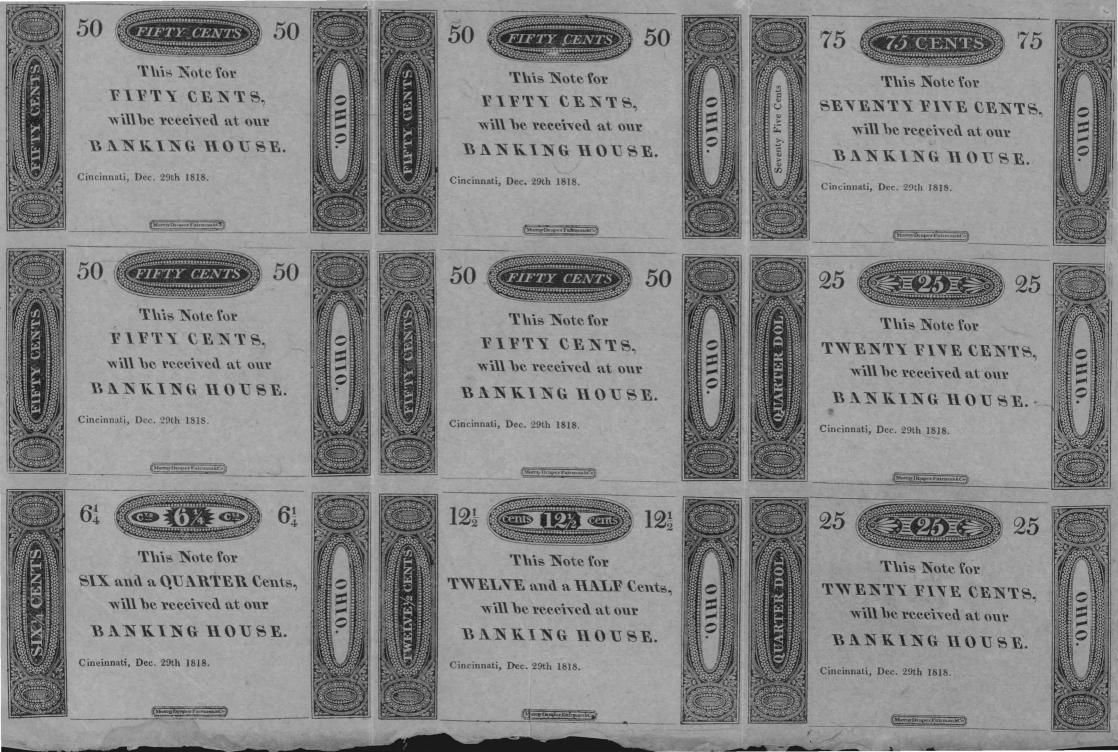
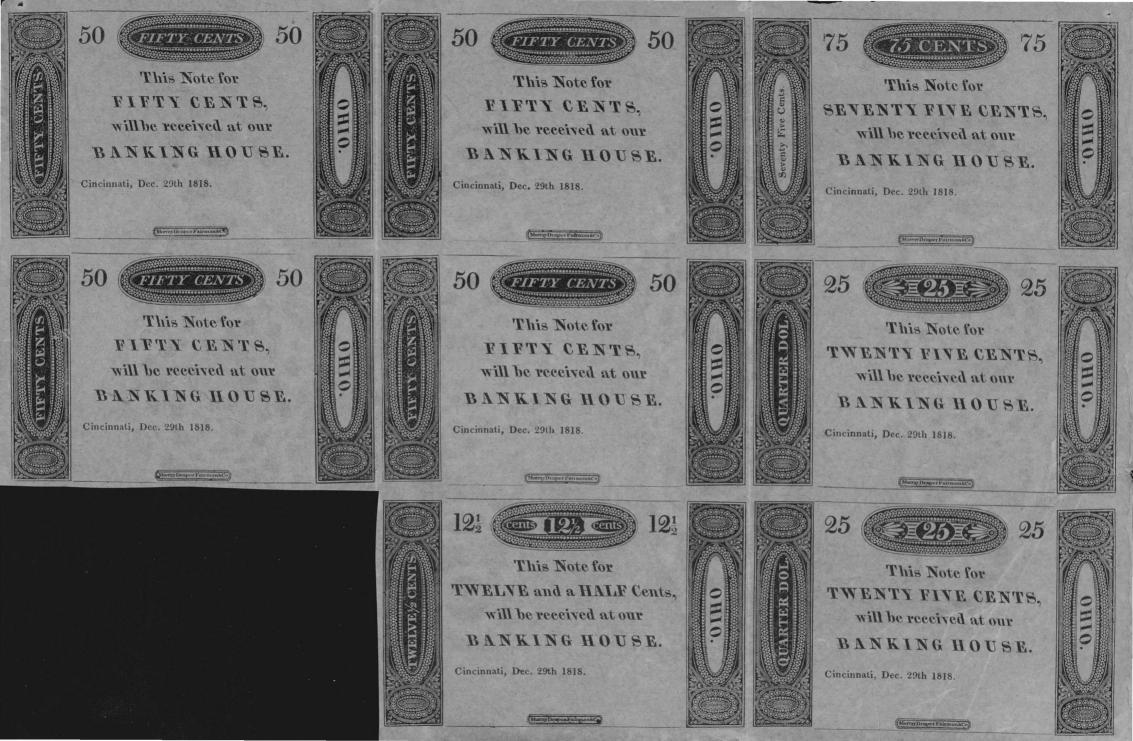
	Scrapbook No. 7 October 1938 – March 1942
1.	Part Sheet of notes, re: Banking House, Cincinnati, Ohio
1.	Article re: 12¢ 1851 Issue on Cover with U.S. Express Mail postmark
1.	Article Re: 1939 APS Lutt awards established
2.	Y. Souren re: 10¢ 1847 plate proofs
3.	Y. Souren re: in praise of Ashbrook
4.	Article re: Brown Collection Catalog
4.	Brown Collection page from Catalog
5.	August Dietz re: Austin, Texas Confederate Postmaster's provisional
6.	R.J. Mechin Re: Costa Rica mail through Panama and Chagres to New Orleans
7.	Edward Knapp re: Address to N.Y. Historical Society concerning Governor Morgan correspondence.
8.	Article re: NA1 marking on U.S. Mail to Cuba and Mexico
8.	Cuba Secretary of Communications re: NA1 marking on U.S. Mail to Cuba
9.	blank
10.	Elliott Perry re: Rail Road markings
11.	Carroll chase re: 10¢ 1847 copper plate
12.	Warren Colson re: faked via Nicaragua covers
13.	R.B. Preston re: Empress marking on 1851 cover to Cuba
14.	Confederate Stamp Alliance
15.	Collectors Club re: American Journal of Philately
16.	Clarence Brazer Re: Ackerman and Eagle donations of proofs and essays to Library of Congress.
17.	Y. Souren re: Critique of Collectors Club exhibition
17.	Y. Souren re: 3c Pink
17.	J. Waldo Sampson re: Stamp Specialist
18.	George Ewing re: Gratitude for Ashbrook's write-up in Harmer sale.
19.	Nassau Stamp Co. Auction Catalog of Paul Macguffin Collection
20.	Carroll Chase Re: 1857-1860 issued 24¢ and 90¢ trial colors
21.	Frederic Grant re: 5¢ New Orleans Confederate Postmaster Provisional
22.	
23.	Elliott Perry re: Banknote Special Printings Philip Ward re: Gibson sale
23. 24.	Oscar Karas re: list of 1847 covers for sale
24. 25.	Hugh Clark re: Scott Catalog listings for variety of 19 <sup>th</sup> century listings
26.	Elliott Perry re: 1847 Issue concerning copper vs. steel plates  Article re: San Francisco to New York 1849 covers with 40 in circle
27.	Article re: San Francisco to New York 1849 covers with 40 in circle  Article re: U.S. Classic Issues 1847 – 1869 Issues
28.	
29.	Ernest Wiltsee re: 1847 10¢ covers with strips of three from Peru
30.	Ernest Wiltsee re: faked Via Nicaragua covers
31.	Ernest Wiltsee re: Via Nicaragua covers
32.	Ernest Wiltsee re: Alleged fake Via Nicaragua cover from Rebecca Gibbons correspondence
33.	Ashbrook comments on Wiltsee arguments on alleged faked western expresses
34.	Blank
35.	Article re: Mails from Honolulu to New York, 1851 – 1865
36.	Article re: Progress toward establishing a Collector Club Expert Committee
37.	Article Re: Confederate strip of 5 of 10¢ Paterson Blue Tens on Wrapper

38.	Article re: Providence Postmaster Provisional find
38.	Article re: Discovery of Nashville Handstamped Confederate provisional
39.	Harry Keffer Re: Y. Souren opinion on Fake 30¢ 1869 cover
40.	Edgewood Stamp Co. re: Fake 30¢ 1869 cover
40.	Harry Keffer: re: Fake 30¢ 1869 cover
41.	Blank
42.	J.M. Bartels Re: 24¢ 1867 grill
43.	G. Gilbert re: Steel vs Copper plates for 1847 Issue
44.	G. Gilbert re: Steel vs Copper plates for 1847 Issue
44.	Stephen Rich re: August 1861 Issue
45.	W.L. Peltz re: 5¢ 1847 cover Albany to Canada
46.	James Baxter re: G. Gilbert Collectors Club Philatelist article concerning composition of plates for 1847 to 1860 Issues
47.	Van Dyk MacBride re: Confederate Blockade covers
48.	H. Morgan Ryther re: Possible pre-paid way rate on 1857 covers
	Collectors Club re: Controversy concerning publication and content of articles by G.Gilbert in CCP
	concerning copper vs. Steel plates
50.	Karl Burroughs re: vertical pair of 5¢ 1847, 81L – 91L
	Lester Brookman Re: controversy with G. Gilbert
	Carroll Chase re: Repaired 7R1E; 6C Essay
36.	Article re: research group for study of US Postal History
-	





#### A New Discovery

James S. Hardy (Clearwater, Florida) reports "a new discovery" in the form of a pair of 12-cent stamps (U.S. 1851) on a letter from New York City addressed to Sheffield, England. The letter went to Boston from New York, and the pair of 12-cent 1851 stamps are tied, thricestruck "U. S. EXPRESS MAIL AUG. 29 N. Y." in black circle, one and threesixteenths of an inch diameter. The cover also bears a red "19" as well as "Pr. America" (ship name), in Ms., also the "PAID - AMERICA - Liverpool -1.1 54-F. A." with the Sheffield Receiving Mark on the back and "Boston Br. Pkt." circle.

The U. S. Express Mail marking is listed as known on the 10-cent stamp of 1851, as well as the 5-cent stamp of the series and, in the opinion of Laurence Mason, authority on markings, the "new discovery" is a rare item.

## John Luff Awards

The American Philatelic Society took action on the question of recognition for philatelic research and service to philately by establishing the John Luff Awards. This was done at the convention in 1939, in San Francisco. The awards are in three classes:

(1) \$250 for distinguished philatelic

research.

(2) \$100 for exceptional contributions to philately or to the good of the A. P. S. in other particulars.

(3) \$50 for helpful publicity for the

A. P. S. or for philately in general.

The awards are to be made every two years subject to the decisions of the committee. The first awards will be made at the A. P. S. convention in Buffalo, in August, 1940. Any A. P. S. member may make nominations to the committee immediately and the committee shall nominate to the President not later than June 1, 1940.

President Flower has appointed the follower has app

1, 1940.
President Flower has appointed the following committee:—Eveleen W. Severn, Beverly, Mass., Chairman; Richard McP. Cabeen, Chicago, Jll.; Bertram W. H. Poole, Los Angeles; William C. Michaels, Kansas City, Mo.; Harry L. Lindquist, New York City; Rafael D. Alexander, San Salvador, Central America; Robson Lowe, London, England. The committee will appreciate having nominations sent for each of the classes as soon as possible.

#### Y. SOUREN CO.

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

394 PARK AVENUE

BET. 53RD AND 54TH STS.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

November 27, 1939

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have been giving a great deal of thought to your letter of the 22nd and have been racking my brain for certain things in regard to the plating of the 10¢ 1847.

I feel quite certain that  $P_{e}$ rry must have owned or had access to at least a part sheet of the plate proofs with "Specimen" overprint. I recall that about 1928 a Mr. Grauscher approached me and mentioned that he had had some handling of proof sheets of the  $5\phi$  and  $10\phi$  1847. He was quite a serious student, but at the time my knowledge of the English language was not sufficient for me to take advantage of everything he explained to me in the matter.

Grauscher is no longer alive but I am trying to contact some of his friends and perhaps I can dig up some more information on the subject. I have had a number of conversations with Perry and from everything that has taken place I do not feel that he could have accomplished his plating without the aid of proofs. About the things mentioned to you in this regard I have been given a chance at these items and I find they are not the original proofs but what I am looking for may yet turn up.

I remember that when I was building the Weekes Collection Mr. Beal, of whom you may perhaps have heard, was in the habit of offering me a great many things. Beal was a serious collector. His activities were concentrated on the speculative angle. I did, however, buy many ocean mail cancellations end such things from him. He was a friend of Perry's and if my memory serves me correctly they were both in the office together at one time and one of the two offered me sheets of the  $5\phi$  and  $10\phi$  '47 Specimen proofs. As I can see now I was very foolish in turning them down.

Beal died about a year and a half ago and all his holdings have been kept intact by his widow. At one time I telephone her, but met with such a cold reception that it was useless to prosecute the matter any further. I am going to try through Beal's brother to have the opportunity of looking over his holdings. It is not impossible that something of interest may turn up.

I have no doubt that we can get to the bottom of this subject. If you had a projector of the type we are using in the Laboratories I have no doubt you could save a good deal of eyestrain in the work you have been doing. We have perfected a process of projection that gives such remarkable results that it is hard to find words to describe it. We have to make certain mechanical changes on the projector but they are more or less simple and when completed it will be

possible to show not only singles, but pairs, blocks and even complete sheets without sacrificing any of the detail.

I think the time has now come for co-operation in trying to educate the bulk of collectors to a true appreciation of their stamps. The means are at hand for making philatelists out of stamp collectors.

I trust by this time you have received the Government pamphlets on paper and I hope you will find them of some use.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Y. SOUREN CO.

SY: bs

#### Y. SOUREN CO.

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS
394 PARK AVENUE
BET. 53RD AND 54TH STS.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 5, 1939

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letter of the 4th is at hand.

I rather expected that after reading the article in Mekeel's you would put your feelings into the very words you did. In writing as I did I was certain your head would not be turned by my simple expression of praise. However, I want you to know that I have not chosen to flatter you. The primary purpose of the article was to bring forth the truth.

It has been my thought to some day write a book on my activities as a stamp dealer and should I do this you will learn that during the year 1927 after a hard fight against certain injustices done me your booklet came into my hands, and this alone saved me from going a la "Toasty." The reading and studying of your writings has given me an incentive to attempt to follow your example. It has always puzzled me as to how you accomplished as much as you have, and I realize only too well the time and labor that has gone into your extensive research. Every time I turn the pages of your books they instill me with confidence and the desire to do my little bit for the well-being of Philately.

When you write about your limitations you can well imagine how hopeless are my own and I think it best not to go into that subject unless I want to lose confidence in myself completely. You certainly have done much for Philately and it is time that someone has come out and said so.

I note that you will reply to my letter regarding the  $10\phi$  1847 plate proofs and I look forward to receiving same.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Y. SOUREN CO

By Tyshammants

Stamps September

## A Few Notes About the Brown Collection

ATALOGING of the Brown collection presented many diffiimmense cult problems and an amount of labor.

Due to the unsettled conditions in Europe there was no opportunity to read and correct proofs; so there are a few minor corrections which should be noted. Lot #1959 is incorrectly captioned. This is not a Pony Express cover, although it is a rare Western Express postal marking. The lots 253-271 inclusive were not examined by S. B. Ashbrook, as stated in the catalog. The listing as to plating was based on notes continuing the Pressure of the state of the continuing the pressure of the continuing the continuin tained in the Brown collection, which were assumed to have been done by Ashbrook as he examined many of the Brown stamps. However, Stan-ley Ashbrook says that he did not examine these particular stamps so the correction is made for the record.





10c 1851 With Big Shift

Two of the gems of the collection are not illustrated in the auction catalog. Lot 222, the rare 1c blue, type 1, Scott's \$30. This is one of the finest copies of this stamp in ex-

Lot 549, the 10c 1851 with the big shift. This is certainly one of the finest items in the sale and one of the great mysteries of plating.

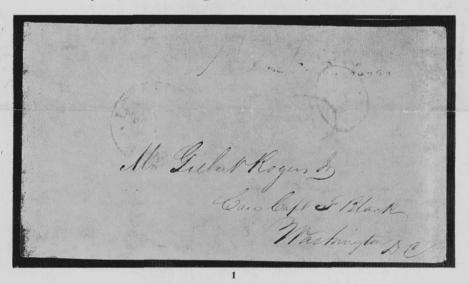
EZRA D. COLE.

## CATALOGUE

## Wednesday, October 25, 1939

2.30 P. M.

- 1 WINTED STATES, Postmasters, Baltimore, Envelopes, 1845, 5c+5c blue on white, entire, Buchanan Ms. signature, addressed to Mrs. Gilbert Rogers Jr., Washington, D. C., extremely rare (only 2 or 3 known), very fine (3XU7) Est.1500.00
- 2 ★ New Haven, Envelopes, 1845. 5c red, unsigned Reprint, one inch margins all sides, very fine (8XU1)Est. 25.00



### LOTS FOR INSPECTION

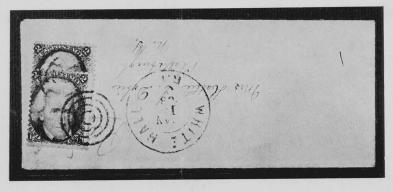
will be submitted on request, provided such lots are returned on day of receipt with postage, registration and insurance both ways. Collectors unknown to us should supply satisfactory references. Early application appreciated.



- 3 New York, 1845, 5c black on white, cover to Philadelphia, Nov. 21, 1845, lightly pen stroked, large margins on three sides, red postmarks and large blue "R" (Recorded), very fine (9X1a) 75.00+
- 4 ☑ — 5c black on white, cover (face and partial back) to Lille (France), rare foreign use, Sept. 29, 1845, blue pen stroke, French, English &c. postmarks, very fine (9X1a) 75.00 →
- 5 🖂 — 5c black on white, cover to Bennington, Vt.,

  Nov. 18, 1846, variety bottom frame line recut, blue

  pen stroke, red postmarks, very fine (9X1c) 110.00 +
- 6 🖂 1862, 2c, horiz. half used with 2c as 3c rate on small cover at White Hall, N. Y., 2c (tied to envelope) ties bisect, rare and very fine (73c) 600.00
- 7 ⋈ 24c gray lilac, printed on both sides, cover to Germany, tied with blue canc. large DPO, magenta postmark SUMMERFIELD, ALA., various colored postmarks, extremely rare (only 3 copies known), very fine (78d) 2000.00+
- 8 ★ 1867, 3c, Z grill (11x14), good color, o. g., one of the finest copies known (85c) 250.00



Publishers
The Postal Service
of The Confederate States
of America
\$15.00 Postpaid

## Stamp and Cover Collectors' Review

Successor to Stamp and Cover Collecting

A Quarterly of American Philately

Publishers
Dietz-1937
Confederate States
Catalog and Hand-Book
\$2.50 Postpaid

Published by The Dietz Press, 109 East Cary Street, Richmond, Virginia, U. S. A. \$1.00 the Year, Canada and Foreign, \$1.50



November 21, 1939.

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

My dear Stan':

"Jest hol' yer hosses a minit! Cause eff'n you let 'em rar' 'n pitch like 'at sump'n might happen to dis yer Texas stamp.

"Come January" it will be two years that I first heard of this Austin stamp. Ezra Cole sent me a photograph of the cover, intimating that Fred Green was connected with it, and that he thought it a fake, suggesting at the same time that no mention be made of it until more information would develop. Complying with his wishes, I filed letter and photograph and waited. In fact, I had all but forgotten about it, remembering only the impression "in the back of my haid" that I agreed with Cole: that it was a fake. . .

Then came the July issue of the TTexas Philatelist; edited by Flick—and a pretty reliable man. Do you know him? I read his article, and recognized the illustration as the same sent me by Cole. Then I wrote to Flick. I wanted to know more about it than the story told. I wanted to know if there were other copies of the Austin on cover—"where, when, what and how! That "put it up to" Flick, and he proceeded to go into action in true Texan fashion. He got three more of 'em and sent me cover and photos. The rest is briefly told in my story in the last number of the Review. It remains now to answer your "doubt-questions".

Let me first state that, before I saw the "Exhibits" I was as sure as you are (possibly more so) that this cover was a fake. I have been fairly well convinced to the contrary. I'll take your "objections" ad seriatim. (Get the carbon of your letter to me.)

1.--Odd position of the stamp on the cover-expected to be in the right upper corner. Well, Stan, you'll admit that this is an unimportant matter at best, and debatable, since we have found a few Confederate stamps pasted on carelessly--out o' position. To offset the carelessness on this Clark cover, the stamps on the other three covers are in the right upper corner all right, and tied.

2.--Probably it "does not make sense" that the Austin Post-master should stamp up a lot of paper and cut it into squares and in that manner make "postage stamps" But since a lot of other Postmasters did this identical thing (Abingdon, Va., Independence, Tex., Newnan, Geo., Spartanburg, S. C. and Talladega, Ala.) I wouldn't condemn the Texan for following suit.

Publishers
The Postal Service
of The Confederate States
of America
\$15.00 Postpaid

## Stamp and Cover Collectors' Review

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Inasmuch as four (and possibly five) of these adhesives on covers are in Texan collections—all with the authentic postmark and of different datings (which precludes an "electro" faking) and written by different parties (no two handwritings alike), and addressed to different persons. I don't see how we can "get around" that—do you?

The funniest thing about this stamp is, that it has been known among the Texans for several years, but no one made a "to-do" about it, because they thought everytody else knew the stamp, because it has long been in Scott's Catalog--where every Texan collector (except Flick, who got into a controverst with Schumacher) over it) believed it was listed as both Envelope and Adhesive. Scott had omitted to state whether it was an envelope or an adhesive! And I am sure you do not question the authenticity of the Envelope of the identical type. There are too many of them to permit of doubt. Well, when that Postmaster's stock of envelopes run out, he simply handstamped a lot of "adhesives"--just as the other fellows whom I enumerated did. I see nothing unusual about that--do you?

As a matter of fact, Texas has given us more real Provisionals than any other single State in the Confederacy, and, because they were so "remote from base" (Richmond), this seems quite logical and "understandable". While we can hardly expect these Texans to resurrect the war-time Postmaster for questioning—if they produce four different covers, of different datings, and different addressings, I think they've come nearer proving their case than several others that have been taken into the catalogs.

Just for the sake of curiosity, write to Flick, and ask him to send you these Austin covers for inspection. You don't need any reference—I believe these Texans know you—and then, after you've given the subject a thorough test, let me know how you feel about it. I've hever claimed to be an "expert", but, being a printer and an engraver, I think I can come pretty nearly detect a counterfeit handstamp or postmark, and these Austins—both handstamp and postmarks are authentic.

Re: your straight-line "PRUSONER" handstamped cover from Wilmington: it's a "new one" on me. I have made a tracing of it, and will include it in my "Confederate Notes" (though not in fact "Confederate") in my next little Bulletin to Collectors of Confederates, which I hope to send out from time to time. Thanks for letting me see it.

In the matter of the "Camp Dennison," I will add to this letter in the morning, when I get back to the shop, where I have my Catalog with all notations for the revised edition, to come out early next year. I recall some one sending me information on this marking, and I made a careful note of it, to be used in the revised edition. Good night.

# The Dietz Printind Co. 109 E. Cary Street WHERE DISTORDED ATOMOUT. Richmond Virginia ATOMOUT.

(3)

Wednesday Morning.

Concluding my last night's letter, I am referring to the "Shop Copy" of the Dietz Catalog, wherein I make all notes for the next edition. Turning to page 144, "Camp Dennison," I find this notation:

"A copy of this handstamp was submitted by Mrs. Horatio Hughes, Charleston, S.C., dated Nov. 18, 1864. The letter enclosed seems to indicate that Camp Dennison was merely a concentration point for Northern troops, and not a prison camp at the time. Further information is sought." Also the notation: "Camp was near Cincinnati, O."

All this seems to corroborate your statements concerning the nature of the place, and will mean that in the next edition of our Catalog "Camp Dennison" and the illustration will be left out.

I think this covers the various subjects in your letter. I hope you will write to Mr. Flick-get those Austin covers-examine them carefully-and then let me have your reaction. Remember-When I first saw the photograph of this one cover, my reaction was the same as yours. The best proof of this is in the fact that for nearly two years I paid no attention to it. I'll admit, too, that Green's connection with it (at least, I was told he had a hand in its sale) sort o' "set me against it"-until I learned that three or four more covers were in Texan collections-their origin (that is, where and when and by whom found) established, and the people still living-when I learned all this, and had Flick submit the evidence, I could no longer withhold recognition.

"I trust you're well and busy. We are "up to the neck" in publishing, and I am glad to be relieved of the REVIEW.

Best regards and good wishes!

Sincerely:

(August Dietz)

R. J. MECHIN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY EDWARDS, N. Y.

December 2,1939.

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

Dear Stan:

Many thanks for your letter of November 23rd. I was very much interested in your remarks re the mails from Panama and Chagres going to New Orleans as I had had the idea(for no good reason)that hardly any regular mail steamers from those points went to New Orleans but practically all went direct to New York. I guess my philatelic motto will have to be, "Live and learn with Ashbrook"! I'm also glad to have the information on the rarity of the N.Y. "STEAMSHIP 20 Cts." and undoubtedly I am very lucky in this particular matter as all that correspondence I sent you came to me FROM London yet was all addresses to don Felipe and don Luis Molina (brothers) in the U.S.! How it got to England I have no idea.

I don't think that there is any doubt as to how mail from Costa Rica got from Punta de Arenas (now called Puntarenas) to Chagres; it went in any old ship which came along until 1856 when the first contract route was established for a regular series of trips with stops at many coast towns as far north as San Jose in Guatemala; this handling of the mails was subsidized by the Central American Republics and while it had been aggitated for sometime it was really brought to a conclusion by the "hell" Walker raised with those countries, mainly Costa Rica and Nicaragua, during his gaudy career in the latter. Since the early days of the Republic Costa Rica had tried for a mail and trade route to the east coast to be independent of this circuitious route down the west coast and across the isthmus. There was no love lost between Costa Rica and Colombia and when Panama got hold of that part of Colombia which is now Panama (the republic of) this lack of "love" continued and still does as witness the arguemnet still going on as to where the boarder is! There was a feeble attempt in 1811 to establish a route going thru David to Panama for mail etc. but it came to little and then along came the movement for independence in 1821 and this completely "blew" that up. Costa Rica then turned its attention to a direct route to the Atlantic, much the same as now followed by the R.R. to Limon, and even spent a great deal of money, for them, to establish the port of Moin. Well to make a long story short the Caribs ,urged on by the English, plus the jungle route after leaving the mountains, plus malaria finished off this project and the port of Moin was abandoned. The next effort was thru San Jose down the Sarapiqui River to the San Juan River to Greytown. This was kept in use for a long time in spite of Nicaragua making every effort to himder such efforts by charging extra effort Costa Rican mails and slapping on other duties, ets. Costa Rica had always , and with justification, claimed an equal share in the San Juan River. course Walker put a stop to the use of this route during his "wars" but it was again in use after he was "knocked off". It was not, however, very practical as a freight route altho much mail from Europe and the States came in that way: the reslut was that most of the mail continued to go down the west coast until the R.R. was completed to Limon. Unless one "reads up" a bit on Costa Rican history it is hard to realize how completly isolated they were for years. Most of their trade was with England and as

R. J. MECHIN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY EDWARDS, N. Y.

Stan Ashbrook

2.

Dec.2,1939.

you know "time" means nothing in those countries altho Costa Rica is by far the most progressive of any of the Central American countries and also as you probably know is the "whitest" by far; they are NOT a mixture of everything under the sun as is the case with most of those Latin American countries.

Well I think I'd better sign off or you'll be wishing you had never given me a lift! I have endless data on the Costa Rican postal history backed up by facts and I hope sometime to get it in shape to publish in the C.C.P. if they still want it.

I'm glad you're getting some results from the cold shots and I feel sure you will be satisfied to have taken them, based upon my own experience.

Again many thanks Stan, for all your kindnesses,

Most sincerely.

"THE HON, EDWIN DENNISON MORGAN"

1811 - 1883

\*

A short history of Gov. Morgan is as follows:

Born in 1811, at Washington, Berkshire Co. Mass.

When he was 17 (1828) he went to Hartford, Conn., where he entered the store of his uncle, Nathan Morgan, with whom he became a partner in 1832 in the grocery business. In 1832, he was a member of the Hartford City Council.

In 1836 he moved to New York City, where he established himself in business and became a successful merchant.

State Senator 1849-1853.

Vice-President of the Republican National Convention (1st Convention of the Republican Party) that met in Pittsburg, Feb. 22, 1856.

Chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1856 to 1864.

Elected Gov. of New York in 1858 and reelected in 1860.

During his term, the state debt was reduced, an increase in Canal revenue was made, 223,000 troops were sent from New York to the army, and New York Harbor was put in a state of defence.

At the expiration of his term as Governor, he was elected to the U. S. Senate as a Republican, serving from March 1863 to March 1869.

He opened the proceedings of the Baltimore Convention of 1864.

In 1865, he declined the office of Secretary of Treasury offered him by President Lincoln.

In 1872, he was Chairman of the National Republican Committee, and conducted the successful campaign that resulted in the second election of General Grant.

Was Republican candidate for U. S. Senator in 1875 and for Gov. of New York State in 1876.

In 1881, President Arthur offered him the portfolio of Secretaryof the Treasury, which he declined owing to his advanced age.

He gave more than \$200,000 to the N.T.Union Theological . Seminary and the Williams College Library buildings, also 100,000 for a dormitory at Williams, and his bequests for charitable and religious purposes were about 800,000 dollars.

He died in New York City, Feb. 14, 1883.



"Extracts from an address delivered by

Mr. Edward S. Knapp

before

The New York Historical Society

1936."

\*

## THE MORGAN CORRESPONDENCE

The finding of the Gov. Edwin Dennison Morgan Correspondence was more good luck than good management.

When I was married in 1903, my wife and I used to pay week-end visits at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Morgan at Westbury, L. I. and we practically had an open invitation to go down and stay at their house, known as "Wheatley" any time we wanted to.

It was then that I first met Mr. E. D. Morgan, well-known in hunting circles, and still more so as a yachtsman, being the head of the syndicate that built and sailed the yacht "Columbia" in the International races against the two English yachts, Shamrock I and II.

In my frequent visits to Wheatley, I came to know Mr. Morgan intimately. He was a most delightful and cultivated gentleman, with a sense of humor that was priceless. He had travelled extensively, told amusing tales on a variety of subjects and was one of the most attractive men I ever met.

He was the grandson of Edwin Dennison Morgan, Governor of the State of New York from 1858 to 1862, two terms, who then went to Washington as Republican Senator, which office he held until 1869. Before being Governor he had been a State Senator.

Our visits to the Morgans after about 1908 or 1909 became less frequent, as our children grew up and we had summer places of our own but the name "E.D.Morgan" was one that I naturally could never forget.

That's the prologue to my story.

It was sometime about 1912 that I began to collect postage stamps intensively - I had collected them before that, but more on the principle of a child's collection - just to fill the spaces in a printed album. In 1912 I began to see the interest of stamps on the original letters and to realize rarity of letters bearing the earliest stamps of our country, and, as time went on, I accumulated quite a fair lot of United States stamps on the original letters, although none of the really very rare stamps, as I couldn't afford to buy them. I did, however, know what the rarer stamps looked like, from pictures in various stamp magazines, or even an occasional view of a real one in some big collection. One stamp that always had an appeal to me was the Postmasters stamp of the City of St. Louis, Missouri, with the design showing the two bears on it. Here let me digress a little and tell you briefly what a "Postmaster's Stamp" is.

Prior to 1840, all letters were merely handstamped, and the amount paid for carrying the letter was usually written in. There were no stamps. Then England introduced the prepayment of mail by an adhessive label or stamp with a picture of Queen Victoria on it, known as the "Penny Black" from its value and color.

We, in the United States, had no stamps issued by the Government, until 1847, but Postmasters in some towns and cities, seeing that it would facilitate the business of their offices, had special stamps printed at their own expense and good as prepayment of postage on letters posted in their own town only. Such was the St. Louis Postmaster's stamp, issued in November 1845 by John M. Wimer, the P.M. They were engraved to represent the Missouri coat-of-arms. To still further digress, I will say that the Black Bear was one of the important articles of trade in early Missouri days. Thousands of skins were sent from the little fur-trading post of St. Louis, by flatboat to New Orleans and thence, by sailing ships to Europe, and the bearskin hats of Napoleon's grenadiers were made by the French from bearskins from this vicinity.

So, to come back abruptly to our story of the E.D.Morgan correspondence, sometime about ten years ago, I came across an illustration of an old letter sheet with a most beautiful copy of the St. Louis Bear stamp and I cut it out of the paper and looking at it later, noticed that the letter was addressed

"E. D. Morgan Merchant New York."

Even then, I didn't quite connect up this E.D.Morgan with the E.D. Morgan of Westbury that I knew, as the date was 1846, which was before my Mr. Morgan was born, but I did figure it as someone of his ancestors and wondered who had ever found the correspondence.

I carried the illustration with me for maybe a year or so, and one day I took it out when I was in a stamp dealers shop and showed it to the dealer, asking if he happened to know the history of the finding of the Morgan correspondence.

(For reasons that are obvious, I withhold the real names of parties involved in this part of the story and we will call the dealer "Mr. Smith" and the actual finder "Mr. McGinty")

and it was a year or so after that) that McGinty found the correspondence.

He was an unusual character, was McGinty -- He always wore a silk hat and a frock coat and had an air of gentility. that quite completely deceived anyone that didn't know him intimately, and he had such a "flare" for nosing out old letters, that the dealers of that day said they thought he "must be able to smell them". Anyway, he, in some way, got acquainted with the janitor of the building, where the firm of E. D. Morgan & Co. had their office, and through the janitor, met one of the old clerks of the firm and found out from him that the old letters were there in the building, sorted away according to year, in boxes up on the rafters of the office, each box having a year date on it. Possibly the old Morgan clerk needed the money, although details will never be known, but, at any rate. McGinty got access to those boxes and each night for several weeks he was able to go over the contents and take out what he chose, leaving in the early morning hours, before the clerks of the firm arrived. As he found rare things, he took them to Smith, the dealer, who disposed of the letters among his customers and turned over to McGinty his share of the proceeds. McGinty had just about made a complete job of it, when one night he and the old clerk were surprised by the untimely arrival of a member of the firm, who came down for something he had forgotten at the office. As you will suppose, there was a scene. McGinty was ejected and the clerk lost his job, but McGinty had picked well - he knew his stamps and he had taken practically every one of any real value.

A little story on McGinty, throws additional light on his unusual character: One day he came to Smith for money that was owed him for some things just sold. Smith gave him \$400 in cash, that he drew from the bank. That evening Smith was walking on a street uptown, when he ran across McGinty with a beautiful jag on and he had to give him 5 dollars to help him get home as he had spent every cent of the 400 dollars he had given him in the morning. It is needless to tell you that McGinty liked liquor - Booze and the ladies were his besetting sins, and although his ideas on honesty were questionable, he was a genius in his ways of locating old and rare stamps.

After I had heard this story, while I did realize that the correspondence was that of the grandfather of my friend Mr. Morgan, I figured that McGinty had cleaned it out and that there could be nothing worth while left, so I tried to forget it and succeeded, until one day about six years ago, when I got thinking it over and figuring that maybe McGinty missed something or maybe he hadn't quite had time to finish, and that there was a chance for me, either way.

So, in 1927, I called on Mr. Morgan at his office and, saying nothing of the McGinty story, asked him what I had ever become of Gov. Morgan's correspondence. He knew that I was interested in stamps, and I mentioned that there might be things of value there that I would like to get and that it might be well worth while. He agreed to try and locate the boxes, which he supposed were stored away in some warehouse. A week later he

called me on the gelephone and told me that, upon inquiry of one of the old clerks, he had found that the lot had been looted years ago and that one of the trusted men of the firm had been caught in the act and discharged as a result, and that he could find no record of what had become of the boxes of letters and that they had probably been destroyed. He also said, although I paid little attention to it at the time, that if he ever did get track of them he would let me know.

Nothing further happened until last Spring one day, when Mrs. Morgan came to lunch with my wife at our house. She conveyed the message that the missing boxes had been discovered in a storeroom in their estate at Westbury, that she would have them moved into an old squash court that was not being used, and that when I moved down to the country in May, I was at liberty to look them over. When they were moved there, nobody seems to remember, but when I walked into the squash court on May 15th last, there were the big wooden cases, each with a year date on it - the dates from 1843 to 1859 were missing, but I found most of the letters of those years in the other boxes and there were some boxes without dates that had jumbles of letters in them.

I put in about a week of ten hour days looking for stamps, but at the end of that time, I realized that McGinty had done a dandy job and that, as far as stamps were concerned, I would find little or nothing. I found a few of the common 3¢ stamps of 1851 and 1857 and one little lot of the 1¢ value, on circulars that had been overlooked, and there were revenues that had been left, but that was all.

As I went through the bundles of letters, unfolding each to be sure that there was no stamp on it, I was impressed with the signatures of well known men that were on the letters and I decided that I would try and put it together as a historical unit, if I could persuade Mr. Morgan to part with it. This I was able to do, as no-one in his immediate family had either the urge or the time that was necessary to give to sorting and arranging the letters. Add to this the fact that he considered me as sort of a member of the family and that he knew that I was interested in such things and I think you may see how he happened to let me have them. I am quite positive no stranger could have ever gotten them, and I am quite sure that they would have been destroyed if I had not come into the picture.

Just now, the sorting of the Morgan letters is quite incomplete, and it will probably take me a year or so before I can get a real sequence out of it - portions of it haven't been examined at all and are still in the original packages - I am only occasionally reading the letters and even the unimportant ones are interesting, in that they show what a fine character Governor Morgan was and what an active and well-balanced mind he had.

There are letters from the parents of boys who had gone to the War, and from whom there had been no news for months; from persons who had lost all their worldly goods because of the War; from men and women who were out of luck in every conceivable way; from men who needed jobs, and from the big politicians, who

were "playing the game".

The Governor had a courteous answer for all of these (I have the letter copy-books with his letters in them) and he generally paid more attention and took more trouble with the poor man's letters than with those of the well-to-do. He comes up to my idea of what the word "Statesman" should mean.

Governor Morgan was asked to be Sec. of the Treasury by two different Presidents, of the United States - Lincoln asked him, in 1865, and Chester A. Arthur, in 1882 - In each case he declined.

In addition to being the Governor of New York, Mr. Morgan was the Chairman of the Republican National Committee, working for the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

What is more natural, then, than that he should confer with Lincoln before the election, giving and asking advice as to what was necessary for the success of the Republican cause.

Here is such an interchange of letters between them - '

Letter from Gov. E.D. Morgan of New York to Lincoln

"Sept 17 (1860)

Private

Hon. A. Lincoln
My Dear Sir,

Within a few days I have heard fears expressed that we are not likely to secure a majority of the Legislature of Illinois. While the electoral Vote is deemed safe I would like to be pretty fully advised of the true state of things in the respect mentioned. We are doing well here and getting stronger daily. Considerable however is yet to be done, but it will be done.

Very truly yours E.D.Morgan"

To the above, Mr. Lincoln answered as follows:

"Springfield, Ills, Sep. 20, 1860

Hon. E. D. Morgan My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 17th is just received - Here in Illinois we are precisely in the condition you seem to understand - safe, as we think, on the National and State tickets, but in danger as to the Legislature - How the National Committee can do anything in the premises I do not quite understand; tho, on this point I would refer to Mr. Judd. I shall confer with some friends and with you again soon, saying no more now than that, in my opinion, no one thing will do us so much good in Illinois, as the carrying of

indiana at the October election. The whole surplus energy of the party throughout the nation, should be bent upon that object up to the close of that election. I should say the same of Pennsylvania, were it not that our assurances seem so evident of Curtin's election there.

If I might advise, I would say, bend all your energies upon Indiana now.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln."

\*The State of Indiana election referred to, was held prior to the Presidential contest and resulted in the election of a Republican legislature.

I think the Lincoln letter may be classed as an important one - It is entirely in Lincoln's handwriting and of course, signed by him and covers about a page and a half of letter paper.

Being a strictly personal letter, I doubt that it is on record anywhere.

There was another interchange in early 1861, as follows:

Letter from Gov. Morgan of New York to Lincoln

"Jan 19, 1861

His Excellency
Abraham Lincoln
Prest. Elect of the U States

My dear Sir:

The period is nearly at hand when you will decide as to the route you will take in your journey to the Seat of Govt, to enter upon the discharge of the high duties for which you have been most honorably chosen by the people of the United States.

Believing as I do that there will be at this season of the year, less fatigue in travelling by the way of Buffalo, Albany and New York than by any other route, I accordinly recommend it. I most cordially invite you to the Capital, and tender to you the hospitality of the State, and of my home, and respectfully urge you to arrange to spend at least one day in Albany. You are aware that our Legislature will be in Session at that time, as it is now, but you cannot realize the great satisfaction it will afford the members of the Legislature if this invitation shall be accepted. But not to them more than to your numerous friends in Albany and vicinity, and yet to none more than to your friend and obedient servt.

E.D. Morgan."

A telegram to Gov. Morgan from Lincoln reads;

"To Gov. E.D.Morgan -- By telegraph from Springfield-Feb. 4, 1861

## I expect to go by Albany Will write A. Lincoln"

(This is on blank of the New York, Albany & Buffalo Telegraph Co.)

The letter from Lincoln to Gov. Morgan, answering his invitation and referred to in the telegram, reads as follows;

"Springfield, Ill Feby 4th 1861

Sir:

Your letter of the 30th ult. inviting me on behalf of the Legislature of New York to pass through that State on my route to Washington, and tendering me the hospitalities of her authorities and people has been duly received.

With feelings of deep gratitude to you and them, for this testimonial of regard and esteem, I beg you to notify them that I accept the invitation so kindly extended.

Your obt. Servt.
A. Lincoln

His Excellency
E. D. Morgan
Governor of New York.

P.S. Please let ceremonies be only such as to take the least time possible. A.L."

(The letter itself is not in Lincoln's handwriting, but is signed by him and the postscript and its "A.L." signature were written by him)

In connection with Lincoln's visit to Governor Morgan's home in Albany there is a sweet little story that I want to tell you.

Governor Morgan had invited some of the important citizens of Albany to meet the President -elect at dinner at his house, on the evening of his arrival, and when the table was set, it was discovered that there were thirteen places. That wouldn't do at all, as it was considered bad luck and no doubt would disturb some of the invited guests, and it was too late to ask anyone else, so the Governor explained to the assembled company that he had set a fourteenth place, so that they would not be thirteen at table, and that his seven-year-old grandson would occupy it. That grandson was my friend Mr. Morgan, and Lincoln was introduced to him, and took a liking to the child, and requested that he be given a seat next to him at table, which was done. In the course of the dinner, he talked with the youngster, and finally he asked him, "What would you rather be than anything in the world?", to which young Morgan answered at once, "I'd like to be a Colonel in the Army." "Well," said Lincoln, "Next week I shall be President of the United States, and when I am, I will make you a Colonel in the Army." And, sure enough, he did not forget it, and a week or so later, the commission came from the War Department, signed by the Secretary of War and by Abraham Lincoln himself, and the boy became a Colonel.

seen, so fully explains how matters are understood by me, that I

do not propose to add on that point, but it is very manifest to me, and to other friends, that the authority which has been given to the Union Defence Committee, to send fourteen regiments from the City of New York to the Government of the United States, quite independant and irrespective of the Executive of New York, cannot fail to result in confusion and serious disaster. Already one regiment (the 14th) has left the State and that without any semblance of authority from the Commander in Chief, an indirect violation of the Militia Law of the State.

More of this is sure to follow; we shall all feel the harm and I cannot for one refuse to raise my voice against it. An effort has been and will continue to be made to get the 38 regiments into and ready for at once, which regiments have been organized within the last thirty (30) days; many of them will leave New York the present week and all will be placed in condition to meet the necessities of the Government with all the dispatch the case will admit of. The expense for these Regiments, requiring everything as they do, will be large, and necessarily increased from the dispatch required. If more are needed, I pray you consider whether they ought not to be received through the regularly constituted authorities of the State.

General Wadsworth will state the case fully, more so than I can write it in this hurried moment. I may not possess authority to control men from New York, who volunteer into the service of the National Government direct, but I certainly ought to possess authority over the Military Regiments of the State, one of which left (as above) last night and three more propose to move in the same manner immediately, assigning as a reason that they have been authorized by the Defence Committee. I will not dwell longer upon this painful subject and which can only be obviated by steps which your Excellency alone may take

I am, dear Sir Yours with highest regards"

Following three pages represent one incident - A misunderstanding between Gov. Morgan and Lincoln - shows this and how it was quickly cleared up.

To Gov. Morgan's letter of May 19 1861, President Lincoln answered as follows:

"Washington D. C. May 20 1861 His Excellency

Gov. E. D. Morgan My dear Sir:

Yours of the 19th is received. Your Letter to the Secretary of War I have not seen. To not shirk just responsibility, I suppose that I ought to admit that I had much to do with the matter of which you complain.

The Committee came here some time last week, saying there were fourteen Regiments in N.Y.City, not within the 38 you were organizing; that something must be done with them, -- that they

could not safely keep them longer, nor safely disband them-- I could not see- can not yet - how it could wring you, or the Regiments you were raising, for these 14 to move forward at once, provided yours, too, should be received when ready- But aware of my own ignorance in Military matters, I sent to Genl. Scott to get his opinion whether the thing could be safely done, both as to the question of confusion, and also whether the Govt. could advantageously keep and use the whole His answer was that the whole should come - of the 14,5 to come here, and 9 to Fortress Monroe - I thought the whole difficulty was solved, and directed an order to be made accordinly - I was even pleased with it; because I had been trying for two weeks to begin the collecting of a force at Fortress Monroe, and it now appeared as if this would begin.

Next day, & after the Committee had gone, I was brought to fear that a squabble was to arise between you and the Committee, by which neither your Regiments nor theirs, would move in any reasonable time; to avoid which I wrote one of the Committee - Mr. Russell - to send them at once.

I am very loth to do any wrong; but I do not see yet wherein this was a wrong.

I certainly did not know that any Regiments especially under your control were to be sent forward by the Committee; but I do not perceive the substantial wrong, even in such a case - That it may be a technical wrong, I can readily understand - but we are in no condition to waste time on technicalities.

The enthusiastic uprising of the people in our cause, is our great reliance, and we can not safely give it any check, even though it overflows, and runs in channels not laid down in any chart.

In ordering the 14 Regiments forward, no intimation was intended that you were failing in activity or in any duty - On the contrary, I acknowledge you have done, and are doing nobly; and for which I tender you my sincere thanks.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln"

Letter from President Lincoln to Gov. E. D. Morgan of New York

"Washington, D. C. May 23, 1861

His Excellency Gov. E. D. Morgan My dear Sir

Will you please state to Gen. Walbridge what are the substantial difficulties about the "fourteen regiments" coming forward? I very much wish to get this matter straight, without wrong to the public service or to any individual.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln

Letter from Gov. Morgan to Lincoln

"Astor House May 26, 1861 9 1/2 P.M.

His Excellency Abraham Lincoln My Dear Sir,

I came to this city this morning and return in half an hour. I will write you particulars of what I have done tomorrow - Regiments are to go forward by my orders immediately to supply the wants of the Govt. at Fort Monroe and at Washington as I understand their wants from Col. Franklin to supply those expected to have been sent forward by the Union Defence Committee; they will go fast.

I have ordered two regiments from Elmira N.Y. telegraph today that have been waiting for orders for one week.

In brief, I have ordered 5 regiments to Fort Monroe & 4. to Washington, besides which the Union Defence Committee are to send 6

Yours very truly E.D. Morgan."

As an example of a comic letter, here is one of 1858, from the Proprietors of the Massascit House, the great, old time hotel of Springfield, Massachusetts -

"Mr. Morgan, Dear Sir;

We send you by express the missing boot which you left here, and will you please send the one you have in your possession to us, and we will see that is returned to its owner."

Apparently there had been a mixup in the shoes that had been put out to be shined.

I have selected another letter to read - It is dated on the day President Grant was inaugurated -And is from General William Tecumseh Sherman to Gov. Morgan.

