

CONJUNCTIVE SERVICES

Hale & Co., Providence Office  
American Letter Mail Company

Hale & Co. was in operation from December 1843 to June 30, 1845. They had 23 offices in six states.

December 1, 1844

Carried from Providence, Rhode Island to New York by Hale & Co. Address corrected and forwarded by Boyd's. Hale's "PAID" marking indicates prepayment of their fee. Boyd's collected their 2¢ fee from the addressee.



December 6, 1844

Mailed from Philadelphia and carried to New York by the American Letter Mail Company. The red "6" and "COLLECT" indicate the 6¢ fee was to be collected from the addressee as was the Boyd's 2¢ fee.



ESTABLISHMENT

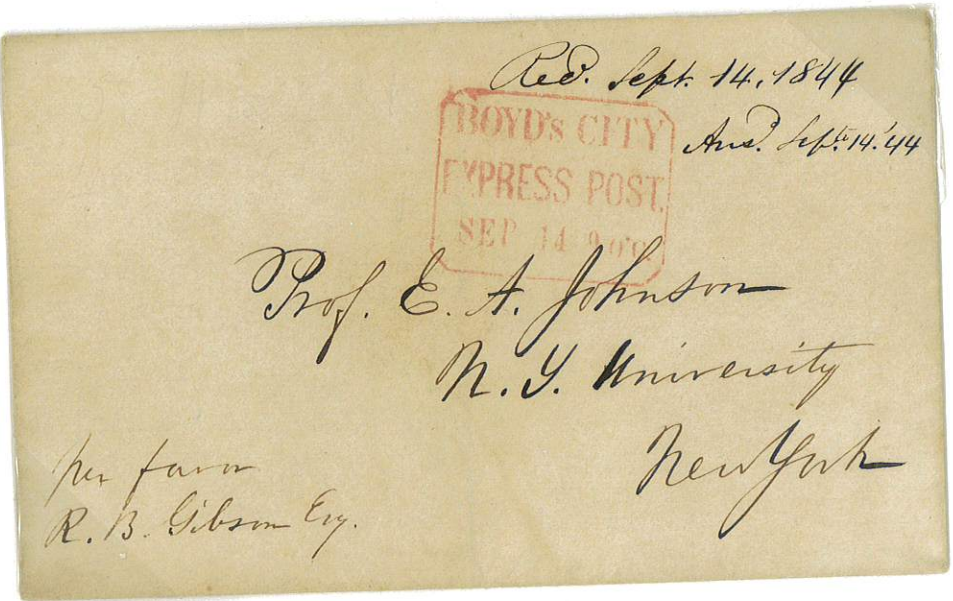
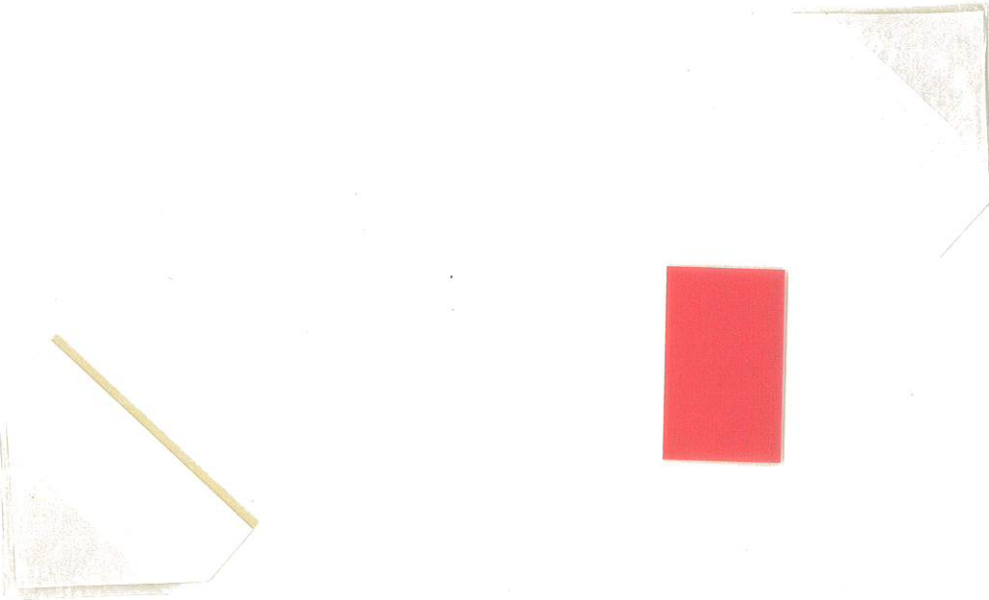
Examples of the first postal markings

