

Hoyt's Letter Express, Rochester N.Y., (5c) Black on Vermilion Glazed (85L1). Full margins except slightly in at left, paper has characteristic fibrous surface, uncanceled on small piece of cover with red ms. "2"

VERY FINE. ONE OF NINE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF HOYT'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMP -- AMONG THE RAREST OF THE 1844 INDEPENDENT MAIL ISSUES.

According to research by Elliott Perry, David Hoyt was an agent of Pomeroy & Co. before and after he operated his short-lived letter express in July and August 1844. Hoyt's letter express was not connected to the railroad, but instead utilized Genesee Valley canal boats to bring mail between Rochester and Danville, New York. As advertised in the *Rochester Advertiser* (Jul. 27-Aug. 31, 1844), Hoyt's Letter Express made intermediate stops at Mt. Morris, Cuylerville, Geneseo, Spenser's Basin, Piffordina, Avon and Scottsville. Hoyt connected with Pomeroy's Letter Express and through Pomeroy's with Boyd's for local New York City delivery.

Only nine stamps are recorded, including four singles on covers, a pair on cover front, an uncanceled stamp and two stamps on pieces (one of which is offered here). Three of the single stamps (including one "Letter" error) are used on covers in conjunction with Pomeroy's Letter Express Blue stamp (one to New York City with a Boyd's datestamp). The fourth single on cover has a manuscript Pomeroy's marking. The pair, of which one stamp is the "Letter" error, is used on a cover-front in combination with a Pomeroy's pair and Boyd's datestamp. The uncanceled single was offered in the Caspary sale, as was the piece offered here. Another single on piece is shown in a photo from the Costales files.

Ex Caspary and Lilly. [\(Image\)](#) \$14500
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Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. sale 817 lot 1189

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Monday-Wednesday, November 15-17, 1999