"322 K. Street Washington

Mch 4 1869

Hon E.D.Morgan Washington, Dear Sir,

About a month ago, I had a miserable blotch of erisipelas on my face. I thought it was all well and gone, but as I sat in the Ceremonies of Inauguration I felt it coming back, and before I left the Capitol it was really most disagreeable.

I hurried home and by advice applied the solution of iodine,

which so discolors my face that I am no longer a fit subject for a Ball. I therefore must ask you to excuse me from that Committee this evening.

I feel certain you can discharge the agreeable duty of escorting President Grant from his house to the Ball Room, but if you need help, Genls Thomas and Terry are close by you at the Club House, Corner of G and 15th.

Please hand this note to General Grant that he may understand why I am not on hand.

I may have to keep indoors for a few days

With great respect W.T.Sherman Lt Genl.

Either Gov. Morgan forgot to hand the note to General Grant, or Grant handed it back to him after reading. In either case, I am glad, or it wouldn't be here.

Note that the first time Sherman mentions Grant he says "President Grant" but the next moment he calls him "General Grant". To him, he was always "General" I am quite sure.

I cannot resist the temptation of showing you, in no uncertain way, how this New York Historical Society made this letter more interesting -

From the letter we might deduce that Gov. Morgan escorted Grant to the Inaugural Ball - but we don't really know it. I thought it would be interesting to find out, so one afternoon I asked Miss Barck, the Assistant Librarian to find out for me who escorted Gen. Grant from his house to the Inaugural Ball, on March 4, 1869. That Gen. Sherman was supposed to have done so but I believed that he had not. THE NEXT MORNINGS MAIL brought me a letter saying that they regretted not being able to find who the escort from the house was, as they did not have a file of the Washington papers of that date, but they did give the following description, taken from the N.Y. Herald of March 5, 1869. "At 10.15 the Vice-President entered the Ball Rooms in the Treasury Building with his family, and modestly took the shortest route to the private room assigned to him. He was followed twenty minutes later, by the President, who hurriedly passed through the line of anxious sight-seers, LEANING ON THE ARM OF SENATOR MORGAN, (that is, Edwin D. Morgan, member of the Inauguration Committee, and Chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee. No question about it, Mr. Morgan followed the request in General Sherman's letter. ISN'T THAT SERVICE?

A very fine letter from one of America's greatest financiers, J. Pierpont Morgan, follows. This was written in December of 1882 when Mr. Morgan was 45 years of age, and shortly before the death of Gov. Morgan.

My dear Governor,

I am greatly obliged to you for sending me a copy of your portrait by Ritchie. I shall value it greatly as long as I live.

I must tell you how deeply I appreciate your kindness to me. There is nothing so important to a young man or more highly valued by him than the confidence of an old friend and if I have been able to succeed in the station of life in which I have been cast, I attribute it more than to anything else to the endorsement of my Fathers friends and to no one am I more indebted for an unwavering confidence from the beginning of my career than to you.

I cannot express in words how deeply I feel it.

With every wish for a Happy New Year for yourself and Mrs. Morgan

Believe me always gratefully and affectionately yours

J. Pierpont Morgan

Decr. 27th 82."

I can only convey to you a hazy idea of what this Morgan correspondence contains, as there are still bundles of letters to be gone over.

I have already found the autographs of seven Presidents of the United States - most of them on personal letters- Fillmore, Buchanan, Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield and Arthur.

There are letters from all the members of Lincoln's cabinet William H. Seward, his Secretary of State and Gideon Welles,
his Secretary of the Navy; Cameron, and Stanton who succeeded him
as Secretary of War; and Chase, Secretary of the Treasury and later
appointed Chief Justice all are there - and these men were all
personal friends of the Governor's. There is a bundle of 100 from
Seward.

Horace Greeley also writes as a personal friend, and there is a problem in itself - to decipher Greeley's handwriting, which is about the most illegible I have ever seen.

Thurlow Weed, William Curtis Noyes, Charles Sumner, John Bigelow, Charles A. Dana, Junius Morgan and his son the late J. Pierpont Morgan, Cornelius Vanderbilt and his son William H. Vanderbilt, John Hay, Hamilton Fish, Elliott Shepard all these were his personal friends and wrote frequently.

All the Generals are there Scott, Fremont, McClellan, Burnside, Sherman and so on and I have found two or three letters from Ellsworth. There are some from P. T. Barnum the showman, too,

and Henry Ward Beecher, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Edward Everett. That gives you an idea of what I have already found and what still may be there.

If you are interested to see the Stock Exchange Price List and the letters to Governor Morgan, you will find them in the room at the right of the door as you enter this building. As the letters are written on both sides of the paper, Mr. Wall was good enough to have photostats made, so that the entire letters can be read.

I feel that this is a really important find of material of national interest, and in closing let me draw your attention to the almost unbelievable luck I had in getting it.

In the first place, if I had not been interested in stamps and seen that illustration of the St. Louis stamp and CUT IT OUT, and then found out the history of the correspondence, I most certainly would not have located the lot. If I had not been on terms of great intimacy with the Morgan family, I most certainly would never have been able to get it.

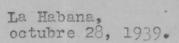
I believe that the finding of any lot of old letters is apt to be more a matter of good luck than good management - it certainly has been that way with me.

I want to thank the New York Historical Society for this opportunity of telling my story, and my audience for listening to it.



#### SECRETARIA DE COMUNICACIONES

Negociado de Servicio Internacional y Asuntos Ge



124995

Sr. Stanley B. Ashbrook.
434 South Grand Ave.
Fort Thomas, Ky.
U. S. A.

Señor:

En contestación a su atento escrito de fecha 12 del actual, interesando se le informe sobre el significado de las letras "NA" y un número "l", marcados con tinta azul en el frente del sobre que acompaña, el cual, aparentemente, fué impuesto en New York con fecha 2 de abril de 1858, dirigido a Mr. Pedro Montolla, Obispo 9, Tabaquería de Gas, Habana; cúmpleme informarle que a pesar de la minuciosa investigación practicada, no ha sido posible determinar si dichas letras y número representan en realidad contraseñas o marcas de la recepción del sobre en esta Capital.

Como pudiera extrañar a Ud. el resultado negativo de su solicitud, me permito informarle que la supuesta fecha de imposición del referido sobre, se remonta a la época colonial, es decir, al tiempo de la dominación española en este país, no existiendo en los Archivos de nuestro Departamento de Correos datos fehacientes sobre el particular que Ud. interesa.

Adjunto se le devuelve el anverso del sobre que se sirvió remitir a esta Secretaría.

De Ud. atentamente,

(Adj.)



## Nicolas Sanabria, Inc.

Publishers of the Standard Catalogue of Air Post Stamps

SEVENTEEN EAST FORTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK CITY
BANKERS MANUFACTURERS
TRUST COMPANY

CABLES: NICSAN NEW YORK
MURRAY HILL 2-3365

"COPY"

November 10, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of the 12th of this month wish to advise you on the significance of the letters "NA" and the numeral "1", marked in blue ink on the front of the cover enclosed, This apparently was applied in New York on the 2nd of April 1858, addressed to Mr. Pedro Montolla, Obispo 9, Tabaqueria de Gas, Habana.

In spite of all the detailed investigation, it has been impossible to determine whether such letters and numeral represent in reality, countersigns or marks placed on the receipt of the envelope here at this Capitol.

As the negative result of this investigation may surprise you, permit me to inform you that the date placed on the mentioned cover goes back to the Colonial era, or the time of Spanish domination in this country, and in the Archives of our Department, authentic dates or records do not exist, on the particulars you wish to know.

Enclosed I am returning the front cover you sent.

Very truly yours,

## "NA1" Markings On First Class U. S. Mail To Cuba And Mexico

L. I. St. By W. I Box 1008, BABCOCK, M. St. Petersburg,

advan-n U. S. queries Our subscribers are urged to take age of the department "Notes on Stamps". It is a regular feature, and will be answered as soon as possible

The short article, with above title and illustrated cover in Mekeel's Jan. 8, seems to have attracted considerable attention. Mr. Ashbrook and the writer have received additional material for study. The belief that the markings NA exists without the numeral and with the numeral 2 to indicate a double rate have been verito indicate a double rate have been verified. On covers with the double rate, a blue or black 2 have been seen addressed to both Havana and Cardenas, the former bearing dates of 1856 and 1858 and the latter 1852. The cities of origin on several covers studied have been New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and Pickmond in the order named

the latter 1852. The cities of origin on several covers studied have been New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and Richmond, in the order named.

Mr. Ashbrook's search of the Postal Rules and Regulations shows that regulations governing mail to Cuba and Mexico up to 1870 or 1871 required that all first class mail be stamped. It could only be prepaid to the Cuban or Mexican border or ports of entry. At that time the U. S. Government did not have a Postal Treaty with either country. In most instances, the recipient paid for delivery within their country or made special provisions for the mail to be forwarded from ports of entry.

within then visions for the mail to be forwarded visions for the mail to be forwarded ports of entry.

Mannel Hahm states that NA are the Spanish initials for "Norte America". The single and double rates were indicated by numerals 1 and 2. R. B. Preston furnished us an interesting note as follows: "I note that in the 70's it was the practice here in San Juan (Puerto Rico) to rate incoming foreign letters in 'single letter postal rate units' instead of in units of value or units of weight." Mr. Preston also quotes from "Spanish Over Seas Colonial Postal Markings" by Pedro Monge, to the effect that the NA marking was in use at Havana as late as 1871. Eight covers to Cuba studied presented the following names of steamships in secript: Columbia, Moro Castle (2),

the following names of steamships in manuscript: Columbia, Moro Castle (2), Philadelphia, De Soto, Catawba, Eagle, Espenada. In nine covers studied dates were as follows: 1856, 1858 (3), 1860, Philace, Espenada. In mass follows:

were as for 1868 (4).
The NA 1868 (4).

The NA and numeral was in oval circle in blue as shown in preliminary article on four entires and in black on one. The NA and numerals 1 and 2 on the other four envelopes were frameless and produced by two hand stamps. On two covers the color of the "NA" and numeral differed, one in black and the other blue. The single rate letters designated by the numeral "1" carried a 10c stamp of 1857, No. 49a or 49b and Nos. 68 and 96. The double rate covers, "2" carried two 10c stamps each.

Mexico: James S. Hardy submitted a

double rate covers, "2" carried two 10c stamps each.

Mexico: James S. Hardy submitted a cover carrying a 10c, No. 68, mailed from New Orleans to Tampico, Mexico, per "S.S. Sonora". A large and much worn numeral 1 was stamped on face and the letter was dated Oct. 29, 1868. The N.O. forwarding postmark was dated Oct. 31. Neither the Mexican or Cuban envelopes indicated the payment of any inland postage by the recipients.

Dear Stanley,

I am glad to have yours of the 28th. For several years Arthur Hall has been seeking route agent postmarks on the New York Central line used during a period of about ten years following the "ALBANY & BUFFALO R.R." type but we have not seen even one. If you run across any we shall be delighted to have a peek at it.

To my mind a route agent postmark indicates the origin of the letter, in the sense that it shows the first U.S. post office at which it was received and "mailed". In effect each route agent on a one man run was a one man travelling post office and performed the duties of an ordinary post office respecting the loose mail which was handed to him en route or which he gathered at mail boxesat xxxxionx railroad stations, steamboat wharves, and particularly from such receptacles at terminals of his run wherever there were such boxes at the terminals. On a few heavy runs there was a crew who acted together as a post office.

Each mail contract route had an official number but as this number usually meant nothing to the recipient of a letter the routes on which agents were carried had a name which indicated the source of the letter and because it was used in the agent's postmark. Chase's statement which you quote that the (R.R.) postmark "is not necessarily that of a railroad of the period, but rather the two terminals of a section having a railroad post office" has too many exceptions to be perpetuated in print. The route names had geographical significance, sometimes indicating the terminals of the route, as Chase stated, sometimes being the same as the railroad over which the route opera ted, sometimes being the same as a name afterward used by the railroad (such as Boston & Albany), and in other instances, such as "PHILADA R.R." or "BALTIMORE R.R." it may have been use of the local, unofficial name. Such names are fairly common in later years, as for instance "Monon", "New Haven", "Reading" "Big Four" not to mention others that will probably occur to you. Nicknaming railroads seems to have been an early American custom.

Such railroad names as "Eastern", "Northern", \*\*Commerciant & "Sullivan & Passumpsic", "Washington", "Richmond", certainly were not "two terminals".\* I think "N.Y. & Erie" was in use long before the Erie line reached either Buffalo or Erie. The

\*"Long Island" ditto.

In my opinion the "R.R." in these route agent postmarks meant R(ailroad mail) R(oute) or R(ailway mail) R(oute), as I believe I have stated in the Pats. They show that letters bearing them were not mailed in an ordinary post office, but were handled by a route agent before they reached any ordinary post office. I think the statements in Chase's book show that he had only a vague idea of what it was all about.

Caly + Bythe, Jo is land

(U.S. Scott cost)

To say that these markings indicate that the letters on which they occur were carried by railroad seems to be a weird interpretation of the facts. On the same route and often on the same train and in charge of the same route agent hundreds or thousands of other letters were also carried "by railroad".

As you point out, the "Boston & Albany R.R." postmark does not always indicate a single contract mail route. As there were two operating companies (the Boston & Worcester, and the Western R.R.), each railroad company had its own mail contract. Probably there are other instances in which the route name used in the agent's postmark cox includes more than one mail contract. The "Albany & Buffalo" may have included contracts with each of the seven railroads over which the "U.S. Express Mail" operated previously, and my recollection is that they did not become the New York Central until 1852/53. (Too lazy to look up the correct date).

Many letters bearing route agent postmarks were not mailed en route, that is, between terminals of the route, but were mailed at a terminal. Why should anyone carry a letter several blocks to a post office when it could be mailed at a steamboat wharf or railroad station which might be located across the street? It was a matter of convenience, tw or to catch a mail that had closed at the post office, and not to "route" a letter to go by a specific route. Obviously, such letters were "routed" by the sender in a very limited sense. They were not intentionally put aboard the wrong boat and or on a train going in the wrong direction. That is about all there is to Chase's idea that they were "route marks". The route mark was to show where the letter had come from (original post office of mailing), regardless of the route by which it had travelled. The post office dept. checked on the efficiency of its employees by means of the postmarks. If a train or stemboat letter got into the wrong mail pouch and didn't arrive at its destination when it should, the postmark enabled the post office to trace the employee responsible for the rror.

The marking wasn't applied to show that the letter was to go by a certain route, it got the marking because it actually had started by that route. The way in which the post offices handled the mail - their system - required such markings, and I have heard of very few instances where they do not seem to agree with the postal laws and Regulations of the P.M.G. I think Chase paid more attention to postmarks and covers and trying to deduce the "why" than to checking the laws and regulations for the reason for the "why".

For some time before the Canaan tunnel was cut through trains went to each end and connection was made by wagon or stage coach. Hence there may be route agent markings on the Boston & Albany route before the trains went all the way through, but I think this was delayed by a row between the and the Western R.R. for a while. Brief mention top of page 590, Pats #24. Data still incomplete on this row.

Sincerely Quantition

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 19, 1940.

Dr. Carroll Chase,

La Ville Hue,

St Briac

Ille - Et Vilaine

France.

Dear Doc:

Your letter of Dec. 21st was not received until Jan. 18th. Seems sort of silly to delay mail so long.

Glad you liked the 1847 article. It didn't amount to much on my part but I did want to get into print for the benefit of present day collectors some of your good data of 1916. Every once in a while someone wants to borrow my only copy of your 1916 article so as to avoid losing my copy I thought I would put in print some of your material. In addition I hoped it would stir up some interest and bring me some helpful items, but so far nothing has been sent in.

Steve Brown was really doing some good work on the 5¢ when he died. He had gone to the trouble of having a lot of photographs made in Boston of items he had borrowed down East. After his death I made a serious effort to get hold of his photographs. I had loaned him a lot of mine but could never get one of his. Luckily I instructed him to make his photographer give him every negative. Thru Ez Cole I managed to get a loan of these negatives the latter part of November and made prints. I am sure I only got a small percentage of the total but atmithankful for the ones I obtained. I suppose there were about 35 stamps in all. Cole tells me if the balance are located, they will be loaned to me, but I have little hope.

Steve was searching for corner copies, thus hoping in time to establish whether Pl 2 had two panes or only one. If he kept any notes, I have not been able to get my hands on them. His brother, L. F. Brown must be a regular old miser and he has an idea I think that photos and notes have some value. Maybe later I may be able to get some place with Brown thru Gordon Harmer. Next to you I think Steve probably made more progress with the 5¢ than anyone else. He was a peculiar chap - wanted all and everything he could get out of me, but wouldn't give a scrap of worth while data in return. I let him do as he pleased and encouraged him to go ahead, hoping he would in time publish his stuff.

Regarding the Luff affidavit - I think it is best to forget all about this. It cited a plate of 10¢ as 100 and also stated the Die was destroyed. Did I ever tell you about how Brazer established that reprints from the Die were made as late as 1894? Its a long story but briefly he took some of the paper and traced it down to the mill and definitely established the approximate date it was made and the

Dr. Carroll Chase - Jan. 19, 1940.

source from which the A.B. Note Co. obtained it. You can guess what happened - Either a duplicate die was destroyed in 1851 and the original was kept, or vica versa - or the master transfer roller from the die was kept and a duplicate die made in 1894. This gives the lie to the Luff affidavit, and this with the 100-5¢ plate and the 100610¢ plate gives me little confidence there was any worth while truth in the affidavit. If the A.B.N. had a Die or Roll why didn't they loan same to the Government in 1875?

It is possible they cut the copper plates in two and destroyed half of the 10¢ plate and half of the 5¢ Plate #2. But this is all conjecture and we will probably never find out the truth. Maybe in time we can find enough corner positions to establish the number of plates and panes. Steve Brown made definite progress along this line and I intend to follow it up. The great trouble is of course the terrible impressions. Until I can get some definite proof to the contrary I prefer to go on the theory that Plate 2 had two panes. Why print 100 stamps only, when by same operation they could print 200? I think Plate 2 was made in the Spring of 1850, and at this time I do not think Rawdon was worrying about losing the contract. It seems more reasonable to suppose a new plate was made in early 1850 than late in 1850. We know by the impressions of late 1849 that Plate One was badly worn and when we consider the deliveries up to March 20, 1849, we can realize that Plate One was just about shot at that time.

Including the March 20, 1849 deliveries, the total was 2,400,000, or 12,000 sheets of 200. Here is what these figures prove in my opinion: First - if the plate had been steel, or even a soft steel plate, 12,000 impressions would not be any stretch of the imagination have produced the worn plate impressions which we know came from these 12,000 sheets. The worn copies therefore spell copper. The next delivery was 1,000,000 stamps on Feby 5, 1850. If the plate was so badly worn after the above 12,000 impressions does it seem reasonable that the additional million of Feb. 5, 1850 all came from Plate #1?

Thanks so much for calling my attention to your article on the straddle copy. This appeared in the Feby 1925 A.P. It was just about the time Edythe took sick and I had plenty of trouble along about that time. When we broke up the old home all my back files of the A.P. were destroyed, and I have been without a full file until only last summer when Dolph presented me with a duplicate set which he had. I do not recall ever seeing your article and had no idea it existed. Had I had any knowledge of it I certainly would have quoted it in my recent article. I have a record of the copy you illustrated, having obtained part here and part there. This copy is now in the Sweet collection of Attleboro, Mass.

Frank Sweet had a very fine lot of 5¢ and 10¢ 1847. He died several years ago and left his collection to his son. Kelleher knows young Sweet but Dan told me some months back there was no chance at present to borrow any items. I note you stated the margin measures 7½ M.. The Emerson copy was 7 MM. I feel rather sure both are from Plate #1.

I also note you surmised the Payne copy was used in Mar. 1849. I suppose you made this measurement yourself and did not trust to Doc Payne's memorandum. I suppose a variation of 1 MM could be expected

and would not prove that the two copies were from different plates. I also note that in the sasticle you suggested the theory that Pl 2 might have been a plate of 100. This calls to mind that Perry rather leaned to such a theory so now I see where he got the idea.

Hugh Clark has told me on several occasions in the past he was positive Ackerman had at one time an original plate proof of the 10¢ 1847. I don't think Hugh could recall whether it was a proof of the whole plate or just a proof of a pane. I never placed much confidence in his tale, believing he was a little twisted and that what Ackerman really had was a proof of the Reprint plate. I have often wondered how Perry ever managed to plate the 10¢ 1847. In fact I still have no idea how he accomplished the job. When I was last in New York - Brown sale - Nov. 1st - I made a point to talk to Costales about what Hugh had told me years ago. Gene was positive that Hugh was right and that Ackerman did have an original plate proof. Then Souren came along and told me in great confidence he was on the track of an original plate proof of 200 of the 10¢ 1847. Later he wrote me he must have been wrong and that he believed the proof was from the Reprint plate. There the matter rests. You can draw your own conclusions. Your guess is as good as mine. What bobs up in my mind is this, how in the devil did Perry plate the 10¢? Answer that question please.

I have the official Perry photographs used in Perry's plating article in the C. C. P. I got these from Lindquist several years ago. Several weeks ago I was going over these carefully and noted especially that the great majority of positions he illustrated look like the stamps were unused. This may mean little and it may mean much. If he used copies with red cancels then a photographer could have eliminated the red cancels with a red filter. If he didn't do these then Perry used 200 unused copies, all different positions or else he illustrated plate proofs. One cannot be certain because in his illustrations he cut out so much of the stamps - In nearly all he eliminated not only the medallion but most of the label "Ten Cents."

I always thought that the Emerson copy was the original discovery item, but this is rong because you state positively in your article that the Payne copy was discovered first. My record shows that Payne discovered this copy so perhaps he is entitled to the credit. I have a letter from Fred Schinalzreidt of Detroit stating he was on a visit to Payne at the time Payne found the copy and that Doc offered it to him at \$700, but Fred places the date of this visit as the Autumn of 1928. Kelleher told me he bought this copy from Payne and sold it to Sweet.

Regarding the Emerson copy. Fred wrote me that this copy was discovered by Paulson of Chicago - He dug up an old letter from Paulson dated Nov. 29, 1927, stating he had just discovered the stamp and offered it to him at \$250. Fred wrote - "Soon after this Jacobs went East and sold the copy to Emerson." So I guess there is no doubt the Payne copy was the original. I am sure Doc would give me the full history if I wrote him requesting same.

Doc I manage to keep friendly with the whole stamp pack, because I find it is the best policy. Konwiser is not a bad chap and I have nothing against him. I may be doing him an injustice but I think he has the idea he is a leading authority when in fact his knowledge is very little. When it comes to actual stamps, his knowledge is nil.

Dr. Carroll Chase - Jan. 19, 1940.

I think perhaps you judge him by the articles he had written. He is quite a likable fellow if you know him. Very modest and totally unlike the average kike. All the boys down East seem to like him so it is not surprising Larry Mason is doing an act with him. I am on friendly terms with Souren and also with Colson. I wrote you in my last re - the Colson-Souren faud - at present - quiet reigns. Colson will do nothing to stir it up but I wouldn't be surprised if Souren published some more stuff about the Crimson Rambler.

I agree with you on Maerz. His book cannot be compared to the Ridgway and I told him this last summer in Harry's office. He went to lunch with Harry and I, and he is really quite a nice chap etc.

The Hoen Company are going to publish a new edition of Ridgway but no date is set for its appearance. I wrote them about it months ago and they promised to advise me when it would be published.

Re - the Confed Frame Line plating. I have five unplaced positions as follows: #13 - 37 - 64 - 86 and 87. I imagine I am going to have one devil of a time locating any of these, but still one can never tell and I may strike pay dirt at any time. I wish I could show you my work on this plate. You alone would appreciate it more than anyone else. It has been an intensely interesting piece of work. When I calmly consider how intensely I have studied these copper plate stamps it does sound rather silly to me when anyone expresses the opinion that the 1847 stamps were printed from Steel plates. If I could sit down with you like we were want to do in the old days I could show you a number of things that prove copper and disprove steel. Gee but I wish you were over here so we could work together. I have a subject which is almost as interesting as plating.

It is the markings on U. S. covers used abroad. It is extremely complicated and a marvelous study. How I wish I had you to work on this subject with me. The surface has not been scratched and it is a study which is not only intensely interesting but one which can be made to prove very valuable. It is the only safe method to detect faked covers, You went strong for foreign rates but you never go into the actual meanings of the markings and what various rates actually meant. I have made remarkable progress on this subject in the last four years.

I intended to have a second article on the 5¢ 1847 in the second issue of the "Stamp Specialist" but was not able to turn it out in time. I hope to have it ready with some fine illustrations for the third number, that is, if my 1860 Imperf article does not take up too much space in that number.

I am enclosing herewith a letter I received this week from Charlie Phillips. I intend to borrow the items he mentioned and photograph them and write a little article about each one. Will you please give me the pedigree of the two 3¢ blocks. Surely you can recall the history of both.

I would like to quote you on the pedigree of these two items so give me all the data you can. I am conversant with the mention in your book of the Plate 18 crack. This, I will refer to as a plate flaw rather than a crack.

Dr. Carroll Chase - Jan. 19, 1940.

Instead of joining the Army I think you had better come back home.

With best of regards and all good wishes,

Yours as ever,

La Ville Hue St Briae ILLE- ET. VILAINE Dran Slaw ! -Stamp Specialist will I sederi get ter , at unaber ) ten genterday! a bit slow, the post - sie say. naturally the point thing I need was you two articles Bolano! very fine. Det of curiosity, what are the 5 positions and of placed - outer luie, & course. Dim glad you wrote up the 475 a bet. For bad it cause be done throughly. By the way have you definite proof that's proof that's proof y the 5th bed 200 strup.? I you'd isn't I possible that it had only 100 o we me ? The tim "100 on" destroyed according I Suffi affedavet. - Due 108 "100 on revig bary the 100 blate? Regarding The 54,647 straddle cheir. 3 believe 3 was the great to sport one I these. I wrote them who will a plante, in the aucresan Obelalelest for Dolph, perhaps 12 to 14 new years ago. Sook up the article when you have time. I don't keem whether you rave a file , an a.C. or und. So I was the first to descrive theat "Boates 102" ) my original article, were really only , place ) Two faces. Or at least 3 believe I was. Du rest que si essue dorani strike une as so very let. out don't tel Sudquist 3 said as. Du artiel by Konawiser + Soury Mason ( how did the latter come & hildh up with that Kile? ? I won't be worth augeting of source. What's the waves with Ju? How is the Colon . Jonam. suchabitch continuny getting along? very quiet in This region. Sord! But I de min Pain! In leach as got in getting back into the Gravach arrang. The was basut reach begun on land except in Poland or Fuland. Oh! Du derty Russain! How shate them! Here are very best wisher for very keerry Xuea &a Hoppy how year for grade - with cits of peace. Very best as over Cause Clean.

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 24, 1940.

Dr. Carroll Chase,
La Villie Hue,
St. Briac
(Ille Et Vilanie)
France.

Dear Doc:

Your letter of Feb. 4th received some weeks ago but this is the first op ortunity I have had to reply. This is Easter Sunday and a darn cold one for this time of the year. Down to 20 this morning. We have had a very severe winter and there has been an awful lot of grippe and flu in this locality. In fact I am just recovering from a two weeks attack of the flu and still am far from being well. Naturally I suppose you have also suffered from the long cold spell which seems to have covered all parts of the U.S. and Europe.

I tried to locate on my map just where you are living at present but with tittle success. Are you near the City of Rennes? I suppose you are in some small village, if so what is the object of living out in a small country town, and how do you manage to kill time? I am wondering if you have seen the first two numbers of Lindquist's "Stamp Specialist." If not please let me know, because I do want you to see the third number, because it will contain my very lengthy article on the "12¢ - 24¢ - 30¢ and 90¢ Imperfs of 1860."

I have some new stuff in this article which I think will prove highly interesting to you. I am pursuing a policy of using molasses with Hugh instead of vinegar and I am meeting with some success. Perry used the vinegar method and as a result made Clark so mad he even refuses to read any article published by Elliott. I am using the reverse method as you will note in the article. I submitted the entire manuscript to Hugh and told him he was perfectly free to blue pencil any part he considered rough on him. As a result I got his complete co-operation as you will note when you read the published article.

Re - the Colson-Souren feud. There is nothing new. Colson so far has treated the Souren attack with silence but believe me the Souren attack hurt him, thanks God. I suppose there was no question in your mind but what the majority of the items that Colson submitted to Martin were junk and some were outright rakes. I think this is the general feeling. Souren was all primed to hit back hard on any reply from Colson and I have little doubt Souren would have come out on top. I think Colson is a dirty rat and I think he has been getting away with murd r for years. He goes around trying to make everyone believe he is the only one who knows a thing about stamps when the fact is he knows d --- little about 19th Century U. S. As between Souren and Colson, I'll take Souren every time. He may be a slick crook as they say he is, but I have more respect for a slick crook than one who is a dumb cluck and who has a foul tongue. No one in this game has as foul a tongue as Colson. I have several scores to settle with the Crimson Rambler and believe me if I ever get a chance to crucify him I'll do so gladly.

Dr. Carroll Chase - March 24, 1940.

Gordon Harmer is still in New York but so far I have heard of no big collections he has been able to line up. All the dealers are sore at him and there is a lot of criticism about a Britisher coming over here, doing business, and cutting auction charges. I think the Brown sale must have made his firm think it was very soft picking over here. He was due to come out and visit me but so far he hasn't showed up. The impression is that Cole and Konwiser were ill paid by Harmer for all the work they did on the Brown sale. I do not know how much truth there is to this talk.

Re - the 5¢ 1847. I am enclosing a photo of a variety which I had nover noted until about a year ago. I now have a record of three copies so the variety is consistent. It comes from Plate One as the photo is of a copy on cover showing use early in 1848. The owner of the original copy took it for granted it was your "Dot in U" variety. You made no mention of this in your 1916 article and I cannot imagine why you omitted same as it is rather outstanding and was surely known to you. Put a glass on the "dot" in right part of the "U" and you will note it is two small horizontal lines. There is a line in the "S" of "Post" and two lines in the "W". I cannot figure the origin of the lines, but feel sure they are not a double transfer, i.e., came from the relief. There must have been some scratches on the plate or perhaps the best theory is that some foreign substances adhered to the relief and were transferred to the plate. But if this is correct where was the pressure to transfer? By this, I mean the white part of the "T" (plate) on the relief was a sunken spot, hence notmated back of the horizontal lines to force the impression into the plate. What do you think was the cause of this variety?

Gene Klein had an outstanding sale on the 8th of this month. It was advertised as material from the "Wharton Sinkler" collection. The first fifty lots were 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 covers from the Henry C. Gibson collection. Two Ward customers now selling thru Klein.

The sale grossed some \$80,000 so I understand and much to everyone's surprise Souren attended and bought over half the sale. In fact his total was \$46,000. Where he gets the cash is a profound mystery.

Note the following:

Block of 4 - 1g Pan American Invert \$1250.

All three items bought by Souren. Note the Columbian dollar blocks of four:

\$1.00					\$155	order /
		462				
2.00	-	-	-	400	525.	Souren
3.00	49	-	-	-	700.	
4.00	-	-	-	-	1600.	
5.00	-	*	-	-	1100.	
	Tot	ta.	L		\$4080.	

Dr. Carroll Chase - March 24, 1040.

It seems there is no top for these blocks. In Oct. 1937 my friend Bill West sold a very fine set of the above to Spence And rson for \$2,000 and I thought he got quite a good price.

The "Premieres" didn't do so well. I think my constant nagging is having some effect. Note the following:

1¢ August - \$1200 - Robinette
3¢ "Block of four - \$55. order
5¢ "\$260. "
10¢ "Block of four - \$330. Ward
12¢ "\$1250 Ward
30¢ "\$285 "
90¢ "700 order
90¢ "Imperf \$150. order

In the 5g - 10g 1847 - two Wheeling "precancels" sold

5¢ on cover \$1300 order 10¢ " crease \$100. order.

A nice strip of three - top margin wide - on cover went to Souren at \$370.

No doubt you have read about this sale and the prices realized in the press but in case you haven't I thought you would be interested.

The Garfield Perry is having quite a big celebration on the 29th and 31st of this month. I have been invited as a special guest and am slated to be elected an honorary member of the Club. I do not know whether I'll be able to attend or not because I am still far from well, but I am going if I can possibly do so. Newbury is exhibiting with Jacobs in charge so it would be nice to see Ernie and spend a few days with him and Alvin. It is too bad you are so far away you cannot attend parties like this one. It is the Golden Jubelee celebration of the Club.

They tell me that Charley Phillips is nearing the end of his rope. Cancer of the rectum so they say. I also understand Charley has been hard pressed for cash. Sure is too bad to be so ill and in addition have to worry with financial problems. I naturally thought he was well fixed financially. He certainly made a lot of money in the past in this game. I wonder where it all went.

Well Doc I have given you about all the gossip I have on tap, so write me a long letter and let me know how you are and how you spend your time.

Mildred joins me in best wishes. It sure would be good to see you and I am hoping and praying the time is not far distant when you will at least return for a visit.

Sincerely yours,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 23, 1940.

Mr. Warren H. Colson, 260 Clarendon St., Boston 17 Mass.

Dear Warren:

I am enclosing herewith a print of the Carhart cover with the scarce "Via N" marking. This I made especially for you. You will note the Nicaragua routing is per S. S. Brother Jonathan of May 16, 1854. This is the correct date of the sailing of this ship and the mail carried on this trip was brought to New York by the Nicaragua bine S. S. "Star of the West" which arrived at night on June 8th, 1854 and hence the mail was deposited in the N.Y. Post Office and handstamped "Jum 9."

I have a fairly accurate record of all the Micaragua ship sailings, both from S.F. and New York and also arrivals at both ports. This data is quite helpful when a fake cover shows up. For example, a fellow in Chicago who is a perfect louse, ob sined from a certain source some covers which came from an original find but had the stamps removed. Several of these covers had genuine via Nicaragua handstamps. The Louse obtained these covers from which pairs of the 3¢ 1851 and bhaglesmoredpeald/ch855hem for nothing. He promptly put on them, pairs of the og 1851 and singles of the 10g 1855, and selected such stamps which required very little painting to make them tie on. Then he proceeded to sell the laked items at exhorbitant He had no knowledge of the dates year by year when Micaragua mail was deposited in the New York Fost Office, hence a substituted pair of the 3¢ 1851 naturally bore a month and day which was all wrong. In other words no via Nicaragua ship arrived at New York at this period and no via Nicaragua mail was deposited in the New York Post Office on the month and day his cover purported to show.

With your last letter in mind I suppose one who possesses in understanding of stamps could have immediately sensed the item was faked. But what value can we put on mere opinions where no positive evidence is produced to substantiate same? In the case of the above cover, I can prove the thing is a fake not only from one angle but from several. I will cite. First, the New York handstamp was of a type not used at the same period the "Via N" handstamp was used. This is not merely supposition but there was a reason why the N.Y. handstamp was discontinued. The pair of 3d 1851 were from a plate from which stamps were issued, and used at a period much earlier than the "Via N" handstamp thus of little value because early printed stamps could have been used at any later date. It is merely a point. The N.Y. handstamp was used for a certain class of mail - its use on ship mail - such as the Via N mail is unknown and it is highly improbable it was ever used for such mail. I have in mind one special cover in the lot the Chicago crook fixed up. Now this party is a member of the A.P.S. - and quite a few supposedly decent chaps correspond with him and buy items from him. In certain circles he is supposed to be enough of an authority to be listed as a member of a jury to judge exhibitions.

Mr. Warren H. Colson - Jan. 23, 1940.

I am on very friendly terms with several of your Nassau St. friends but I am not even on speaking terms with the Chicago party. This calls to mind a story my father used to tell years ago, about a very prominent attorney in my home town. He was a dyed in the wool democrat and for years had boasted that he would vote for anyone who ran on the democratic ticket even if it was a yellow dog. Then came 1896 and Bryan and the old colonel was broken hearted and sadly stated he could not vote for such a crack pot. When reminded of his ardent adherence in the past to the party and his boast that he would vote even for a yellow dog, if he had no other choicebetween a democrat and a republican, he replied, "And so I did, Sir, but I'll be G-- D--- if I will go any lower."

My best regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S. -- I enclose you a photo of a cover with a 3d 1857, tied by the "Steamship 10". You are familiar with the foreign stamp. Shall we call this a bisect? Suppose for an example, what if one of your valued clients put this cover up to you for an opinion, what would you say regarding it? Where would you say the "Steamship 10" applied?

S.B.A.

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 13, 1940.

Mr. Warren H. Colson, 269 Clarendon St., Boston, Mass.

My dear Warren:

Thanks for the photo of your 3¢ Bisect cover. Not a very good reproduction and one has to use a little imagination to read the "Via N" handstamp. If you care to send me the cover, I will make a fine negative for you and present it to you with my compliments.

If it wasn't for that Carhart cover I would have little faith in these two bisects because frankly I do not like the grid on either one. I find I haven't a duplicate print of the Carhart cover, so I will have to hunt up the negative and make one for you. This I will do shortly.

Regarding the 3¢ 1869 cover. Please bear in mind I never condemmed this cover, because as you are aware, the only time I ever saw it was at the hotel when you were here last summer. From the illustrations I have seen I would hardly say it is not above suspicion.

I am wondering if your reference to the 5¢ 1857 Orange Brown was the Kleeman incident I told you about some years back. If you will refer to back files of the A.P. you will find that Chase and I published lists as early as the early 1920's of the earliest known uses of various early U. S. stamps. I think these old lists will show that the earliest use we had seen of a stamp from Plate 2 was May 1860, the Brown, and July 1861 of an Orange Brown. Naturally when Kleeman submitted a cover to me in February of 1935 with an Orange Brown used in August 1859 I did not need anyone to tell me the cover was a fake. Hence my dear Warren I see no reason why you should be under the impression you had given me some information I did not possess.

I quite agree with you Warren that one can hardly have a comprehensive knowledge of stamps by simply studying official records. I do think a thorough knowledge includes not only a thorough understanding of stamps, that is, the plates, varieties, impressions, various colors, etc. etc., but in addition, the uses, rates, postal markings and the official documents of the period. I have made an earnest effort along these lines but if I have failed to acquire a proper understanding I do not care particularly, because I make no claim that I am any sort of an expert, much less an authority. I have been honest in my desire to improve Philately in my modest way and what contributions I have made from my pen are a matter of record

Mr. Warren H. Colson - Jan. 18, 1940.

and the philatelic world is privileged, so far as I am concerned, to judge ill or good of what contributions I have made. If my knowledge of stamps is very meagre in your estimation, I do trust you will not hold it against me.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 20, 1940.

Mr. R. B. Preston,
P. O. Box 1832,
San Juan
Puerto Rico.

Dear Mr. Preston:

I am in receipt of yours of the 12th enclosing the cover, Boston to Havana in 1848. I am rather disposed to believe the marking is the same as similar ones I have seen on various covers. Does it not read,

"Empresa Date N. America".

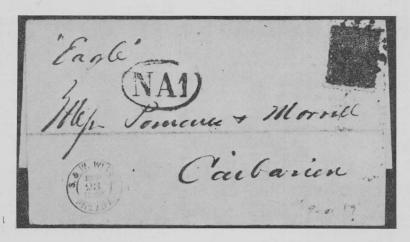
I am enclosing you herewith a photo of a cover from New Orleans to Havana, May 27, 1851. On the fack of this, in yellow is "Empresa, 31 May 1851, N. America." You will note on the face of the cover was a "1" in the same yellow ink. Naturally the red "Paid 12½" was applied at New Orleans. I have a record of another cover stated to be in orange, but no doubt the same yellow, with the same wording with date "18 Mar 1850." This cover was from Wilmington, N.C. to Havana and was routed via the "S. S. Isabel." This was the U. S. Mail Steamer on the contract run from Charleston via Key West to Havana.

Your cover is of a date prior to the establishment of the Charleston-Havana Route, and also before the establishment of the New York via Havana to Chagres Mail Line, therefore it was not deposited in the Boston Post Office, but was handed to a sailing ship for transmission. There were no steam vessels at that time operating between Boston or New York and Havana. I therefore think we are quite safe in assuming that both the "l" and the "Empresa" were not applied aboard any ships but most certainly at the Havana Post Office. Havana used this same blue ink in after years and unquestionably it was in use there at the period of the 1848 cover.

Mannel Hahn wrote me that "Empressa" is the Spanish for "Company" or could mean "Project" or "Undertaking." I do not see the sense of this, so perhaps you can furnish a better explanation for the word. At any rate, you will note that here are four covers with Empresa" - 1848 - 1850, and all three from different sources and by different routes.

I would appreciate a record of any other covers you have or that you discover with this "Empresa" marking.

With kindest regards, Cordially yours,



### "NA1" Markings On First Class Mail To Cuba

By W. L. Babcock, M. D., P. O. Box, 1008, St. Petersburg, Fla.

(Our subscribers are urged to take advantage of the department "Notes on U. S. Stamps". It is a regular feature, and queries will be answered as promptly as possible.)

Specialists have noted for several years the marking shown in the illustration without having a clear understanding of its meaning. This marking has not been found on any other mail than first class mail to Cuba. Practically all covers seen were business correspondence originating in New York or Philadelphia. Stanley B. Ashbrook states that at the period of use of this marking, first class mail prepaid with U. S. stamps was only valid to the Cuban frontier. Deliveries of mail were made by the steamships at Havana and further payment was made by the recipient on delivery. At the time we had no postal treaty with Spain or her colonies. He surmises that this marking was applied in the Cuban post office and suggests it may have been a notation of postage due. One might further suggest that the numeral indicates a single rate. Furthermore, does the "NA" stand for North American mail deliveries, assuming that the marking was applied at the Havana

post office?

It is believed that this marking "NA" exists without the numeral and, possibly, with the numeral 2 to indicate a double rate. Mr. Ashbrook states that inquiries were made at the Cuban post office as to the meaning of the marking. Cuban postal officials replied that they had no information whatever on the subject. From the covers studied, the dates covered the period 1857-1858. The cover illustrated is dated Sept. 23, 1858, and is one of six from the same Philadelphia business house to Cuban correspondents.

Collectors having covers with this marking addressed to points other than Cuba, or further information, are requested to write Stanley B. Ashbrook, 434 S. Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.,

or the writer.

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# Stop Press News

## Coming Issues

By J. AVERY WELLS.

French Colonies — Stamp Collecting state that 52 new stamps from 18 different colonies were scheduled to be placed on sale December 4th. The values are as follows:

Dahomey—90c.
French Equatorial Africa—2.25f.
French Guiana—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
French Guinea—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
French Sudan—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
Guadaloupe—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
Inini—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
Ivory Coast—90c, 2.25f.
Madagascar—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
Martinique—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
Mauretania—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
New Caledonia—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
Niger—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.
Reunion—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.

## Washington Notes

By D. H. DAVENPORT.

Items of Interest to Collectors Gleaned from Annual Report of Postmaster General

In his annual report on the Post Office Department covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, Postmaster General James A. Farley revealed that shipments to post offices of postage stamps in sheets, coils and books totaled 15,262,089,147

St. Pierre and Miquelon—60c, 70c, 90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.

Senegal—90c, 1.25f, 2.25t. Somali Coast—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f. Wallis and Futuna—90c, 1.25f, 2.25f.

We understand that as yet only a very few have reached New York.

Italy — Stamp Collecting note that a short series of three stamps is to commemorate the centenary of the State Railways, the values being 20c, 50c and 1.25L.

Liechtenstein — Mr. Maury Swartz advises us that two Liechtenstein stamps, the 2f green and 3f blue, are to be issued in sheets of twelve stamps, and were expected to be placed on sale during December.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I received your letter of January 18th shortly after having mailed mine of the 22nd in which I passed on some remarks concerning what I think the "N A 1" and "N A 2" markings probably referred to.

Although I have no actual proof I am reasonably sure that this marking stood for "Norte America, due one postal rate". On page 247 of the January AP I show a somewhat similar marking that had been puzzling me; now with your markings used at Habana I am of the opinion that these were applied at Habana and San Juan on incoming mail from the states to indicate origin and amount of local charges to be collected.

Unfortunately I have never been fortunate enough to see a single cover from the states addressed to PR. That may seem strange, but it only indicates how really scarce covers are here. Stamp hunters were too active I fear.

At the period of your covers the "inland rate" per half ounce letter was  $\frac{1}{2}$  real, with an additional  $\frac{1}{2}$  real for each half ounce. The marking that I reproduced on page 247 of the January AP was only saved as a small clipping, but fortunately one shows a portion of a Baltimore circular (not oval as incorrectly used) postmark so I can assume that the original covers were from the states.

I have a number of foreign incoming covers dated between 1870 and 1875. None from the states, but on each I find a numeral marking and an equivelant number of stamps. When a 1 is used there is one stamp (paying the single letter rate); a 2 and two stamps, and one cover has a 3 with three stamps. Two such covers are pictured on the enclosed photos. Please return photos when you have finished with them. I think the cover with the single stamp is a remarkable cover - note it was mailed in England, missent to Costa Rica, stamped at the British PO in Panama (Colon) and upon arrival in PR postage due was collected by means of a Spanish Colonial stamp.

I have sent our a hurry call to a European dealer asking for US covers addressed to Puerto Rico. There is a very slight possibility that I might be able to secure some as this chap turns up some wonderful things. Should I run across any further information I will advise you.

Yours very truly

P. O. Box 1832, San Juan, P. R. Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook, \$34 S. Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

In a recent number of Mekeel's, Dr. Babcock pictured and commented upon a cover, from the states addressed to Cuba which bore a NAI, within a circle. He requested that information regarding this marking be forwarded to you.

There is no doubt but that this is a Spanish Colonial rating mark, denoting the amount of postal charges to be collected from the addressee. It is in the same class as the Boston and New York "British Packet" markings.

Pedro Monge, in his "Matasellos Espanoles de Ultramar" (Spanish Overseas Colonial Postmarks) shows a similar mark as having been innuse at Havana in 1871. The mark he shows lacks the numeral however.

I note that in the 70's it was the practice here in San Juan to rate incoming foreign letters in "single letter postal rate units" instead of in units of value or units of weight. For instance I have letters, received at the time when the domestic Puerto Rican postal rates were 25c, rated "1" and assessed 25c due charges. Others are rated "2" and 50c was collected, and one one there is found a "3" and the due charges are shown by three 25c Puerto Rican stamps. It is therefore very probable that the cover pictured was "due 1 real" as the internal rate at this time was ½ real. Too bad stamps were not also affixed and cancelled.

Yours very truly

R. B. Breston

R. B. Preston, P. O. Box 1832, San Juan, Puerto Rico 434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 18, 1940.

Mr. R. B. Preston,
P. O. Box 1360,
San Juan,
Puerto Rica.

Dear Mr. Preston:

Your letter of the 9th received and I am pleased to learn that the cut arrived safe and that it was satisfactory.

I am hoping you can help me out on a little problem. I am enclosing you a clipping from Mekeel's Weekly of Jan. 18th. Can you tell me what the "N A" means?

So far as I am aware, the "N A" was only used at Havana on mail from the U.S. Perhaps I am wrong. I assumed it meant North America but this must be wrong.

We had no postal treaty with Spain at the period this was used, hence mail from this country could only be paid to the Cuban Frontier. The Cuban "inland" was due on delivery. On single rate letters, we find an "N A 1" - on double rates an "N A 2". Various types of handstamps were used at various periods in the 1850's and 1860's, consisting of types as per the Babcock cover and separate "N A" and "1" and "2". I do not ever recall seeing a triple "3" or a quad "4." All mail from this country had to be prepaid either to Havana or Matanzas. Cuban inland could not be prepaid in this country.

No doubt the correct answer is the equivalent in Spanish for "Inland postage due single rate" or "double rate" etc. I have no idea of what the single rate was in Spanish money or whether the "1" or "2" stood for the Spanish sum or meant "single rate" or "double rate."

I wrote to the Cuban Post Office Department some weeks ago but strange to relate, they could not furnish any information.

By any possible chance, have you any covers to Puerte Rica in the 1850's or early 1860's from the U. S.? It would be interesting to learn what markings such items bore and if they resembled in any way the Cuban "N A 1" etc.

Any information you can furnish me will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

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1 :ar C. S. A.'s:

F course, we are all interested in the coming American Hero Series and gratified to learn that one stamp of this set will honor the two great Confederate Leaders, General Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson. Although consigned to the least-used denomination—the 4c.—we may be assured that this stamp will become the rarest of the set.

I trust you are reading the articles concerning the design, which have appeared in May and June. If you think the suggestion offered by the writer of sufficient dignity, sentiment and historical value, please follow the movement now on in Virginia and write your Senator or/and Congressman, urging its adoption. Yes, write direct to the President about it.

The patriotic societies of Richmond and the neighboring districts, in mass-meeting, have endorsed this design, and the press of this city has given front page space to the Lee-Jackson stamp with "The Last Meeting in the foreground. Frederick Halpin engraved it on steel, which fact makes it of singular interest to collectors of Confederates.