On Monday, June 17, 1844, John T. Boyd began a commercial venture which still exists today, although now engaged in different services. Initially, Boyd offered one less delivery than his competition, however his fee of two cents per letter was also one cent cheaper. Boyd's collected mail in lower Manhattan from several hundred mail boxes between June and September, 1844. Unlike the U.S. Post Office which charged an additional fee for delivery to the addressee, Boyd's provided delivery to the door for only 2¢ regardless of the weight.

June 26, 1844

Earliest known example of mail delivered by Boyd's.

Sent from Philadelphia on June 24. Sent out of mails it took two days to New York City. It was delivered on July 5 to the U.S. Naval Hospital.



Sep. 14, 1844

Local delivery to N.Y. University

Hand stamps had served for years as the primary means of indicating payment status and facilitating the movement of U.S. mail. Boyd also followed this practice. It also served to indicate when the mail left the sorting office. The rectangular postmark was used from June through September, 1844. The "PAID J.T.B." marking first appeared in July and indicates payment of the delivery fee.





March 19, 1846

The "PAID J.T.B." marking was crossed out by the P.O. clerk to avoid any confusion when this letter arrived in Mobile, Alabama. The P.O. fee of 10¢ was due from the addressee. Upon arrival it was forwarded to New Orleans with an additional 5¢ due.

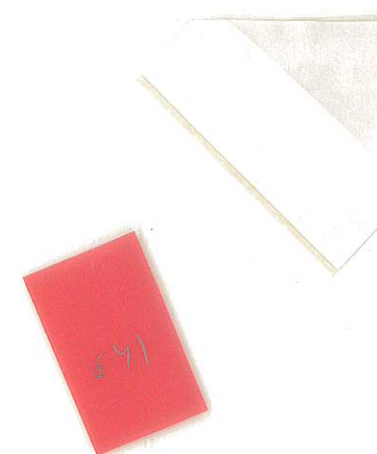
## FREE TO THE PRESS SERVICE

*Letters to the press Free*

When Boyd announced the opening of his City Express Post on June 15, 1844 his newspaper advertisements stated; "Stamps 24 cents per dozen or \$1.75 per hundred. Letters to the Press, Free. Postage 2 cents."

May 24, 1845

Sent to the Editor of the New York Herald "FREE". The writer expresses his concerns (for publication) about the noise and goings on at a "dancing and singing house" near Greenwich Street.



February 14, 1845

No stamp was used on this Valentine message. The time reads "0'C" in the postmark.



March 22, 1851

Sent by the Rev. Charles Halsey to M.S. Beach Esq. at the New York Sun. The letter concerns the revisions to an anecdote he wrote and his permission to publish in the newspaper.

3. George B. Sloane, letter dated April 8, 1954 to Elliot Perry.



1845 STAMP ISSUES

Turned letter



June 14, 1845

Delivered by Boyd's to the P. O. for mailing to Bedford, NY. The P.O. fee of 10¢ being due. The letter was reforwarded by the addressee and sent to Albany, NY. on June 17. The P.O. fee of 12-1/2¢ was paid.

