in 1851 and franked with a horizontal strip of four 10¢ 1847 stamps, this cover is part of the William Gross United States collection, to be sold by the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in a series of sales beginning in October. In this issue, Gordon Eubanks provides an appreciation of the Gross collection.

THE CHRONICLE May 2018 (No. 258)

May 2018

Volume 70, No. 2

Whole No. 258

Table Of Contents

items marked with * cannot be viewed as an individual PDF document

[Click here to view the entire Volume: 70 No: 2 Chronicle: 258](#)

	<u>Starting Page</u>
Front Cover (1 page)	Front Cover
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: H.R. Harmer Inc.	Inside Front Cover
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Columbian Stamp Company Inc.	105
Display Advertisement (2 pages) Advertiser: Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.	106
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Christoph Gartner Auctions	108
Masthead (1 page)	109
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: James E. Lee	110
Table of Contents (1 page)	111
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Kelleher Auctions	112
In this Issue: Gross Collection (1 page) <i>Michael Laurence</i>	113
Special Feature	
Annals of the War of 1812: Hazardous Communications with Charleston (4 pages) <i>Steven C. Walske</i>	114
Prestamp and Stampless Period	
Drop Letters from 1794 to 1875: Conclusion (10 pages) <i>James W. Milgram M.D.</i>	118
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Harmers International	121
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Stanley M. Piller & Associates	123
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Spink	128
Carriers and Independent Mails	
Backward-Slanting "PAID" Independent Mail Handstamp (4 pages) <i>David W Snow, John D. Bowman</i>	129
1847 Period	
The William H. Gross United States Collection (9 pages) <i>Gordon Eubanks</i>	133
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Leonard H. Hartmann	141
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: The Philatelic Foundation	142
Special Feature	
Slave Trader Illustrated Cornercards (5 pages) <i>James W. Milgram M.D.</i>	143
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Mystic Stamp Company	147
1851-1861 Period	
Recut Varieties of the Imperforate 3¢ Stamp of 1851-57 (6 pages) <i>Don Getzin, Wade E. Saadi</i>	148
1861-1869 Period	
Stencil Markings on Civil War Covers (16 pages) <i>James W. Milgram M.D.</i>	154
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Eric Jackson	169
Bank Note Period	
New York Foreign Mail All-Over Advertising Covers (4 pages) <i>Victor Kuil</i>	170
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Eastern Auctions Ltd.	174
Officials	
Separated at Birth (8 pages) <i>Alan C. Campbell</i>	175
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: USPCS	183
Foreign Mails	
The Bermuda-Annapolis Packet: An Update (2 pages) <i>Julian H. Jones</i>	184
A Wrapper with a Message (3 pages) <i>Robert S. Boyd</i>	186
The Cover Corner	
Explanation of Problem Cover in Chronicle 257 (3 pages) <i>Jerry Palazolo</i>	189

Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Stephen T. Taylor	190
The Cover Corner	
Problem Cover for this Issue (1 page) <i>Jerry Palazolo</i>	191
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Bill Barrel Ltd.	191
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: United States Stamp Society	192
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: , Johnathan Fenn	192
Index to Advertisers (1 page)	192
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions	Inside Back Cover
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.	Back Cover

BACKWARD-SLANTING "PAID" INDEPENDENT MAIL HANDSTAMP

DAVID W. SNOW AND JOHN D. BOWMAN

The definitive attribution of a backward-slanting "PAID" handstamp, seen only on a handful of Independent Mail covers, has eluded researchers. This article will show all known examples of the marking, provide an analysis of the covers on which it appears, and present a tentative conclusion about where the marking was applied and which company applied it.

The earliest known strike of this red slanted "PAID" handstamp appears on the cover in Figure 1, which is docketed (upper right) as received 27 Sept 1844. Lengthwise along the



Figure 1. Red backward-slanting "PAID" marking, the earliest recorded strike, on a cover sent by independent mail from New York City to Poughkeepsie, New York, docketed as received on 27 Sept 1844. John Bowman collection.

centerline, the marking measures 22x6 millimeters. Beneath the docketing, this cover also bears a red oval Overton & Co. New York office marking, designated in the Gutman handbook as OVT-NYC-F02.¹ Note that the Overton marking and the slanted “PAID” marking appear to be struck in the same shade of red ink. The cover is addressed to Messrs. Dodge & Swan, Counselors-at-Law, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York. The cover is docketed “Alex. Watson” who was a notary and attorney in New York.