Fall in line and help "get it across"! Since we are to have but one "Confederate" stamp, let it be the bearer of sentiment and peace and good will and at the same time historic and artistic.

A membership of seventy-six is quite encouraging when you consider the limited object of our Alliance and the fact that we have never engaged in propaganda or instituted an intensive drive for

candidates. But our roll should be increased to twice this number before activities begin in the Fall.

Here it is:

Ashbrook, Stanley B., 64 Arcadia Drive, Lakeside Park, Fort Mitchell, Ky. Ashburn, Paul, 224 S. Main St., Winston-

Salem, N. C.

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Barry, R. A., Stamp Editor Herald Tribune, New York, N. Y.

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David, Dr. M. P. von, Box 1181, San Antonio, Tex.

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lanta, Ga.

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Harris, Harry, John Marshall Hotel, Richmond, Va.

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Park Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

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Scheer, George F., 1411 E. Main St., Richmond, Va.

Schumacher, A. H., 907 Harold Avenue, Houston, Tex.

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Stone, William Carlos, 21 Princeton St.,

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Weatherly, A. Earl, E3, Irving Park Manor,

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Orleans, La. Weill, Roger G., 407 Royal St., New Or-

leans, La.

Wellford, J. McD., 409 W. Franklin St., Richmond, Va.

Wiseman, Robert, 840 Main St., Danville, Virginia.

Woodward, M. C., 120 N. Daisy Street, Morristown, Tenn.

Womack, C. R. Jr., 212 W. Broad Street, Cookeville, Tenn.

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March 7, 1940

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY was started by the New York Philatelic Society with Vol I #1 March 1, 1868. This ran to Vol XII #156 of Dec. 20, 1878 when thetitle was changed to AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY AND COIN ADVERTISER and was published by Scott & Co. Under this revised title the publication ran from Vol XIII #1 of Jan 1879 through Vol XX March 1886. During this second phase, the paper appeared as a quarterly, in fact during 1884, 1885 and 1886 there were only two issues in each of these yers.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY -- SECOND SERIES was started by Scott Stamp & Coin Co. with a new numbering scheme in 1888. Their Vol I #1 was issued in February 1888 and they ran the publication continuously through to Vol XIX #12 which is dated Decembe 1906. There were 228 issues in 19 Volumes.

Our duplicate stock can supply Vols. I-II-III-IV-V VIII-IX-X-XI of the original series.

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We would make a price of thirty (#30.00) dollars for the volumes of the ORIGINAL SERIES we have tooffer and on the SECOND SERIES we would make a flat price of twenty (\$20.00) dollars shipping BOUND volumes wherever we had them, otherwise unbound. Since you already have some of the volumes, we would allow you for these at rate of #1.00 per volume for those which you have and not ship duplicates. Inother words, the complete

SECOND SERIES would cost you eighteen (\$18.00) dollars since you already have two of them which we just sent - Vols X and XII

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Will be glad to send along anything you desire in way of single volumes, but we could only furnish UNBOUND volumes in these singles. The offer made above is more to your advantage since we are offering BOUND volumes at price of unbound, when they are available, while the entire set is taken.

Yours very truly

THE COLLECTORS CLUB

W. Lloyd Heath

For Library Committee

WLH: H

## COPY

FOR INFORMATION OF Stanley B. Ashbrook
FROM CLARENCE WILSON BRAZER, REGISTERED ARCHITECT
CROZER BLDG., CHESTER, PA. 232 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK CITY

484

May 1, 1940

Mr. W. C. Bond, Superintendent Library of Congress Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bond:

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook has forwarded me your letter to him of April 27th in regard to the Mason's Essay Numbers used in the chapter I wrote for his book. These are taken from "Essays For United States Postage Stamps" by Edward H. Mason published by the Handbook Committee of the American Philatelic Society, 1911 and long out of print. It is 90 pages 41 x 61 paper bound and a supplement, "More Essays for United States Postage Stamps" by the same author, April 1912, 16 pages brings the listing up to date as he knew it. I have one copy of each of the above in unused condition for sale \$37.50 and might be able to obtain one or two more to fill orders. It is the only known nearly complete book on the subject. He also wrote, "The Proofs and Essays for U. S. Envelopes" published 1911 by J. M. Bartels Co., 7 John St. N. Y. C.

Several years ago when the late Ernest A. Ackerman willed his monumental collection of U. S. Proofs and Essays to the Congressional Library, I was requested of my friend Dr. Leicester B. Holland to tell him about the paltry three volumes received which I told him were only a small portion of his collection and in no sense a worthy memorial to Mr. Ackerman. Many of these are wrongly

COPY

FOR INFORMATION OF Stanley B. Ashbrook

FROM CLARENCE WILSON BRAZER, REGISTERED ARCHITECT

CROZER BLOG, CHESTER, PA. (232 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK CITY

described on the pages upon which they are mounted and should be remounted and corrected for truth.

Your Clarence H. Eagle Collection of U. S. Revenue Stamp
Proofs and Essays is monumental, the poorly mounted and described.
The only fairly complete (the indefinite) listing of these Revenue
Proofs was written by George L. Toppan and published by the Scott
Stamp and Coin Co. N. Y. C. in 1904 entitled, "A Tentative Check
List of the Proofs of the Adhesive Postage and Revenue Stamps of
the United States" which you probably have, as it was copyrighted.
I do not know of any published list of U. S. Revenue Essays.
Scott's U. S. Catalog has a more complete listing of the known
Proofs and Trial Color Proofs of U. S. Adhesive Postage & Revenue
Stamps but the trial color list is only a beginning.

I have in preparation A Historical Catalog of U. S. Stamp Essays and Proofs, the first part The Omaha, Trans-Mississippi Issue, 1898 was copyrighted in 1939.

If there is any further information desired about U. S. Essays and Proofs, I will be delighted to be of service.

Faithfully yours,

Cup

Clarence W. Brazer

CWB:SG

#### Y. SOUREN CO.

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

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

May 16, 1940

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

In my desire to give you a full and complete answer to your two letters I overlooked one point; that is, in regard to the 24¢ #60 and #70b.

I think you can realize that as one grows older his viewpoint on many things change. I have come to the conclusion I am not handling any stamps until a certainty in my own mind has been established as to the soundness and correctness of what I offer. Knowing these two stamps to be frequently misclassified I deliberately refrained from handling them until the Philatelic Research Laboratories have provided, through their study, an absolutely certain means of providing correct classification.

I also forgot to tell you about Mr. Martin's 24¢ invert block. It might interest you to know that Mr. Lichtenstein did not request the block to be exhibited in New York, and that at the last moment the committee at Washington prevailed upon me to show it there. I cannot help expressing a little disappointment about the Collectors Club exhibition. Here was a great opportunity to do something for the public. The New York press gave preliminary plans a big write-up and everyone was under the impression that the public would be invited, and when the exhibition was finally held it was limited to members and a limited number of guests.

When one of the members invited me as a guest I could not refrain from telling him how I felt in the matter. Here was the opportunity for what has been called the foremost collectors organization in the country to do something for the public on the most momentous occasion which has as yet taken place in postal history, instead, it was handled as a "closed corporation". Of course, the excuse was limited facilities for display, but an organization like the Collectors Club could easily have secured larger quarters for such an event. I feel they fell far short of what was expected of them.

If I had known what it was going to be I would not have hesitated to spend a few hundred dollars and with the assistance of many of my friends put on an exhibition for the real collecting public, giving them an opportunity to see the things they read about for to some people there is quite as much pleasure in looking at stamps as in actual ownership.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely Yours,

Y. SOUREN CO.

#### Y. SOUREN CO.

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

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

May 15, 1940

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

There are two letters of yours which I have to answer. I had intended answering your first one before this, but have been so extremely busy so I will reply to them one by one.

For quite sometime I have realized that your time and knowledge have been entitled to more than words of praise, and that you were deserving of substantial acknowledgment. While I have not told you of this and would not if you hadn't written me so frankly, when Mr. Carhart told me you had some intention of establishing yourself in New York I made my effort to see that he would receive your support in obtaining stamps for his collection. I know that he has purchased a number of items from you, all of which are appropriate for his collection. In order to do this I purposely refrained from showing him anything I might have in the lines of his interests, and recently when I would bring out a few things all he could do was query why I had not shown them to him before. That, however, is beside the point.

I want you to know that I am one who admires your accomplishments and capacity for philatelic research, coupled with your efforts to raise the level of philately. Anyone who labors to the extent that you do becomes a candidate for the poor house by devoting the amount of time and effort you have done without compensation. I have made my own sacrifices since the Laboratories were established. Of course, certain petty individuals have been trying to discourage the Laboratory by presenting problem after problem of petty nature, trying to discredit the activities. It has even gone so far as to report to the federal authorities that the Laboratory activities were illegal. A conference of two hours was sufficient to convince the government authorities that the work done in the Laboratories is not alone a benefit to philately, but of assistance in some of their work, and as a result of this conference we, not alone, have permission to continue, but the active support and encouragement of certain government departments.

As a result of this I pay absolutely no attention to certain sources which are trying to tax my business to such an extent that I would be compelled to give up the Laboratories. However, whatever we are doing will only be given to the public through open publication. The Laboratories are still in an embryonic stage, but enough has been accomplished to change the entire aspect of philately. I don't have to tell you what effect it has on the many who are posing as experts. However, the work of the Laboratories has been sufficient to cause me to approach any subject without any preconceived opinions.

The reason I wrote you in regard to seeing your name in the Harmer catalogue is that I have been preaching certain things; whether I am right or wrong I maintain my principles. You undoubtedly know that every three weeks or so we hold mail

sales. In the various collections offered there are occasional examples of stamps which, today, we cannot accept as regular postal issues. Before we had no reason to question these as stamps, and since they were generally accepted, we listed them on a basis of Scott's catalogue. Now, since in our own minds we are fully convinced that such items are not postage stamps, we stated so in our catalogue; and curiously enough have been receiving higher bids for the things.

Well, as I said before you have to make a living and through your own labor, and I congratulate you on that stand. Now, to the second letter, you can see from what I have written before that the work of the Laboratories has shown definitely that there is a great deal of knowledge which must be "unlearned" regarding previously held conceptions of certain United States stamps.

The question you bring out most prominently is that of the 3¢ pink. I distinctly remember the book you brought to my office not so long ago in which you had graded 3¢ 1851-61 according to color. Almost immediately I took my private collection and went over it very carefully. To speak frankly, I questioned mentally some of your classifications. I brought out a mint block of 3¢ pink, but did not mention about the quantities of the used stamps which I have. The Laboratories have worked for days and days to uncover a means by which a 3¢ pink can be determined accurately. They have found that eyesight is one thing and scientific examination another. These tests have shown that the stamps of the "pink" classification are printed with an ink the pigments of which are entirely different from the rose pigments. The ink is of a distinctly different character.

Every stamp in the book sent Mr. Ireton offered as pink was printed with the ink of this distinctive pigment, and did not involve eyesight. Do you think we would have sent them out without confirmation of the pigment? One cannot use the "pigeon blood pink" as a criterion. It is a beautiful color, of course, but only one of many shade variations in this stamp. I know the color well. I have at least two on cover, but to compare the "pigeon blood" with ordinary pink shades is like comparing quintuplets to a normal birth. Do you know of any dealer who could give such a wide selection of the rare stamps included in the book in selected condition? There is a difference between advertising an item and supplying it. We don't advertise unless there are at least 100 specimens on hand, and they are all confirmed before being offered.

If I recall correctly you had a 3¢ pink with a peculiar cancellation used at Cooperstown, New York. The shade of the stamp is distinctive and as far as I know has not been found used from any other town. I conclude from this that the stamps were all from a single consignment, perhaps experimental. I would suggest that you take this stamp and hold it before a strong light and you will see something interesting. It is a good example of how one can be fooled by his own eyesight.

I agree thoroughly with you that one must have the knowledge and background before he can undertake the study of stamps on a basis of scientific research. Strictly philatelic factors cannot be introduced whether one is studying the 3¢ pink, the shades of the 1847 issues, or any variations. There are means of determining color in terms of mathematic equations. These, however, will reflect only the actual color of the stamp when examined, and cannot take such factors as soaking, light and extraneous causes into consideration. For this reason, pigment analysis is the most certain means of color determination.

I am not doing any of this work for praise or credit. I can tell you that I have a personal collection of early United States stamps, the value of which runs into over seven figures. The Laboratories exist to check my supposed knowledge of stamps and that of others against basic physical facts. It has been distinctly proven to me that one cannot rely entirely on eyesight or experience. The laboratory study of stamps goes far deeper than that.

In the past I have let myself depend to some extent on the knowledge of others—some who call themselves experts. The experience has been almost universal, that after I asked a question that might enlighten me to some extent, they loudly proclaimed directly to my customers: "I taught Souren all he knows about stamps". However, whatever I know, or don't know, about stamps does not enter into the work of the Laboratories. It is up to them to uncover facts independently, and any time you or Mr. Ireton happen to be in New York it will be a pleasure to show you some things of unusual interest.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Y. SOUREN CO.

By Jyrlan

SY: bs

P. S. There is a rather contradictory statement in your letter that I cannot quite understand. In one paragraph you mention "Every stamp bought and sold cannot be submitted to a laboratory examination nor be submitted to authorities on proper catalogue classifications." In a paragraph later on you state" If a dealer does not know a pink, etc... is there any reason why he souldn't submit such things (of which he is ignorant) to one who is qualified to pass on them?" It seems to me that the Laboratories are capable of determining such questions on any controversial stamp.

We should like to see the two bank note stamps you mention, but as the Laboratories are so occupied with remunerative work it is hard to say when an examination could be completed. If you don't care how long it takes you might send them, but if the examination is going to be complicated, like that involved in the Knapp  $10\phi$  "shift" we might feel compelled to decline the examination at this time.



April 16, '40

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I owe you several apologies for not sooner answering your kind letter of Oct. 5th, 1939. I ask you to believe that no intentional discourtesy is at the bottom of it. The fact is, I have been very much upset for more than a year by Mrs. Sampson's long sickness. She was in the hospital nine months in serious condition. Now that she seems on the road to recovery, I am beginning to catch up on stamp matters.

I have enjoyed and profited by your article on the 1847 issue in the first Stamp Specialist, and hope you will contribute more to that publication soon. You might possibly make some interesting discoveries among the bunch I have assembled. The next time you are East, if between May 15th and Oct. 15th, why not run up to Maine and put in a few days going over my stuff? I have eleven volumes or 1847's mounted, largely covers, and considerable unmounted material.

My summer place in Maine is only overnight from New York. Leaving New York at 8:30
P.M. you can be in my dooryard by 10:30 the
next morning. Believe me, I'll be real glad
to have you come, and am inclined to think
you will find enough of interest to compensate
you. With all good wishes,

Macdo Pampour

#### GEORGE R. M. EWING 52 VANDERBILT AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y.

May 15th, 1940.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

If you'll pardon my method of crashing through your front door - I'd like to express my humble thanks and appreciation for the perfectly swell manner in which you arranged and described the sections of my collect -ion that Mr. Harmer sent you.

I know, perfectly well, that you only bothered with it through your friendship for Mr. Harmer, in consequence of which fact I don't fit into the picture.

Neverthe less, I'd feel remiss in my obligations if I failed to register my own feelings direct.

It is a new experience to me to sell my stamps and it's a bit hard to see them broken up, never having contemplated the necessity when I was gathering them. Yet - I have had so many friendly hands extended to assist Mr. Harmer in seeing that they are displayed to the best advantage that it leaves me stumbling around in my attempt to find the words to express my appreciation, and the knowledge brings a considerable amount of consolation.

So please accept my thanks for your share in it, and no one knows better than myself what you did, because I know the scrambled mess that was sent to you. I had never mounted my 19th Century because I was still gath -ering them when I decided to step aside.

Also please accept my personal regards.

Guz R.W. Cum

63rd SALE

## **AUCTION CATALOGUE**

OF

A FINE LOT OF

## UNITED STATES STAMPS

FROM

THE COLLECTIONS OF

Mr. Paul Macguffin AND OTHERS

TO BE SOLD AT OUR OFFICES

68 Nassau Street, New York City

OCTOBER 10, 1939

At 2:00 P. M.

WALTER S. SCOTT, Auctioneer

NASSAU STAMP COMPANY JOHN A. KLEMANN, President

68 Nassau Street



**New York City** 

#### TERMS OF SALE

All stamps are sold by the lot for cash to the highest bidder.

Every stamp in this sale is warranted genuine.

Claims, if any, must be made within 3 days after receipt of goods.

Lots described with defects, cannot be returned.

All lots bought by room bidders are to be taken up and paid for within twenty-four hours. All mail bidders unless they are known to us or send us acceptable commercial reference, will be notified of the total of the lots secured for them, and upon receipt of the amount due us, their lots will be forwarded. Credit terms must be made before the sale.

The right is reserved to withdraw any lot prior to the sale.

We charge no commission for purchasing at our sales, but charge cost of forwarding and insuring or registering lots purchased.

The stamps in this catalogue will be exhibited at our offices, No. 68 Nassau St., New York City, until the day of sale.

Priced catalogues of this sale may be had for 50c.

Orders may be noted on the bid slip.

#### KINDLY SEND US YOUR BIDS EARLY.

Prospective bidders known to us, who desire to see any of the lots, may have them sent for inspection on request and payment of postage and registration both ways, but no lots will be sent out within a week of the sale.

## Catalogue 63rd Auction Sale

Tuesday, October 10, 1939, 2 P. M.

#### UNITED STATES.

11/18///	UNITED STATES.	
	1845, New York, 5c black on bluish, unsigned, horizontal pair,	1
11/3//	fine margins, blue pen cancel, very rare (17f), (9x1f)	300.00 /5-
111/ 2	— unsigned on thin white, red "Paid" cancel, very	000.00
111/	scarce, (17f), (9x1f)	150.00
3	— — unsigned on thin bluish, all margins, blue pen cancel,	0
H		150.0030
4	— — signature type III, horizontal pair on white, large mar-	
	gins, very rare	200.00 \$5
JA 5	— on vertical ribbed white, signature type III, unused,	if m
	very fine	150.00 5 9
0. 064	— — double transfer on gray, signature type III, unused,	4
BIRK		150.005750
7	— vertical stitch watermark, signature type V, close at	1-
	right, very rare, uncatalogued, only one known thus far	_20-
8	- variety of signature I. C. M., very fine, very rare, un-	0-0
	catalogued, unique	375
59	— reprint on white, No. 9 on plate, unused, superb	1050
5 10		8-
11	— — on blue, No. 6, superb	7/0
	— — on blue No 8 shaded stock superb	750
S 13	— — on blue, No. 8, shaded stock, superb — — blue on white, superb	C\$ 00
C 14	— — brown on white, No. 1, superb	017-
6 15	— — scarlet on white, superb	7-
	— — green on white, superb	15
17		
1.1		100.00 36
18	— horizontal pair, superb	45.00 16
19	— single, large margins, superb	20.00
20	- cancelled usual nen check very rare	275.00
a -1-54	— cancelled usual pen check, very rare — 10c black, (19), (10x2), unused, superb	90.0063
D 10 21	1847, 5c brown, (28) unused, o. g., gum crease, very fine	75.00 15
23	——————————————————————————————————————	9.00 560
-5-24	— red New York PM, scarce	9.00% 00
25	— horizontal pair, blue cancel, superb, very early im-	5.00
20.	pression	30.0030-
26	— blue grid cancel, very fine	10.00 5 25
	- blue grid called, very life	10.00 875
27		18.00 19 -
28	— — blue "Paid" in oval cancel, very fine	36.00
29	— — blue numeral "2" in circle cancel, very fine	30.00
		71

100		
30	1847, 5c brown (28), slanting numeral "5" in blue cancel,	IF-
	very fine	36.00
31	— — numeral 5 in circle, blue cancel, slight crease	36.00
32	— — orange shade, fancy blue "5" cancel, superb	37.00
33	— — magenta "Hartford" pmk., also light pen check, very	1
	fine, very scarce	17.50 6 -
34	— — scarce shade, black grid cancel, superb	17.50
35	orange, creased before printing, red grid cancel, a	10
	rarity, very fine	85.00 2 (-
36	— — black brown, horizontal pair, large margins on piece,	
	nicely pen cancelled and tied red Cincinnati postmark,	15
	very rare	32.00
37	— — brown orange, three large margins, close but clear of	100
	design at bottom, black grid cancel, very scarce	38.50
38	<ul> <li>double transfer top, red cancel, very fine</li> <li>double transfer top and bottom, red cancel, very fine</li> </ul>	35.0011
39	— — double transfer top and bottom, red cancel, very fine	35.0021
40	— 10c black (29), unused, no gum, superb, very rare	150.00 5050
45 41	— — very lightly cancelled in red, superb	32.50 2700
42 42	— another red grid cancel, very fine	32.50
X 143	— — blue "Paid" in oval cancel, very fine	77.50 39 00
1 ptour 44	— stick pin variety L 52 on plate, blue grid cancel, very	17
/ V Man		105.00 4
14 10 45		100.0037-
40	— black grid cancel, very fine	60.00 2 6 +
1 -47	1851, 1c blue, type 1B (30B), large margins, lightly cancelled,	15000 07E
Hon 010		150.00 2
Gourgh 40	— 1c pale blue, type II (31), Plate 1 early, black grid can-	650
- Lip 49	cel, very fine, very scarce  — blue, type II, black town cancel, very fine	7.00 550
Bushon 50	— type IV, ornaments complete top and nearly complete	1.0033
40 64 00	bottom, fine appearance but thin	4-
_ lo J 51	— double recuts top and bottom, black town, light crease,	1
order .	very fine	35.00 7-
, C 52	— recut once top, twice bottom, black grid cancel, su-	
NS	perb	9.00 850
03 - 53	— 3c red (33), unused, no gum, very fine	5.00275
54	— — dull red, laid paper, close at top and right, black town	SI
	cancel, very rare, out of McDaniel collection	300
55	— horizontal pair, left stamp GENTS, No. 66RII, very	0-
West charles	scarce	10.30 8
56	— on surfaced paper, horizontal pair, black cancel, —ETS	550
		00 70 1 60
Next 57	— strips of 3 horizontal, five shades used	22.50
West 58	— five strips of 3, used	22.50 6 50
59	— 3 vertical strips of 3, used	13.50 4
West 60	— two strips and a block of three, used	13.50 4 25
61	— five pairs, used	17.50 \$50
63	— five pairs, used	17.50 55
59 W 60 61 62 63 64	— — five pairs, used	17.50 600
(4)	— — five pairs, used	11.50
Short to be part of the		

	<b>—3—</b>	,
65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78	1851, 3c red (33), five pairs, used  — five pairs, used — five pairs, used — five pairs, used — six vertical pairs, used — six vertical pairs, used — eleven picked singles, very fine, used — twelve picked singles, very fine, used	17.50 5 - 17.50 5 - 17.50 5 - 21.00 L - 21.00
79 80 81 82 83 84	<ul> <li>— nine picked singles, very fine, used</li> <li>— six extra fine singles, very fine, used</li> <li>— pair and five singles, Railroad cancellations, black, blue, red, very scarce</li> <li>— unlisted crack across face, large margins, red grid cancel, very scarce</li> <li>— crack 94L5, all margins, lightly cancelled, very fine</li> <li>— line through "Three Cents" black town cancel, very fine</li> </ul>	1010 8- 35.00 10- 20.00 10-
West 85 86	<ul> <li>orange brown, two black, two blue cancels, very fine</li> <li>5c red brown (34), vertical pair, black N. O. postmark,</li> </ul>	11.00 5 20 250.00   20 -
87 88 88 90	<ul> <li>— single, large margins, black N. O. postmark, very fine</li> <li>— 10c green (35, 35B), vertical pair, top stamp type III, bottom type I, black N. O. postmark, margin close at left but very fine and rare</li> <li>— type I, New York clipper cancel, very fine</li> <li>— type II, horizontal strip of four, close at bottom, right</li> </ul>	37.50 \q.50 91.25 35- 40.00 2-75
91	<ul> <li>— horizontal strip of four, close at bottom, large margins, top shows parts adjoining stamps, black S. F. pmk, very rare</li> <li>— horizontal pair, very large margins, black Shelburn</li> </ul>	120.0030-
93 94 95 96 97 98 99	<ul> <li>black Steam Ship cancel, very fine, rare</li> <li>horizontal pair, right stamp double transfer, very early impression, superb, very rare</li> <li>dark green, double transfer, light postmark, superb</li> <li>yellow green, double transfer, New York pmk, black,</li> </ul>	31.25 7 7.50 7 5 42.50 36 - 20.00 1 2 5 6
UXS	superb	20.00

WS	100	1851, 10c green, type II, blue grid cancel, much underpriced,	10-
0		superb	9.00
,	101	— — type III, green, unused, no gum, very fine	60.00
WS	102	— horizontal strip of three, close left, black grid cancel,	67.5021
0	103	very rare — horizontal pair, black grid, large margins, fine, scarce	32.50
	104	—— red Paid and part black postmark, very fine	17.509
48.4	105	— 10c green, type IV, horizontal strip of three, center stamp	
, Ily	M	3R1, the only recut on misplaced transfer in righthand	athor
de		pane, unused, o. g., large margins, superb and a great rarity	500.00
0	106	— — vertical strip of three on piece, tied black New Or-	00.00
0		leans Aug. 3, 1857 postmark, top stamp recut top and	
No		bottom, center stamp recut top, bottom stamp type III,	. (0
1		Nos. 64, 74 and 84 L1 on plate, close at top, crease be-	122
U		tween second and third stamp, very fine appearance and a great rarity	600,00
11/5	107	— — horizontal pair, left stamp recut top, 3 R1, black	16
8		N. Y. pmk, very fine, very rare	150.00
. 0	108	— — horizontal strip of three, center stamp recut top,	1 .
No		<b>86L1,</b> the stamps have been partially severed showing method of separation before perforation was invented,	16
0			270.00
	109	— — horizontal pair right stamp recut bottom 541.1	Uni
10000	110		157.50 10
Milon	110	— — recut top 3R1, red cancel, small corner crease, rare	85.00
A Design	111	— — recut top 65L1, nicely pen cancelled, superb	75.0025-
9	112	recut top, 74L1, margins all around, except top	0-
	112	left corner, blue town cancel, very rare	80.0085
	113	— — recut top 86L1, black Colombia, Cal. postmark, superb	75.00 38-
	114	— — recut bottom, 54L1, black and red foreign pstm.,	20
		very fine	85.00 59-
	115	— — recut bottom, 55L1, black pstm., very fine	75.00 41 -
	117	— — recut bottom, 76L1, black pstm., very fine — — recut top & bottom, 64L1, fine appearance but small	
		scissors cut and creased, used	125.007
	118	— 12c black (36), strip of three, heavy black grid cancel,	
	119	close at top, a rare piece — horizontal pair, all margins, light grid cancel, very fine	42.00 9
	120	— horizontal pair, Houston, Texas pen cancel, very fine	30.00
4/5	121	— — black postmark, very fine	12.001050
W	122	— black checker board cancel of Hawaii, very fine, very	12.00 16
1	123	rare — double transfer, L3, black postmark, very fine	25.00
	124	1857, 1c dark blue, type 1a (40B), plate 4, light black grid	20,000
		cancel, fine, very rare	125.00 4
		1 108	
		ym - 900	
		7	4
			4
	-		

gi

	125	1857, 1c blue, type II (41), horizontal pair, black postmark,	18-
111	126	fine — black grid cancel, fine (41)	25.00
V M		— lc dark blue, type III (42), plate 4, black pmk., very fine	45.00 2560
NOUS	128	— — block of 4, type IIIa (42B), Plate 4, unused, o. g., slight	400.00 17 70
0.	129	type IIIa (42b), 1c dark blue, used, perfs touch top and	2.1
160	130	right  — 1c blue, type IV (42D), black postmark, double transfer,	15.00 778
y's	131	one inverted, 71L1L, very rare  — 1c blue, type V (42f), black, blue, red; red and black and	100.00%
7		blue carrier cancels, very fine	13.00 750
	132	<ul> <li>— pair and five singles, shades, fine lot, used</li> <li>— pair and three singles, black carrier cancels, very fine</li> </ul>	8.25 4 - 20.00 9 -
	134	— 3c rose, type I (43), unused, o. g., fine	20.00 1250
		— — dull red, unused, o. g., very fine	20.00 10 50
Lak.	136 137	— seven stamps, shades and cancellations — 3c dull red, type II (44), block of four, mint, superb	4.00
- NUV	138	— used lot of 36 stamps, rare varieties and cancellations,	
		very fine	720
	139	— 5c red brown, type I (46), red grid cancel, perfs cut bottom, fine, scarce	30.00 750
	140	— 5c Indian red, black town cancel, perfs. touch right and	30.00 10
		bottom, fine, rare	40.00   ~ =
	141	— 5c brown (47), black town cancel, perfs. touch right, very fine	1250 525
U.L	142	— 5c orange brown, type II (48), vertical pair, mint, superb	12.50
	143	- 5c brown (48a), horizontal pair, red grid cancel, perfs.	70
/	144	touch top, fine, scarce	29.00
42	144	— 10c green, type I (49), horizontal pair on piece, tied black Savannah, Mo. postmark, superb, very rare	90.00 4:550
0	145	— perfs. touch right, black postmark, fine	30.00 12
	146	— perfs. touch top and left, red postmark, fine	35.00 10
	147	— 10c green, type II (49A), block of 4, first stamp double transfer, black grid cancel, perfs. touch right, fine and very	1
		rare	213.00
	148	— vertical strip of three, upper two type II (49A), lower	
		stamp type III (49B), perfs. touch bottom, black postmark, fine, a rare combination	30.00750
	149	— horizontal pair (49A), black S. F. postmark, perfs.	30.00
		touch right, very fine	18.00
	150	— vertical pair, types II and III, black town, perfs. touch	19.00 6-
50	151	bottom, very fine — single, emerald green, black town, fine	7.00 3
UNB	152	— pale emerald green, black town, fine	7.0010
8	153	— — deep green N. Y. Clipper cancel, perfs. touch left, very scarce	3-
	154	— five ray star cancel, very fine	8.00 050
1	155	— — red grid cancel, fine	8.00
9			13

Den Slau:

Part 3 , the stamp specialist is just at hand. Die lad ourpelly your article on the 12-24-30: 9. I weper. The all it deals be. If that doesn't get Them out y the calabogue, nothing ever weel. I have a hundr though that you will stier guid teur in the old cat week year. The S.C+SCo. west have sold a ext ? them in the part years.

are n'two americals. The prices paid at Kellahers sale for the proof in Joven don dont mean augething at all. The friends got to getter the ught before in a both room auctioned them of amongst themselves. as their welcout us competition & got a awall fraction of what I had faid you them. Quee but wit twice - that is to say uson again.

Did you see my article on the 1857-1860 comies in the stamp Collectors computer? I gave bere a vit of information that seems to me important. goow with my own eye haden B. Power open a registered coller in his fice, sent my on old auxorgie, The G.O. Dept on a small swelshe were several ( perhaps 15 1 20 majory 24 and 90" in Treal 2 for ( meluding the two pairs of the 90 of in searlest or fine ) Que 24 or was the lake . but it was cut close ( see details in Belleber sale) a one was the quest 900 bleer 3 even saw. It worth so to estar at the time. What contravers wargins. E.B. Housed at To we found 1000 19,8518, but 9 and and it is the selection of at. Init This additional proof ) what The 14 " + 90 " really were? It seems codors is search. I wrote the catalogue unpay of the 124 " + 90 " favor

Here's wor power to for ben. May you get succeed in geeting in 12 24 30 +9. unterfo - the augusts - the 3°61 searlet + Cabre + a lot ochen Juney stuff gut , the calalogue.

Sin not at all sever this celler will reach on but 3/che it Lucy cach pretty Black, but not get hopeless. Out here all is quet exapt for a great quantity of refugees. I fegure the population of this region is five Times what it was last writer! Imagine what that we are

Well Lan , lets hope for reelle days. But regards To go hate

You artise is worth all the rest of the S.S. put to getter .

auce Clean.



June 15, 1940

Alen Mr. ashbrook -

farry I henfield wrote to me a few days ago saying that you were interested in the New Orleans Time Cent and would like to long the two platings which I purchased in the Wickershand sole. I am sorry that I Cannot let you have those two lots because they have heen aheadyl mixed into my plates. However, I have a Number of displicates which I have listed on a separate sheet with the plate numbers. I want vouch too strongly for all of these positions as I plated them nather hastily tonight but I feel sure they are nearly correct. What I would like to do is trade for the positions which I Letter do not have or are in poor condition, and I am putting this list on the sheet also. Lets hope you have duplicates of what I want! I frot, tell me the positions that you would like and I'll quie them to you either separately or as a lot.

forry wrote me a supplementary letter asking if I had any plating information except that contained in

Wed trapp's article of years ago. as for as I know nothing of consequence has been published leades that article, altho Raymond Well had an article seval years ago in the A.P. enlarging on our historical benowledge of the New Orleans stamps. I have a number of supplementary votes on plate warks which I have found then the years to be imform, and I also have a photo of Ned's given me about fifteen years ago. I do think Ned's article is pretty thorough. There are some ideas expressed in his article, which are not exactly correct and the last time I saw him we discussed these points and he agreed to the corrections. The catalog values are not correct from a standpoint of narry. By far the most common 5¢ is the unused remained of the third period, I shappen to be loss on duplicates of these as I sold and traded most of mine, but after cheeling hundreds of copies I am sure I am correct. Ned also agreed with this altho I delieve be originally was responsible for the catalog set up as it is today

you are contemplating on the New Orleans.

Sincerely,

Sweely, Autogrand

I also have a portrally reconstructed sheet of 2 4 Red.

### FREDERIC J. GRANT 429 NORTH LAS PALMAS AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

### Plate Numbers needed in my collection.

First Period (White paper, clear impression) -#1, 9, 17, 25, 13, 35 Second Period (Blue paper) - #36, 30.

Third Period (Yellowish, thin paper - blund impression) - 4,5, 11,21

## Duplicate numbers for exchange

First Period - 20, 39, 12, 31, 32, 2, 22, 31, 10, 11, 5, 6, 7, 36, 33, 26, 37, 11, 14, 38, 30.

Second Period - 14, 23, 22, 34, 15, 11, 28, 38, 18, 11 and 12 (pain), 33 and 34 (pain), 31, 4, 40, 6, 7, 2, 10, 19, (60222), 8,

Third Period - 37, 1, 2, 39, 17, 25

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

June 18, 1940.

Mr. Frederick J. Grant, 429 N. Los Palmas Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Grant:

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 15th. I will explain what I contemplate doing. Richey purchased at my suggestion, Lot #102, in the recent Laurence sale and when the reconstruction arrived I examined it carefully and checked rather casually a number of the singles by the old plating article by Ned Knapp, in the Philatelic Gazette. I suggested to Richey that now that he had this reconstruction of the Third Printing, he should try and acquire reconstructions of the first and second printings. He was not overly enthusiastic over the suggestion, but nevertheless I wrote Shenfield if he would find out if the buyer of lots 90 and 96 would be willing to sell them at a modest profit.

Richey has various copies of the stamp in his collection but none of these have ever been plated or properly arranged in his collection according to printings, etc. The idea occurred to me that inasmuch as there was no recent article on the plating that I would write one, and illustrate it in such a manner that anyone, even a novice, could plate any position on the plate.

Years ago I had quite a large collection of Confederates, but I did not collect any Provisionals and I doubt if I had over a half dozen copies of the New Orleans, nor do I possess any at the present time. I intend to go thru Richey's collection and get together in one lot, all the copies he has. Perhaps he has some duplicates you could use and no doubt you have some he could use. I'll advise you on this point later.

If you approve of my idea to publish a plating article, I will appreciate your cooperation. I would like to borrow a very fine early impression of the stamp from which I would like to make a pen and ink drawing. I will have a zinc etching made of the drawing and will illustrate each position by line cut as well as half tone cuts. I would also like to borrow a reconstruction of the first printing, with each position in as fine condition as possible.

I have no motive whatsoever except to place before collectors a fine up-to-date plating article, illustrated by the finest reproductions I can turn out by hand and photography. For the original plating, all credit will go to my old friend Knapp and for any assistance you can give me I will be only too glad to give you full credit. In fact on this point you can write your own ticket, that is, if you prefer, I will welcome you as joint author, or you can write the article and I will do the illustrations.

Mr. Frederick J. Grant, June 18, 1940.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Larry as I know he is very much interested in anything pertaining to Confederates.

Again many thanks for your kind letter.

Sincerely yours,

#### FREDERIC J. GRANT 429 NORTH LAS PALMAS AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

July 4 th, 1940 Wiles Mr. ashbrook your letter very promptly. In a few days so did not answer It would be a great pleasure to cooperate with you in working up a new article on the plating of the New O'rleans, and I am not in the least interested in "credit" o's being a joint author. Stamps are just fin for me. The original article by Ned trapp I have never seen. However for turned over to me all of his notes and the Wanuscript from which the article was taken, and he also gave me quite a number of enlarged putines of the N.O. stamp printed on cards. One of these is enclosed. I am not sure that I can gather up 40 of luse cards but you are welcome to all that I have. It was fifteen or sixteen years ago when I first worked on the New Onleans. I plated all three printings and then sold the reconstructions - I helieve to Charlie Phillips. Two or three years ago I decided to replate and have now gotten them almost complete again with the exception of the numbers sent you. My first punting is in pretty fine condition. If Mr. Richen can't supply the missing rumliers I'll try

Etra Cole. He had all of Judge Emerson's New Orleans and I doubt if he has sold them with all of the other material that has been on the market. Earn's prices were so very high when he first had this material that I passed up the single copies and only took a few of the unusual covers. However be night listen to a trade if I que lun a little edge. Please let me lenow, what Mr. Richey has on hand: This coming week end will be comparatively quet for me so twill complète a rough article foign from my notes and those of Ned. as you have his plating notes I want repeat but will bidd any information I may have on certain positions. If you are interested in a real plating problem in Confederate Ploureronals you should tackle the 5 & Mobile. I started working at it a long time ago and reached a stolemate. You have done such splendid work on other stamps that I believe you could succeed. Mr. Needham had grute a yew pairs and Mr. Caepary had pairs and some larger preces. Probably Mr. Brooks has acquired a number

of pairs. There must also be many pairs scattered

FREDERIC J. GRANT
429 NORTH LAS PALMAS AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

around in smaller collections. Years ago I met an older dealer who claimed to have seen an original sheet. He was positive that there were 40 copies like the New Oxleans and that there was an imprint. ( we know there is) He also said that he was certain the wan who owned the sheet cut it up!! I stopped in Mobile years ago to altempt to dig up newspaper files and see of there was mention of the stamp, but had no luck. awaiting further word from you, Sincerely yours, Halas Am

Relieud



April 13, 1940

Dear Stanley,

Putting inso much time in New York (John too) for the Centenary show that I can't keep up to my own mail here - hence the delay in answering yours of the 3rd. I'll get at it when I can and anyhow I'm grateful for your trouble in putting me right where I didn't take the time to check up all the data.

Dr. Chase had one 5c 1847 die proof that seemed to be the real original and that is the only one I know about altho there was one in violet on a large card which I sold to Slater nearly twenty years ago, together with a 10c same color, but I cannot recall if the 5c was original or not. Probably not.

1883 - 2c claret; work needs to be done - and how! Luff says 2,000 copies of which only 55 were sold and that they had gum. Cat lists 211B at \$100 and horizontal pair imperf between at \$250. Ackerman had top strip of ten (or maybe block of twnety) with margin and full imprint "STEAMER AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY" and one vertical gutter was imperf. As I do not know of any other 2c claret part perf I assume this must be the remark special printing. BUT there is also the laid paper same as the pair you submit and it seems to me I recall another with a watermark of diamonds, and maybe also mivertically laid instead of horizontal. The Ackerman strip and part perfs pairs I have seen were not watermarked or on laid paper to the best of my recollection.

These paid papers etc. are evidently something fancy, but whether they class as stamps or finished trials I don't know. I never heard of a used copy. Quite recently the 2c special print listed at \$50. Try to reconcile this for 55 copies, against the price for the 5c Garfield (apparently 2,463 copies) and the 4c Jackson (26 copies). It has never made sense to me.

7c Stanton; no question about this being #196.

2c brown; I have no copy of #193 available but greatly doubt if the copy submitted is #193. The paper should exactly match the 7c and in my opinion it does not. Also not dark enough. Would guess it is one of the two (or more) varieties of \*\*\* #157b (double paper) as these are often mistaken for #193.



2c 1894; Certainly not the Chicago cft. The latter is a coarse job, not engraved, and in a dirty rose or pink closely matching the first Bureau 2c (#248). In my opinion the pair submitted is merely a messy print of the genuine stamps.

24c steel blue; Sep 21, 1861; mikes .0025. (August - Sept. printings mike .0020 to .0025). Johnny Andrews favored the idea that the steel blue was not so printed but were changelings. I did not agree with him but was willing to admit there could have been a printing of the violet which contained an ingredient which oxidized or otherwise changed the color so that some of the violet remained violet while others that originally may bhave been similar or even identical, became steely, i.e. gray with more or less of a bluish cast.

I have meen a die proof which might be about half way between the copy submitted and the bluest steels that are found.

I recall no gray stamps used in 1861, and think most of them come in 1863 or later. It is certainly too bad I did not record the colors and dates on the Ackerman covers.

How blue must a stamp be in order to class as a steel blue? I had an article in STAMPS a few years ago and recall that even the bluest copies contained very little blue. I don't recall the figures but let me exagerrate. If the stamp submitted contained 2% blue and 98% gray and black mixed, doubling the blue content to 4% might make the appearace very much bluer, yet only 2% of blue has been added.

Up to September 23, 1861 the total deliveries amounted to less than 1,500 sheets of 200 - probably not over two days presswork - three at the most. Is it reasonable to assume that not less than three batches of ink were used?

If we recognize three colors in August-September 1861 viz; vilcet steel blue, and gray, how can the collector know the 1861 gray from the gray stamps that I believe came from much later printings?

I don't know what other dealers sell for steel blue nor do I know how to prevent honest or dishonest mistakes except by continued publicity. Years ago I called attention to the fact that S.G. was advertising the first September color of 1861 lc as "indigo" and maybe still is and selling something which may or may not be the rare indigo color. Yet all the stamps found on covers for



several months beginning in August 1861 are a pale blue which I never would call indigo. It is one thing to tell people the facts and something else to induce them to act accordingly.

If the steel blues are changelings I am satisfied it was due to something in the ink and not due to monkey business after the stamps were sold. I am sure copies with full gum are known and it is increable that one person could have got all the known covers and changed the color of the 24c.

I have seen violets that were discolored but the discoloration . was not blue.

Whether all the blue can be faded out of a steel to leave a gray such as the copy submitted I don't know.

I have three copies identical with the one submitted. One with cogwheel, one used in New York state in December 1861, one used in Massachusetts in January 1863. Alleare gray under the glass but when held off a foot or so they look bluish to me and also when compared with grays which I believe are from later printings.

IF I sold them as steel blues I would try to make the buyer understand that they were not the most desirable color and would price them accordingly. I doubt if I ever sold any copies of this color. They have not been common with me.

In regard to the 5c 1847 die proof, I have a die proof that is nowhere near so sharp as this, or so sharp as a number of plate proofs. I would expect an impression from a plate to be less sharp than a good impression from a die. From die to roll and roll to plate a certain change will take place, not to mention variations in the printing.

Have to close now to catch the mail as you asked for quick reply.

Since Rely,

Griff Gry

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

April 20, 1940.

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

My dear Elliott:

Many thanks for our helpful letter of the 13th, to which I will reply next week.

Re - the 5¢ 1847. After further study I was convinced this was not a Die but a plate proof. It appearently does not show a guide dot so it must have originated from one of the first vertical rows of plate one. I think I discovered a small mark which was on some plate position (Plate One) but not on the Die. I also noted Chase listed a plate on India in brown without overprint "Specimen."

Re - the 24¢ 1861. I am calling this copy the 1861 Steel Gray. Mayor this is a poor designation but it at least separates the steel blues into two classes. I absolutely refuse to recognize a steel blue as this color unless it is more blue than gray. I know all dealers will disagree but that is immaterial.

More later.

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

April 9, 1940.

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

My dear Elliott:

I am enclosing herewith a few items which I thought you would like to see and on which I would appreciate a little advice. Will you please return these as soon as possible.

5¢ 1847 Original die proof on India cut close. I am sending this to you for a look, because I think it is a fine example of the difference in a printing from a steel die and a 5¢ plate proof from the copper plate. This shows how lightly the lines were cut. These original die proofs on India must be very rare.

24% 1861 I suppose some would call this a Steel Blue. Note the date "Sep 21 1861". I have often wondered about this particular shade, ile., could they be changelings of a violet color? By no stretch of the imagination could this be a steel blue but do you not agree that many dealers sell this color for the steel blue shade. If you will put a glass on the stamp you will note what a sick looking color it is. In some of the heaviest parts of the engraving the color is a gray black and has the appearance much like oxidized 3% 51 or 1857. Do you think this is a changeling or a regularly issued color? If the latter then the use is the earliest I have ever seen. Would you call this Blackish Gray? This paper is very thin - will you please measure it for me?

2d 1873 This is claimed to be a used copy of the 1880 Special Printing. Can you name any reason for such a classification?

7¢ Stauton This is claimed to be an "1880 Special Printing."
I do not know a thing about such items as the special printings. This paper has a soft look but it feels hard to me. Is this stamp nothing more than a regular #160?

26 Claret Pair This is claimed to be an "1883 Special Printing." It looks like a laid paper to me. What is your opinion?

2d 1894 on piece This is claimed to be a pair of the Chicago Counterfeits. Looks more to me like a dry printing rather than a fake.

With best regards,

Yours etc.,



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

Dear Stanley:

I want to briefly acknowledge your letter of June 3rd and thank you for the two photographs which apparently you wish me to keep. I will write you more fully about these later and also reply to former letter in which you brought up the matter of the  $24\phi$  steel blues and greys of 1861.

It does not seem to me that much will be gained by making such a division as you apparently have in mind. I suppose the grey of 1861 is not very common and if priced according to its scarcity, your suggestion would merely remove our difficulty from one place to another. Instead of selling the greys of 1861 as steel blues, we should find the common greys issued later than 1861 being offered for the scarcer variety of 1861.

Yes, I have heard comments on your 1860 article in the "Stamp Specialist". I read it myself very carefully and, of course, those who are at all familiar with the subject are obliged to agree with nearly everything you state. I hope the article will accomplish what you have long had in mind, but, so find listing numbers 37, 38 and 39 as minor varieties of the perforated issue of 1860 is not a step in the right direction.

In regard to the big shift on the 10¢ green, it is my impression that the owner is the person whom you imagine and frankly, I do not know whether it is proper for me to make any more definite statement. This is not from any desire to be at all secretive, but merely because of the position in which I happen to find myself. I suppose the stamp is being studied but do not know what final result if any, has been arrived at.

Sincerely yours,

EP:MES

Feb. 10, 1940.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr.,
Walnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Phil:

I will ship Mr. Gibson's book to you via express on Monday. When you receive same, please note I have numbered each cover in small pencil from 1 to 158 in lower left corner.

For the sake of comparative opinions will you kindly check each of the following queries with the covers:

Cover 22 - The 37¢ rate to Russia. What do you call the shade of the 24¢ stamp?

Cover 62 - Do you see anything wrong with this cover?

Cover 77 - 24¢ rate to England. What do you call the shade of this 24¢ stamp?

✓ Cover 78 - 24¢ rate to England. What do you call the shade of this stamp?

Cover 94 - What do you call the color of the 5¢ 1857?

Cover 100- Do you think this color is rather exceptional?

Cover 107- What do you call the color of the pair of 3d 1861?

✓ Cover 144- What do you call the shade of these two 5d 1857?

Cover 149- Why 7% on this cover to France?

Cover 1 - Is it not quite exceptional to find an unsigned copy on cover as late as Oct. 31, 1845?

Cover 18 - Would you call this pair, "Indian Red"? If so do you think it is (A) a fine example of the shade or (B) a near Indian Red?

Cover 41 - What is wrong?

V Cover 61 - What is wrong?

As soon as I can have my notes typed, I will send you a copy, which you can check over if you wish and then hand to Mr. Gibson in case he desires to go over it.

With best regards,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Feb. 5, 1940.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr., 1616 Walnut St.. Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Phil:

I am all finished with the Gibson book and I will ship it to you via express one day this week. When I send it down to you, I will at the same time, mail you a little list of comments on various items. I would like to have you go over this as I think perhaps a comparison of opinions may be helpful to both of us. Later I will send you my description and comments on each cover in the collection. This I want you to hand to Mr. Gibson as no doubt he will be interested in checking same. I wish it understood however that this list of descriptions is in a sense confidential, no part of which I desire made public. The reason for this request is that I do not consider I am an authority on the subject of markings on foreign rate covers.