1848-51 STAMP ISSUES

Incoming Foreign Mail Delivery  
"Bootlegged" Mail



On Reverse



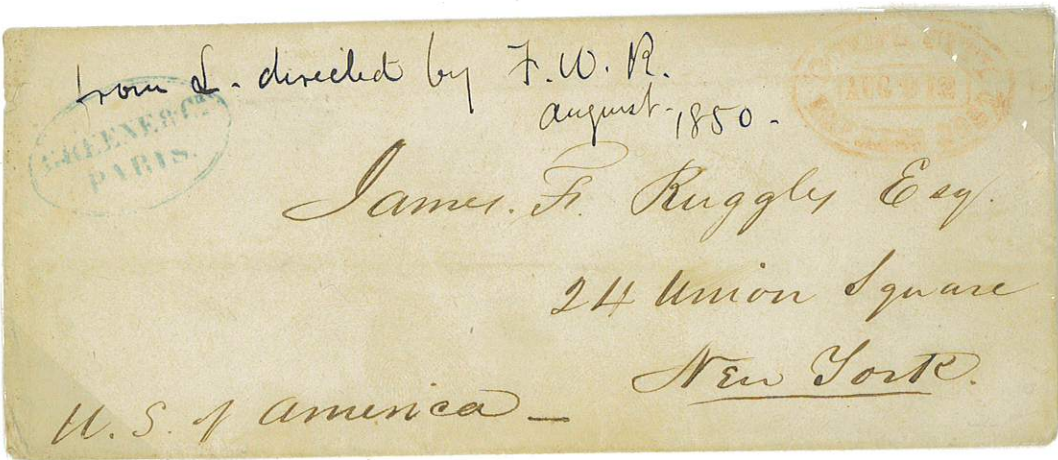
September 22, 1849

Privately forwarded from Paris by Greene & Cie to Boyd's for delivery in New York. Per Cunard Line Steamer Cambria, departing Liverpool on September 8, arriving New York September 22.

Letters carried outside of the mail system of their originating country often saved the senders postage costs.

August 9, 1850

Liverpool to New York, forwarded by Greene & Cie to Boyd's per Cunard steamer U. S. of America.

