

**Scrapbook No. 4 1935 – 1939, 1943**

1.	Y. Souren Re: Covers
2.	Pictures of covers
3.	Blank
4.	Pictures of covers
5.	Blank
6.	Pictures of covers
7.	Picture of cover
8.	Pictures of covers
9.	Pictures of 10¢ 1847 stamps
10.	Pictures of 10¢ 1847 stamps
11.	American Bank Note Co. Re: Knapp Shift
12.	Picture of 10¢ 1847 stamp, Knapp
13.	Picture of 10¢ 1847 stamp, Knapp
14.	Ed Knapp to Elliott Perry
15.	Horace W. Barr Re: Knapp Shift
16.	Picture of 10¢ 1847 Stamp, Knapp
17.	Elliott Perry Re: Knapp Shift
18.	Ed Knapp Re: Knapp Shift
19.	Y. Souren Re: Knapp Shift
20.	Picture of 1847 stamp Knapp
21.	Frank R. Sweet to Knapp, "A Painting"
22.	Picture of 1847 stamp, Knapp
23.	Harry L. Lindquist Re: Knapp Shift
24.	Picture of 1847 stamp, Knapp
25.	The unpublished Perry article on the Knapp Shift
26.	Picture of 1847 stamp, Knapp
27.	Scott Publications Re: Knapp Shift
28.	Picture of 1847 stamp, Knapp
29.	Blank
30.	Picture of 1847 stamp
31.	Blank
32.	Picture of 1847 stamp
33.	Blank
34.	Enlarged portions of Knapp
35.	Blank
36.	Enlarged portions of Knapp
37.	Blank
38.	Clear Image of 10¢ 1847 stamp
39.	Blank
40.	Elliott Perry Re: Knapp stamp
41.	Eugene Klein, Paul R. Fernald Re: Steamboats
42.	Steamboat covers
43.	Stamps, Jan 20, 1940 Re: Fraudulent San Francisco Postmark
44.	Morton D. York Re: The 18 ¾ cent Domestic rate of 1825

45.	Godden's Gazette, June and October 1936
46.	Blank
47.	Re: Fake 1869 cover to France
48.	Y. Souren Re: 3¢ 1861
49.	Image of 3¢ 1857
50.	Y. Souren Re: Image
51.	Langton Pioneer Express covers with Red Dog
52.	Ezra D. Cole Re: 4 Langton covers
53.	Eugene Klein Re: River mail
54.	Edgar Jessup Re: Used at San Francisco
55.	Godden's Gazette May 1940
56.	Maurice C. Blake Re: Michaels Houlton Maine cover to Woodstock, N.B.
57..	George N. Malpass Re: Bristol VA R.R.
58.	H.L. Lindquist Re: Premieres
59.	Gordon Harmer Re: 90¢ 1860 cover
60.	Blank
61.	Blank
62.	American Bank Note Co. Re: Knapp Shift

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Aug. 5, 1939.

Y. Souren,  
394 Park Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Souren:

Absence from the city prevented me from acknowledging receipt of booklet #2 of the P. R. L. Inc. I wish to thank you for your kindness in forwarding me a copy so promptly. Needless to state I was greatly interested in this little booklet, and especially so in the part dealing with the examination of the Knapp stamp. I was quite pleased with your remarks regarding the 1847 plates, because several have differed with me in my contention that these plates were copper instead of steel. Those who have done so have never had any experience in plating our early stamps, hence I have felt that their conclusions were of little weight. My real conviction was that if the Knapp stamp was genuine beyond any possible doubt then this stamp was positive proof the 10¢ plate was made of copper and not of steel because in no possible way could the Knapp variety have come from a steel plate.

I was also quite interested in your remarks regarding the 30¢ 1869 cover, and while I have never had the opportunity to examine this cover carefully, I have seen it and know something of its history. There are several points about this item that have been overlooked by certain people who have examined it, and these points have lead me to doubt any assertions that the cover was a fake. One very important point was the dates in the New York and French postmarks and in reading your remarks I was very much disappointed to find your remarks so brief on this point. No doubt you know the answer, but I am at a loss to know why you did not go into more detail on this point. I would like very much to have a set of the original photographs you made of this cover and if you will be so kind as to forward them to me, I will be only too glad to pay for the expense of same. I would also like very much to have a set of the Knapp stamp photographs so I can have them bound in Volume 2 for future reference.

I note in the letter from Judge Perry which you reproduced, the mention of my name and this has lead several to the conclusion that I examined his copies of the 3¢ 1857 and pronounced them fraudulent. Without referring to my files, I do not recall that I had some correspondence with the Judge, but I certainly have no recollection that he ever submitted any copies of the 3¢ 1857 to me. Further I have no recollection that I "swapped" any stamps with him because I am quite sure I seldom if ever "swap" stamps with anyone.

#2.

Y. Souren - Aug. 5, 1939.

I am enclosing you herewith a dollar for which please forward me ten copies of Volume 2. I fear that my good friends Perry & Colson have not seen copies of this interesting little booklet and I would like to have the pleasure of presenting copies to them with my compliments.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

## Y. SOUREN CO.

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

394 PARK AVENUE

BET. 53RD AND 54TH STS.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

August 7, 1939

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.  
434 S. Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your letter of August 5th.

Under separate cover we are sending you ten copies of Volume 2 of the booklet, and we are returning your \$1.00--you can't spend it here.

The Laboratories have examined upwards of 900 stamps and in the present booklet we have selected a few cases which we thought would be of particular interest. We can understand your point in regard to the stamps of Judge Perry. Judge Perry speaks of your name only in connection with the 1¢ 1851-57 and it is certain you have not examined these 3¢ stamps. The statement that they were forgeries was made by one of the largest eastern stamp firms. We have the original letter on their letterhead in our possession.

The first printing of the booklet has been exhausted. We have had a tremendous demand, and a second printing is now being made. In order to correct the impression that you might have examined these stamps we are mentioning specifically that you had not seen them. It was our thought in permitting your name to appear in Judge Perry's letter that it would react to your credit, and we sincerely regret that any false impression might have been reached by some. Since we deliberately deleted the name of the person and firm who pronounced these to be forged perforations, it is difficult to see how anyone could misinterpret the letter. However, we trust our explanation will be satisfactory.

We are arranging a complete set of original photographs of the Knapp stamp which will be sent you as soon as ready.

Coming to the 30¢ 1869 cover, we have not given very much in the booklet about this cover but the examination itself disclosed some very interesting facts from a technical standpoint. One of the most salient points is the difference in the nature of the ink. We believe the original photographs which we are sending will illustrate this to you so clearly that it will not be necessary to engage in any explanation.

In the preparation of this booklet we have considered two major points. The first is to simplify the report to a single conclusion insofar as this particular conclusion serves to prove the point. Regardless of how many points may prove the fact one is sufficient so long as it is conclusive. Of course, in the case of the Knapp stamp we went to minute detail since far more was involved than the stamp itself. The second point is the omission of full details, scientific terms and exposition of methods employed. We presented each report as simply as possible using such terms as, special

ray, special process, rather than go to the detail of describing the exact process used. Real students such as you may find this incomplete, but I am of the opinion that philately would be better if certain philatelic journals would not have created so-called "experts." You know as well as I that many persons who are not students and who are not familiar with the fundamentals of philately have been held up to the public as experts. It is easy for such people to misinterpret and misuse scientific terms and methods. You have certainly had the experience of having your conclusions grossly misinterpreted by so-called "experts". The years of thought and study you have put into your publications, instead of serving as a true foundation, become merely a superficial guide to those who do not properly analyze the subject.

Certain philatelic promoters <sup>have</sup> glorified a number of people with the name of "expert" and the time has come when these people are sincere in the belief that they are "experts". It is just the same as when somebody is continually called "captain" though undeserving of the title. The time eventually comes when he is greatly put out when someone omits to call him by his assumed title.

You have undoubtedly read the article in "Stamps" magazine describing the Luff Room and its equipment. You can see how dangerous it is to describe our apparatus and methods. You can see that our omission of what to you are important facts is justified in view of the possible misuse of scientific terms by those unfamiliar with their proper use. In the future we may disclose a number of things since the reports, except in the case of the Knapp stamp, do not detail all the facts disclosed in the course of the examination.

We have deliberately refrained from mentioning any names in connection with the opinions on any of the stamps reported in the booklet. Colson in his usual manner has been spreading a certain amount of "propaganda" against the Laboratories. The least he could have done was to apologize to Mr. Martin and he was given ample time to do so. In view of the manner in which he has been acting we would rather welcome his coming out in the open on the subject. Our files contain a number of things which he may not like to have exposed. In fact, with all the stamps examined, the files of the Laboratories are far more complete than would be indicated by the report. These show only those facts which themselves point to the definite conclusion and <sup>we</sup> maintain the others in reserve in case there should be any question. We might mention that the conclusions reached by the Laboratories coincide in every detail with opinions you have reached on stamps examined by you. Do you possess a sixth sense?

Again referring to the 30¢ 1869 cover, you seem to feel it might be genuine? The question of dates is very interesting and in my personal collection I have a large number of covers mailed to France during that period. In only one instance did I find the date of the French transit postmark to be identical with the New York transit postmark. On checking up with Champion's book on French postmarks it was impossible to reconcile the French marking with any he has noted. It is a point of unusual interest and I believe this French postmark to be forged. Both covers bearing identical dates show traces of erasure of what was probably the proper postmark. The Paris receiving mark was correct in both instances.

I shall be interested in knowing what you might have found in connection with

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.

Page 3

August 7, 1939

B  
the possibility of identical dates on dispatched and receiving transit marks. However, there are other facts in connection with the 30¢ stamp which are conclusive that it was not originally used on this cover.

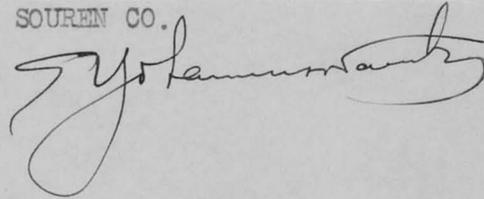
You can readily understand that what I have written here is in strictest confidence, and I shall be glad to have any further comments or suggestions from you.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Y. SOUREN CO.

By



SY;BS

Encl. \$1.00

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Aug. 10, 1939.

Mr. Y. Souren,  
394 Park Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Souren:

Your letter of the 7th received and carefully read with much interest. Let me assure you that any letters you write me will be treated as absolutely confidential. I was especially interested in your remarks on the 30¢ 1869 cover and I will be glad to see the original photographs. As I wrote you, I have never had the opportunity to examine this cover carefully. It was shown to me casually with the remark, it had been pronounced bad by several in New York. I asked why, as the cover at a glance looked all right to me. I was told the French marking had been pronounced a fake, because it bore the same date as the New York. I had noted this and inquired why the dates were the same and was told as I recall, that some had expressed the opinion it was an error.

On the back of this cover is the handstamp of John Seybold of Syracuse. Seybold was one of the original collectors of covers in this country and he was out of the game long before my time. As I recall, Seybold had marked on this cover "\$2.75" which he paid for it. I judge at the time he acquired it, the stamp catalogued at around \$4.00 or \$5.00, so I simply took it for granted that this was an original "Seybold" cover which he had acquired at a small price and at a time when there was no incentive for the faker to make 1869 covers.

If this is true, then I doubt if the cover is wrong, but here is another angle - the Seybold collection was broken up years ago and when Seybold owned this cover it may have had a 15¢ 1869 on it. Zareski may have got hold of it and substituted a 30¢ for a 15¢. Unfortunately the red New York foreign exchange marking is rather dim and does not show what sum was credited to France. As I recall this postmark looked as though it had been lightly struck rather than that someone had erased the figures indicating the credit to France. Now for the French postmark. I do not think this is a fake. It is a very rare one and I have seen very few examples at this or earlier periods, though it dates back as I recall, to about 1865. It reads, "Etats - Unis - Paq. Fr. H. N<sup>o</sup> 2." There was a similar one which read, "Etats - Unis - Paq. Fr. H. N<sup>o</sup> 1". This was a marking used on board the French Mail Packets, running between Havre and New York. I am not at all sure what the "N<sup>o</sup> 1" and "N<sup>o</sup> 2" meant. My records are far from complete and at one time I had the idea the "#1" was used on a line from a French Port to New Orleans and "#2" signified the route from Havre to New York. Surely it did not identify the ship because there were more than two ships on the Havre - New York run between 1864 and 1870. The "S. S. Washington" inaugurated the service in 1864, departing from Havre for New York on June 15th of that year. Other

#2.

Mr. Y. Souren - Aug. 10, 1939.

ships of this Line, "Compagnie Generale Trans-Atlantique", were the "S. S. Lafayette", "S. S. Imperatrice Eugenie" etc. etc. - all iron side wheel paddlers. So you see it is quite doubtful that the #1 and #2 signified special ships.

The N.Y. Postmark shows the date of departure of the mail ship - which was a French packet on August 21, 1869. The letter was handed over to the French packet and their postal officials handstamped this cover with the date of receipt and departure. It is therefore a French ship marking, applied on board the French packet. I can figure no other explanation and I am quite sure Knapp has examples of this marking in his 1869 cover collection. As I stated before, it is sad the credit figure in the red N.Y. is missing. If this cover had a 15¢ 1869, then the credit marking was 12 or 12 cents. If the cover is genuine then the credit marking was 24 or 24 cents. This was because the letter went by French packet and the only part of the total postage paid (to which the U. S. Post Office was entitled) was our domestic, or shore to ship rate of 3¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.

Regarding this French packet marking, I suggest you refer to the "Catalogue des Estampilles et Obliterations Postales De France et des Colonies Francaises" - Yvert & Cie - Amens - 1929. On page 413 you will find this marking listed as;

"Etats - Unis - Paq. Fr. H. N<sup>o</sup> 1 (ou 2)"

Others listed are;

"Etats. Unis. Paq. Fr. Brest"  
" " " " 2 Brest"  
" " " " Le Havre"  
" " " " 2 Le Havre-2"

Therefore it is possible that the "#1" and "#2" and the last two of above four did signify four French Packets which ran between New York and Havre at various times between 1864 and 1870.

I am writing to Chase and requesting that he clear this up for me, and I am sending him a copy of #2 "Philately of Tomorrow".

Please accept my thanks for your kindness in sending me the ten copies of the above booklet.

Regarding the Luff Room at the Collector's Club. I have read the articles about this room in various philatelic publications, and have visited it on several occasions, and while the founding of this room by Mr. and Mrs. Clark was a very worthy project, such equipment is practically useless in the hands of inexperienced persons. I do think, however, it is an excellent start and thru future donations may in time be placed on a footing where real research work can be accomplished by experienced investigators. I think the strides you have made will be an incentive for the officials of the Club to further develop this project.

I am indeed glad that the opportunity was presented for you

#3.

Mr. Y. Souren - Aug. 10, 1939.

to examine the 30¢ 1869 cover as I am intensely interested in this item and will be greatly pleased to see the photographs you made. I was rather certain, as stated above, that the cover was genuine but the thought never occurred to me that possibly a 30¢ was substituted for a 15¢ and that in reality this might possibly be the only thing wrong with the cover. I recognize the fact that Zareski does not hesitate to have imitation postmarks made especially for individual covers, but in this particular case there was absolutely no reason why he should have gone to this trouble. I would swear the New York is genuine and that the chances are, it has not been tampered with, though this conclusion is not based on any careful examination of it on my part.

Further I would be apt to swear the French on face was genuine as there is no reason why it shouldn't be on the cover. To be absolutely sure, I suggest you do this. Have Teddy or Stone go down to the New York Public Library and look up the files of the New York Herald for Aug. 18 -19- 20 - 21 and 22nd. I think you will find a French Packet departed on Aug. 21, 1869 and you can thus obtain the exact date of departure - name of ship and possibly a notice regarding mail by this ship. If no such record exists, then I would have to admit that there may be something queer about that French marking. However I have little doubt this will be the case but rather that the newspapers of that date will verify my conclusions. I will greatly appreciate the favor if you will advise me promptly on this point.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

**Y. SOUREN CO.**

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

394 PARK AVENUE

BET. 53RD AND 54TH STS.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

August 12, 1939

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.  
434 S. Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Herewith I am sending the information on the  
steamer sailings.

Page 1 lists the steamer schedules from August 18  
to August 22, 1869 and Page 2 is a listing of advertisements appear-  
ing in the New York Times.

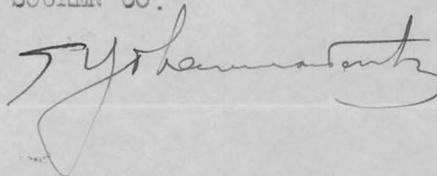
As the Tribune is being bound by the Library at the  
present time, we took the information from the New York Times.

My further comments on this subject will follow at  
the first opportunity I have.

Respectfully yours,

Y. SOUREN CO.

By



SY;ss  
Encl.

**Y. SOUREN CO.**

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

394 PARK AVENUE

BET. 53RD AND 54TH STS.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

August 11, 1939

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.  
434 S. Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your favor of recent date, and because of the unusually large amount of work which has accumulated since publishing of our booklet, I am not answering you fully on the subject at this time.

However, you will hear from me in a more detailed manner in the near future.

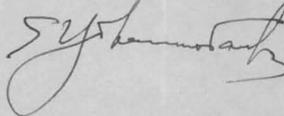
There is no doubt in my mind that the stamp did not belong to this cover for the reason that the part of the cancellation falling on the cover is done by brush. Secondly, there is a difference in ink which alone will condemn the genuineness of the stamp on this cover. That it might have been a 15¢ replaced is another question. This does not enter into the work of the Laboratories. The Laboratories merely give us the structure of the ink particles showing on the stamp and on the cover.

By this time, however, you are in receipt of the photographs which we sent you. They explain more than what was mentioned in the booklet.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Y. SOUREN CO.

By 

SY:ss

P. S. You can be sure I will have someone checking in the Public Library on the information about the steamers of August 4, 1869.



1

Ship		Leaving for Europe	
Java	Aug. 18	New York	to Liverpool
Colorado	Aug. 18	"	to Liverpool
Aleppo	Aug. 19	"	to Liverpool
Pennsylvania	Aug. 21	"	to Liverpool
City of Boston	Aug. 21	"	to Liverpool
Cambria	Aug. 21	"	to Glasgow
Lafayette	Aug. 21	"	to Havre

Departure of Foreign Mails

Mails for Europe, via Liverpool, by the "Java", close at the P.O. at 12 M. Supplementary mail for paid letters, on the pier, Jersey City, to 1:40 P.M.

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August 19, 1869 Thursday

Aleppo	Aug. 19	New York	to Liverpool
Pennsylvania	Aug. 21	"	to Liverpool
City of Boston	Aug. 21	"	to Liverpool
Cambria	Aug. 21	"	to Glasgow
Lafayette	Aug. 21	"	to Havre

Mails for Europe, via Southampton & Bremen, by the "Union" close at 12M. Supplementary at 1:45PM.

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August 20, 1869 Friday

Pennsylvania	Aug. 21	New York	to Liverpool
City of Boston	Aug. 21	"	to Liverpool
Cambria	Aug. 21	"	to Glasgow
Lafayette	Aug. 21	"	to Havre

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August 21, 1869 Saturday

Pennsylvania	Aug. 21	New York	to Liverpool
City of Boston	Aug. 21	"	to Liverpool
Cambria	Aug. 21	"	to Glasgow
Lafayette	Aug. 21	"	to Havre

Mails for France, via Havre & Brest, by the "Lafayette" close at 12M. Mails for Europe via Liverpool by "City of Boston" close at 12M. Supplementary at 1:40 PM.

August 22, 1869 Sunday  
No Steamships leaving.

Y. SOUREN CO.

384 Park Ave.  
New York City

10

2

The General TransAtlantic Company's Mail Steamships between N.Y. & Havre, calling at Brest:

Lafayette	Saturday, Aug. 21
Pereire	Saturday, Sept. 4

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CUNARD LINE

The British & No. American Royal Mail S.S.'s between N.Y. & Liverpool, calling at Cork Harbor:

Java	Wednesday, Aug. 18
Aleppo	Thursday, Aug. 19
Scotia	Wednesday, Aug. 25

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FOR LIVERPOOL & QUEENSTOWN

Inman Line of Mail Steamers:

City of Boston	Sat. Aug. 21 at 1 PM
Etna	Tues, Aug. 24 at 1 PM

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TO LIVERPOOL, calling at Queenstown:

Colorado	Aug. 18 at 3 PM
Nebraska	Aug. 25 at 4 PM

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TO LIVERPOOL & QUEENSTOWN:

Pennsylvania	Sat. Aug. 21 at 2 PM
The Queen	Sat. Aug. 28 at 9 AM

ADVERTISEMENT APPEARING IN N.Y. DAILY TRIBUNE, August 19th, 1869

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD

"Union" - U.S. Mail - Thursday, August 19

for

Bremen, via Southampton.

Y. SOUREN CO.

384 Park Ave.

New York City

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Aug. 17, 1939.

Mr. Y. Souren,  
394 Park Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Souren:

I have just returned from a little pleasure trip down in Kentucky with Mr. Jessup of California and find your several letters of recent date, also the photographs, which are most interesting and for which I wish to thank you very kindly. Perhaps I may be able to return the favor at an early date.

Before I left I went over to Mr. Richey's and made a careful search thru his numerous 1869 covers and was fortunate enough to find two with the French Packet marking. Here is a description.

(A) Cover with two singles 15/ 1869 - The red New York is "Jul 10" and "24". The French in Red is "10 JUIL 69" and below "Paq. Fr. H. N<sup>o</sup> 1"

(B) Cover with two singles 15/ 1869. The red New York is "Sep 18" and "24". The French on this cover is in black and is "18 Sept 69" and below "Paq. Fr. H. N<sup>o</sup> 1"

You will note both are "N<sup>o</sup> 1" whereas the Colson cover is "N<sup>o</sup> 2".

The list of sailings which you sent me is quite interesting and I note the French "S. S. Lafayette" sailed with the mails on Aug. 21, 1869. I surmise therefore that the "N<sup>o</sup> 2" was the special handstamp used on the "S. S. Lafayette" and identifies mail carried from New York to Havre by this ship. Further I surmise that the handstamp on the Richey covers both with "N<sup>o</sup> 1" identified a sister ship. If not too much trouble will you have Teddy or Stone look up the sailings of,

Sep. 18, 1869  
July 10, 1869

I have an idea they will find it was the same ship that sailed on the above dates. Thus I think we could feel reasonably sure what the "N<sup>o</sup> 1" and "N<sup>o</sup> 2" meant.

It is quite unfortunate that there is no exchange credit in the N.Y. postmark on the Colson cover. This alone is rather suspicious and I am wondering if you noted any traces of a removal. If there was a 15/ 1869 on this cover the exchange figures would have been "12". If the rate was actually 30%, the figures should have been "24".

#2.

Mr. Y. Souren - Aug. 17, 1939.

I might add that on both the Richey covers the "24" is very plain. Strange to state, on the back of both of the Richey covers is the handstamp in purple of John F. Seybold. I have made careful tracings of the markings on both covers and will make a number of photos both front and back, and if you wish, I will be only too glad to send you prints.

You have put Colson on the defensive for the first time in his career and my personal opinion is that he will hit back as strong as he can. It is needless for me to tell you that inasmuch as you yourself have made a number of enemies that there will be quite a few of these who will line up behind Colson. Perhaps these remarks are quite unnecessary but I am expressing them to you for what they are worth.

The following is strictly confidential. On page 41 and 42 you illustrated two U. S. I. R. "Annual Taxes - March 1870". I know a collection which contains some thirty or forty of these Tax notices, all bearing 1869 stamps. As I recall these were mailed from Lexington, Ky. I have just learned that Colson has applied to this collector for a loan of half a dozen of these. I do not know whether I could borrow some for you or not but you might let me know if a loan of some of them would be advantageous to you. I might add that none contain bisected stamps.

Regarding the 30¢ 1869 block of four. Chase is an record with the following regarding the unused 1869's without grill.

"A set of all values (though the 15¢ is Type I only) exists with full brownish gum and without any trace of a grill. This is the catalogued variety "without grill". I don't know what these are, but I doubt if they are issued stamps. It seems much more likely that they come from a trial printing of some sort. Without their gum they cannot be identified and have little value". I have no comments to make on the above as I have my own opinion regarding many listings in the catalogue.

One more point which may be of help to you. On page 41 is the following, "Vertical 2/3 of 3/ used as a 2¢ on tax form." It is my opinion this should have read, "Vertical half (?) of 3¢ used as 1¢," as I am quite sure all of the rates I have seen on these Tax notices were 1¢, with 1¢ 1869's. However I may be wrong.

Sincerely yours,

PHOTOGRAPH BY ASHBROOK

RED



Black



RED

RED



Ms. Geo. M. Hess,  
Care of Messrs John Munroe & Co.  
No. 7 Rue Scribe,  
Paris, France.

S.W.R.  
AUG 16 1939

KJ

69  
JUL  
1869

Both  
Black

John F. Seybold,  
Syracuse, N. Y.

Purple

Per Steamer Europe via Brest & Havre.

FD



Monsieur J. Bessé, notaire

à Nirsingue

France

pour Rhin

1233

PHOTOGRAPH BY ASHBROOK

RED



Black



RED



RED

Ms. Geo. M. Ross,  
Care of Messrs John Munroe & Co.  
No. 7 Rue Scribe,  
Paris, France.

S.W.R.  
AUG 16 1939



PHOTO BY ASHBROOK

2 arrived Sept 30<sup>th</sup>

Red

PD

BLACK



Black

General C. B. Astor.  
Care U. S. Legation.  
Paris  
France.

RED

S.W.R.  
AUG 16 1939

K 3

PHOTO BY ASHBROOK

2 arrived Sept 30th

Red

BLACK



Black

General C. B. Norton.  
Case U. S. Legation.  
Paris  
France.

RED

S.W.R  
AUG 16 1939

100

K3

Pole Orange

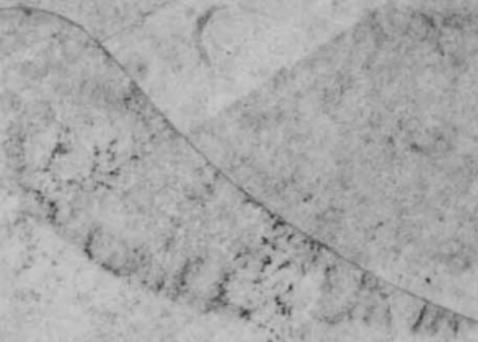
Black

Black

Purple

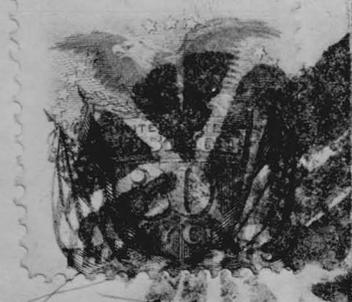
**John F. Seybold,**  
Syracuse, N. Y.

PARIS  
JUL 30 70





No 5



Mr. Edward B. Cotter.  
Paris.  
France.

Care.  
Monroe & Co.

220A

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.  
394 Park Ave.  
New York, City

4493  
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17

4 1/8"



Scalloped edge of a stamp or seal.

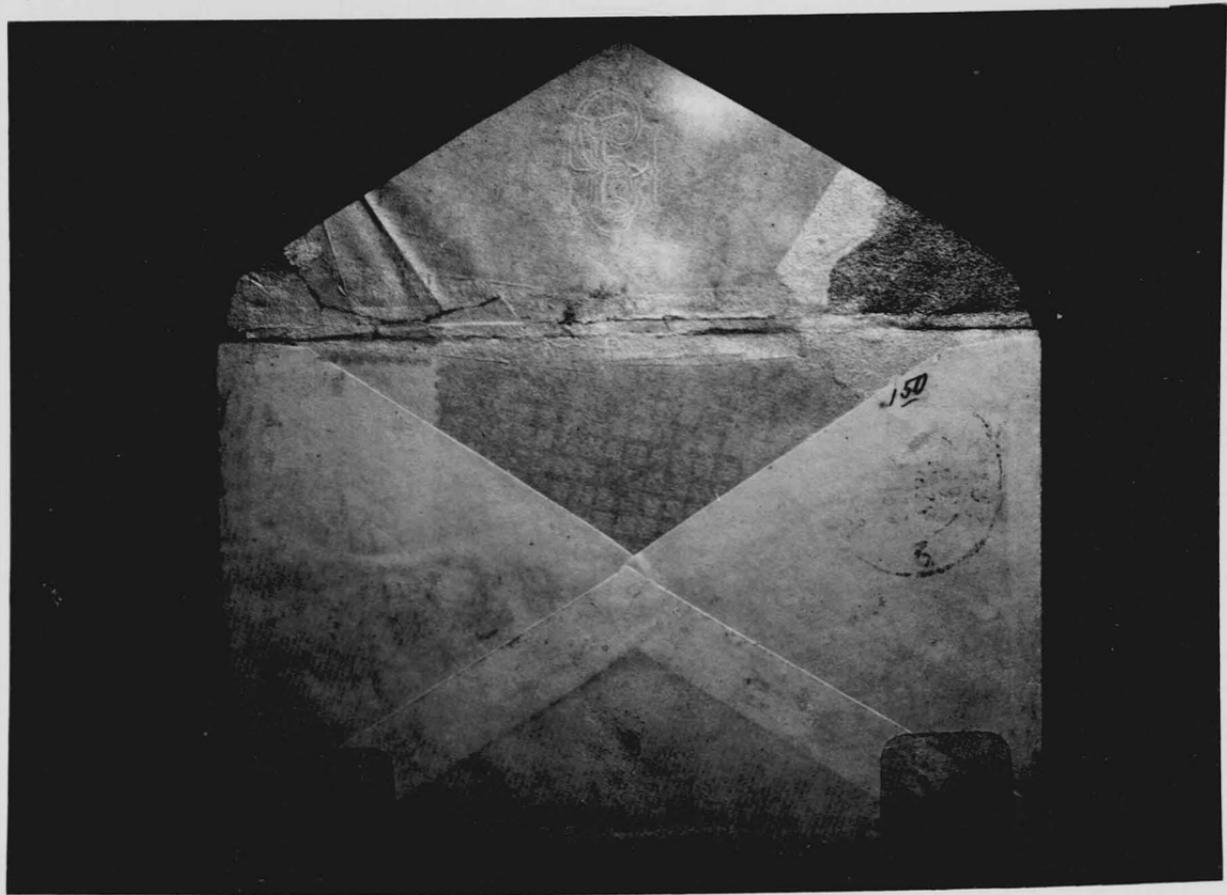


Several dark, curved marks resembling ink smudges or stylized characters, possibly remnants of handwriting or a signature.

~~4570~~  
449  
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394 Park Ave.  
New York, City

2205



2205

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394 Park Ave.