At present I am devoting quite a lot of research work to the subject and I realize I have much to learn. Therefore my descriptions were made solely for my own study and no doubt many of my conclusions may later prove to be in error. On this list I will make notations of the covers I have photographed and after checking the list and you want prints of any of the photos, let me know and I will forward same to you.

Regarding the Supplementary Mail markings. I have an idea several different people are responsible for the fake copies which are scattered thruout many collections. I refer only to the Type I marking found on stamps prior to the 1870 Issue.

I have a very good idea that many of these were made abroad, though I have heard that Jake's friend Paulson turned out quite a few in various colors. Here are several points to consider:

(A) There are in existence plenty of 1857-1860-1861. etc. stamps off cover with the Type I.

(B) We never see a cover with 1857 - 1860 stamps.

(C) If 1857-1860 covers are so rare, howecome we have so many

stamps from such covers that we tied by this marking alone?

(D) This must have been a face marking - not a killer or cancelation, and if so, it is strange that so many stamps were hit with it.

Recently I saw a beautiful 24d 1861 with this Type I marking. It was submitted to a mutual friend of ours as a 24¢ Violet. Now of course it was not the Violet but it was a copy of one of the scarce colors I call a purplish lilac. I cannot believe the S.M. marking on this stamp is genuine, yet I could not detect any trace of a removed cancelation. You know it is rather ticklish business Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr. Feb. 5, 1940.

removing any sort of a cancelation from a stamp of this color without killing the color. What bothers me is, how was this cone? Perhaps I should ask my friend Souren. I can hardly believe an unused 24¢ was used, and I just cannot bring myself to the point where I can conceive that the marking is genuine.

Maybe we have a lot to learn about the Supplementary Mail and it is no doubt possible that further knowledge on the subject will explain why we have so much off cover material, and no covers with the marking.

Re - the 5¢ New York. My record (Chase-Ashbrook) shows the earliest use known to me of a signed A.C.M. copy is July 30, 1845. I quite agree with you that your July 18, 1845, "R.H.M." is no doubt a first day with these initials. I will write my friend regarding this item and also the Brattleboro. Thanks very much.

With best regards,

Cordially yours,

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

1616 WALNUT STREET

PHILADELPHIA

February 2, 1940.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook, 434 S. Grand Ave., St. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

I have just gotten back from Florida, and find your communications of January 26.

Regards Gibson's covers -- he is still in the South and will not return for some little time, so you need not hurry in getting them back. Photograph whatever you want, and if there is anything very special, send me a copy of the photograph -- billing me, of course, for the copy.

Dr. Babcock kindly sent me a copy of his booklet and since you mention it, I have never seen a copy of the type I Supplementary Mail on the cover, although I have seen dozens of stamps off the cover with this postmark and at present have several on hand. To tell you the truth I had never realized before that this item had not been seen on the cover. I do know I have had copies for a good many years and if they were made unofficially they were probably made some years back and as little attention was given to such cancelations at the time I can hardly see why anyone would have faked them.

Of course, Babcock is absolutely incorrect in describing the 5¢ 1861 as brown. If he has one with such a postmark it is undoubtedly an incorrect date, or a "7" may have had the ball broken off, producing a "1." I think the records very clearly show when this color was changed early in 1862.

I will make up a list of the Payne covers that I have and give you the information that you want. Later on if you find you would like to see anything I will gladly send them on.

Regarding New Yorks -- I can give you a copy of the "R.H.M." on cover canceled - "July 18" which is undoubtedly a first-day cover. Those used on the 15th and 16th that I have seen are all without initials and undoubtedly the postmaster initialed the first sheet which was possibly used for the first time on July 18. This item is available at \$500.00 and a few years back, I would have readily sold it at \$1000.00. I have two copies of

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook.

-2-

the "R.H.M." very fine with four margins, one off cover, and one on a small piece. I have upward of forty copies in singles, and pairs, on and off cover. Right at present, I have nothing outstanding in St. Louis Postmasters. I can furnish a Brattleboro on the cover which is illustrated and described in my auction sale No. 1 of December 6, 1938, Lot 9. This was originally in the Walcott Collection, is quite a nice cover, and is available at \$850.00 to you. I have been quoting \$1,000.00 on it.

Sincerely yours,

PHW. JR: L.

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 26, 1940.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr., 1616 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Phil:

I have a friend who is in the market to buy anything fine in the 5¢ New York, or St. Louis P.M.F.'s, on or off, or of the 10¢ 1847. He would also be interested in a Brattleboro. You might write me what you can offer. If the above gives you a clue to the identity and you have been in touch with him, I would of course not care to horn in. If not it is possible I might be able to place a substantial amount.

I overlooked mentioning in my letter of yesterday that I would appreciate having the date of your Payen cover with the 45¢ rate. In fact if not too much trouble I would like to have a list of the dates of any other Payen covers you own.

One more point, your block of sixteen of the 5¢ 1847. I judge this must be from Plate One. Can you tell me if that is your opinion?

It would be a pleasure to spend a few days with you, because I have little doubt I could learn a lot and perhaps give you a little bit of information here and there, which might add some value. I have always had in mind that I would like to browse thru that lot of stampless covers you own.

With best regards,

Cordially,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 25, 1940.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr., 1616 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Phil:

I am still making a careful study of Mr. Gibson's covers and hope to be able to finish up in very short while. I suppose he has no objection if I make a few photographs for future reference.

I will make special notations on all unusual items and I have little doubt some of these will be of interest to you.

Have you read the little booklet recently published by Babcock on "Supplementary Mail?" I have always been very suspicious of the "Type A" marking on the stamps of the 1857-60 issues. In fact, I never did have much respect for any of them. Further than this I never paid particular attention to the subject. The Scott U. S. lists all the values of the 1857-60 issues except the 90% with S.M. cancelations, Type A. I have seen plenty of these and I have little doubt you also have seen the marking on plenty of singles.

I was rather surprised that Babcock in his list was not able to mention a single cover showing any 1857-60 stamps and the Type A - S.M. marking. Does this not seem odd? Plenty of off cover items but not even one cover.

By any chance have you such a cover, or have you any record of such an apparently rare item? It would be rather funny if the catalogue listings were all phoney. What is your opinion?

If you have a copy of his booklet, note page 13, the first cover mentioned with a 5¢ 1861 Brown, used "Oct. 25, 1861." Did you ever see a Brown in 1861? I am quite sure I have not. Yet the date of this cover must be correct, because the "S. S. Fulton" was an old trans-Atlantic Liver of the old Havre Line. She was taken over by the Government late in 1861 and used as a transport.

I will appreciate any comment you care to make on the above,

Cordially yours,

# PHILIP H. WARD, JR. 1616 WALNUT STREET PHILADELPHIA

January 8, 1940

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

Dear Stan:

I have read your letter of the sixth inst., with a great deal of interest and am certainly pleased you are finding some pieces of interest in the Gibson Collection. I had not noticed the cover from the Payen correspondence but I do recall seeing the imperf.  $30\phi$  which I remember was also in the Paul Collection, Tuttle having sold it to Paul. It was in the wrong color at the time and I hadn't the slightest idea but what it was trimmed. I have one or two covers in stock from this same correspondence and if I am not mistaken I have one with a  $30\phi$ ,  $10\phi$  and  $5\phi$  which makes the  $45\phi$  rate. If you would like to see it, I will, of course, send it to you. I have four or five of these  $30\phi$  on cover one used in combination with a  $3\phi$ , one with a  $12\phi$ , some alone and also a pair used with a  $12\phi$  and a  $5\phi$ .

I wish the next time you come to Philadelphia you could spend a couple days with me and go over the lot of covers I have and other items and if there is anything of interest you could take it with you to study.

Relative to expressage on the package - the charges were slight and I am only too glad to assume them. You are doing such good work that we certainly do not expect you to pay for such things. As a matter of fact, we are all benefiting by your studies and I only regret that you are not able to cash in on your observations in a larger way.

I am passing on your letter to Mr. Gibson for he has always been very much interested in covers and likes to know anything new regarding those he has.

Sincerely yours,

PHW. JR:L.

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.
1616 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

August 9, 1940

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 S. Grand Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

I never answered your letter of February 10 regarding Gibson's Collection for the simple reason that since its return we have never gotten together to go over it. As a matter of fact, the collection is still in my safe, much to my regret, as I do not like to hold things of this type belonging to someone else. However, so we might discuss the several details and have more definite information when he returns from his summer trip I would advise as follows:

Cover 1 - It does seem odd to find an uninitialed copy this late but one could readily keep it in the stamp drawer where it was not used until much later after having been bought. The bright blue pen cancellation and the red town undoubtedly tie it to the cover. I believe this bright blue cancellation would be difficult to imitate.

Cover 18 - I do not know where Gibson acquired this cover but I believe from Perry. I consider this the Indian red. Do you not think so? If not, I would like to see a sample of the Indian red sometime when you have one available.

Cover 22 - I consider this the steel blue and while I did not sell it to him, it is from the famous Pierce St. Petersburg correspondence and I believe has been considered the steel blue by those who have seen it. Are you of a different opinion?

Cover 41 - You ask what is wrong and you undoubtedly refer to the fact that the New York postmark is dated in May and the French postmark in August. Is this an error in date and do you think the whole thing has been faked?

Cover 61 - The stamp was not issued until 1859 and the postmarks on this cover are 1858. The cover is possibly faked but I cannot see why one would want to ruin a nice mint copy of this stamp to fake a cover that would not be worth as much as the unused stamp. Are we positive that the stamp was not issued until 1859?

Cover 62 - I can see nothing wrong with this cover and would like to be advised as to what you noted. Gibson bought this from Perry for \$45 as I can see from the notation on the back and it also has six lines of Chase's writing in which he states it is very rare in this condition and prices it at \$12.50. It also has Perry's little label on it showing that it cost him "N" dollars. It is used in January of 1861 from New Orleans, a few months before the outbreak of the war.

Cover 77 - Is in the shade that I have always considered one of the August issues. How I would like to have a superb mint copy in this color.

Cover 78 - I consider this the steel blue. Gibson bought it from Perry as I see from the notation on the back and paid \$50 for it.

Cover 94 - I consider the 5¢ a deep orange brown. It is certainly not the brown shade as it seems to have some yellow in it. It is not the bright orange brown generally found among the unused remainders.

<u>Cover 100</u> - The shade does not strike me as exceptional and I simply thought it was the other color of the type II.

Cover 107 - I do not consider the pair of 3¢ as the pink but it is the shade that is sold by many as pink. Those that I like to call pink have a bluish tinge and under a glass are really a bright pink.

Cover 144 - Here again I simply designate the stamps as dark brown and consider the cover as nothing special.

Cover 149 - It is my impression that either a  $3\phi$  stamp has been removed from this cover which would have made the  $10\phi$  rate, or else it went through short postage and was not noticed. The pair of  $1\phi$  and the  $5\phi$  seem to be tied together and the postmark seems to tie them to the cover. Do you think this is a fake? If so, it is one of the finest I have ever seen.

Just put this letter aside until you return from Buffalo and let me hear further from you at your convenience and with your second letter on hand I will take it up with Mr. Gibson.

Sincerely yours,

phw.jr/l.

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Aug. 12, 1940.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr., 1616 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Phil:

Thanks for your letter of the 9th and here are my comments on the covers mentioned:

Cover #1. There was no suspicion in my mind that this cover was wrong in any way. I think the use of an unsigned copy as late as October is most umusual and I wondered what was the actual reason. It is quite possible that small amounts of sheets were signed at various times and that it was possible that all copies sold were not signed. It is just a little point to remember and I think a special memo should be put on this cover noting a very late use of an unsigned copy.

Cover #18. I think this is suith a fine example of the socalled Indian Red but I have seen copies which are a trifle more brilliant. I took a very careful Ridgway reading of this particular copy and it is "7.K." Ridgway designates this 7.K shade as mahogany red, and other copies I have seen match his 9.M which he calls "Chestnut." I have been trying to persuade Hugh to assign a major listing to the "Indian Red." It deserves more recognition than the catalogue now accords it. A used vertical strip of the Brick Red is considered rather nice on cover, but in comparison imagine a vertical strip, very fine, of the brilliant Indian Red.

Gover #22. I do not exactly recall this color and only have a memo for reference. I did not make a Ridgway reading, but my memo states this is not the real "Steel Blue," but rather what I call a "Slate" which is a very much more common stamp. Perry and I are not in perfect agreement on some of the 24g shades, and he is of the opinion that certain ones are changelings. I agree that some undoubtedly are changelings but on some which he has put in this class, I disagree and believe they are actual shades. When considering a steel blue, I think it is well to remember that the real shade runs to blue, if there is any question on this point the stamp is no doubt a slate. Luff did not list a slate blue, but he did list a "slate." I think the reason for this is that he did not separate two distinct shades but called both "Slate." He gave the earliest use of a "Slate" as Oct. 8, 1861 and this is the date assigned to a Steel Blue in the catalogue. I therefore do not know the exact shade he listed, hence we cannot place real dependence in the catalogue date of issue of Oct. 8, 1861. I have a "Slate" of Sep. 21, 1861 but it is not a steel blue. No such a stamp, such as mine is therefore listed. This is just one of the many reasons why the whole 1861 section of the Catalogue should be entirely revised. The present arrangement is out of date and obsolete and is a relic of the 1890's. I think the use of the Cibson cover is June 1862.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr., Aug. 12, 1940.

Cover 41. The whole bottom part of the stamp to right is repaired and painted. There seems to be something phoney about the red New York marking, as the first letter of the month seems to be "M" whereas the month should have been "July."

Cover 61. This was a stampless cover to which a 5¢ was added. Aside from the date of use of the stamp, the markings plainly indicate that this was an unpaid double rate with the equivalent of 30¢ due on delivery (Charleston P.M. in black). The "16" is the French due mark of 16 decimes or close to 300. The Boston P.M. with "6" is in black, hence a debit marking, indicating we had charged France 6g (2 X 3g) out of the 30g she was to collect. I am not unmindful of the fact that a short paid rate was rated as wholly unpaid but in this case it is hardly possible a 5d Brown Type I could have been used as early as Janl 22, 1858, when our earliest record of a use is July 6, 1859, (not July 4th, 1859 as per catalogue). I am sure I do not know if the stamp was unused, and the grid faked. Over in Paris the artists have some very clever methods of removing postmarks. How they do it, I do not know. Considering this fact, I do not think that we should always take for granted that stamps with fake mr kings were unused when the fake was applied. Faking covers is not a hobby with some people, but rather a very serious business proposition. They do not hesitate to have special fake postmarks made just for some special cover. They are not only exceptionally clever as to details but are quite artistic. The old method of telling a fake cover by the tie-ons is obsolete, the safe method is to know positively what the cover should have and what the markings mean, and this is a branch of research work which has not heretofore been attempted in any serious sort of way by any student in this country or abroad. Chase don't even know the fundamental principles of the subject.

Cover 62. I do not like the appearance of this cover. There was no 10¢ rate to France in 1861, and if the 15¢ rate had been short paid the exchange markings would certainly have shown this fact. Instead there is a rather faint trace of a red (meaning a credit out of a prepaid rate) New York foreign exchange marking showing a credit to France of 12¢. Naturally 12¢ could not have been credited out of a payment of 10¢. The two New Orleans postmarks do not look genuine to me. The type used looks like an imitation of the genuine type on cover #110. The letters of these two markings do not match. The shade of this pair is quite exceptional.

Cover 77. Use in Oct. 1862. No this is not one of the so-called August 1861 shades. It is somewhat similar, and is what I call a "purple lilac." (Ridgway 71'1M). It runs more to red whereas a 24¢ Violet runs more to blue.

Cover 78. By Ridgway this color is 1'''' (Plate L1) and called by him "Dark Quaker Drab." It is a grey with quite a strong mixture of black, and very little blue. No, I would not consider this a steel blue, but rather a very dark slate.

Cover 94. My memo states, "Dark Orange Brown." I note you state deep Orange Brown which is the same thing. The Ridgway reading is "Auburn - Pl 2 - 11.M." This was one of my old covers and I always liked the dark shade of this stamp. It was my main reference

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr., Aug. 12, 1940.

copy up to the time I sold it to you.

Cover 100. I didn't take a reading of these stamps but they struck me as a trifle unusual, perhaps I was mistaken. The "1860" in the "Peoria" is an error, as the use was undoubtedly "Jan. 2, 1861."

Cover 107. We agree perfectly, though I call this color "Pinkish Rose".

Cover 144. I like browns, and when they are dark and rich they have a special appeal I suppose. I may be mis taken but I would hardly call this shade common among the Pl 2 Browns.

Cover 149. Here is a most exceptional cover and it is my opinion it is as good as gold. I do not recall ever seeing a duplicate of this rate. It is pre-French Treaty - use in March 1856. The 5¢ is the shore to ship rate and the 2¢ is the carrier fee to the N.O. Post Office. (Foreign letter - carrier fee - 2¢). Thus we have a combination foreign rate, and N.O. Carrier. Did you ever see a duplicate, that is, 7¢ in postage on a cover to France? I never did.

Foreign rate covers are an intensely interesting study, especially when we can read the stories they have to tell.

Yours etc.,

Dear Mr ashbrooke On separate sheet am sending list of 1847 covers If interested would be pleased to loan them to you. Kindly advise how long you

Sincerely
Oscar C. Kaarass
Oscar C. Kaarass
201 East 4th South 5to
Salt Lake City
Utah

Oscar C. Karass 201 East 4th South St Salt Lake City, UTAH List of 1847 stamps 5 ingles - hinged

54- 2 black town

1 red grid i magenta grid 1 manuscript 1 double tranfer Covers 10 bisect on piece - authenticated by Toospern + Morganthau 10\$ To Philadelphia - Cinnoinati canc.
10\$ " Boston - St Louis "
10\$ " Knoxville Square Grid " 5 + pair to N.Y. Grid + Mobile 50 pair to Richmond Grid + N.y 5+ pair to Baltimore Grid & Cinnenati 5+ blue grid orange brown 5# " " May 1850 " Philadelphia canc. 54 manuscript to Phil. Grida Ny canc 50 50 " albany " " · New Haven Grid + NY cane 5 F " Washington blue numeral canc 5\$ Dark brown shade " albany - Double Transfer " FallRiver 1849 shade " New London New Haven & Frid cans 59 5 pair to New Orleans NY + Grid cane · (over)

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

May 16, 1940.

Mr. Hugh Clark, 2 W. 47th St., % Scott Publications, New York, N.Y.

My dear Hugh:

Regarding yours of the 26th. I know you are very busy and haven't the time to spare to read long letters so I will be as brief as possible in explaining some of the ideas I have in mind.

which they were issued, i.e., First color - Red brown Type I Second " - Indian red " I (Note this is a distinctive color and deserves more than a minor rating)

Third color - Brick red Type I Fourth " Brown " I Fifth " Brown " II Sixth " Orange brown " II

If arranged in the above manner your sequence of dates of issue will then be in proper order. I do think this is quite important.

Re - the 1861 Issue. Sooner or later the catalogue is bound to recognize the fact that the August stamps were,

1st - never regularly issued-2nd - That they have no excuse for being in the catalogue for the reason that these labels were not made under Government supervision, hence are not even in the same class as the 3d lake and 3d scarlett finished proofs. The "Augusts" were merely samples of work which the National Bank Note Co. submitted to the Government in their effort to obtain the 1861 contract.

If the 1861 Issue is to be properly revised and a true record given to collectors, the present set-up will have to be revised for several reasons. Briefly one of these reasons is as follows:

Under #60 we have a 24¢ violet unused and a 24¢ violet used. The real "Sample" 24¢ is #60 in umused condition. It is a most distinctive color and this color is never found in used condition. In fact it is unknown. There is a very rare 24¢ violet color known both off and on cover. It is a stamp of the regular issue and is known on cover as early as August 21, 1861. I have never seen an unused copy. Therefore the listing #60 refers to one stamp unused (the sample - known as the August) whereas #60 used refers to an entirely different stamp. The genuine #60 used is entirely out of place listed under a heading of "First Designs" and this also applies to unused and used copies of 60 A which is a distinctive gray lilac shade on very thin but not brittle paper. If you must have the samples (Augusts) in the catalogue, you should only list them as unused. The used 10¢ Type I on both thin and thick papers should be listed under the Regular Issue. It is senseless to put the 10¢ on either papers where the stamp is at present, because #58 was regularly issued.

Mr. Hugh Clark - May 16, 1940.

Again referring to the colors of the 24¢ regularly issued colors. I think there is little doubt their appearance was in this order:

lst violet and gray lilac 2nd steel gray 3rd steel blue 4th red lilac.

If one refers to the present catalogue for the earliest issue of a 24¢ stamp what does he find? Why the steel blue with date of Oct. 4, 1861. I do not mean to state that the above order is 100% correct but it is so far as present research work goes. At least it is a foundation and can be improved as further discoveries are made. You will note I list a steel gray. This is a distinctive sahde which is sold by dealers in many instances as the steel blue. The fact of the matter is that the real steel blue is quite a rare color.

I have in mind a 24d steel gray used on Sep 21 1861. Now this particular stamp is not a steel blue and if it is not a steel blue then where can one find such a stamp in the catalogue? It has no blue in it, but it is more of a gray but totally unlike the grays of much later dates and listed under #78.

I promised a brief letter but I see that such a thing is practically impossible when one gets on the technical points of these listings.

I won't go into the Bank Notes at present but I have in mind some very sensible suggestions re - the National and Continental. I note on page 51 re - the 24¢ - 30¢ and 90¢ in referring to the difference between the National and Continental. "The various printings of these stamps can only be distinguished by the shades and paper." This is indeed a great help to one who does not know the shades and these listings should be revised and simplified. Just because a 30¢ does not match in color the known shades of #143 is no sign it is a #165 instead of a #154. Does anyone who really knows the Bank Note Issues claim that there were no #165 full blacks? I think the Bank Notes (thru the 1879 issues) should be sub-divided according to,

(A) Grill

(B) Hard or Soft Paper and

(C) Secret Marks.

Re - the latter, I think where the secret mark is doubtful, it should be eliminated. I refer to the 2¢ and perhaps to the 15¢. However more on this subject later.

Let me know what you think of the above comments.

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

May 21, 1940

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

Dear Stan:

Yours of the 16th just received. I have heard nothing from Doane since I wrote you so understand that he has not yet finished his appraisal. I am not surprised at this as there was a tremendous amount of material to be handled, something over two hundred volumes. As soon as Percy has finished, I shall have to get into the middle of the problem and will bear in mind the matter of the photographs, etc. which you have mentioned. You see, Stan, I don't as yet know whether there are any specific bequests as applied to the collection. Anyway, I will keep you posted.

Regarding the various suggestions concerning U.S. listings, I am more than glad to have your notes. About the  $5\phi$  1857 listing, do you feel that two types are all that are needed? I had imagined you would go back to the old three types.

So far as the "August" issue is concerned, I still want to talk this over with you in far greater detail than is possible by correspondence.

Regarding Nos. 37,38 and 39, I think I told you in a previous letter that I intend to make these "am or minor varieties of Nos. 52, 53 and 54.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours, SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

Hugh M. CLARKE

HMC: JK

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

May 23, 1940.

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

My dear Hugh:

Re - yours of the 21st. I would be very much opposed to listing more than two types of the 5¢ 1857, because I think the relief differences in the Plate 2 stamps are too insignificant to divide into separate types. I think we have enough type varieties in the catalogue at present without adding any more.

It would be fine to sit down and personally discuss the 1861 issue where we had no one to bother us. I am full of this subject and I think I could enthuse you with what really could be done with the catalogue listings. Aside from getting closer and closer to the truth with more correct classifications, I do believe that renewed interest can be created in the issues and renewed interest is of benefit to you as a publisher as well as to all dealers. Just as one example of what is correct and what is incorrect, the 5¢ value is listed first in the set as a buff with issue of Aug. 19, 1861. The next listing of a 5¢ is the brown (March 1862) under heading of "Issue of 1862-66," and the next is the red brown (May 26, 1862) but the listing in the catalogue is not in this order, but with the red brown listed as #25 and the brown as #76.

Naturally one would suppose that all the 5¢ stamps issued between Aug. 19, 1861 and March 1862 were buffs. Is this not correct? If this were true, which of course it is not, then it stands to reason that the buff would surely not be as scarce a stamp as we know it to be.

I have for long been perfectly satisfied in my own mind that the buff was soon changed to another color and that printings of this unsatisfactory color were changed as early as the middle of September 1861. But what color was adopted? Was it the brown or was it the red brown? I had an idea it was brown and that the red brown was merely an off shade of the brown which did not make its appearance until sometime after the first part of 1862. With this thought in mind I started out to prove my deductions. Without saying anything to anyone I shaved known uses of the brown back from March to February, then to January, then to December 1861, then into November and at present my record stands at Oct. 12, 1861, which is the earliest use I have been able to discover. Thus you will note that while the 5¢ 1861 brown is listed in the catalogue as an "1862-66 Issue" with earliest use known as Mar. 1862, the stamp is in fact an 1861 issue, and should certainly be removed from #76 and placed immediately following #67. This is one instance of the kind of research work I am doing and if there is anyone else in the country who is doing a similar service I would like to be put in touch with him.

Here is one more point but along another line. I refer to the listings of the Type "A" Supplementary Mail cancelations. You have this marking listed on every value of the 1857-60 stamps with the exception

Mr. Hugh N. Clark - May 23, 1940.

of the 90¢ value. I have an idea someone put something over on you because I am quite sure a great many of these are fakes. Perhaps all are but at present I am unable to prove this suspicion. There is absolutely no doubt but what collectors in general depend on the catalogue 100%, and if, for example, a S.M. marking is listed on a 5¢ 1857 orange brown at \$35 the average collector has no doubt but what such a stamp is worth \$85. He overlooks the fact that mint copies list but \$12.

It is easy to realize how much such listings assist the crooks and how detrimental they are to the innocent collector. A 30¢ 1860 with S.M. lists at \$60 yet our mutual friend Ernie paid \$68 for one in the Brown sale. I can buy a fine mint 30¢ 1860 for \$20. A rubber stamp would cost me \$2, ink, very little, and I could make a finer fake than Ernie bought. So you see that even our experts fall for such things when the catalogue indorses them. Did it ever occur to you that while this marking is listed on every value of the 1857-60 issue except the 90¢ not even one cover is known with the marking tying stamp to cover and further not even one genuine cover is known with 1857-1860 stamps with this marking on the face? Is this a coincident or it is just very funny?

Hugh it is perfectly 0.K. with me where you put 37 - 38 and 39, but how can you honestly list these trial printings as minor varieties of 52, 53 and 54? They are either stamps or they are proofs, and feeling absolutely certain they are the latter, I fail to see the widdom of listing any proofs as minor varieties of regularly issued stamps. I have talked this matter over with numerous collectors and all have expressed the opinion that the catalogue should eliminate all questionable items regardless of whose toes might be pinched. I think you will be severely criticised if you fail to follow out what is going to develop into a strong demand for such action.

Regarding Ned's collection. I had no idea he had enough material to fill 200 volumes but I suppose his hotel corner cards filled many books. I wonder what will be done with the Morgan papers? Ned gave me an option on this material and I made an attempt to interest Richey in it, and was trying to get a western collector to go east with me this Spring to look it over. It is a wonderful lot of material. I am hoping you may be able to make a cash sale to Gordon and clear the whole matter up in this way. I will be very much interested in the result of Percy's appraisal and any information you give me will be treated in the strictest confidence.

With every good wish,

Cordially yours

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

May 27, 1940.

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

Dear Hugh:

Re - the catalogue listings of the 24d 1861. The earliest date of issue of a 24d 1861 in the catalogue is "Oct. 4, 1861," the steel blue, #70 B. From August 1861 to January 1862, we find this stamp was issued in five distinct colors, and all of these are found on very thin paper, not the thin brittle paper of the sample labels, but on a paper as Mr. Luff aptly described as "thin but tougher" (than the Premiere).

These four colors were as follows and in the order in which I personally think they were issued, with the earliest known uses listed:

- (A) Viblet A most distinctive color which is a violet which runs to blue rather than the #60's generally sold by dealers as #60, which in the majority of cases run to red. Very thin paper earliest use known "August 20, 1361." This is on a cover in the Harold Brooks collection which I have carefully examined on several occasions. The color is distinctive and runs strongly to blue.
- (B) Gray lilac A stamp you list as 60 A. This is found on a very thin paper but it is very rare and I have never seen a copy on cover, nor have I seen any dated copy which would give any approximate date of use. I merely list it as second because the paper is thin and the color appears to be the first change that was made from violet to the ones which followed.
- (C) Steel gray I am enclosing you a copy herewith. This is the earliest known use, Sep. 21, 1861. The paper is very thin but tough.
- (D) Steel blue Thin paper. Oct. 4, 1861. This was a cover in the Waterhouse sale of 1924. I never saw the item hence I am not sure the color was an actual steel blue, but assume Waterhouse knew a steel blue when he saw a real one.
- (E) Red lilac The catalogue gives Oct. 8, 1861 and not loubt this date is taken from the Luff book which gives the earliest use of a 24¢ 1861 as Oct. 8, 1861 but lists it as a slate, not a red lilac.

Regarding the 24¢ steel grays, grays, slates etc. I have often wondered if certain of these stamps were in reality not separate shades of ink which were actually used but chemical changelings. Note the stamp which is enclosed herewith. Put this under a strong glass and note what a sickly looking color it is. I often wonder if this is a changeling from a red or brown lilac.

If this color is an actual color which was issued in 1861, and so far we have no proof to the contrary, then here is a stamp which is not listed in the catalogue. This could not be classified under any

Mr. Hugh Clark - May 27, 1940.

of the colors listed as issued in 1861, because it certainly could not be termed as a steel blue. In addition it is totally unlike the gray which you list under August 1863 as 78 B. I doubt if there is any value in the 1861 issue which gives collectors and dealers as much trouble as the 24%.

As I recall you expressed some opposition to a separate listing of the 24% steel blue, when I was discussing this subject with you in New York a year ago. If there is sufficient difference between a 3% pink and a 3% rose to give each a separate listing, then I wonder if there is not ample justification for at least three major listings of the 24% 1861 as follows:

- (1) August 20, 1861. 24¢ violet (now misplaced under #60) Minor - Gray lilac
- (2) Oct. 4, 1861 (?) 24¢ steel blue Minor - steel gray - Sep 21 1861
- (3) oct. 8, 1861 (?)
  242 red lilac
  Minor brown lilac
  blackish voolet (?)

I will be interested in your comments.

I am receiving numerous comments on my 1860 article in current "Stamp Specialist" and so far all have been in perfect agreement. I am enclosing an extract from one of these which I thought you might like to see.

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

June 29, 1940.

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

My dear Hugh:

Yours of the 25th received. I quite agree with you that there should be a complete revision of the General Issues up to 1880, and that until this is done, it would perhaps be unwise to make certain minor changes in such sections as the 5¢ 1857. I think the numbering should be revised and that the 5¢ 1847 should be #1 instead of #28. I am convinced that in certain sections, the listings should be simplified. I refer especially to the long list of 5¢ 1851 recuts on page 30. Another example, off hand, is the Confed section, pages 412 and 413. Listing "Stones" is confusing and such complex listings in a catalogue do far more harm than good.

Regarding the 5% 1857 "Indian Red." I do not know who invented this term, but I do know that it is a color which is most distinctive, much more so in fact than the Type II orange brown. Luff did not mention "Indian Red" nor did Colman, but the latter did list a 3% 1851 (#42) as "Indian Red." Luff listed a "Carmine Brown" and it is possible this referred to the color we now call "Indian Red."

I have studied this color carefully for a number of years because it is not only rare but it is very rich and beautiful. It
compares very closely with several examples in the Ridgway book which
he termed as "Mahogony Red," another as "chestnut." At the present
time I do not happen to have an example in my reference collection,
but I have a record of a number of readings of copies which I have
taken by Ridgway.

You see Hugh I have worked with this book for twenty years and it is my bible and colors. I do think I have trained my eye very carefully. In the Carhart collection is a very fine horizontal pair which was used from Marysville, Calif. I never had an idea any sheets of this color were sent to California until I saw this cover. The pair is canceled very lightly with a pale blue postmark which does not interfere with the marvelous color of the pair. I will write Herold and ask him to send you this cover. I know that Mrs. Clark and yourself will agree with all that I have said about the Indian Red. Jessup has a magnificent vertical pair and there is a very fine single on cover in the Gibson collection. I could name others but these will suffice.

I have an enormous correspondence from all parts of the country and I do know that there is a great interest being taken in rare and unusual colors of 19th Century U. S. stamps. In fact there is more interest than in types and plate varieties.

Mr. Hugh Clark, June 29, 1940.

Most any collector can appreciate a fine color and there is always that chance of picking one up as an ordinary variety.

This color is postively not any sort of a chemical changeling.

Re - the "First Designs." Naturally I disagree with you entirely. The notation "not regularly issued" is a very, very peor excuse. If these bits of paper were "not regularly issued" then they are not postage stamps and if they are not stamps then they have no place whatsbever in the catalogue. This is plain common sense and nothing else. I am merely crying for common sense and pleading the cause of what collectors want. I have no axe to grind, I am sincere, and I have but one object, and that is, to do all that I can in my humble way to advance the very best interests of American philately. I do not approve of the methods that Perry employs and I am not particularly interested in what he advocates, because I am convinced of one thing, that Elliott is so blinded by his own self importance that he is far more interested in proving Perry's theories to be right, than in proving facts.

His stubbern stand on the Knapp stamp is proof of this fact. If anyone thinks there is the slightest collusion between Elliott and myself, they are wrong, because I certainly do not need Elliott to assist me in my effort to convince you that an accurate listing of 19th Century U. S. is a sensible business-like proposition for you to adopt.

Regarding #37 - #38 - #39. I am not greatly complimented by your remark that my recent article was practically identical with the Perry article in Scott's back in 1922. I have this article but I haven't read it for years. Perhaps my article did not produce any new evidence, but it did do one thing. It put in one article just about everything we have on these three trial printings.

I am indeed sorry you are going to list them as minor varieties of 52 - 53 and 54. I think this is wrong and I am sure all students of 19th Century V. S. will not approve of an action which I am sure they will consider as a mere subterfuge. Why invite adverse criticism when you could just as well receive the full approval of the entire body of American collectors?

had appeared in the A.P. rather than in the Scott Journal. Please give me the reference and I certainly will make proper correction. I do not think that any fair-minded person could possibly infer from my article that I even intimated that Mr. Luff or yourself, or the Soctt Company had ever made any attempt to conceal the truth, but I did stress how grateful I was to you for giving me all the information which you had at your disposal. I am firmly convinced that we have sufficient evidence to prove that #37 - #38 and #39 are nothing more than "trial printings," that they certainly are not "imperforate errors which escaped perforation." If you list these as minor varieties of 52 - 53 and 54, you will be endorsing this silly and thoroughly discredited theory and you will make the catalogue a party to a wrong. In other words, such a listing will give the impression that certain imperforate sheets were "errors" and that they were actually issued

Mr. Hugh Clar, June 29, 1940.

in this shape to the public, hence are collectable items, and as legitimate stamps they have a place in collections along side of regular stamps. We know full well that these were simply samples which were sent by T.C. & Co. to the P.M.G. and that they went into the files of the P.O.D. with the correspondence. Everything proves this, even the colors, yet you intend to go ahead and list these samples as regular postage stamps, as minor varieties of 52, 53 and 54. Hugh I beg of you not to do this because it is bad business and such an action will react against you and as one of your good friends, I do not want this to occur. I have gone on record that I considered any such a listing as a mere subterfuge and I will disavow such listings on every occasion that I can.

It is not my province to tell you what to put in the catalogue, but as your friend I can argue these points with you and further, I do not think that our friendship is such that you would demand that I keep my mouth shut and not criticise in public print certain things which I consider are most injurious to the best interests of American philately.

Regarding the 24d 1861 steel gray. My mind is open on the shade, copy of which I sent you - Sep. 21, 1861. It may be some sort of changeling, and it may be actually a shade. I am sure I do not know at this time, but if it is a changeling, this change is a natural one, and not one which was made to order. If it is a changeling, from what original color did it change? I do not think the violet would change to this color and I doubt if a real steel blue would turn into anything like this. We must not jump to conclusions on such problems but use a little common sense. Naturally this requires a proper knowledge of what colors were actually used from August 17th to Sep. 21, 1861.

Dealers sell all sorts of things (and charge high prices) for the real 24d steel blue. I am in conflict with them all the time. Collectors send me copies and ask - "Is this a steel blue," and I reply positively that is not. Perhaps some will say - "Bunk, what does Ashbrook know?" Well I'll admit I do not know very much, but at least I am occasionally prepared to back up with proof, certain opinions expressed. I can at least lay a supposed 24d steel blue along side of a real one and prove which is the correct color.

Re - Perry. Several days ago I wrote Rollin Flower that I read in Mekeel's that Elliott was slated to read a paper before the A.P.S. Convention on "Catalogue Errors" and that I feared E.P. would use this occasion to make an attack on you, and that if he did such a thing, it would be very bad indeed.

It is possible I may attend the Buffalo Convention and if I do I will use all the influence I can exert to prevent Elliott from resorting to personalities.

group of some fifteen to twenty of the most prominent 19th Century collectors get together and voice their unbiased epinions on correct 19th Century catalogue listings, and to offer their suggestions to you. This can be done in a very friendly and co-operative spirit, which would be devoid of antagonism of every description.

Mr. Hugh Clark, June 29, 1941

To give some standing to such a committee I am considering the advisability of offering a Resolution before the Convention. However I realize one thing, if any good is to be accomplished along this line, I must have your hearty co-operation, therefore I will welcome your views on the above proposal.

Re - Supplementary Mail - Type "A". This marking is listed on all values of the 1857-1860 except the 90%. I think it is quite significant that not even one cover is known with the above stamps and this marking. What appears strange to me is that Dr. Beboock or Edwin Milliken never gave very much thought to this very unusual coincidence. I haven't a doubt but what you have seen copies of each listing you made and naturally you had to depend on the two recognized authorities, so I am not blaming you in the least, in fact I have no right perhaps to intimate that the majority of the items may be bad, but I cannot be blamed if I have my suspicions.

I note that nothing further has been done on the Knapp collection, but I will certainly appreciate if you will advise me regarding any decisions which are made. I am so anxious to obtain the negatives or photographs which Ned had made of covers, especially all Westerns, Ponies, and "Via Nicaragua." I feel convinced that I can employ these in a way which will be most helpful to all advanced students, and I dislike to contemplate that they might be placed somewhere, where their usefullness would be buried.

I have heard all this material might be turned over to the Collectors Club. On this suggestion all I can sav is, give me the negatives, and let the Club have the photographic prints. This is most important Hugh and I beg of you that you assist me in any way you can.

With every good wish,

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Aug. 5, 1940.

Mr. Hugh Clark, % Scott Publications, Inc., 2 W. 47th St., New York, N.Y.

Dear Hugh:

Re - S.U.S., cancelations of One Cent 1851 - Types II and IV,
"Blue Carrier." I recall that I wrote you about this several
years ago assuming that the listing referred to the small double
circle "Balto - Paid" which is found in both black and blue. I am
quite sure that it has been definitely established that this marking
is a "printed circular" and "drop" and had no relation whatsoever
to any carrier service. See Ashbrook Volume 2 - Chapter on "Carriers."
I know of no other blue carrier which is known on the One Cent 1851,
Types II and IV, so I assume the listing refers to the Baltimore,
which as we both know, was referred to thru error for many years is a
"Carrier." On this same subject I note under the 3¢ 1851 a "green
carrier." I have an idea how this listing occurred and to what it
refers but so far as I am aware, the marking is not known on a 3¢ 1851
but only on a face of a cover. If I am right, then face markings
whould not be listed unless they are known on stamps. If the one I
have in mind - in green - is listed correctly (on the 3¢) then perhaps
it should also be listed on the One Cent 1851 Type IV, but I doubt
the wisdom of either.

I also note under the One Cent 1851 Type II, a cancelation listed as "1853 year date." Naturally I suppose this refers to the well known New York of July 11 to 26, 1853, but while this marking is known on 1d imperfs, Type IV, I have never seen an example on a Type II. See Ashbrook One Cent book, Vol. 2, page 119 - 5th paragraph.

Yours etc.,



November 28, 1939

Dear Stanley,

The first STAMP SPECIALIST has been received and your very fine 1847 article has been read carefully and with unusual pleasure. It is a contribution workty of you and what more can be said?

You asked me to comment upon it and I shall do so, not because I wish to, but because you asked me. There is very little in it which perhaps does not agree with the facts, or with which I do not agree. I had several covers used in July 1847 and may have a record of them. The earliest I have heard about was July 7, 1847 with an uncancelled stamp and very likely this is the cover mentioned in the first column on page 47.

I do not recall having paid special attention to the shifts in the Ackerman collection and may possibly have sold a "C" or "D" without knowing it, but I think that very unlikely and so far as I know he had neither of them. He did have several of the "A" and "B" shifts. There was a vertical block of six which Emerson would not buy for a few dollars at the time it was offered him in Boston. It was cut in two strips and I think Filstrup bought the strip with A and B in it, and Emerson bought the other strip. It seems to me that was earlier than 1920.

Respecting the Luff affidavit regarding the destruction of the plates in 1851; I do not know where Luff found the original, but I do know that official records do not always say what they mean, and could name at least four such instances of philatelic importance. One of them is mentioned at the bottom of the first page of Pats #39 and another on page kok 1216 in the Hobbie letter. I have no doubt a die and plate of the 5c and 10c were destroyed in 1851 as the Luff affidavit states, but I do not believe all the rolls were destroyed and I have sometimes wondered if more than half plate of each value was destroyed.

Page 40. (Knapp shift); - \*\*\* "while such a double transfer could not \*\*\* originate from a steel plate, such a variety could \*\*\* originate from a plate made of copper." I am unable to find any explanation why this variety could not originate from a steel plate but could originate from a copper plate. Of course I do not know that you intended to give the reasoning by which this conclusion was reached.

Some of the reasoning regarding the plating of the 5c and



10c stamps seems not to be wholly consistent. "It was possible to reconstruct the 10c plate principally because \*\*\* the four frame lines were recut on each of the 200 positions." (page 40)

But regarding the 5c in the following paragraph I read, \*\*\*
"the principal reason why it is impossible to reconstruct the
5c 1847 plates is because they were made of copper."

I have no doubt I could have reconstructed the 5c plate if there had been only one plate and it had been recut as was the 10c, and whether it was made of copper or steel. I still believe that a reconstruction of the 5c plate (1) is theoretically possible. But I do not think the results would be worth the effort, because there are so many stamps which could not be identified, i.e., located on a completed plating.

From a practical standpoint the plating may be impossible, not because of the admitted difficulty of a reconstruction, but because there may not be in the world enough of the right kind of material. I was satisfied more material was required than was included in Ackerman's 1,200 copies, which included many multiples, especially the scarce vertical items.

There are several places where reference is made to copper plates as if it has been definitely proven beyond question that the plates were of copper. In my opinion it has not been so proven. Turning to page 70 you will note that sixteen years after 1847 Archer & Daly thought they might get 5,000 impressions from the 10c frame line plate, by using it "as long as it would last." Nothing is said about what the 5,000th impression will look like if even if the plate should last that long. I think this agrees very well with the Rawdon etc. warrant of 2,000 impressions from a copper plate before re-entry was necessary, because the 2,000th impression would still be a satisfactory print.

5,000 impressions was about the limit to be expected from the Confederate frame line plate, yet over 5,000 impressions were taken from the 10c 1847 plate and no appreciable plate wear has begun to appear. The average from the 1847 5c plates had to be 11,000 impressions - more than twice as muck many as Archer & Daly hoped to obtain from the frame line plate. I do not believe Archer & Daly understated the number of impressions that could be obtained from a copper plate. It sems to me that what they meant was that if they could do as well with their facilities in Richmond as their experience with copper plates had shown them

was possible in New York, they might obtain 5,000 impressions.



There are evidences of careless workmanship on the 10c 1847 plate which do not appear on the 5c. I think it quite possible that fine markings which appear on proofs might not have been visible even on early impressions of the stamps, and there is also a possibility that after the proofs were printed the state was gone over very carefully and the fine markings were burnished out. Markings which appear on 10c proofs also appear on the stamps instead of disappearing rapidly as I suppose they would from a copper plate.

I do not see how the presence or absence of fine dots, scratches etc. indicates that a plate is steel or copper. The 10c 1847 plate has many of them and the 5c plate doesn't. I know of many steel plates which have very few such markings and sometimes other factors than these make a stamp platable. You have reconstructed 95% of the frame line plate with 534 (or less) copies, while I examined about 2200 copies of the 10c 1847. The plating may have been nearly complete before 2,000 were examined but even so, and allowing for the 200 subject instead of 100, about twice as many stamps were required.

In my opinion the weight of evidence still remains in favor of the 1847 plates being steel rather than copper. There could be several reasons why the first 5c plate wore down more rapidly than is commonly the case with later steel plates.

I think you have corrected all the errors or incorrect conclusions which appeared in the Chase articles, and have added important data to the 1847 story.

Ackerman's original idea was to publish a book on the 10c 1847. I induced him to have it first appear serially. Owing to developements which need not be gone into now the last chapter (which had nothing to do with plating, but concerned usage, cancellations, etc.) was never written. I have many notes on data for that final chapter, but they may not cover it as completely as could have been done at the time.

The references to my wark work are very kind and greatly appreciated. I deserve no special credit for the work was not truly a labor of love — it was a job for which I was paid. As it finally turned out E.R.A. got his money all back with a sweet profit when his collection was sold. I understand that when a certain amount of his U.S. had been sold he had got back every dollar that he had ever put into stamps and had more than 450 volumes left!

Sincerely, Certy Certy

## THE NEW YORK "40 ENCIRCLED"

By STANLEY B. ASHBROOK, F.R.P.S.L.

T is one thing to simply collect covers, but it is quite a different thing to be able to read the stories our covers have to tell us. When we accomplish the latter, our covers take on a world of added interest, which is entirely lost to those who simply collect and evince no desire to go beyond that phase of philately.

The above observation no doubt applies to all classes of covers, regardless of whether they are United States or foreign, old or modern, but in expressing the above conviction, I have in mind in particular, our own U. S. covers of the years prior to the outbreak of the War between the North and the South.

I do enjoy finding the unusual in the search for early covers, and many times have I run across items which at first glance appeared very commonplace, but which later imparted to me many interesting facts, and in addition were the cause of my making further inquiry in various phases of the stories they had to tell.

I will cite such an example. Recently Laurence B. Mason showed me a cover from his collection, an illustration of which is herewith produced (figure No. 1). This folded letter is addressed to New York and bears no postmark, but has a rate marking in black, "40 in a circle."

At first glance we note that this letter was posted at the New York Post Office, that the rate on same was forty cents and that it was not prepaid. We are quite familiar with this "40 in a circle" and we know it was a rate handstamp used at the New York Post Office in 1849 and at various times in 1850. Examples of it are far from common.

But why should a letter addressed to New York, and mailed at New York, be taxed with 40 cents in postage? Immediately we recognize the fact that the letter was not of New York City origin but surely from a California source, as this handstamp was used only (?) on California mail. (single rates).

We open the letter and find it is headed, "San Francisco, Sept. 30, 1849," and the absence of a San Francisco postmark tells us that this is a "Dock Letter," that is, it was not deposited in the San Francisco Post Office, but was taken direct to the U. S. Mail Ship and intrusted for transmission to New York by the official in charge of the U. S. Mail Bags.

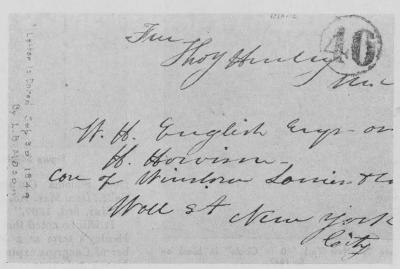


Figure #1-Rate marking-New York "40 in Circle" in black.

At that period, September, 1849, all mail between the eastern states and California went the Ocean Route "Via Panama." There was no Independent Line of ships operating regularly Via Panama or Via Nicaragua, hence all mail was transported in the regular U. S. Mail Ships.

On October 1st, 1849, the "S.S. Oregon" departed with the U. S. Mail to be transported via Panama, and no doubt this letter was carried on the first leg of its journey by this ship.

We can only speculate as to why this letter was carried direct to the mail ship "Oregon" and mailed as a Dock Letter, rather than being posted in the San Francisco Post Office. Inasmuch as the letter is dated a day prior to the sailing, we surmise that perhaps Mr. Henley, the writer, was a trifle dubious that if he posted the letter at the Post Office, it would go by the Oregon on the day following. The San Francisco Office was swamped with a tremendous volume of mail in the last quarter of 1849 and the office was undermanned.

