

## **Stait's Despatch Post Influenced the U.S. Postal System**

### **Purpose:**

The exhibit's purpose is to examine the influence of Stait's Despatch Post on the U.S. Postal System and to illustrate the handstamps of that post throughout their postal history, including describing competing rates as well as cover contents. For example, in 1850 the U.S. rate for short distance ½ ounce mail was 10¢, while it was only 2¢ for Stait's.

### **Challenge Factors:**

As there are only about 75-recorded items with Stait's handstamps, the early challenge was finding sufficient material to exhibit. The next challenge was obtaining the difficult to acquire pieces, which were held by three high-end collectors. This involved convincing them of the seriousness of making a mark in this area of study (i.e., with a strategy for building a collection, exhibiting, and publication in philatelic outlets). The final challenge was obtaining the unique Types and circulars (utilizing this strategy). The exhibit extends previous research on Stait's material by displaying all known and unknown Types (Types J, K, L, N & New). The types have used this lettering system since the early articles, such as Stimmell (1991), & are used in all known censuses.

### **Presentation:**

This exhibit will display both covers and circulars with a Stait's Despatch Post handstamp. This represents a systematic study of the Types of handstamps generated by Stait's. Materials not shown in this exhibit are (a) Eagle City Despatch Post and Adam's Express items (as they are separate carriers), and (b) a systematic study of labels. For a one-frame exhibit, these were the limitations set.

### **Organization:**

Organization of the exhibit will be by Type, following the alphabetic sequence of types as described above. The running main headings of each Type form the organization of the exhibit. Images and details of all handstamp Types are also presented, including a comparison of rates for Stait's vs. the U.S. Postal System.

### **Highlights and Difficulty of Acquisition:**

Every type ever catalogued is included in this exhibit, as well as one new type first recorded by Bowman in 2014, and one type first discovered and subsequently published by the exhibitor in 2022. Thus, this exhibit contains two unique types as well as the first and last recorded Stait's covers. Also, less than 10 recorded circulars with Stait's handstamps have survived; three are included in this exhibit. The exhibitor owns over 33% of the recorded materials using Stait's handstamps.

### **Key Annotated References:**

- Bowman, J.D. (2014). Unreported Eagle City handstamp. The Penny Post, 22(4), 52-56. (First mention of Type N handstamp.)
- Exhibitor (2022). Unreported Stait's Despatch Post handstamp. The Penny Post, 30(4), 19-21. (First mention of newly discovered Type handstamp.)
- Lyons, L. (2014). Eagle City Post and Stait's Despatch: An update. The Penny Post,

22(4), 51. (Update of the definitive Stimmell 1991 article, including first mention of Type N handstamp.)  
Stimmell, G. (1991). Eagle City Post and Stait's Despatch. The Penny Post, 1(2), 4-23. (Early overview of the Eagle City Post and Stait's Despatch handstamps and labels.)