

Synopsis

Pomeroy's Letter Express

Purpose of Exhibit

To explain the operations of Pomeroy Letter Express by showing the adhesive stamps of this Independent Mail Company, and showing stampless covers indicating that Pomeroy & Co., the express package service continued to carry letters after George Pomeroy publically divested himself from that business to avoid the government campaign against letter carrying express companies.

Importance

Pomeroy's Letter Express was the Independent Mail Company that carried letters from Buffalo traveling East to Albany and then south to New York City. They were much quicker and much cheaper than the Post Office. They dominated the letter service over their route and the government would be forced to learn from them. The Independent Mails would only be stopped by an Act of Congress. Pomeroy showed that prepaid mail with the use of adhesives worked and 3 years later in 1847 the Post Office would issue the first U.S. stamps.

What is Presented

All of the adhesive stamps of Pomeroy's Letter Express are presented with studies of the paper and stamp sizes. Every stamp issued for use is presented on a cover. Conjunctive uses with other Independent Mail Companies are presented. The examples included here are the most spectacular and iconic examples of Independent Mail conjunctive use. Examples of the Pomeroy & Co., Express continuing to carry mail after they said they were no longer doing this are presented—facts don't lie.

Challenge Factor

This exhibit contains the most spectacular examples of Pomeroy conjunctive use with other Independent Mail Companies. It took patience over a 30-year time span to acquire these iconic covers. The plating and stamp studies done by the exhibitor is research that has not been previously done and it has led to new conclusions about the Pomeroy stamp production.

Organization

The adhesives on covers are presented by color, usually one cover in each direction. Since the total life of the Pomeroy Letter Express was only 3 months nothing would be gained by a chronological presentation.

Conclusions

Pomeroy's Letter Express was very successful with prepaid mail using adhesive stamps. It is proven that Pomeroy & Co., Express continued to carry some letter while Pomeroy's Letter Express was supposed to be solely carrying mail.

Material Highlights

The unique triple mixed-franking Independent Mail letters with the three different company adhesives; one eastbound and one westbound are the most iconic covers of the Independent Mail period. The conjunctive use cover with Hoyt Letter Express is equally as spectacular.

References Used in Preparing this Exhibit

1. The **Larry Lyons Personal Library** was used to compile the census information. One cannot stress enough the importance of the research material available in my personal library of auction records culled from over 5,000 catalogs. The records for Pomeroy's Letter Express are contained in five binders containing over 1200 pages of records.
2. 2019 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States stamps and Covers, Scott Publishing Co., October 2018.
3. The David Golden Collection of United States Carriers and Locals, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. Sale 817, November 15-17, 1999.
4. The Hall Collection, Carriers and Locals, Western Expresses, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., Sale 830, November 13-14, 2000.
5. The D.K. Collection of United States Carriers and Locals, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. Sale 862, May 31, 2003.
6. Ambassador J. William Middendorf, II, Collection of Carriers and Locals, Richard C. Frajola, Inc. May 1990.
7. The Dr. Carmen A. Puliafito collection of U.S. Independent Mails, Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. Sale 1124, May 4, 2016.
8. Eastern Independent Mail and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845, The Eastern Independent Mail Co. Study Group, 2016, Michael S. Gutman, Editor.

Exhibitor's Published Works on This Subject

1. *Pomeroy Letter Express and the Value Erased Stamps*, *The Penny Post*, Volume 27, No. 2, April 2019, Pages 4-36.
2. *Faked Pomeroy Letter Express Covers*, *The Penny Post*, Volume 27, No. 2, April 2019, Pages 37-41.