

APRIL 1995

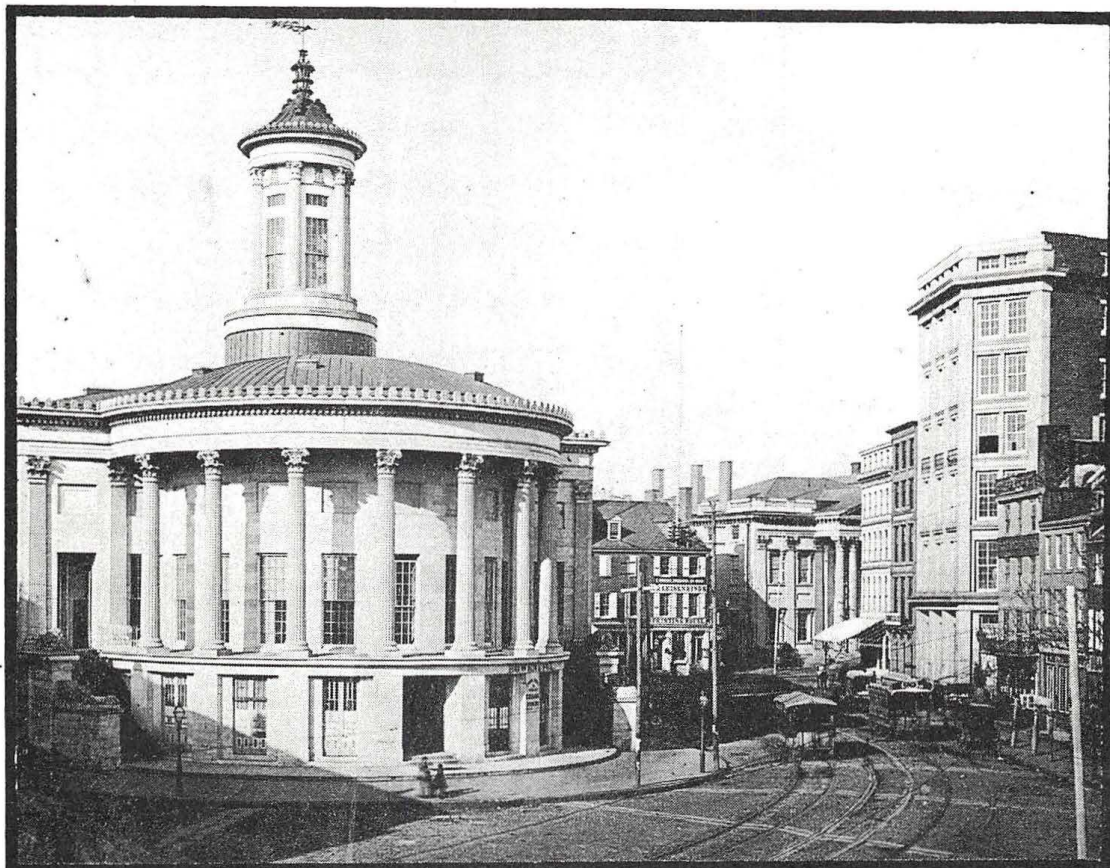
Vol. 5 No. 2

# THE PENNY POST

---

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society

---



Dock Street at Walnut with Merchant's Exchange, albumen print, ca. 1865.

---

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

---

BLOOD'S DESPATCH: A SON'S MEMOIRS

JAY'S RICHWOOD'S DISPATCH

BOYD'S FIRST MERCURY DESIGN

BOSTON CARRIER FORGERIES

TRIPLE INDEPENDENT MAIL USE

THE FORGERY CLINIC PART II



# THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Gordon Stimmell

Attentive readers may recall my Concord, NH bicycle stamp article about a year ago. Well, yet another specimen has turned up. The finder, Ed Lovegren of Eugene, Oregon shared with me the details of its discovery.

Lovegren, a devotee of Back of the Book material, says he examined an out-of-town dealer's stock a couple of years ago and spotted a strange looking bicycle stamp. As the stamp's corner was torn off, the dealer only charged \$2 for it. About a year passed, but Lovegren could get no information from any of the dealers he contacted about the stamp. Then *Linn's* ran a review of the *Penny Post* article, and the adrenalin kicked in. Lovegren contacted our Carriers and Locals Society, obtained my article in back issues, and got truly excited at the rarity of his purchase:

"Every stamp collector dreams of acquiring a very scarce stamp. Could it be my dreams have come true?"

Indeed they have. Thanks for sharing your discovery, Ed. Here is a photo taken from your color xerox of the stamp to add to our census of that rare bicycle post.



...

Turning our attention from dreamland, the lineup for this issue is wide-ranging.

Especially dramatic is an article by W. Otis Blood, Sr., the son of Daniel Otis Blood, which tells in memoir form the history of that prominent private Philadelphia post from before its inception in 1845 to its final delivery in 1862 amid the turmoil of the Civil War. The article appears to have been penned perhaps in the 1870s.

This rare biographical sketch turned up in uncatalogued and unindexed papers found at the old National Philatelic Collection in the Museum of Natural History in Washington

DC. Assistant Professor of History Dr. Richard R. John obtained a copy and the rest is, indeed history. With the assistance of Steven Roth, who brought the manuscript to my attention, we are able to bring to your eyes a fascinating first hand account of a vibrant chapter in private postal history.

Several readers have alluded to James C. Jay's Richwood's Dispatch in letters over the years. In this issue, thanks to valuable information shared by Richard Schwartz and others, I finally present a history of the controversial "local post" and its adhesives. The catalyst for me was obtaining a "new" 1909 letter written by Jay himself thumbnailing the history of his farm country post.

Also in this issue, John D. Bowman shows that a microcosmic approach to a single adhesive – Boyd's first Mercury design red stamps – can yield multiple pleasures. John gives us a definitive review of a relatively rare stamp that has suffered some neglect.

To put my money where my mouth is I have continued my foolhardy series on U.S. carrier stamp forgeries, this time focussing on Boston carrier issues (one of my favorite collecting areas) and their imitations. And hey, please let me know if I missed anything!

Fleshing out the issue, John Halstead pens a nifty Forgery Clinic Part II based on his new findings; Dick Schwartz shares an incredible triple conjunctive use Independent Mails cover; Calvet Hahn contributes some much needed postal history on the Bayonne City Dispatch in response to the Blizzard Mails article in January; and Steven Roth wonders about a mysterious "C" marking found on mail from Washington DC to New Hope, Pa. Was it possibly a carrier usage?

Quite a spring lineup. Please enjoy.