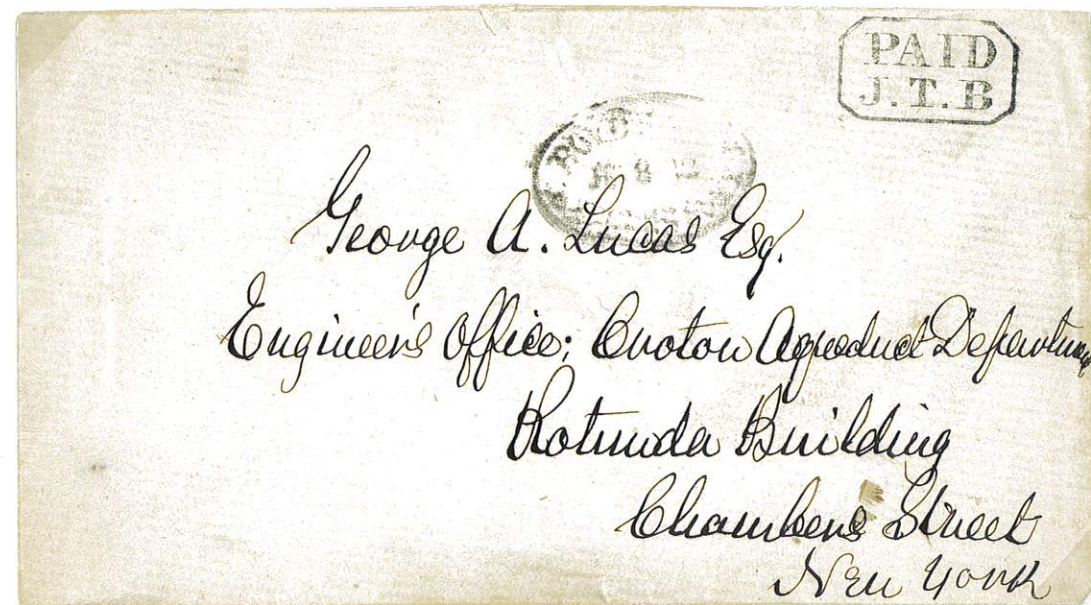




## IX. 1856 STAMP ISSUE

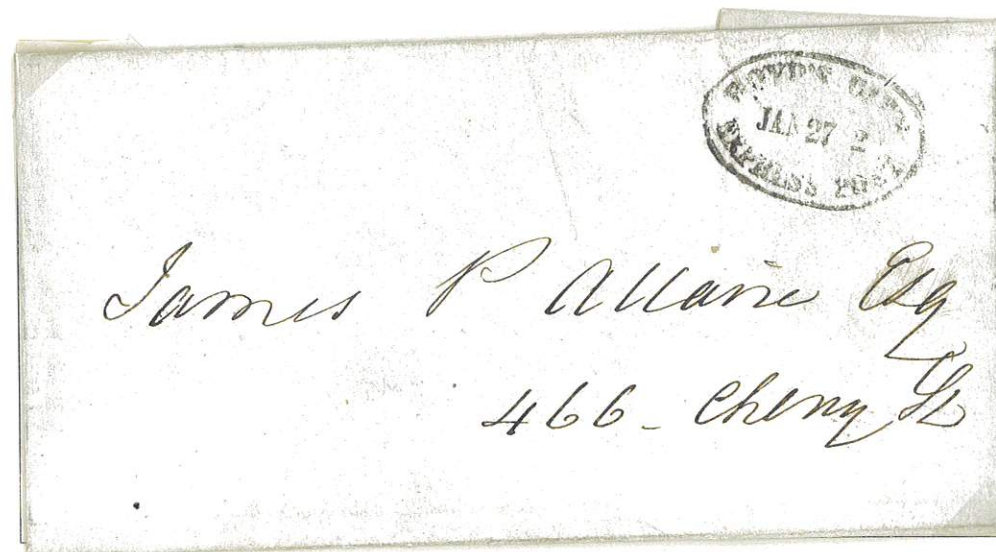
Handstamp markings

Although available, stamps were not always used.



June 4, 1856

Prepaid in cash for delivery within the city.



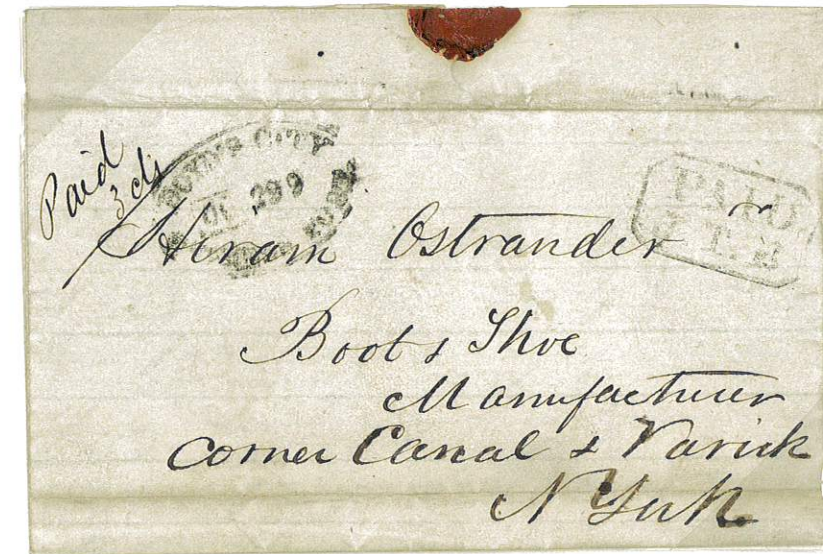
January 27, 1854

2¢ fee due from recipient.