Figure 2 is a folded cover without contents, addressed to Davis B. Stacey in Philadelphia. There is no indication of origin or date. The red American Letter Mail Co. circular datestamp was applied at the destination in Philadelphia and indicates a receiving date of 3 Jan (1845). This type circular marking is denoted as ALM-PHL-F11, used from late August 1844 through late January 1845.² The “PAID” marking is struck at left.



Figure 2. Backward-slanting “PAID” handstamp on folded cover, no indication of origin or date, with American Letter Mail Co. Philadelphia receiving-office handstamp. Image courtesy of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.

Another cover from the same correspondence is shown in Figure 3. This cover originated in New York (as noted by internal docketing), is dated 27 Jun 1845 and is also addressed to Davis B. Stacey. It shows both originating office (New York) and destination office (Philadelphia) markings, and the docketing indicates that it was sent by L.J. Stacey of New York. This establishes that the cover in Figure 2 also originated in New York City, evidently where the slanted “PAID” marking was applied.

A third cover with the slanted “PAID” is shown in Figure 4. This is addressed to Albany, New York. Here too docketing evidence indicates New York City origin: “1844/Edgar Jenkins/New-York/ans. 19th inst.” No other markings are present. This cover is from the extensive A.C. Flagg correspondence; Flagg was the Controller of the State of New York.

In the Pomeroy’s Letter Express section of the unpublished manuscript on independent mail companies drafted by Elliott Perry and Arthur Hall is another slanted “PAID” marking. Pitt Petri wrote that section in the 1950s, and he illustrated four different “PAID” markings, all of which he attributed to Pomeroy. Petri’s study included the slanted “PAID” marking, which he recorded as a single example from New York dated 3 Oct 1844. That cover has not been seen by the current authors.

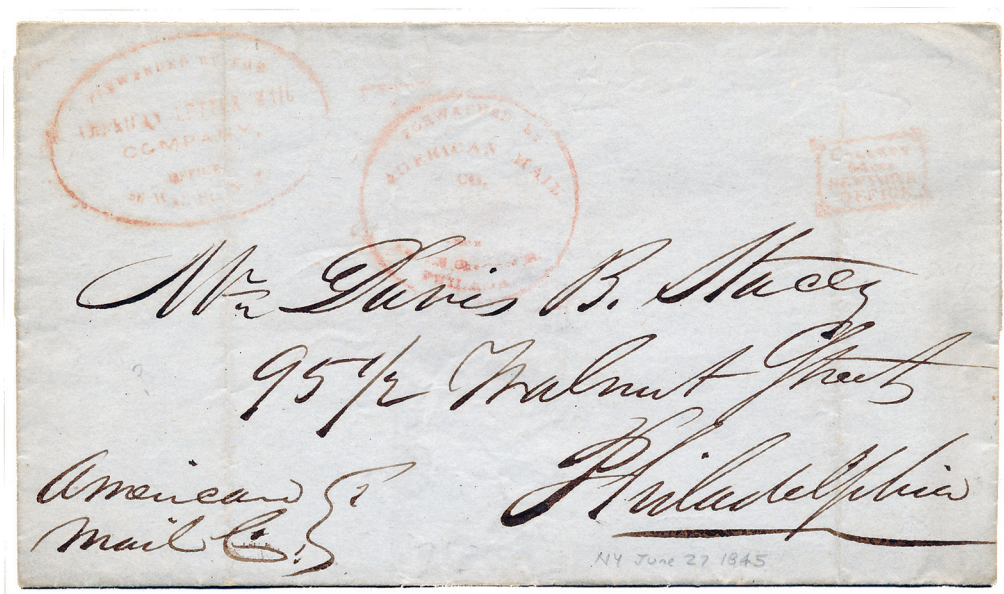


Figure 3. American Letter Mail Co. cover from New York to Philadelphia, 27 Jun 1845, showing both originating office (New York) and destination office (Philadelphia) markings. From the same correspondence as the cover in Figure 2, supporting that the Figure 2 cover originated in New York City. David Snow collection.