New York, City

John F. Seybold,  
Syracuse, N. Y.  
1851

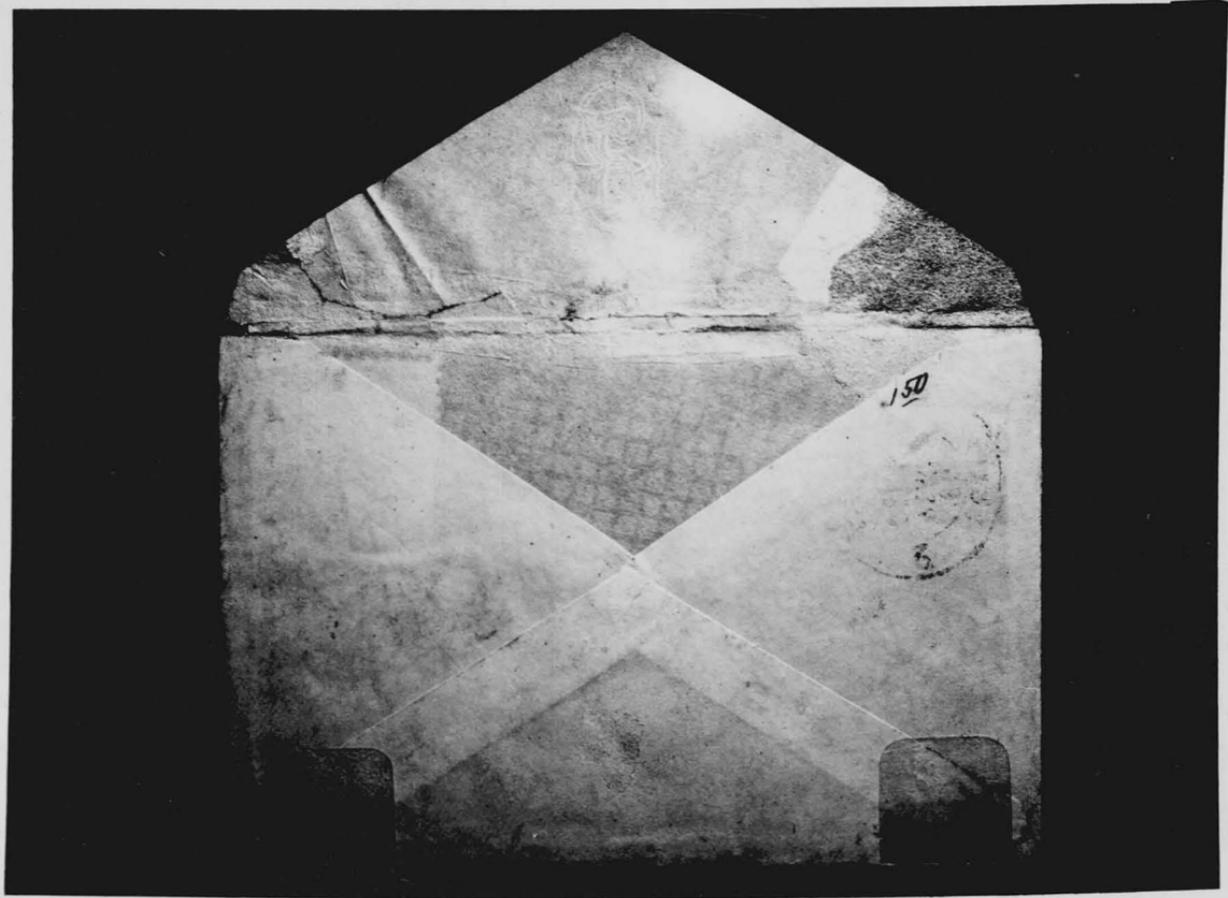
151

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New York, City



4 Sept  
+ 72

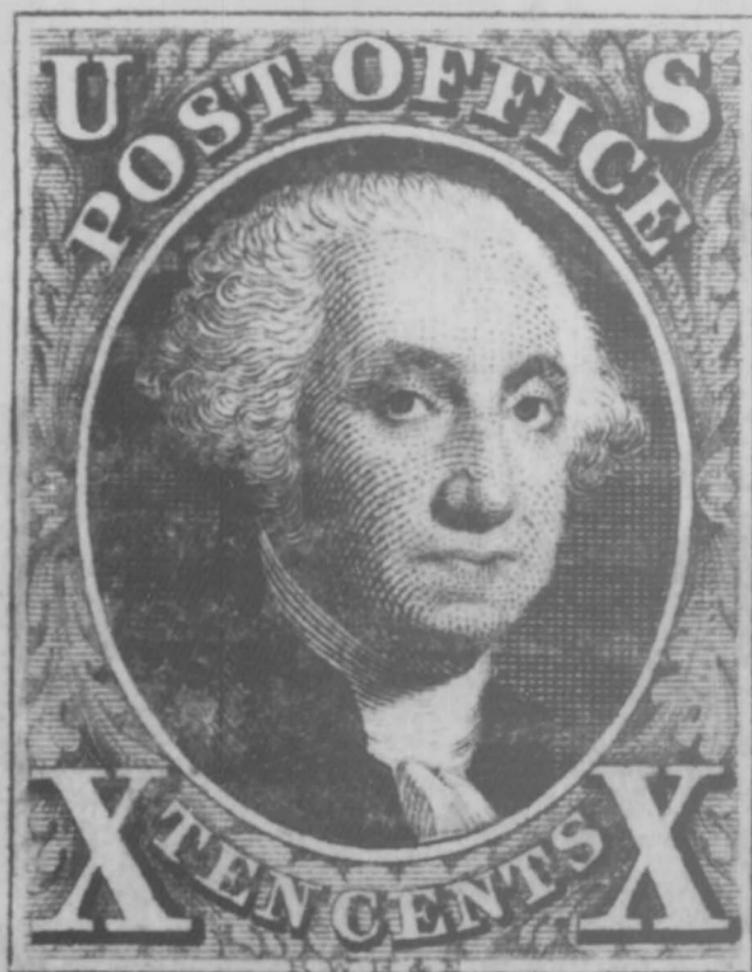
220 E

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394 Park Ave.

New York, City



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POST OFFICE



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CABLE ADDRESS "BANKNOTE" NEW YORK  
QUOTATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY

70 BROAD STREET

NEW YORK

PLATE'S ENDURED ONLY ON CONDITION  
THAT THEY REMAIN IN THE POSSESSION  
OF THIS COMPANY

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
DANIEL E. WOODHULL

PRESIDENT

ALBERT L. SCHOMR

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

WALTER E. SMITH

VICE PRESIDENTS

H. VICTOR KEANE, HARRY F. PAYNE,

PETER AITCHISON, HENRY R. TREADWELL,

SECRETARY-CONTROLLER TREASURER  
JOHN P. TREADWELL, JR. EDWARD F. PASE.

May 15, 1936

My dear Mr. Knapp:

I have had a careful examination made of the 10¢ United States Stamp of the 1847 issue which, I understand, is known from the collectors' view point as the "Knapp Shift".

It is undoubtedly a genuine stamp and the irregularities appearing in this stamp have probably occurred in the re-entering of this particular stamp on the plate.

Yours very truly,

HRT/LB

To:

Mr. Edward S. Knapp,

C O P Y

American Bank Note Company  
70 Broad St.,  
New York.

May 15, 1936.

My dear Mr. Knapp:

I have had a careful examination made of the 10¢ United States Stamp of the 1847 issue which, I understand, is known from the collectors' view point as the "Knapp Shift."

It is undoubtedly a genuine stamp and the irregularities appearing in this stamp had probably occurred in the re-entering of this particular stamp on the plate.

Yours very truly,

(signed)

H. R. Treadwell

H R T / L B

To:  
Mr. Edward S. Knapp.

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41

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.

394 Park Ave.  
New York, City

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Copy of Letter sent to Elliott Perry  
From Ned Knapp.

Dear Elliott:

I noted your article in your paper attempting to damage my property, by calling it a "fake" Its quite in line with your general attitude toward everything and everybody - You know perfectly well it isn't a fake. You should, if you want to do the honest thing, retract that word "fake". it doesn't belong there and I consider it libel - I'd like to have an explanation from you why you used the word - Is it venom toward me? (or Ashbrook) Or do you think you know more than the Bank Note Co.? Your type, I don't understand at all but it is a decidedly harmful type, with an unfriendly feeling towards the world.

Edward Knapp.

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**PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.**

394 Park Ave.  
New York, City

HORACE W. BARR  
2815 PENN AVENUE  
WEST LAWN, PENNSYLVANIA

April 11, 37.

Dear Stanley:

This is going to be a very short letter, as my eyes and head simply ache. I have spent about fifteen hours on this stamp in the last two days. I am going to give you my conclusions and will write details later. It has been awfully hard working with a photo alone without the help of an actual stamp. I am so sure however that I would gamble the stamp if I ever see it will bear out my contentions. There are so many places where you have to decide whether a thing is a photo defect or a marking on the stamp. Take for instance that gap in the shading of the O in OFFICE. I can't tell if this is a photographic defect or not, but one glance at the stamp would tell. I refer to the pair you sent me. I can't find a thing on it, but it did tell me several new things. My conclusions are as follows. It is not a printing variety, and it IS NOT A PAINTING. I experimented with some paint and a single hair brush last night and decided that a person with a very ~~little~~ little more skill and experience than I have (and this person would not be hard to find as my skill and experience at painting is about nil) could easily paint these lines. Nevertheless I am sure it is not a painting. It is NOT A FAKE, but a triple transfer made with the transfer roll. I can show where every line on that stamp came from, even that extra line in the E that we could not account for. I think the real thing that fooled us all is that five or six of these lines are made up partially from one entry and partially from another. They can not be fitted anywhere if taken as a single line, but considered as being made up of two <sup>lines</sup> entries they can be easily fitted in. The thing that got me onto it was that, I think without exception every line on the 3LR shift can be found on the Knapp shift. I believe if your enlargements were ~~of~~ the same size that the 3LR could be laid on this shift and all the lines would coincide. The letters that show the triple are the O and S of POST and the ICE of OFFICE and the two X's. But only parts or some of the lines in these letters are from the triple. I still can think of only one way these lines could have showed up late in the life of the plate and that is the solder theory. I read your article in STAMPS and think it very good. However I go farther than you do. I think the difference in a print from copper and steel plates can be seen even though the plate is an engraved one instead of a transferred one. A tool will cut very differently in steel and copper. The resultant cut line in the plate would be different consequently the inked line would be different and the whole print would have a different appearance. Now I personally might not be able to pick them out but I have no doubt at all that one that handled a great many <sup>prints</sup> would have no trouble at all. Thanks for the information on the proofs. I agree with you. Can I soak the gum off without injuring the card. It is bad enough that they were thinned but the gum is impossible. I wrote Mason but have not had a reply as yet. I am sorry you could not come, but of course had no idea of expecting you to make a special trip. Just thought you might be coming east. I know what you are going through as I moved four times the first ~~time~~ two years I was married and have not moved for about thirty since. What do they say. "two movings are equal to a fire"? So I won't be at all anxious if I do not hear from you for a while. I will write you later however giving you more details and some sketches I am making up.

Sincerely,

*Horace*

P. S. The one entry is up  
and the other is down.

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S



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X

#12

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.

394 Park Ave.  
New York, City

Below is exact copy of  
Sweets letter to me

Mayors Office  
City of Attleboro - Mass.

Mr. Edward S. Knapp  
158 East 64<sup>th</sup> St  
New York City - N.Y.

NOV. 23. 1935.

Dear Mr. Knapp;

Enclosed is the 10¢  
1847 stamp I received from  
you five minutes ago. Close  
scrutiny is unnecessary. I find  
not only a very poorly faked  
"Post Office" shift, but poorly  
faked for any variety  
of shift. One may call it  
faint or ink, whichever  
suits ones fancy. Some may  
call it clever, but I still  
retain my self-respect and  
refuse to confer it such  
honor.

This fake has a postmark  
dot - - - horizontal and  
diagonal lines in both "X's"  
a vertical line close to the

border in the right corner.  
31 L Post office shift  
has none of these, while  
most of the added lines  
in Post office are noticeably  
faked. The most pronounced  
errors are to be found  
in the horizontal and  
diagonal lines in both  
"X's" -

Will plate it where I  
go home to lunch -

Sincerely,

Frank R. Sweet

P.S. If not asking too  
much, I would like a print  
of the two - !!

---

Written on the approval  
card, in pencil, (the card  
had the stamp in it) is.  
"23 L - I have this position  
strip of three in plate  
and fair on cover of F.R. Sweet!!"

158 East 64  
New York City

Dec 20 -  
'35

Dear Stan;

Thanks for  
your letter + I'll  
take things in order.

First the vertical  
pair of outlets —  
you didn't give it  
a number (or rather  
2 numbers) For  
our convenience, do  
that + let me use  
the same as you  
do — As its same's,  
why not give  
it "SR" numbers?  
I checked it  
up and the  
top is same as

SA 12 etc + the bottom  
sauce as SA 66 etc +  
we add a position  
to a strip of 3: as  
follows:

new top SA 12 D 14 J.L.H. 1		
new bottom SA 66 SA 39 K 2	SA-67 RWE 8	C.G. 1 ERA 11 SA 63.

This is a "roving" fork  
which I can't attach  
to any strip - Check  
me on it please  
I give me a number  
ing for the vertical  
face - you're correct,  
there are two other  
vertical faces only.  
vice versa -

Have not checked your  
other photos yet, but

2.) I will soon —

---

Next. I enclose  
an exact copy  
of Severts letter  
to me — No you  
blame me for  
having it get  
my goat? I wrote  
him a long letter  
on it, explaining  
that I wanted  
merely a platy  
of the stamp &  
this is the answer.  
I would guess  
that Perry had  
written him &  
"coached" him on

what to say, but  
of course that's  
merely a guess.  
The jolly Bd Mayor  
of Attleboro. was  
is sure some stake  
on him self. It  
would be worth  
the price of ad-  
mission to show  
him up as the  
dumbell he really  
is —

---

your A. B. C. theory  
is perfectly possible,  
and very clever — I  
in agree Perry may  
contradict it, but  
I don't see how

3) he can call it  
"impossible" —

My idea is a  
little different,  
and, for convenience,  
call it "X" and "Y."

X = condition of  
plate with normal  
23h. existing during  
nearly the entire  
life of the plate.

Y = is the very  
latest state of  
the plate, where  
they reentered the  
shift over 23h.

Why couldn't that  
be it? It would  
account for it

being what appears  
to be a late  
impression —

As a matter of  
fact, I see no  
reason why the  
reentry should not  
have been made  
at any time, while  
the plate was  
being used. (To  
account for the  
scarcity of the  
shift, we may  
assume only  
a few were printed  
either (1) because  
it was burnished  
out, & a new  
position put in,

4.) or (2) because  
it was at the end,  
and the plate  
wasn't used any  
more —

---

Seems to me  
just as possible  
as your idea  
that it was  
done early —  
The plate was  
destroyed, so we  
can't examine it  
& this "late" idea  
makes it a  
little easier to  
explain <sup>the fact that</sup> ~~that~~.  
Perry says it's  
not an "early" —

5) wrong, unless  
Elliott does, too —

---

I feel just the  
way you do about  
Elliott — He's a swell  
guy at heart, but  
he's having a  
fight with about  
every one, because  
of his attitude +  
continual remarks  
about Needham.  
I hate to think  
what would happen  
if Needham ever  
turned on him +  
if he keeps it  
up, he'll lose every  
friend he has

even if Woodhams  
doesn't turn on  
him - Silly, small-  
town stuff & you  
just can't stop  
him - It's an  
offshoot of this  
mental attitude,  
where he won't  
admit he can  
be wrong on his  
ideas or my  
shift - Anyone  
can be wrong,  
and he's a  
damned sight  
sounder if he  
admits it's  
possibility.

6.) Mean while it is  
an interesting item  
and the only thing  
to do is to do  
it as you're doing  
& prove it step  
by step -

---

I don't know your  
"grape vine" here in  
town, but I don't  
think there will  
be many dealers  
who will agree  
with Elliott - <sup>or anyone</sup>  
<sup>of consequence</sup>  
Definitely on our  
side are the Economist,  
The Scott Co, Costalis,  
Doane, and others

of the best reputa-  
tion — I have yet  
to see any one, who  
agrees with Perry.  
I'd like to hear  
of some one who  
does. Do you know  
of any one — If so,  
let's hear about  
it, please.

---

You've been wonderful  
with this thing,  
Stan, & I can't tell  
you how obliged  
I am — As a matter  
of fact; it's fun  
for you, too. I'm  
sure, and it will

T.) ~~not~~ be a heap  
of satisfactions, if  
it works out  
& we get a definite  
answer —

(By the way, you  
spell "definite"  
wrong — d-e-f-i-n-i-t-e  
is correct

Well — I'll be  
waiting for those  
numbers on the  
"Diagrams" & as the  
thing progresses,  
keep me in touch  
with developments  
& if I have anything

here, I'll let  
you know -

Best  
Ked -

P.S. The boy is  
recovering & the  
operation <sup>is</sup> a success.  
He'll get the use  
of his hand back  
I believe, yours  
right, I guess  
we suffer more  
for our children  
than they do  
them selves, I was  
just frantic for  
a while - E.H.C.

158 East 64  
New York City

Jan 16  
'36.

Dear Stan;

Yours received  
and I am here  
returning -

1. Article intended for Feb. Philatelist
2. Letter from Perry to you Jan 4. 1936
3. Copy of letter sent to Perry in answer.

I am keeping the O.T. material sent, which I will go over in the near future -

I see no advantage in my having these copies of Perry correspondence. I haven't entered into

it, and do not pre-  
tend to be an expert.  
I think it better to  
have you and Elliott  
decide the matter  
(or disagree, as the  
case may be.)

---

Your position seems  
to me inpregnable,  
and Perry's not based  
on facts.

---

The stamp is here  
and will be yours  
to borrow at any  
moment - It has  
been examined under  
the lamp by Hugh,  
Clark & nothing  
suspicious was  
noticed -

---

I have not "bitted

2.) in " on this thing  
at all, except to  
advise you against  
publishing any ar-  
ticle until all  
pros & cons have  
been weighed -  
I repeat this caution,  
although I have  
no personal ob-  
jections to your  
doing exactly as  
you please -

I think Elliott  
will probably call  
it a "fake" in  
his next "Pat  
Paraphrases", but  
that's only a guess.

I took the Photograph  
of the item to the  
Library here & com-  
pared lines with  
231 in Müller col-  
lection there. There  
are 2 or 3 of the fo-  
lition) and I think  
it is 231, so I  
would go on the  
assumption that  
it is - (I'd bet it  
was, as Elliott says)

That doesn't prove  
it's wrong at that,  
but it's Elliotts  
name card -

hastily  
Fred Keapp



SINCE 1915

July 14, 1941

Dear Stanley,

Yes, I recall the Mekeel story about the cover Knapp bought, because that story was credited to me. But I never told anyone that I wrote it, or admitted it was mine. I didn't get any of it from Knapp. What happened was common talk around the Fox Club, and Kuehne, Gerhman and possibly others were kidded without much mercy for having refused to buy the cover from Krassa. I heard about it from Percy Doane, or in his office and have no recollection of Knapp being present. I'm pretty sure it had been the cause of much merriment before I heard about it.

If I haven't told worse stories than that on myself I could. I pulled one bull that cost me as much as a six weeks trip to Europe - which it would take more than one pair of frame line Confeds to pay for.

Horace Barr told me about the solder matter himself and about the time that you mentioned it. My idea has been that Horace considered it might be a possible solution - not that it had to be THE solution to the Knapp "shift". As I believe I already knew what caused the Knapp "shift" and that it did not come from a D.T. or any such re-entry on the plate, the solder solution did not explain the Knapp stamp, altho it might be very useful thing to know. Probably the only thing wrong with the solder theory is that it doesn't happen to apply to the Knapp stamp. It is merely an attempt to prove something happened which actually did not happen. Circumstantial evidence has brought more than one man to the gallows for a murder which someone else committed. Man I knew in Chicago read in the newspaper that he had been convicted of a felony and sentenced to prison. He wondered about that as would anyone. The solution was both strange and simple. He had been robbed of his pocketbook and papers and when the robber was caught committing another crime the culprit "adopted" my friend's name and was tried and sentenced under my friend's name.

New Yorker article tells how Souren spent \$1,800 on the Knapp stamp. The mighty mountain went into travail and brought forth - not even a mouse. What's the use of having thousands of dollars worth of scientific equipment? Why don't such people use it on the stamps they offer for sale? Or do they? Judging by what I have seen with a ten cent magnifier - or no glass at all - I wonder. The solder trail is a bit obscure. You and I know it started with Horace Barr. Thompson claims it for his very own. If Souren should deny that Thompson got it from him what did Souren do with \$1,800? This looks to me like a proper target for some good-natured kidding, with or without satire.

10¢  
Frame  
Line

Confed

Barr  
Solder  
Theory



# 4

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.  
394 Park Ave.  
New York, City

# PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.

394 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

October 6, 1941

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.  
434 So. Grand Av.  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The lots have finally been put together, and now that Behr is away showing them throughout the country I have a few minutes to devote to my correspondence.

In rereading one of your letters, I find the sentence, "Well, if Harmer and Kleeman are right, I think you will agree with me that it was a pretty swell job of painting and being so fine, why did the artist only make one copy?" I know you have your little jokes but supposing you were serious.

I want to explain on this matter as simply as possible in such way that it can be understood by every ordinary collector as well as those who have advanced knowledge. If we look back on the course of life, we find that our progress has been made possible through science and its developments.

As ordinary human beings we see things that do not exist and, at times, we do not see things as they actually are. One can take two objects of the same dimensions and they can appear to be in different sizes---an optical illusion. Sometimes in a single color, we see two different colors---an optical illusion. When landing in a plane, the ground seems to be coming up to the plane---an optical illusion.

When one makes a hobby of stamps and has some knowledge of chemistry, mathematics, optics, physics, etc., one cannot avoid making a subconscious approach to philately along these lines, especially those whose love of collecting is the primary fascination. With such persons profit may enter into it without being a deciding factor. An approach to stamps along these lines makes one spend time with his dreams when he cannot afford to do so. There is an inner desire for knowledge similar to the drunkard without money who yet finds some way of getting something to drink.

In the course of philately and its growth, its followers found out that a magnifying glass would throw more light on certain characteristics than the naked eye. It would naturally follow that more powerful magnifying glasses would show just that much more. Those who knew of the existence of more powerful glasses used them, and from there went on to the use of the microscope and to microscopes of many different forms, and they all could see more than those who used only their eyes or a simple magnifying glass.

# PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.

394 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

S. B. Ashbrook, Esq.

- 2 -

October 6, 1941

Just as magnifying glasses have been superseded by more powerful instruments, so has other progress been made with stamps. Benzine, carbona, and other fluids were very helpful in disclosing thin spots, repairs, etc., but have given way to methods which do not require the immersion of a stamp in a fluid. (Sometimes immersion is harmful, as in the case of the U.S. 1¢ 1861, in which the color is definitely affected by benzine.) So why should we use benzine when the ultra violet rays bring out not alone the things that could be seen in benzine but will bring out repairs covered with an oily substance so as to show how the repair has been camouflaged to evade detection in benzine.

The ultra violet ray will show an original pen cancellation that may have been cleaned from a stamp. It can bring out other fakings not visible to the naked eye or to a magnifying glass. The ultra violet ray will also give indications as to whether the gum on an unused stamp is the original gum or has been added later. In the case of gum the ultra violet rays do not give the conclusive proof but they do give the indication. In such cases the stamp can be subjected to further tests which can prove the point by revealing the composition of different gums.

Now all this is in no way different from the application of science in our everyday life and progress. Today a doctor doesn't take a big shot of whiskey before he does an amputation (see Dr. Smith in 1803, in the Readers' Digest). The doctor today doesn't have to mutilate a man's body looking for a mass of kidney stones until he finds the correct position. When he sees what the X-ray has to tell him, he can go ahead with his operation without fortifying himself with whiskey, and he doesn't have to give whiskey to the patient either.

As philately has grown, the need for checking our knowledge has grown with it. One could not rely forever on benzine, particularly when the violet ray can give proof. It is growing enough to want tangible proof. In the old days they would sit down and by mere opinion state the stamp was "unused", "pen-cancelled", "repaired", "genuine", "fake", etc. There was no way of giving proof to what was said. There were just the good wishes of all concerned in a free-for-all opinion in behalf of philately. But today the ultra violet will show where a pen cancellation has been removed. The ultra violet does not give an opinion. It shows definitely for all to see. This is proof and leaves no room for free-for-all opinion so far as the question of pen cancellation is concerned. This is just one tiny instance of how science has been helpful in philately, even to those who in the past have staked their reputations and their good names on their eyesight. One can go on forever, and so can every sensible man, and state instances of how science has added to human progress.

I have noticed that for some years my love for stamps has not been all it used to be. I have really been mistaken in my liking for stamps. My love has been in the many subjects entering into a stamp---art, printing, paper, and all those other features that surround a stamp. Since 1929 when I bought my first microscope from Eugene Klein,

# PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.

394 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

October 6, 1941

S. B. Ashbrook, Esq.

- 3 -

I have "wasted" more time with this than my business should have permitted, but this time has not been spent in vain, for I discovered the possibilities to see things and learn things otherwise unknown to us. Outside of a stamp being itself, I would see it as a piece of paper, the inks with which it was printed, and the historic reasons for its existence. This has brought me many sleepless nights.

I have had a broad scientific education. I am a graduate in chemistry, physics, and have qualifications in microscopy and research ability. With this background, it was not difficult for me to go into the chemistry of inks and the substances used in making paper, as well as advancing myself in microscopic studies. Therefore, my worries went to supplement my knowledge into the manufacturing of paper in its different forms and stages. Everything I learned brought the realization of how much more there is yet to be learned, and it was enough of a headache to acquire this little knowledge in the face of what I grew to realize must yet be learned. However, I have learned enough to recompense me for all the time and worry spent on it.

Science has advanced to a point where papers and inks can be brought down into their original components. Long before Mr. Knapp ever brought his 10¢ 1847 in here, I have had plenty of opportunities to attack basic problems. I was the first to bring scientifically the existence of faked centerlines and arrows on the Farley imperforates, among other things, but I didn't ballyhoo about it. As far back as 1924, before I knew how to distinguish any of the types of the 1¢ 1851, I found a Type I 1851 1¢ faked from a Type II in the Hawkins collection. Dr. Kuntz of the duPont laboratories checked me on this and it was probably the first inkling I had of how science could be employed in checking stamps, though this was a relatively easy question.

Working on the Knapp shift, I had to approach the subject setting aside any philatelic knowledge. My problem was to reduce the stamp to its components, just as the ultra violet will show a pen cancellation, giving visual proof. The facts disclosed were just as conclusive. It was studied as a piece of paper, plus printing, studied with various instruments in conjunction with other 10¢ 1847's, with the result that we have a stamp designated in the Standard Catalogue as #29, which has a number of doubly transferred lines. These lines, both of the basic stamp and the shift, are similar and identical in every way--paper, ink, and composition, with existing and accepted 10¢ 1847, Scott #29. If some people claim this stamp to be a fake, I will agree with them that the Knapp shift is a fake provided they will also agree that each and every #29 printed on similar paper and with similar inks is a fake. If the Knapp shift is a fake, all 10¢ 1847's are fake. If the Knapp shift is genuine, all 10¢ 1847's are genuine. Science has settled this matter beyond any opinion or attack by opinionated people.

# PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.

394 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

October 6, 1941

S. B. Ashbrook, Esq.

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In view of the findings which the instruments have disclosed and not by visual examination and opinion, to differ from scientific findings is simply to disregard facts. A petrographic microscope is able to bring out features not otherwise known. Through this and other instruments those familiar with their use and ways of bringing out things are able to read whether press impressions are made from steel, copper, or from any other plate. Any research laboratory with a personnel familiar with the operations of these instruments can get the same reading and make the same proof.

I have found out that the U.S. stamps prior to 1851 have been printed from copper plates and the evidence is that the 1851 and later issues have been printed from steel plates. This is neither a guess nor an opinion. To paraphrase, if the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847's were printed from steel plates, then the 1851 and later issues were printed from copper plates. This proof is not alone in the structure of the stamp but can also be obtained chemically. See page 403 of Volume 6 of the Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th Edition, 1929, in which it states that the presence of copper can be detected and "Potassium ferrocyanide gives a brown precipitate, and if the solution be very dilute, a brown color is produced. This latter reaction will detect one part of copper in 500000 of water." While this was in the 1929 edition, chemists today can detect the presence of even smaller quantities of copper. Those who can spend time to volunteer opinions on this stamp might better spend their time in learning these things.

Since I am a human being, I am not immune from deficiencies but I do know better than to trust opinion when I can get facts. We live in an age when newspapers can make or break homes; when opinionated people, going contrary to life, can upset the equilibrium of a nation; when strategy and armies are directed by armchair generals. In philately we have armchair high priests, one of whom has actually deified himself but sensible people can go to a circus and laugh at the clowns. However, when a serious matter enters, one does not laugh. One goes conscientiously to bring out not opinion but to try and demonstrate facts.

You can't wash a black stove white with soap but you can paint it. I don't see where there is any call on me to make research students out of high priests. All they do is to paint when they have a chance to put aside opinion to learn something about their subject and to do some real work and secure sensible and reasonable results.

We have all the Knapp correspondence, and a very brilliant minded student, one who seeks the truth, has branded the 10¢ 1847 shift as a "rank fake". Here are quotations from some of his letters, with an occasional comment from myself. My comments are in parenthesis.

Nov. 14, 1935 "After examining the stamp I think it a waste of time and money to do anything more. In my opinion it is undoubtedly a fraud. Fortunately the "artist" happened to select a stamp from a plate

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October 6, 1941

position with such definite characteristics and so unlike anything else on the plate that it can be identified with certainty."

(In other words, the shift is painted in.)

- Jan. 8, 1936 I am so certain that I can prove beyond any reasonable doubt that the thing is an absolute fake that I am willing to back my opinion with any amount of desirable U.S. stamps worth from 1,000 to 10,000.
- May 15, 1936 Vice-president John P. Treadwell of the American Bank Note Co. writes to Knapp that the stamp is genuine and so is the shift. Knapp tells of this to the student in question. Here is his own reaction:
- May 22, 1936 Dear Knapp:  
I have your kind letter and thank you for advising me in regard to the American Bank Note Co. I am perfectly satisfied that no part of your 10¢ '47 is an intentional imitation or fake. I do not recall having said it was a "paint job" and in fact believe I stated that I did not know how it was made.---  
It is a mere accident of printing of which many examples have been found on the 10¢ '47 stamps.
- June 3, 1936 As a shift I still would say the stamp is a fraud, tho I now believe it was produced by an accident of manufacture and not afterwards. Of course I must qualify that statement because I did not then know that an imitation shift could be produced by an accident of printing. I was satisfied it was not a genuine shift but did not know that a genuine stamp could bear an imitation shift in the ink of the stamp itself.
- June 12, 1936 One suggestion that came through a friend has not been acted on that I know of, altho I wrote Stanley about it and think the equipment and a competent operator may be found in Cincinnati. I refer to what is called "optical section". By this means it is sometimes possible to determine if one print is superimposed on another and this might clearly reveal whether the "irregularities" on your stamp are merged into the normal design as I believe genuine shift lines would be, or are not. I do not know if the American Bank Note Co. used or have equipment for "optical section" but am sure it can be found in New York or vicinity and believe I could arrange for such a test to be made.

# PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.

394 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

October 6, 1941

S. B. Ashbrook, Esq.

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July 11, 1936 I do not know what the American Bank Note Co. reported to you as to exactly how the stamp you submitted to them was produced, but I am quite willing to take my chances with them and have no doubt they will agree with me.

In view of all this correspondence and in view of what has been learned about this stamp, it would seem that he has set his own standards for proof, and now that this proof has been presented to him publicly, he seeks innuendo to keep the question open. It makes one wonder about his sincerity. This is hardly like the high priests bursting to have their names in print. I like to see them go on record in condemning this stamp because they condemn science.

