BOYD’S CITY EXPRESS, POST 2 CENTS. Eagle in oval, on plain ground. Eagle’s head very thin. This variety was accidentally left out of our last list, and as it is not on the letter we are unable to determine the date, but believe it to be the earliest of the small ones.

WINAN’S above, CENTS below, CITY to the left, and POST on the right, flying bottle in centre, surrounded by stars and clouds. Black impression on colored paper, 2 cents, white, 10 cents, green. Black impression, on colored glazed paper, 5 cents, straw, 20 cents, vermilion.

These stamps are amongst the scarcest locals known, and for a long time we doubted the existence of authentic copies. The stamps from which this description is taken, was kindly sent us by Mr. Schoen, and were originally in the McCoy collection.

COUNTERFEIT 1st - These are very good imitations, but the smoke from the neck of the bottle is too distinct, and the corners are finished off too clear, they can, however, easily be distinguished by the following Test, - twenty-seven stars are depicted on this counterfeit, in the genuine there are only nineteen.

COUNTERFEIT 2nd – This is not as good an imitation as the preceding one, the bottle not being shaded, and the lettering is not the same, a different style of figure having been used. Test – only thirteen stars are found on this variety.


COUNTERFEIT 1st – This is a very poor imitation and can easily be distinguished from the genuine by the rudeness of the engraving. Test – The lettering of the original is in a groundwork of very fine horizontal lines, but they are scarcely noticeable. In the counterfeit they are very heavy. The mountains in the original are very indistinct, in the counterfeit they are as a plan and prominent as the stage and horses.

COUNTERFEIT 2nd – This is a trifle nearer than the last, but still very poor. The tests given for the last will apply to this also.

CARNES CITY LETTER EXPRESS enclosing bear in transverse oval. It is printed from electrotypes of a wood cut. It was used in San Francisco, but we have no means of ascertaining the date of issue. One we have in our own collection, showing the edge of the sheet has the following imprint, “S.E. cor. Sans’e and Wash’n. There is a variety of this stamp which has the word CARNES erased, the proprietor having most likely sold out to another party. Both varieties are very scarce, the latter one has not been counterfeited so far, but most likely will be as soon as these lines are published.
COUNTERFEIT – This is a very fine imitation, and although there are many differences discernable, the following point is the only one distinct enough for a Test. – The shading in front of the bear is composed of four lines reaching from it, to near the edge of the oval, and are all above its paw. In the counterfeit the shading is connected with that under the bear, and each line is shorter as it nears the head.

AMERICAN LETTER MAIL CO. surrounding eagle in centre. This stamp was fully described on page 33, Vol. 1 of Journal, but since then some old copies have been found printed in blue, these are however extremely scarce.

HOYT'S LETTER EXPRESS. To Rochester, in type border, and same style type as printed. Black impression on vermillion paper, small rect..

This is an extremely scarce stamp, and was used in 1844. We lately found three on some old letters, and amongst them there was one variety caused by the word letter being spelt l etter. They are very scarce, and have never been counterfeited.

LETTER EXPRESS FREE, 20 FOR 1.00, enclosing figure of commerce seated bales of merchandise, with ship to the left. Black impression on coloured paper, pink, green.

These stamps (like most locals) are very scarce, they were used in 1844.

COUNTERFEIT 1st – Like the last is not easily described, but may be known by this Test. In the genuine the foot of the figure shows, although very indistinct, whereas in the counterfeit there is not the least sign of one. The streamer from the ship is waved in the genuine, in the counterfeit it is much thicker and simply curved.

COUNTERFEIT 2nd – A slightly better imitation than the last. Test. – streamer touches the head of the figure. In the genuine it does not. No foot showing.