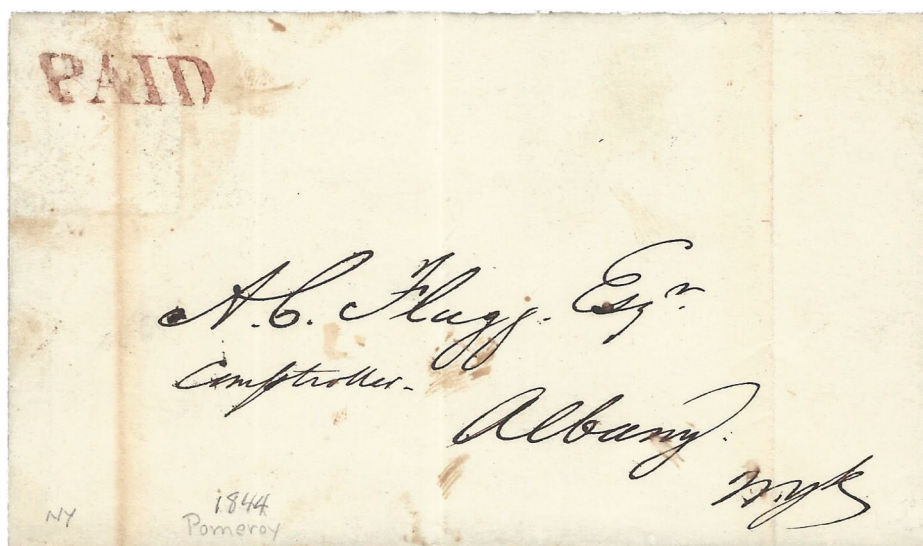


Figure 4. Red slanted “PAID” handstamp on 1844 cover originating in New York City and sent up the Hudson to Albany. Cliff Alexander collection.

What can we deduce from the few known covers with this slanted “PAID” marking? First, we can state that the recorded dates (received) are between 27 Sept 1844 and 3 Jan 1845, with another unverified cover dated 3 Oct 1844. This date range rules out Pomeroy’s Letter Express, since Pomeroy officially announced the discontinuance of its letter mail carrying activities on 9 Aug 1844.³ So it had to be another carrier.

As a further clue, at least two of the three recorded covers traveled along the Hudson River. Overton & Co. acquired this daily route from Damon & Co., with agents in Albany,

HUDSON RIVER LETTER AND PACKAGE EXPRESS, DAILY—OVERTON & CO. (late **Damon & Co.**) are running an Express by the day boats, as follows:
 Caldwell and Peekskill—J. M. Ayres, Agent.
 West Point and Cold Spring—Wm. E. English, Agt.
 Newburgh and Fishkill—Stephen Hoyt, Agent.
 Poughkeepsie—Charles Potter, Agent.
 Catskill—J. H. Van Gordon, Agent.
 Hudson—Anor Woodruff, Agent.
 Albany—Daniel E. Govitt, Agent.
 Packages forwarded at the usual rates. Letter postage to any of the above places, and to Providence, Rhode Island, 6½ cents; to Boston, 5 cents.
 Office 3 Broad street, New York.

Figure 5. Advertisement (from microfilm) in the *New York Express* of August 7, 1844, announcing Overton & Co.'s Hudson River Letter and Package Express (late Damon & Co.)

Poughkeepsie, and other stations north of New York. Figure 5 shows an advertisement, enlarged from fuzzy microfilm, from the 7 Aug 1844 issue of the *New York Express* providing details of this route, “by the day boats.”

As John Bowman wrote in the Gutman handbook: “In early August 1844, Overton’s acquired Damon & Company to extend operations northward to Albany via the Hudson River. Letters were carried up the Hudson River by Troy Day Line steamers and provided service to Caldwell, Peekskill, West Point, Cold Spring, Newburg, Fishkill, Poughkeepsie, Catskill, Hudson, and Albany.”⁴

Overton evidently took over Pomeroy’s letter mail route on the Hudson River between New York and Albany on the Troy Day Line steamers. An arrangement between Overton and Pomeroy apparently existed after Pomeroy’s Letter Express had stopped advertising and discontinued operations.⁵

Finally, all three of the recorded covers originated in New York City.

Other examples of a similar slanted “PAID” marking in red and black are known on covers bearing markings of the Broadway City Express Post-Office, which was established in 1848 in New York City. But it is believed these markings are from a duplicate device, as there was no known connection between Overton and Broadway City Express Post-Office.

In conclusion, the evidence suggests that the slanted “PAID” red marking, as struck on the three covers illustrated here, was applied by Overton & Co. at their New York City office. Input is requested from other collectors, especially scans of additional covers bearing this marking. Please contact the authors David Snow at dwsnow@centurylink.net and John Bowman at jbowman@stx.rr.com.

Endnotes

1. The Eastern Independent Mail Company Study Group, *Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies, 1840-1845*, Michael S. Gutman, editor, 2016, pg. 428.
2. *Ibid.*, pg. 43.
3. *Ibid.*, pg. 446.
4. *Ibid.*, pg. 425.
5. *Ibid.*, pg. 480. ■

Save the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society
 the expense and hassle of finding you if you move.

Change your address using “Your Profile”
 at www.uspcs.org
 or by contacting our Secretary.