We note this cover is marked "Free—Thos. J. Henley, M.C." We wondered why this letter was franked "Member of Congress" and why the New York Post Office refused to recognize the Frank. Inasmuch as California was not a state in 1849 and hence had no Representatives in Congress, Mr. Henley must have been from some eastern state, and was in San Francisco on Sept. 30th, 1849.



Figure #2—Prepaid letter, New York to San Francisco, Aug. 27, 1849. New York "40 in Circle" rate marking.



Figure #3—New York "40 in Circle" in black on 5c 1847.

Thomas Jefferson Henley was born in Richmond, Ind., April 2nd, 1810; admitted to the Bar in 1828. Was also a Banker in Indiana and Speaker of the Indiana State Legislature in 1840. Representative in Congress, March 4th, 1843, to March 3rd, 1849. He removed to California in 1849, and was a banker at Sacramento. Member of First California State Legislature 1851 - 1853. Superintendent of Indian Affairs of California 1855-58, and Postmaster of San Francisco, 1860-1864. Died at San Francisco, January 2, 1865. He was the father of Barclay Henley, who was a Representative in Congress



Figure #4-New York Postmark with 40 cents rate.

from Sonoma County, Calif., from Mar. 4th, 1883, to Mar. 3rd, 1887."

It will be noted that Mr. Henley's term as a Member of Congress expired on March 3rd, 1849, and evidently the New York Post

Office was aware of this fact, because when the letter was deposited in that office the Frank was disregarded, and the letter was rated "40 cents, due on delivery."

THE New York marking "40 in a circle" is usually found on covers from New York to California and is most unusual I believe, on covers from California to New York, or points beyond.

I have only seen two of the latter items, and if anyone can show me additional covers, I will greatly appreciate the favor. Figure No. 2 illustrates a typical prepaid cover with the New York "40," which was mailed at New York on Aug. 27, 1849, and addressed to San Francisco. (L. B. Mason collection). This letter was transported to Panama by the U. S. Mail "S.S. Falcon" which departed from New York at 1 P.M. on Aug. 27, 1849.

The most unusual item I have ever seen with this New York "40," is a single copy, off cover of the 5c 1847 shown me several years ago by Elliott Perry. This item is now in Mr. Mason's collection. See figure No. 3.

I might add that the markings on Figures 2 and 3 have been retouched on original photographs in order that they be shown to better advantage.

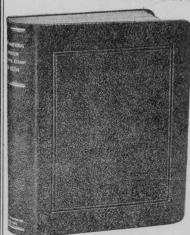
In all probability the New York Post Office did not continue the use of the "encircled 40" for any length of time after Jan. 1st, 1850. I have no record of a use even as late as the Spring of 1850. I have on the other hand noted prepaid covers with a New York postmark, the curved "Paid" and the "40" rate in pencil.

Figure No. 4 illustrates a cover from the collection of the late Henry C. Needham, and shows a New York postmark with the "40" rate. It is quite possible this handstamp was the successor of the "encircled 40." On a letter which was not prepaid, this marking was applied in black. When the rate was prepaid, the marking was generally applied in red and the small curved "Paid" marking in red was also added. The cover illustrated (figure 4) is the earliest use I have seen of this postmark with 40, viz. Oct. 11, 1850.

I am very anxious to see additional covers bearing the two markings, the "encircled 40," and the combination postmark and 40 rate, and will appreciate the loan of such items. Postage will be paid both ways. Address: Stanley B. Ashbrook, 434 S. Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

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## SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

1 West 47th St.

New York, N. Y.



#### Stephen D. Brown Sale Oct. 30-Nov. 4

Our readers will appreciate this review of the great New York sale as written by our Department Editor. Prices realized demonstrate a strong U. S. market.

By W. L. BABCOCK. 245 Willis Av. E., Detroit, Mich.

"Stephen D. Brown" Sale by Harmer, Rooke & Co., 5-day sale (Oct. 30-Nov. 4), Collectors Club, N. Y. C. Outstanding as the star sale of the season. totaling over \$107,000, several high-water marks in prices were obtained of which \$4,100 for a 24c Air Mail invert of 1918 proved a record price. (Economist.) Less than 10 days previous at the Cole sale, only \$2,100 was obtained for a duplicate copy. As there were over 2,600 lots of superlative interest, it is only possible to hit the high spots. A magnificent lot of 1847, 5 and 10c, including 2 bisects of the latter, brought excellent prices, many lots exceeding cat. The '47s and 1 and 3c '51s, Nos. 30-33, brought approximately \$20,000 for 384 lots in first day's sale. 5c on first day cover to England, dated July 12, 1845, \$260. The bisects on cover of the 10c black, No. 29a, \$320 (Uptown); and same in No. 29b, \$310 (Sanabria). 10c green, No. 35, superb, on neat cover Lowell, Mass., to Calif., cat. \$60, @ \$107.50 \$740. Superb blocks 4 of 1-2-3-4-5 dollar (Brooks). Superb horiz. pair, 10c recut, No. 35c, positions 54-55 LI, cat. \$600, @ \$250 (Souren). 10c green, No. 50, "South block 4, superb, cat. \$600, full cat. 2c, Letter Unpaid", 1861, to Prussia with

Bremen packet and provisional handstamped "10" in circle, finest known, \$285 (Brooks). 24c, No. 60, brilliant mint, cat. \$300, @ \$400. 5c, No. 67, perfection pair, handsome shade, immaculate cover with black N. Y. Steamship, \$295 (Brooks). 2c Black Jack bisect, No. 73a, diag. half cut from pair of 2c, making 3c rate, tied on, \$125 (Cole). 1c, No. 112, perfection mint, horiz. block 6, 2 stamps S. E., cat. \$60, @ \$175. (Apparently, no disc. for S. E. here.) 1c, No. 112, beautiful Waterbury "Bee", \$39 (Juhring). 2c, No. 113c, bisect, lower half tied to fine cover Wash-. ington, D. C., black Carrier canc. on env., used as 1c stamp to pay local Carrier fee, \$55 (Sanabria). Another, No. 113d, vert. half used with a 2c stamp, tied on all sides, \$59 (Juhring). 3c, No. 114, cat. 15c, with man's face in black circle, v. f. and rare. \$24 (Colson). Another Waterbury "Shoe" on piece of cover, \$27.50 (Colson). 6c, No. 115, perfection mint single, cat. \$12, @ \$26. 3c, No. 114, Waterbury "Bee" on small env., clearly struck, \$55 (Jackson). No. 114, with clear strike of Waterbury "Beer Mug", stamp defective but rare, \$45 (Jackson). Mint 6c, No. 115, cat. \$12, @ \$26. Superb 6c in dark shade with green target, \$25 (Uptown). 10c, No. 116, on cover, tied with N. Y. Steamship, \$52.50 (Brooks). 6c rose, No. 195, superb, unused, \$250 (Nassau). 30c, No. 201, same set, perfect, \$400. Complete set, 1-90c, Nos. 219-229, superb, mint, imperf. horiz, pairs, \$460. 4c blue, No. 233a, rare error, o. g., cat. \$1,200, @ Columbians, \$150, \$340, \$550 (Cole), \$925 and \$1,150 (Souren). \$5, No. 313, mint No. 324a, beautiful o. g. vert. pair, imperf. horiz., cat. \$1,500, @ \$750 (Souren). 4c, No. 360, o. g., and one of the finest bluish paper known, cat. \$750, @ \$870 (Fifield). 3c, No. 529G, Type IV, unique, unused, top Pl. No. block 12, 8 stamps printed, both sides, \$250 (Nassau). 2c, No. 689a, perfect unused block Von Steuben Com., one of rarest 20th Cent. blocks, \$675 (Colson). 5c, No. 734a, hor. pr., o. g., imperf. vert., \$250. 24c Interior. No. 1604, centered o. g. block, rarest of Dept. blocks, \$300 (Ward). Revenues, \$200 blue, black and red, No. 3932, superb and rare, \$300 (Uptown). Wells Fargo & Co. Pony Exp., \$1 red, No. 6798, perfect, tied to franked env., No. 2312, stamp tied by blue running horse, no finer Express cover known and a show-piece, \$520 (Perlander). 3c, No. 33d, bisect. diag. half used as 1c, tied by black grid on blue circular from Cal., endorsed in mss. "Via Nicaragua", also blue handstamped "Via Nicaragua Ahead of the Mails", \$300 (Cole). Two bisect. 12c black, No. 36a, on rare and v. f. Calif. covers, \$410 and 3470 (Cole), 10c, No. 50, v. f. copy tied to rare propaganda env. "Per Overland Mail Station Via Los Angeles in Hope of the Railroad" with picture of woodburning locomotive, celebrated as the "choo-choo" cover, \$400. In the Confed. group, 5c red, No. 3, tied with black grid, v. f. cover, Athens, Ga., one of the rarest Confed. provisionals, cat. \$1,750, @ \$900 (Brooks). 10c, No. 53, Greenwood Depot, Va., small neat cover, finest known, cat. \$1,000, @ \$215 (Nassau). Uniontown, Ala., 5c, No. 140, 4 fine margins, lightly tied and rare, \$430; and same buyer, 5c, No. 141, superb, large margins, tied, \$390 (Brooks). A review of this sale illustrates the keen competition for historical Americana in philately and features the most obvious trend of U. S. specialization on the part of collectors of means. While most of the purchases of these items were made by dealers, they were undoubtedly for clients. Adjectives were exhausted in describing the immaculate condition of most lots.

## 1847 Bank Note Issue

By Lt. Wilburn F. Unthank

PRINTED on white and grey to dull blue unwatermarked paper, imperforate, on the flat press by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson. 200-subject copper plates, 100-subject sheet.

5c brown. 10c black.

Subject

Benjamin Franklin, portrait painting by John B. Longacre. George Washington, "Vaughan" type, painting by Gilbert Stuart. Original owned by the Metropolitan Museum.

#### Issued

5c earliest known date of use, July 9, 1847. 10c earliest known date of use, July 10, 1847. Stamps were available in ample time for the set date of issue, July 1, 1847, so that stamps were probably sold and used on the first day, especially from New York City.

#### Historical Data

John M. Niles of Hartford was appointed Postmaster-General on March 25, 1840, and first suggested the postage stamp to the government. Cave Johnson became Postmaster - General on March 5, 1845 and was the next to suggest the use of stamps, which in the form of a bill was approved March 3, \$1847, effective July 1, 1847 from which date all stamps not authorized by the government became illegal.

The engraving contract was let for a period of four years. Use of this issue was prohibited after July 1, 1851, the date of the new series, as the government did not own the plates under this contract as was done on later issues. Stamps of this issue were honored, however, as late as 1858.

According to an affidavit the dies and plates were destroyed December 12, 1851. However, no mention is made of transfer rolls and since proofs of these stamps turned up in the 1890's that were not known before, it may be assumed that the rolls were not destroyed and although they may not exist today they certainly did at the time the government forgeries were made in 1875.

#### Number Issued

3,712,000 5c and 891,000 10c were delivered to postmasters from totals of 4,400,000 5c and 1,050,000 10c

printed and delivered to the Post Office Department.

The Postmaster General's report of December 4, 1852 states that of June 30, 1851, \$8,849.61 of the 1847 issue were in the hands of Postmasters. It further states: "for postage stamps redeemed \$3,809.35; for postage stamps of the old issue returned to the department \$8,229.20."

Luff, on page 64, "The Postage Stamps of the United States," follows this report with this curious statement which I quote: "Mr. Tiffany, in his History of the Postage Stamps of the United States, adds these two





amounts together and claims a total of \$12,038.55 of the 1847 issue were returned by the deputy postmasters. This is manifestly incorrect, both from the wording of the report, and because more stamps could not be returned than were outstanding. The stamps redeemed were probably of the 1851 issue."

To use his own words Luff was "manifestly incorrect," inasmuch as the wording and intent of the report is quite clear. \$8,229.20 was returned of the \$8,849.61 outstanding as of June 30, 1851 from the postmasters. \$3,809.35 was redeemed by postmasters from the general public for the new issue on demonetization of the 1847 issue effective July 1, 1851. Mr. Tiffany therefore knew whereof he wrote. From the report of December 1, 1853, "stamps returned, old issue \$68.05; stamps on hand, overcharged, old issue \$85.90." Thus we get a total of \$12,192.50 of this series returned.

On March 3, 1851, postal rates of 10c and 20c were established but no stamps of that denomination issued until 1855 so that the 10c, when available, was used during this period. A larger proportion of the 5c value would be used on ordinary mail, therefore we may assume that the proportion of redeemed stamps would be as of the proportion issued.

From these facts 3,547,244 5c and 851,453 10c were sold for use.

Shades

5c in light brown, dark brown, pale brown, red brown, purple brown, black brown, deep orange brown, red orange.

10c in grey black, greenish black.

Paper Varieties

Both 5c and 10c with stitch watermark and on laid paper.

Plate Varieties

5c with double transfer (4 varieties), dot in "U," dot in "S."

10c with double transfer (3 varieties), short transfer, stick pin, harelip.

Cancelations

Gridiron: 5c and 10c black, blue, green, magenta, orange, red, ultramarine. 5c only, red, brown. 10c only, pink, violet.

Town: Both values, black, blue, green, magenta, orange, red, ultramarine, violet.

Miscellaneous: Both values, Canada, Express, Free, Manuscript, Numeral, Paid, Precanceled Wheeling, W. Va., Railroad, Steam, Steamboat, Steamship, Way; 5c Hotel; 10c Panama.

Year Dates: 1847 to 1858.

Covers

5c,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  copies used as  $7\frac{1}{2}$ c.

10c horizontal, vertical and diagonal halves used as 5c.

Paper

Greyish wove on all shades except 5c black brown; yellowish white wove on 5c black brown and 10c black.

Gum

Yellow to yellow white, thin and inclined to crackle. Applied by apprentices.

Size

18½ x 23¼ mm.

Imprint

R. W. H. & E. at bottom of each stamp.

Plate Numbers

None.

Notes

Mr. Ashbrook, in "The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857," comes to the logical conclusion that this issue was printed from copper plates. At that time it was customary held many mail auctions. He had already held 62 of them at that time, and he is still holding frequent mail auctions, and using WPG to tell about each of them.

Among other advertisers we might mention D. M. Ward of Gary, Indiana; L. V. Lindsey, Norwich, N. Y.; Geo. T. Simpson, Buffalo, N. Y., and A. W. Dunning, all of whom were with us steadily up to a few years ago. However, for all time steady advertising in WPG there is Bert DeGrush, who came into our columns in November, 1915, and has been with us steadily ever since. His is the honor of being with us over the longest period of time—continuously.

It was inevitable that Gossip should be the official organ of many philatelic societies back in those early days, because it is always profitable for a new magazine to take on organships to increase its circulation. Among those we might mention the Philatelic Brotherhood of America, Mountain States Philatelic Society, Wisconsin Philatelic Society, Missouri-Kansas Philatelic Association, Tri-State Philatelic Society (comprising the Dakotas and Minnesota), International Postmark Society, Wyoming Stamp Exchange, Texas Philatelic Association, Indianapolis Collectors Club, Metropolitan Philatelic Association, International Philatelic Association, International Precancel Club and Junior American Philatelic Society, in about that order. They bring back fond memories to lots of us who were associated with them in the old days.

• Gossip, too, soon had an unusual group of steady contributors, among them A. H. Pike on postmarks (and we don't mind saying that he has never been beaten for his work on then current postmarks), now deceased; S. B. Hopkins on Mexico (Mr. Hopkins is still a frequent contributor); Robert Haynes, Dr. W. I. Mitchell and Dr. C. W. Hennan, who just couldn't be beaten on precancels; R. J. Tarpy and Harry F. Kohr, on envelopes (Mr. Tarpy still contributes once in a while on that subject); August Dietz, on Confederate States of America, and Frank E. Greene, who wrote delightfully of Panama and Canal Zone.

Some of the finest feature articles on various subjects of that time, too, were by Chas. S. Thompson, who often illustrated his own productions.

J. E. Guest, now Sales Manager for the American Philatelic Society, also conducted a newsy column from Minneapolis, Minn.

You might be interested to know that our oldest columnist is Sidney Bird with his "Random Notes," who came into WPG December 15, 1922, and has been with us pretty steadily

ever since. He also did feature articles for us as far back as 1915 or 1916. "Random Notes" has always been one of our most popular columns, and we hope will continue to be one of our best features for many more years.

"Philatelic Gossip From Here and There," another column still with us, is a pleasant concoction thought of by Victor W. Rotnem, when he became editor of WPG in July, 1926. Most of it isn't really written—it's like hash, it just accumulates. It contains a bit of everything, condensed as much as possible, and that's why it continues to please "those who must read and run."

History was made and many subscribers came to Gossip when, in 1917, A. V. Dworak found several hundred copies of the famous U. S. 5-cent "Red Error" both perforated 10 and 12, which he sold for 50c apiece with subscriptions to the magazine at 50c. You may be sure they didn't last long, and we still frequently hear from men who took advantage of that bargain. Today those two stamps catalogue \$50 and \$25 apiece, respectively. Ho, hum!

Gossip is still being carried on in the tradition of A. V. Dworak, its founder. He cast the die and he set its policies back in 1915, when there were not nearly so many ardent devotees of the hobby as there are today. It is a far cry from 1915 to 1940 in American Philately, but it is the same hobby, even if the money angle becomes more prominent with each succeeding season, and governments become more aware of the millions of

stamp collectors who people this world. Philately has had a prosperous past, and has been far more permanent than many nations and their governments. Philately is firmly embedded in the firmament of hobbies, with a larger following than any other avocation one can name. No matter how many million followers there are in Philately in this world today, we see no reason to believe otherwise than that there will be twice as many when WPG celebrates its FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY!

### Cracked Printing Die



HERE IS WHAT appears to be a cracked plate variety of a printing die used for one cent envelopes. It is constant as we have had five or six examples submitted in the last year, all of which compared favorably with this photo taken some months ago. Such examples are an interesting part of any specialized collection of envelope stamps.

## NORTHERN-EUROPE....

If you collect these Baltic Countries treat yourself to Scott's looseleaf pages. There's just no better place to mount them. The following pages are available:

Country	Pages	Price
CENTRAL LITHUANIA	. 5	\$ .25
ESTONIA	. 15	.45
LATVIA	. 19	.60
LITHUANIA	21	.65
POLAND	. 37	1.00
WESTERN UKRAINIA	. 6	.25

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1 WEST 47th STREET,



NEW YORK, N. Y.

to print bank notes from copper plates and Rawdon specialized in bank note printing. The 1851 issue was specified as STEEL plates which Toppan had considerable difficulty in producing. The lack of depth in this issue would also indicate that the stamp was not produced by the better steel plates.

#### Proofs

Both values on large die on india, white bond, laid and colored bond; plate proof on india. Both values "Specimen" exist.

#### Government Forgeries, 1875

Printed on thin crisp bluish wove paper, imperforate and ungummed, by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. 50 subject plate and sheet. Both values engraved on the same die, 2088.

Issued for display at the Centennial Exposition of 1876. 4,779 copies of the 5c and 3,883 copies of the 10c were issued. 5c comes in red brown, bistre brown and yellow brown; 10c in grey black.

Forgeries are slightly shorter and wider than the originals. The initials RWH&E are quite indistinct. 5c medallion background of horizontal lines, the original has both vertical and horizontal lines. 10c straight mouth and sleepy eyes. The white collar is very heavily shaded.

#### Proofs

5c small die, india and card plate.

10c large and small die, india and card plate.

#### 1881 Color Proofs

Both values on thin card in black, scarlet, brown, green and blue.

#### Says, Need Better Centering

THE BOSTON Post says editorially: "The United States Government stamps are admittedly the most artistically designed and beautifully printed of any in the world. But after going to all the expense of making these perfect stamps the Government spoils them for millions of people by careless spacing in the perforated sheets.

"It is estimated there are some 8,000,000 philatelists in this country who spend many millions of dollars a year on their stamp collections. As the stamps they buy are not used in the mails these millions they spend are practically all profit for the Government. But the philatelists want only stamps that are perfectly centered within the perforated edges and these they find very difficult to get. Out of thousands of sheets containing

from 50 to 100 stamps per sheet only rarely can one sheet be obtained, even in the big city post offices, in which the stamps are properly centered.

"The stamps of almost every other country in the world are uniformly properly spaced in the perforated sheets. That it can be done is shown by the fact that properly centered stamps can almost always be obtained by insisting upon them at Washington. As a matter of fact, any job printer would be sure to space them correctly if he were given the contract to make up the sheets. Why, complain the philatelists, does the Post Office Department persist in allowing this careless work to go on?

"Postmaster General Farley is now a candidate for President. Here is a chance for him to win over in one swoop the everlasting good will of about 8,000,000 people who merely ask for such a little thing as proper spacing of our stamps."—Washington Star.

#### New Editor for "U.S.C.S. Log"

WE ARE quite pleased to learn that, with the April-May issue of the U. S. C. S. Log, official organ of the Universal Ship Cancelation Society, David Brockton Browne, conductor of our "Naval Cover" column becomes its editor. Mr. Browne, besides being well versed in Naval Cover lore, is an experienced journalist, and we congratulate the Universal Ship

Cancelation Society upon obtaining his services. This will in no way affect the regularity of his column in WPG, as it will come along regularly as heretofore.

#### S. P. A. To Have Banquet First Day of Convention

VISITORS to the 46th Annual Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, August 29th, through September 1st, 1940, will find a new and rather unusual innovation, in that the banquet will be held the opening night of the affair instead of the usual end of the conventions in the past.

The committee in charge felt that in many of the past Conventions a great number of the visitors had to leave before the final days of the meeting and as a result had to miss the fellowship and enjoyment of the usually colorful dinner.

The keynote of this convention will be "get acquainted at the opening sessions—not the last"—thereby being able to benefit to the fullest extent by the newly formed friendships and renewal of the old.

The banquet will be held in the beautiful Pine Room of Hotel Statler in Cleveland, the headquarters of the Convention. This is a really delightful room and must be seen to be appreciated, and the Committee is sure it will be an occasion long to be remembered by the visitors.

# AT THE FAIR IN THE STORE Scott has the stamps

At the N. Y. Fair, Scott will have displays of airmails, first stamps of many countries, World's Fair and Exposition stamps, and Scott's famous packets. See them there.

In the store, Scott sells fine stamps, thousands of them at 50% catalogue. Come in, if you can, or write for a price list—Sets, Packets, U. S., albums, or 50% discounts.

SCOTT STAMP & COIN COMPANY, INC.

1 WEST 47th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

BOLIVIA, 1935, A. Mail,	5B			\$	.20
JAMAICA, 1938, 9d					.10
KENYA, 1937, Coronation	1. 20c .				.1
NEWFOUNDLAND, 5c Ju	ibilee				.1
VENEZUELA, 1938-39, A	. Mail,	90c			.1
SIAM, 1904, 3A, Green .					.2
COSTA RICA, 1934, A. M.	fail, 60c				.1
CURACAO, 1938, A. Mail	, 15c				.0
*SUDAN, 1898, 3M					.1
BERT Dec	DIIGH				
				-	_
22 Crant Ava	Cleng	16.	alla	N.	V

#### Great Britain Penny Black \$1

12c Interior, soft paper, beauties (val. \$1.40) \$.95 Approvals, U. S. and foreign, if you want them. R. D. MacGUFFIN, MERION STATION, PA.

#### STAMPLESS COVERS

Four different from the District of Columbia—\$1.00. All fine and really desirable. Request our latest list of stampless cover specials.

**Omar Stamp Company** 436 Virginia Ave., Hagerstown, Md.

### ! First Day Cacheted Covers!

20 all different cacheted first day covers only \$1.50. 20 airmail cacheted covers \$1.25. First day set of 10 Army & Navy covers 85c. You cannot afford to be without our lists.

F. W. Herget

553 Suffolk.

Buffalo, New York

SCARCE 1938 PRESIDENTIALS, Fine Used. ½c to 50c inclusive, 75c. \$1, \$2, \$5, set \$1.25. Complete set 13 colls: Used, 25c; mint, 60c. Free price list. Approvals on request. QUALITY STAMP SERVICE 565 Sheridan Ave., Columbus, Ohio

#### U. S. APPROVALS

Beginners, as well as more advanced col-lectors, can profit by my U. S. approvals. Fine stamps at the right prices. If you are interested, write for particulars and include 2 good references.

RICHARD V. HIGGS CHARLES TOWN,

DEPTS., DUES, CUT SQUARES, REV-ENUES, TELEGRAPHS, etc., U. S., will be sent on approval. Prices are very low. Satisfactory references required,

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#### United States

10 BIG BULLETINS of above countries FREE—A 3c stamp appreciated. Yes, we have stamps of most all other countries also.

 300 varieties AUSTRIA
 \$1.00

 100 varieties CZECHOSLOVAKIA
 .35

 80 varieties FINLAND
 .50

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## The Latest Washington News

By Paul A. Ruddell

Idaho First Day Cover Arrangements Announced

HE POST OFFICE Department has just announced first day cover arrangements for the new 3-cent Idaho commemorative stamp which will go on sale July 3 at Boise, Idaho.

Collectors desiring first day cancelations of the new stamp may send as many as ten addressed covers to the postmaster at Boise with cash or money order remittance to cover the stamps needed for affixing. A pencil endorsement in the upper right corner of the envelope should show the number of stamps to be affixed.

The size of the Idaho 50th anniversary commemorative stamp is .84 by 1.44 inches in dimensions, arranged horizontally. It is printed in purple by the rotary process and issued in sheets of 50.

Additional first day figures for the Composers set of the Famous Americans series has been announced by the Post Office Department as follows:

Covers Stamps 3c V. Herbert\_\_ 168.200 1,234,128 5c E. MacDowell 135,155 210,208

The Cordova Air Service, Inc. has filed an application with the Civil Aeronautics Authority for nonscheduled air transportation of persons, property and mail between Cordova, Alaska, and intermediate points of Valdez, Chitina, Copper Center, Gulkana, Gakona, Chestochina, Titling, Tanana Crossing with terminal point at "Fortymile District," either Chicken, Upper Jack Wade, Lower Jack Wade, or Walker's Fork, all in Alaska.

While en route from England to Denmark, the Danish steamship Vidar was sunk February 1, 1940, in the North Sea, as a result of which much of the mail conveyed thereby was lost. The Post Office Department has been advised, however, that three sacks of mail from the United States and destined for delivery in Denmark were subsequently washed ashore in Great Britain, dried, and forwarded to Copenhagen.

Sixteen per cent discount will again be allowed for money orders drawn for payment in Canada and Newfoundland effective June 1.

The Postal Bulletin for May 22 states: "Existing conditions being such that the parcel-post service to Belgium, Luxemburg (Grand Duchy), and Netherlands cannot be conducted as provided by the agreements between the United States and said countries, parcel-post service is suspended until further notice."

Fourth Asst. P. M. G. Smith W. Purdum has again cautioned postmasters against illegible postmarks.

Experimental flights from France to the United States and return are to be undertaken this summer by Air France Transatlantique, carrying French government freight, officials and mail, the Civil Aeronautics Authority has announced. Special permission to make the flights was granted on the basis that no commercial service was involved.

It is understood that the balance of the Departmental supply of the New York and San Francisco World Fair stamps consisting of several million copies of each have been sent to the postmasters at New York and San Francisco to advertise the second year of the fairs.

BRAZIL celebrated the Fourth Centenary of the Foundation of Pernambuco on July 2, 1935, by issuing two stamps showing a picture of the primitive settlement.

## TELEGRAPHS!

SPECIAL LOW PRICES ON SURPLUS

3c & 50c "Hole" both for (\$1.60)\$ .80
14 others "Punched"55
I have a few nice used!
Atlantic, 5c & 10c, both 1.00
B. & O., Forbes, set of 4, used 1.55
B. & O., Kendall, 4 mint 1.70
B. &. O., Conn. River, 4 used 1.10
California, No. 3400 5.50
Commercial, yellow & green, 2 for70 Have block of at same rate.
Pacific Postal, 15c - 40c, each 1.90
North America, 1904 (\$20.00) 8.00

#### THANKITAT

-PUSTAL-	
1892-93-94, 3 for	.70
1897-98-99, 3 for	.90
1900 to 1906, 7 for	2.75
1907, Yellow or Pink, each	
1908, Blue (10 words)	1.70
1908, Black (10 words)	
1909, Brown or Blue (10 words) each	2.20
1909, Violet "One" Telegraph	3.25
1910, Violet "One" Telegraph	4.00
1913, Blue "One" Telegraph	6.25
"I. C." 1909 Yellow Green (3612)	9.00
"P. R." 1908 Brown (3625)	2.70
WESTERN UNION—All Dates!	
Western Union, several dates proof, ea.	2.00
United Fruit, 1910-1913, each	1.00
Tropical Radio, 1914, Blue	
Tropical Radio, 1926, 5c & 25c, both	
Also	

South New England Telephone Franks,

If you collect Telegraphs write me

Frank Pollard Brown PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

## Postal Paper Of The United States, 1851-60

## By LT. WILBURN F. UNTHANK

PRINTED on white unwatermarked paper, perforate 15, 15½ and imperforate, on the flat press by Toppan, Carpenter and Company of Philadelphia. 200 subject plates, 100 subject sheet.

#### Imperforate

	No. Issued	**Issued
1c	26,827,700	July 1, 1851
3c	185,371,800	July 1, 1851
5c		March 14, 1856
10c	747,000	May 19, 1855
12c	868,000	Aug. 4, 1851

#### Perforate\*

1 0	1,0140		
1	c 149,049,462	July 1,	1857
3	c 452,774,456	March 2,	1857
5	c 1,733,120	Aug. 28,	1857
10	c 11,589,700	Aug. 5,	1857
12	c 4,137,100	Aug. 24,	1857
24	c 702,950	July 5,	1860
30	c 480,860	Aug. 10,	1860
90	c 40,120	Aug. 13,	1860
	Mumban inned from	Tuels 1 1057 40	Tuno

\*Number issued from July 1, 1857 to June 30, 1861.

\*\*Earliest known date of use. Do you know of any earlier?

#### Subject

1c Benjamin Franklin from profile bust by Jean J. Caffieri, in Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

3c George Washington from profile bust by Jean Antoine Houdon.

5c Thomas Jefferson from portrait by Gilbert Stuart.

10c, 12c, 24c George Washington from "Vaughan" type portrait by Gilbert Stuart.

90c George Washington from painting by John Trumbull, at Yale University.

30c Benjamin Franklin, artist and location of bust unknown.

#### Historical Data

Jessey Johnson was appointed the first stamp agent May 18, 1855; the office existed until February 1, 1869. Stamps were delivered to the stamp agent at the place of manufacture by the contractors and then sent to the New York post office for distribution to the various postmasters on requisition.

Contract for the perforate issue was drawn February 6, 1857 with a guarantee of \$55 apiece for the thirteen plates and \$3000 for the perforator should the contract, which expired July 1, 1857, not be renewed by the government.

Types

1c (10 varieties).

Type A: Die design, complete throughout.

Type A1: As of type A; top partially cut away. All copies show break under U of U.S.

Type A2: As of type A; turned under balls of both scrolls incomplete.

Type A3: As of type A1; right plume and ball only half complete.





Type B: Top and bottom designs, to and including outside label lines, cut away.

Type B1: As of type B; either top or bottom cut away but not both.

Type C: Balls of bottom scrolls and plume ornaments cut away. Top and bottom lines never broken. Ornaments at top may be complete or partially cut away.

Type C1: As of type C; recut.

Type D: As of type B; side ornaments cut away.

Type D1: As of type D; right ornaments more complete. No scratches on the left side.

3c (2 varieties).

Type A: Complete with outer frame line

Type B: Frame line cut away at top and bottom.

5c (2 varieties).

Type A: Complete with projections on all sides.

Type B: Projections at top and bottom partially cut away.

10c (5 varieties).

Type A: Design nearly complete. Bottom partially cut away.

Type B: As of type A; top design incomplete.

Type B1: As of type B; recut.

Type C: As of type B; lower right shell complete.

Type D: As of type B; side ornaments partially cut away.

#### Shades

Parforate

1c bright blue, dark blue, indigo

blue, grey ultramarine, dark ultramarine.

3c dull red, rose red, pale rose red, Indian red, orange red, brick red.

5c red brown, dark red brown, pale red brown, dark brown, rose brown, carmine brown, brick red, orange brown, grey brown, bistre.

10c dark green, yellow green, dark yellow green, blue green, dark blue green, bright blue green, grey green.

12c grey black, greenish black, smudgy black.

24c bright lilac, dark lilac, grey lilac, black lilac, dull reddish lilac, grey, slate.

30c yellow orange, red orange.

90c dark blue.

Imperforate:

1c bright blue, dark blue, indigo blue, pale dull blue, dark dull blue, greenish blue, grey ultramarine, dark ultramarine.

3c dark rose red, pale rose red, Indian red, brick red, brown red, pale



orange, lilac rose, dark orange brown,

5c carmine brown, red brown, dark red brown.

10c dark green, yellow green, blue green.

12c grey black, smudgy black.

#### Cancelations

(See table on next page.)

Paper Varieties

All values, both perforate and imperforate with stitch watermark. 1c perforate on laid paper.

#### Printing Varieties

3c imperforate, double impression. 5c perforate, printed on both sides.

#### Plate Varieties

1c imperforate and perforate, double transfer, cracked plate, recut.

3c imperforate, double transfer, cracked plate, worn plate.

3c perforate, double transfer, cracked plate, recut, line through POSTAGE.

10c imperforate and perforate, double transfer, recut, curl in left "X."

Written especially for Weekly Philatelic Gossip

## WEEKLY-

# PHILATELIC GOSSIP

D. E. DWORAK, Owner and Publisher

R. B. Nostrum, Business Manager

AL BURNS, Editor

Volume 30

Number 13

**JUNE 8, 1940** 

Whole Number 970

## Weekly PHILATELIC GOSSIP

The Stamp Collectors
Magazine

Published Every Saturday at Holton, Kansas

- Subscription -

\$1.00 Per Year, in United States, Canada, Mexico, Newfoundland, Cuba, Central and So. America. Other Countries \$1.75.

In Continuous Publication Since 1915.

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THE GOSSIP PRINTERY Holton, Kansas, U. S. A.

## The Editor's Viewpoint

OTHING seems so intimate to us as a rainy day; not a driving rain, mind you, just a steady downpour, or, a slow drizzle, as if it had always rained, and was going to keep on raining forever and ever. Such a rain makes the household cozy, a warm fire comfortable. Nature has shut out the world and the family cuddles closer. At the breakfast table we love each other a little more. As we look out the window the world we see seems passing strange. It is pouring now, and as we look past yon trees we see an unusual world; the trees are but phantoms and the drops on our window panes blur even the nearest objects. Mystery lies over the landscape. The sky is gray, yet there is a translucent something that bespeaks of a sun somewhere behind it all. Even the heavens seem nearer on a day like this. The raindrops pattering steadily on the metal roof of our back porch are a soothing music that is met with in no other instrument. Every rainy day has its own sounds. Then the noises of things, of human voices, footsteps on the wet sidewalk, bird-cries at frequent intervals, the sound of wheels crunching on the graveled street on our south, dogs and poultry, sound muffled, halfsmothered and velveted in the wrappings of the rain. This is an ideal moment to get out our stamp collection and sit by the

bay window, alternately gazing into the mist and communing with the miniature engravings that people the pages of our stamp album. It is thus that your thoughts will fly to the climes where your stamps originated, and with their aid you can feed the soul's imagination to the utmost. Aladdin's lamp has nothing on a vivid imagination, and the stamps help you creep out of your everyday soul and bask in the sunshine of the French Riviera or gaze at the Pyramids in Egypt, at will. A rainy day and a stamp collection are boon companions.

Attending stamp club meetings is a great deal like attending the weekly dinners of the Rotary Club, the Cooperative Club or the Kiwanis. There you forget the cares of everyday life and revert to being yourself. You talk only about the matters that interest you, and you are not to be inveigled into "small talk," such as makes up the conversations of ordinary social affairs. You satisfy your longing to be with other people, yet not be bored to death. Your neighbor opens up his stamp album and you are lost in ecstasy over the treasures he presents for your delectation. When you retire to your home after two or three hours of stamp club activities, you do not feel that you have spent a wasted evening.

~	, , ,
(ance	lations

Town		Imperforate Perforate						the top of A1: As							
Black Blue Brown	X	3 X X X	5 X X	10 X X X	12 X X X		1 X X X	3 X X X	5 X X	10 X X X	12 X X	24 X X	30 X X	90 X X	tween Janu name Casile A2: Topp
Green Magenta Olive	X	X X X	X	X	X		X X	X	X	X	X	X	XX	X	adelphia. boxed in a Plate Number
OrangePurple		X			X			X		X					Imperforate In Imprin
Red           Ultramarine           Violet           Yellow	X	X X X X	X	XX	X		X X X	X X X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3c Imprii 5c Imprii 10c Impr 12c Impr
Miscellaneous	1	3	5	10	19		1	3	5	10	19	94	30	90	Perforate
CanadaCarrier, black		X X	U	10	14		X	X	Ð.	10	14	44	50	30	1c Imprii 3c Imprii
Carrier, blue Carrier, red Express Free	X X	X X X	X	X			X X X	X X X		X	X	X	X	X	5c Imprii 10c Impr 12c Impr 24c Impr
Honolulu					X										30c, 90c I
New York Ship Numeral Packet Boat	$\mathbf{X}$	X X X	v	W.	W.		X	X	37	XX	X	X	77	77	Cost Imperfor 18c 1,000.
Paid		X	X	X	Х		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Postage Ra
Railroad Southn Letter Unpaid Steam		X	X	X	X		X	X X X	X	X X X	X	X			Some time streets of Orleans and
SteamboatSteamship	X	X	X X	X	XX		X X	X X	X	X			X		lished as p were appoi
Supplementary A Supplementary B Supplementary C Supplementary C		V			X		X	X X		X	X	X	X		this day the follows: Sin S. not exce
Too Late U. S. Express Way	X X	X X X	X	X	X		X	X X							paid, over to a foreign

the side of the sheet at the middle, the letters to the stamps.

of type A; some time beary 1 and July 6, 1855, the lear was dropped.

pan, Carpenter & Co. Phil-Consisting of white letters colored background.

bers, Three Types

#### rate:

int A, 1-7; A1, 9-12. int A, 1-9; A1, 10-28. int A, 1; A1, 1-2. rint A, 1.

rint A, 1-2; A1, 2-3.

#### e:

int A2, 8-12. int A2, 10-28. int A1, 1-2. rint A, 1; A1, 2. rint A2, 3. rint A1, 1. Imprint A2, 1.

rate, 15c 1,000; perforate,

ne after March 3, 1851, the New York, Boston, New nd Philadelphia were estabpost routes and carriages inted to service them. On he rates were changed as ingle letter, 1/2 ounce in U. eeding 3,000 miles, 3c pre-3,000 miles 6c. By sea or n country to 2,500 miles 10c, Page 365, please)

#### Covers

3c imperforate, vertical and diagonal halves used as 1c.

10c bisect is fraudulent as there was no 5c postage rate.

#### Color Changelings

3c brown or black and 30c brown are chemical changes. 24c greenish due to sunlight.

Fine quality, hard and crisp, at first thick and opaque but later thin and translucent. Often stained yellow by the gum.

#### Gum

Thick and smooth, white to brownish yellow.

#### Sizes

1c, 20 x 26 mm.; 3c, 12c, 30c, 20 x 25 mm.; 5c, 19½ x 25½ mm.; 10c, 19 x 24½ mm.; 24c, 19¼ x 25 mm.; 90c, 19 x 24½ mm.

#### Imprint, Three Types

A: Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. Bank Note Engravers, Phil., New York, Boston & Cincinnati. Occurs on Mount Your Collection the Modern Way --

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# RANDOM NOTES

## OBSERVING collectors will have something to think about if they read the Y. Souren ad in the May 18 Gossip.

Here are quotations on good, fine, very fine, and superb items, at commensurate prices. The difference between good and superb, where price is concerned, varies as 4 or 5 to one.

A tabulation of this kind should demonstrate in no uncertain manner that you can't expect to get superb specimens at the price of mere average copies; nor at any such a quotation as fifty off catalog.

But people will do it, in the face of all the evidence: auction lots selling for two or three times cat., and dealers' demands of four or five times the ordinary price, when really superb copies are concerned.

Of course, there is no law against *trying* to accomplish such buying—but it's a waste of time and money spent for postage.

A writer in the current Splatterday Evening Pest says "Nothing is free." We're inclined to think he's right, especially where superb stamps are concerned.

Questions keep bobbing up all the time regarding all sorts of stamps and things, and since the insect plague of a couple weeks ago several people have asked about reptiles on stamps.

The FIVE *existing* groups of reptiles are represented on stamps, but none of the extinct groups. In view of Mr. Farley's present enthusiasm for new issues depicting famous Americans, a series showing extinct reptiles would not be out of place, and it would create a lot of enthusiasm.

This would bridge the gap between one of the existing groups of reptiles and the other four, an evolutionary and biological hiatus which is practically immeasurable.

This first reptile, whose ancestry goes back into the remotest conceivable past, is the tuatara, ruatara or tuatete of the Maori, and the Sphenodon or Hatteria of scientists, the sole surviving member of the *Rhyncho*cephalia ("beak head"), a generalized reptilian group which may be considered ancestral in some or many ways to all the rest of the reptiles at present existing.

Ditmars, in his "Reptiles of the World," has little to say of the tuatara, which is unfortunate, as this book is the only reference easily available to the ordinary student.

The tuatara is characterized as "a living fossil," and a member of a group "rock-bound for ages."

This is a picturesque but truthful way of intimating that the creature has little connection with the rest of the reptilian life of the world, even though it *does* look like some of them.

## As Played by Sidney Bird

Superficially the creature is like a *lizard* (see New Zealand, Type A67, Nos. 194 and 212). Those who are acquainted with iguanas will note the resemblance to those repitles.

All of this is external. Only skin deep. As soon as we begin taking a tuatara apart we find that its *structure*, which is what actually counts, is *totally different* from that of any other *living* reptile, and is comparable only to that of the earliest fossils which represent the group.

Boulenger, the great herpetologist of the British Museum, considers that the *common ancestors* of turtles, tortoises, lizards, and the extinct Plesiosaurians, would be members of this group.

This means that we do not *know* these missing links yet, but when they are eventually discovered, they will only demonstrate the extreme antiquity of the Rhynchocephalians, and the immense gap between the tuatara and all other living reptiles—turtles, crocidilians, lizards, and snakes.

Thus we come to realize the tremendous importance of the creature to the biologist who delves into *comparative anatomy*. The tuatara possesses *all* the tissues and systems in their simplest possible form, thus constituting the trunk of the tree, so to speak; while the corresponding skeletons, brains, etc., of the remaining reptiles are the branches.

Tuataras are said to grow to a length of two feet, but my own specimens were not more than half as long. They were carnivorous, rather sluggish, but enthusiastic biters, and when they took hold of anything they hung on in exactly the same way that a Gila Monster does.

The Maori word tuatara means "having spines," but these are not very conspicuous, certainly not to the extent that they are on some of our "horned toads," as lizards of the genus *Phrynosoma* are called.

Tuataras are said to lay hard-shelled eggs about an inch long, which hatch in about a *year*. This long period of incubation may be one of the reasons why the animals have become so rare, in addition to the usual explanation that they have been decimated by pigs.

At the present time the tuatara is confined to some of the smaller islands in the Bay of Plenty, where they are strictly protected.

Forty-five years ago they were plentiful everywhere, but in another forty-five years they probably will be found only in pickle in natural history museums; and their memory will persist only because they have been pictured on stamps!

Tortoises have been pictured on the envelope stamps of Seychelles, where the big Testudo elephantina is

#### CACHET NOTICES

H. J. Lindhardt, RCD 143, Box 73, Hyde Park Station, Los Angeles, California, will sponsor a pictorial cachet to be mailed from the destroyers of the United States Fleet. Most of the destroyers will be covered, so collectors may send as many covers as they wish. Ic per cover forwarding. Postage dues absolutely refused. Deadline date is July 1st. Send 6¾ size covers only, unsealed and unstuffed, please.

J. O. Jernigan, RCD 157, 1014 Eastland Ave., Nashville, Tenn., is sponsoring a cachet for mailing aboard naval vessels of the U. S. Neutrality Patrol in Southern Gulf waters. Send covers in sets of five, with 1c per cover forwarding, before the deadline date,

July 1st.

Charles W. Inglee, RCD 250, 1620s Fuller St., N. W., Washington, D. C., is accepting covers for a special cachet honoring the "Forgotten Famous American," Jacob Perkins, inventor of the engraving process which made the "Penny Black" and later adhesive postage stamps possible. The covers will be mailed on July 9th, the anniversary of his birth at Newburyport, Mass. 1c per cover forwarding. Deadline date is July 1st.

Don Graf, RCD 194, 391 Falconer St., North Tonawanda, N. Y., will sponsor the following printed cachets: July 24, Anniversary of the capture of Fort Niagara (covers from the Fort and four naval ships); August 6, Anniversary of Battle of Oriskany (covers from Oriskany and four naval ships); August 9, Anniversary of bombardment of Stonington (covers from Stonington and four naval ships). Send five covers for each event plus 1c per cover forwarding. Deadline date for all three events is July 1st. Please send covers unsealed and unstuffed—6% size.

Paul J. Gross, RCD 217, 1510 Leishman Ave., Arnold, Penna., will obtain cancels from the following naval ships: USS Morris, Tippecanoe, Platte, Dobbin, Aulick, Blakeley, Patoka, MacKenzie, O'Brien and Yukon. Send ten covers, together with 1c per cover forwarding, before the deadline date, which is July 15th.

#### ASIATIC FLEET CHANGE

Here's a last minute news flash that will be of interest to a good many readers. The heavy cruiser USS Houston has been ordered to relieve the USS Augusta, also a heavy cruiser, as flagship of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet, effective at once. The Houston has already departed from Hawaii for the Philippines while the Augusta is scheduled to return to the United States for a complete overhauling soon. Both the Houston and Augusta may be contacted via their respective

Navy Mail Clerks, care of Postmaster, San Francisco, California. Some interesting location cancelations should result from both ships while on their voyages.

# U. S. Revenue Varieties From the C. W. Bedford Records



A DANDY double transfer on a 2c U. S. I. R. entered in a cocked position north by south. As proof, your attention is drawn to the closeness of the shifted lines at top and bottom left. Then examine the space between the normal lines and the shifted lines at bottom right. This is entirely possible. Take a rubber stamp and experiment. We refuse to become panicky and make misleading statements. As C. W. previously wrote, "We want facts, not speculation."

Just as Beethoven was years ahead of his time in his musical compositions, Mr. Bedford was years ahead in advanced knowledge of plate varieties.

Sincerely,



#### Postal Paper of the U.S.

(Continued from page 349)

over 2,500 miles 25c. Drop letters 1c. Merchandise, 1c an ounce to 500 miles, 1c additional for each 1,000 miles. Publishers' rate, 1c for 3 ounces any place in U. S., 1c additional for each ounce.

On March 30, 1855, the rates were again changed as follows: Single letter, in U. S. to 3,000 miles 3c, over 3,000 miles 10c. Registration, 5c a package.

Before the act approved January 2, 1857, prepayment of postage was not necessary. This act made prepayment compulsory. 12c, 24c, 30c and 90c stamps were multiples of this rate. Reprints

Printed on white hard paper, ungummed, perforate 12, on the flat press by the Continental Bank Note Company. 200 subject original plates, 100 subject new plates, 100 subject sheets. (To distinguish note difference in perforation 12 on reprints as against perforation 15, 15½ on originals.)

\*1c bright blue, 3,846 copies issued. \*3c scarlet, 479. 5c orange brown, 878. \*10c blue green, 516. \*12c grey black, 489. 24c dull violet, 479. 30c yellow orange, 480. 90c indigo, 454.

Proofs

All values imperforate on large die. All values perforate plate proofs on India.

Color proofs of 1881 all values on thin card printed in black, blue, brown, green and scarlet.

Printed on bank note paper: 3c plate in red; 5c vermilion, orange, olive green, bronze green, bistre, red brown, brown; 10c die in green; 12c plate in black and lilac; 24c black, red, red brown, lilac, blue, vermilion, yellow, dark yellow; 30c black; 90c black, red brown, brown, green, blue, bistre, orange, purple, red violet, black violet.

Bibliography

The Postage Stamps of the United States, John N. Luff (1902).

The United States 1c Stamp of 1851-7, Volumes 1-2, Stanley B. Ashbrook (1938).

The United States 10c Stamp of 1855-7, Stanley B. Ashbrook (1936).

United States 12c 1851-7, Col. J. K. Tracy, Stanley B. Ashbrook (1926).

The 3c Stamp of the United States —1851-7 Issue, Carroll Chase (1929).

Notes

This issue has been very well covered by extensive studies by many specialists. I have not gone into detail as the works noted above cover the field more thoroughly than I am capable of doing.