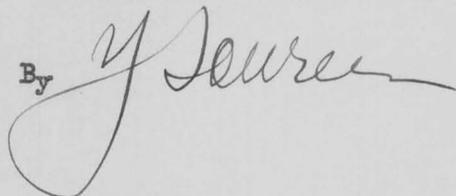
With a sincere student, it is different, for progress is animated and better served by sincere and free antagonism in which both antagonists have the truth as their only end. Just as an oil well needs gas pressure to bring it through the ground, but sure as day a natural gusher will not be plugged by human beings nor will science be stopped by the high priests and Mahomets of philately.

I think I have made myself entirely clear on the subject of this stamp which some people are trying to use for their own benefit but which will eventually bring their downfall. There is nothing in this letter which is confidential. You may make use of it as you see fit, even in certain publications with whose policy I am not in accord.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

PHILATELIC RESEARCH  
LABORATORIES, INC.

By 

YS:p



#5-

**PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.**

394 Park Ave.

New York, City



FRANK R. SWEET  
MAYOR

Mayor's Office  
City of Attleboro, Massachusetts

Mr. Edward S. Knapp  
158 East 64th Street  
New York, N. Y.

November 23, 1935

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Enclosed is the 10¢ 47 stamp I received from you five minutes ago. Close scrutiny is unnecessary. I find not only a very poorly faked "Post Office" shift, but poorly faked for any variety of shift. One may call it paint or ink, whichever suits ones fancy. Some may call it clever but I still retain my self-respect and refuse to confer it such honor.

This fake has a position dot -- horizontal and diagonal lines in both "X's" -- a vertical line close to the border in the lower right corner. 31 R Post Office shift has none of these, while most of the added lines in Post Office are noticeably faked. The most pronounced errors are to be found in the horizontal and diagonal lines in both "X's".

Will plate it when I go home to lunch.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Sweet

*P.S. If not asking too much I would like a print of the two*

SWEET MANUFACTURING Co.

F. R. SWEET, TREASURER.

MANUFACTURERS OF

IMPROVED  
PROCESS

CHAIN



AND  
MANUFACTURERS'

SPECIALTIES

MIDDLEBORO MASSACHUSETTS U.S.A.

Dear Mr Knapp,-

Would be only too pleased  
to pass on the 10¢ 47 you mention,  
and if Plate able give you the position

Sincerely

Robert



#6

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.  
394 Park Ave.  
New York, City

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Oct. 10, 1941.

Copy Sent  
To  
Jessup

Mr. Harry L. Lindquist,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Harry:

I thought perhaps you might be interested in the following excerpts from a letter from Souren dated Oct. 6th. Souren stated there was nothing confidential about the letter so I am passing this on to you. The subject referred to was the "Knapp shift."

"We have all the Knapp correspondence, and a very brilliant minded student, one who seeks the truth, has branded the 10¢ 1847 shift as a "rank fake." Here are quotations from some of his letters, with an occasional comment from myself. My comments are in parenthesis.

Nov. 14, 1935 "After examining the stamp I think it a waste of time and money to do anything more. In my opinion it is undoubtedly a fraud. Fortunately the "artist" happened to select a stamp from a plate position with such definite characteristics and so unlike anything else on the plate that it can be identified with certainty." (In other words, the shift is painted in.)

Jan. 8, 1936 I am so certain that I can prove beyond any reasonable doubt that the thing is an absolute fake that I am willing to back my opinion with any amount of desirable U. S. stamps worth from 1,000 to 10,000.

May 15, 1936 Vice-president John P. Treadwell of the American Bank Note Co. writes to Knapp that the stamp is genuine and so is the shift. Knapp tells of this to the student in question. Here is his own reaction:

May 22, 1936 Dear Knapp:  
I have your letter and thank you for advising me in regard to the American Bank Note Co. I am perfectly satisfied that no part of your 10¢ '47 is an intentional imitation or fake. I do not recall having said it was a "paint job" and in fact believe I stated that I did not know how it was made.---  
It is a mere accident of printing of which many examples have been found on the 10¢ '47 stamps.

June 3, 1936 As a shift I still would say the stamp is a fraud, tho I now believe it was produced by an accident of manufacture and not afterwards. Of course I must qualify that statement because I did not then know that an imitation shift could be produced by an accident of printing. I was satisfied it was not a genuine shift but did not know that a genuine stamp could bear an imitation shift in the ink of the stamp itself.

#2.

Mr. Harry L. Lindquist, Oct. 10, 1941.

June 12, 1936 One suggestion that came through a friend has not been acted on that I know of, altho I wrote Stanley about it and think the equipment and a competent operator may be found in Cincinnati. I refer to what is called "optical section." By this means it is sometimes possible to determine if one print is superimposed on another and this might clearly reveal whether the "irregularities" on your stamp are merged into the normal design as I believe genuine shift lines would be, or are not. I do not know if the American Bank Note Co. used or have equipment for "optical section" but am sure it can be found in New York or vicinity and believe I could arrange for such a test to be made.

July 11, 1936 I do not know what the American Bank Note Co. reported to you as to exactly how the stamp you submitted to them was produced, but I am quite willing to take my chances with them and have no doubt they will agree with me.

In view of all this correspondence and in view of what has been learned about this stamp, it would seem that he has set his own standards for proof, and now that this proof has been presented to him publicly, he seeks innuendo to keep the question open. It makes one wonder about his sincerity. This is hardly like the high priests bursting to have their names in print. I like to see them go on record in condemning this stamp because they condemn science."

Regarding the above, you will recall that I have repeatedly told you that Elliott's first opinion, after due examination of the stamp, was that the stamp was a "painting." He requested Ned to send the copy to Frank Sweet which Ned did and Sweet came right back and was absolutely sure it was a "painting." With Sweet's confirmation Elliott was so sure he was right that he offered to bet Ned \$10,000 to \$1,000. He also made me the same proposition and I laughed at him, telling him that he didn't have ten grand and that I didn't have one.

Then Elliott switched over, and said the stamp was genuine, denied he had said it was a "painting," and stated it was an "imitation shift." I don't know what he thinks it is today, because all I can get out of him is, that he knows positively what it is, has known all along, and some day he is going to tell the true story.

Now I don't know whether the stamp is good or bad and I don't give a damn either way, but there is one thing on which I am positive and that is, that the stamp is no "kiss" nor "imitation shift," that is, provided an "imitation shift" is some sort of a printing error. All of which means that I am sure Elliott is wrong.

This Knapp stamp is becoming famous, so I thought you would be interested in the above.

Yours etc.,

Perry  
Oct  
20  
1941

His Royal Highness (Harmer)'s solution of the Knapp shift does make the fellows who spent a lot of time working on that thing look rather foolish and no doubt it will exasperate Souren. Evidently Harmer doesn't know that the stamp was checked against all the major and minor shifts long ago. When I get around to it I shall publish the answer so everybody can know it. The answer has not been a secret with me. As far back as 1936 at least one other student of 1847s knew it and I don't know how many he may have told it to. If they did not believe him it is not my fault. In the old days there was a step in the printing process which is no longer used. That made it possible to produce a "shift" having the appearance of engraved lines ~~from~~ any position of any plate. The transposition of the duplicated lines might or might not exactly agree with the lines of the design, and the result would be so similar to a genuine D.T. that unless one knew how it was made it might pass for a genuine D.T. without question. It is not caused by the sheet "kissing" the plate altho it may have characteristics very similar to those of such a "kiss".

Knapp 10 + 1847 Shift

Perry Will Tell Us Some Day



#7

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.  
394 Park Ave.  
New York, City

May 3rd, 1936.

Mr. Edw. S. Knapp,  
300 Park Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Ned:

Perry has my goat and I admit it. He is simply crazy to break into print and damn your stamp up and down and also in doing so to damn everyone who has had the extreme gall to question any opinion he expresses. His egotism is colossal and it sure gets my goat.

I am sending you herewith a copy of some "Notes" he sent Dolph to publish. I have no right to send you this copy as I am going it without Dolph's permission. So treat this absolutely confidential. I did not ask Dolph permission to send you this copy, hence he did not request me not to do it. Hence I am not betraying any request. However I feel Dolph would prefer that no copy be sent you for fear he might get in bad with Elliott. I feel this way. I do not think Perry is playing fair. I think he is trying to put Dolph on the spot. If he wanted to go about this thing in the right and honorable way, why doesn't he go to you and submit to you what he wants to write and get your permission to publish. Why put Dolph on the spot? Why draw me into the mess and have me attempt to use my influence with you to get permission to damn your property up and down? He met you personally in Sloane's and had a fine opportunity to explain to you any reasons he had to justify his desire to bust into print.

I am also enclosing copy of a letter I have written him today.

I think his "Notes" are perfectly "lousy". The only interest he has in the stamp is to prove, if he can, he is right. Not to prove the stamp is right or wrong. I am now absolutely convinced his whole opinion is based on the point that he believes your stamp is 23 L. I'll be damned if I take his word it is 23 L. He has not turned a hand to show me a copy of 23 L, though I am convinced he could borrow a copy from Sweet if he wished to do so.

If I were in his shoes and sure I was right I would move heaven and earth to submit to the Ft. Mitchell upstart a copy of 23 L. Look at the last paragraph of his dope. Do you want any better proof that his sole reason for believing the stamp is a fake is because he was able to plate it?

We will show the stamp to Doc. If Doc questions it my faith in my opinion will be shaken. That Doc is a keen little bird. Beside him Perry is a rank novice, and I am not much better. So we will see what Doc thinks about the stamp - in the meantime - to hccc with it and Perry.

I do not need to remind you what I would do to a guy who would write such brazen stuff about anything that belonged to me. If Dolph published this slop it would cost him his job. But would that bother the Sage of the Peach Orchard? Not a bit. He would have had

#2 - Mr. Knapp - May 3, 1936.

his say and vindicating his reputation as the world's lone and only  
authority on the 10¢ 1847. Perfect rot.

Yes I will admit that bird has my goat.

Yours etc.,

P. S. Keep the Perry copy for future reference.

May 3, 1936.

Mr. Elliott Perry,  
Box 333,  
Westfield, N.J.

My dear Elliott Perry:

Dolph has shown me your notes on the 10¢ Knapp shift, and it seems to me you have done the very thing that Ned has warned you not to do. I wrote Ned a long letter sometime ago and asked him to grant you permission to write up your opinion on his stamp. In most emphatic terms Ned refused. What more can I do? It seems to me, if you wish to avoid trouble the thing for you to do, is to go to Ned and obtain his permission. I do not think it is fair for you to put Dolph on the spot by placing him in an embarrassing position. You seem very anxious to write up your side of the controversy, yet you have not lifted a finger yourself to obtain Ned's permission. You ran into Ned in Sloane's office but you never mentioned the subject to him. Ned has not written Dolph so far as I know but I have a letter from him in which he stated he would bring action against anyone who pronounced his stamp a fake and would make any publication that published such comments a party to the suit.

I thought you were perfectly aware of this. If so why attempt to get Dolph to publish what you have written. Why don't you go about this thing in the right way and submit whatever you wish to write to Ned and obtain his written permission to have same published?

Dolph has also shown me your comments on my May Column.

I am perfectly aware that a bill was rendered for engraving a steel plate. I am surprised you brought this point up. May I remind you that steel plates are not engraved. Dies are engraved but not whole plates. It is therefore perfectly obvious that the wording of the invoice "Engraving steel plate of Post Office Stamps," should have read "Engraving steel die for Post Office Stamps."

Perhaps if the clerk who made out this invoice could have foreseen a Luff or a Perry he would have made his wording entirely different. If Luff jumped to the conclusion the plate was of steel because they engraved a steel die surely Elliott Perry should not have jumped into the tracks left by Luff's imagination.

I am really surprised you thought I should jump into the same footprints. Personally I don't care a damn what Luff thought or wrote on this subject, or what evidence he had. Anyone with sufficient plating experience would know the New York plate was copper and not steel.

Your argument on the 90¢ 1860 plate is no comparison. Scratches on a steel plate are entirely different from scratches on a copper plate. I have had too much experience on this subject to make any comparison.

You state you "see little difference - if any - whether the plates were soft steel - not hardened - or copper." Well I am truly surprised. I am quite sure there is quite a difference between soft steel and copper. You also state you have heard that the period was a little "early for case-hardening," hence you surmise the possibility the 47 plates may have been of steel - but not hardened.

#2 - Mr. Perry - May 3, 1936.

If you will read the story of the "Penny black" you will find a full description of the process used to harden these plates in 1840.

Chase is due to arrive in New York this week. I will see that he examines the Knapp stamp very carefully. Should he pronounce the stamp a fake, I will have no trouble in obtaining from Ned permission for you to write up this stamp to your heart's content. I will even go further. I will see that you express your opinion first in print. And in doing so you can criticise to your heart's content those who were fooled by "this clever work." After you have had your say I will most willingly eat crow in a most humble and abject manner.

Yours etc.,

May 3, 1936.

Mr. A. D. Fennl,  
423 W. 8th St.,  
Cincinnati, O.

Dear Dolph:

I am returning herewith the papers in the case of  
Perry Vs the Knapp Shift

I also enclose copy of a letter I have written the Sage  
of Westfield.

After reading this I feel you will consider the matter  
closed for the present at least.

Knapp is not going to give Perry any permission to ~~draw~~  
his stamp. Should Chase question the stamp - well that is a  
horse of a different color.

I can then obtain from Ned any permission I request. On  
the other hand if Chase says the stamp is O.K. Ned is not going  
to permit even one chirp from the 10¢ '47 authority.

Of this I am positive. Until such time you have good  
cause to pigeon hole, Perry's stuff.

Doc sailed on the 29th due to land in New York on Wednesday  
the 6th. Jake is leaving for New York on the 5th. Looks like  
I will leave on Sunday the 10th. In the meantime do I have to  
get up a column for you for the June number?

You are to take lunch with Sam and this "writer" on  
Tuesday.

Yours etc.,

In the U. S. Specialist's Column in the April American Philatelist my good friend Stanley B. Ashbrook says many very complimentary things about Pat Paragraphs and the proprietor of the Westfield Philatelic Peach Orchard, (Himself), which, while delightful to read now, may entail considerable effort to live up to in the future. One statement, or perhaps inference is a better term for it, seems to me to require comment. In regard to the 1861 data published since August 1931 as part of "Seventy Years Ago" friend Stanley says,-

"Personally I regret this valuable data \*\*\* has not been available to every collector interested in United States Stamps thruout the world."

In our lengthy discussions while I was basking in the genial warmth of justly famed Kentucky hospitality those wintry days last February there were some facts which I thought best covered at that time in general terms rather than in detail. I did not reveal exactly how much effort has been made to reach every collector of U. S. Stamps. Few of us are keen to admit our failures! However, tho the fundamental idea that Pat Paragraphs is a means of gathering facts and publishing them fearlessly has been advertised at considerable expense for nearly five years, yet there may be collectors somewhere who are unaware of that purpose or who do not realize its significance. There has been no announcement that membership in the A.P.S. entitles most A.P.S. members to receive at least one issue of Pat Paragraphs gratis, but if they read what was mailed them more than 90% of the A.P.S. membership have read at least one installment of the 1861 series. Whether so entitled or not these are sections of the serial "Seventy Years Ago."

Records in my files apparently indicate that less than 50% of the A.P.S. membership are interested either in the 1861 research, or in reading about it, or in making use of it. All of us are not students. With some collectors practically all the fun of collecting is in acquiring stamps for their collections. If they get the stamp they want, condition and price being satisfactory, that is all they care about. Why it was issued, what it was used for, why it was discontinued, or the reasons for it being common or scarce interest them hardly at all. It is unusual to receive letters in which the writers state that they like this or that feature of the Pats, but I am confident had "Seventy Years Ago" been published in the American Philatelist or in one of the so-called popular magazines many readers would have demanded a change before half as much of the story had appeared as has already been printed in my little house organ.

Much of the data in Pat Paragraphs lacks a great deal of being thrilling to the average collector. The quantity of information is too great to leave room for many thrills, except of course those engendered by new facts that happen to be unsuspected and therefore startling. It has been thought essential to build first a solid foundation of facts - something philatelists have never had on the 1861 issue in any such degree before. Of course there is no intention to minimize the value of the immense amount of data which was published by John N. Luff in his wonderful U. S. book nearly forty years ago. The reason the Luff book happened to contain a few errors and the cause of certain omissions is obscure. Unfortunately these were vital and rendered it impossible to ascertain what some of the most important 1861 data actually meant.

Through the co-operation of Otto G. Reichelt and the courtesy of President Woodhull of the American Bank Note Company the records of the National Bank Note Company were secured. By checking the Luff data against these authentic records it was possible to correct errors and fill omissions. The reliability of information from such a source cannot be questioned and "Seventy Years Ago" is based on this and other data from original sources. Now there is a firm foundation of facts upon which to build. The result is certain to be definite and far more complete knowledge of the 1861 issue stamps than has been available in the past.

Perhaps some remarks in regard to the 10¢ 1847 "shift" which has been the subject of some discussion may be put. In an experience with stamps which goes back fully forty years I can recall no other instance when it was considered perfectly proper to advance and publish statements tending to show that a unique (?) variety was authentic by those who held that opinion, while at the same time no contrary opinion could be voiced in print without peril of being subject to legal action for large damages for destroying the value of the "rare variety." This is indeed an amazing situation! What could be more comforting and satisfactory to fakers than smothering the facts about their product? And their prospective victims are entitled to no warning or protection! I would like to point out however, that fakes rarely have more than slight curiosity value and that a supposed value which actually does not exist cannot be destroyed. That saying about "who can spoil a bad egg?" seems apt.

Without stating my own opinion I may call attention to several facts that any reader may investigate for himself.

(1) A shift is a duplication of part of an original design. If there is a line of the shift which is not a duplication of any line of the normal stamp design, that line is not a shift. If it is claimed that the particular line is not part of the shift but was produced by some other cause, then the same reasoning can apply elsewhere - which is merely to say that what is claimed to be a shift is something else. If it is something else it is not a shift. (Quod erat demonstrandum).

(2) The lines in high relief on a hardened steel transfer roll do not change their relative position to each other by moving around; neither do they vanish into thin air. A genuine shift is a footprint of such lines. We know what those lines were in the upper part of the 10¢ 1847 design for we see their "footprint" on #31 R - the "Post Office" shift. A shift which is in the same location on another stamp and appears to be stronger should show the same footprints, but even heavier. If we find that instead of being stronger some of those footprints have disappeared, while others have changed their relative position to each other, and quite different footprints appear as duplication of lines that are rarely or never duplicated on genuine shifts, we do not need high-power microscopes or other paraphernalia to arrive at a conclusion. It is not necessary to spend hours of toil to discover that no one can cut two lines in a die and have each of them deeper than the other. Or that there cannot be two lines on a transfer roll, each of them being in higher relief than the other. No explanation can make a shallow hole deeper than a deep one nor a low ridge higher than a high one. Explanations may disguise a fact but they cannot alter it.

If the deepest cut lines were duplicated on #31 R and show as part of the "Post Office" shift those lines did not vanish into thin air; neither did they change their relative position to each other.

#3.

Compare the shift lines shown on the individual letters, such as the "S" of "U-S", the "O" of "POST" and the "C" of "OFFICE". Use the illustration of #31 R on page 356 of the American Philatelist for April 1936 to check by. We know that shift is genuine. See if one letter on any alleged "shift" can be found that correctly duplicates the footprints that duplicate the high relief lines on #31 R. Note whether shift lines on #31 R are weaker or stronger than the lines of the normal design which they duplicate and ask yourself why? Check your conclusions against corresponding lines on any alleged "shift". Ask yourself what happens to the finer (shallower) lines, (i.e. those in lower relief on the transfer roll), when the deeper lines are rocked in to the full depth of those deeper lines.

Even if it is admitted that a shift could differ fundamentally from all known shifts on all engraved stamps printed anywhere in the world and still be genuine - which is incredible beyond the Nth degree - one may still be totally unable to swallow a whole flock of coincidences, none of them probable, which came to roost only on one particular bit of paper. If any good reason could be shown why one (and only one) bum re-entry should be made on a plate that didn't need re-entering, and particularly on a position which was one of the most perfect on the plate, one might stretch credulity, but the total delivery of 10¢ 1847s was only 1,050,000 stamps, (5,025 impressions), and altho I examined over 2,000 different copies when reconstructing the plate, I have yet to find any satisfactory evidence of plate wear on the stamp designs.

Because a thing could happen is not proof that it did. I could have scrawled this screed with my left hand, scratching the old cranium for inspiration with the other, and sucking a lemon or puffing on a malodorous Mo. meerchaum while both feet were soaking in a mustard bath - and it may read as tho I did just that - but tho all those things were possible none of them actually happened, except perhaps the nicotine incinerator.

If the duplicated lines on an alleged "shift" of an engraved stamp are not engraved it is obvious that the shift is not genuine. But because such lines may be engraved does not prove them to have been present on the stamp plate. Forged engravings of parts of genuine engravings are by no means unknown. Some of them may have been quite expensive, requiring much time to produce. On others the cost of the work might be only a few dollars per dozen stamps.

One more "if" - If no other benefit comes from this discussion at least it may bring about a better understanding of the cause of shifts and the characteristics of their appearance. Tho fakers may also try to profit by it there still remains one well-nigh unsurmountable stumbling block in their way - everyone of the 200 stamp designs on the 10¢ 1847 plate was distinctly different and any stamp which does not agree with one of the 200 varieties is open to immediate suspicion. Perhaps my good friends who have great faith would have paused to take thought had they read what is said about New York cancellations on page 98 of Pat Paragraphs #5, or had they been familiar with the characteristics of stamps from position 23 of the left pane of the 10¢ 1847.



# 8

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.

394 Park Ave.

New York, City

# SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUES  
ALBUMS AND BOOKS



*One West Forty-seventh Street  
New York City*

*Re Knapp  
Shift*

HUGH M. CLARK, . . . President  
THERESA M. CLARK, Vice President  
ARTHUR C. ZIMMERMANN, Treasurer

July 16, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
434 So. Grand Ave.  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Now that I have started work on the SUS Catalogue, the question is up for decision regarding the possible listing of the Knapp shift on the 10 cent 1847. My feeling is strongly that we should list it and, if possible, illustrate it by means of one of those swell cuts that you gave me for the other shifts. What do you think?

With respect to various carrier stamps such as L01, L02, 1LB6, 1LB7, 1LB8, 1LB9, 3LB2, 4LB8, 5LB2, 6LB6, etc., these showed up in the Knapp Sale on cover with regular postal issues. Am I correct in believing that this was the normal usage and that cases where these stamps were used alone are quite unusual? I am not certain of my ground on this point.

Will certainly appreciate hearing from you.

Hastily yours,

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

*Hugh M. Clark*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HUGH M. CLARK

HMC:JK

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

July 22, 1941.

Mr. Hugh M. Clark,  
% Scott Publications, Inc.,  
1 W. 47th St.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Hugh:

Yours of the 16th received.

Regarding the listing of the Knapp shift. I would be heartily in favor of its listing if I was absolutely convinced it was perfectly genuine, that is, a genuine plate variety. Do not misunderstand me, I believe the stamp is genuine and if so that it is a plate variety, but I am not absolutely sure, and unless I was convinced beyond any question of a doubt, I think a great risk would be run in listing and illustrating it.

There are several features of this stamp that are unquestionably cockeyed from a plate variety standpoint. In addition, I have never been able to satisfactorily explain to myself how it actually originated, if it is a genuine plate variety. All of Perry's reasoning gives me a pain in the neck. His first opinion was that it was a rank fake, then he jumped from the frying pan into the fire and said it was genuine but not a plate variety, but an "imitation shift." I am sure I don't know what an imitation shift is unless he means it is a slip print, which is commonly called a kiss. Now he says the "damn thing" is something else, and he has known what it actually is since 1936, but he won't tell me what he thinks it is nor will he tell anybody else. I don't bother my head any more about what he thinks, but of one thing I am certain. He was on much safer ground on his first opinion, i.e., a painting, because I cannot prove to my own satisfaction it is not a painting or some sort of a manufactured fake, but I can prove beyond any question that it is not a kiss or an error of printing or what he so foolishly called an imitation shift.

I believe that the listing of the stamp should be backed up with indisputable evidence as to how it originated. This point I cannot satisfactorily explain and I therefore think the listing should be deferred until this point is finally settled. I have an idea, but this idea so far is only a theory.

Regarding the carrier stamps. Of course there is quite a difference between the Eagle and Franklin which were Government issues and the semi-officials which were issued by carriers. I really do not see that it makes any great difference whether any of these items were used alone or with regular postage stamps, so far as the catalogue is concerned.

Consider the Franklin cover in the Knapp sale, lot 887. As I under-

#2.

Mr. Hugh W. Clark, July 22, 1941.

stand the regulations of 1851 (New York and Philadelphia), if a Drop letter was deposited in the post office for street delivery same required 1¢ postage and 1¢ carrier fee. A letter found in a "lamp post" box for city delivery didn't go thru the P.O. and hence only required 1¢ for the carrier fee. Lot 887 shows on an Eagle, no drop postage. The stamp is tied by a Philadelphia postmark hence I assume this letter surely passed thru the post office and if so, it required in addition to the Eagle the drop letter postage. It would therefore appear that the 1¢ Drop postage was collected on this cover. See Ashbrook book, Vol. 2 - top of page 175.

One would expect to see drop letters with a 1¢ 1851 and a Franklin but I do not recall ever seeing such an item. I am wondering if your notation under the Franklin and Eagle which reads, "Frequently found on covers franked with regular Government issues" would not be better if changed to read, "Exists alone on covers or on covers with U. S. postage stamps." In the case of the Eagle the latter seems to be the rule whereas in the case of the Franklin the former seems to be the rule. Do you not agree?

In the Seybold sale were three separate covers each with a single Franklin and no U. S. stamps. Among uses of the Eagle, I think that covers showing a single and no U. S. stamp (or stamps) are quite exceptional. I think the Baltimore is about equally found with U. S. and without, but I may be a trifle wrong.

Much of the early carrier system is still a mystery in spite of the fact that Perry claims to have all the answers and sets himself up as the foremost authority. In "Stamps" of "July 19, 1941" I had an article on 3¢ plus 1¢ carrier covers wherein I was bold enough to differ with the authority. I wish you would read this article.

Have I answered satisfactorily the queries in your letter? If not please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

# SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUES  
ALBUMS AND BOOKS



*One West Forty-seventh Street  
New York City*

HUGH M. CLARK, . . . President  
THERESA M. CLARK, Vice President  
ARTHUR C. ZIMMERMANN, Treasurer

July 29, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
434 So. Grand Ave.  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

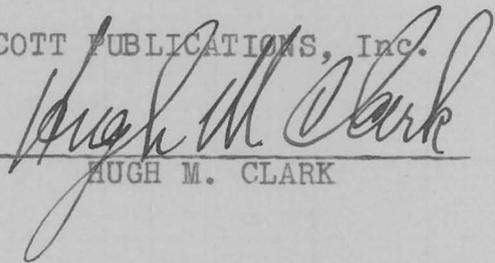
Many thanks for your letter of July 22nd and again for your help. I will go over the article you speak of concerning carrier rate.

I agree with you on the subject of the 10¢ '47 Knapp shift. It is better to wait until the smoke is all cleared away.