## 1854 STAMP ISSUE

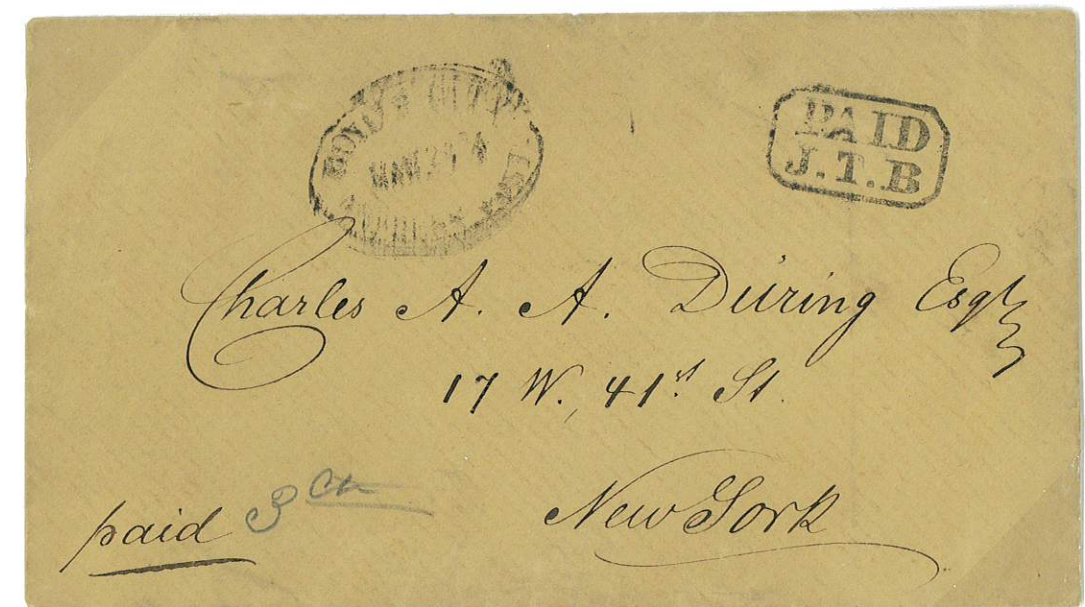
Special Rates?

Boyd's may have offered additional services for an extra fee. An example might be immediate delivery, the equivalent of a special delivery service. No definitive evidence has been found to date, although letters, such as shown here, have annotations of 3¢ having been paid. Three cent coins were in use at this time. Perhaps the annotation simply implies change was due the customer?



March 29, 1855

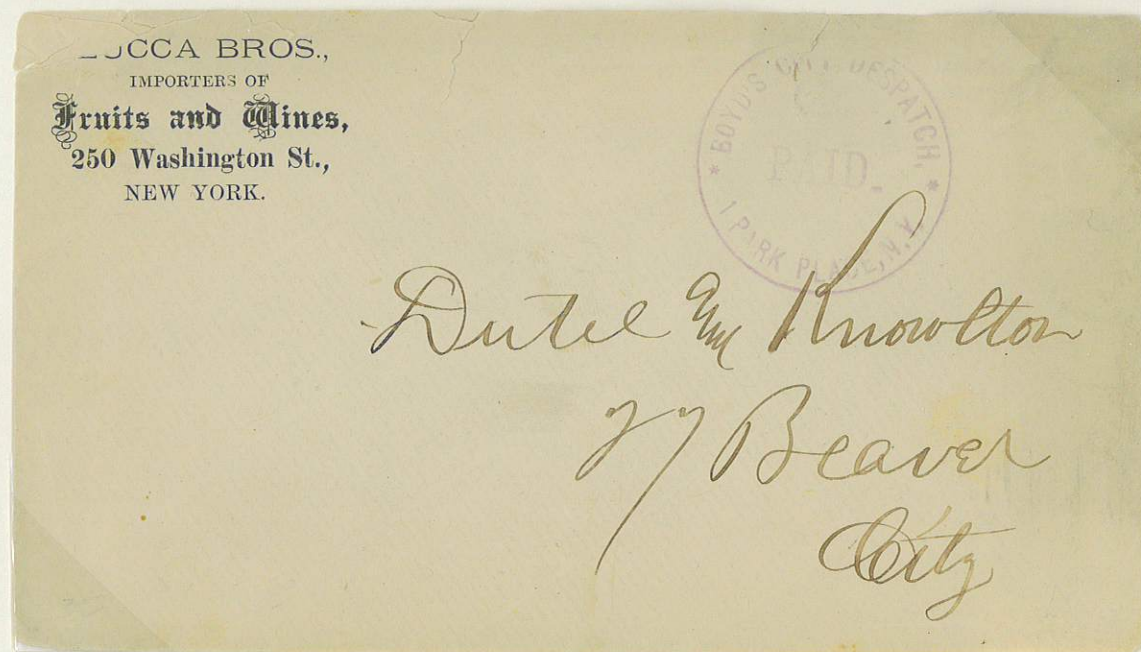
Manuscript "Paid 3 cts", the normal fee was 2¢.



