

Synopsis

Honour's City Express

Purpose of Exhibit

To show all of the adhesives issued by John Henry Honour for the Charleston Carrier Department and determine the order of issue.

What is Presented

Six picture different stamp designs were printed for Honour's City Express; one says "Honour's City Express", most say "Honour's City Post" and one says simply "City Post". They all are grouped under the name "Honour's City Express". Within the six stamp designs there are 12 different colors and one design with two different paper types. Nine typesetting errors occurred in the printed process. All of the designs; all of the different color stamps and paper types and all of the errors are presented in this exhibit.

Challenge Factor

This exhibit contains the most comprehensive collection of these stamps and covers ever assembled. Twenty of the items are the only recorded examples and 31 are known in a quantity of three or less. The presented stamps and covers were acquired over a 30 year period of time. The provenance for the material in this exhibit includes the collections of Caspary, Lily, Golden, Hall, Middendorf, Johnstone, Meyersburg, D.K., Kuphal, Gordon N. John, and Bill Gross.

Organization

The six designs are presented in chronological order. The exhibitor's research has determined the usage period for each design.

Conclusion

The exhibitor has determined the order of use of the six stamp designs of Honour's City Express.

Material Highlights

The black on bluish gray adhesive of the first stamp design is on cover and is the unique example of this stamp.

Both unique examples of the black on pink pelure paper adhesives of the fourth design are presented, one with a comma after "Paid," and one with a period after "Paid."

Three valentines with different adhesives including a triple rate valentine are part of the presentation.

Two different Charleston carrier stamps are recorded on covers to a foreign destination. Both are included in the exhibit.

An example of an Honour's cover with a carrier stamp used on incoming mail to pay for carrier service is included.

References Used in Preparing this Exhibit

1. 2023 *Scott Specialized Catalogue* of United States Stamps and Covers, Scott Publishing Co., October 2022.
2. 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 the Honour's City Express are contained in seven binders containing over 1,300 pages of material.
3. The David Golden Collection of United States Carriers and Locals, Part One- Carriers, 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 Robert B. Meyersburg Collection of United States Carriers and Locals, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. Sale 791, June 25, 1997.
8. The Gordon N. John Collection of United States Stamps Issued Before July 1845, Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 868, November 14, 2003.
9. The Honour's positions can be found on page 580 of the "Lyons Identifier."

Exhibitor's Published Works on This Subject

Original Research

1. *Honour's City Post, The Penny Post*, Vol. 15, No. 4, pages 56-72.
2. *Honour's City Post, Charleston, S.C., The Penny Post*, Vol. 7, No. 4, pages 19-29.
3. *Printer's Errors on Carrier and Local Stamps, The Penny Post*, Vol. 13, No. 2, April 2005, pages 46-61, with Alan Cohen coauthor
4. The exhibitor has written most of the pertinent reference material on this subject.

Honour's City Express Post Carrier Service Using Adhesives Begins in Charleston, S.C.

Purpose – To show all of the adhesives issued by John Henry Honour for the Charleston Carrier Department and present them in the determined order of issue based on the exhibitor's study and show the activities of Honour's City Express until it was interrupted by the Civil War.

Treatment – To show the uses of carrier adhesives in Charleston.

Study and Personal Research – The exhibitor's original research will show the period of use of each of the adhesives, the number of recorded examples of each and the typesetting errors that occurred. The census data can be found online in *The Penny Post*, October 2007, Vol. 15, No. 4.

Rarity – Twenty-two of the items exhibited are the only recorded examples and 33 are known three or less.

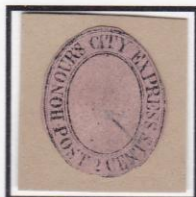
- Examples of Charleston carrier incoming letters requesting carrier delivery.
- The two known examples of a Charleston carrier adhesive on letters to foreign destinations.
- Bold type and red asterisks indicates exhibitor's original research.
- (e) = expertized certificate is enclosed at the back of the page.

History – The Charleston S.C. carrier department was first announced in a May 8, 1849 advertisement in the city newspaper, the *Charleston Mercury*. The appointed superintendent of the carrier department was Dr. John Henry Honour. A two-cent carrier fee applied to all categories of letters in Charleston, including service to the mail as well as from the mail service. A letter to a local resident could also be prepaid by the correspondent outside the city using a carrier adhesive indicating "care Penny Post."

Importance – This was an important and successful attempt by the government to control the local delivery of mail in Charleston which was interrupted by the Civil War.

First Stamp Design

Three recorded examples of the black/pink adhesive. (e)



Only recorded example of a black on rose brown adhesive. (e)

Carrier Service to the Post Office



Black
on
rose
adhesive

Black on rose adhesive on a cover dated August 16, 1849 to New York.
Three covers are recorded with this color adhesive. (e)