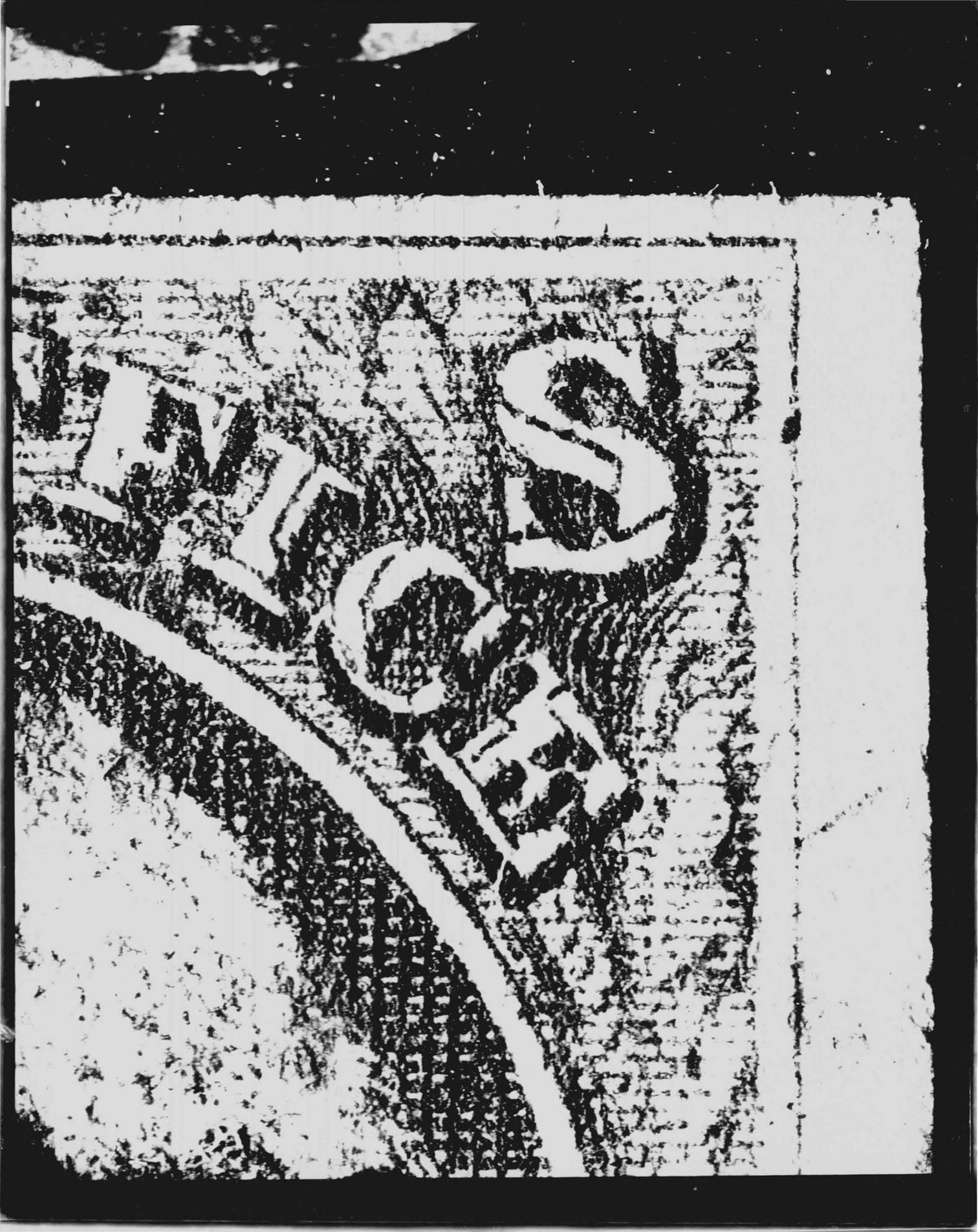
With kind regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

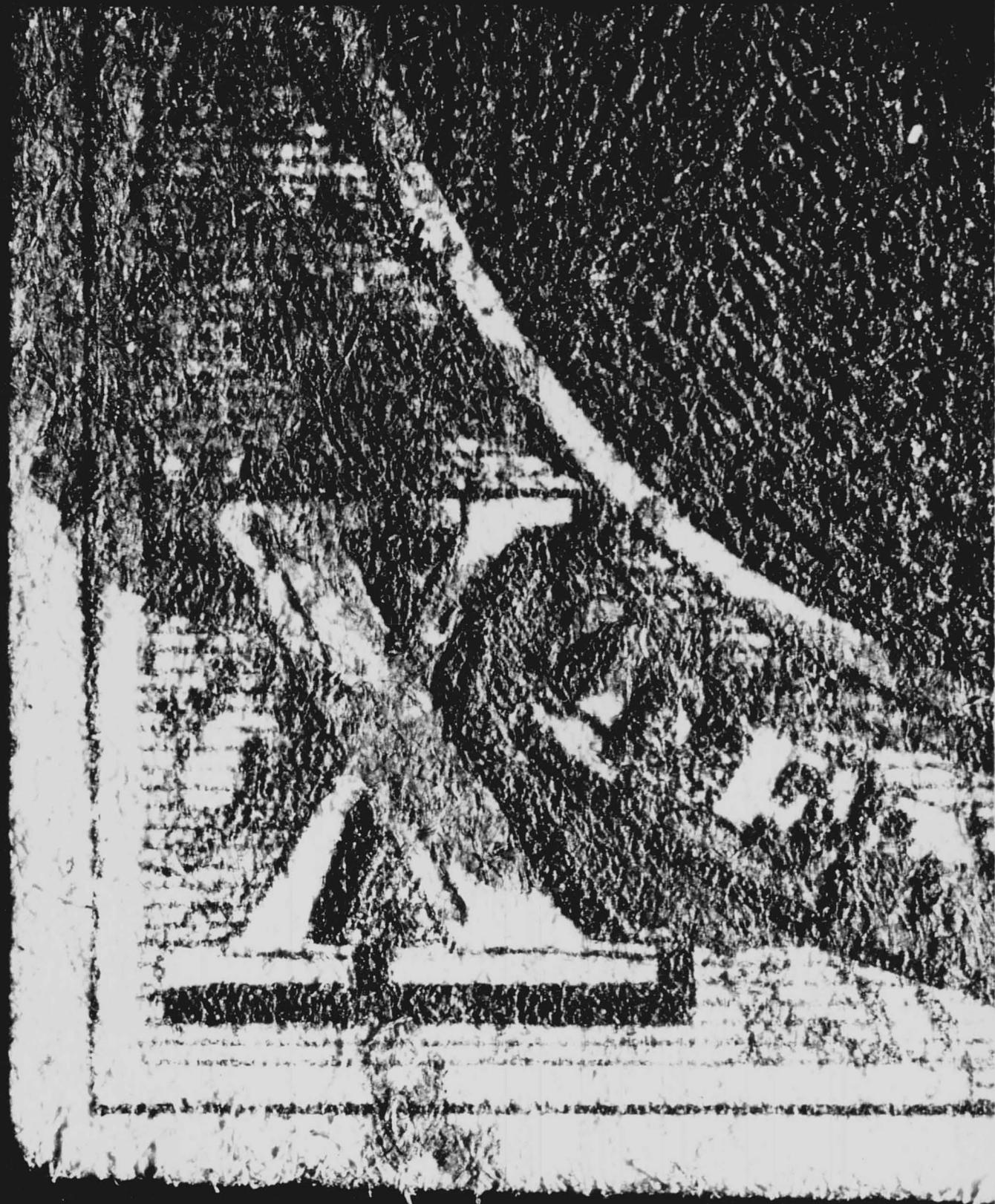
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HUGH M. CLARK

HMC:JK



#9

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# 10

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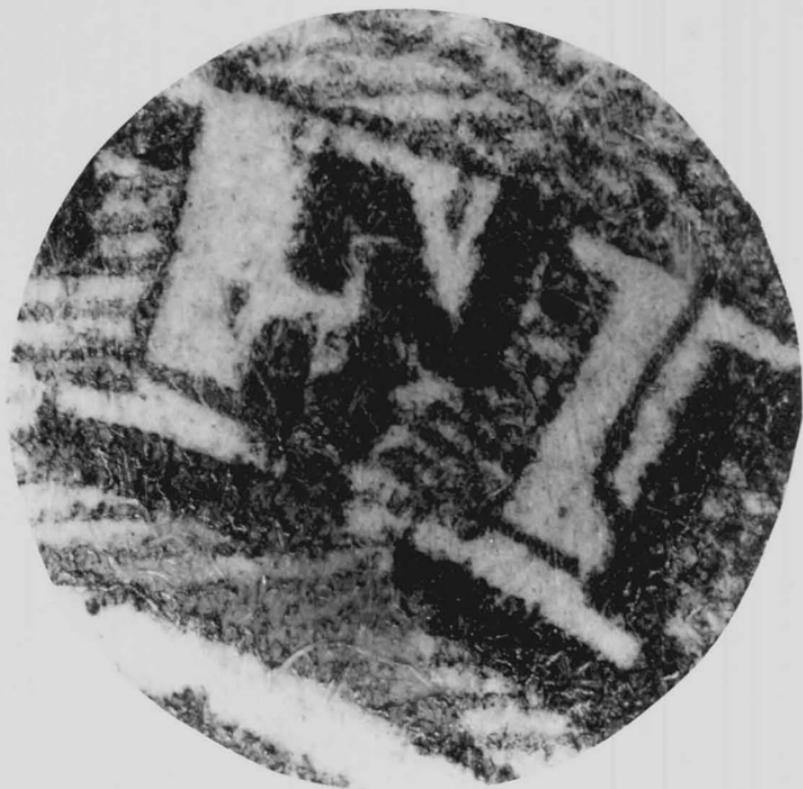
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April 27, 1939

Dear Stanley,

After reading your letter of the 25th there are a few things that occur to me. Some of Luff's attitude may have been due to the way Stevenson razzed him (directly or indirectly) in print - "the Wise Men of the East" and that sort of thing. I don't recall that the Scott Co. or Luff ever admitted in print that there was such a thing as a "biscuit grill" or the female roller from which such grills necessarily come. That was Steve's discovery and proved that Luff mixed up two entirely different kinds of grills as if they were the same. Yet Luff knew about the biscuits because I made and showed him plaster impressions which could not be argued around.

Yet the present grill list is almost entirely taken from Stevenson's article (condensed) and Luff knew that. I fought that out with the Scott people myself, told them I had checked Steve's data and that - with very few exceptions - it agreed with facts known to me.

There is one instance where Luff admitted he and the catalog had been wrong. His statement was printed in their journal around 1924 and concerned certain Charleston carriers which had been listed as authentic stamps since about 1898. The only copies I could find of certain varieties were counterfeits. Luff checked this and the fakes were eliminated in the following catalog and have not appeared in the catalog since. There was one statement which Luff made in his article at that time which was true as far as it went but certainly was not the whole truth, and Luff certainly knew that. He just didn't want to admit it. Parts of his article were also contradictory altho I did not realize so at the time, or that they probably were fed to him by Needham. Neither Luff nor Needham paid enough attention to the postal laws and regulations to really know what they were talking about.

10c 1861; Brazer has believed the type I stamps were rushed to California and the West Coast offices. I do not agree with him. Long before August 1861 it was known that the Union sentiment predominated and was in control of matters there. There was more frequent and better communication between the Pacific Coast and the North than with the confederacy and little chance that the Confederacy could profit by any old stamps in offices on the West Coast. The original scheme of distribution shows that - the latest demonetization period was on the Pacific Coast.

Another point; the circular that went with the first supply of the new stamps was a definite order of demonetization - "immedia-



tely" - and in my opinion it would have been as promptly complied with on the Pacific Coast as it was elsewhere. As I see it the Pacific Coast was the last locality where the new stamps would be needed as regards demonetization of the old issue.

Of course it seems more logical that Plate 4 should have gone to press (for stamps) before plate 15 but I think the other sequence fits the known facts just as well, viz; plate 15 on "August" paper, followed by plate 4 on more of the same paper.

I have not changed my opinion about the 1861 paper since the "33 Facts" article was written for the AP some few years ago. At that time John and I calibrated what material was available and my conclusion was that whatever the difference - if any - between the Premier paper and that used for the 3c pinks, 24c steel blue, 5c buffs etc. might be it was not THICKNESS. To my mind a brittle paper is one that tends to fracture easily and altho soft papers may or may not be tough they are not apt to be brittle, for brittleness is a characteristic of hard paper that is too stiff to yield and thin enough to crack.

Cracks and tears are fairly common I believe on the buff 5c but I do not recall that they are specially plentiful on type I 10c or other prints from the premier plates. I examined a 12c recently and a pair of 90c - the latter imperf. I would say the 12c was tough rather than brittle and the 90c was more transparent and had a very noticeable crease. I am not sure the paper was actually fractured.

Transparency; There appears to be an optical illusion here. A transparent paper appears to be thinner than opaque paper of the same thickness. We found that out on certain Brazil stamps that were printed by the American Bank Note Co. around 1866-70. I doubt if Luff calibrated any of the stamps he mentioned, but went by feel and appearance, so his conclusions might be correct on some stamps and wrong on others.

There is also the possibility of a thicker or thinner sheet than the normal occurring at any time. That New London 30c used August 20th looked to me as tho it were thicker than most of the August-September paper but I have a 30c on cover used October 10, 1861 that I think might be as thin as the average "August".

Some paper differences show up like a house afire under the violet ray and I have been hoping that you might discover a distinction between some of these papers that would be definite enough to be useful. Perhaps you have tried this?

Sincerely  
Elliott Perry

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.  
Aug. 19, 1939.

Mr. Elliott Perry,  
Box 333,  
Westfield, N.J.

My dear Elliott:

I was indeed glad to hear from you and to learn that you are apparently in good health and still on the job every day down at the Peach Orchard.

Jessup and his thirteen-year old daughter have just left for the Coast after a visit with us of some four or five days. He has always wanted to see Central Kentucky, so we all bundled in the car and I took him on a trip of historical interest to various points. We drove to Louisville, then to Lincoln's birth-place, to Bardstown, where on the outskirts is located the fine old Kentucky estate of the Rowan family "Federal Hill". In this old home Stephen Foster wrote his immortal "My Old Kentucky Home". The place has now been restored and is a State Park. It is quite a mecca for visitors from all sections of the country. Most interesting and I know you would enjoy every bit of it.

Then on to Frankfort with its many historical points of interest, Daniel Boone's grave and the resting places of many famous figures of Kentucky and national fame of a century back. Then past many fine stock farms of the Blue Grass to Lexington, where we visited "Ashland" the home of Henry Clay, the home of Gen'l John H. Morgan, their last resting places, etc. Then on to the quaint old town of Cynthiana where the original Ashbrooks settled in 1786. I filled him full of Kentucky history and I know he thoroughly enjoyed every bit of it. Some day, if you will come out here before I move East I will conduct you on a similar trip.

Now for your letter of the 13th. The notation to be inserted in the forthcoming catalogues will read, "It is doubtful that Nos. 55, 56, 57, 59, 61 and 62 were regularly issued".

I request that you keep this confidential because I would not care to have Hugh think that I was passing out any information that was given me confidentially.

I am glad to have you rejoice with me that Clark has seen enough of the light to even insert such a notation no matter how we feel about this matter nor how positive we feel that we are right, we cannot be unfair enough to fail to respect the other fellows opinion. In this case, for some reason or other, Hugh has not seen fit to remove these samples. Naturally we can find no legitimate reason why he takes this stand. Personally I believe that he has never given the subject a careful study and that if I could sit down with him for several hours I could convince him that we are absolutely right. I do not think he is adverse to listening to me because in a letter received yesterday he stated,

Mr. Elliott Perry - Aug. 19, 1939.

"As to the other letter concerning the 1861's, I still want to go over this with you in detail sometime when we can get together and devote the better part of a day to it".

I have always been on very friendly terms with Hugh and I do not think he would hesitate to see the justice of our claim if I could explain the whole subject to him in detail which I have never done. Perhaps you will comment on this by stating that you did this very thing and got nowhere, but in answer I think I can add that you did do good, that you laid the foundation upon which I can undoubtedly influence him to see the injustice of listing these sample bits of paper as regular postage stamps.

Of course it would be more accurate for him to state, "That there is no proof that any of these stamps were ever issued to post offices", but why should he do this? How does he know no such proof exists? Are we so unfair that we could expect him to go ahead and take our bare word that no proof exists? Suppose such proof does exist, which of course we know is not possible, then think of the position in which we had placed him. I am not arguing for Clark but merely trying to visualize his stand on this subject. After the concession he has made, I am rather inclined to believe that if I can convince him we are right that Mrs. Clark's opinion will not cut a whole lot of ice.

Regarding their "Tentative Listings". On the face, this practice is of course just the reverse of their stand on the samples, but it is well to remember that the Clarks had no hand in the original listing of the "Samples".

Now that we have a "toe hold" I intend to work harder than ever and perhaps I can make real progress in the 1940 Edition.

Pats #38 came in this morning and I note you have quite a bit to say on the 18 X 15 Grill, and inasmuch as I have previously written Hugh about the #82 I am going to ask him to please read very carefully your remarks in Pats #38. Did you ever see what Chase had to say about the #82 in Diamond's "The Stamp Collector's Companion" for May 1938? This listing is positively rank in my opinion.

I note your remarks re - the 1869's without Grill, and while some top row copies might have missed the grill, which I seriously doubt, I do not think the Colson block of the 30% is in such a class by any means. Souren states he found the Grills have been ironed out. I doubt this and would have to be shown. It is my opinion the Colson 30% block is not an issued error, but rather some sort of an essay, sample, or special printing or what not. It does not make a whole lot of difference just what particular class it comes under. A block like this is sold on the following representation - that it is an error, from a sheet which thru error was not grilled, and which was regularly issued. If all the representations as above are not true then such a block is nothing more than an Essay.

It is truck like this that Colson has swaped here and there for years but collectors are getting their eyes open and are not

#3.

Mr. Elliott Perry - Aug. 19, 1939.

falling for such stuff like they did in former years. I think a great deal of this truck was dishonestly listed in one way or the other and I am not charitable enough to believe it was done innocently.

Regarding Souren. I am sending you under separate cover his booklet #2 for the following reasons. I want you to read carefully his remarks on the Knapp stamp. Second, I want you to note carefully his findings on the Colson items. Note especially the 30¢ 1869 cover. I saw this cover when Warren was here about a month ago but this was before the Souren book came out and Warren never told me he had previously submitted it to Martin. I did not examine the cover carefully - did not even put my regular glasses on to inspect it. Warren was puzzled about the New York and Rench postmarks and I gave him the answer.

Did you ever see that particular French marking before? It is a nice little story.

The whole gang in New York is down on Souren and they ridicule everything he is doing. Being interested in what he is trying to accomplish, I went in to see him in May and spent some time with him. He has invested a large sum in every sort of an apparatus he can purchase and has employed the services of one Ellsworth to conduct his experiments. Whether this fellow is good, I do not know. I do know this, I only wish I had the equipment Souren has. I did not form any conclusion whether Souren had actually accomplished a single thing but I was convinced he was on the right track and was undoubtedly going to show up a lot of crooked stuff. If he does, all power to him.

Just as a matter of curiosity I suggested to Knapp that he consent to submit to Souren his controversial 10¢ 1847 shift. Knapp did this solely at my request and Souren was flattered to have such an item to work on. Knapp and I took the stamp to him and Souren called in Ellsworth and we explained fully what we wanted to know. Ellsworth is not a collector and knows very little about stamps. Souren had the Knapp stamp for three weeks and the result of his opinion is contained in his Booklet #2, which I am sending to you.

It is probably unfortunate that a man of Souren's reputed reputation is conducting such research work. Just imagine the weight such work would have if someone of unquestioned honesty was in charge.

Regarding the Knapp stamp. I have read carefully all of your remarks. As I recall when we were at the Tipex, the sole question was whether the stamp was genuine or was a fake. I think at the time you were positively of the opinion the stamp was a rank forgery, therefore this point not being settled we did not ask the A.B.N.Co. how it originated but if it was genuine. After it had been established that the stamp was genuine, that is, if we take the A.B.N.Co. indorsement as such, then and only then was the question raised as to how it originated. Your first opinion was that it was a forgery and if so then most certainly a painting, it hardly being within the range of possibilities to consider that a separate fake engraving had been made of the shifted lines and these printed on the stamp.

#4.

Mr. Elliott Perry - Aug. 19, 1939.

Later you changed your opinion, and that while the stamp was genuine, in your opinion, it was not a consistent plate variety, but rather an "imitation shift" - a kiss of some sort - a printing error. I have always told you that the real error you made was in changing from a "painting" to "an imitation shift". I will grant that it is indeed possible the stamp is a forgery but if so then surely it is either a painting or the shift lines were printed on a 23 L from a manufactured fake die of some sort. Considering the price Knapp paid for the stamp, it hardly seems reasonable that anyone would go to the time and expense to produce such a fraudulent variety unless he was merely experimenting to see what he could actually do. Strange he only made one or perhaps two (Your 1928 copy).

I still insist your error was your change of opinion because it is possible perhaps that in time the true status of this stamp will be definitely established and if this is ever done, I am quite positive that if it is found to be other than a consistent plate variety, it will prove to be a painting and never by the wildest stretch of the imagination, "an imitation shift".

So far Knapp himself has produced nothing and does not claim that he has produced any evidence one way or the other. What opinions have been rendered on the stamp came from the A.B.N.Co. and from me, and now from Souren. So far as I am concerned, I am of an open mind and will gladly concede that my findings have been in error if any sensible proof can be produced. Therefore, I never took the A.B.N.Co. opinion as final, nor do I take the Souren opinion as final. I do think however that Souren emphasized some points which I failed to mention and while such evidence is far from final, it certainly does add to what proof we have that the stamp is not only genuine but a consistent plate variety. It was Horace Barr of West Lawn, Pa. who first suggested a theory as to how the stamp actually originated. You no doubt recall his theory. The plate was copper and the original transfer of 23 L being faulty it was soldered over rather than burnished out. In the very late life of the plate, some of the solder fell out of the lines of the original transfer and produced a few printings, one of which is the Knapp stamp. Barr suggested that the plate was probably carelessly overheated under 23 L and caused some of the solder to become dislodged. This "solder theory" of Barrs could, if true, explain certain characteristics of certain of the shifted lines, inasmuch as they are not (and this I always admitted) were not exact duplications of the same lines on the Die. As I recall this was the strongest point in your argument that the stamp was a forgery. Barr stated that certain lines were different, due no doubt they had been scraped out with an engraving tool to make a better joint with the solder.

I have put the Barr theory up to several experts who unhesitatingly pronounced it sound. I do not say it is the solution but it does answer the question, how could this consistent plate variety have happened? Frank Sweet with some knowledge of 10% 47 plating proposed my idea of "a consistent plate variety" and you did the same. Yet both of you with all the work you both did on the reconstruction of the 10% plate, never discovered you were

#5.

Mr. Elliott Perry - Aug. 19, 1939.

working with stamps from a copper plate, but thought the plate was steel. When you were at my home at Fort Mitchell you put certain features of the Knapp stamp up to me and I could not answer your arguments. Why? Because we were both going on the utterly wrong theory that the plate was steel. Then one morning about 2 A. M. it suddenly dawned on me and I told you I had the solution, and that the 1847 plates were copper, not steel. On this point I will stake my entire reputation because it is ever proved that the 10¢ 1847 plate was steel then I will be the first one to condemn the Knapp stamp as a rank made to order forgery. By no possible chance under the face of the sun could that Knapp stamp have been printed from a steel plate. And in this regard when I read such silly twaddle as Brazer's comments in the C. C. P. that contrary to other opinions he was sure the 1847 plates were steel. You cite the information you got from Bureau printers and as far as I am concerned I would place about as much dependence in what they would say about the Knapp stamp as I would in the utterly absurd statement made by Brazer. If you, or anyone else are still of the opinion that plates were of steel, why don't you come out in print and contradict the statements I have published.

If Souren handed you any dope about the 5¢ 1847 just forget it. If he represented to you the plate could be reconstructed he was lying to you. Those two plates will never be reconstructed and the simple answer is - because both were copper plates. Yes the 10¢ was a copper plate and the only reason in the world you were able to reconstruct it was because it was recut. There was no recutting on the 5¢ plates, hence what you accomplished on the 10¢ was an entirely different proposition.

Steve Brown had unbounded faith in Steve Brown and he had the idea he was so damn smart he could do what all others had attempted to do and failed. He thought he could reconstruct at least a part of each plate. And whose did he get? Absolutely nowhere. So far as I am aware he never got as far as first base, because he couldn't even establish whether the two shifts of Plate One were from the right or left pane. Do you ever recall that anyone ever definitely established this? Chase worked on it and I worked on it and while I have an idea I may have the correct solution my evidence is circumstantial.

I think what you and I should do is to stop arguing about this stamp and forget all about who is right or wrong and to devote ourselves to a solution as to how it actually happened. Souren states on page 6 the question of a kiss or slip is eliminated because etc. etc. Regardless of what anyone thinks of Souren it is foolish to ignore sensible statements he makes in his comments on the Knapp stamp. I therefore trust you will read some very carefully and with an open mind.

I'll bet the boys are having a great time up in Connecticut and it will be quite a wonderful experience for them.

My best regards to Chrissie and John.

With every good wish,

Cordially,

P.S.--Did you ever hear what ultimately became of those Revenue

#6.

Mr. Elliott Perry - Aug. 19, 1939.

Inverts? I enclose herewith a memo for your files of a cover sent me this week.

S.

**EUGENE KLEIN**  
**RARE POSTAGE STAMPS**  
200 SOUTH 13TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

June 5  
19 36

MEMBER OF THE JURIES OF THE CHICAGO 1911,  
NEW YORK 1913, WIEN 1923 AND MONTREAL 1925  
WIEN 1933 AND LONDON 1934  
PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
64 Arcadia Drive  
Fort Mitchell  
Covington  
Kentucky

Dear Stan:

I herewith return your STEAMBOAT FRANCIS cover addressed to Choctaw City, Alabama, together with three others from my Reference Collection, all of which came from an antique dealer in New Orleans who either faked them himself or had them made for him. He owned the largest part of the Hardy correspondence, many pieces of which had packet markings on them. There were others which had no packet markings to which fake markings were applied as in the case of the three which I am sending you.

The STEAMBOAT FRANCIS is applied in an ink which was never used in the packet days, in the 50's and 60's. My two BART ABLE covers from the same source are also "homemade" as you will note by the smeary ink.

\* General rules to observe in the case of Mississippi covers which have stamps on them or are used on stamped envelopes invariably show that the postmark is that of the address and therefore is used as a receiving postmark. It is entirely unreasonable to believe that your cover mailed in New Orleans or my letter mailed in Montgomery, Alabama was handed to Captain Hopkins to carry on his ship. The reverse was always the case. The Captains, Masters and clerks handling packet mail usually turned it over to the Post Office agent upon arrival in New Orleans.

Another thing I would like to point out to you and that is that the packet markings on the four covers are studiedly placed so that they partly cover over a portion of the

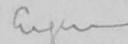
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook No. 2

address or the printing of the return card in order that not too much of the marking is visible.

I have other material of this kind, all coming from the same source. When you are finished with them please let me have my three covers back which I am convinced are fakes, as far as the packet markings are concerned. I am also convinced that yours comes from the identical source.

With best regards.

Yours,



EUGENE KLEIN

EK:FB  
Encl.

**EUGENE KLEIN**  
**RARE POSTAGE STAMPS**  
200 SOUTH 13TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

MEMBER OF THE JURIES OF THE CHICAGO 1911,  
NEW YORK 1913, WIEN 1923 AND MONTREAL 1925  
WIEN 1933 AND LONDON 1934  
PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS

June 6  
19 36

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
64 Arcadia Drive  
Fort Mitchell  
Covington  
Kentucky

Dear Stan:

Many thanks for remembering me with the photographs of the historical letters. I am glad to have this material.

Yesterday I sent back to you the FRANCIS cover with other material. Your source of supply was probably honest in believing that the cover came from an original find. The antique dealer in New Orleans whom I happen to know had most, if not all, of the find but after the packet covers ran out he "corrected" some of the others into packet covers.

I am sending you herewith the photostat of the Post Office notice which I promised you. \*

With best regards.

Yours,

  
EUGENE KLEIN

EK:FB \* Under separate cover  
Encl.

c. hahn for stamps!

suite 10 545 lincoln winnetka, illinois  
(mail to post-office box 152)

stamps of all countries accessories  
*engrossing of albums and mounting of collections a specialty*

7 April 1937.

Dear Stan,

I am awfully sorry to hear you have been ill, and sorry to hear you have the chore of moving. Both of them are unpleasant experiences. I will tell you the way I generally move and maybe it will be a help to you. I generally go to the new town, stick around a while, then write to my wife that we are going to live there and she can come on and bring the house with her. Then about the time she gets there, I am called out of town and don't come back until she has forgiven me.

I have taken a serious step and have taken over the editorship of Postal Markings, which will hereafter be published here. I plan to make no great changes at first, but to constantly increase the scientific approach and to classify material with a great deal more care. I hope you will feel like helping us with editorial matter. We take over the journal with the May edition, and I am going to have new heads immediately.

Towner was over last night and after he left I sat up for a couple of hours with a couple of your letters, a vertical of Gene Kline's faked Francis cover, and Towner's original. I have come to the conclusion that I don't agree with you, and I think this is about the first time that's happened.

I am not enclosing these with my letter because if you are moving they will probably be more trouble than they are worth, but here's why I think that Doc was right and that Towner's cover is identical, while Gene's is undoubtedly a fake:

In the first place, the vertical is 1.10 times the size it would be naturally. I base this on measurements of the engravings of the stamp compared with the normal stamp. This means that the 1863 cover is 1mm. too long and almost as much too broad, and that the distance between the lines is  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. too great.

The configuration of the letters is slightly different too, and they could not possibly have been made from the same rubber stamp, which makes me believe that Gene's cover is expertly copied from an original hand-stamp because certain breaks have been so carefully copied. For instance, in the word "steamboat", the 1853 cover, letter "a" slants downward slightly. In the fake cover, it is squatty. In the '53 cover, the "a" comes to a point, in the fake cover, it is cut off square. In the '53 cover the "m" (center position), is shorter than in the fake. The "b" is a different shape and the upper loop is a much smaller proportion of the total than in the fake cover. On the other hand, in the word "Francis", the "r" on the '53 cover has a loop of greater proportion than in the fake. The "b" in the '53 cover is of a entirely different shape than that in "Mobile" on the fake, and the "a" in "Mail" on the fake is an exxageration of a defect on the 1853 cover.

Here are the best reasons I have that they could not have been made by the same stamp:

If a straight edge be placed along the lines of the letters as follows, and the configuration traced through, certain things become very patent.

Place a straight edge along the vertical side of the vertical bar of the "t" in "steamboat", and it will pass through the upper corner of the right of the intersection of the bar in the "a" of "captain", with the right-hand stroke of "a" and will pass through the halfway mark on the righthand slant stroke of "m", and the halfway mark of the righthand vertical stroke of "m" - on the face. On the 1853 cover, a similar line will pass through the stroke of the "a" and the righthand leg of the "a", and on the "m" it will pass through the upper lefthand corner of the letter, and the lower righthand corner of the letter, and will intersect both slant bars.

Place a straight edge on the outside right margin of the "a" in "steamboat" and it will pass through the upper half of the letter "h" in "Hopkins", the lower half of the "o" and the righthand side of the letter "b" in "Mobile". Place it on the 1853 cover and it will barely touch the "t" of "captain", will pass through the lower half of the "h" of "Hopkins", will be tangent to the lower half of "o" in "Hopkins" and will touch the very lower lefthand corner of "b" in "Mobile".

Place a straight edge on the lefthand edge of the vertical stroke of "b" and the line will pass through the righthand side of the intersection of the two lines of "t" in "captain", and be barely tangent to the righthand side of "o" in "for". On the '53 cover, a similar line will pass through the center of the intersection of the bars of "t" and will cut through the "o" of "for" slightly left of the inside margin of the right side of "o".

Place a straight edge on the right side of the letter "i" of "Mobile", and it will pass through the lower end of the "i" of "Hopkins", through the bar of the "k" and through the lefthand intersection of cross-bar and leg of the "a" in "steamboat". Do the same thing on the '53 cover and the straight edge will pass through the lower left corner of the "n" of "Hopkins", through the middle point of the "i", through the upper righthand corner of the "k", and cut through the foot of the letter "t" in "steamboat" 2mm. at least from the letter "a".

Place the straight edge on the lefthand edge of the vertical leg of "l" in "Mobile". It will pass through the lefthand leg of "m", through the upper half of "n" and "i", will miss the "k" and will touch the foot of the letter "t"; on the fake, And on the '53 cover it will cut through slightly lower on the "m", and through the middle point of St. Louis, pass through the upper slant of the "k", miss the "t" by 3mm. and cut through the upper half of "a".

There are innumerable comparisons you can make here, some of them are so enormous that there can be no questioning that these two were made from different stamps, and since Gene's is undoubtedly a fake, it seems to me this makes Doc's listing and Towner's cover much more authentic.

As I have been dictating the previous paragraph, I happened to lay the straight edge on "m" of "Mobile" on the tangent to the righthand side of the "o" of "Hopkins" and barely misses the righthand of the "a" in "steamboat", going between the "a" and the "t", whereas on the '53 cover it cuts diagonally through the center of the "o" in "Hopkins" and falls between the "o" and "a" of "boat", barely touching the lefthand foot of "a".

To go back to this, it looks to me as if Doc may be right in listing this cover and I am sure that the two could not have been made by the same stamp, even though at first blush they seem to be identical.

I think these two are very interesting examples of what can lead the eye astray. I was convinced they were identical until I began to monkey with them last night. Now I am equally convinced that they are different, and, in view of what I have shown you here, what do you think?

Here's hoping you are in good health and can soon resume the Foreign Markings correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

*Mann*

Stanley Ashbrook,  
64 Arcadia Drive,  
Fort Mitchell,  
Covington, Kentucky.

MH:CB

# PAUL R. FERNALD

COMPLETE COMMUNICATING AND PAGING SYSTEMS FOR SCHOOLS - OFFICES - FACTORIES AND PLANTS

Scrap book 4 -  
Page 41 - 42 -

GENEVA, ILLINOIS  
TELEPHONE GENEVA 2028

May Twentieth.  
Nineteen Fifty.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook.  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.  
Fort Thomas. Kentucky.

Dear Mr Ashbrook;-

I hope that I am not intruding in writing to you but Ezra Cole whom I have known for many years has suggested that I do as you might perhaps be able to throw some light or points on something I am Following out at the moment.

I will not enter into too much detail now, for perhaps this will not be of sufficient interest to you, but it is as follows.

For some little time now I have been collecting Inland River Packet covers, and being of rather more inquisitive nature than some folks, I dig around a bit. Klein in his book on these included some eight that he called countefeits. In asking around to find out how these get labeled thus, some answers did not suit me and digging still farther I finally came up with some points that caused Henry Meyer to believe that one, the TALLY, was good enough to be considered a regular one and no longer a fake.

I then felt if one was found to be pure, why not some others, and so started to investigate. Those that came next to my hands in sufficient numbers to really check them were the HUNTER and the FRANCIS. In looking at these I saw that some were stamped in a bluish green and others in a greyish black. Nothing much in this, but still studying them and finally under a very powerful glass I found the following to be true or at least apparantly so. ALL of the bluish ones have the cachet of the boat so stamped that it is UNDER the ink used for address, whereas ALL the greyish black ones are OVER the ink. It then came to me, how could this man Pelletier have gotten the cachet UNDER the address and thus make it a countefeit, and still further carrying this thought out, why not if all covers come definitely under the same heading or classification of blue and black, were there not real ones and also countefeits too, and not all countefeits.