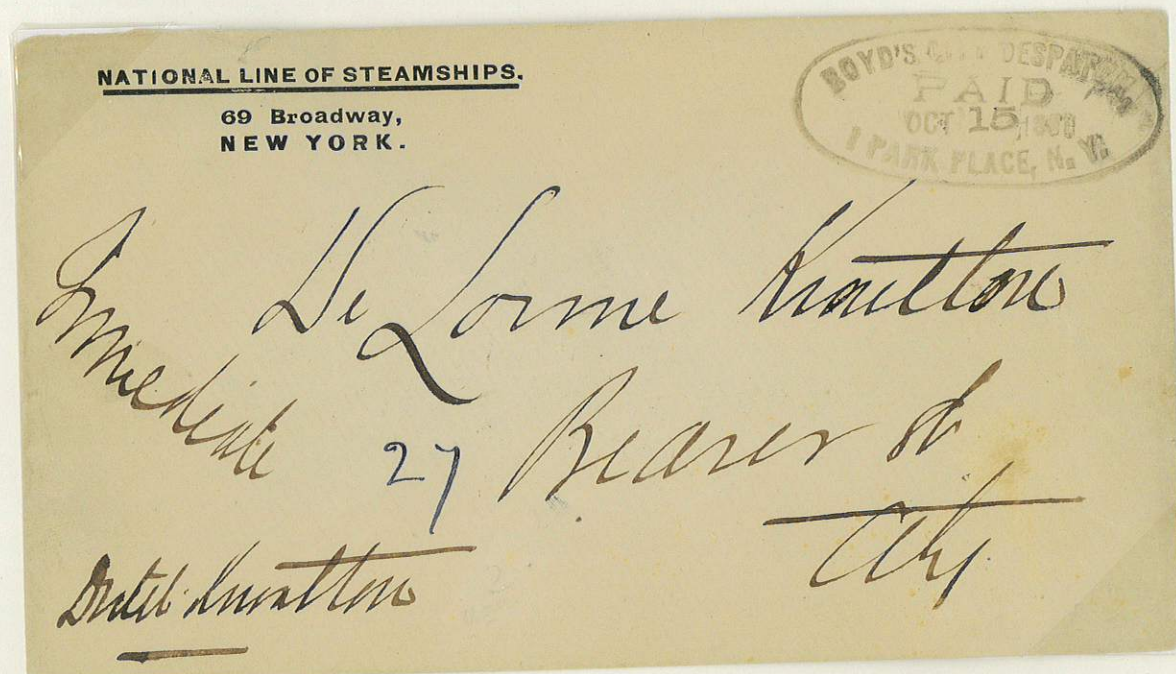
Not dated, circa 1850's

Manuscript "paid 3¢"





"PAID" handstamp usually found applied to circulars during 1880-82.



"PAID" date stamp some times used as a cancellation during 1880-83.

Office of E. S. Munroe,  
(53 BEAVER CORNER OF WILLIAM-ST.)

New-York, June 8th (9 AM) 1854

Dear George

From the caption of this letter you will perceive that I have got a place at last, which will account for not having seen us for some time past as I came down too early and go up too late to find you in your office and in the evening am too tired to walk to the corner of 23 & 4th Avenue. Before I got this place (on Monday week) I called at least every two days at your office, of which however the intelligent Alexander probably never informed you, being too earnestly engaged in his arduous duty of rolling marbles or reading novels. The purport of this is to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and want you to come and pass some evening (whenever it is agreeable) with my wife and me as it has been a very long time since we had that pleasure. If I do not see you before I will probably do so on Sunday when I hope to find you at home although you must not stay on my account as my movements are uncertain.



1883 AND AFTER

Office locations

Three addresses - it is probable that the 19-21 Beekman St. and 5 Murray St. were sub-offices in the 1880's. The main office was at 16 Beekman St. after 1883. In 1883 Boyd's was under the management of E. J. Williams.

