

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

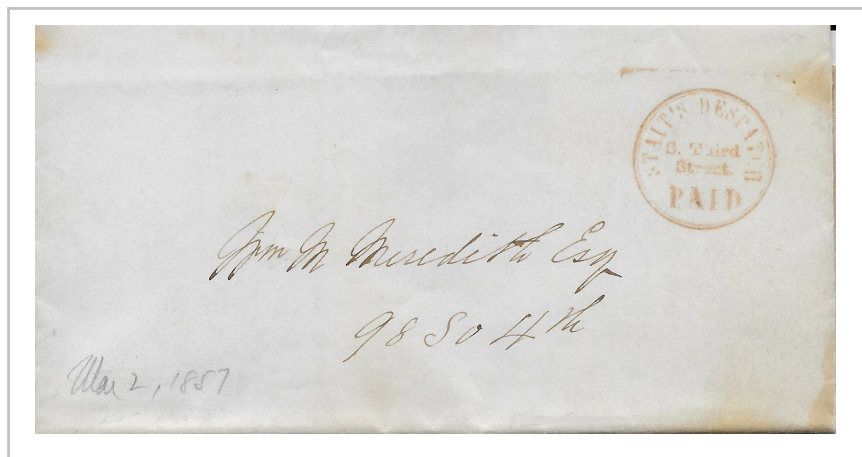
- **Purpose:** The exhibit's purpose is to examine the influence of Stait's Despatch Post on U.S. Postal System and to illustrate handstamps of that post throughout their postal history, including describing competing rates as well as cover contents.
- **Background:** In the 1830's & 1840's, many private carriers began across the United States. Each tried to compete w/ U.S. Postal System for local mail in some fashion (e.g., cheaper, faster, more convenient). Local posts forced U.S. to reduce their short distance rates for ½ ounce from 10¢ in 1845 to 3¢ in 1855. Stait's was only 2¢ in 1850. William B. Stait was a former employee of American Letter Mail Company (1844-1845). He began Eagle City Despatch Post in Philadelphia the summer of 1845, which ran as an intra-city post until about 1849. He also had an association w/ Adams' Express Company for intercity mail, noted on early Stait's handstamps. In late 1849 Eagle City became Stait's Despatch Post (likely due to U.S. using an eagle carrier stamp) & existed until 1859. According to Robson Lowe, Stait's Despatch was the only serious competitor to Blood's Despatch.
- **Plan:** To highlight types of Stait's Despatch Post handstamps (J, K, L, N & New). The exhibit is organized by type, as shown on the main headings. Types have used the lettering system since the early articles, such as Stimmell (1991), & are used in all known censuses. Rate comparisons with the US are noted. Types are presented in alphabetical order:

Pages 2-3:	Type J
Pages 4-7:	Type K
Pages 8-14:	Type L

Page 15:	Type N
Page 16:	New Type & Epilogue

- **Difficulty of Acquisition:** Every type ever catalogued is included in this exhibit, as well as one type first recorded by Bowman in 2014 & one type first discovered and recorded by this exhibitor in 2022. This exhibit includes first & last known Stait's Despatch Post covers (w/ contents noted) as well as circulars. **Red** mattes are for difficult to acquire material; importance is noted nearby.

New Type Discovered by Exhibitor (page 16)



Note: All material in this exhibit is original & owned by exhibitor; all cover contents & handstamps are high-resolution reproductions of exhibitor-owned material.