My deductions from what I have studied are that the boats with the early ones done in bluish green were made as corner cards. All stamped at the same time when the stamped envelopes were gotten and so made ready for use. They were used as needed in whatever manner came to hand to use them, and so far I cannot find one single envelope that cannot be postally accounted for as much as any of those we accept as genuine.

Now on the other hand the Greyis black ones, ALL are quaser in one way or another, they all appear to have printed from the same ink pad and seem to have the same dry defects, They all are on the HARDIE correspondence

They all appear on the same type of envelope, using the 3¢ of 61 and not the stamped envelope that most of those of this era used, and further do not hold water as to their postal use, showing clashing and glaring differences in dates and ~~places~~ places.

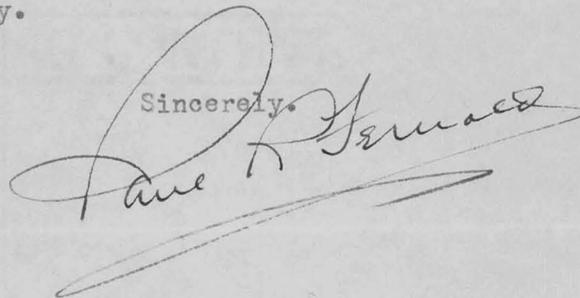
Now of course I may be wrong and not even right in my assumptions, but it seems to me that this latter could be accounted for in that Pelletier through his antique shop business could have acquired these rubber stamps of the boats in some manner, and had the bright idea that he could make just a few more of these covers that people seemed to want and brought good money, and he could make still more profit on them for they would cost him nothing, so he experimented and made a few from the envelopes he got from the Hardie warehouse which I understand was nearly across the street from him.

Now Ez Cole says that you are familiar with the workings of these fakers and also many of the other angles of these, and so suggested this letter. Again let say that I hope I have not intruded in writing as I have and any help or suggestions will be thankfully received. I have writted and talked to one or two others regards this, but they have not grasped the idea that these were not cachets placed on the letters while handled, but were actually what we would call advertising corner cards today. There are a lot of others in this same class, but they have never been questioned and are accepted as genuine from the start.

One point farther. I have definitely settled that such boats were built, and ran the River or Gulf at this time and that such Masters were active on these waters at that time and this would ~~tend~~ tend to further help my side, for if there were no such names or men, then there would be no reason to believe there could possibly be genuine ones.

I have written too much perhaps, and shall close and await with interest your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lane R. Bernard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,". The signature is quite fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

prf/sf

*Covers  
Enclosed*

June 5, 1950.

Mr. Paul R. Fernald,  
P. O. Box 27,  
Geneva, Ill.

Dear Mr. Fernald:

I sincerely trust that you will pardon my delay in replying to your letter of the 20th.

I recall that along about 1935 or 1936 I had quite a bit of correspondence with my old friend Eugene Klein regarding certain fake packet covers, but I doubt if I have done a thing since that time on the subject, nor do I recall seeing any new examples. Reading your letter, I realized that I was very rusty on the subject and would have to take time out and see if I could find any of my old reference material. Thus the delay.

I finally succeeded today in locating two covers, some photographs and some of the correspondence that I had with Klein. I am enclosing the two covers herewith. These came from the S.W. Richey (Cincinnati) collection and as I recall, Mr. Richey obtained both of these covers from Pelletier of New Orleans. There was never any question in my mind that Pelletier had the handstamps made and put them on covers himself. I have not read any of the correspondence that I had with Klein but as I recall he had quite a bit of evidence to prove that all the items he listed in his book were actual fakes.

Over the years I have found that it is most difficult to determine whether one ink is over or under another ink. Some authorities claim that such a fact can be established and others claim it can be done scientifically. In many cases I think that one can convince himself according to the way he wants it to be. In other words, a certain ink is over another, provided it meets the theory the expert is attempting to establish. In the few Pelletier fakes that I have examined, it never occurred to me that any of the markings might have been a corner card.

Fifteen or sixteen years back is quite a long time but I have a distinct recollection that Klein and I were in perfect agreement that the covers themselves proved the faking - that is the way the cover went thru the mail. I haven't read Klein's book in years but in it there should be an explanation of why we find packet markings on covers. I haven't read what I wrote years ago on the subject in Volume Two of my study of the U.S. One Cent 1851-57 but I believe that I had some remarks on the subject. For example, note the "Natchez" cover herewith. This cover was placed in the St. Louis Post Office in 1860(?) and was addressed to New Orleans. Because of that fact it went

#2 Mr. Paul R. Fernald, June 5, 1950.

regular U. S. mail in a sealed bag. So one wonders why the packet marking? Consider the other cover with the "Hunter" fake. The same remarks apply.

Would you like to see a few photographs and some of the Klein correspondence? If so, I will be glad to loan them to you.

Packet covers were always a sort of sideline with me and I make no claim to much knowledge concerning them. Henry Meyers is probably in the same class with me. I did have great respect for Klein's knowledge and I regard D.A.Sondal of Shreveport, La. as the leading authority of the present time. Have you had any correspondence with him on this subject? You are most welcome to any further assistance that I can render.

Sincerely yours,

# PAUL R. FERNALD

COMPLETE COMMUNICATING AND PAGING SYSTEMS FOR SCHOOLS - OFFICES - FACTORIES AND PLANTS

GENEVA, ILLINOIS  
TELEPHONE GENEVA 2028

June 16th, 1950.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook.  
33 North Ft. Thomas Ave.,  
Ft. Thomas. Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;-

I have your letter of the 5th, inst, and let me apologize for not acknowledging sooner, but it arrived here the day I left for the East and I arrived back only yesterday morning. Many thanks for the enclosure of the two covers, which I have gone over carefully and am returning to you under this cover.

I have had quite a little correspondence with one or two of the Packet boat boys, Henry Meyer and Somdal, and also have had two or three of these checked by Harold Stark of Ann Arbor Michigan. I have also talked with one or two people that knew of Pelletier and had had contact with him. So all in all I have done about all I can for the time being.

Stark believe that even these greenish inks are counterfeit by Pelletier. He contends and I agree with him fully that these inks can hardly be checked definitely for their position either under or over the writing inks used. That such inks could drift through so that no one can definitely say one way or the other. How so ever even with that in mind, I have checked others of the contemporary era and I believe even the same ink (greenish ) was used with them and these are accepted. I agree too that the black ones such as your NATCHEZ are fakes made by Pelletier.

I agree with you in that each can make his mind accept the theory that is his pet, and so I suppose the matter will rest there as it has for the years since Eugene Klein wrote his work. In the long run it does not make much difference one way or the other to me, for I am only trying to establish the authenticity of these as I go, for I have found that Klein did make a mistake one or two of his marked fakes, and so I set out to check them all to see if any of the others were the same. To me this is a more interesting side of working these than the actual possession or collecting of them. They are very interesting as history and development, this as whole and if one or more do get pigeon holed on the wrong side of the fence, it does not matter for the balance of the available ones will establish the history and development without them

I would be very much interested in seeing the correspondence in this matter if not too much trouble, for further reference and tabulation. Many many thanks for the cooperation thus far, and I remain,

Sincerely yours,

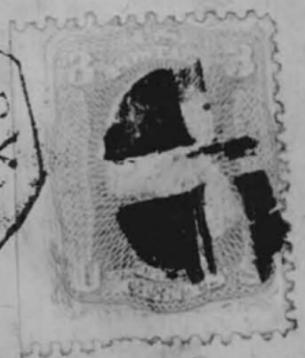


prf/sf  
enc. Two Covers returned.



Madame F. P. Ducongé  
at Connors's Springs) Bladon  
Choctaw Cty  
Alabama

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Messrs John, T. Hardie, & Co.  
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New Orleans  
La

# EARLY US ISSUES

by STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

## Fraudulent San Francisco Postmark

ON a number of occasions in recent years, I have noted various covers and off cover items, with a San Francisco postmark which is fraudulent. These manufactured items which have come under my observation, are on stamps which were current during a period of approximately 1856 to 1864. No doubt quite a few exist which I have never seen.

Figure #1 is a tracing of this fake and figure #2 is an illustration of one of the made to order covers, which purports to be a patriotic from San Francisco to Norwich, N. Y.

The single rate of postage from California to New York State from April 1, 1855, was 10c until reduced to 3c by the Act of March 3, 1863, effective April 1, 1863.

Evidently the crook who made these fraudulent items was not aware that 3c would not carry a



Figure #1—Fraudulent San Francisco Postmark

the 3c 1857.

Figure #4 illustrates a third cover, but this one, in the same handwriting, is addressed to Utica, N. Y. The date is also "Mar 23."

In a recent auction a very fine used block of six cancelled with a black San Francisco, California, town postmark was sold.

Figure #5, is an illustration of the above described block. Used blocks



Figure #5—Fraudulent Postmark on block of 3c 1857

of six of the 3c 1857 with most any California town postmark are items which are far from common, hence this block brought the sum of \$25. The auction firm was entirely unaware that the post mark was fraudulent, and I seriously doubt if the owner, had any suspicion of the item. When this block was sold at auction no comment was made from the floor, hence in all probability none of those present had any suspicion.

Several years ago I was quite surprised to run across a horizontal pair of the One Cent 1851, Type IV, with this fraudulent San Francisco postmark struck in green. The faker had removed a pen marking and made an item that was quite unusual, because bright green postmarks on the One Cent imperforates are quite



Figure #2—Fraudulent Postmark—"MAR. 23"

letter from San Francisco to New York State during the life of the 3c 1857 stamp. It appears that in making these various fakes, the manufacturer generally used pen canceled copies of the 3c 1857. Some of these show a partially removed pen mark, whereas on others I have examined, no attempt was made to remove the pen marks.

Figure #3 illustrates a second cover with the same address as figure #2. Only a slight attempt was made to remove the pen marks on

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The present favorable rate of Exchange of the Dollar to the £ affords an exceptional opportunity for purchasing. All my stamps are priced in STERLING and no increases have been made in my prices thus enabling you to secure rare items at bargain prices.

**T. ALLEN**  
FRINTON ON SEA, ESSEX, ENGLAND

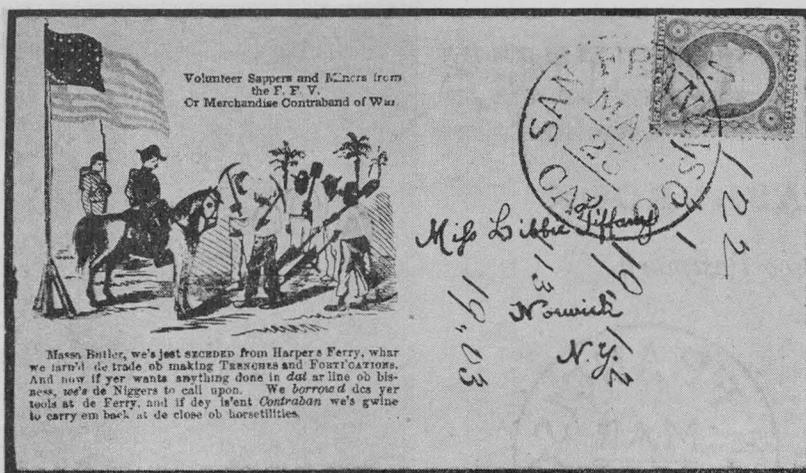


Figure #3—Fraudulent Postmark—"MAR. 23"

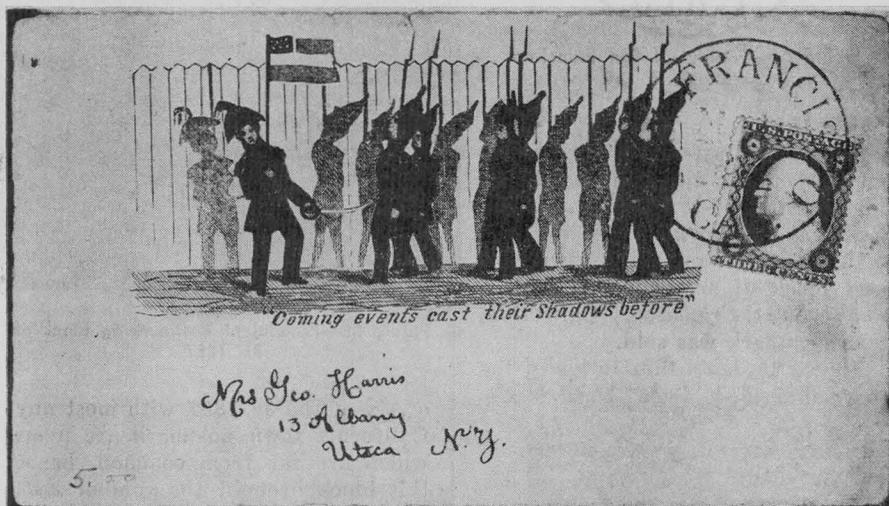


Figure #4—Fraudulent Postmark—"MAR. 23"

rare, but imagine a green with a California origin. This green fake also bore the date, "Mar 23."

Collectors specializing in the 2c Black Jack of 1862 are warned to beware of this fake, because the crook probably made up some attractive looking patriotics with pen removed Black Jacks tied to cover with it.

I recall seeing one of these in a collection several years ago, but the owner was so proud of what appeared to be a very rare and beautiful cover

that I did not have the heart to disillusion him.

Whether these fakes were made within recent years, or a long time ago, I have no idea. It is extremely hard to trace fake covers to their source and in attempting to trace their source, it has been my experience that in a number of cases they came from small mail order dealers who had innocently acquired them and were entirely unaware that they were fraudulent.

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## A Review of Philatelic Station Cancellations for 1939

By Roger A. Mathes

**A**T Philatelic Exhibitions and Conventions of national importance, branch post offices are often set up, and mail posted there receives a special cancellation. The temporary post offices operate for the duration of the affair, usually from two or three days to a week. Both handstamp and machine cancellations have been used.

The first such special cancellation was used in 1926 at the International Philatelic Exhibition in New York.

1939 was a fruitful year, there having been five philatelic station cancellations, equalling the previous banner year of 1934. In addition the Sepad Exhibition used a special slogan meter cancellation, an innovation at stamp meetings. This cancellation, however, cannot be classed with the special official post office cancellations, although it is of course interesting to include in such a collection. The *Precancel Stamp Society* was accorded a special postmark for the first time. As these big stamp affairs were given so much publicity in the philatelic press any further description here hardly seems necessary. The largest registration at a philatelic convention during 1939 was 232, this record being set by the *Precancel Stamp Society*. An inquiry to the Post Office Department as to the number of pieces of mail receiving these special cancellations brought the reply that no such records are kept. They did, however, have the information that 6,800 special cancellations were applied to mail matter at the branch post office of the Fifth American Philatelic Congress.

The following list, with first day dates, is believed to be complete.

1. Precancel Stamp Society Conv. Sta. Baltimore, Md. Aug. 18, 1939.
2. Society of Philatelic Amer. Conv. Sta. Baltimore, Md. Aug. 24, 1939.
3. Amer. Air Mail Society Conv. Sta. Cincinnati, O. Sept. 1, 1939.
4. Amer. Philatelic Society Conv. Sta. San Francisco, Calif. Sept. 26, 1939.
5. Fifth Amer. Philatelic Congress Sta. Atlantic City, N. J. Nov. 24, 1939.

Sepad 1939 National Stamp Exhibition Sept. 27 to Oct. 1. Philadelphia, Pa. Sept. 27, 1939.

## Special Rarity Sales

**S**PECIAL Rarity Auctions were inaugurated on October 25, 1939, by the J. M. Bartels Co., Inc., of New York in addition to their regular monthly auctions in order to offer the discriminating collector rarer stamps in finest condition.

The second Special Rarity Sale, for which catalogs are now available on request, will be held on January 20, and a third one will take place in March. Mr. Bartels advises us that every stamp selected for these sales has been minutely examined and expertized by competent authorities, and that all items are in exceptionally fine condition, and that many bear the signatures of well-known experts.

Outstanding among the offerings are United States, old German States, Offices and Colonies, Austria, British Empire, Italian States, Spain, rare Airmails, etc., including attractive and distinct multiples, covers and errors. The catalogs are elaborately prepared with numerous fine illustrations inserted between the text.

# MEKEEL'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

Published Every Monday By The Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co.

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Entered as second class matter June 25, 1917, at the post office  
at Portland, Maine, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. LIV, No. 2

PORTLAND, ME., MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1940

WHOLE No. 2557

## The 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c Domestic Rate Of 1825

BY NORTON D. YORK, <sup>Riverside</sup>WELLSVILLE, N. Y.

There are many Acts, or portions of Acts, passed by the United States Congress that are very perplexing, but the most mystifying one is the 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c domestic postage rate of 1825. This became effective March 3 of that year for the zone of over 150 miles and not over 400 miles when  $\frac{1}{4}$ c was added to the previous existing charge of 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for this same distance. In fact, this was the only change, in either zone distances or postage rates, in effect from May 1, 1816, to July 1, 1845, and it must have been done for some very obvious reason. But why?

It is true that this selfsame rate was in use from Feb. 1, 1815, to March 31, 1816, when all postal charges were raised 50% for war revenue purposes, thus advancing the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c rate to 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. But as this was done to meet a temporary emergency and not to make a permanent schedule, it can be eliminated from this discussion. However, as a rate of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c was in use from the very beginning in June 1, 1792, until July 1, 1845, except for the war time period mentioned above, why could not the 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c charge have been usable without the addition of  $\frac{1}{4}$ c?

I consulted the register of debates in the U. S. Congress, the Postmaster General's reports and other sources of information but without any definite results. Thinking that I might have made an oversight, I enlisted outside help and excerpts of the replies follow:

*Library of Congress.* "We find no record that the debates of the 18th Congress, 2nd Session, were ever reported in full. However, during this period, speeches which were omitted from the Register of Debates were occasionally printed in newspapers (especially those of Washington) and occasionally as monographs. We suggest an outside worker." *Post Office Department.* "A journal of the Post Office Department for the period of 1824-25 has not been preserved." *New York Public Library.* "The most complete collection of early Post Office documents is

Volume 7 of the American State Papers, Washington, 1834, and I find in it nothing relating to the Reorganization Act of March 3, 1825. There is nothing in the Congressional documents and nothing in the annual report of the Post Office Department."

It has been suggested that this change of rate was put into effect to assist the postmasters in their bookkeeping as four times 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c equals 75c, etc. I hesitate to accept this, as very seldom would even multiples of such a charge be either received or sent.

A glance at the U. S. Mint coinage tables seems to complicate rather than to assist in the solution of this problem. Up to the period of time in question,  $\frac{1}{2}$ c pieces were minted, but in very limited quantities and, for about one-half of the number of these calendar years, were not minted at all. This then, one might assume, was the reason for abandoning the 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c rate but we must remember that the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c rate was in effect at that same time and was continued until 1845. Furthermore no U. S.  $\frac{1}{4}$ c were ever coined. So let us look elsewhere for a possible explanation.

The Act of April 2, 1792, establishing our money system, contains the following: "... Dollars or Units—each to be of the value of a Spanish milled dollar as the same is now current, . . .". This is quite good evidence of the prevalence of Spanish coin and of the public's familiarity with it.

Owing to the mint's inability to supply sufficient coinage, the Act of Feb. 9, 1793, conferred legal tender upon Spanish and French coins at certain specified rates but also contained this significant clause: "Sec. 2. That at the expiration of three years . . . all foreign silver coins, except Spanish milled dollars and parts of such dollars, shall cease to be a legal tender, as aforesaid". This showed a definite preference for the Spanish money. This provision for making certain foreign coins legal tender was renewed in 1806, 1816, and at other later dates, proving that they were necessary for our commercial needs as an adjunct to our own limited coinage.

The newspapers of this period advertised articles for sale at such prices as 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 18 $\frac{3}{4}$  and 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and also, fol-

lowing the crisis of 1837, many notes were issued by private concerns using these fractional values, all being done in spite of the fact that our monetary system was established upon a decimal basis.

These facts, namely, an inadequate supply of U. S. subsidiary and minor coins as noted from a survey of the mint reports, the legalizing of various foreign coins as legal tender at specified rates, especially those of Spain, and the prevalence of fractional values in newspaper advertising, convince me that the change in the 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c rate to 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c, as well as the continuance of the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, was made to facilitate the use of the predominant Spanish currency. The coins necessary to pay these postal charges would have been the real and the medio accepted at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ c respectively.

To further substantiate this statement Prof. Neil Carothers in his book, "Fractional Money", writing about the use of Spanish money states:—"The fractional coins were commonly accepted at values of 50, 25, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. In the cities, where the decimal system was making progress, the fractional remainders were often dropped, the real passing for 12c, the medio for 6c. The great depreciation in weight of the foreign coins and the losses on re-coinage were beginning to cause disturbance. . . . No settled policy was adopted until 1843, in which year the New York banks established a scale of values. The double-real, real, and medio were not to be taken at values of higher than 23, 10 and 5c respectively. The post offices adopted the same valuations, despite public protests. Congress demanded an explanation from the Postmaster General, but took no further action. By 1848 the New York ratings had been adopted by banks and post offices the country over."

It is rather interesting to note that during the period mentioned above, 1843 to 1848, the new postage rates of 5 and 10c had become effective July 1, 1845. Using these facts and statements as a basis, it seems rather logical to assume that the 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c rate was adopted to use the Spanish real and medio which were made legal tender by Congressional Acts. If such an assumption is incorrect, the writer will greatly appreciate further light on this problem.

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# Canada, 1859-64 17c Stamp

By B. W. H. POOLE.



With the issue of its first postage stamps Canada soon became involved in the morass of two valuations in connection with the English monetary system it had inherited from the motherland—"sterling" and "currency". The advantages of the decimal system were manifest in all its transactions with the U. S. and it was obvious that sooner or later the cumbersome pence and shillings would have to give way to the more simply computed cents and dollars. The change in the monetary system of the Province of Canada—as it was known at that time—was promulgated on July 1, 1859, and it was immediately reflected in the postage stamps of the Province. A circular published by the Postmaster General announced the change as follows:—

"Decimal stamps of the value of 1, 5 and 10c for ordinary correspondence, and of 12½c for Canadian and 17c for British Packet postage rates, were obtained in readiness for the commencement of the Decimal Postage Law in July, 1859, and have from that date been issued in lieu of the stamps previously in use."

The designs of the stamps of this new issue were adapted from those of the corresponding values of the pence series hitherto in circulation. The odd value of 17c—the only stamp of this denomination ever issued by our northern neighbor—which is the only one with which we are at present concerned, had the value "Seventeen Cents" in place of "Ten Pence" on the oval band around the portrait. Owing to the extra length of this new inscription the ornaments which had previously separated the designation of value from "Canada Postage" had to be erased and small ovals were inserted in their place. The numerals "17" took the place of "10c" in the lower corners but, curiously enough, the legend "8d stg" in the upper angles was unaltered.

This 17c was engraved in recess by the American Bank Note Co., New York, whose predecessors, Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson had manufactured the stamps for the pence series. Only one plate was made for this denomination, and this consisted of one hundred stamps arranged in ten horizontal rows of ten each. While all the other denominations of this set show the manufacturer's imprint in all four margins this 17c is, curiously enough, entirely devoid of marginal inscriptions.

The normal color for this stamp is deep blue but as there were several printings many shades are found, including one best described as slate-blue. The perforation gauges 12 and is the work of a single machine. The paper is wove variety ranging from yellowish to white and texture from thin to fairly thick. There are many varieties, of more or less striking appearance, may be found. As these were caused by stacking sheets one of another before the ink was quite dry their philatelic importance is slight.

Specialists will find it well worth a hunt for re-entries or double transversions. Several are known, the most pronounced of which shows a distinct doubling of the upper portion of the left frame line. Another shows a dot of color at the top of the inscribed oval band with a vertical line passing through it parallel with the outer frame line. Another entry shows a line in and above the left frame line. Guide dots may be found—usually outside the center of the left-hand frame line.

This stamp is known entirely in shades of blue and indigo. Whether these varieties are from different sheets or were found among legitimate post office stock we do not know. They are quite scarce and, apparently, no used copies are known.

According to official records a total of 599,999 stamps was received from the printers and of these 516,026 were issued to postmasters. As this value became practically useless after a short while it is probable that some of these were returned to Ottawa when the 1868 stamps made their appearance.

The portrait on this stamp is that of Jacques Cartier, the explorer and founder of Canada. At one time there was considerable discussion over the identity of the original it being claimed in some quarters that the subject was Sebastian Cabot. Eventually it was proved beyond doubt that the portrait is that of Cartier and it was undoubtedly copied from an engraving reproduced from a three-quarter length painting of Cartier in the Hotel de Ville at his birthplace in St. Malo, France. The only other Canadian stamp on which Cartier's portrait appears is the 1c of the Quebec Tercentenary issue on which he shares honors with Samuel Champlain.

## 5c AIRMAIL, BEACON, C-11, MINT

Single	.....	.08	Block of four	.....	.32	Plate block of six	.....	.65
Set of plate number blocks of six—								
Set of two, UR and UL positions of same number combinations	.....							1.25
Set of four, of the following combinations	.....							2.50
Red 19549, -50, -51, 52 with blue 19545, 19546, 19547 or 19548.								
We have other numbers—what do you need?								

Stamps not accepted. Money orders appreciated. Postage extra under \$1.00.  
**C. E. NICKELS,** 213 Seaton Pl. N. E., **Washington, D. C.**

Riverside  
Wellsville, N. Y.  
Jan. 23, 1940

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
434 S. Grand Ave  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:- your kind letter of the 18th in regard to my article on the 1874<sup>th</sup> postage rate gave me more pleasure than you realize. I have received other letters but none seemed to satisfy me so much as your acknowledgment, on account of your standing as a philatelic writer. I am not a writer and had merely done this investigation for a pastime. This article together with some others, of a garden variety nature, were sent into *McKees* only upon the insistence of a stamp collecting friend of mine.

This peculiar rate intrigued me because some years ago I collected Postage Currency and had accordingly made somewhat of a study of our money system. There being no one quarter cent coin, I was curious and so tried to solve the mystery. I had to condense the article all I could, and so for the sake of brevity left out much material which might have been interesting.

In regard of the term "bit", I had an amusing incident some years ago in Southern California, when a drayman charged me six bits and I didn't know what he meant. So I handed him five dollars and counted the change when he had left to find that he meant 75 cents.

The word "bit" is the oldest term, I believe, in our money nomenclature and came from the cutting up of a ~~the~~ Spanish pillar dollar into eight pieces, when the remark was often made that this was a little bit of a piece of money. I think that this value was conceived to conform to the English and more likely colonial reckoning of a shilling, which in New York

and adjacent states went for  $18\frac{1}{2}$  cents but elsewhere for values at times twice as much and more. The dollar was also divided into quarter and sixteenth pieces and these several parts were often referred to as "cut money" and "sharp money", this term "bit" is found in the writings of Jefferson and even of Wm. Penn.

Of course this cut money was not legal tender but was acceptable in trade being made for that purpose. The  $6\frac{1}{4}$  piece was called a half-bit and the  $25^{\text{c}}$  value a double-bit. I never heard of the other fractions which you mention, as having a specific name, because I don't see how a dollar coin could be so cut up to conform to  $18\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $37\frac{1}{2}$  and  $62\frac{1}{2}$  cents. They may have existed in some other money value than the Spanish but I have never heard of it.

My time is being taken up now with the study of the 12 perf. stamps and my greatest regret is that your three volumes which I own, only treat of the one cent 1851-57 and the ten cent 1855-57. Of course <sup>I have</sup> I have Job's on the 20th century side but for the 19th. I have only Goodwins. I wish that I lived in New York City and had access to the Collectors Club Library, of which organization I am a member, then I would indeed have an enjoyable time.

Again thanking you for your courtesy in writing me,  
I am

Very truly yours  
Horton D. York

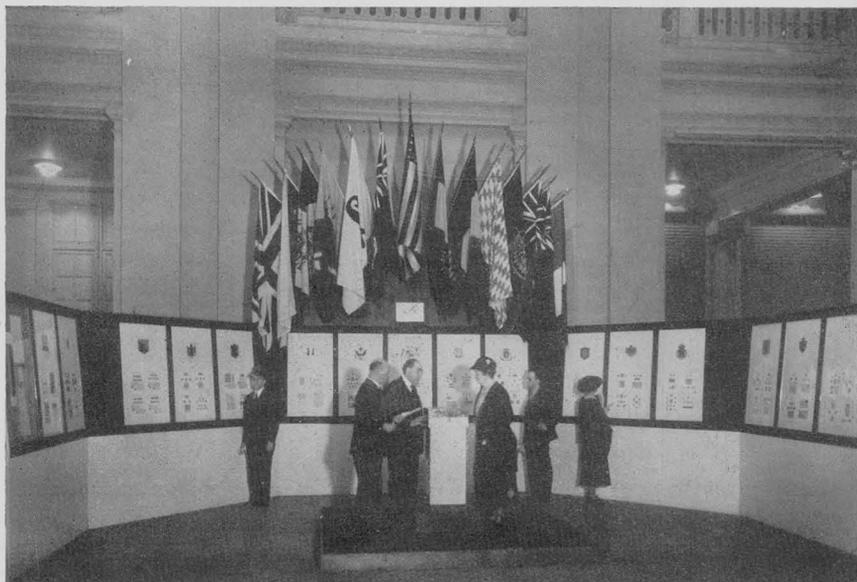
## THE NEW YORK EXHIBITS.

BY A VISITOR.

**A**FTER reading about the tremendous preparations and the large number of collections for the New York Exhibition, I was prepared for something on a grand scale. Nevertheless, I was astonished at its size and could hardly credit an exhibition on such gigantic lines for the leisurely and dignified hobby of stamp collecting.

The Grand Central Palace is a building catering specially for exhibitions and is, in my opinion, admirably suited for a stamp show. Three entire floors were taken for this philatelic event. The chief entrance was up a grand staircase to the first and main floor. It was here that a most astonishing crowd with queues of enthusiasts waited on the first day for the exhibition stamps and the opportunity of posting first day covers. Hundreds of thousands of the attractive commemorative sheets were sold that day.

At the top of the grand staircase one entered the exhibition and immediately saw the imposing Court of Honour facing down the centre aisle from the far end. This Court of Honour was the first of its kind at any exhibition, comprising a display of the first countries to issue stamps from May 6th, 1840, to May 5th,



*The Court of Honour.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Newbury inspecting the Penny Black dies in the centre.*

1850. They were, in order, Great Britain, Zurich, Brazil, Geneva, Basle, United States, Mauritius, France, Belgium, Bavaria, Spain, New South Wales, Victoria and Switzerland. Four outstanding pages of each were loaned by various exhibitors



*The Exhibition Souvenir Sheet.*

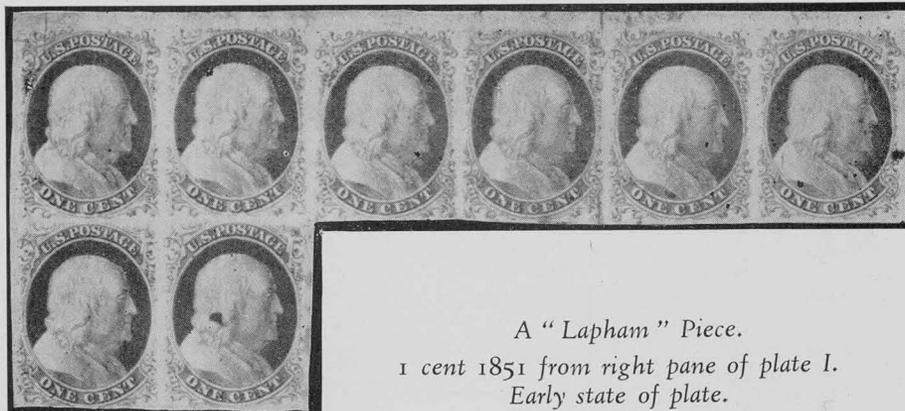
and were arranged in a frame with the respective Government's coat of arms above. In the centre, on a raised dais, stood the British Government's case containing the original dies of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue. Above were the national flags, and beneath them the Grand Plaque of Honour. The accompanying photograph illustrates the scene. Adjacent, and on either side, were the various exhibits sent by foreign Governments. These were surprisingly numerous and formed an important section of the exhibition.