I would like to call your attention to some things that may be of help. We need additional data on the 30c, artist and location of the bust; earlier use of practically all values both perforate and imperforate; color proofs are by no means complete and further listings of these are desirable. If you have any additional information concerning this, or the previously reported 1847 issue, by all means let me hear from you.

I am not a specialist in the sense of a student but I do want all available information recorded for collector use.

<sup>\*100</sup> subject plates made from original transfer rolls. These values have wider spacing between stamps than the original.

## WOMEN IN PHILATELY

By Lucy Charlotte Hooper

EVEN THOUGH we are "on the wing," free to light anywhere we like, and to go where we please and when we please, we will not forget our good friends, who have been so kind and loyal to us in our campaign for Good-Will and Friendship. Many forget that this is a Fraternal Order, not a bureau for the dissemination of gossip or ill-will. I do treasure my correspondents, but, all will please forgive our impossibility of writing personally to each one. But, we do not forget!

Mrs. Jas. A. Chandler, No. 1030, writes from her home way up in Maine, near the Canadian border, "I note the annual roll-call, and I am still in the Land of the Living. I am writing to tell you how much we enjoy your articles. May your good work go on. Louise M. Chandler."

Miss Edna Gordon, our latest Auxiliary member, No. 2079, writes, "As a schoolgirl I collected stamps in the Gay Nineties, when Hiram E. Deats was the most prominent in Philately, when the three Mekeel brothers published at St. Louis, and when stamps cost a penny or two, and we were satisfied with one of a kind, instead of blocks, panes, and goodness knows what of the present day." Well, I have written this real philatelist that we must meet in New York at the "Pioneer Philatelic Day."

Mrs. Theia Thompson, our dear Iowa member, has kept up close to us, in several letters. In one she states, "I would like to attend one of the big meetings, possibly some day if the good Lord is willing. It would be marvelous to me. Some people seem to think we collectors are slightly off our balance, but, I have a lot of fun, and it does help to drive the blues away. You will be glad to know our members here, especially Mrs. Kelso and Mrs. Scoville, are well. I went to see Mrs. Kelso as she is not able to get our very much, but enjoys a sisterly visit from our Fraternal Order. With best wishes for you both." A real kindly soul, I hope to meet soon.

Mrs. Lena Wohn, our New Jersey member, we may see in Newark soon, writes, "Here is another first day cover to add to your cover collection, for your very kind sending of a cover from the National Orange Show of America. Hope to see you in New York or in New Jersey."

Mrs. Geo. W. Nutz, one of our charter members, sends us lovely letters

and we do enjoy her comforting words of cheer and encouragement for our gratis work. We cannot forget her loyalty. Hope to see her in New York or New Jersey.

We are so glad to hear that our member, Mrs. Anna E. van de Sandt, is recovering from her recent illness. She is such an enthusiastic soul.

Lady Gertrude Strickland writes, "The touch of your warm, friendly hand in mine was to feel the thrill of happiness in my soul. I have been greatly touched by the sincerity and untiring activity amongst the fine people you meet and greet. May you and yours have a most joyful trip."

Clara G. Coulehan, president of the Boulder Stamp Club, writes she and her fine club are planning to see us, and may we add "It is going to be a great pleasure upon our part."

Writing on the streamliner is harder than on the airliner, but, I prefer the former. Belated letters forwarded to me are coming in slowly and only at stop-overs do we receive them.

Both my husband and self enjoy the long rest on the train, and I notice the Colonel does not complain. We have sorted out the invitations to various clubs and societies, some fraternal, but, mostly philatelic.

I rather like the long string of meetings visiting the principal clubs and societies, before and after our threeday conclave. One thing it is going to do, and that is, find out the friendly, good-natured people, we have often heard of, but never seen. What a panorama of souls we will have in our note-books, to add to our long lives in Philately.

We take out our note-book and find items and little talks of nice people we know and fine people who make us feel gladsome and light in spirit.

A beautiful letter from our Auxiliary Convenor, Edith Adams-Brown, of New York, and her four-page summary of what is right, and how we can guide ourselves in the "big city." It is a great help to know realities from one who certainly knows. We are looking forward to our first reception, to be held at the beautiful Hotel George Washington, of Lexington Square, over one thousand rooms, all with bath, with the great Solarium and the Palm Court.

The entire membership of our Fraternal Order seems to think our innovation of visiting a score of clubs and stamp societies is far and away ahead of cut - and - dried business sessions,

long-winded reading of philatelic papers (rehashed from articles known to the old-timers), and jealous warring over sub-section No. 197 on Chapter CVI of the by-laws and constitution, etc., etc.

Other letters received from Mrs. Eleanor Soesman, thanking our son and daughter for their great aid to us, and her solicitation about our health. She says, "I have not attended a club for nearly two years, as I was disappointed on my last visit, and it hurt me!"

Another message from Mrs. Dorothy B. McEntee, with lots of news of "Maryland, My Dear Maryland," and Washington, D. C., where we are enroute to visit. Also, Miss Edna R. Gordon's lovely letter of her outstanding women's club.

From our Tacoma Philatelic Society, news that our good friend, Mrs. Naomi Yoshida, has been elected vice-president. That club is dear to my heart, every member, male and female, in our ranks of the Phalanx.

Miss Margherita Petruccia has been elected President of the New Haven Women's Philatelic Society. Assisting her will be Miss M. M. Taft, as vice-president; Miss O. E. Williams as secretary; and Mrs. H. H. Holt as treasurer.

We were glad to hear of the election of Mrs. J. A. Klix as 1940 secretary-treasurer of the Galveston (Texas) Philatelic Society. Their veteran president is the highly distinguished Dean Dorchester, one of our leading Phalanx honorary life members.

Edna R. Peebles, former president of the Chicago Women's Stamp Club, congratulates us on our work on woman's part in Philately, and Miss Helen Cunningham, the 1940 president, has kindly invited us to visit the club.

THE FIRST STAMPS issued by the Finnish Republic in 1917, were designed by Prof. E. Saarinen, plates made by Lilius and Hertzberg, and the stamps printed at Helsingfors.

N 1894 Labuan changed her engraved stamps showing head of Queen Victoria to lithographed ones, the lithograph stones having been prepared by transferring from the engraved plates. Forgeries of all seven denominations exist, in which the colors are not closely matched, being generally duller in appearance. The perforation on both the genuine and forged stamps are 14, but the forged ones are less regularly spaced.

# Postal Paper Of The United States, National Bank Note Issue, 1861-66

### By LT. WILBURN F. UNTHANK

PRINTED on white unwatermarked paper, perforated 12, with and without grill, on the flat press by the National Bank Note Company of New York. 200-subject plates, 100-subject sheets.

Trial Color Proofs: On India And Bond Papers

1c, green, black.

2c, blue, green, grey, greenish grey, lilac, light vermilion, orange.

Witho	ut Grill		Grills				**No.			
	*No. Issued	Issued	A	В	C	D	E	F	H	Issued
1c blue	133,542,970	Aug. 21, 1861					X	X	X	14,354,900
2c black	208,751,350	July 6, 1863				X	X	X	X	76,559,100
3c rose1	,619,668,700	Aug. 18, 1861	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	321,904,200
5c brown	7,530,100	Aug. 19, 1861	X						X	682,180
10c green	24,959,310	Aug. 20, 1861					X	X	X	5,289,380
12c black		Sept., 1861					X	X	X	3,585,600
15c black	1,215,100	Apr. 15, 1866						X	X	2,536,360
24c violet	9,285,300	Oct. 8, 1861							X	234,175
30c orange	3,057,470	Aug. 20, 1861	X						X	282,740
90c blue	277,510	Sept., 1861							X	30,820

\*Issued to postmasters from Aug. 16, 1861 to June 30, 1867. \*\*Delivered to the stamp agent.

Grill Sizes: Points Up

A—Covers entire stamp.

B—18 x 15 mm. (22 x 18 points).

C-13 x 16 mm. (16-17 x 18-21).

Points Down

D—12 x 14 mm. (15 x 17-18).

E-11 x 14 mm. (13-14 x 17-18).

Slightly larger overprint; overprint in black.

Without grill: all values except 12c, 15c, 30c.

H grill: 2c, 5c, 15c, 30c; F grill: 1c; E grill: 12c.

Control Numbers

Overprinted in large numbers; only one number to a denomination.

1c number 9012; 2c, 8901; 3c, 7890; 5c, 6789; 10c, 5678; 12c, 4567; 15c, 235; 24c, 3456; 30c, 2345; 90c, 1234.

#### Notes

Can you supply earlier dates of use than those given here? Proofs of this issue are not yet completely listed; there are undoubtedly many more colors used for trial.

Recognition of only one variety of this issue and giving the "August" issue the classification of proofs is logical since there is no actual proof that the "August" stamps were accepted by the post office as stamps or issued to postmasters.

#### Proofs

All values on large and small die; India and card plate.

Die on large India 2½ x 3 inches mounted on large octavo card 6 x 9 inches with National Bank Note Company imprint below.

3c, blue, bronze, green, 4 shades brown, red, rose, vermilion.

5c, black, blue, bronze green, red, yellow.

10c, black, blue.

12c, scarlet.

15c, blue.

24c, black.

30c, black, blue, brown, green, orange.



90c, black, green, red, lilac, ultramarine.

#### On Card

2c, light vermilion, green, brown, yellow.

24c, black.

90c, green.

#### Color Proofs: 1881

All values on thin card in black, blue, brown, green, scarlet.

#### Specimen

10,100 sets, January 23, 1867; February 28, 1867.

All values no grill, overprint in black except 2c and 15c in vermilion, 12c in orange.

\*New 100 subject plates, plate numbers of which are 56 to 60.

To distinguish note yellowish white gum, badly cracked; extremely white paper and exceptional job of printing which gives them the appearance of proofs; also the slight difference in some colors.

#### Patents

Granted Dr. S. W. Francis a patent whereby the paper was soaked in an alkaline bath and canceled by a small sponge saturated with acid which turned the stamp brown. 10,000 stamps were prepared.

#### Trial Proofs (premiere-gravures)

	a	b	С	d
1c			X	X
3c	 X	X	X	X
5c		X	X	X
10c	 X		X	X
12c	 X	X	X	X
24c	 X		X	X
30c	 X	X	X	X
90c	 X		X	X

(a) large die; (b) small die; (c) India plate; (d) regular paper plate.

Issued by the National Bank Note Company apparently as specimens of their work in bidding for the contract beginning July 1, 1861. Usually called the "August" issue.

10c known used with black, red, blue, blue town, Express, Paid, Steamship and Supplementary A cancels.

24c known used with black, blue, red, ultramarine and Paid cancels.

Plate Numbers: At Bottom of Sheet

1c 9, \*10, \*22, 25, \*27. 2c \*28, \*29, \*30, 31, \*50, \*51, \*53.



3c \*11, 12-3, \*14, 19-21, 23-4, \*32, 33, \*34, 35, \*36, 37, 42-9, \*52, 54, \*55. 5c \*17; 10c \*15, \*26; 12c \*16; 15c \*41; 24c \*6; 30c \*7; 90c \*18.

#### Postage Rates

On March 3, 1861, a rate of 10c, prepaid, was established to or from the Pacific Coast. Effective July 1, 1863, a rate of 3c for each half-ounce

\*Plates used for grilled issues.

Written especially for Weekly Philatelic Gossip

## WEEKLY \_

# PHILATELIC GOSSIP

D. E. DWORAK, Owner and Publisher

R. B. NOSTRUM, Business Manager

AL BURNS, Editor

Volume 30

Number 14

JUNE 15, 1940

Whole Number 971

## Weekly PHILATELIC GOSSIP

The Stamp Collectors

Magazine

Published Every Saturday at Holton, Kansas

#### — Subscription —

\$1.00 Per Year, in United States, Canada, Mexico, Newfoundland, Cuba, Central and So. America. Other Countries \$1.75.

In Continuous Publication Since 1915.

Advertising Rates on Request.

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THE GOSSIP PRINTERY Holton, Kansas, U. S. A.

## The Editor's Viewpoint

BOOKS and magazines are made for Man, and not Man for them. The bearin's of which, as Dickens might say, is in its application. Use 'em. Thumb 'em. Underline interesting passages. Go to bed with 'em. Carry 'em with you on your next Sunday trip to the lake or ocean. Pack 'em in your grip whenever you travel by train or bus. And don't own books nor read magazines that cannot be carried down through the valley of everyday as the soul's lunchbasket. Institutions were made for Man and not Man for the Institution. Let us take the university, for instance. No, Dr. Ralston, whilst we appreciate your earnest urge to make a name for yourself as President of Loyalty College, yet we would remind you that we are sending our son to your university for the good he can get out of it, and not for the benefit he can do you and your institution. We have not sent him to you to find out how far he falls short of your standards, nor what glory he can add to his Alma Mater; we have placed him with you for you to find out what's in him, and to develop that to the utmost. We don't care a tinker's hang about the grand old traditions of your place of learning, except as they help you to make our boy into a Man who can be successful in his walk of life. Then, there is the Church. It, too, was made for Man, and not

Man for the Church. And, if, Sir Parson, your meeting-house is just interested in keeping itself up, why it should be closed up permanently as it has failed. It matters not how much money you raise, nor how rich are your vestments, nor, even, how advanced your theology, nor how numerous your membership, nor how expensive your stained glass. If you are not helping friend Man to become more sober, industrious, clean and honest, then you are not producing, and you should quit. Hobbies, too, were made for Man, and not Man for Hobbies. They should be carefully selected for what they are intended to do for you. If your day of work is a hectic round of activity, then your hobby should be something that can be practiced in a quiet place and be something that is soothing to jangled nerves. There are many hobbies, including the grand old hobby of stamp collecting, that will stand up under those requirements. If your day's work is something that requires sitting all day in a close atmosphere, then your off hours should be partially devoted to some hobby that leads you out into the exhilarating influence of fresh air.

regardless of distance within the United States.

#### 1875 Reprints

Printed on very white hard paper, perforate 12, on the flat press by the Continental Bank Note Company. \*100, 200-subject plates, 100-subject

<b>b</b>	ts.		
		Color No.	
	*1c	ultramarine3	,195
	*2c	deep black	979
	3c	brown red	465
	*5c	pale brown	672
	*10c	blue green	451
	*12c	deep black	389
	15c	deep black	397
	24c	brown violet	346
	30c	brown orange	346
	90c	dark blue	317



#### Printing Varieties

Without grill: 1c, 2c, 3c, 30c printed on both sides. 3c with double impres-

Grilled: 3c A grill printed on both sides.

#### Perforation Varieties

Without grill: 3c imperforate; 1c, 2c, 3c, 30c imperforate horizontally.

H grill: 3c imperforate; 3c imperforate horizontally.

#### Grill Varieties

Double grill: 3c A; all H except 90c; all F except 10c; 2c E.

Triple Grill: 2c, 3c F; 3c H.

Split Grill: All F except 10c; all H except 15c.

Without grill and grill H, 2c vertical, diagonal and horizontal halves used as 1c. Grill F 2c diagonal half used as 1c.

#### Paper

Thick to thin.

#### Gum

Brown to yellowish white.

#### Sizes

1c, 19½ x 25 mm.; 2c, 20½ x 24½ mm.; 3c, 20 x 25 mm.; 5c, 201/2 x 251/4 mm.; 10c, 20½ x 24¼ mm.; 12c, 19½ x 241/2 mm.; 15c, 191/4 x 241/2 mm.; 24c, 19½ x 24 mm.; 30c, 20 x 24½ mm.; 90c, 191/2 x 241/4 mm.

Type B: National Bank Note Co., New York at top and sides; Type B1: National Bank Note Company at bottom.

1c bright blue, pale blue, dull blue, pale dull blue, slate blue, Prussian blue, ultramarine, chalky blue.

2c grey black, greenish black.

3c pale rose, rose red, dull red, orange red, pink, scarlet, lake.

5c red brown, orange brown, yellow brown, black brown, grey brown, olive



10c yellow green, pale yellow green, blue green.

12c, 15c, grey black.

24c black violet, grey, grey lilac, lilac, red lilac, steel blue.

30c deep orange.

90c pale blue, dark blue, bright blue, indigo.

#### Shades: Grilled

1c pale blue, light blue, dull blue. 2c, 12c, 15c, grey black.

3c pale rose, red, rose red, lake red. 5c dark brown, black brown.

10c dark green, yellow green, blue green.

24c grey.

30c deep orange.

90c dark blue.

#### Paper Varieties

Thin white wove paper, all varieties without grill except 2c, 15c; all H grill except 24c, 30c, 90c; 3c and 10c on F grill. (Page 387, please.)

#### I Wanna Know

WHILE attending a recent meeting of a stamp club, one of the members made this very positive statement during the discussion of the sidelines of philately: "If I have to collect meters I'll stop collecting."

However, I WANNA KNOW, what is a stamp? What is the main item in philately? How does the meter differ (from this item)? A stamp is popularly supposed to represent a bit of paper with "stickum" with which to adhere it to mail matter that it may be carried to its proper destination. In realiy embossed paper as well as adhesives are stamps and the ordinary permits then must be included for they represent the receipt for postage prepaid. Also since postage dues are included in most catalogues why not the cards or envelopes with order for collection of postage from addressee. Nevertheless we get back to the adhesive as the basis of the majority of most collections.

This hypothesis being true then just . how much does the present day meter differ from the standard? It now is printed at moment of use, correct amount of postage indicated, color, however, remaining the same for all amounts and some are perforated all around. We go the European folks one better. Instead of advertising on the reverse, a firm trade mark or business slogan is placed to the left of the

meter indicia.

If they are not stamps - well, I wanna know .- The Stroller.

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SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

ONE WEST 47th ST.,



NEW YORK, N. Y.

# RANDOM NOTES

## As Played by Sidney Bird

THANKS to K. W. Harmer, we have a first-day cover with the commemorative set of the centenary of the postage stamp.

The stamps are just the size of the Bahamas Peace set of 1920, and are six in number: ½d deep green, 1d red, 1½d red-brown, 2d orange, 2½d deep ultramarine, 3d violet.

The design is severely plain: no fancy engine-turned background or frame. No embroidery. No gingerbread. A simple, solid-color background with profiles of Victoria and George VI, crown at the middle top, with VICTORIA at left and GEORGE at right. 1840—value—1940 at bottom, and POSTAGE - REVENUE at sides.

The postmark is LONDON, 9:45 A. M., 7 MY., 40. A hundred years from now, when Gossip is 125 years old, somebody may want to know the exact hour, day, and place!

Then there's our office girl, who thinks that the Vergil Bi-Millenary set commemorates the time when Publius Vergilius Maro went out to purchase a Roman helmet just before Easter.

There isn't any doubt about the British Military Occupation of Iceland. A postal card just received from Reykjavik is not only decorated with some very handsome stamps, but also bears one of those unmistakable censor marks, a large octagon with a British crown and PASSED 08 in it.

Just how long it will be ere we have a lot of occupation stamps of German origin, for Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, and Belgium is problematical. Probably not long. Meanwhile the similar stamps, issued in 1914-18, and the later plebiscite issues, Memelgebiet, for instance, are in considerable demand. Few dealers have any supply of these things, and when offered in auctions recently they have sold well.

Many of them are very scarce, like Belgium N8-9-22-23, many Lithuania and Poland items, and practically all of the Memels, Nos. 1 to 17.

All of these things were plentiful and cheap in 1921, but there was little demand for them. Now they are neither abundant nor reasonable in price, and sentiment doesn't seem to have anything to do with conditions.

The record for holding auction sales will probably be attained by Harmer, Rooke & Co., of New York and London, who will hold no less than fifteen auctions during the thirty days of June.

The sales are scheduled, anyway: this is May 22, and there may be a lot of German bidders at the London

sales unless the Allies stiffen up resistance a bit! If they don't, we'll very likely have similar guests trying to crash the New York auctions in two or three months!

\* \* \*
I am invited to explain, "What's this thing?"

The item is a block of four from a Belgian booklet pane, it seems, with two Belgian 35c green, No. 271, and two attached advertisements from the *Netherlands*.

The ads are for *cheese*. One label has a circular central design, the other a hexagonal figure, probably reproducing cheese labels. Both are inscribed in French, "Fromage de Hollande, Marque de l'Etat" = Dutch Cheese, State Trade Mark; and in Dutch, "Nederlandsche Kaascontrole, Onder Rukstoezicht,"=Netherlands Cheese Control, Under Government Supervision. One label is for Volvet 45%, the other for merely 40%.

Such blocks are interesting things for those who go in for oddities, especially when used.

It is a common procedure for European governments to rent space for advertising purpses in stamp booklets, utilizing either margins surrounding the sheets, or else blanks the same size as the stamps, as in this case.

\*

Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8 of *The Asia Stamp Journal* have just arrived. It seems marvelous that a magazine of this size and importance can be produced under the unfavorable conditions existing in Shanghai, and Mr. A. F. Kerneck, the publisher, is worthy of all commendation and support in this enterprise. No one interested in the stamps of China, Manchukuo, Corea, etc., can afford to miss this journal, which costs 10c U. S. a number.

The January issue contains an interesting article about Tannou Touva, which seems to indicate that all the various pictorial triangles, diamonds, etc., have been postally used to some extent. These are the outcasts in the Tentative Listings.

Today Robson Lowe is selling the Bertram McGowan collection of Penny Blacks, 2146 lots of them, including all positions in all plates, in their various stages!

The 72-page catalog is really a short monograph of the Penny Black, with an Introduction which goes into such subjects as production of the plates, check letters, varieties, cancelations, condition, and values of stamps from all plates as affected by these conditions.

The lowest price quoted for *perfection* copies, even of the commonest plates, is £1. This will doubtless make a vast number of collectors opine that the catalog quotation of \$2 for this stamp is a bargain, especially if you can get fifty per cent discount! Well, fifty off AND a perfection copy. I doubt that part of it, myself. (Next page, please.)

Straits Settlements, Johore (152). An 8 cents, blue and black, with portrait of the Sultan flanked by a border with native inscription, has been received .- N. Y. Sun.

Straits Settlements, Kelantan (271). New \$2 and \$5 values have been issued for this State in the Straits Settlements.-N. Y. Sun.

Sudan (360). The 10m, black and red, Scott's type A2, has been sur-charged "5 mills." in black, in both Roman and Arabic letters. - N. Y.

#### Postal Paper of the **United States**

(Continued from page 377)

Stitch watermark, all varieties without grill. 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 15c on H grill; 2c, 3c F. grill.

Laid paper, 1c, 2c, 3c without grill. F-11 x 13 mm. (14 x 15-17). H $-9 \times 13$  mm. (11-2 x 15-17).

2c Andrew Jackson, portrait by Dodge.

15c Abraham Lincoln, photograph. All other values as of the 1851-7

Historical Data, New Stamps, Grills

To prevent the use of United States stamps by the Confederate States, individuals and postmasters were ordered to redeem their supplies of the 1851-7 issue with the new 1861 issue. A new contract for the engraving and printing was made that saved the government about thirty per cent. Designs of the 1857 issue were used with the addition of the 2c and 15c, reworked and printed in different colors.

The grill is produced by a roller. A cylinder of soft steel on which a knurl has been applied then hardened. To produce various sies of grill, vertical and horizontal bands were planed off leaving the desired size. The stamps were then run between this roller and a platen of sheet lead which produces a breakage of the paper. The stamps were then placed under a pressure of five hundred tons which tended to restore the paper to its natural flatness.

The intention of the grill was to break the paper so that the canceling ink would penetrate the fibres of the paper instead of spreading over the surface whence it could be removed by chemicals and re-used.

Shades: No grill.

When answering ads say, "I saw it in W. P. G. Thanks!



FOR DEALERS ONLY. This largest and most useful of wholesale catalogs contains 150 pages devoted to Stamps in Sets; 100 pages of Single Stamps; a large section of United States Stamps; thousands of illustrations; favorable prices . Sent to dealers only, on receipt of a 50c deposit deductible from your first order amounting to \$5.00 or more.

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#### French Colonial Bargains

Color Changes, April, 1940, mint\$ .65
1939 Rene Caillie, 24 var., mint 2.00
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1000 diff. mounted, fine 7.50
2000 diff. mounted, cat. about \$100.0022.00
Anything returnable. I offer French Col. on
approval at low prices. Send for lot.
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152	1.10	297	.58	422	.38	541	.42	579	.60
153	1.45	299	.58	440	.34	545	2.30	C 1	.34
U	. S. (	on An	prov	al at	10%	to 70	% off	reta	il.
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#### July 15 and August 5

R. L. Saunders collection—nothing added for 10 years—to be sold in two parts on above dates—strong in U. S.

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\*74

#### AIR MAIL ENVELOPES HAMMERMILL BOND

100 for 60c 500 for \$2.50 1000 for \$5.00

Same with your name and address, not to exceed three lines, printed in upper left corner, at

100 for \$1.75 250 for \$3.00 500 for \$5.00 All prices are postpaid.

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3c Pony Express, St. Joseph or Sacramento, single, 10c; block, 23c. 3c Pan American, Wash., D. C., single, 10c; block 23c. 3c Idaho, or Wyo., single, 10c; block of 4, 20c. 3c 100 Year Anni, of Postage Stamp, single, 10c; block of 4, 20c. Famous Americans, Scientists, Composers, Artists, or Inventors series, set of 5, singles, 60c; blocks of 4, \$1.35. Leo August 1940 1st Day Catalog, 37c. Ritter's 1940 1st Day Catalog, 27c. Scott's 1940 Postage Catalog, \$2.50. J. N. CLARKSON, JR., Dept. 11, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

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I have available a number of \$10.00 lots made up more or less as per customers' wishes and easily worth double. These I will willingly send out on approval against references. Installments over as long as three months accepted in payment for these.

Wholesale lots too.

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Mint Commemoratives Wanted

## **AUCTIONS**

#### June 26th & 27th

General Properties, Holland and Colonies.

#### July 11th

Postal History Auction.

#### July 17th & 18th

Specialized Sale of Finland-Poland

## **July 24th & 25th**

Great Britain Used Abroad.

Catalogues of the above sales are obtainable from Mr. R. Kimble, 8118 Dante Ave., Chicago, Ill., or from:-

#### ROBSON LOWE, Ltd.

96 REGENT STREET,

London, W. 1,

England



F STAMP collectors are concerned over what the international situation might do to the value of their holdings, they may relax," says Ernest A. Kehr in the N. Y. Herald Tribune, "because the Eugene Klein auction in Philadelphia clearly indicates that philatelic values are sound." Mr. Kehr says the collection was below perfection, but that more than \$50,000 was realized. Phil Ward paid \$1,528 for a block of four 10c '47s which was below perfection, but was from the former Hind collection and a great rarity.

- According to "Postal Oddities" column syndicated by Trapp, the Santa Anita race track has its own post office and many of the letters are addressed to the horses.
- Chicago, where International Stamp Week started, has announced that it will be celebrated this year from November 10-16. Chicago has already made elaborate preparations for the event, including several exhibitons.
- The Post Office Department has announced that the following quantities of the Famous Americans sets have been printed: 50,000,000 each of all one-, two- and three-cent denominations; 20,000,000 each of all five-cent denominations; and, 10,000,000 each of all 10-cent denominations. The Booker T. Washington stamp seems to be the one not generally distributed, but of course there's plenty of them at the Philatelic Agency. There should be no shortage of any of these stamps for those who want them.
- Our Office Boy says, "Ain't it foolish to look for pesky little differences in a stamp when there are so many kinds of stamps which could be collected?"
- We understand that some dealers are again sprinkling their packets with state revenue stamps, which are not in any of the catalogs generally bought by stamp collectors. This gentle way of gypping the kiddies is seldom practiced by those who advertise in the philatelic periodicals, but—is often prevalent among those who advertise in lay publications where the advertising managers don't care as long as they get paid for the ad.
- No one seems to know who supplied the necessary leverage to have a stamp issued commemorating the 80th anni-

versary of the Pony Express. It must have required some clever lobbying to put across an 80th anniversary, even during an election year.

- Many of London's leading stamp dealers do not have their private offices nor keep their best stock at the address given in directories and advertising. In that way the boss is never bothered by those who want to take an hour to buy a few pennies worth of stamps, such sales being handled by an office girl who works at a minimum salary.
- Many readers misinterpreted an item in this column of May 18, 1940, page 272, wherein it gave the outcome of a Dr. I. Q. program over the N. B. C. network, April 8: The question read, "If a man went to the post office and bought one each of the stamps of the present series from 1c to 10c values, how many stamps would he have?" The contestant answered, "Ten," and the Doctor replied, "I am sorry. I think he would have eleven stamps because there is a 11/2c value." We remarked that the Doctor had evidently never heard of the 41/2c stamp of the present issue, which brought the total up to twelve. Here's where several readers tripped, as they wrote us there would be "thirteen" stamps. They counted the 1/2c stamp, which was not included in the question.
- A. Arthur Schiller and Johannes de Kruyf, authors of the "Manual of the Stamps of Netherlands, Netherlands Indies, Curacao and Surinam," offer to donate the receipts from the sale of the book, above the cost of publication, to the Holland Relief Fund. The book is stated to contain 225 pages, over 400 illustrations, and is for sale at \$1 per copy from Johannes de Kruyf, 134 Haven Ave., New York, N. Y.
- We are now ready to tell our readers how popular radio stamp programs are with stamp collectors. We asked our readers in this column of both April 27 and May 18, 1940, and we have now tabulated 129 answers: 88 answered that they never listened to

radio stamp programs, although most of them admitted they have done so in the past but, have not found them of continued interest and have therefore discontinued listening; 34 replied that they listened at infrequent intervals, and those who enlarged upon their answers said, in part, that they did not discover in them what they felt was needed in radio stamp programs; 7 admitted listening to at least one program a week and were enthusiastic about them.

- Franz E. Roese shows us a cover from "Oklahoma, Okla.," which bears date of "Dec 22 1 PN 19211." Mr. Roese says, "Wouldn't that curl your hair?" We'd say that's pretty fair for a postmark oddity.
- We wish that more readers would take advantage of our "Letters to the Editor" column. That column can be made one of the most interesting features of WPG if the readers will just take time to write added bits of information they have to articles read in this medium, corrections, etc. It's your column, readers, and we want you to make full use of it regularly.

#### Random Notes

(Continued from page 379)

recently received are botanical and zoological magazines from places as far away as India and the Argentine Republic. Of course, there is no reason to review such things here, nevertheless the fact that Gossip reaches into such places is certainly something for advertisers to think about.

Once more I'd like to request those asking for information, etc., to enclose stamps for reply. Over 60 inquiries last month, and only two sent postage. BUT ALL WERE ANSWERED. Takes quite a little time and *some* money.

MARION, OHIO, now has a woman's stamp club, to which men are invited.

## U. S. REVENUES AT 1/4 CATALOG

For over thirty years I have been buying, saving and accumulating a surplus stock of U. S. revenues — in all of stampdom they have been my weakness. I have decided to close them out at one-fourth catalog and am putting them up in packets: Send me \$1.00 for \$4.00 cat. value; \$2.00 for \$8.00 cat. value; \$5.00 for \$20.00 cat. value, etc. Don't ask for approvals and I am much too busy to fill want lists. Here is your chance to get busy on the revenue section of your albums and you will find good revenues a good investment as they are not subject to the whims of ambitious Postmaster Generals. Satisfaction guaranteed. A chance for collectors, dealers and investors.

DR. L. L. DOLSON

212 C. R. S. B. BLDG.,

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

# Notes On Postal Paper of the United States, 1847-1866

### By LT. WILBURN F. UNTHANK

Notes: 1847-1866 1847 Transfer Roll

HE dies and plates of the 1847 issue were destroyed as stated by the following affidavit:

New York, Dec. 12, 1851.

Have this day destroyed dies of 5 and 10 cent stamps, also the plates of same.

1 5c stamp plate, 100 on, 1847 issue. 1 10c stamp plate, 100 on, 1847 issue.

Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson.

Witness:

Wm. Brady, P. M., N. Y.

John Moor

G. W. Johnson

Note that no mention is made of the destruction of the transfer roll. Since color proofs of this issue appeared in the early 1890's it is evident that this roll does exist.

Failure of the Post Office Department to find this roll and the distaste of issuing the 1875 forgery, eliminated the issuance of a stamp for the centenary of the adhesive stamp.

If you have any of these 1847 proofs issued around 1890-5 let me hear from you.

Color

Shades on these early issues are not stable; atmospheric conditions tend to alter the original color, the most common offender being sunlight.

The listing of shades is purely arbitrary in the case of light or dark degrees of a color. True color differences, such as the 3c pink of 1861, are permanent. Oxidation is often met with in stamps of a yellow base; a bath in peroxide restores the original color.

Designers, Engravers

Contrary to our twentieth century issues where all of our information is more or less current and most of the data can be supplied from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Nineteenth Century issues were printed by five different companies. Records of some of these concerns are lost, and others are not made available to record elsewhere, so it is here that we must piece the story together

to complete the data on our early issues.

One of the prime bits of information desired is a list of designers and engravers of our stamps. To date I have no record on any stamp of the period 1847-66 giving this information. Can you help?

Demonetization

The Civil War between the Confederacy of southern states which had seeeeded from the Union and the northern states which upheld the Union, began April 13, 1861. Simultaneous proclamations were released by Postmasters General Blair (Federal), and Reagan (Confederate), suspending postal service between the two governments June 1, 1861.

In August, 1861, postmasters were authorized, for a period of six days, to redeem stamps of the 1851-7 issue from the public at face value. After this period of six days, stamps of the old series would not be accepted as payment of postage from that office. September 10, 1861, was set as the deadline for delivery of letters bearing the old issue from states east of the Mississippi and Missouri; October 1 was the deadline for other states east of the Rockies; November 1 for letters from the coast. Shortly after these dates were set they were extended to November 1, 1861, December 1, 1861, and January 1, 1862, respectively.

Apparently these orders did not apply to stamped envelopes, although the envelope series was shortly replaced.

By this order the stamps of 1847 and 1851-7 are not valid for postage. Quantities of the 3c value taken from or sold by the Confederacy has tended to keep this stamp, in mint condition, more plentiful than corresponding values of other sets.

Postage Rates 1845

Until 1845 all mail was charged by the sheet; two sheets were charged double postage. Letters were sent collect until 1847 and the practice continued until 1850 when stopped by law. The franking privilege was abused from the first establishment of the system. Officials having use, of the privilege would give franked sheets (envelopes were not in accepted use until about 1850) to their friends, thus depriving the postal system of many dollars revenue. The frank still handles many letters and parcels. In 1845 the postage rate was reduced to 5c for half an ounce sent less than 300 miles, 10c for over 300 miles, except the Pacific Coast; small parcels were eligible as were newspapers, periodicals, books and pamphlets. This new rate started the decline of the private express companies in the handling of letters.

Duplicate Subjects

It was a common practice for an artist when making a portrait to do two of them at the same time, one for the subject and one for himself. From the latter he would make additional copies which he would sell to the public at a nominal cost of from \$25 to \$50. The "Vaughan" type painting of Washington by Gilbert Stuart sold 107 copies in this manner, each an individual painting by the artist.

United States Postal System

With the new government in 1789, Samuel Osgood was appointed Postmaster General, followed by Timothy Pickering in 1791. In 1789 there were 75 post offices, 2,400 miles of postroads and a population of three million. The aggregate pay of postmasters in 1791 was \$9,336; postal receipts \$25,000. Post offices even in such towns as New York, Philadelphia and Boston consisted of one room in a private dwelling.

From 1800 to 1830 rapid progress was made in the volume of mail handled under Postmaster General McLean, who resigned in 1835 when President Jackson originated the "spoils system" in the post office. Postmasters General Barry and Kendall under Jackson let the mail fall into a lackadasical service which gave the private express companies the opportunity to take over most of the mail for the next 25 years.

The first railroads to carry mail were the Camden and Amhoy and the Saratoga and Schenectady in 1832.

## WEEKLY -

# PHILATELIC GOSSIP

D. E. DWORAK, Owner and Publisher

R. B. Nostrum, Business Manager

AL BURNS, Editor

Volume 30

Number 16

JUNE 29, 1940

Whole Number 973

## Weekly PHILATELIC GOSSIP

The Stamp Collectors
Magazine

Published Every Saturday at Holton, Kansas



#### - Subscription -

\$1.00 Per Year, in United States, Canada, Mexico, Newfoundland, Cuba, Central and So. America. Other Countries \$1.75.



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## The Editor's Viewpoint

HERE is nothing more beautiful than a night sky, spread with Stars, as a spring meadow with gleaming yellow wildflowers. In you, Night Sky, we can wrap ourselves, as in a cloak, to escape the cold and pitiless light of day. In you, Night Sky, we find what the earth has not-Infinity. The Infinite, which is the treasure of the humble, balm to the broken heart, alleviation to those who have been cheated, recompense to them who are misunderstood, and the key to the lock hiding peace. In you, Night Sky, we can plunge our unclean souls, as a swimmer dives into the warm waters of yon pool, and emerges refreshed, washed of worry, all our sullenness and churlishness removed. As if we had laved in heaven, might be a better description of how we feel after we have spent an hour under the stars. Stars, they tell us that you are worlds mightier than this. Tell us, that many of your broad galaxies are drifts of suns. Above us and about us we hear the mute thunder of your distances, and we stand awed and wondering as your majestic procession sweeps forever on, and on! Would that we could taste of your magnif-

icence, and partake of the great things you do in such godlike silence. Why do men choose to boast and strut when they have done some great deed, while you, magnificent Night, with your other worlds, do greater things every hour, unwhispering and true? Would that men could have recourse to the lubricant perfection of your stellar silence when they have done something worthwhile, rather than to become noisesome like a cock at dawn. Would that you, the Stars, could teach men how you speed along intricate ways with the speed of the bullet, yet with no clash nor hesitance. Would that man could attain your stellar dignity. Would that you could pour the sweet chrism of your divine beauty upon man, hasten the evolution of this tardy world, that creeps along from the Chaos of hate, immoral ambition and war, up to the stellar order of love, and cooperation, and unselfishness, and law.

-AL BURNS



The first mail car was put into service in 1838. By 1842 mail was sent by railroad, steamboat, stage coach, canal boat, horse and foot messenger. The railroads lost no opportunity in making the transportation of mail a good thing, charging as high as \$500 a mile, however, with the establishment of competition a few years later the railroads claimed they were carrying the mail at a loss.

#### Northwest Federation Exhibit A Real Success

FRED A. CARVER, Secretary of the Yakima Valley Stamp Club, says that the Fifth Annual Exhibition of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, held at Vancouver, B. C., from May 30 to June 2, was very successful, there being over 600 frames, with the British Columbia Philatelic Society of Vancouver and the Royal City Stamp Club of New Westminster, B. C., as hosts.

The grand award, an oil painting by Eugene Zeigler, "The Stampeders," was won by Mr. W. J. Davey, Victoria, B. C., for a specialized collection of Hawaii. This painting was donated by Alfred F. Lichtenstein of New York City. Mr. Davey's society, the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society of Victoria, are also allowed to hold the Eugene Church Memorial cup for a period of one year on account of Mr. Davey's achievement.

Winner of first award in the championship class (winners of previous grand awards) was B. De Wett Roed of New Westminster, with a collection of Norway.

The exhibition was officially opened by the Hon. Gordon S. Wismer, Attorney General of the Province of British Columbia, and the address of welcome was given by Dr. H. R. Storrs, President of the Northwest Federation.

New officers elected are: Dr. Hirstel, Portland, Ore., President; Dr. H. R. Storrs, Vice-President; Mrs. W. H. Young, Bellingham, Wash., re-elected Treasurer. Other officers will be appointed by the President. Portland, Oregon was chosen for next year's exhibition city, and Tacoma, Washington will follow in 1942.

#### **Thinner Postals**

ACCORDING to the current issue of the Asia Stamp Journal, the government of Japan is now making its postal cards thinner to save paper. A pile of one thousands cards will now be two-thirds of an inch less in height than was formerly the case.

#### Australian Government Exhibit At N. Y. Worlds Fair

LATEST philatelic novelty to confront visitors at the International Stamp Centennial Exhibition is a special 3-frame collection of all original sketches prepared by the Australian Government for the projected Century of Victoria issue. The collection, received recently from Melbourne, Australia, was sent through the courtesy of the Honorable H. C. Thornby, Postmaster General for Australia, and a member of the committee sponsoring the International Stamp Centennial Exhibition. It is being shown in conjunction with the 5-frame collection of all regular Australian air mail and postage due stamps which has been mounted by Walter H. Wycherly, a prominent collector and specialist in the stamps of the British Commonwealth.

Included are nine large preliminary drawings of suggested designs showing the Yarra-Yarra native, backed by a view of Melbourne. Four of these are shown in finished stages of the model, as well as three of the designs which were rejected by the Australian authorities. Also seen is an enlarged detail of the Aborigine's head and an original photograph of the Melbourne view from which the accepted design was made.

Impressions taken during the various stages of the die's engraving portray the progressions of the finished and accepted design, while a complete

set of colored trials of the one-shilling denomination shows the hues that were considered before the black ink was decided upon.

While this exhibit is of special interest to the Australian philatelic specialist, it is the type of reference material which every collector will want to study, for it vividly demonstrates the painstaking work connected with the issuance of a new stamp, and the care with which every detail is carried out.

#### Clarks Get Luff's Estate

OHN N. LUFF, dean of American philately, died August 23, 1938, and it has just now been ascertained that he named as his beneficiaries, Hugh M. Clark and his wife, Theresa M. Clark. As a great deal of his estate is philatelic, it is meet that he should have given it to his old friends and business asociates, the Clarks of Scott Publications, Inc., of New York, who will see that it is handed down properly to posterity. The estate appraises \$52,743.69 net.

We understand that a portion of the estate consisted of one of the finest collections of types and forgeries of the world's stamps ever collected together in one place. This collection will assist the Clarks in their endeavor to give the philatelic public a better Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue as the years roll on.

Mention W. P. G. when answering ads.

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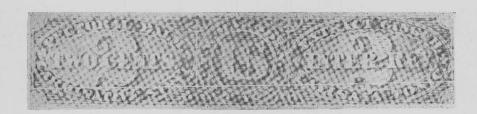
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SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

ONE WEST 47th ST.,



NEW YORK, N. Y.



# Private Die Proprietary Stamp Notes

## LII. T. W. MARSDEN

FEW decades after the signing of the Declaration of Independence the New York City Directory was a small, thin volume which could readily have been slipped into one's coat pocket. Even in 1850, when only the lower part of Manhattan Island was used for business and residential purposes, the census shows the population was slightly more than half a million souls. But by the time of the Civil War, the city had grown, the number of residents increased, and the Directory had expanded to about the size of the 1940 United States Postage Stamp Catalogue.

Trow's New York City Directory for 1866-67 has the listing "Marsden, Thomas W., pat. meds., 487 Broadway," which was on the west side at the corner of Broome Street. The next year the address is given as "7 Platt Street"—on the north side between Pearl and Gold Streets.

The Revenue Act of 1862 had been passed by the 37th Congress, Second Session, to assist in meeting the heavy cost of the War. In accord with the provisions of the Act, Marsden was obliged to affix a revenue stamp to each proprietary he made. Presumably he communicated with the authorities in Washington and the firm of Butler & Carpenter, who held the initial government printing contract, was directed to engrave a private die for his exclusive use.

It appears the Marsden proprietaries retailed at a dollar per bottle, so the die was engraved with a value of four cents. A proof from this die was approved in the office of the Hon. Edward A. Rollins, Commissioner of Internal Revenue on August 2, 1866. The first and only printing of 27,500 stamps (about 510 sheets) on thin old paper was shipped from Philadelphia on August 20th.

To this 4c black perforated stamp, the *United States Stamp Catalogue* assigns the number RS 176 (former No. 5451). Horizontal-rectangular in form, it measures 97 by 18½ mm., and was printed in sheets of 54, arranged 3 by 18.

William P. Brown, in his *Curiosity Cabinet* dated July, 1876, probably the first priced list of the M & M stamps, quoted the 4c stamp at \$3. Apparently finding it was not as scarce as he at first supposed, in a revision of March, 1877, the price was reduced to \$2. In

## By HENRY W. HOLCOMBE

the current catalogue the figure is \$10. This nominal price would seem to indicate that every M & M collector might have a copy. However, there are too few to go around and a fine copy is to be prized.

Evidently the 4c stamps had hardly more than been received in New York when it was decided to reduce the retail price of the Marsden proprietaries to 50c, thus necessitating a 2c stamp. The bottles may have been made smaller or competition possibly demanded the price be halved—we may never know the fact.

At any rat within a few weeks Butler & Carpenter were directed to engrave a new die. A proof from this die bearing "a large monogram of the letters 'U. S.' on a circular disk . . ." was submitted to Commissioner Rollins and approved October 9, 1866. The only printing of 26,250 stamps (about 470 sheets) on thin old paper was shipped by the contractor on December 13, 1866.

The United States Stamp Catalogue, probably better known as the "S U S"—gives the number RS 175 (former No. 5450) to this 2c pale blue perforated stamp. It resembles the former stamp in size but is slightly smaller, measuring 85 by 18 mm. Laid down 4 by 14, the stamps were printed in sheets of 56.

Brown obviously appreciated the relative scarcity of the 2c stamp because in 1876 he priced it \$10 and indicated it was not in stock and seldom available. The revision of 1877 raised the price to \$15. Sterling in 1888 quoted \$25 and in 1940 the figure is \$250. It may be presumed that less than a dozen copies are extant today.

Neither of the stamps are believed to have been used in multiple and it is unlikely they so exist at the present time. The stamps were probably used as a cork seal which would ordinarily have assured their being destroyed when the bottle was opened. Those in collectors' albums today may have been carefully removed before the cork was pulled.

Little is known about the Marsden proprietaries but the inscription on the stamps gives some clew as to what they were. Those so noted are "Carminative Syrup—for Diarrhoea and Dysentery, Cholera Morbus"; "Pectoral Balm—for Coughs and Cold, Consump-

# Postal Paper Of The United States The 1869 Pictorial Issue

## By LT. WILBURN F. UNTHANK

PRINTED on white unwatermarked paper, perforate 12, with and without grill on the flat press by the National Bank Note Company. 300 subject plate, 150 subject sheets. \*100 subject plates and sheets.

-	No. Issued	Date Issued
1c	16,605,150	
2c	83,753,600	
3c	386,475,900	March 30
6c	4,882,750	July 21
10c	3,299,700	April 24
12c	3,012,950	June 10
*15c	1,438,940	July 10
*24c	235,350	April 24
*30c	244,110	August 7
*90c	47,460	Sept. 9



#### Subject

1c Benjamin Franklin, bust by Jean J. Caffeiri.

6c George Washington, painting by Gilbert Stuart.

15c Landing of Columbus, painting by Vanderlyn, in the Capitol at Washington.

24c Declaration of Independence, painting by John Trumbull, in the Capitol at Washington.

90c Abraham Lincoln, a photograph.

#### Historical Data

Butler and Carpenter protested awarding the contract to the National Bank Note Company on the ground that their firm made the lowest bid. A commission investigated the relative merits of the bids and reported in favor of National. The lower values were intended to be emblematic of the postal progress of the country.

#### Types

15c has two types, the second consisting of an extra frame around the vignette.

#### Shades

1c pale buff, dark buff.

2c dark brown, pale brown, red brown, yellow brown.

3c and 6c deep ultramarine, dull blue.

10c orange, deep orange.

12c yellow green, deep green, blue green.

15c dark red brown, pale red brown. 24c deep green, blue green.

30c pale carmine with pale blue, dark carmine with dark blue.

90c black with rose carmine.

#### Paper Variety

1c, 2c, 3c, 10c with stitch water-mark.

#### Printing Variety

15c, 24c and 30c with inverted centers.

#### Plate Varieties

1c, 2c, 3c, 6c, 15c double transfers. 3c cracked plate.

#### Grill Varieties

Double grill on all values except 90c. Split grill on all values. Triple grill on 3c. End roller grill on 3c, 10c, 12c. Stamps without grill must have original gum, the 1c, 2c, 3c, 15c, 24c, 30c and 90c are known thus.

#### 

	1	2	3	6	10	12	15	24	30	90	
Black	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Blue	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Brown			X	X		X	X		X		
Green	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Magenta	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Orange		X	X								
Purple	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Red	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ultra-											
marine	X	X	X		X						
Violet			X								

#### Miscellaneous

Miscellar	reo	us								
	1	2	3	6	10	12	15	24	80	90
Carrier,										
Black	X	X	X							
Carrier,			-							
Blue		X	X							
China		X			X				X	
Express			X		X					
Free			X		-					
Hawaii				2000	X					
Japan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Numeral			X		-					
Paid	X	X	X X X	X	X	X	X		X	
Paid All		X	X		X		X	X	X.	
Packet										
Boat			X		_					
Railroad			X	X	X					
St. Thomas					X					
Ship			X	-						
Short Paid				X						
Steam									X	
Steamboat			X							
Steamship		X	X	X	X				X	
Supplemen-					-		-	~~		
tary A					X		X.	X		
Too Late						X				
Way			X							

#### Covers

2c horizontal, diagonal and vertical halves used as 1c.

