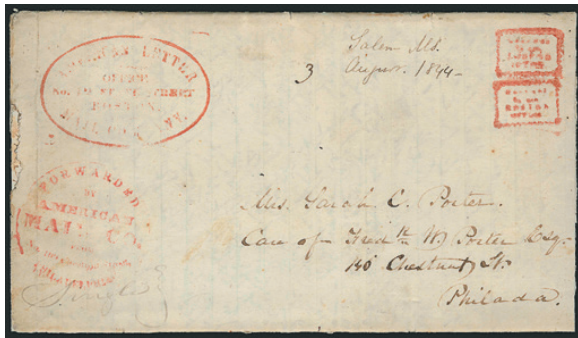


# Viewing The Kuphal Carriers & Locals

by John F. Dunn

With the summer lull still in effect as I write this in August, I decided to cover a subject we have not featured here for some time, Carriers & Locals—and for that we turn back to the November 2006 auction by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries of the Edgar Kuphal Collection of U.S. Carriers and Locals, a wide ranging collection offering us many “viewing opportunities.”

In the American Letter Mail Company section we find this usage from their Boston office with two unusual Collect box red handstamps and a matching oval handstamp



on an August 1844 folded letter from Salem, Mass., to Philadelphia. Estimated at \$150-200, it sold for \$375. (Although these prices are a bit dated, they do give you an idea of relative values in this auction. The prices given here do not include the 15% Buyers' Premiums that were added on to these hammer prices.)

In 1844 American Letter Mail, which operated between Boston, New York and Philadelphia, issued a stamp denominated at 5¢, stated on the stamp as “20 for a Dollar” and sold in sheets of 20. Seen here is a Trial Color proof, Sc. 5L1TC, for the stamp, which was issued in black. Estimated at \$750-1,000, it realized \$2,100.



Next we view a Hale & Co., non-denominated (5¢) blue with the rare “23 State St.” blue manuscript overprint in the address box (Sc. 75L5 variety), tied



by a red framed Boston office handstamp on an August 7, 1844 folded letter from Boston to New York City. Hale, which operated in New York, carrying mail to New England, Philadelphia and Baltimore, issued stamps with no street address as well as with a 12 Court

St. address in the center box, which was designed to look like the front of a folded letter. One of only two “23 State St.” change-of-address overprints on the Hale blue stamp, it was estimated at \$4,000-5,000 and fetched \$6,500.

One of the more fascinating aspects of Carriers and Locals is the interconnecting routes. One example is this August 1844 cover with a pair of the (Wells) Letter Express 5¢

black on pink glazed paper (Sc. 96L1) tied by a red “Boyd's City Express Post,”



Aug. 6 7 O’C” framed datestamp with matching “Paid/J.T.B.” handstamp on a folded cover to New York City. The “203 front” street address was applied by Boyd’s office. As explained in the lot description, “Henry Wells, William Fargo and D. Dunning formed Wells & Company’s Letter Express in early 1844 to provide letter-carrying service between Buffalo N.Y. and points west of Buffalo, including the Great Lakes region....By connecting with Pomeroy’s Letter Express at Buffalo—who in turn arranged for local delivery with Boyd’s in New York City—the Wells-Pomeroy-Boyd independent mail route was able to carry letters from the western frontier to the doorstep of a New York City addressee for considerably less than the post office charged for less-reliable service.” The lot sold for the lower end of its \$3,000-4,000 estimate range.

Further demonstrating the connections is this conjunctive use of the (Wells) Letter Express, 10¢ black on yellow



black on yellow (Sc. 117L1) on a folded cover to New York City. The docketing on

the letter indicates a July 31, 1844 origin date from Cleveland. As explained, “This cover travelled from Cleveland to New York City through Wells & Co. (Cleveland to Buffalo) and Pomeroy (Buffalo to New York City). The full rate (10¢ by stamps) was paid by the Wells & Co. stamp, and the



Pomeroy stamp was affixed by Wells to credit Pomeroy with its half of the postage. Estimated at \$2,000-3,000, this cover did not sell in the Kuphal Collection auction. More recently, it went for \$850 against a \$1,000-1,500 estimate in a December 2009 Siegel auction.

The us: are primarily northeast. I this cover, wi an "Adams & Co. American & European Express Melbourne, N.S.W." blue embossed corner card on the top flap. It also shows a Sydney, New South Wales "Melbourne, Victoria OC 31, 1853" crown datestamp, a receiving backstamp (adjacent to the corner card), and a manuscript "4" due rate. This scarce usage from Adams & Company's short-lived Australia operation was assigned a \$750-1,000 estimate and sold for \$600.



Skipping over an extensive Pony Express section, we come to the Carriers, where we find this 1851 non-denominated (1¢) dull blue Franklin Carrier (Sc. LO1), unused with no gum. Scarce unused, it carried a \$5,500 SCV and did not sell, but in December 2007, with the SCV at \$6,000, it realized \$1,200.



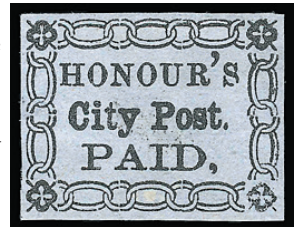
Next up is the 1851 1¢ Eagle Carrier in an Atlanta Trial Color Plate Proof on Card (Sc. LO2TC). It was part of a complete set of five colors that sold for \$450 against a \$560 SCV.



Note that these first two issues are identified as General Issue Carrier (Sc. "LO") stamps because they were issued under the direct authority of the postmaster general and could be used at any post office. On the other hand, City Carrier Department (Sc. "LB") stamps were valid in the city in which they were issued. For example this cover to Bendersville, Pa., shows a Baltimore, Md., 1¢ black (Sc. 1LB8) used with a 3¢ dull red Type II (Sc. 26), both tied by a blue "Baltimore Md. Jul. 31" circular datestamp. With an SCV of \$175 for a cover with Sc. 26, it realized \$250.



Focusing on the designs instead of the usages, we see this Honour's City Post, Charleston S.C., non-denominated (2¢) black on bluish, with a comma after "Paid" (Sc. 4LB13a). Unused with no gum and a "negligible shallow thin spot", it had an SCV of \$1,100 and sold for \$650.



And, jumping ahead, we see the D. O. Blood & Co., Philadelphia Pa. Local, non-denominated (2¢) black (Sc. 15L5) in a pane of twelve severed horizontally into two blocks of six. Scott retail for an intact pane of twelve was \$5,500, this separated pane was estimated at \$2,500-3,500, and it sold for \$3,250. One of my favorites, the design shows the D. O. Blood courier with a "City Dispatch" mail bag over his shoulder and a "PAID" card stepping over the Philadelphia Post Office, demonstrating the ability of the carrier to deliver outside the regular mails.



We conclude this viewing with the (Greig) City Despatch Post of New York City. First we view a 3¢ black on grayish (Sc. 40L1) top right margin block of four with a penciled note in selvage dated 1897. With minor faults and a \$1,900 SCV, it sold for \$1,200.



As explained in the auction catalog, in August 1842 the privately-owned City Despatch Post was bought out and re-



established as the carrier department of the New York City post office. Stamps sold by Greig for the City Despatch Post were used months after the buyout. This stamp used by the United States City Despatch Post (Sc. 6LB1) can be distinguished from 40L1 only when cancelled with the "U.S."-designated cancel or postmark. Here we see one example, used on December 2, 1842. It had an SCV of \$11,500 and sold for \$8,000.