Close to the Court of Honour was the exhibit loaned by M. Maurice Burrus which has no equal in the world of philately. Five copies of the POST OFFICE Mauritius were in a frame together with the great rarities of the first British Guiana provisionals. This was the most valuable frame in the exhibition and, I understand, was specially guarded by detectives from the time it arrived until the time Mr. Godden took it into his care to return to the owner.

The arrangement of the frames was excellent. There was plenty of space to move about, and all the dealers' stalls were placed round the sides of the halls. One improvement upon previous exhibitions immediately caught my attention. In all the frames the album sheets rested in a specially made slot. This not only made things much easier for those who had the job of putting them in the frames, but removed the tedious fiddling with drawing pins and consequent risk of damage to album pages.

The American Post Office certainly expected a large demand for the special stamps, as I saw about twenty counters for post business. These were nothing like enough to supply the thousands of enthusiasts who had to wait in queues for an hour or so at a time.

The principal exhibits were arranged on the third floor, and it was here that I spent most of my time. There is no doubt about the magnificence of Mr. R. W. Lapham's United States collections, which secured for him the Grand Prix. The



A "Lapham" Piece.

1 cent 1851 from right pane of plate I.  
Early state of plate.

This piece comprises Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14 and 15, and are the following types :  
Type I, No. 7; Type Ib, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9; Type II, Nos. 14 and 15.

U.S. "Postmasters" are the finest in the world. Here were stamps costing anything up to four and five hundred pounds each, in reconstructed plates. It was my first opportunity of inspecting the great rarities of the U.S.A.—The Alexandrias, S.G. catalogued at £2,500 and £4,000. The Baltimores included a pair of the 5c. on cover, a 10c. on white and 10c. on bluish, both on covers; the latter are catalogued at £2,500 and £3,000 each. These were followed by specimens of the Millbury and New Haven rarities. Here again are stamps with values running into four figures apiece. The "New Yorks" formed an extraordinary collection in themselves, separate reconstructed plates of unused, horizontal pairs, vertical pairs, proving without doubt the size of the plate as forty stamps. One reconstructed plate consisted entirely of stamps with red postmarks. A unique piece was the only known block of six on cover. Mr. Lapham must have over a thousand copies of this stamp.

The stamps of the United States were represented by a very large number of exhibitors, considerably more than any other class. The two English exhibitors in this section, Mr. James Durham and Sir Nicholas Waterhouse, were in a good position with five frames apiece, and their display compared very favourably with American collectors. One *hors concours* series of seven frames of early U.S. covers by Robert S. Emerson was much admired. Mr. Saul Newbury's exhibit took me rather by surprise, as I had previously only associated him with South Americans. His exhibit of ten frames was particularly striking for the wonderful condition of every piece, many with rare and unusual cancellations. His award of a gold medal was no surprise.

I was pleased to see that Mr. J. B. Seymour had sent five frames of Great Britain (*hors concours*). They covered a wide field from superb blocks of Penny Blacks and Twopenny Blues to Crimean War covers and University College stamps. It was Mr. C. W. Siggers' collection that upheld the prestige of Great Britain in competition. The nine frames shown were a fine selection from one of England's premier collections. The Penny Blacks used on Mulreadies (one dated



A rare block of "Penny Reds" from Mr. J. B. Seymour's Exhibit.  
The centre stamp shows the "Union Jack" variety.

May 6, 1840) and caricatures made me quite envious. It has always been my ambition to acquire some of these, particularly in colour, to frame and hang in my stamp den. Other interesting and rare pieces shown were: Mint marginal block of four, V.R.; superb used block of eight Penny Blacks on cover; mint strip of twelve across the sheet; superb used strip of twelve Twopenny Blues 1840; complete used sheet of twenty of the 1/- green, octagonal; a used block of eighty-six 2d. 1841; a fine used copy of the rare tenpence watermarked Emblems.

Dr. Fleming displayed an intensive study of the Penny Reds of 1841. His philatelic work and hand-drawn illustrations of the varieties was an "eye-opener" for the Americans, who had very little idea of the research there is to be done in British line-engraved stamps. I cannot complete Great Britain without mention of two charming little exhibits by Captain E. B. Purefoy and S. R. Turner. The former was entitled "The Dawn of Philately," with early Post Office Notices of 1840, early Mulreadies used with stamps, etc. The latter consisted of the early British postmarks from the very beginning in 1660.

The British North America section, with A. F. Lichtenstein (*hors concours*) and G. B. Bainbridge, were outstanding. The former had unused pairs of both the 5 and 10 cents imperforate of British Columbia. The latter was one of the most beautifully illustrated collections in the exhibition, showing as it did the whole history of the British Columbia posts and their little-known Express Companies. Mr. Lichtenstein's Twelvepence Canada pairs and covers, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia covers and splits, are without parallel.

The British West Indies formed a large section with several first-class collections. One American exhibitor, Mr. B. H. Homan, had done the most amazing work on the stamps of St. Lucia. All the first types had been plated and the



1d. Deep Blue with A.3 perforation,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15\frac{1}{2}$ .

A mint pair with large type surcharge.

The 1/- Blue. Error of colour.

These three rarities are from Mr. Snowden's Barbados Exhibit.

differences were beautifully illustrated with enlarged sketches. I could hardly realise that so many rare and superb blocks of this country existed. Mr. Leonard Snowden's exhibit of Barbados created much attention. The Britannia type rarities were all included with many unusual pieces. The arrangement and writing-up were superb, and I was very surprised to learn afterwards that it was done solely by the owner. Mr. G. L. Hearn had some fine Turks Islands with large blocks of the provisionals showing the make-up of the settings. Jamaica I found represented by a choice American exhibit, that of Mr. Brinkley Turner, with Great Britain used in the Colony, rare blocks of the "Pineapples," and a copy of the one shilling pictorial with inverted centre.

Cape and Mauritius were strongly represented by Th. Champion, V. Huberich, R. F. A. Riesco (not for competition), A. W. Claflin and others. M. Champion showed his two POST OFFICE Mauritius along with several valuable items in one surprising frame.

Admiral F. R. Harris, with ten frames of Ceylon, showed one of the finest series of these stamps I have ever seen. Two unused copies of the 4d. imperforate, one of the three known used pairs along with five superb singles. Mr. Anthony de Worms contributed two frames (*hors concours*) of Ceylon covers from the Pence issues, with unusual rates and combination of values.

The Indian section was one of the best with superb collections from F. A. Daver, C. D. Desai, Colonel A. E. Stewart, L. E. Dawson and John N. Luff. The collection of Mr. Daver's was, in my opinion, one of the best collections in the whole exhibition. The 1854 issue included the most amazing blocks UNUSED AND USED in superlative condition. The 4 annas with blue wavy lines was shown in a reconstructed UNUSED sheet of eleven out of the twelve stamps. This had full marginal inscriptions and included a corner block of four, and marginal strip of three. This one piece seemed to me to be of such extraordinary rarity that I could hardly believe my eyes. Mr. Desai had made a very advanced study of plating of the 1854 issue and is the possessor of the only known copy of the 4 annas inverted frame, not cut to shape.

The Australian section was well represented. Mr. Bernhard was prominent with his famous New Zealands. Miss Harvey showed a well-chosen frame from her father's well-known Victorias. There were two fine collections quite new to me in this class, those of Mr. Theodore Steinway, New South Wales, and Mr. P. Malone, Tasmania. The "Sydney Views" and "Laureated" of the former were

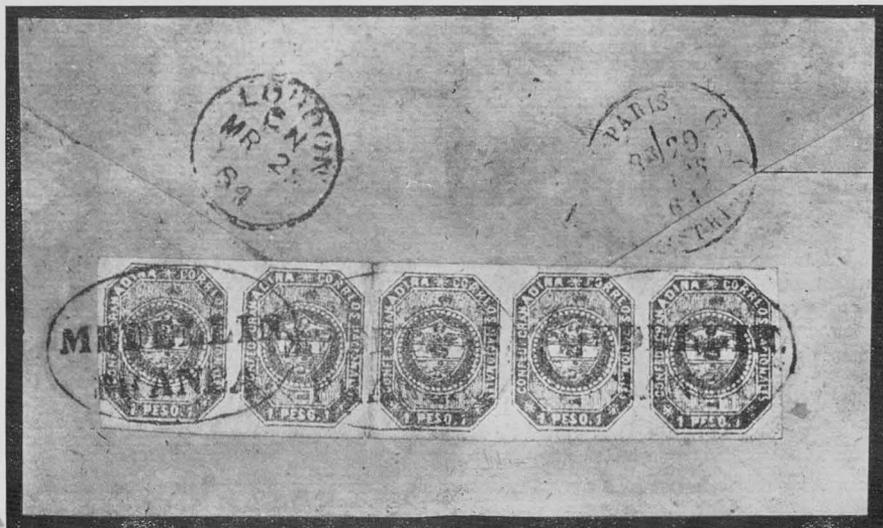
plated, and it seemed to me that some of our Australian friends would have difficulty in beating this collection. The Tasmania exhibit was in very highly specialised form with reconstructed plates of the early octagonals. The blocks of the Perkins, Bacon issues were the best I have seen for a long time.

In the European classes were a number of collections of great strength, with rarities and extremely valuable pieces in profusion. I should imagine that it was in this section that the judges had their most difficult task. Three Honour Prizes came to this section and, as far as I could see, there was little to choose between them and four or five others. I was delighted to see Dr. Leemann's Swiss for the first time—a collection undoubtedly formed by a connoisseur. The condition of every item was in the most immaculate of condition. Pairs of Basle Doves on letters, and blocks of the other Cantonals too numerous to mention. Mr. Harold Wilson's Bergedorf collection was one of the most unusual in the exhibition. I never knew so much philatelic work could be put into this country. Dr. O'Connor's Belgium were much admired, as well as the studies of M. Jean Dubois on the 1865-1883 issues of the same country. The best collection amongst the German States was the Hanover of H. W. Edmunds. There were many fine displays here, but condition does make all the difference. Mr. Wedmore showed his Prussians and is to be congratulated on securing the top award in a stiffly contested class.

I spent some time studying Mr. J. Wright's Belgian Congo, as it had done so well against all the Belgian specialists at Brussels last year. The interest in research shown was astonishing, and I was rather mystified at the decision of the jury in this class. I can only assume that Mr. Hagemann's two great collections of Danish West Indies, with their superb display in twenty frames, were put together for the top award.

The Newbury collections of Colombia and Brazil were the envy of all interested in South Americans. Mr. Saul Newbury has always had his name coupled with these countries, and he displayed some of the best frames at the show. I was specially pleased to see a Britisher, Captain Jewell, take the Gold Medal for research. His plating of the "Rivadavias" must be the result of a life-time of research and study. The "plum" for South American collections was awarded to Mr. W. P. Lind for his Guatemala collection. I believe that Mr. Lind is practically alone in his research on this country, and his attempt at the plating of the "lithographs" deserves full praise.

Dr. Byam richly deserved his award of a gold medal for his Egypt. Here was a complete survey of the postal history of the country, commencing with the early pre-stamp period, the first stamps with a study of the printing stones, right up to the present day issues. I can assure the owner that his exhibit was much appreciated. Every time I passed near there were collectors making notes and peering through magnifying glasses. Mr. Agnew showed three frames of China, *hors concours*, but, nevertheless, one could appreciate the beauty and magnificence of his unrivalled collection. I should have liked to have seen it in competition and bring another Honour Award to Britain. Mr. Newbury was in the class with a fine collection of Shanghai. I am beginning to wonder what further surprises Mr. Newbury will spring at future exhibitions. Mr. Yardley's Gold Medal Kashmir was something out of the ordinary for the Americans, although I did



*A rare cover from Mr. Saul Newbury's Exhibit.*

see a fine series of Afghanistan shown by Mr. W. S. Boggs, an American specialist.

The Air Post section I believe contained the most competition in the many classes, and it is a great pleasure to have three gold medal awards for Great Britain—Mrs. Anson McCleverty, Miss W. Penn-Gaskell, Mr. W. Lindsay Everard. The two former are the most complete collections of air mail stamps in Great Britain, and I do not envy the task of the jury if they should come up against one another in the same class. Miss Penn-Gaskell's collection is in a class by itself. It illustrates the history of aviation with experimental, historical and special flights. Even the Polar expeditions are represented with messages sent out from balloons.

In the small space available I have done my best to give some idea of this colossal exhibition, and I must say that I do feel extremely fortunate in having the opportunity of seeing this wonderful show, and wish I could say more.

#### ENCOURAGING PHILATELY.

Mr. Charles J. Phillips has just published a new book, "Stamp Collecting—The King of Hobbies and the Hobby of Kings," which will have an appeal for both collector and non-collector.

For fifty years Charles J. Phillips has been a world figure in philately. During his long years of activity he has met practically every great collector on intimate social terms. He has visited their homes and studied their collections.

He has had an unequalled opportunity

to participate in the making of philatelic history, and added to this he has a remarkable memory and the happy faculty of sifting out the humorous and interesting incidents, which he tells simply yet effectively.

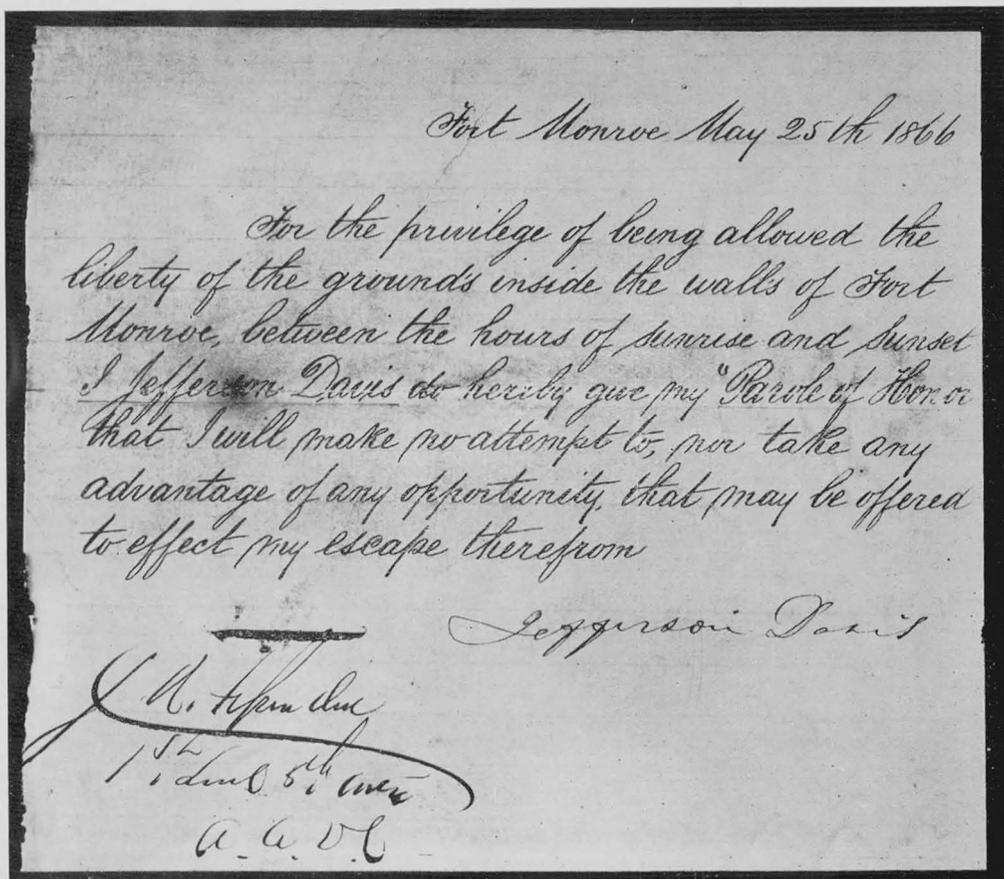
The book covers the entire field of philately and includes many interesting chapters.

(Published by H. L. Lindquist, 100 Sixth Avenue, New York. Price \$2.50. Obtainable from Frank Godden Ltd., at 10/6d. post free.)

## AN HISTORICAL DOCUMENT I.

THE document illustrated on this page is one that will be appreciated by all those interested in the poignant story of the Confederate States of America. Permission to illustrate this unique relic has been given by Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook who informs us that it is a recent acquisition to the collection of Mr. Samuel B. Richy of Cincinnati.

Jefferson Davis was born in 1808 and became a member of the Senate in 1847. He held various posts in the Government and was a strong upholder of the doctrine of slave rights. He became the President of the Confederate States



after their secession in 1861 and continued in that office until the end of the war in 1865. After the fall of Richmond, the seat of the Confederate Government, he was taken prisoner and confined at Fort Monroe.

Jefferson Davis remained a prisoner for two years, afterwards being set at liberty in 1868. He died in 1889.

Overland via Los Angeles

Class 7

Ch. Philippe & Co. San Francisco

Names

Price



65

SAN FRANCISCO  
OCT 19 1869  
EX 22

Guiana & New York

*[Faint handwritten scribbles]*

BLACK

19  
OCT 19 1869  
S. BERNARD  
NEW YORK

BLACK

BLACK



Julary Bellamy

Angouleme

France

BLACK

*[Small handwritten mark]*

Figure # 4

The Markings Conclusively  
prove that the 15<sup>th</sup>, 1869 does  
not belong on this cover.

Re - 15¢ 1869 cover to France -  
From S.F. Oct. 20, 1869.

Collection of Wm. West.

The 15¢ stamp was not on this cover originally. The letter was forwarded as unpaid from San Francisco on Oct. 20, 1869 and the boxed "15" shows it was a single rate unpaid. The black N.Y. Foreign Exchange marking is a debit marking, meaning that out of the sum France was to collect on the letter, the U. S. P.O. was entitled to 12¢. This much of a debit out of 15¢ due shows that only 3¢ was left to France which was the sum due the French P.O. for domestic service. The U. S. P.O. was entitled to 12¢ because this letter was carried to a French port in an American ship, thus the U. S. was entitled to all of the 15¢ rate with the exception of the 3¢ for the French domestic. That the service was thus performed is proved by the French receiving handstamp which reads, "Et - Unis - Ser - Am. - Havre," meaning literally, from the U. S. by American Packet direct to Havre.

The large "8" is the French postage due marking of "8" decimes or 8 X 1.90 cents or a trifle over 15¢ the single rate. This "8" proves that the letter arrived at Havre with no postage paid. The cancellation on the stamp is genuine but the part of this cancellation on the cover is fraudulent, beyond any question of a doubt.

Scrap book #4 - Page 47 -  
Photo - Negative #17.

1860

Not

1869

**Y. SOUREN CO.**

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

394 PARK AVENUE

BET. 53RD AND 54TH STS.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

June 3, 1940

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.  
434 S. Grand Ave.  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letter of May 31st is at hand. Many thanks for the pictures of the 3¢ Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

We are enclosing our own pictures, including an infra-red photograph. There is no doubt that the stamp and cover are authentic, as we have checked cancellation, ink, perforation, etc., most critically.

In regard to your comment on my not taking the "Stamp Specialist", once I wrote that I am a man of principle. The comments I am making are not to hurt your feelings but to make clear my position in the matter. I will not take in my hands nor give my money to be used by Hitler if he issues any publication, for I know that the money will be used harmfully. It is the same with Lindquist's publications. I will not spend any money for them because I feel that it may be used to the disadvantage of philately.

My stand against Mr. Lindquist is purely as a publisher. I have no quarrel with him personally nor have I a quarrel with anyone, but as a publisher I cannot consider that he acts for the best interests of philately. I am firmly convinced the influence he exerts is more harmful than helpful.

These are my principles, and I am not prejudiced. Don't feel that I am like a leaf which the wind may blow in any direction.

I do not have a quarrel with anyone. If I should have a disagreement on personal grounds, I certainly would not make an issue of it. My objection to Mr. Lindquist is as a publisher, and I feel, without prejudice, that his publications are continuously working an injury to philately.

In regard to the 3¢ 1861, when I wrote an article praising your work as a student and to which you took exception, I expressed an open admiration for what you had accomplished in the 1¢ 1851. I know the years of labor you have had to put in before such a book could be written. Every point which you have proven in there can be backed through eyesight. Plate reconstruction is a matter in which the eye will demonstrate facts, and there can be no controversy on that point. However, when you touch on such a question as color and advance an opinion, basing the opinion on your eyesight and the Ridgeway scale and while I honor you your right to an

**Y. SOUREN CO.**

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

394 PARK AVENUE

BET. 53RD AND 54TH STS.  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

S. B. Ashbrook

- 2 -

June 3, 1940

opinion as much as anyone else's. I cannot have any respect for an opinion based solely on eyesight, whether mine, yours, or anyone else's.

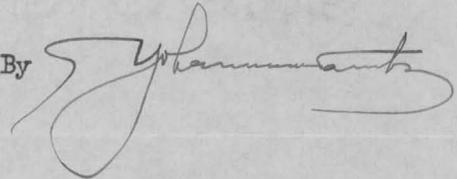
You make the claim that if such an issue were in court, your views would be vindicated and your claims accepted. It reminds me of a certain Parisian doctor who had been sentenced to jail for 18 years by the highest court in France. After he had been in prison for 9 years, the world realized his accomplishments and all medicine has accepted his principles on obstetrical surgery. Those who had acquired the esteem of the public of his time fought strongly against the acceptance of his teachings, just as many in the world today fight against any advance, whether based on science or whether from pure research.

This is an advancing world. If we are to keep apace with it, we must adjust ourselves to changing conditions. What has gone in the past is a basis, yes, but the past is a stepping-stone to the future. If you take the stand that the past tells all, I can do no more than repeat that I do not think that you have the proper conception of the 3¢ 1861 pink and that you do not know how properly to distinguish the inks. Unless you are willing to equip yourself with such apparatus which will enable you to determine actual facts for yourself, you need not feel insulted if I disagree with you.

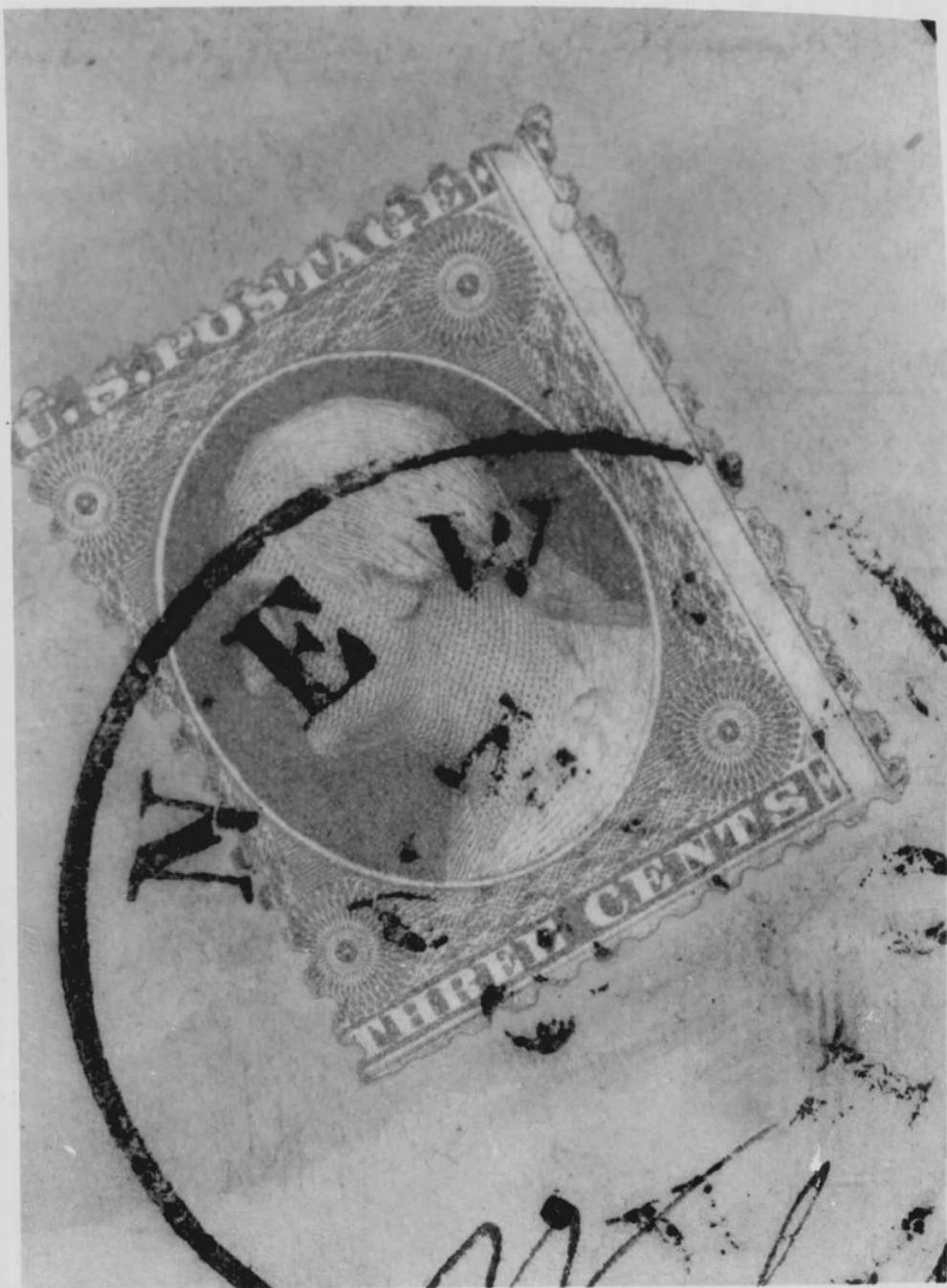
Respectfully yours,

Y. SOUREN CO.

By



SY:bp  
Enc.



PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.  
394 Park Ave.  
New York, City



U.S. POSTAGE

THREE CENTS

Wm. Webster

FILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.  
394 Park Ave.  
New York, City

New York, May 22, '56.

My Dear Webster,

I write this morning for the purpose of speaking further of that part of the 6th clause which provides for the contingency of death.

I am satisfied that I disposed of it too hastily, and I do not wish you to act upon what I have hitherto said.

I am  
to ex  
under  
very  
ought  
All  
indic  
settled.



Mr. Joseph Rowe Webster -  
Milton -  
Norfolk County -  
Mass.

some  
will, with  
out a  
certainly  
is to  
maybe  
depending

to put a construction upon this part of the will, but leaving that to be done whenever a contingency shall arise which will make it necessary.

This I will now endeavor to do. First, then, in relation to the administratrix. I think it will be safe & proper for her to pay over absolutely & unconditionally to the three nieces & their three children their respective shares. I don't think it would be her duty or that she would have a right to call upon any of the six, or security that their share will be forth coming, in the event of their death under the circum

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.  
394 Park Ave.  
New York, City



Mr Bond  
Merchant  
Saddle Valley  
Nevada



Jas. Wartenby  
Nevada

Bureau May 11 83

04  
14 30



Nevada

Bureau April 23 83

"Watch dog"

Miss Wartenby  
Nevada

Bureau  
25-100  
Express charges



**EZRA D. COLE**  
DEALER IN POSTAGE STAMPS  
NYACK, N. Y.

June 24, 1940

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
434 S. Grand Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan:

Here are the four covers that I have been arguing about with Wiltsee. There is a very long story that goes with them and I could not possibly write it in four letters. However, later on I will send you the entire correspondence and you can go over it for yourself.

The reason I am not sending this is that I would like you to check these covers over by yourself and make up your mind what you think about them without any influence on anyone's part. Please understand that this is not an attempt to get you out on a limb or anything of the sort for unless you say so, I will never quote you or will the information get out of this office.

These four covers came from four different sources. One was found a year and a half ago in California. One was found this Spring. One of these came from the Parker Lyon collection and the fourth cover's history is lost in antiquity, in other words, it has been in a collection for twenty or thirty years. I would like when you write me to give a guess as to what you think about the ink of the little Red Dog and I would also like to have you make a photograph of these four covers at my expense and I would like copies of them.

Sincerely yours,

C:H



**EZRA D. COLE**  
**DEALER IN POSTAGE STAMPS**  
**NYACK, N. Y.**

August 28, 1940

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
434 South Grand Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan:

Jean and I arrived home Monday evening late. We had planned on coming home through Indianapolis and Cincinnati. However, we were routed farther north by the automobile clubs because of road constructions, and we were both rather in a hurry to get home. This will explain why we did not stop in Cincinnati.

Your postal card arrived so I know you actually got away from Marshall, Michigan. That is one of the hardest places to leave that I know anything about. Are you going to mount Harold's collection and is there anything I can do?

Yes, I knew that one of those covers belonged to Von David from the very beginning. He found it out in California last summer just about the time of the A.P.S. convention. As far as I can discover that is only one of the three that come through at all doubtful hands, and even the history of that one was very good for Von David turned down an offer of \$50 for it at the convention and then sold it for less. Two of the others came from Lichtenstein's collection. One he had had thirty years and the other five or ten years and the fourth cover Kellogg Stryker found in a bunch of cheap Wells Fargo covers sent to him for auction by an old-time collector in California. I meant to tell you all this when I saw you but it slipped my mind while we were being entertained by Harold. Jean sends her love to Mildred and we both will look forward to seeing you again sometime soon.

Sincerely yours,

C:H

CABLE ADDRESS  
"KLEINSTAMP"

TELEPHONE  
"PENYPAKR 0770"

**EUGENE KLEIN**  
RARE POSTAGE STAMPS  
212 200 SOUTH 13TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

MEMBER OF THE JURIES OF THE CHICAGO 1911,  
NEW YORK 1913, WIEN 1923 AND MONTREAL 1925  
PARIS 1937  
PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS

RECEIVED  
U. S. POSTAGE & REVENUE  
BRITISH COLONIES  
AIR POST

December 2, 1940

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
434 Grand Avenue  
Fort Thomas  
Kentucky

Dear Stan:

Just came home from the Congress and found your letter of November 26th awaiting me. I cannot explain the low prices for the Frazer covers. I was not at the sale, but I was told that the attendance was poor and prices low.

My office sent you another catalogue of the December 12th auction. Lot 154 - fortunately the entire cover is here and it is dated "San Francisco, Dec. 8, 1854". Your surmise, therefore, is correct. The cover is much finer than the illustration would indicate. The blue oval is exceptionally well impressed. I hope you will decide to send me a bid on it.

Many thanks for the GOLDEN ERA photograph for my records. I previously obtained a photograph and included it in my supplementary list, which will be published sometime in the, not too distant, future.

W & P River Mail - Wheeling and Parkersburg mail is correct. I enclose herewith three covers, which kindly return after you are through with them:

- 1 - 1851, 3c on cover tied by WHEELING & PARK.  
RIVER MAIL FEB. 26, blue circle
- 2 - 1851, 3c on cover tied by W & P RIVER MAIL  
in a circle
- 3 - a stampless cover dated 1853 from Baltimore,  
endorsed "Gratis with W & P River Mail"  
addressed like the previous letter to George  
E. Leonard, Newton Centre, Mass.