3c vertical third used as 1c; vertical two-thirds used as 2c.

#### Paper

Moderately thick and quite hard.

#### Gum

Yellowish white to brown.

#### Sizes

1c, 20 ¼ x 20 ¼ mm.; 2c, 12c, 20 ¼ x 20 mm.; 3c, 20 ½ x 20 mm.; 6c, 10c, 20 x 19 ¾ mm.; 15c, 21 ¾ x 21 ¾ mm.; 24c, 22 x 22 mm.; 30c, 22 x 22 ¼ mm.; 90c, 21 ¾ x 22 mm.

#### Grill Sizes

 $J = 9 \times 9$  mm. (12 x 11-12 points). L=8½ x 9 mm. (11 x 11 points) on 10c and 12c only.

Normal position is with points down, although a few copies are known with the points up. Due to the indistinctness of the grill one cannot be positive of the actual size on most stamps.

## Plate Numbers 1c 1, 2.

2c	3-6, 27	-8.		
Зс	7-12, 2	5-6,	29-30	
6c	13-4.			
10c	15-6.			
12c	17-8.			
15c	Type 1	. (	19-19)	(31-23).
15c	Type 2	. (2	23-23)	(32-23).



24c (20-24) (20-20) (\*\*-20). 30c (21-21) (\*\*-\*\*).

90c (22-22).

( ) Indicates frame and vignette combination numbers. \*\*Indicates unnumbered plates.

#### Cost

12½c per 1,000.

#### Proofs

All values, except 15c large die, card plate, 24c large die, on large and small die, India and card plate proofs.

(Next page, please.)

WEEKLY \_\_\_

# PHILATELIC GOSSIP

D. E. DWORAK, Owner and Publisher

R. B. NOSTRUM, Business Manager

AL BURNS, Editor

Volume 30

Number 17

JULY 6, 1940

Whole Number 974

## Weekly PHILATELIC GOSSIP

The Stamp Collectors
Magazine

Published Every Saturday at Holton, Kansas

— Subscription —

\$1.00 Per Year, in United States, Canada, Mexico, Newfoundland, Cuba, Central and So. America. Other Countries \$1.75.

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## The Editor's Viewpoint

WE met one of those fellows the other day who says he never takes a vacation. You know, the kind of fellow who bravely says, "I haven't had a day off in fifteen years, and I feel as fit as a fiddle," but-he didn't look it, and well wager he didnt feel as "fit as a fiddle" either. He was stoop shoulered, his complexion was pasty, and he shuffled rather than walked. Well, upon questioning we found that he didn't have any hobbies either. He was one of those fellows who is a slave to his job. Some day he's going to crack suddenly, and the doctor will either ship him off to a private hospital for a rest cure, or, maybe to the undertaker, instead. We know another fellow who does take a day off occasionally and he either potters around with his flower garden, his stamp collection, or, goes fishing, according to the time of year and the weather. His work is rather strenuous, but confining, and he finds his three recreations ideal for his purpose. He knows that moderate success and lusty health can come from intelligent idleabout things is as bad as not beness, and that to be too serious ing serious at all. He knows that

life is rhythmic, and that progress to be permanent must go in waves, and not in one continuous stream. He knows that one of the most important things a man can do is to stop once in awhile and take time off to recuperate. He is extremely anxious that his business enterprise shall prosper, but he doesn't intend to keep his nose too close to the grindstone and lose his zest for life in the undertaking. So, whenever he feels a bit grumpy, and his nerves are a bit frazzled, and he is unable to keep his mind on the problems confronting him, then — he takes a day off and goes fishing, plays with his flowers or just slides down into an easy chair with his stamp collection. Like a lot of business men, he goes once a year to the doctor for a checkup, and the doctor tells him, "Well, John, the answer is just the same as it was last year, you're as fit as a fiddle." There's the one fellow who says he's "fit as a fiddle," and is ready to break because he takes no time off, and has no hobbies to take dull care away-he's on his way out. While, the other fellow who knows how to play, is about the same age, but, will likely enjoy life for a few more decades. It is a better plan to go out once in awhile to play -and live, than to keep one's nose to the grindstone and find it's grinding one's life away, too. -AL BURNS

Die proof on large 2½ x 3 inch India mounted on 6 x 9 octovo card with National imprint (except 30c).

Color Proofs: 1881

1c to 12c in black, blue, brown, green and scarlet.

15c black with green and scarlet; blue with brown and green; brown with black, blue and green; green with black and blue; scarlet with black and blue.

24c black with blue, green and scarlet; blue with brown and green; brown with black and blue; green with black, blue and brown; scarlet with black and blue.

30c black with blue, green and scarlet; blue with brown, green and scarlet; brown with black, blue and scarlet; green with black and brown; scarlet with black, blue and green.

90c black with brown, green and scarlet; blue with green and brown; brown with black and blue; green with blue and brown; scarlet with blue.

Specimen: Overprint in Black

2c, 6c, 10c, 12c, 15c, 30c.

Reprints: 1875

Printed on very white paper, perforate 12, ungrilled, on the flat press by the Continental Bank Note Company. \*150, 300 and 100 subject plates, 150 and 100 subject sheets.

#### Number Issued

*1c	dark brown orange	8,252
2c	brown	4,755
3c	ultramarine	1,406
6c	ultramarine	2,226
10c	pale orange	1,947
12c	dark blue green	1,584
15c	dark blue and brown	1,981
24c	violet & blue green	2,091
30c	carmine & dark ultra.	1,535
90c	deep black & carmine	1,356
	2c 3c 6c 10c 12c 15c 24c 30c	*1c dark brown orange 2c brown 3c ultramarine 6c ultramarine 10c pale orange 12c dark blue green 15c dark blue and brown 24c violet & blue green 30c carmine & dark ultra. 90c deep black & carmine

A new plate, number 33, was made for the 1c and a new plate, number 32, was made for the frame of the 15c which is slightly altered.

To distinguish note, as in all 1875 special printings, the crisp white paper and proof-like appearance. Also note that this issue is without grill; the regular series without grill comes with a brownish gum whilst the reprint gum is white and crackled.

Reprint: 1880

Printed on white soft porous paper, with and without gum, ungrilled, on the flat press by the American Bank Note Company. 150 subject plate and sheet.

1c buff; number issues included under the 1875 printing.

#### Reprint Proofs

1c from 1880 plate on India and card plate.

15c with slightly altered frame on small die, India and card plate.

Notes

Press comments of the time considered this series very unfavorable and considered the choice of design rather ugly.

As with all of the bank note issues we need more information. Early dates of use on the 1c and 2c as well as earlier dates on possibly all but the 3c. Subject matter on the 2c, 10c, 12c, 30c has not been recorded as definite.

This series is most prolific in cancelations but undoubtedly many more can be added as all of the blank spaces are possibilities. Proof material on this issue is fairly complete although there may be some trial proofs as yet unrecorded.

#### Nipped in the Bud

BACK in 1911, when the Crown Agents for the British Colonies submitted designs to Canada for new King George stamps, Postmaster General Lemieux, who desired the land of the Maple Leaf to have her own designs, politely informed the Crown Agents that the designs submitted did not meet with the approval of Canada. Canada, being a Dominion and not a crown colony, had her way and her 1912 issue bears little resemblance to other British possession sets of the time.

#### Visits Memorial Cairn



THE ABOVE PHOTO shows Col. Jno. A. Hooper, Sr., Commander-in-Chief of the Pioneer Philatelic Phalanx, in front of the Memorial Cairn, erected inside the ruins of old Fort George, at Niagara-on-the-Lake, in memory of the fallen heroes of the War of 1812-14. This photo was taken especially for WPG on June 11, 1940.

CHILE'S 1910 Centenary issue was demonetized September 1, 1911.

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SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

ONE WEST 47 ST.



NEW YORK, N. Y.

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee,

% Pacific Union Club,

San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Wiltsee:

Re - "Pan & San Fran. S. S." I have a memo in my files regarding two covers which were in the Ackerman collection many years ago.

"Both were from Peru and addressed to the same firm in S.F." Both had strips of three 10d 1847. One had the "Pan & San Fran S.S." marking, the other did not. The latter was acquired by Emerson who removed the strip from the cover."

I am trying to locate the cover with the marking. Did you ever hear about this item?

Yours etc.,

Oet 6/38 Shortly Carphential Hauley B ashbrond Cog I Fort Thomas Ky hig Dear Mr ashbrook: I han just received your most true and approcedin letter of the Stock - count lele you how growed I makes me fiel when such an orchest as yourself expresses such high appreciation. More as to your reference to the small Via Vicaragua on Choase. page 212 or 213. I dea not put I'm breause I am con.
unices this sunhange is a rank forgery. I obtained one
of thice, This the Sametanilled somme that is peddling all their Counterfeits that for 3 years past I got Just before my book went lofners. I brught for 3500 Just to have a forgery as I have done take doing in Several other instances. how as to your postion. In are absolutely consist. No Such portmark existed in new York on mail from California in the year 1853, 1854 + 1855. And we hend rewerebro that the adustisement of mail lags, stopped on Seft 30 1854. That was the last on That is hit conclusion Elvidence that the mail bags stopped, but it is forty four When her take as the form feetly pet, line, the fact That the Sepren Cox had dropped then rates to 10 4 12/2 with postage propared that the Penny Port in 1855 started its Ocean Rung Port oring the prolange - 7 to letter bag be shee

livere through. There could'the nor money in it for them\_ I han neur sen achat ) was sure was a genina Com with a date later than 1854, A) hate asked all the lare collectors gerther dates + none was behated late than 1854 monahat wer The IVY. receiving Cancelaline upplies bolles histens wall in 1853 and 1004. They wen just 3. 1 St ( YOR ) 2 H & String a Cettle Cales 30 STEAM New York what was larger SHIP Ship DEC P She Cellers are larger train No. 1

No. 1

No. 1 Thocan all the houest mes now your little Cau in Chart Books easy but new is on a Not Newfork Shep. This cleves SOB did what he always does ho gets von letters to benfirm in. Min has a fram of 30 taket purports to the Ny Ship not. But Jam June its. Laugougtotales the cores down that the Comptimentor and one fare the with but the gourne Cause. Idout belien that hand slawform existed. Decause it was originally based for foropagander by the Nic Lun on van. debt line, when they needed it had they did not use alongy but surchage like that that noons could See thy should it storme a firm howhere? Of ceruse I don't know they Newfork Smeline and that STEAM- They were all steam slips. Audits use usual & SHIP Seem to extremed turnight the lutire period July 14 1804 (as Drewender of Just in the height of the funform-

that had Via Arc out at cless SAN FRANCISCO Woully for I han \$ 6 that were ha only one that was - Somehow Neughbused this at raser untervals. The fact that I han 3 of their used in 1854 shows that the via Nia was not always felt on mail that is travelled by allers bags in 1854. I is min 10 of the must han been late in 1855. another is on ah old Newfork (80) protably 1851. as it to the 400 rate and Lana Com By Scerra Nevada ma 6 Leuntope that bean no secency postmark allho it dos lear Brya City Express handslauf, which Floors that that express phich alle of jot no Sopma handslamp. her something very disagreeable has recently hap. Jewad. On honest Equan dealer sent me all bythes 4 ceres all qubich were counterfect. I ware from that notorcins Rebaca Johns Conspinding cuty which I was offered a manifest countrifed because I went thro the SJ. PO + also bere a Via The handshamp which of cruse was impossible. Islut them to the aPS. expert Committee, Kleeman Chairman, Bartels, Barrett. They delays hearly two mouth before they refer their reporter all genuine allow fales. Death them throw Egra Colombon a Square of reg. They here them that mute I was first duny hor ever them my private data blief from a concluming 3 aren

fraudulent, When they beturned their gruine. I am going to take the matter with and wigh the CPS to fire all their dam dealers aux Use honest elects as their Communic. Aam gring to unge you for our I don't Know whether. Into Cet auguhor but due try One was nady laughabl. It had a very rare crail Via Nicaragua madrance y the mails which I blien his only a use ashort time in Ded 1802 or larly in fac 1853 when that was the live's wislam stogais as well as Eastern. hey their Changea the Westerns to Via Mc. ahead of the ments tentiment it to the end Now this hunterall Cluck had a 109 impay on t Wheel must han been July 1805 or thereatments -The ahol dam Newford Cauc was Xah Ineursaw another like it. Alud what did the fay? They said; the handstamp was Okgennen but that the Stamp was added Colin-How in thell Civil it get this the My Po wetent a Stamp twithout a portmant, Which to as addne Byean Calis? Can you amagin aughtung So assinine?, They were that just. though both this palicala deale to friend their way to be munting to suggest I will in anything to suggest I will in them. Have the advice fuelnly Califolie

Oct. 9, 1938.

Mr. Ernest A. Wiltsee,
% Roosevelt Hotel,
New Orleans, La.

My dear Mr. Wiltsee:

I have just read with much interest your letter of the 6th.

I never saw those four covers mentioned in your letter but I heard indirectly that some such items were sent to you and that you had sent them to the A.P.S. Expert Committee, but I never heard what their decision was. I also learned that the covers were sent to you by Voorhees.

I have known Barney Voorhees for over twenty years and count him as one of my very good friends. I consider his reputation above reproach, so when I heard something of this mess I wrote him asking where these covers came from. As you probably know my relations with Mr. Newbury of Chicago are most cordial and inasmuch as Saul is Chicago's most prominent collector I believed if there was a mess in Chicago that Saul would stand shoulder to shoulder with me, regardless of expense, in running down the gullty party. Barney being well aware of this did not hesitate to tell me what he knew about the items. He stated they had been given to him by Hardy to send to you. Further I learned the name of the man Hardy claimed he obtained them from, and it happened to be a man with whom I have corresponded at intervals for a number of years past. I have no knowledge however of his character or honesty. The incident interested me because I am suspicious of Hardy and if he is guilty of fixing covers I want to do all I can to put him where he belongs.

I am not surprised that the Expert Committee made a mistake in rendering an opinion. However it is my impression that the error was due to a lack of knowledge and not because of any desire to protect Hardy, who I think is heartily disliked by the better class of dealers in New York. Of course we both know Kleeman, so no remarks are necessary regarding him. Sid Barrett bears an excellent reputation and in my opinion is far above the average Nassau Street dealer. He is associated with Stern, whom I have known personally for many years and whom I have always found to be thoroughly honest.

You were kind enough to suggest that I be appointed to the Expert Committee, but inasmuch as I am not an expert, I could not qualify. I have devoted my energies to Early U. S. and the period our early issues were in use. I know nothing of 20th Century U. S., nor foreign stamps. Personally I do not think anyone man can qualify as an expert on the stamps of all the world, because in present day specialization a knowledge is required not only of the stamps but of postal markings as well. Warren Colson, in my opinion, has a greater knowledge of the stamps of the world than any other authority in this Country but Warren has little, if any knowledge of postal markings. He has the gift of a very keen eye and he has an uncanny way of detecting faked items. It is to be regretted that he has such a disagreeable personality because without such, he could be of great service to American Philately.

Mr. Ernest A. Wiltsee - Oct. 9, 1938.

tion. Unless I miss my guess I think you will find the Convention dominated by Eugene Klein. If I had any suggestions to make regarding the Committee perhaps they would be as follows:

That Barrett be made chairman, that the committee be enlarged, and that all recognized students of specialties be consulted on important items submitted.

I am not thoroughly conversant with the methods employed by the Royal Society, but I think a study should be made as to how their committee works. I have understood that their committee refers to the leading authority, items that are submitted. But even by such a plan it is possible for the authority to be wrong.

For example - recently a friend of mine in Cincinnati wrote a London dealer he wished to buy a very fine "24¢ Violet" 1861 - the "August", but he would only accept one with the certificate attached from the Expert Committee of the Royal. In due course my friend received a stamp and the certificate, but when he showed it to me it required only a glance to note the stamp was not the August color.

So much for expert opinions. Must we blame the Royal Committee for their error, any more than we should blame Kleeman, Barrett and Bartels for their error on the Nicaragua covers? I knowthe Royal Committee did not know the true color of a 24¢ 1861 Violet and you are convinced the A. P. S. Committee do not know anything about Via Nicaragua markings.

Rather than go after the A.P.S. Committee I would be more in favor of running down the devils who make fake covers and in branding them as theires, even if we may not be able to send them to prison where they undoubtedly belong. In this respect you can be assured of my whole hearted co-operation. In the meantime you can depend that I will respect your request to keep your letter confidential.

Perhaps Lindquist will have a copy of my Volume 2 at New Orleans. If so I trust you will borrow one and sketch my remarks on the "Via Nicaragua" markings.

I am still enjoying your new book, and making a desperate effort to digest each and every point you brought out. I have bound my copy in celophane because I know I am going to have occasion to refer to it daily and I do not want constant handling to mar in any way the beauty of its make-up.

And now permit me to thank you most sincerely for the generous offer contained in your telegram. It was indeed a temptation, and it was with regret that I was compelled to reply that circumstances entirely beyond my control stood in the way of an acceptance.

Jessup and Wm. West of Merion, Pa. are going to New Orleans. I suggest that you meet my close friend Wm. Michaels of Kansas City. You will find Michaels a thorough gentleman and I need say no more. Just mention to Will that he comes to you with the highest of credentials from his great admirer in Fort Thomas.

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and I think you will find Harold a delightful character.

I will look forward with much interest to your account of any unusual happening at the Convention.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

Oct 7/38 Stanley B ashbrook Coy. hydear her ashbrook I spent a little tem today in the counterfeet Small Via Nic ahead of the mails; the same as Chaze illustrates in his book. I hardly am able to see how Chase could have been alle to be forled outhat one. I atmospound that were showed vastly defenut tak ander the lamp. also live at first right the con cellaten the Newford Skip or was feller to be uning our not to comms from with the time ones hour four of this they all check. I have having the fortunally show graphed Eularged I drametels alwested of a true custual send them to you for you can see for yourself - It is a crime to have people counterfeiting their intensting things & Jaw going to spend money to Stop of if I can - What songgestems han you to made? It is fretty lought to thend 1850 to they a most manifest torgen as that "Vic Nie we adenne y the mans but a the 10° when his, to thenk Ny mans but a think I will do it find to have portwerk, but I think I will do it find to have Club to hold one those asses in thewyork\_I caudin Straw now of the boards with it. I should so Lotte Serventen to do it omay get-lebal do you suggest.? Their wade i great study after thing and Kum their than hats to han my tabrite travel beforald by any Cheop perger. In structerly Callellse

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DL=VN SANFRANCISCO CALIF

STANLEY B ASHBROOK=

SOUTH GRAND AVE FTTHOMAS KY=

NEWORLEANS CONVENTION ARRIVING SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL ATTEND WILL GLADLY PAY YOUR EXPENSES DOWN AND BACK TO HAVE WIRE ME COLLECT FAST MESSAGE WHETHER SHOULD RECEIVE MESSAGE SUNDAY BEFORE SIX

F. A WILTSEE.

PM.

My Dear her ashbrook When I found that you could not meet me at the Convention I decided not to so myself. Has I been able to han the formlege of meeting you someon who would han been Congental in every way, and in whose society Darrelo han taken hurch pleasure, I unde han Jewelose my cheek for 20 to continue the work. ofthe securification Castern Heaver dates. I have before, me a cerer that have me backed against the wall. It is a lethographed circular of maindray & Co of Sau Francisco, addressed to E.M. Putnous Boston hass\_ It is cancelled in blue San Francisco 1 Oct #8 Cell The date is 1852.) PAID 5 also in blue the PAID and 5 being separated Indulitably quine The Lethograp States it was forthe Leunessee and the Dennessee Sailed Oct 1 1852. (Whata Comfort to have that record) I may he wery stupid by why the 54 rate on a lithographed cercular? How does that fit with Chases 2/3 circlar that is a fake from its concellation -One of their fale Via Nies, with the Lake Siema Atte nevada handslamp, is a nel postmant which I belien ito be a fale fau 19\_ What a comfort to look up any my records and find That the Serra Novada arrived here March 25 1853 Qua that on no Trip Could have mail

han possibly realled new york, in any year! The gentlemen who forget that me treatheuselves drin, without having the Kumlety which thelien in this customes I alone prosess. It you you a correspond to send you are correspond to send you and you a correspond to send you a correspond to send you and you are correspond to send you are correspond to send you and you are correspond to send you are correspond to the c ash you whether you can saw sail a Alwynh but the letters of the NEW und shared and there of YORK Close together. also the handstarup wolf is an oliver fall both as to color & letters Sprin fucerly Celletter Juill very would approved it of your are write me a live and the we your office opening the NY handstamp. tuplicale The state of the s

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Mr. E. A. Wiltsee, % Pacific Union Club, San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wiltsee:

Your letter of the 9th received this morning and I note you are not going to New Orleans. I am sorry that conditions are such that it is utterly impossible for me to leave home at the present time, because it would have been a great pleasure to have had the opportunity to meet you personally and to discuss some very interesting subjects. I wrote you a long letter Sunday and addressed it care of the Roosevelt, New Orleans, a copy of which you will find herewith.

To my letter I might add that I doubt very much if we could have accomplished any good at New Orleans, as there probably would have developed plenty of opposition to any changes that you might have suggested. Personally I take very little interest in philatelic societies as nearly all are dominated by a class with whom I have practically nothing in common. When I do attend conventions, which is very seldom, it is solely for the purpose of spending several days with close friends who attend for much the same reason as myself.

I note with much interest the photograph you enclosed, but a rather hasty examination does not impress me that either marking is a fake. The New York appears to be perfectly 0.K. and if the cover is a fake then the "Via N" is the fake part, that is, if the N.Y. is genuinely tied. The N.Y. "two bar" marking is well known and you will find reference to it in the Chase book and also in my howkwork elsolument - just off the press.

If you have a copy, I refer you to page 115 and page 117 for illustrations of the "bar markings" and to page 116 for my brief description. I have found that these markings were most commonly used in the last six months of 1851 and during the early months of 1852. Chase recorded the earliest use he had seen on a 3d as Sept. 4, 1851, but I believe a use I have on the ld is much earlier, or July 13, 1851. Of course, it is possible Chase may be right and I may be wrong. Chase gave Dec. 27, 1852 as the latest use he had noted but I have a positive use in April 1853 on a 1d 1851. I think Larry Mason is probably the best authority we have on these bar markings. As I recall, I think it was or is generally believed that these bars were used to denote different sub-stations of the N.Y. Post Office, that is, one bar was used at one office, two bars at another, etc. I never could get beyond the hearsay of such a theory but it always appeared to me there might be some basis for the idea. If such a theory is true why is this sub-station (?) marking found on a cover "Via Nicaragua"? But even so - here we find it on a pair of 3¢ 1851 indicating (if genuine) either one of two uses, a double 3d rate from New York, or the 6d California rate. This cover could have been faked by taking a pair of 3d 51 with this marking - putting it on this cover and faking the tie-on. This is on the supposition that the marking on the pair is genuine. I never saw this marking applied to a letter from New York to California, as I recall, so possibly the pair was a double rate domestic. However, that "Jan 15" looks funny and may indicate the New York steamer sailing date. On

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Oct. 11, 1938.

this handstamp, genuine examples show all the characteristics as shown on your photograph - the shape of the two bars, the peculiar R and K of York - the "1" and "5", the "J" of Jan and also the wide spacing of the "N" and "E". Tracings I have on celluloid, when laid over your photo, match perfectly.

This latter test also applies to the "Via N" handstamp. I think many "Via N" covers show the stamps in upper left corner, indicating the handstamp in many cases was applied in upper right before the adhesives were affixed.

I have no record of a use of this "Via N" handstamp before 1854 and I also have no record of a use of this "bar type" as late as 1854. This is about all I can do from the photograph.

Your records show that the Sierra Nevada arrived at San Francisco on March 25, 1853, therefore if this cover is genuine the date must be Jan. 15th, 1854 or Jan. 15th, 1855. No other years could apply.

The nearest record I have in Dec. 1853 and Jan. 1854, is a cover in the Richey collection. Folded letter dated S.F. Dec. 15, 1853 - on face in red is the rectangular "Via Nicaragua". This cover is minus the pair of 3¢ 1851 and my memo contains no mention of the N.Y. marking.

### Later

I have again examined the "Via Nicaragua" marking on your photo and I must confess I can see nothing wrong with it. It appears to match perfectly with all the tracings I have, and yet I can hardly imagine that "bar" marking being used at New York in Jan. 1854. Chase was extremely careful in making records. He stated he had never seen a use on the 3¢ later than Dec. 1852 and in this I place a lot of confidence.

I also note your records show that no mail went by the Steamer Sierra Nevada that could possibly have reached New York on Jan. 15, 1854. We might stretch a point and imagine by some error a use of the "bar type" on Jan. 15th, 1854, but so far as a use in 1855 is concerned I would have to be shown positive proof.

Regarding your lithographed circular of Oct. 1st, 1852. The Paid 5 was the correct rate as fixed by the Act of March 3rd, 1851, but repealed in September 1852. I think the new law went into effect Oct. 1, 1852 (from memory) but if not then just a few days earlier. This circular rate is what I call the "fifteen months rate" - that is it was in effect from July 1st, 1851 to Oct. 1st, 1852 - I have quite a bit of data on this particular rate in Volume 2. See page 73 in Volume 2 - a reproduction of page 28 in the 1852 "Postal Laws and Regulations" - a circular rate of 5¢ for distances of over 3500 miles and certainly the Post Route via Panama was over 3500 miles, S.F. to N.Y.

In this connection I might mention that examples showing this rate must be exceedingly rare, at least none ever come my way and I

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Oct. 11, 1938.

have not seen any in many years time, in spite of the fact, this is an item I am constantly looking for. I would like to have the opportunity of photographing your cover.

Such an item does not fit at all with the Chase item. No such circular rate in 1853. Circulars were -1¢ to any port of the U. S. prepaid. If the Chase item was an unsealed circular with no writing it did not require a 6¢ rate, hence why go to the trouble of putting on a pair of 3¢ 1851 much less resorting to the use of a provisional in lieu of a pair of 3¢ 1851. All very silly, not even to mention a fake grid and a fake "Via N". Of course if the circular had writing then a 6¢ rate was justified, but surely not a bisect in May 1853 and besides the N.Y. P.O. would not have recognized such a use at that time, no more than they recognized the bisect you illustrated from your collection #20, page 331. This bisect was not recognized at the New York Post Office, hence rated as a "Ship Letter" and the black N.Y. indicated a regular ship letter rate, 7¢ due on delivery. The N.Y. P.O. did not recognize these bisects in Sept. 1853. See my Volume 2 on this subject.

My contention is that a bisect is a provisional, and that a provisional is only a postage stamp when it pays the rate intended for its provisional use. If it fails to do this it is not a postage stamp, but merely a piece of paper. A tobacco tag, even though tied by a postal marking, would have performed the same service, and answered the same purpose.

I can cut a 2/ stamp in two, an attempt to use it today to prepay an unsealed letter, but though such a multilated stamp might be tied to cover it would not be recognized. 12/ 1851 bisects that did not pay the rate are in the same class, and are in my opinion of no value, and this point I believe will be recognized in the future.

I will welcome the photographs of your covers showing the same markings as the Chase cover. I wonder if these fakes are of recent origin or old ones made years ago. I would like to know if anyone is doing the work at present.

Naturally in my position I have many items submitted to me for opinion. Some are crude - some are good - some are extremely clever.

The cleverest work is done by Zareski of Paris who is a real artist. No doubt he has made a lot of money at his crooked purfession, hence has provided himself with the finest of tools for his trade.

Recently a 30¢ 1869 cover was sent me - For hours I sware it was 0.K., but was not entirely satisfied. The buyer paid \$350.00 and it is a Zareski job - no doubt about this, I know his work. I proved the letter was written in September 1868. I have been making a careful study of his methods for some time past and I am learning more and more all the time. I may be wrong but I do not believe he can get his fakes past my desk. Yes, what are we going to do about it? I could tell you much of interest on this subject - about the clever fake items I have seen in prominent collections. I have found it best

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to say nothing as owners of valuable collections do not like as a rule to be told they possess fakes. They kid themselves they are far to smart to be fooled. Some months ago I saw a cover in the collection of a very prominent New Yorker. He had paid \$1,000 for it. It fairly yelled at me when I turned the page, and the yell was "Zareski". I had to gulp to suppress my astonishment because he had told me with much pride about his recent acquisition of this particular item. Had he asked me what I thought about it I would have told him it was bad, but he had so much confidence in his ability that he evidently cared little what my opinion was.

My old friend Bob Emerson was different. He insisted I note anything and everything in his collection that looked the least bit questionable. And what a lot of pleasure we had with some of the fine paintings we found in his collection.

It is really very deplorable because cover collecting is so far more interesting than the collecting of stamps off cover. It seems strange that level headed hard fisted business men permit slimmy Massau kikes to load their collections with fakes and then swear by their crooked "expert" friends. It is a known fact that one very wealthy stock exchange member will buy no stamps except thru Souren. I do not mean to infer Souren is not perfectly O.K. but he is certainly not the type I would become clubby with. Movie actor Menjou is rated as being quite a philatelist, yet he has written me on several occasions how lucky he considers himself, to be able to depend solely on Souren's advice.

Thanks for your check for the Research Group. This has been placed to your credit and we are going to commence very shortly on the 1853 sailings.

Cordially yours,

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee,

% Pacific Union Club,

San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Wiltsee:

If you have a copy of my One Cent book, Volume Two, please note page 268 - cover 51 Q - A. This cover belongs to Harold C. Brooks of Marshall, Mich. It has a pencil memo of "1854" which I judge to be authentic. It scarcely shows on the cut but can be detected. This letter evidently went by the Sierra Nevada sailing of Dec. 1, 1853. The day date is not very plain but is probably "2" - Jan. 2, 1854.

I enclose you herewith a photo of this cover, made to show up the markings. As I recall Brooks told me this came to him in an original find and was never in the hands of any stamp dealer.

Re - your book - page 192 gives May 5, 1856 as sailing of Sierra Nevada, whereas page 199 gives May 3rd, 1956.
Yours etc.,

Mr. Fred G. Floyd,

Sierra Madre,

Calif.

Dear Fred:

I have a memo of your cover #69 of Walls correspondence.

Do you still own this item? If so may I see it? My memo states,

"letter S.F. Dec. 6, 1853 posted at N.Y. Jan. 5, 1854".

I am working on a very important matter and this item fits in with the period.

Hastily yours,

Mr. Geo. B. Sloane,

116 Nassau St.,

New York, N.Y.

Dear George:

Regarding your 74th sale of April 1936. I would like very much to see lot #22. Have you a record of who bought this item and if so would you mind telling me, so that I can try and borrow it?

I will greatly appreciate any assistance you can give me on the above.

Cordially yours,

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee, % Pacific Union Club, San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Wiltsee:

Regarding your Gibbons cover - photo of which you sent me. I am sure we agree that if this cover is genuine it can only be of two dates, i.e., Jan. 15, 1854 or Jan. 15, 1855. No possible chance to be Jan. 15, 1853 or Jan. 15, 1856.

The Sierra sailed from S. F. Dec. 1, 1853 - your book page 129. From Dec. 1, 1853 to Jan. 15th, 1854 is 45 days so that sailing is out. I have a cover before me belonging to Sam Richey, description follows:

Memo of a cover is collection of S. W. Richey. This is a folded letter dated San Francisco, Dec. 15th, 1853 - addressed to Portland, Maine. - A pair of 3d 1851 removed. On face is the rectangular "Via Nicaragua - Ahead of the Mails" in red - A part of the letter is as follows: "I wrote brother E. by the last mail but as the steamer (mail) was lost it is quite probable the letter was among those not saved. She was one of the best boats on this side and is considered a great loss". The ship referred to was the Pacific Mail S. S. "Winfield Scott" which went ashore on Anacapa Island off Santa Barbara on Dec. 2, 1853. (Left S. F. on Dec. 1st, 1853). The ship was a total loss and part of the mail bags were lost, but no lives were sacrificed. See Wiltsee book page 192.

The above cover shows no date of arrival in New York, but it is dated "Dec. 15th, 1853" and was evidently (?) written the day it left S. F. for Nicaragua.

Have you each sailing of the "Sierra" after Dec. 1st, 1853? Could any mail by this ship have landed in New York on Jan. 15, 1854?

Now for a possible Jan. 15th, 1855.

In the Sloane sale, April 1st and 2nd - 1936, Lot #22 was described as follows:

"Steamer Sierra Nevada Via Nicaragua - advance of the Mails" blue oval, 6¢ green envelope (2316) postmarked "New York Jan. 2", letter enclosed, San Francisco Dec. 8, 1854 to Washington, Pa., steamer handstamp not very clear, otherwise fine".

How could a letter by Sierra reach New York on Jan. 15, 1855 when another letter by this same staamer reached New York on Jan. 2, 1855.

Of course the Sloane envelope may have the wrong letter enclosed, and it may have had a letter written in 1853 and traveled

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Oct. 15, 1938.

by the Sierra leaving S.F. on Dec. 1st, 1853. An arrival in New York on Jan. 2nd - transit 32 days - possible but hardly probable perhaps.

I am going to try and locate that Sloane cover.

Yours etc.,

Oct 14/38 nysear Ner ashbrook Iknew that those Voorhees Cause from Itardy because I know that he has handled the whole takes comspondence. It don't done send me any more Even after the way I roasted heim. but at Vorhees + Laurence masm to sen me cover under corre masm We fust as innocent as Voorhees is in The matter. now let us look at this correspondence with troad way. as I han been a cour collector for years I han teamed agnat deal about the great comspondences. They were all of their family East women women of their family East would constitue a sister (the NL. miller comspondences) of 95 tellers.) It is a currons thing, or talks not a currons they, that all their comspondence from California to the East were unter by the saw man, Le one woman. Not cornors but exactly what you would expect - and curiously lungh the men usually used the same kind of envelope thought. Or Josachically the Sam - Whiel also was to be expected and when thes comspondences are found a great number of valuable covers are found of theme distributed. I have semo items of all of them. now what happened in the case of the Lighten Gibbons Comspudence? In the first place almost all of these fake covers are on notonly Widely different envelopes of all Colors shapes of ones, het also in at least a half desen different Randwritings - Was Rebecca gibbons of arluington belavion a Cody of Easy virtue wort Chieners certing to her from all over Calefornia? Yn may. think me straining of soint but am not, when I tell you

that stamps the compandence as a fake from the slast for that is not the way in which, compandences were That I thuis is that whom found the Tibbons coms fundency found a lot of nuscellanines letter I believe that some livere just formally deliveres. arth nothing on their, that he used these old letters to brille up take fraules to Via Nece of dia it of course without themledge of the subject. The first one I like saw was one that Hardy offered me forsale-I call it number one and I send may you a Shotistal. Here is a Cetter that panel squarely enough this the S.F. Po- and then what? On it some forger & akea a Vici Orcavagne. You have read my book: You know that it was absolutely impossible after the PO. Dept Ediet of Oct 10 1850, for a letter to box wailed with 87 Po of their go Viarric. It just could not happen, You might say, may he neulas mais sleaves troke down they had losend the SPPSO heard-they answer is that never happened. 1th because the PMSG (Payer Mail) always had spare steamers at this end ready totale a place in the line + 2"- Berouse I han read ochecher lung steamer sailing of always a Phister Steamer Carried the mail, helver was there are accident, and alwayster mail went mille regular failing day in a PMS steamer on the restore another steamer was substituted for the rigular, but they always had Ferend ready to sail now that Cours cover proves that some one was Counterfeeley turing the Rebeice g. Correspondence Consequently we must approach it with suspecies and are not furposed



When more fak items appears from the same cornspon. dencenow you say these dealers are not proteeling another crooked one. That they won't do that my friend you are very wrong. When I got this NoI fale I at once look it with Laurence masm who was then President of the Coll. Out - He also collects these things two funious about it. breaux he had some beautiful ones houself. I suggested that the as Prest open Cole Colub team up with Kleir, then Porst of the aps of the Hardy. Masin wanted to but Klein absolutely refund, so the Thing was dropped. heason Tolis me so himself. When their was out her a few mouth ago Sputit straight at him tasked him why he repused of sortelled Hardy? He obluttered Istamment to choke, or son "Oh fin Th fin", I that wall I could get out of him. I know here
Yen see I am Easternes hugself of han been a hember of the
Cole Club since 1920, of know all these Easterns dealers of just
how they rate. I spend about 140,000 in Stamps and alleward all auctions. Barret always appears a nice fellow, but I Caund Endorse Eddi Stem as gonds. I had one deal with him which involved about 2000 their has another Inever will - Jome dealers arefax about reproceed. hotomerman eur lived than Dankellehen, Percy Doane Sy Engew Costales Ezra Cole & Vorhees. Earl Hamilton of St Hobinelle from Best not that appennentter. now having finished that let us take up your letter of the " Dwas suspicions ofthe 2 bas breaux I have neur seen it

On these Via N Celles . This cour is very fishy in appearance His only a piece of a face on white paper. The address is geneine. I thought they had taken an old unslawful int generally addressed have delivered Cellis and. but tup, But now I de Dan wrong asto the two bar-But what happever? You stati trus only used u 1851-2 That I quit believe and understand. They took a. general 2001, Just as They took a general 100 S.J. PO). & faked the sum Nie Nie mit. For the Sum to did not Come to the Coast until 1853 I nous of her vorgages fets At Postmanh. Naturally. They did hot know when the Sierra N has running of so Jaken a frem Non a 2 har Cover used in 1851-2. Sout the same thing. The Sierra N via N. is a positive tak. I have a beautiful germine one taglence tells the story. It is arrow in leaven use . Color, I taps, the G in Nicarague, and the Series on the types. It is a manufest yergeny, placed on a Cover used in 1851-2., when the steamer due not aftern at S.F. until 1853; But they did not know that. How could they? also if this marking was in a Fubstation how could it be on letters durified who the main US DO that California have was a doubt rate from rely to wilmington Hetally a Carge envelope that Jost tons of a face. I. asto the via N. You can only size it ap by companyitant Take, Hymha's Fledies these markings as I have in the

last two years you could tell the deference also - I the fall from the genuer. The color is all army Every genine om Dan ever see is a bright lightish blue, This is a dull dark Still blue, and then one Cetter in Micaragua, the C. gives it away. Que also had cuphatically the way the Lengs of the letters Chair +almost forms solid-line. Duies send you apholo of my 5 d'circular as son as I can have it made I knew about the 14 circular but did not know of the 5th daw not well up on the vates as you can see, outside of regular letters. I han not receive ymovel 2. yet-I believe the small marking to being put on now by some One and that Hardy is feedeling them I got my Corre from a S.F. man who refused to gin up the nam of the Man who sent it to him. But I since genudout it is Harthy Tho I have no forworf. I only gerit recently Generalize

Than ween seen 50 or 75 germen ha Nics them saw that 2 bar. Because I was work prominsly. Enry the dates he N that I know woos in 1853 \$1854. I han follow his From Knath heedhan I frasen also, and I know him and ky ous. You are corned 1857 and hot lates or I amela handler it. I am some

that the Rebecca Gibbons was a general gourin comespondence, will people writing her from Neutfort California & all our Chat they did was to select the false haudstamps. That is for the general is proved by the several deferent handwritings. That news Occess in a genue comsponden. also all thise questionable cores Cerus from that correspondence my genine ones, if you will adorse me ou receipt of the that you will be then to receive them I han not give buto the Spolliers which are just as bad wither way - Juill on my next-Unfortunately I ded not bruy the cuclosed to! take That was where I made a mistake I . I follow totaled it but I have not the coner. I think I. will advertise for it w Stamps: I returned it To him to told him Aussa Jorgeny-Remember that derry the of these take or greatemable cever son a Reberea Fibbons Comspindence Now I long all the Counterfeits offered me, I amoriting this at night on my return lost. I will toppe wrete hig next when I hear where You are

Mr. H. A. Wiltsee, % Pacific Union Club, San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wiltsee:

Yours of the 14th received. While photographs are very helpful they do not furnish conclusive evidence in all cases. I am much interested in the Gibbons covers but so far as I can recall, none have ever been submitted to me. I would like to see the N.Y. two bar cover and to photograph it, also any others in the lot that you can send me. I pledge you in advance, my word, that I will make no use of these in any way that would not meet with your full approval. I mean by this that I will not send or give prints to anyone without your permission, nor will I appropriate to my own use any information on this subject. I would like to co-operate with you and be of assistance in any way I can with no ulterior motive of any kind.

In forwarding the covers to me for examination and to photograph, if there are any other restrictions that you care to impose I can assure you I will abide by them.

Regarding the two bar New York. It is only my guess that this marking was perhaps used at sub-stations of the N.Y. Post Office. I have no evidence whatsoever that it was. All I know is that it is a scarce postmark, much scarcer than others of this type with three and four bars. If you will read Perry's chapter in Volume 2 of my One Cent work you will note there were quite a number of branch post offices in N.Y. at the period we know this handstamp was in use. It is barely possible these bar type markings were used exclusively at four of these branch offices, on the other hand it is probably more reasonable to suppose they indicate four clerks in the main post office. I have made a casual study of British postal markings of the 1840 to 1870 period and several offices; London, Liverpool, etc., employed individual handstamps to identify the "stampers" of certain classes of mail. Perhaps a part of this system was copied by the N.Y. post office. I do know that the bar typesweennotconffinddtoo first class domestic mail, as it was at times used on circular mail matter. So far its use is all theory, and nothing more. Neither Mason nor Perry have any more evidence than I have so far as I know.

I am quite sure I never saw this type on any "Via Nicaragua" cover and naturally I would be very very suspicious of any cover showing such a use. It certainly does not tie up in any way with the Sierra Nevada handstamp. But before jumping to conclusions we must consider the possibility that this handstamp might have been in existence and used either thru carelessness, error, emergency or what not in 1854 or 1855. This possibility, considering that the "Sierra" handstamp is genuine. I note that you are con-

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Oct. 17, 1938.

vinced it is a fake, and I must admit I believe you are right, but so far all I have, is your opinion and the photograph. I do think I would have little trouble in forming an opinion if I could see and carefully study the cover. I am not surprised at the account of your interview with Gene Klein, and perhaps you are right and I am wrong re - the A.P.S. Committee. It was just my impression that none of the three would go out of their way to protect Hardy, and that their opinion, if wrong, was pure ignorance of the subject.

There are certain things I cannot understand. Mason certainly knows Hardy's reputation, yet Larry deals with him. We certainly cannot get away from the fact that we are judged by the company we keep.

I have at present some four or five covers with the Sierra Nevada marking. These belong to Richey, Ireton and others. In this lot is one that I know beyond all question is genuine because it came from an original find made in this vicinity and it was never in any dealers hands. So when you send on your covers I will have sufficient examples for comparison.

I will not be away from town at any time in the immediate future so your items will have my prompt and careful attention.

I might add that I also have obtained in recent days some fine examples of the two bar N.Y. marking.

By the way - re - wreck of S.S.Lewis. DId you know that General W. T. Sherman was a passenger on this ship when she was wrecked? Not important but a grifle interesting. He made two trips to California via Nicaragua and his description of the Route is quite informative.

Vordially yours,

THE PACIFIC-UNION CLUB

SAN FRANCISCO

. Hauley ashboook Esq. 438 South Grand ar Fort Thomas Ky hus Dear her ashbrook. 15 au anniong weident that Thoms thealue of the Gresent a.P.S. Expert Committee as Constituted. I sent them the a Pony Express Frank. St Running Horse. It was clearly a fake. To assist them I included one of my proofs of the humany horse travel street of a If Just after the Copus Closed by Wells Fold also I sent, just as weds sent to me, anordinary printed Wells Frank Forgo trank from the Same Compredence, which accompanies to Jak Jung to Spreame to strengther it genuneies. Whatdo Ym suppose the Countre ded? They quered to Porcy Express & certified that the ordinary Well Fargo frank was Jennine, withthe state occompanying the Certificate and enrything!
What do you think of that? We I pay them I so to
Orlify to the genumeness fra crumas frintes Porcy Express?
I spent too foogs in analyzing that Pony Leling Item.
Why't was falo-Os to procedure. Then decides that it is to truportant that I forefer to go East with these items and see you. Un au settle the Wholeting wa few hours. I aid thing all my Via Nics, troisy Carriers te. My only

trom hero. Could it he possible for you to meet in in Chicago Some day? You can tring your things."

Hymanied do this I will plantly pay all your "

Expenses of every hoture from Fort Thomas to Chiengo and return. I am very desirous of back on the theautier from her saperly. yours burenly Cruest a Urlber Gentrook receive yesterday. You han suel a world of tuformalin in it that trails take no weeks to about itale. I congratulate you was succeedly. But Institute On page 266 under B 51 N. ymstate the color to h black green or red, I have been studying these tungs for 15 years. The prediminating Color is red. Then follows blue; I have me grew. I rever saw me in black except from this take "Reberea grobons comstrudence. The saw Surcharge buchnet frame luis does breur in red and black But not lowly knowledge the Sarcharge in the france as Thomas Of course the black with fram line may vist. But I never saw then except in this item from this Gibbons Comstandines. But I cannot understand liby you mitted the blue. I han almost as many. Here as rea & Ithink they are ackerlulely genume Isaw Scarcer Sure of of Course they are scarcer believed that the relawgular, Fürchanges here pont in S.F., Most certainly yes as for as those crelety by Viroy Carrier

SAN FRANCISCO

Sullivan & Leland Were Concerned, for they Certainly handstamped all the mail they Collected in their boxes. They were advertisers turnes his no opportunity. But the Ellers put on the sleavers / heuselvos in Mrsy theland wer dam just sur handstampes outh sleamer by the person is authority who handless the wail. This for the fact that they aduptises as my book stales lette p 325. "The letter lay clos is number before the failing of the Heaven. ale letters coverne ly Postage flamp, FREE. Ofcerer thay may how handslaupen that mail as It came it But the was too head of a rush, I think they ded it when they work I with sleaves - aughow ilis a very minor point theory news to decide Dan delighter that you agree with me ast to her all the vital fourts. Surcenly Eaw

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee, % Pacific Union Club, San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wiltsee:

Your letter of the 20th just received and I hasten to reply. It would be most delightful to meet you and discuss the various subjects in which we have a kindred interest but aside from this I seriously doubt if we could achieve any real results in a brief meeting of a few hours. Certainly not enough to justify such a long and arduous trip for you.

There is one point in which I am interested. If any one in this country is making fakes and selling them I think he should be exposed and punished.

There is one point in which I am not interested in any way, and that is expert committees. All philatelic organizations are political bodies and their main object is politics. I despise philatelic politics. Any conversations you and I could have as to how to improve expert committees would be enjoyable as a topic of conversation; but would otherwise be negligible so far as I am concerned.

Even if you brought all your material to Chicago, genuine items, known fakes and suspected items, I doubt if we could accomplish any definite results in a few hours. I am not a fast worker, but prefer to put suspected items to every test I have at my disposal. I certainly do not consider myself an expert in any sense of the word, and have no confidence in my ability to pass final judgement on an item until I have convinced myself by all the tests I can apply. I recognize the fact that there are a certain class of very shrewd "artists" who are making extremely clever items, and I think the problem of outwitting them is growing more difficult all the time. If we do not keep ahead of them they will eventually destroy the most interesting branch of advanced philately, that is, cover collecting and postal markings.

Yerhaps before spring I may be able to run out to the coast for a little visit. Jessup has been urging me to make the trip and has promised me a motor trip thru many of the old ghost towns, which would indeed be a rare treat.

On such a visit we could discuss in a more leisurely fashion, the subjects in which we have a mutual interest. May I thank you most sincerely for the kind offer in your letter and also for your complimentary remarks regarding Volume 2 of my One Cent work. I will write you later re - the via N. markings.

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee, % Pacific Union Club, San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wiltsee:

Again referring to yours of the 14th and the photostat of the cover #1. This has a pair of 3¢ 1851 with a S.F. postmark. I note you are inclined to believe the marking is a fake and that the cover actually passed thru the S.F. Post Office. Could it be possible that the stamps actually used on this cover came off and the pair was substituted? That handstamp might be 0.K. I think it is a trifle unusual to find pairs of the 3¢ 1851 on covers S.F. to the East that went thru the S.F. Post Office with stamps in the upper left. On the other hand it is not unusual to find them this way on the Nicaragua covers. I merely suggest these points. Naturally I may be wrong, but I am not as yet convinced these particular rectangular handstamps were applied on board the Nicaragua steamers but rather by the carriers who collected mail to be sent via the Nicaragua route.

In the first place, all of these rectangular markings are not the same, and I think it can be shown where there were more different ones of this type and others than there were Nicaragua steamers on the Pacific coast. I am thoroughly conversant with your book so don't take the trouble to write out certain passages from it.