I also wish to point out to you corner card No. 106 in my Waterway Packetmarks book, which will give you further information.

With kindest regards.

Yours,  
  
EUGENE KLEIN

EK:FL enc.

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 6, 1940.

Mr. Eugene Klein,  
212 S. 13th St.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Gene:

I think most anyone would assume, after examining the three covers which you sent me, that the "W. & P. River Mail" meant Wheeling & Parkersburg River mail, but I really wonder. Suppose we consider the two covers addressed to George Leonard, Newton Centre Mass. First, the stampless cover. You will note the letter is headed, "Batimore County, October 2 1853," and the manuscript postmark is, "Woodstock, Md., Oct. 4th - 5." Now evidently "Batimore" means "Baltimore County" (Md). If you will look at a map you will find that Woodstock is on the Patapsco River, in Howard County and this county forms part of the southern boundary of Baltimore County, the above river separating the two counties. Woodstock is also on the B. & O. R. R. just 25 miles west of Baltimore. There seems to be little doubt that this letter originated in some rural community across the river from Woodstock in Baltimore County - written on the 2nd it first reached a U. S. Post Office at Woodstock on the 4th. What the W & P River Mail means I am sure I don't know unless perchance it might have stood for "Woodstock & Patapsco River Mail."

At this period, October 1853, the B. & O. R. R. was in operation to Wheeling, but surely a letter mailed at Woodstock and addressed to Massachusetts would not have been sent clear to Wheeling, 280 miles west. Besides Parkersburg is 96 miles by river, below Wheeling.

I thought that possibly the letter might have originated at some point near the Ohio River on the Parkersburg - Wheeling Steamboat Route, was placed on a steamboat, carried to Wheeling, then East via the B. & O. R. R., but in neither Virginia, Pennsylvania, or Ohio was there any county of Baltimore much less Batimore. In addition, the letter traveling by rail east from Wheeling to Baltimore would hardly have been taken off at a small town like Woodstock and post-marked there. Besides the letter is dated the 2nd and postmarked the 4th.

The notation "Gratis with W & P River Mail." This is in pencil and is not in the same handwriting as the address. What do you suppose the "Gratis" meant? Perhaps this pencil notation is a fake, and no doubt ~~there~~<sup>there</sup> is a correct solution. If so then there is no connection between this stampless item and the 3/ 1851 cover, and in all probability the W & P River Mail, actually meant Wheeling & Parkersburg River Mail.

There was a Steamboat Route in 1850, listed as,  
Route 2699 - Wheeling to Parkersburg - 96 miles - Two times a week.

#2.

Mr. Eugene Klein, Dec. 6, 1940.

No such a steamboat route is listed for 1849.

In 1851 and 1852, it is listed Route 2576 - Wheeling to Parkersburg - 96 miles - Three times a week.

Re - the Chase listing of "W & P River Mail," and his guess that this might have meant "Washington and Potomac River Mail." Perhaps he had some evidence for his guess. That is, a cover with an origin near such a route. On the route of the "Great Mail," New York via Washington to New Orleans, there was a gap between Washington and "Aquia Creek," that is, the railroad from Richmond north thru Fredericksburg was not completed to Washington, hence the mail was carried between Washington and "Aquia Creek" down the Potomac by steamboat. This was a separate mail steamboat route and in 1853 was listed under Virginia as, (See Page 220 - Vol 2 - Ashbrook)

Route 2401 - From Washington, D. C. by steamboat to Aquia Creek, Va. distance  $54\frac{1}{2}$  miles - 14 trips per week - cost per annum \$16,300. Perhaps way mail picked up on this route was marked by the mail agent "W & P River Mail" or "Washington & Potomac River Mail." I merely offer this suggestion as it is quite possible your 3¢ 1851 may have had such a "way" origin.

I did note your #105 and #106 but didn't pay much attention to them because of the late dates.

Thanks very much for the extra catalogue and information on the "Via Nicaragua cover." I thought Richey might like to have this item and I will speak to him about it.

I will appreciate your comments on the above remarks.

With best regards,

Cordially yours,



Black



Mr George E. Leonard  
Newton Centre  
Mass.

To Mr George C Leonard

Newton Centre Mass  
in haste

Gratis with W & P. River Mail

Letter  
1853  
EKlein

Woodsloch md  
Oct 4<sup>th</sup>



Blue

o. W. Carpenter Esq.  
No 737 Market Street  
Philadelphia  
Pa.

E. Klein

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Feb. 7, 1943.

Dear Edgar:

As you will recall, all the 12¢ bisects from San Francisco seem to have been used on the following dates of 1853:

Aug. 1 - Aug. 16 - Sep. 1 - Sep. 16 - Oct. 1.

Here are five consecutive mails. I have never found a use on July 16 or Oct. 16. Why do you suppose so many of these were used at that particular time? Surely the P.O. could not have been short of 3¢ for two long months. You will recall that stamped envelopes were first issued in July 1853. Do you suppose that the S.F. P.O. anticipated a big demand for the 6¢ envelopes and didn't order a large enough supply of 3¢ adhesives? Second, perhaps a delay in the delivery of envelopes caused the S.F. to run entirely out of 3¢ adhesives? This is all pure speculation, the main point being this. Do you not think that there may be some connection between the shortage(?) of 3¢ stamps and a delayed(?) delivery of 6¢ stamped envelopes at the S.F. office?

Can you get someone to search the files of the Alta starting say June 1st, 1853 up to say Dec. 1, 1853 and copy any reference to (1) stamps - (2) Bisected 12¢ stamps - (3) Stamped envelopes?

A friend has just sent me photostats of three 12¢ bisects, all from same person to the same address in Philadelphia. Here are the dates:

Aug. 1 )  
Sep. 1 ) 1853  
Sep. 16 )

Evidently there was a fourth letter of Aug. 16. Letters of 16th Aug. and Sep. 1 got thru all O.K. but the Sep. 16 has an "encircled 10" of the New York P.O. Now why did the N.Y. Office re-rate this? I suppose all mail was sent in bulk from S.F. and not sorted until it got to N.Y., hence N.Y. stamped this letter of Sep. 16 as 10¢ due at Philadelphia, refusing to recognize the bisect.

Now here is my theory. Evidently an awful lot of mail was sent thru on Aug. 1 and Aug. 16 with 12¢ bisects and New York asked the P.M.G. for a ruling. The P.M.G. ruled that "bisects" were not to be recognized, hence when the Sep. 16 mail came in New York treated all the letters with 12¢ bisects as unpaid. This ruling also affected the Via Nicaragua mail.

I base the above theory on Post Office circular #25 signed by James Campbell P.M.G. and dated Nov. 10, 1853, announcing the issuance of stamped envelopes. A photograph of this circular is before me.

#2. Mr. Edgar B. Jessup, Feb. 7, 1943.

Regarding bisects, here is what the P.M.G. ordered. Referring to stamped envelopes he stated:

"If the stamp be cut out of, or separated from the envelope on which it was made, the legal value of both is destroyed; neither does the law authorize the use of parts of postage stamps in prepayment of postage."

Will you please discuss these points with Tracy?

The Research Group will pay the cost of the Alta work. Will you have the search made for me?

Yours etc.,



CINCINNATI,  
SILAS F. MILLER PROP<sup>r</sup>



Miss Rachel C. Johnston  
Caucaplan, B. Van Horn  
Chattanooga  
Tenn

7781

E.C.

# GODDEN'S GAZETTE



**FRANK GODDEN LTD**

110-111 STRAND  
LONDON · W · C · 2

MAY - 1940.

Number 7. Volume 7.

# GODDEN'S GAZETTE

Issued nine times a year by

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EDITED BY FRANK GODDEN AND FRANK AMBROSE GODDEN.

Vol. 7. No. 7.

MAY, 1940.

## A VISIT TO THE CENTENARY EXHIBITION.

BY F. AMBROSE GODDEN.

AT eleven o'clock on the morning of May 6th, Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Gloucester, declared the London Stamp Centenary Exhibition open. Her Royal Highness was introduced by the Postmaster-General (The Right Honourable W. S. Morrison), and the opening ceremony was performed when the Duchess operated a switch which disclosed to view the principal exhibits from the Royal Collection. The Lord Mayor of London (Sir William Coxon) also spoke on behalf of the Red Cross and St. John Fund. The receipts from the exhibition were donated to this most deserving cause.

As soon as the opening ceremony was over, everyone made for the exhibits loaned from the Royal Collection. There were six large glass cases, and it was here that we had the first opportunity of seeing the historic story of how the first stamps came to be made. The pages with designs submitted in the Treasury competition were most exceptional. Notable examples were the Chalmers, Sievier and Whiting essays.

The Royal display of proofs and essays for the Penny Black demonstrated the story of the production of the first design with the background which was rejected. It also showed how the Queen's head was arranged with a second background and approved. There were some fine pieces amongst the line-engraved stamps shown, including mint blocks in various shades of the 2d. blue 1840.



The rare twopence Tyrian plum stamp of King Edward VII was shown both mint and on cover. The later is the only known copy used, and is dated May 5th, 1910. The new twopenny stamp was to have been issued on May 6th, but was withdrawn as the King died on that day.

Visitors to the exhibition took a keen interest in the British Post Office exhibit, which had been specially prepared for the occasion. Some outstanding items were as follows:—

The original dies of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue. These were in a special case protected by means of "unbreakable" glass.

Mulready design of 1840. A proof of the front design only, but with no value inscription. Signed by Rowland Hill.

Mulready envelope. Proof of the whole envelope, with value inserted. Lines drawn in ink to show full opened size of envelope.

Registered impression of the Mulready taken for the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, dated 27 April, 1840. This is printed on a large sheet of the silk-threaded paper used for the Mulready envelopes, and the particulars of the impression written round in M.S.

1d. red 1841. An almost complete sheet, including the rare error B omitted on stamp BA, Plate 77.

Ninety-one penny red, *imprimatur*, from Plate 12 in 1841 to Plate 102 in 1850. All are on blued paper, and many of them bear portions of the particulars of the plate, etc., which had been written on the back of the sheet.

9d. straw 1862. An imperforate sheet of the rare issue with "hair lines."

10d. red-brown 1867. An imperforate sheet from the extremely rare plate one.

The King Edward issues, many singles and pairs of the halfpenny. Two unusual-looking blocks of twelve, one corner of twelve showing two blocks of six tête-bêche. The other, a corner block of ten showing two blanks filled in with crosses, and the two blocks of five tête-bêche.

The Georgian issues commence with a fine series of the various types of the ½d. and 1d. of 1911 to 1913. These are followed with a display of the first 1½d. type with tête-bêche pairs, a corner block of twelve made up of two blocks of six tête-bêche, and another block of eight with four blanks, and the two blocks of four tête-bêche (see illustration).

The Royal Philatelic Society's exhibit was extremely interesting, and I wish the Committee had not been so modest in only showing such a small part of their collection. This was the first time that the ordinary collector was able to see portions of the Society's purchase of the stamp printing records of Perkins, Bacon



& Co. An original book of their record of dies, made up of proofs, was displayed open at one page. This was in a glass case, and I am sure that everyone felt a most desperate desire to see other pages in this remarkable volume.

In another showcase the Royal Philatelic Society demonstrated the actual process used for producing the old line-engraved stamps. Original dies, rollers and plates were to be seen, all of which had been used in the making of early issues of various countries. These included Mauritius, Newfoundland, South Australia, India, Prince Edward Island, Turkey, etc.

The exhibition of British stamps and proofs was principally contributed by Mr. J. B. Seymour and Mr. H. C. V. Adams. These two collectors have most remarkable collections of British stamps, and this selection from the two made the finest series that has ever been seen at one time.

The following are a few of the "record" items:—

Penny Black. Corner block of nine from plate eleven showing the B.C. re-entry.

Penny Black. Large block of thirty-three from plate two, showing AD re-entry and DD double letters.

Penny Black. The only known used blocks of four and six of plate eleven.

Penny Black. Used block of ten, plate two.

Penny Black. The largest known used block, twenty from plate three.

Twopenny Blue. Pair used on Mulready dated May 6th, 1840 (see illustration).





1/- 1876. One of the two known copies of the 1/- stamp, plate fourteen in used condition.

All issues were shown, and examples of every British stamp included. There was a fine section devoted to "Used Abroads." The South American Post Offices were prominent with many rarities such as:—

Valparaiso: C 30. 10d. plus 8d., plus 1½d. (This example of the 8d. yellow is believed to be unique, and it is therefore the greatest rarity of all British Used Abroads.) Pair of 10d. brown and single 2s. blue. Colombia, Colon: E 38. Pair of 6d. grey plus 9d. bistre. (The 9d. bistre used at Colon on cover is believed to be unique, and covers from Colon are exceptionally rare). Colombia, Panama: C 35. Pair 2d. red, S.G. 168. (Believed to be unique on cover.) Salvador, combination cover, via Panama: C 35. Registered. Many Great Britain stamps and a strip of six Salvador 4 reales S.G. 10. (Unique cover). Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo: C 87. Combination cover with sixteen copies of Great Britain 1½d. and Dominican 1 real. (Not unique, but very nearly.) Dominican Republic, Porto Plata: C 86. Pair 2d. blue. Porto Rico, Ponce: F 88. 1d. red, circular rate. (Believed unique.) Porto Rico, Arroyo: F 83. 1s. green. (Believed to be the only cover in existence from F 83.)

The British Empire display was very fine, but I did not think it was as good as the King George V Silver Jubilee Exhibition. Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Nevis, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Turks Islands, Virgin Islands and Western Australia were all very fine.



In the 1851 series of Canada, there was a strip of four of the 7½d. value and a block of four of the 10d. (see illustration). Two other rare items were a pair of the sixpence, perf. 12, on cover, and two used blocks of nine of the ½d. rose imperforate.

The chief feature of the Triangular Capes was the superb condition. The succession of used blocks all in magnificent condition almost gave the impression that they must be easy to obtain. Amongst the Ceylon I noticed a used pair of the 2/- blue imperforate of 1857. I believe that only four pairs are known to exist.

A selection from the collection of King George VI was shown in two frames. The exhibit consisted of artists' drawings for many of the recent Colonial stamp designs, proofs of designs prepared for recess and photogravure printing and several covers of historic interest.

The Foreign section was excellent, and many of the countries were represented with frames of very considerable value, notable amongst these were, Argentine, Belgium, China, Greece, Tuscany, Japan, Mexico, Roumania, Switzerland, United States and Confederate States.

On the first page of Brazil there was an original die proof of a five milreis note, produced by Perkins, Bacon & Co. in 1842. This note is believed to have suggested the design for the first issue of "Bulls Eye" stamps. I liked the blocks of the second issue, particularly of the 180, 300 and 600 reis which are excessively rare in blocks.

A very fine exhibit had been prepared for Chinese stamps. Original sketches for the first issue by H. B. Morse in colours and in black and white showed suggested themes for the central design.

Other rare items included the following:—

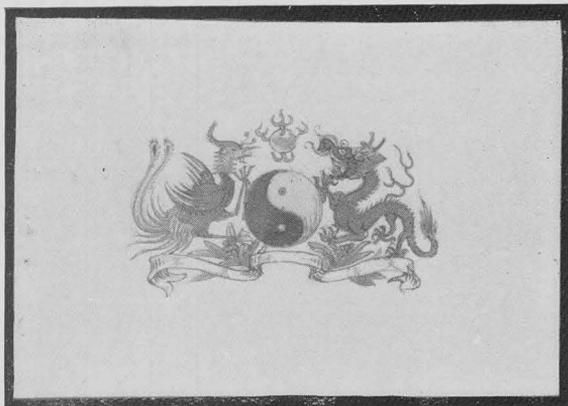
Sets of die proofs of unadopted and approved designs.

1878, sheet of twenty-five of 5 cands. in an unrecorded bistre shade.

Five most attractive covers of the 1882 issue.

Mint blocks of the Shanghai lithos without surcharge.

I must mention the display of Tuscany as the exhibit loaned to represent these stamps was one of the outstanding series in the exhibition. Here is a country generally recognised as being very difficult to secure in fine condition. The pages



*Original sketches for the central designs of stamps (not adopted).*

shown were of the most exceptional quality, the superb condition of the rarities need to be seen to be believed. The famous 3 lire was shown with copies used and unused.

Sir Nicholas Waterhouse made up a very fine display from his collection of United States. Considerable interest was given to these frames as I found it necessary to wait quite a time before I could get near them. In view of our many American readers, I have taken extra details of this fine display. Here are some of the best items shown:—

1845, New York. A record pair with sheet margin, used on cover to Canada from Philadelphia. The town postmark is in blue (see illustration).

1847. A vertical strip of the 10 cents in mint state.



Patriotic cover with 5 cents "mustard."



- 1847. Two covers each bearing 5c. and 10c. stamps tied with Railroad cancellations.
- 1851. The 1 cent stamp in the rare Types 1, 1a, 1b and 1c. The Type 1 (7 RIE) in a mint strip of three.
- 1851. 3 cents orange-brown in large mint blocks with side margins and inscriptions.
- 1857. 10 cents. A vertical strip of three on cover showing all the three types of re-cuts,

1861. *Première Gravures*. The 5c., 10c., 24c. and 30c., including a mint block of four of the 10c.

1861 (September). Two covers one with a single and the other a pair of the 90 cents.

An unusual exhibit was the series of Confederate States frames contributed by Mr. Chester Beatty. In two frames the principal events of the American Civil War were illustrated by means of stamps, covers and documents. This group contained many first-class rarities. The Postmasters' provisionals included, Baton Rouge, Knoxville, Macon, Mobile, New Orleans and Uniontown with several on covers. I am illustrating one of the finest pieces shown. This is a superb copy



of the 10 cents with frame lines on cover. I believe that this copy is the finest example of this rarity in existence.

Other exceptional items included Patriotic covers, Prisoner of War covers, Wallpaper covers, and a cover used on the famous Burnside Expedition, which was sent to the relief of Knoxville in September 1863. Several "splits" on wallpaper and account book paper covers illustrated the shortage of both stamps and paper.

One exhibit of unusual postmarks on classic issues of the world aroused my particular interest.

Each postmark was complete, so that in many cases a pair, strip, block or piece of original were needed to show many of the large types in complete form.

There were several Diligencia types of Mexican postmarks. One I remember had a pair of stamps cancelled with a postmark showing horses and coach in the centre. A sixpenny Perkins Bacon Cape triangular was on large piece with the town cancellation of Piquetberg in red.

The Austrians were exceptional, as nearly all the fancy types were represented.

I liked two pieces from Perchtoldsdorf and Tuzersdorf with specially designed frames and scrolls to include the dates. I was interested to see the two types of Warsaw town postmarks on the No. 1 stamp of Poland. These were in red and one was on cover.

Other sections of philatelic interest were Airmails, Postal History, Soldiers and Sailors Letters, and examples of modern stamp production.

Taking into consideration the many difficulties and the short time available, I feel that the committee responsible made a splendid effort. The choice of Lancaster House was admirable, as its style and furnishings gave an atmosphere of the period when the Penny Black was issued. Well done.

### AT THE INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC UNION.

THE fourth meeting of the session was held at the Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Wednesday, May 22nd, with Mr. J. B. Seymour in the Chair.

In view of the Centenary celebrations, Mr. Seymour opened the evening's display with a selection of unusual pages from his collection of Great Britain.

Mr. Seymour commenced with some die and plate proofs of the line-engraved series. The particular group shown were from a small Official lot which had only come to light two or three years ago. They were on the Star watermarked paper, and many of them were overprinted by means of a handstamp with the word SPECIMEN.

The next page contained examples from the proof sheets prepared for the Paris Exhibition in March, 1867. Four sheets were printed on white card as follows. One Penny Plate 103 in black and in red, Twopence Plate 9 in black and in blue.

Two covers were next, showing the early use of the town cancellations in the year 1842. These were both from West Country towns where it appears that it was the practice to use these postmarks instead of the Maltese Cross.

Mr. Seymour's commentary on the page of the Prince Consort Essays of 1851 was most interesting. These essays were prepared by Henry Archer and sub-





Covers from the Channel Islands with French Postmarks, Granville, St. Malo and Le Harve.

mitted as samples in an endeavour to secure the contract for printing the British stamps. The price quoted for printing, gumming and perforating was 4½d. per 1,000 stamps. There was trouble over the use of the Prince Consort's portrait on these essays, and no contract was obtained. The Government benefited by the proposal as Perkin's, Bacon & Co. were obliged to reduce their price to 5d. per 1,000. One of Henry Archer's essays was perforated and is unusual in this state. The page showed specimens in black, pale brown and red.

During the years 1851 to 1853, several experiments were made in the use of perforating and rouletting machines. Mr. Seymour showed covers with the Penny Red as follows. Archer perforation used in 1851 from the House of Commons. Two covers with the Treasury roulette used in 1853.

A remarkable page displayed specimens of the "Penny Blacks" and "Penny Reds" in used condition, complete with corner margins showing the plate numbers. (A copy of the Penny red from Plate 163 is illustrated.)

By way of variation a die proof of a proposed design for the 2½d. value of King Edward VII was shown next. It was somewhat similar to the accepted design, but had the value in each of the lower corners. The issued stamp had the value in the centre below the portrait. A rare die proof of the issued stamp was on the same page for comparison.

Next came two remarkable mint marginal blocks of twelve of the "Penny Red" imperforate from Plate No. 34.

Much attention was given to several covers showing British stamps with French postmarks of St. Malo, Granville and Le Harve. The steamers of the London and South Western Railway Company sailed from St. Helier to St. Malo and to Granville on alternate week-days, and carried the regular mails between the Channel Islands and France. They also carried a movable letter-box in which stamped letters, which had not passed through the Jersey Post Office, could be posted on the quay at St. Helier. The contents were transferred to the French Post Office on arrival at the French port. The stamps were then cancelled with the normal French numeral postmark.

The cancellations are in two types and are as follows:—

St. Malo	3176 small figures	3734 large figures.
Granville	1441 " "	1706 " "
Le Harve	1495 " "	1769 " "

These postmarks are most unusual, and the Le Harve cancellations are very rare.

Amongst a selection of British stamps used abroad were examples from Porto Prince in Hayti with the postmark E. 53. A remarkable cover from Payta in Peru contained nineteen "Penny Reds" and one fourpenny stamp for a rate of 1/11. The letter came to London via Panama, and was then sent to Norway via Denmark.

The scarce blue papers of 1883 included two superb used pairs of the half-crown and ten shilling values. Mr. Seymour remarked that both pieces were exceptional.



A curiosity was a used pair of twopenny Mulready covers used with a pair of "Twopenny Blues" 1840 to make up an eightpenny rate.

A series of essays for stamps of King Edward VII were prepared by inserting a portrait of the King in the frames used for the Queen Victoria Jubilee series. (Two types are illustrated). The head was lithographed, and four types were produced for each value. None of the designs were adopted.

One page had been specially prepared to illustrate how the background of the Penny Black was also used for other stamps printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. These were the 6d. Victoria, Queen on Throne, St. Vincent 5/-, the triangular Capes and the line-engraved King George V issue for New Zealand.

Mr. Seymour ended his display with a series of proofs made during various stages in the preparation of the designs for the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- stamps, King George V issue of 1913.

Mr. Turner brought along some pages from his collection of British Railway Letter stamps. Some especially interesting items were as follows.

1891, East London Railway. A complete series showing the stamps used from every station. As this line was only  $5\frac{3}{4}$  miles long, there could not have been many stamps used.

1907, London and North Western Railway. An Express Letter which is a most unusual item to find.

North Eastern Railway. A strip of three of the surcharged threepenny value again surcharged fourpence when the rates increased later. The fact that these stamps remained unused through two increases in rates shows how little they were used.

Hull and Barnsley Railway. A cover used in conjunction with a pair of the first George V Post Office stamps. A complete unused booklet of twenty stamps, and a copy of the twopenny stamp surcharged 4 in manuscript.

Mr. Oswald Marsh delighted members with a complete display of the rare House of Commons and House of Lords envelopes.

At first a joint issue was made on 16th January, 1840, with envelopes inscribed "Houses of Parliament." In February, 1840, separate issues were made for the Commons and the Lords. The former are printed in black, and the latter in red.

The unused specimen of the House of Commons envelope shown is believed to be the only one in existence.

An unusual item shown by Mr. Marsh was a cover stamped with the can-

cellation LONDON AND HOLYHEAD R.P.O. IRISH MAIL NIGHT, and dated August 10th, 1864. The stamp on the cover was cancelled with two small crosses.

The Honorary Secretary then showed some miscellaneous pages of Argentine, Spain, Russian Levant, Luxemburg, Western Australia and Great Britain.

The two British covers were shown by courtesy of Mr. Wallace Cowan, J.P., and were two of four exceptional pages which obtained for him the Silver Cup presented by the Scottish Philatelic Society in 1938.

The first is one of the two known combinations of a Mulready and Penny Black used on May 6th, 1840, the first day of issue. The penny Mulready and the penny make up a twopenny rate, which is further exemplified by an attractive Southampton Twopenny Post cancellation.

The second piece is a penny Mulready used to Malta with a strip of four and single "Penny Blacks," and three fine copies of the "Twopenny Blues" making the 1/- rate. The letter was sent from Bristol, and is dated on reverse 9th January, 1841.

The three pages of Western Australia were showed by the courtesy of Mr. R. P. Nelson. The first comprised three die proofs of essays submitted for new stamps. Although most attractive, the designs were not adopted. A fourth proof of similar style is lithographed and is probably a plate proof. This specimen is on thin gummed paper, whereas the die proofs are on India paper mounted on card.



The second page displayed a remarkable cover of 1857, with a strip of three of the twopence black on red, and a single copy of the sixpence black-bronze. The whole piece is in very fine condition, particularly for these difficult stamps. The strip showed how poorly the stamps were printed, parts of the design were omitted and the inscription on one of the stamps is completely gone. The letter was sent to England and has the cancellation MISSENT TO MANCHESTER.

The third page comprised a mint and a used copy of the rare twopence mauve stamp of 1879. This is an error of colour, as it should have been printed in yellow instead of mauve, which is the shade for the sixpenny stamp. The colour of these stamps is very delicate, and to find them in such fresh condition makes them all the more unusual.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. W. P. Lind, which was seconded by Mr. R. V. Johnson. The motion was carried by everyone, and an enjoyable evening came to its close.

F. AMBROSE GODDEN, *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.*

110-111, Strand, London, W.C.2.



Some rare Swiss and Saxony pieces from the "Bernhard" Collection.



## IN EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY.

In eighteen hundred and forty,  
 When I was a very small boy,  
 A dear little chap on my mother's lap,  
 Penny blacks were my infant joy.

How well I remember my father  
 That Wednesday, the sixth day of May,  
 Say "Billy, my son, the hobby's begun,  
 Here's a game we shall both want to play."

So I started a childish collection.  
 It is strange what a bright child can do—  
 I'd a babyish knack of plating the black  
 And shading the two-penny blue.

My hero—the village postmaster;  
 His counter—my heaven out of reach.  
 Age cannot recapture his primitive rapture:  
 "What a stamp—what a Queen—what a peach!"

First day covers? My albums were bursting!  
 Mint corner blocks? Plate after plate!  
 Folk heard of and sought me and frequently brought me  
 Rare postmarks or errors of date.

"My waste paper basket," laughed uncle,  
 "Is there, full of letters, for you."  
 "I believe I've a dozen," blushed my pretty cousin,  
 Her bright eyes all two-penny blue.



Such happiness mine for the taking,  
 No wonder it went to my head.  
 I even was given a block of plate eleven  
 In black *and the next day in red.*

I turned to my father in fury,  
 And father was troubled, I knew—  
 “Black to red is just hell, but they’ve added as well  
 White lines to the two-penny blue.”

Was ever a child so disgusted?  
 And the furious things that I said  
 Made mother quite ill as I cursed Rowland Hill  
 From the depths of my feverish bed.

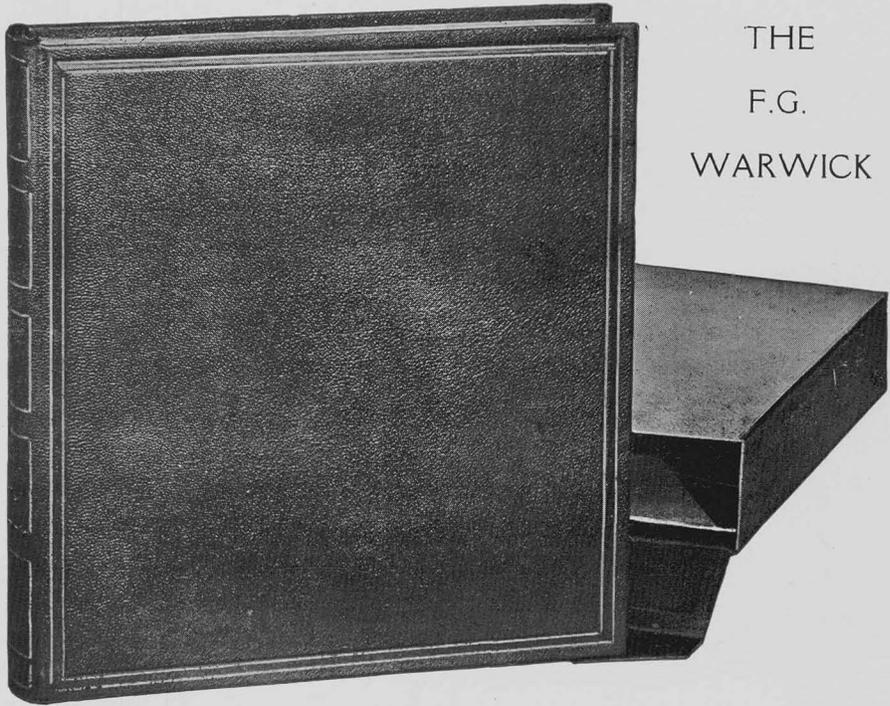
Dad told me of fugitive colours,  
 That Authority always knows best,  
 That issues would flow in a torrent, and so  
 He patted his baby to rest.

I rallied—and went on collecting.  
 And, now I’m a hundred and three,  
 I’ve but one regret that with new issues yet  
 More will come than I ever shall see.

An old man’s advice?—Well, start early,  
 Collect them all just as they come.  
 Get born in good time. live into your prime,  
 And you’ll make philately hum.

A.G.C.

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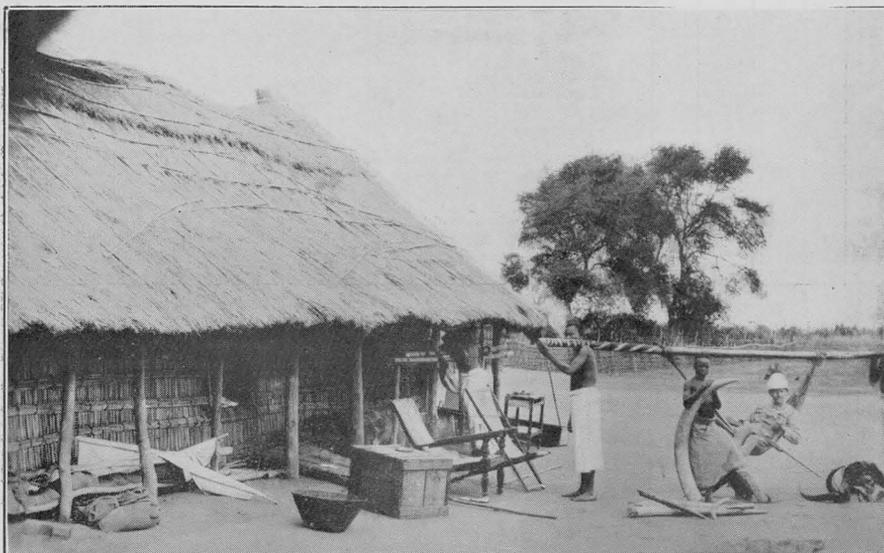
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434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 29, 1943.

Mr. Maurice C. Blake,  
11 Mason St.,  
Brookline, Mass.

Dear Mr. Blake:

Your letter of the 25th reminded me that I have not replied to your two letters of Dec. 26th and 28th. Will you kindly accept my apology? I have been utterly swamped with work all month and have been working until midnight most every night. I simply had to put your two letters aside until I could give them the proper attention.

First I want to tell you about a cover that was sent to me recently. It was an envelope with a 2¢ 1869 used in 1870, from Houlton, Maine to Woodstock, New Brunswick. The letter was sent sealed. The owner informed me that he had owned five of these, all from the same correspondence, all sent sealed, and all used at different periods in 1870.

Our domestic rate at that time was 3¢, and the prepaid rate to Canada was 6¢, unpaid 10¢. There didn't seem to be any answer to this cover, except that it might have been an error.

I mention this for this reason. I found the answer to this cover in an unexpected place and I think we will find the solution to our French problem in some unexpected place.

Here is a ruling I found published in 1873. I don't know how much earlier it may have been made or published.

"Letters from France for the U. S. can only be delivered free of charge if received in the mails by way of England, and fully prepaid for such transmission. The postage charged by the French office as wholly letters is one franc, 20 centimes (24¢) per 1/3 ounce; but if not fully prepaid they are treated by the French office as wholly unpaid, and reach this country with a claim for French and British postage, to be collected on delivery. Letters received in the direct mail from France are charged ten cents per 1/2 ounce on delivery, no matter what amount has been prepaid in France, such postage being the United States postage only." (End of Quotation).

The above was a "Ruling" and I think we will find the solution we are seeking in a ruling made early in 1870. The prepaid rate fixed in the ruling may have been 15¢ per 1/4 ounce and it may have been 12¢ per 1/2 ounce. What I am trying to locate is that "ruling" and I think I may be on a track which will lead me to it. I'll advise you.

In the meantime what do you think about the 2¢ 1869 cover mentioned above?

#2. Mr. Maurice C. Blake, Jan. 29, 1943.

I have before me a cover postmarked (and sent sealed), "Covington, Ky. and addressed to a small town in Kansas. It has a pair of 1¢ 1869 and a single 2¢ 1869. Now why 4¢ on this letter? Surely it was an overpay but why did the writer put on two 1¢ with the 2¢? Why not just one 1¢? There were no carrier nor way fees at this time. What sort of a 3¢ plus 1¢ is this item?

I have read both your letter of Dec. 26th and 28th very carefully and note your suggestions and conclusions re - Knapp lots 1886 and 1837.

I am returning herewith the cover from Cuba to Boston with the black "Ship" and "3." I have no record of this "Ship" and I cannot explain the rate. I note the use was in November 1861. The "Ship rate" at this time was 5¢ if delivered at port of entry or regular postage plus 2¢ if beyond port of entry. In either case 5¢ for a letter such as this. Had this letter been sent by regular U. S. Mail Steamship, the rate would have been 10¢. Unless I am mistaken the rate "3" was an error.

Let me know what you think of the following as an explanation of this "Ship 3" cover. Suppose for example it was carried to some American port by a vessel of foreign registry. For example, any port on the Atlantic coast other than Boston. Would it not have been rated at "Ship #1" according to the following Regulation? (1866 P.L. & R. - "Regulations") page 34. Sec. 238 - "Masters of foreign packets are not to be paid anything for letters delivered into the office: such letters are, notwithstanding, to be charged with postage when delivered from the office or forwarded by mail." (end)

What is your opinion?

I am glad my January A.P. article pleased you. Many thanks for your kind remarks regarding it. It did seem to stir up quite a bit of interest. I am enclosing the Fig. 11 photo and tracing so that you can compare with your 3¢ 1857.

Thanks for calling my attention to Lot 17 in the Keffer New Haven sale. I never saw this cover and I must admit it is unusual for a dealer to notice such things. I suppose by Harry's description that he recalls your article and the Feb. 20th, 1854 date.

So the fake grill cover belonged to Don Malcolm. It is funny how such things get around. Herst seems like quite a nice sort but I have never met him personally.

I am willing that you figure out some of the P.L. & R. Regulations. In places one "Sec." states one thing and then the next apparently contradicts it entirely. One thing is sure as far as I am concerned. I cannot read English or else I am too dumb to figure out the real meaning of some of the Regulations.

With best regards,

Cordially yours,

#3. Mr. R. J. Mechin, Feb. 15, 1943.

July 1, 1863, but I am bothered about the period after July 1, 1863, especially after 1866.

What do you think of the whole question?

With best regards,

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Feb. 15, 1943.

Mr. R. J. Mechin,  
Edwards,  
St. Lawrence Co., N.Y.

Dear R.J.:

Yours of the 4th and 5th received. I'll be darned if I know why I am bothering a specialist in Costa Rica, about steamboat fees in 1869, but you are a swell fellow and I value highly your philatelic knowledge, judgement and common sense. So if you don't mind, I'll just keep on pestering you.

I don't know whether Perry's dope is right or not but the period he had under discussion was twenty years earlier. I don't know where he gets his "closed pouch" stuff. There is no such a term used in the P.L. & R.'s, and I have copies of all the editions. I am familiar with early covers showing steamboat fees but I am not familiar with steamboat fee covers of the late 1860's and early 1870's.

Sometimes we find a fee of 1¢ and sometimes a fee of 2¢ but I had the idea that 2¢ fees applied principally to mail carried on the Great Lakes.

Ezra Cole sent me a cover last week postmarked at Cincinnati in 1866 and addressed to Chattanooga. This cover had a 3¢ 1861 and a 2¢ Black Jack. Now why the 2¢ Black Jack? The letter was deposited in the Cincinnati Post Office so why did it require 5¢ to take it to Chattanooga? There was no mail route by river. I think I have the answer but I'll let you think this one over.

I am enclosing an exchange of correspondence with Klein, also a photo of the "1ct" St. Louis cover. Now Klein is supposed to be an authority on "Packet Covers" but his letter surely does not indicate that he is familiar with steamboat fees.

Note his remarks re - the St. Louis cover. He thinks this is a carrier, but I am fairly certain the use was in 1864 or 1865, hence no "Carrier" as carrier fees were abolished on July 1, 1863.

I think the solution of this item is as follows. It originated at Cape Girardeau, was mailed direct on a steamboat bound for St. Louis. It was marked "Steam," indicating origin and 1¢ was due for the "Steamboat fee." All of which is very simple. Now suppose the writer at Cape Girardeau had prepaid this fee and had placed 4¢ in stamps on the letter, then we would have had a similar item to the 1869 - 4¢ cover of Covington (?).

If Elliott's dope (relating to late 1840's and early 1850's) is

#2. Mr. R. J. Mechin, Feb. 15, 1943.

correct and it still applied in 1864-1865 (as per St. Louis cover) then the 1¢ fee which was due meant that this letter was carried by a boat which had a "closed pouch" contract. And further, if the boat had no mail contract then there would have been 2¢ due. Now R.J. do you know what Elliott meant? I suppose you do, but why all the language about a "closed pouch?" How absurd? Why didn't he state this in simple terms, thus:

"A letter picked up at a "Way" landing, such as Cape Girardeau by a contract mail packet was entitled to a steamboat fee of 1¢, but if such a letter was picked up by a non-contract mail boat the fee was 2¢."

This letter was not deposited in the Cape Girardeau P.O., hence it was a "Way" steamboat letter. If it had been placed in the Cape Girardeau Post Office the postage would have been only 3¢. I suppose such a letter would have gone the regular U. S. mail route, hence in a "closed bag" or as Elliott states, a "closed pouch."

The 1866 Regulations seem to kick all of the above into a cocked hat. Note Sec. 242 of the "Regulations:"

"In like manner, when practicable, all letters should be prepaid which are received by steamboats or other vessels not in the mail service, or carrying the mail with no route agent on board. When prepaid, the master of the vessel, if under contract to carry the mail, may receive one cent "WAY," and if not under contract with the department, two cents each from the postmaster in whose office he deposits them; and they should be delivered to their address without any charge beyond the amount prepaid." (End of quotation).

Knapp didn't have a single 1869 cover in his lot with a "Steamboat Due let" or "2cts", nor did he have a single 1869 cover with 4¢ prepaid for a steamboat fee of 1¢ plus 3¢ postage.

There was no P.L. & R. published from 1866 until 1873, and I have no record of any special rulings made by the P.M.G. during this seven year period. I cannot find anything in the 1873 edition indicating that a fee of 1¢ or 2¢ could be added to the regular 3¢ rate of postage. If such a letter was sent unpaid, it was to be rated at double postage on delivery.

Consider the P.M.G. Report for 1869. Under receipts there is no item of receipts of steamboat, ship or way fees. Under "Expenditures," there is the following: "Ship - Steamboat & Way Letters - \$8,076.35."

If all of these were 2¢ fees then there were only a total of some 403,817 of fee letters in the above three classes. No doubt the P.M.G. didn't think it paid to collect fees on 400,000 letters simply for a gross income of \$8,000. Perhaps there were exceptions, special rulings made by the P.M.G., wherein the fee was added to the rate.

I am not bothered about the 1850 or early 1860 period, say up to

For  
SCRAP BOOK

BRISTOL VA  
R.R

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

434 South Grand Ave.  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Feb. 15, 1943.

Feb. 23, 1943.

Mr. George N. Malpass,  
135 Westland Ave.,  
Rochester, N.Y.

Mr. G. N. Malpass,  
135 Westland Ave.,  
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Malpass:

Dear Mr. Malpass:

→ { Yours of the 11th received. Did I read that Bristol post-  
mark wrong? I thought it read, "Bristol Va R.R. and that  
is the way Herb Atherton listed it. Dietz lists Bristol -  
V & T R.R. In other words, Bristol is in Tennessee and it  
was the southern terminus of the Virginia & Tennessee R.R.  
This Road ran between Bristol and Lynchburg, length 204 miles.  
This road was part of the main line connecting Richmond with  
Knoxville and the South.

This cover went to Brooks from Herbert Atherton and Atherton  
obtained it from H. F. Colman who found it in an original find.  
There is the pedigree and I think there is no doubt that it is  
perfectly good. Atherton's notation reads, "Guaranteed as found  
by H.F.Colman."

Regarding the Patriotics. Keep what you like out of the lot  
and pay me whatever you think they are worth and I can assure  
you it will be O.K. with me.

Thanks very much but I am not especially interested in covers  
from France as they are not very much assistance in the particular  
study I am making. I am really quite anxious to see covers from  
the U. S. to France between Jan. 1 and July 1, 1870, and such  
items must have rates other than 10¢ and 4¢. This six months was  
a period of uncertainty as to legal rates due to the expiration of  
the treaty on Jan. 1, 1870.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Feb. 23, 1943.

Mr. G. N. Malpass,  
135 Westland Ave.,  
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Malpass:

Yours of the 18th with check and return of the covers received.  
Please accept my thanks.

I suppose that Atherton read that "Bristol" marking wrong  
and that I repeated the error. I wondered if there might  
have been two types and was glad to learn that you are quite  
sure that the one on the cover is the same type as the one  
illustrated by Dietz.

I have a batch of unused Patriotics just in from Brooks. I  
note quite a few which are not in my lot of three or four  
hundred. Brooks has these priced from 10¢ each to \$1.50. He  
states some are quite rare. I am wondering if you would like to  
see them.

I suppose you referred to the Emerson covers which Ezra Cole  
has had for the last six or seven years. This is the only worth  
while lot that I know about.

Sincerely yours,

# H. L. LINDQUIST

## PUBLICATIONS

2 WEST 46<sup>TH</sup> STREET NEW YORK, N. Y.

February 26, 1943

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
434 South Grand Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan:

Hugh Clark has sent me a copy of that letter he wrote you and since he sent it, I have talked to him about it on the telephone and asked him pointblank just how he felt about the entire situation. All he could do was to reiterate what he has always told me and what we have discussed in so many letters. Hugh has admitted to me numerous times that if this issue had not been listed and it was left to him to list, it probably would never go in; but inasmuch as they were put in long before his time in good faith and that hundreds of dealers and collectors handled them in good faith, he didn't see how he could destroy their value without having absolutely conclusive proof.

You must remember that Hugh is backed in his opinion by most of the dealers and collectors with whom he is in contact. Eddie Stern was so hot about this matter that you will remember he cancelled his advertising in the STAMP SPECIALIST when we ran the original article, even though I am very friendly with him. He felt that it was a direct slam at him for he had sold thousand of dollars worth of these premieres in good faith and took it as a personal attack. Phil Ward, Spencer Anderson and scores of others have taken this same viewpoint and hammered into Hugh that he should not make the change without indisputable proof. I've talked it over with many collectors myself if they own any of the stamps or have owned any of the stamps previously, they are more inclined to take this view. You must realize that every person is thinking of his own problem first and the general good second. And also, there is a lot of merit in what they say.

It is quite possible that Hugh may never change his mind in this matter, but as long as you handle the matter diplomatically as you have done, there is a chance. Certainly, I can see absolutely nothing to be gained by taking an opposite tactic, as you would not be able to force him into anything he does not want to do, but by encouraging his goodwill and those who take the same attitude you are apt to accomplish more.

You know, I always look at these things, Stan, from a practical standpoint. In publishing papers as I have done for many years, in many fields besides STAMPS, I know that we cannot always go on a crusade even though we might believe in it. The only person who could afford that is the man with so much money that he doesn't have to think of the financial end of the business and can afford to do what he thinks is right, regardless of consequences. In a practical world, you must give some thought to these other angles, and you'll usually find far more people on your bandwagon if you take a tolerant viewpoint than if you try to force it through.

2/26/43

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
(cont'd)

Hugh is not as arbitrary and set in his ways, as you might think merely from correspondence or occasional talks. He does have a lot of fundamental ideas to which you might take exception, and many of which I do take exception on. But, I know that I can get no place by antagonizing him, whereas I might get somewhere by taking a friendly and cooperative attitude. The think you must weigh, Stan, is what would you gain by an out and out fight? Do you think you will force him to make the changes, or would it be just for the satisfaction of having your say? I'm sure that if you would weigh the pros and con, you will agree with me that there is nothing to be gained by fighting, but at least a possible something to be gained by your friendly attitude.

I've had quite a laugh at the Newbury scolding, for he loves to take that paternal attitude, and anyone that knows and appreciates Saul gets as much of a kick out of it as he does in handing it out. I doubt very much if Konwiser has written him anything, although you never can tell what he might do. Anyway, don't let that ever bother you, for you're aces with Saul. When I go to Chicago, he usually gives me a lacing out on things that he thinks I do that are wrong and I always love it, as I know you do, for fundamentally he's got some good sound ideas that are worth following.

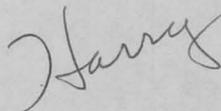
Do you remember Stan, you told me at one time, that you were getting a little more mellowed with age, and that you were not quite the spitfire you were in your younger days? Keep up that mellowed attitude for I'm sure you'll get much further by it as well as leading a much more tranquil life yourself. These other birds like Perry and Konwiser and so on, who like to take potshots at everyone, get absolutely nowhere and are only discrediting themselves in the minds of anyone who knows what it is all about.

Glad you liked that write-up on the West collection, and it was fortunate you explained to me just what the situation was for when the copy received from Ward stated that Mr. Ashbrook would be associated with him, it would give anyone the idea that you had been engaged by him.

I'm also delighted to work with Brookman, as I think he is a fine fellow and one whom I would be glad to cooperate with at any time.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



HLL/G

# HARMER, ROOKE & CO., INC.

GORDON HARMER  
GUY HARMER

HARMER, ROOKE & CO., LTD.  
2 ARUNDEL ST.  
LONDON, ENGLAND

PHILATELIC  
AUCTIONEERS

*551 Fifth Avenue*  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS  
PHILATORS, NEW YORK  
PHILATORS, ESTRAND, LONDON

TELEPHONE  
MURRAY HILL 2-6220-1

March 17th 1943.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook  
434 So. Grand Ave.  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:-

I have received from the Administrators of the Green Estate, the Grand Canary cover from the Nelton collection which you will remember was originally sent to Percy Doane for sale.

I am trying to prove the genuineness of this cover and hence my writing to you. As far as I know, there is only one other 90c on cover and that is the one that Caspary has. The rate on his letter was \$1.05 and the letter was sent from New York to Spain. It is unquestionably genuine as it was in the LaFitte find.

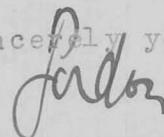
The Nelton cover bears a rate of \$1.16 which is 11cents more than the other copy. I think I can explain this 11¢ difference. The cover was carried by the German steamer Bremen and I have heard somewhere that the German Steamship Company charged 50 pfennige which at that time was just about 11cents. This, then, would of course more or less prove the rate as genuine.

What I would like to know from you is, do you know for a fact that this 50 pfennige was charged. I have had enlarged photos made of the cancel, blocking out the stamps, by a screen, and I am sure that the cancel is absolutely genuine. If you are interested, I will be glad to send you this enlarged photo.

I would very much appreciate any help you can give me on this matter.

Thanking you and with personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



GH:hf

434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 21st, 1943.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,  
551 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Gordon:

Referring to yours of the 17th re - the Green cover of \$1.16 to the Grand Canary.

In my opinion there is no longer any doubt that the cover is not genuine. Since my correspondence with Percy some months back I have made further exhaustive study of this item and with the evidence I have since unearthed I think I could go before any jury with evidence that would be conclusive.

I have a record of the known 90¢ 1860 covers and in this record are not included the two Caspary covers, though I have seen and examined them. Mr. C. did not ask my opinion of them, hence I did not volunteer any information.

Mr. Newbury owns the finest 90¢ 1860 cover. At one time this belonged to me. It went to Emerson and was acquired by Mr. Newbury at the Emerson sale in October 1937.

I have turned up other Grand Canary covers from the same correspondence as the Nelson-Green item. The markings themselves show that 90¢ in postage was actually paid on this cover, and not \$1.16.

The S. S. Bremen carried this cover only from New York to England, and inasmuch as the U.S. paid the Line for such sea carriage the letter was rated "American Packet." The "Bremen" had nothing to do with the carriage of this letter from England to the Grand Canary, and further the rate of 90¢ was a "double rate" and was payment only to the Grand Canary frontier. Internal was collected on delivery.

I might remind you that Elliott Perry gave Percy Doane an "opinion" on this cover and charged a fee for same. His so-called expert opinion proves he was in total ignorance of the facts in the case hence his three page opinion was a silly lot of balderdash.

I would like to have copies of the photographs you had made but I don't think they could prove very much as this cover could have been a "stampless" Paid, with the present cancelations on the stamps fraudulent.

#2. Mr. Gordon Harmer, March 21st, 1943.

Finally I can assure you that there was no rate or combined rate making \$1.16 to the Grand Canary in 1860, or 1861, or in fact before or after those dates.

I was very much interested in this cover and I made quite a number of photographs of it myself. I was especially interested because I wanted and hoped I could prove that the cover was genuine.

Many thanks for your kindness in sending me the "Prices" on the Ewing Sale.

With best of regards,

Cordially yours,

# HARMER, ROOKE & CO.

GORDON HARMER  
GUY HARMER

HARMER, ROOKE & CO., LTD.  
2 ARUNDEL ST.  
LONDON, ENGLAND

PHILATELIC  
AUCTIONEERS

*551 Fifth Avenue*  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

March 27th 1943.

CABLE ADDRESS  
PHILATORS, NEW YORK  
PHILATORS, ESTRAND, LONDON

TELEPHONE  
MURRAY HILL 2-6220-1

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook,  
434 South Grand Ave.  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:-

I have carefully read your letter of the 21st regarding the Grand Canary cover and I am taking the liberty of enclosing the cover for your further inspection.

I am of the opinion that the cover is genuine and that the stamps were genuinely used on the cover. Of course I do not pretend to have a knowledge of U.S. stamps comparable to yours and I only base my opinion on the following points.

You may know the history of the cover. It was originally sold by Ridpath of Liverpool for a few pounds and later it was acquired by Seybold and then by Nelton. If you will examine the pair of 1c you will note that both stamps overlap the 90c and you will see that the top left perf of the left 1c stamp has a tiny rust or discoloration spot which goes through on to the 90c stamp. The 24c stamp also overlaps the 90c and the 24c is just tied at the lower right. The 1c and 24c are creased by the envelope. The pair of 1c is also just tied at the right. These are my own observations which I believe have a bearing on the genuineness of the cover.

Of course all these evidences of genuineness could have been forged but do you think it is likely?

From another source I am given to understand that this letter comes under the postal agreement of 1860 and that the double rate at that time, to the Canary Islands was \$1.05. As it is specified that it should be carried by the Bremen, an additional fee, the equivalent of 11cents (Fr 0.60) had to be paid for anything up to 20gr carried over 300 sea miles. This information I have not been able to check myself, but I believe it is true as I think that in about 1862 the rate was reduced to 90c for the double rate.

However, suppose we cannot prove the rate at all, this would not necessarily mean that the cover was bad, as naturally a letter has been overpaid on many occasions.

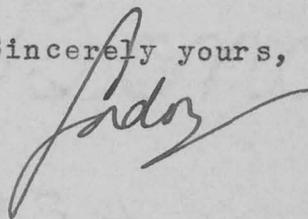
There is just one other point. I don't see how it could have been a stampless cover as the cover undoubtedly went to London and it was stamped "Paid" London. If it had been a stampless cover it would not have been stamped "Paid" and there would have been a penalty.

I am very interested in the cover and I am interested in proving it either genuine or not. I have given you my reasons for believing it is genuine and I am very strongly of the opinion that it is genuine. As I have said, I do not claim to have any great knowledge of U.S. stamps but this cover just doesn't look like a fake to me.

I hate bothering you again on this much discussed item, but I do want to try to prove its genuineness if possible.

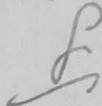
Thanking you and with personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



P.S. The cover is insured both ways so you need only register it on its return to us.

*P.S. It's not very satisfactory corresponding on matters like this, that's why I had hoped to see you when you were up this way. However hope to see you soon. Don't forget me on the collection.*



434 South Grand Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 29, 1943.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,  
551 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

Herewith the 90¢ 1860 cover. Yes, I knew the history of the cover. It was sold to Nelton in the Seybold sale in March 1910 and it has been said that in those days the fakers didn't take the trouble to make fake covers. Perhaps they didn't but the fact remains that Seybold had quite a few fake covers in his collection.

I always understood that Colson acquired this aboard and sold it to Seybold. I never heard what Seybold paid but the cover sold for \$28.00 in the Seybold sale. An unused 90¢ 1860 could be purchased for \$8.00 to \$10.00 in 1910 so perhaps it was a bit profitable to make fakes in those days.

When I mentioned "stampless" to you I meant of course prepaid in cash and hence stampless. I don't say that this was what happened, in fact, I don't know what actually did happen to this cover, but I am quite sure of one thing and that is this. There was no such a thing as a \$1.16 rate to the Grand Canary in 1861 or at any other period earlier or later. The markings on this cover show that the rate was 90¢ not \$1.16, hence one can draw their own conclusions. First, was this originally a paid in cash stampless cover? Second, was the 90¢ rate originally paid by stamps other than are on the cover at present? For example three 30¢ stamps, or a single 90¢.

As for the stains and creases, we know that the present stamps have been on the cover for over 33 years so of course that is sufficient time for stains to develop. If the cover had a fold originally it would be absurd to add stamps over a fold and not crease the added stamps.

Please understand Gordon that I am not stating that any of these things happened. I am only calling attention to the possibility.

I trust that you will run down the "information" that was given you regarding a new postal agreement of 1860, viz., the additional fee and the other bunk. I wonder if the person who invented such stuff appreciates how silly his "information" was. It sounds to me like some "deep stuff" coming out of Westfield, N.J.

Suppose we discuss this "information." If the "double rate" was \$1.05, then the single rate must have been half that sum. It is too

#2. Mr. Gordon Harmer, March 29, 1943.

absurd to consider this point any further. Regarding an additional charge of 60 centimes. Why? The French had nothing to do with this letter, as it was carried to England by the S. S. Bremen of the North German Lloyd Line. From England it went by British Packet to the Grand Canary. The postage paid was only to the "frontier" as there was no postal treaty at that time between G.B. and Spain (or between the U. S. and Spain) whereby mail could be prepaid to destination in the Grand Canary.

The markings clearly show that 48¢ was credited by the New York Foreign Exchange Office to the British Post Office and that the sum due in Palmas for the Spanish internal was "8." I suppose this "8" may have been "8" reales or about 40¢.

This letter went "American Packet." This is a point which trips all the wise boys like Perry. By "American Packet" did not necessarily mean by a ship of American registry but rather that the letter was forwarded at the expense of the U.S. P.O.D. In other words, "Amer. Pkt" or "British Packet" indicated which of the two Governments was paying for the carriage.

We made an arrangement in 1857 or 1858 with the German Line to carry mail in their ships for the "sea postages." What was the sea postage to G.B.? It was 16¢ as fixed by the Anglo-U.S. Treaty of 1848, hence on this particular letter we paid the German Line 32¢ (2 X 16¢) to carry this letter to England.

The U. S.-British rate as you well know was 24¢ per 1/2 ounce letter. This was divided as follows: 3¢ British internal, 5¢ U. S. internal and 16¢ sea.

You are also aware that at this time the British "Packet" charge was a shilling, and under the Treaty a shilling was rated as 24¢.

The single rate to the Grand Canary at the time this letter was sent was 45¢ per 1/2 ounce "Via England." I suppose that you will admit that there is no doubt that the letter went "Via England." Naturally the double rate was 90¢, and not such a silly figure as "1.05."

This letter was sent by the "Bremen" and the records show that this ship sailed from New York on May 11, 1861, hence the U.S. P.O.D. was entitled to retain 21¢ per single rate out of each 45¢ paid, or 42¢ on each double rate of 90¢ paid.

Each 21¢ represented 16¢ sea plus 5¢ internal. In other words, we kept 5¢ for our internal and took 16¢ to pay the German Line. If you deduct 21¢ from 45¢ you will have 24¢ or one shilling which represented the British packet charge from England to the Grand Canary Islands. (frontier only).

Thus you will see why 90¢ was paid originally on this letter out of which the U. S. P.O.D. retained 2 X 21¢ or 42¢ and credited to the

#3. Mr. Gordon Harmer, March 29, 1943.

British 2 X 24¢ or 48¢. This 48¢ is in red ink on the face of the cover. The division of the rate was therefore G.B. 48¢ and U.S. 42¢, total 90¢.

Now suppose for example that a Cunard ship had sailed on May 11, 1861, the rate would have been the same but the credit would have been 32¢ higher or 2 X 16¢ for the British sea carriage from New York to England. In such a case all the U. S. would have retained would have been our internal of 2 X 5¢, the British receiving a credit of 2 X 40 or 80¢, each 40¢ representing 16¢ Atlantic sea plus the British shilling packet charge from England to the Grand Canary.

Now Gordon is it not all very simple? Why ring in all that stuff about a double rate of \$1.05 plus 60 centimes for 20 grams carried over 300 miles, etc., etc. Do you see how perfectly absurd such "information" is? However, absurd as it is, it is not near as silly as the stuff contained in the opinion furnished by Elliott Perry to Percy Doane on this cover, and for which a charge was made by Perry.

Other covers from this Wood correspondence, at this same period, are known and all are prepaid by the regular 45¢ per 1/2 ounce single rate. William Depew certainly knew the rate was 45¢ per single or 90¢ double, as proved by covers before and after this one, so if these stamps originated on this cover then Depew threw away 26¢ when he mailed this letter and in no way have I been able to figure what that 26¢ double or 13¢ single could have represented.

Can you doubt that the British carried this letter by British packet from England to the Grand Canary? Can you doubt that the British packet charge in 1861 was a shilling? Surely both of the above are proved by the red ink credit of "48."

This letter was not put into the German or French mails, they had nothing to do with its transmission. We paid the Bremen the sea postage to transmit the letter from New York to England.

I don't know whether the cover is good or bad and all I can say in this respect is this. If anyone, knowing the real facts, such as I have outlined above, concludes that the cover is genuine, then he will be forced to believe that William Depew put 26¢ more postage on this letter in May 1861 than was necessary. Evidence shows that Depew knew the correct rate was 45¢ single - 90¢ double, so if the cover is genuine then why did Depew put 26¢ more than was necessary on this letter? I don't believe that he did such a thing, hence I cannot believe that the cover is genuine.

I gave all of the above facts to Doane and I never charged him a penny, so I too am very anxious that the real status of this cover be definitely established so that I won't be called upon to dispute every crackpot opinion that is advanced by a lot of people who have no knowledge whatsoever of foreign rates or postal markings but who have the gall to charge fees for absurd "Expert" opinions. I refer

#4. Mr. Gordon Harmer, March 29, 1943.

not only to Perry but others in his class down East.

This letter was purely a U.S.-British transmission and the rates were fixed by Treaty. There was no "postal agreement" between the U.S. and G.B. in 1860 whereby the "sea carriage" (16¢) to G.B. was raised, nor reduced, and you know darn well that there was no raise nor reduction in the British packet charge of one shilling in 1860, 1861 or 1862.

Depew certainly knew what he was doing and what the correct rate was, as per his memo in upper left, "Per Bremen Via England."

I owned a cover from this same correspondence, a use in July 1861. It was a single rate with a 30¢ - 10¢ and 5¢ orange brown. It was routed "Per Asia" via England, in the same handwriting as the enclosed cover. As you well know the Asia was a Cunard ship. The red pen credit on this letter was "40" and the Grand Canary due was "4."

I have a photo of another cover from the same correspondence retitled, "Via England, per Arago." This was a ship of the American Havre Line, and the red pen credit on this 45¢ rate cover was 24¢ or the British one shilling packet charge. I merely cite this cover to show that the credit was the same on the "Bremen" and "Arago" letters, and that while the "Arago" was a ship of American registry and the "Bremen" of German registry, both were designated as by "Amer. Packet" because both were paid the "sea postages" (16¢) to carry these two letters.

I could give you a number of references regarding the amount paid by the U.S. P.O.D. for carriage of the Atlantic mails in the late Fifties and early Sixties but the following will no doubt suffice. It is from the annual report (1859) of the P.M.G.: "Which limits the compensation to the United States postage, sea and inland, when the conveyance is by American steamers and to the sea postage when by foreign steamers."

In other words, the Arago received 21¢ (sea and inland) whereas the "Bremen" received 16¢ (the sea) on the above covers for transmission from New York to England.

I do hope that my explanation of this cover has been very plain and easily understood. If not, let me know and I'll explain any points you wish.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

C O P Y

American Bank Note Company  
70 Broad St.,  
New York.

May 15, 1936.

My dear Mr. Knapp:

I have had a careful examination made of the 10¢  
United States Stamp of the 1847 issue which, I understand,  
is known from the collectors' view point as the "Knapp Shift."

It is undoubtedly a genuine stamp and the irregularities  
appearing in this stamp had probably occurred in the re-enter-  
ing of this particular stamp on the plate.

Yours very truly,

(signed)

H. R. Treadwell

H R T / L B

To:  
Mr. Edward S. Knapp.