I have already read it twice from cover to cover and have it right before me for ready reference. I understand the mail bags at the dock and how they were kept open up to time of sailing. Then I think they were locked up until the mail reached New York. Remember this mail was carried free so why should the purser or any other officer on board take the trouble to take each letter from the bag or bags and handstamp them? I am quite sure a lot of mail went Via Nicaragua that was not handstamped - I cite the Wills correspondence. Such covers mean the writer took the letter to the dock himself and placed it in the bag. I have copies of such letters stating the writer was taking his letter down to the Nicaragua ship which was due to sail very shortly. I have noted such covers without the Via N marking which went by the same mail as covers showing the marking. Why then were some covers marked and other were not? I think the answer is quite simple - those marked were collected and a fee charged by carriers, and they were marked by the carriers. Thus we have the handstamps with "Sullivan" and with "Leland" to distinguish their mail from that collected by other carriers.

And further I think the reason that we find the Nicaragua marking in upper right and stamps in upper left is because there were no stamps on the cover when collected by carriers. The handstamps were first applied, then out of the fee paid the stamps were supplied and put in the remaining space, the upper left.

I have never seen any evidence that indicated the handstamps were applied on board the ships. This theory does not apply to all handstamps with names of the steamers.

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Oct. 25, 1938.

Considering the above, makes me wonder if it is possible that the marking on the photostat cover #1 is not genuine and the stamps the faked part.

I enclose you a photo of a cover I am sure is a fake.

Again referring to the cover #1. I do wish you would advertise for this and try and locate it.

Thanks for calling my attention to page 266 in my book. I do not recall where I got that "black" Via N. rectangular. I can find no such a record in my files of covers I have actually seen. I may have taken this from some article on the subject and considered it correct or I may have listed it from some auction record.

In the Emerson sale last January lot 311 was an inframed such as you illustrate (#5). Lot 317 same sale was a framed rectangular in black, so perhaps this is where I got my black. This sold at \$57.00 but I do not know who bought it. My omission of the blue was clearly an oversight, and in the correction of proof copy was overlooked.

Sincerely yours.

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq. 434 South Grand Avenue Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am replying to your several favors of the 19, 21 and 25 October.

In regard to the "Pan & San Fran.S.S.", I never heard of these items. They conform, however, to the solution thereof in my book, as they boarded the steamer at Panama where there was no U.S.P.O. and were therefore properly steamer letters. Somebody used stamps instead of paying the postage in coin. I have never heard of the items.

In regard to your letter of the 25th and what you state concerning photostat of cover No.1. It is easy enough to clap on a genuine letter a fake handstamp Via Nic; but I am wondering how you can think it would be possible to fake the San Francisco postmark on a pair of three cent stamps. In my limited experience it would be absolutely impossible to remove those stamps and substitute others without being able to detect such substitution. It seems to me that this is the most difficult thing to do. And I never heard of anyone doing it successfully. Furthermore this cover was put under the lamp and there was nothing to indicate the slightest tampering with the pair of three-cent or the San Francisco postmark. I am sorry but I find your next statement to be absolutely incorrect. In checking over my collection in which I now have

the upper left and only 6 are in the upper right, showing that the custome was for some unknown reason to place these pairs of threecent to the left rather than to the right.

Again I must call your attention to the fact that I think you are incorrect in your next statement, and this is borne out by the evidence in the case. You think that these rectangular Via Nic. handstamps were affixed by the "carriers" who collected mail to be sent by the Via Nicaragua route. This is not the case. Everyone of these carriers throughout this period had his own handstamp combined with that of the Nicaragua Line, and furthermore they collected a very small percentage of these items. To substantiate this you have only to look at my book and see the item Via Nic with "Leland" beneath. Also the item Via Nic which in this case is an oval with "Sullivan" beneath. And then again, the item of our friend the Noisy Carrier, with the dome-shaped top. In other words, all these carriers, and there were no others who used Histinctive handstamps, were supplied with handstamps which gave their name in connection with the Via Nicaragua route over which the item was to travel. And they are very few in comparison with those which were affixed by the steamer line itself.

Maybe you will ask why?

The answer is very simple, because the steamers from the very inception of this service advertized to carry these letters FREE. Naturally the public would prefer not to pay a fee to these carriers who collected mail, but to put their letters direct on the steamer and save the carriers' fee. Because these carriers collected a fee for every letter that they handled. As we might expect, the number of the letters collected by the carriers is only a fraction of those carried by the steamers free.

Paragraph 2 page!

Again I am forced to take issue with you. While there may have been slight differences in these rectangular markings, you should remember that there were in the neighborhood of ten or a dozen steamers employed on the Pacific coast in this service.

It seems to me perfectly simple as to why the steamers should handstamp this mail. So simple that it almost obtrudes itself on one's understanding. All these handstamps were for propaganda purposes. The steamers were so desirous of this propaganda that they exacted from the carriers that their propaganda should be on all the letters that the carriers collected. And naturally as they were propaganda handstamps it would be inconceivable why the person in charge of this mail should not take the few moments required when the mail was on their steamer in which to handstamp the propaganda. Remember that this was not any locked up United States mail. The United States and its regulations had nothing whatever to do with it. They were collected by the steamer itself in its own letter bags FREE. And it would have been foolish on their part had they not affixed the propaganda that they proved that they were so desirous of circulating not only on the letters themselves but also in their advertisements in the newspapers. They started in a hard fight against the Pacific Mail and naturally they did everything they could to advertise and propaganda their line, not only on the letters they carried, but also always in the public press. It is inconceivable to me that any other practice could have taken place.

It is quite true that letters were carried Via Nicaragua without the handstamp. As I have said the latest notice in the press of a letterbag was September 30, 1854. The Line was pros-

perous, it was carrying more passengers and treasure than the Pacific Mail. The necessities that made their earlier propaganda efforts desirable no longer existed. It would be interesting to note the dates of these letters that went Via Nicaragua without being handstamped. It is on such letters that, as I have pointed out to others, the temptation to plant a fake handstamp would be very strong. And that is the dangerous part of collecting these covers. Furthermore it is quite possible that the purser or other man in charge of these letters would be careless and overlook a letterbag or a portion of the contents of the same while handstamping others. Again I call your attention to the fact that in my judgment you are wrong. The handstamps with Sullivan and Leland and Noisy Carrier always bore the propaganda name of the carrier. And what other carriers were there? As far as I can find nobody but Still and Company, and they did an extremely small business.

The steamer advertisements clearly show that this propaganda was originated by themselves and not by the "carriers". It was they who formulated the war cry of "Via Nicaragua Ahead of the Mails" and we know that they did it not only on the West coast, but also on the East coast where there were no carriers. It would be absurd to think that the steamers carried any letters in their FREE letter bags upon which they did not place at least in the earlier years the propaganda that they worked so hard to use and advertized so freely. This propaganda made no difference to the "carriers", they merely got a fee for collecting letters. The propaganda was of no real advantage to them.

It is a matter of great regret to me that you should have made such a serious mistake in your book as calling these handstamps

as to their color black, green and red. This is extremely mis-leading. Any one who has collected these covers knows that the usual color was red, and that should have been stated first. Next came the blues in a lesser quantity. I have one green, but neither Knapp nor Needham have ever seen one. As to the blacks, since writing you I written both of them to find out how many they have and neither of them has one. Personally I believe the only blacks to be one or two that were faked by this creator of false handstamps. And one of them is on these three covers which were sent to me. I have never seen another. We know that this faker faked a black box "Noisy Carrier", for I have two that came from this source and Jessup has one. I think the black was an invention of his. And if there was one in the Emerson sale, it might come from there. Of course it is necessary to make a distinction between the framed and the unframed as far as black is concerned. I have an unframed in black which I consider perfectly genuine. But in all the years, about 20, since I have been collecting, these framed Via Nic, I never saw a black until the present moment. The great majority are red of various shades, and then followed by blue. I am compelled to again revert to your statement concerning cover No.1.

what would be more silly than for anyone having a genuine cover with a genuine handstamp and a genuine New York cancellation on a pair of three-cent, to deliberately remove the New York pair and substitute a pair with a fake San Francisco handstamp, even if he could? Why should he be so silly as to convert a genuine cover taking all the trouble to make a fake one? What could be the object or purpose in that?

What could be more probable than that some person igno-

now should have placed a fake handstamp on a cover which went through the San Francisco post office not knowing that such a combination was impossible. How many people knew this two years ago when this cover was sent to me?

Again I refer to the fact that this propaganda was the active creation of the Line itself which was doing its utmost to compete with the Pacific Mail. The Line invented the war cry of "Via Nicaragua Ahead of the Mails" because it could never obtain the mail contract. It was they who originated, created and advertized this propaganda. How can anyone think that this was originated and created by the carriers, who merely got a few cents a letter, for delivering letters on the steamer and whose only concern was their fee?

I enclose photostat of the five cent circular which you say you have never seen. It will be noted that what is apparently writing on the inside of this letter sheet is in reality a lithograph letter made by Britton and Rey. Old polymethery are in blue \_\_\_\_\_ I am,

Paragraph 4 page ! Again you an all conner The advertisements of the letter bags distinctly states always of that all letters deported therein hust have u. & Postage on them. I be stamps had to go first, and the put on by the Sender, and the propagands hand tamp to clowers they have your theory apply to some and not to other? That seems to his falso theory. We know that he Siena Moods of the function of the states of the send to other? I the fractive wo proved why not the others?

allere me to call you attention to the fact that you completely reverse yourself - In the first lives in the paragraph at potters of page 1-you say I have Next seen any evidence that indicated the handstamps Were applied on board the ships. and in the next weath You say "This theory ders not opply to all handstroup but house of the bleamer Ofceres it dent beaun You know that the hardslaups of seins N and briefiles Took " Were applied in board deaners. And also the Panosan tran St Webel was abbles on board to Heaver mail, Certh any regard for consistency, her can you stal You never saw any enderer that the handslawfer Wire applied on board, and in the next breath say that named translatures were to applied? Home were to applies why not the other? It is reduculous, They lvere to applete

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee, % Pacific Union Club, San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wiltsee:

I have read very carefully your letter of the 28th, and wish to state most emphatically that I am interested only in attempting to got at the truth regarding many problems relating to the study of our early postal issues. I have no desire to force my theories on others, nor to attempt to prove them unless they appear to be correct, and likewise I do not believe the proper way to solve problems is by rubber stamping the theories of others.

I have enjoyed the correspondence I have had with you and would like to continue it, based u on the above understanding.

Regarding the photostat of cover #1. I did not intend to convey the impression that I thought the San Francisco postmark on the pair was a fake, but rather that the existence of this pair on this cover does not prove conclusively that the rectangular Via Nicaragua handstamp is a fraud. Suppose for example this cover originally contained a pair of 3d 1851 with the New York postmark and that in some way the original pair came off or was removed. A crook could have put a pair of 3d 1851 on the cover with a San Francisco postmark, and this is the kind of a pair he probably would have used. I had no intention to convey the idea that a crook had removed a pair of 3d 1851, nor did I mean to intimate that the postmark on the pair was a fake. As for putting items under a lamp, I can assure you, such a test is not always conclusive.

In the past week I have had before me two covers with "Via Nicaragua" markings that are perfectly good, but from which, pairs of the 3d 1851 are missing. If some crook got these into his possession he could put pairs of 3d 1851 with San Francisco postmarks on the pairs (and plenty such off cover items exist) but the mere presence of such substituted pairs on these two covers would not prove conclusively the Via Nicaragua markings were frauds.

I think it is possible you have jumped to conclusions on your cover //l, and please bear in mind I have not seen this cover, but only a very poor photostat of it.

Perhaps there were covers in the Rebecca Gibbons lot which had the stamps missing and putting on stamps which did not originate on some of these covers, may be what is wrong with some of them. For example, Mr. Jessup sent me a cover which arrived today. This is a buff envelope, addressed to "Rebecca Gibbons, Wilmington, Del." There was evidently a 10¢ 1855 on this cover, tied by a San Francisco postmark. The stamp is missing, but there is enough of the postmark on this cover to convince me it is absolutely genuine. On the face of this cover is the Noisy Carriers handstamp as per the #13 cover in your book; with the exception, yours reads "77 Long Wharf, S.F.Cal.", whereas the one on the Jessup cover is without the "77". I think you will find that when Kimball moved from 77 Long Wharf he removed the "77" from his handstamp.

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Nov. 1, 1938.

Now this Jessup cover is unquestionably genuine. It shows a very worn state of this handstamp and further, it shows it was used when it was old because of the removal of the "77". The use of a single stamp, not a pair, also indicates a use after 1855. I defy any faker to make a handstamp that will show a badly worn state such as the marking on this cover. In its present shape the cover is worth very little compared to the value it would have if it had a stamp tied to the cover. There would be no object for a crook to fake an item like this even if he could, which I seriously doubt.

Please refer to my letter of the 25th. Fourth paragraph as follows:

"And further I think the reason that we find the Nicaragua markings in upper right and stamps in upper left, is because there were no stamps on the covers when collected by the Carriers". Your letter of the 28th states, "In checking over my collection, in which I now have 18 covers with pairs of 3¢ stamps, I find 12 are in the upper left and only 6 are in upper right, showing that the custom was for some unknown reason to place these pairs of 3¢ to the left rather than to the right."

We seem to agree on this point, but in the same paragraph in my letter I gave as my theory for the unknown reason mentioned by you, the suggestion that perhaps when the letters were picked up by the carriers they had no postage stamps, that the carriers first marked the letters the route they were to be sent by handstamping them "Via Nicaragua" etc. From the fee paid the carrier, which was generally 12% cents a letter in addition to the U. S. postage, the carrier supplied the postage stamps and put them on the cover and in the majority of cases, the postage was put in the upper left corner of the envelope. This is merely a theory of mine, simply a suggestion, with no intention of attempting to substitute a fact for a theory.

I note Mr. Wiltsee that you do not agree with me in my theory that the rectangular "Via Nicaragua" handstamps were not placed on letters on board the steamers. You stated in your letter, "This is not the case and cite your book." However I have read your book very carefully and I find no reference in it which proves conclusively that these handstamps were applied on board the ships by whoever was in charge of the mail. It is not altogether a very important point. You stated, "It seems to me perfectly simple as to why the steamers should handstamp this mail. So simple that it almost obtrudes itself on one's understanding." I do not agree with you that it is that simple and that anyone is thick headed who cannot agree with you. If it was so very important to the officials of the Nicaragua Line that all mail they carried was to be handstamped with their propagands, then why do we find these handstamps on mail going to the Bast and seldom on mail going to the West? The arrivals and departures from the Port of San Francisco for the years 1853, 1854 were as follows:

1853 arrivals 33,233 departures 30,001 1854 " 47,531 " 23,508

If the propagands on letters going East was so very important, it should have been just as useful on letters traveling to the West.

The fight was not solely against the Pacific Mail as you so forcibly stress in your book, because where the Pacific Mail S.S.Co. suffered on the Pacific, so likewise the U.S. Mail S.S.Co. suffered on the Atlantic.

If the propaganda handstamps were applied on board the ships, then evidently it was meant to influence people in the East to travel to California Via the Micaragua Route, thus creating competition for the U. S. M. S. S. Co. as well as the P.M.S.S.Co. Surely if the propaganda on letters going East influenced people to travel West Via Micaragua, then why may I inquire, were letters not stamped with this propaganda on the steamers traveling from New York to Micaragua or from Micaragua to San Francisco. Perhaps it is very simple to you, but to me it does not make sense.

The only sensible answer is that the carriers in Sen Francisco collected this mail and they themselves handstamped it, whereas there was no such an arrangement in New York City. And further, why should letters be handstamped on board ships going from S. F. to Sen Juan, and the mail carried on the return trip from Sen Juan to S.F. be not handstamped with the propaganda markings?

You mentioned in your letter that the Nicaragua Company was so prosperous they ceased to handstamp their meil after September 1854 or some words to that effect. It would appear that after the Panama R.N. Company was finished in January 1855, there was a more urgent need for the use of this propaganda than ever before, that is, if the company was handstamping the mail they carried for propaganda purposes.

I have quite a fine record of covers that went Via Nicaragua. I dare say this record which I have compiled, is far more complete than any similar one in existence, and I prove that in a number of instances where two letters went by the same mail, one may be hand-stamped and no handstamp on the other one. This is repeatedly demonstrated by the Wills correspondence. I do not think useful purpose can be gained by jumping to conclusions in research work. Had I followed such a course in my plate reconstructions of various early U. S. stamps, I would have accomplished very little.

I disagree that the propaganda was of no real advantage to the carriers. If by its use they could induce people to send letters

East - Ahead of the regular mails, it certainly was an advertisement for them and money in their pocket.

I quite agree with you that the amount of letters collected by the carriers was trivial to the number carried by the Nicaragua steamships. And this, in my very humble opinion, is why these Via N. handstamped covers are so scarce. Perhaps one may suggest that covers that went the Nicaragua Route and showing no "Via N" handstamps, are much scarcer, but this can be explained perhaps that pairs of the 3¢ 1351 were removed years ago from such covers because on such covers there were no markings to justify the saving of the cover. I have little doubt that hundreds of pairs in collections thruout the country today with New York postmarks came from such covers.

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Nov. 1, 1938.

I am indeed sorry I made the "serious error" in my
Volume 2 of listing the colors of the Via Nicaragua markings as
black, green and red. One would infer I had never seen a blue,
hence it is quite obvious the listing was an unintentional error.
In this book I covered many different subjects, and I made an
honest endeavor to make the work as accurate as possible. I would
hardly be so cruel as to term this oversight of mine as "extremely
misleading". I have never published anything that I was conscious was misleading, nor have I any desire to mislead collectors.

I have stated the "Sierra" handstamp was probably applied on board this ship, but even if this be true, I do not think it proves that all "Via N" handstamps were also so applied. Even if the Sierra Nevada handstamp was applied on this ship I am quite sure this does not prove the Noisy Carriers handstamp on the Knapp cover (#11 your book) was applied on board any of the Nicaragua ships. I am quite sure you do not believe the "Leland" - cover #10 - was applied on board, nor the "Sullivan" on cover #8. If these were not, and #8 is a propaganda marking "In advance of the Mails", then why should you be so sure that the types as per your cover #20 were applied on board?

You took me to task for the omission in my book of the blue color rectangular. Why may I ask did you not explain that the 12¢ bisect on your cover #20 did not pay the 6¢ postage, that the New York Post Office did not recognize this half of a stamp, and rated it as an unpaid ship letter, for which the addressee had to pay 7 cents on delivery?

I think your description of this cover was even more misleading than my omission of the blue. You stated - page 331 "The postage to the East xxxx consists of the diagonal half of the
twelve-cent stamp xxxx affixed to the envelope but cancelled by the
double line Steam-Ship etc." You give the impression this bisect
is a provisional postage stamp and paid the 6¢ rate, whereas such
is not a fact. However I would not accuse you of publishing a misleading statement, but attribute the omission of a proper description,
to your lack of knowledge on the subject.

I was extremely glad to receive the photostat of the circular with the prepaid 5% rate to Boston. This is a little gem and I congratulate you on its ownership.

I am anxious to receive your comments on my letter of the 31st.

With every good wish, believe me

Cordially yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK 434 S. GRAND AVE. FORT THOMAS, KY, Mr. E.A. Wiltsee,
% Pacific Union Club,
San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wiltsee:

Recently I had submitted to me a manuscript for an article written by Floyd on the covers in the Wills correspondence. As you are probably aware this was quite a remarkable find and of particular interest is that part of the correspondence covering the period October 1853 to October 1855. The letters were from Mr. Wills in San Francisco to his wife in Washington, Pa., and the original letters were enclosed in each envelope. Floyd made a careful record of each cover, the markings, dates, etc., before the lot was broken up and the most Ealuable items sold at auction.

Checking his notes I find there was one cover in the lot that perhaps ties in with the Gibbons cover with N.Y. two bar and date of New York - Jan 15.

This letter was from Mr. Wills and was headed, "San Francisco Dec. 22, 1854" - In the letter he stated, "The Cortes sails to-morrow". The cover has two 3d 1851 which are tied by the regular New York handstamp of "Jan 15". It has no "Via Nicaragua" marking of any kind.

The following is an extract from the Floyd manuscript which may be of interest to you:

"It may be worthy of notice in pasing to observe xxxxxx (the handstamp) "Stmr Sierra Nevada etc." xxx has generally been construed to indicate actual carriage by the steamship "Elerra Nevada". In the Wills correspondence there were three covers bearing this handstamp(#6 - 12 - 20). xxxx the first two of these covers were in fact carried by the Sierra Nevada but the other (#20) left Sen Francisco via the steamer Cortes, so that it evidently was not the invariable practice to allocate this particular handstamp to the Sierra Nevada sailings but that occasionally at least it was in service for the use of other ships of the Nicaragua Steamship Co. Line as well. Also it may be interesting to note that some letters xxxxx to the East by the Sierra Nevada do not hear the "Stmr Sierra Nevada" handstamp, as note covers 15 - 26 and 31. Mnother belief that the Wills correspondence stamps as fallacious is the idea that all covers traversing the Nicaragua route bore a "Via Nicaragua" handstamp. This is not the fact for no less than seven of these covers (3 - 17 - 22 - 24 - 26 - 31 and 33) show no handstamp marking indicative of the Nicaragua route, although the evidence of carriage by the Nicaragua Steamship Co. is conclusive."

If Floyd is correct in his deductions, and if by chance the Gibbons cover is gemuine and not a fake, then we find two things about it that are to say the least most unusual.

- (1) The use of the N.Y. two bar handstamp in 1855.
- (2) The marking "Stmr Sierra Nevada" handstamp on a cover that went by the Cortes.

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Oct. 31st, 1938.

There is another cover in the Wills lot that is rather interesting, and I enclose you a photograph of it. In lower left corner it is marked #69. The letter was dated San Francisco "Dec. 6, 1853" and the New York postmark is "Jan 5". An item like this in the hands of a crook provides a means of perpetrating a dangerous forgery, as for example the trick photograph of the same cover. The letter in this cover discloses that Mr. Wills had been down to Panama and returned to San Francisco by the California on the day the letter was written after a long trip of 17 days. On the way up they passed the wreck of the Winfield Scott. As you will recall the California remained in port only 24 hours and sailed on Dec. 7th, 1853, for Panama with the salvaged mail, treasure, and express of the Scott and with no passengers.

"California", and he explains the New York marking by stating that in all probability Mr. Wills handed the letter to an express messenger on the California at the last minute, hence it did not pass thru the S.F. post office. He was probably unaware that the "Uncle Sam" of the "Independent Opposition Line" sailed on December 7th, 1853 (the same day as the California), and that this letter undoubtedly went by the Uncle Sam.

The following is part of the Wills letter.

"San Francisco, Dec. 6, 1853

My dear Charlotte:

We arrived here safely this morning about 10 oclock; and by the wreck of the steamer Winfield Scott which left this city for Panama on the 1st carrying the U. S. Mail. xxx We had a long passage of 17 days from Panama but a very fortunate one etc.

If you will recall there were quite a few covers in the Wills lot, with the well known handstamp of "Forwarded by G.B.Post & Co." These were on mail to and from a brother of Mr. Wills who was located in Honolulu. You will also recall that G.B. Post & Co. were the mail agents in S.F. for the Havaiian Gov't (1850-1856) and at the time the Wills letter was written (Dec. 6, 1853) they were the S.F.Agents of the Independent Opposition Line. So it was quite natural for Mr. Wills to forward the letter to his wife, written on the 6th (Tuesday) thru G.B. Post & Co. on Wednesday the 7th via the Uncle Sam. And further, I am quite sure he was anxious to advise his wife of his safe return to San Francisco and did not want to waste time sending this letter by the slow California when the fast Uncle Sam was sailing the same day. I have no record when the "S.S.California" mail of Dec. 7th, 1853 reached New York but I doubt very much if it reached the New York Post Office on the 5th of January.

I think this cover is quite a study because it demonstrates, first what a clever crook could do, second a letter with S.F. origin that did not travel U.S.Mail, third it could be cleverly faked to show transit via Nicaragua, when the evidence shows it did not go via this route.

A study of the Wills correspondence is very interesting because so many letters state, "The Nicaragua steamer sails tomorrow",

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Oct. 31st, 1938.

and give the name of the steamer.

In the Richey collection is a folded letter addressed to Maine with the pair of 3¢ 1851 which were on the cover missing. It has a red triangular "Via Nicaragua". The letter mentions the loss of the Scott on Dec. 2, 1853, and the letter is dated, "San Francisco Dec. 15, 1853". In the Wills lot is a cover that went by the same mail, the Wills letter dated Dec. 15, 1853 - and states, "The steamer sails for N.Y. tomorrow". The postmark is "New - York - Ship - Jan 9" and on face is the red triangular "Via Nicaragua etc."

I note on page 138 of your fine book that you give Sep. 28th, 1854 as the sailing date of the Cortes, Sonora and Yankee Blade. On the next page you give Sep. 29 as the sailing of the Sonora. In the statement of the purser of the wrecked Yankee Blade he stated the ship left S.F. at 4 P.M. on Sept. 30th, 1854.

In the Wills correspondence is a cover with the triangular "Via Nicaragua" and a pair of 3¢ 1851 tied by "New - York - Ship - Oct. 27".

In the Emerson sale (Jan. 31st, 1938) - lot 324 - was a cover (bought by Jessup - \$21.00) with a vertical pair 36, 1854, addressed to Medford, Mass. It has no postmark or other markings - In upper left is printed "Via Panama" and on back is the printed "G.B.Post & Co. - Commission Merchants San Francisco" - No doubt these were printed envelopes prepared by Post & Co. when they were agents of the Independent Opposition Line.

Also in upper left is "U. S. Mail Packet Sonora - Sep 30

No doubt all three ships sailed on the 30th. Floyd gayes Sep. 30th, 1854 as sailing of the Cortes.

The Jessup cover surely went by either the Sonora or the Cortes but hardly the latter and in all probability was mailed at the last moment aboard the Sonora. I wonder if that pen is in reality an official postal marking applied in pen on board by the U.S. Agent. If so it certainly lends added interest to this cover.

I also note the following in the Floyd manuscript:

"For the receipt of letters destined for transportation over these routes (Nicaragua and Ind. Opp. Line via Banama) letter bags were provided unofficially at certain points convenient to the public and kept open until just previous to the hour of sailing".

Cordially yours,

· Stanley B. ashbrook Eg 434 So. grand avenue Fort Thomas Ky. Dear Mr ashbrook.

Salting about my book, as evidenced by a letter that I have received from mer Ireton.

Saw sorry if Iwas too othing in my letter of the Zr! am Nope You will overlook it. Butyer can easily understand that I feel 5 Thropy Concerning the fact that most are via Mas were Saudshampeon the steamers

Of course You han not the advantage of all the Surrounding scenery that Jacenmulated in a hard granding research that Casted one year, every let of which I did myself by the starting to write a lies. That gave me an unsight that no ordelse can have.

These advertisements run practically continuously. Here it that the Seamers letter bag, Hermeless. These advertisements run practically continuously. Here it plats that the Seader must affix the stamps before depositing them on the letter Craps. Very well. Then the Statups went or first. It is, ride culous to think to their that luny sender raw around with a faudotamp in his pocked. Then who put the handstamp in his pocked. Then who put the handstamp in itself of course, as no one ilse except the line was intensited on propagan daing its mail.

His true that letter bag operators (you call them carners, they werend) also callected for the lives. Buit we know that they have distinctive wistamps, with their names as only as the lives proposagends on, and as to the Comparative quantities, which could you expect to h

Greater quantity, the mail cames by the sleaves of REE ior the letter collected by the letter bag operation upmuluel enry one pared a fee 10 cents or heare? Naturally the FREE, and this is proved bythe parity of these collected by the trag operators compani to those carrier in the Sleamer bags free. If figures out just as you would expect it would. Randsleamps on? They had to the steamers did not put the Randsleamps on? They had to because the letter bogs were kept open until just before the steamer sailed - They put them on thous just as others Stainers in recent years haved tothemse have handstruped their mail. Where these bandstowns fruton auguher except on the sleavers! Ofcourse aux. again Durch to Kaul you for the Kind words you have Fair Concerning my book, which I greatly appricate. No body except myself can han obtained the actual Summidings of a and detail yellis Entire matte acept myself to far. Someday others may, after they han researched Jour Sucenly Smest albillace

Dear Knapp:

As you may have heard, those fools, or otherwise on the A.P.S.Committee returned those covers as genuine - Thank God I have them on record with their signatures and photographs of the covers. The old story - 3 dealers, and another dealer.

When I got them back I studied them again and found more points that made them fakes. Also the quartz lamp told interesting stories. And then I finally did what I should have done at first and having been a chemist 50 years ago I was a dumb fool not to have thought of it sooner. Out here there is a very eminent criminologist E. O. Heinrich who washas international reputation. He makes a specialty of examining old documents, fraudulent and suspicious documents, and is a chemist and He is used by all the banks here, experting fraudulent bills and other forged documents. He has his laboratory in Berkeley. Of course I should have realized what I very well knew that the inks used in 1850-5 were of an absolutely different base than those used today. They were still vegetable days with a cochineal The came in long afterward. He can readily tell the age of any ink and I have gone to the expense of engaging him to pass on these covers. If the age of their handstamps or rather there ink is modern the covers are fakes. It is worth while to protect all of us who are collecting to have them examined who has them in hand. I don't care where they came from and now I know that 3 of them are fakes and the other suspicious. But his examination will definitely prove it -This applies not only to the inks on the "Via Nicaragua's" but also to the postmark ink. He can tell any fresh ones. No one stands higher than he does and his reputation is international. It will cost me a lot of money but I don't give a damn for that. I will prove whether these covers are genuine or not and I will show up that "cover up" committee of the A.P.S.

Sincerely,

E.A. Wiltsee

From Wiltsee To Knapp

November 17, 1938

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq. 434 South Grand Avenue Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I would like to call your attention to the glaring fake that you have published in your book on page 264, Figure 51 K B.

Senator Gwin of California for transmission through the United States mail. Senator Gwin's signature is perfectly genuine, as we know it well out here. He put this letter with his frank in the United States mail in San Francisco. It went via Panama because it could not possibly go by any other route after being deposited in the United States mail. It bears the "New York Steamship" which was applied on mail from Panama. I have several examples myself of original letters handled this way. This was never applied on any cover coming via Nicaragua, because those covers were dumped in the New York General Post Office and only received the ordinary New York General Post Office cancellation.

Now you will say I am wrong, and that the cover went via Nicaragua and not through the United States mail. Such a supposition is absurd. Who put on the "FREE?"

Did Senator Gwin run around with a handstamp FREE in his pocket to apply to his franked mail? No, he did not, it was put on by the San Francisco Post Office and is the same FREE that they always used to apply to franked letters.

I am surprised with your knowledge of the subject that you should not have realized that a letter deposited in the San Francisco Post Office could not go via Nicaragua.

If further evidence of this fake were necessary, you have supplied it yourself. You very correctly state that General Denver did not go East until 1855. And that therefore the cover could not have been mailed to him before this date.

But when was this particular handstamp used? My research shows that it was the first one advertised by this Line in December 1852; and my research shows that it was never advertised after the 1st of January 1853, but that the slogan was changed at that time to "Via Nicaragua Ahead of the Mails" and never altered as long as the advertisements of the Line continued. Here The Party of granue Jews.

One has to research these matters carefully for a couple of years in order to know something about them.

The cover is a fake in every way.

Yours very sincerely,

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee, % The Pacific-Union Club, San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Wiltsee:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 17th and I note you seem to be under the impression the cover - 51 K B - page 264 - Volume 2, is a fake.

I happen to know the origin and history of this particular item and I can absolutely assure you that your deductions are in error.

As I wrote you some weeks ago, I would like to see the Gibbons "Via N" covers which you question, because I sincerely believe I could be of some assistance to you in arriving at the truth.

I will be only too glad to co-operate with you in the study of any subject to which I have devoted some attention but I insist that such work be on a mutual basis wherein both of us can be of assistance to each other. I am not seeking anyone to rubber stamp my opinions and I am quite sure that any assistance I might be able to give you would valueless if placed on the same basis.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM J, AULL 48 GRAFTON AVENUE DAYTON, OHIO

Nov. 21, 1938.

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

Dear Stanley:

With reference to our 'phone conversation yesterday, I am enclosing two covers, the one requested and one other which I believe shows the original signature of W. N. Gwinn. This covering showing the 1¢ New York City delivery, secured through Buckey. The other cover, via Nicaragua, was one secured direct.

Mr. Denver had a habit of writing the name across the end of the envelope from whom he received the letter. This prevails throughout the many covers I have.

I hope with these two you will be able to build up your case against your western friend.

Respectfully yours,

WJA:EB

NOO 24th 1838 Mrd Hauley 13. ashbrook 434 South Grand Corners Fort Thomas Ky Dear her ashbrook. Jan w receift of yours of the 2, st Jan not only under the unpression but I know that 57 KB is an critragenes Jak uponte face of it - Molette can travel Castly 2 lives atom. This went in the regular mail in a Vanous: it could not go by Mcarague also. The sur does not not in the level Ast in The Cast, it least not get as to the Tibbous us N Comspondence. 3 of it, 4 com has been forms to he fall by the great expent the weeks the fourth them is stut under I examination - My what on this takes is confirmed la Every way + nevel additional deformations dis-Covered by hueroscapie and photographic and others examinations by Dr Henrich Herry ben Fuly Calertone I am apaid you attempted to com for much timbry in your book without trung permally conversant with

When I informed you in my last letter that the cover 51 K B illustrated in Volume 2 of my One Cent book, was genuine in every respect, I was not merely expressing my personal opinion but was informing you of a fact. I wrote you that I knew the origin of this cover and I thought that this bit of information would be sufficient warning to you to be more careful in your opinion.

I could explain many things to you about this cover, all of which, you are apparently very ignorant, but I have not done so for it is quite evident that you seek information rather than impart any.

I have little doubt that collectors all over the country would be much interested in having you explain why this item is a fake, therefore I beg of you to write an article for one of our leading publications, and explain all the markings on this cover.

I think it is quite a serious matter when a student, who claims some knowledge of our early postal markings, publishes in a work acclaimed by many as an authorative treatise an illustration of a rare cover, which a self-constituted authority such as yourself, has pronounced as a rank forgery.

May I suggest that "Stamps" be selected for the publication of your expose because of its very wide circulation, thus giving the greatest number of collectors the benefit of your two years of research work on the subject of the "Via Nicaragua" markings.

In all seriousness I implore you to write such an article, and in the event that you decide to do so, may I request that you give the publisher permission for me to read your comment before publication so that my reply can be published in the same number.

I note that it is your opinion that I covered too much territory in my book without being sufficiently conversant with the facts. This is indeed a very frank statement, but it would make more of an impression upon me, if it came from someone more qualified to judge than you have shown yourself to be.

This comment of mine on your criticism is not intended as a bit of sarcasm but is merely a statement of fact, because it is quite apparent that you do not realize how utterly silly and absurd are your opinions on the cover in question.

If I took your opinions and remarks seriously, I would no doubt feel some resentment at the many uncalled for and caustic criticisms contained in your recent communications. On the contrary your letters have been very amusing, and have afforded me quite a bit of relaxation, therefore it is no effort for me to feel very charitable toward the author.

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee - Nov. 28, 1938.

With every assurance of my continued good will, I remain, my dear Mr. Wiltsee,

Your humble admirer,

Jan. 13, 1939.

Mr. E. A. Wiltsee, % Pacific-Union Club, San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wiltsee:

I am indeed sorry that our correspondence apparently ceased with the receipt of my letter by you last month. I feel that it is rather foolish to have any hard feeling arise over a matter of a mere difference in opinion of a stamp, postal marking or an entire.

At times it is possible for us to be very positive in our own minds over such opinions, only to find out later that our deductions were entirely wrong.

So far as I am concerned, I wish to assure you that I am too much interested in my work to permit petty misunderstandings to disrupt relations which have been agreeable.

In jumping to a hasty conclusion on the Gen'l Denver cover illustrated in my book, you made a very great mistake by preceding to tell me wherein it was a fraud instead of taking a more friendly course and requesting my opinion of it. Had you done this I could have explained the use of the cover to you quite clearly, in fact in so positive a way there would have existed no doubt whatsoever that you were wrong and that I was right.

I feel that it is almost as harmful to the best interests of philately for one recognized as an authority to render an erroneous opinion on an item or items, as it is for the faker to manufacture suprious items. I also feel that if good is to result from the research work done by our foremost American Philatelic authorities that a supreme effort should be made at all times for as close co-operation as possible. What is actually accomplished in the end is far, far more important than for one student to prove at all times that he is right, that his theories are always right.

I do not consider it any great disgrace to be wrong, provided I proceed immediately to correct in the minds of others a wrong impression or an opinion I have given. I believe that the average specialist seeking information is more interested in acquiring facts, than in learning who first discovered this point or that point, or who was wrong or right on this theory or that one. After all, such things are indeed very silly.

If you still feel that your conclusions regarding the Denver cover are correct, I will be glad to give you the exact facts regarding this item. I think the information I can give you might prove of valuable assistance to you in the future.

## PACIFIC UNION CLUB San Francisco, California

January 25th 1939

Mr. Stanley V. Ashbrook: 434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

My dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your favor of the 13th January was recently received by me.

In the first place I do not know of any hard feeling in this matter; certainly there is none on my part.

The matter goes far deeper than "over a mere difference of opinion of a stamp, postal marking, or an entire". Here is an extremely interesting and particularly delightful branch of philately, if you wish to call it such, and whose items are of high value, running from say \$30 to \$425, and to which I have given years of study both in the collection of its items, and in the research of its data and governing regulations. In fact I think I am quite within the mark when I say that I am the only individual who has conducted deep personal research. If there be any other, he has not let it be known and in the several libraries where all this data alone is found, no other person has ever appeared to research it. Here is a beautiful and most expensive field being invaded by fraudulent concoctors of false items, who they are I do not know and do not care. My research gives absolute proof that certain of these concoctions are false. All I am endeavoring to do is to protect this delightful branch of philately, which is particularly dear to me as it comes under California history in which I am deeply interested, from the intrusion of forgers and counterfeiters of its charming items. I can see this to be my duty, to myself and to my fellow collectors, and the public in general, to protect them if possible from frauds and to put them in the position which I occupy and by which frauds can be detected.

It is unfortunate that <u>not one dealer</u> in the United States or elsewhere has ever had at his command any of the sources from which research can be made to obtain the necessary data and regulations which governed the issue of these covers. I say this advisedly because all this data exists out here and no where else. Also no dealers whom I know possess the necessary items for study.

It is most unfortunate and unwise that any Society of repute should have its expert committee who pass on the genuineness of items, to be composed of dealers who buy and sell items, and who are necessarily hampered in their decisions on items submitted to them by the fact that they may have bought and sold items of whose authenticity they were unqualified, or not, to judge, and who may have distributed fake items unwittingly or otherwise to their clients. The whole principal is wrong and is so recognized by every right thinking man.

In this case four covers were submitted to the expert committee of the A.P.S. composed solely of three dealers. To assist them I went to much trouble to send out many pages of researched data to which they never had had access and which proved in some instances the glaring frauds of these items. It may not be surprising that they reported all these items genuine although the merest tyro would have or should have known that some were fakes.

I then decided to submit these items at no little expense to myself to the greatest known authority on this Coast in the matter of forged documents false, inks, not of the period and so forth and so forth. He has declared and proved all these covers to be fake. This is the situation as it stands today.

Now I jump to no hasty conclusions. I fear you endeavored to cover an enormous field in your book and it may not have been possible for any one man to go into the research and study of all these branches and all these items in the time at your disposal.

However, that is your affair and not mine.

You say I should have requested your opinion of the General Denver cover before commenting upon it. What a silly thing that would have been to do!

Would you have put it in your book if you had not thought it genuine? Then what would have been gained by my asking you whether or not you considered it genuine?

Now that the issue is joined I will take great pleasure in asking you why this general Denver cover is genuine. I will be delighted to learn why in your opinion it is genuine. And then if I think you are wrong I will be glad to tell you why you are wrong.

I cannot at all agree with you nor do I think any other fair minded man will in your statement that it is as wrong for any authority to render an erroneous opinion as it is for a forger to manufacture spurious items. I am fraid that by this statement you reveal yourself to be a very poor logician, and to have little appreciation of the cardinal virtues such as honesty. Any honest man might be in error concerning an item to which he had given great study and which he considered to be fraudulent. But he would still be an honest man. Whereas a counterfeiter would be guilty of forging crooked items to deceive honest people and he would never be an honest man but always a crook. As by your deduction you place them on even terms you bring down an honest man to the level of a professional crook and state that they are both on the same basis. I think that few people will agree with you except professional crooks.

I do not consider it any disgrace to be wrong when a man has much knowledge at his disposal and is giving his best and honest opinion. In this instance I am giving all my honest judgment and all my powers of observation no matter how feeble they may be on every item that I am considering. According to your deduction, if in so doing I might err, I am on the same basis as a professional crook. Again I cannot agree with your deductions. It makes no difference to me who first discovered anything or who discovered which or who discovered what. Nor do I care in the least about who is right

or wrong in any theory. The sole thing that concerns me is the genuineness of any item. In my business"theories" are classed in the "hopes and aspirations class".

And sound mining engineers are only influenced by facts.

There is no reason why you should endeavor to place on the same level of intelligence one man with a world of data at his command with another who has never yet had these facts and knowledge in his possession. How can he be in an understanding position to have his opinion of any weight or merit? I am still convinced that my conclusions in the Denver matter are correct but I will still be delighted to learn your reasons for stating that item to be genuine.

I will gladly welcome any information that "might prove to be of valuable in my fusiness" assistance to me in the future". That is what I live on and that is the reason that I have spent years of research on this and other matters such as Western Franks so that I might be able to use my powers of observation and judgment, if I have any, based on solid facts in order to make accurate deductions. And if my powers of judgment and observation were not worth while it might be that I would not be in the position in the world where I am today.

All correspondence did not cease with the receipt of your two letters last month or because of anything that was contained in them for I have never yet read them.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

3 mest alliltone

Mr. Ernest A. Wiltsee, % Pacific Union Club, San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Wiltsee:

Your interesting letter of the 25th received, and I am indeed sorry that you misconstrued several statements in my last letter.

For example, the General Denver cover. What I meant was simply this: Before jumping to conclusions on this item and condemning it, I do think you could have inquired of me regarding it. I would have been only too glad to have given you the history of it and explained the actual use to your entire satisfaction. Instead of doing this, you proceeded to damn it up and down and to criticise me most severely for being so ill informed as to publish an illustration of a "fake" cover in my book.

Now here are the facts. I had something to do with the find of the Denver correspondence. At the time this find was made there were two surviving children of Gen'l Denver. One a man of about 70 years, the other a daughter of 75. I became well acquainted with both, and spent quite a lot of time with the daughter discussing her father, the General. During my visits the daughter would frequently bring out large batches of the correspondence and go over them with me. The earliest letters went back to the days just prior to the Mexican War. The cover I illustrated in the book was acquired from this daughter and it is now in the collection of Wm. J. Aull of Dayton, Ohio. I am quite positive this item was never in a dealer's hands, because it passed directly from the Denver family to Mr. Aull. I trust this is sufficient proof that there is no possible chance that the cover could be faked in any way. In fact the cover itself proves it is gemuine.

Several times I wrote you that you had entirely mis-read this item, but you paid no attention whatsoever to my statements, but insisted it was a fake, when I knew positively it was perfectly genuine. Naturally your statements were rather amusing.

There were hundreds and hundreds of covers in the Denver correspondence, and on the end of each cover, Gen'l Denver wrote the name of the person who wrote the letter. Generally he included the date of the letter. See tracings enclosed which kindly return.

You jumped to the conclusion that the Denver cover was from Senator Gwin, and that it bore his frank. In fact you wrote me that the Senator's handwriting was well known on the coast etc.

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You can well imagine how amusing this statement was to me because the "Wm. M. Gwin" on the end of this cover, (Figure 51 K B page 264 - Vol. 2) is not Senator Gwinn's frank, but is in the handwriting of General Denver. I think you wrote me something to the effect that the sun does not rise in the West and set in the East, and that it was just as ridiculous to suppose this cover traveled the way it was faked, as to suppose the sun reversed its course.

You see you were quite sure that Senator Gwin had franked this cover, deposited it in the San Francisco Post Office where it was handstamped "Free". I do not mean to misquote you, because I think you will find the above statements in one of your letters.

I judge that you are not well informed on certain Postal Laws, otherwise you would have been aware of the fact that it was not necessary for Senator Gwin to have franked this envelope.

Members of Congress were permitted to receive letters free as well as to forward letters free, therefore, when the Senator addressed this letter to the "Hon. J. W. Denver, Ho. of Reps., Washington, D. C." it was not necessary for him to attach his frank.

The original letter (with date) was in this envelope and this letter is at present in the possession of the Denver family As Gen'l Denver did not take his seat in Congress until December of 1855, it is quite evident the letter was not written before that time. I am informing you of this fact because you were positive this particular handstamp was not in use at this period.

When Senator Gwin handed this letter over to the carrier to deposit in the Nicaragua mail-bag, there was nothing on the face but the address. The carrier handstamped the "Via Nicaragua". This was not done at the office of the Nicaragua Steamship Company or on board the particular ship which carried the letter. The date of the letter establishes what particular ship carried this letter from S. F. to San Juan.

Because the letter was a "Free" letter, no postage was demanded by the Nicaragua Steamship Co. On arrival in New York, the New York Post Office handstamped the letter "Free" and "N.York Steamship", and it was forwarded to Congressman Denver at Washington. Denver wrote across the right end, "Wm. M. Gwin". See tracing for comparison of Denver's handwriting and that of Gwin.

This is all very simple, and proves conclusively that authorities who are not always conversant with all essential facts, should not jump to conclusions, and that items are fraudulent, when in fact they are perfectly genuine.

In this connection I especially refer to the four Gibbons covers which were sent you by Mr. Voorhees last summer and which you have pronounced as fraudulent in every way. I wish to inform you that since you returned these four covers I have had them in my possession for a thorough examination and regardless of what conclusions were reached by your Mr. Heinrich or yourself, these covers are absolutely genuine, with the sole exception that on one cover a 10g 1855 stamp was substituted, (very crudely) and

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on the other a pair of 3¢ 1851 was added. This is the cover with the N.Y. Bar postmark.

The cover with the pair of 3¢ 1851 cancelled "Steamship" and "Via Nicaragua - Ahead of the Mails", is perfectly genuine in every respect. This pair of stamps was not substituted but was the pair originally used on this cover. You stated the "Via N" handstamp is in a dull black, whereas this is not the case, but it is struck in a faded greenish blue. I am not expressing what is my personal opinion, but I am prepared to prove these statements and more substantially than your Mr. Heinrich.

The cover with the 10¢ 1855, "Noisy Carrier, box type" and "San Francisco 5 Apr" is absolutely genuine, and if you knew as much about these "Via Nicaragua" markings as you pretend to know, you would never have doubted this cover, because this item shows on its face many points to prove how perfectly good it really is. However one who is not informed, is of course unable to read the very points which prove genuineness. I will demonstrate a few of these points. You stated you had never seen this "Noisy" handstamp in black, therefore you assumed it was a fake. The fact is, this handstamp in black is very rare, and the reason is because it was applied in black for only a very short time before its use was discontinued. You stated you had never seen this handstamp without the "77", that all genuine examples had "77 Long Wharf". You were not aware that when Kimbell moved from 77 Long Wharf, he cut off the "77" on this handstamp. If you will refer to the S. F. Directory of 1856 you will find Kimball moved from "77" to "64 - 65 Long Wharf". This letter bears a postmark of "5 Apr" and the year of use was 1856. This letter left S. F. on the P.M. S.S. "Golden Age".

At the time this handstamp was applied, it was badly worn, and was soon after discarded. This accounts for its rarity in (1) worn condition, (2) in black (3) and without the "77". It is perfectly silly to assume that any faker would have all of these three facts, and manufacture a handstamp to conform to all of these facts. The "5 Apr" proves "1856", because prior to 1856, the P.M. Mail Ships did not sail from S. F. in any April on the 5th and 20th days of the month. Further the year could not have been 1857, because in that year the 5th of April fell on Sunday, therefore the sailing was April 6th in 1857.

Now suppose for example that this cover originally had only the address, the log stamp, and the S. F. postmark of "5 Apr". This according to your opinion. Will you please tell me how the faker knew that he had to have a "Noisy" handstamp to fit all the facts of April 5 1856? How could he have known the handstamp had to be applied in a gray black ink? How could he have known the handstamp had to show a badly worn condition? How did he know that "77" had to be cut off? How could he have known all these three very essential facts when apparently I alone am the only party who knows anything about all three and I am quite sure I did not fake this cover.

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Knapp collection are three or four examples of genuine covers with this "Noisy" in gray black, and all show uses in 1856, and all are without the "77". If your friend, the expert Heinrich told you this cover was a fake I think you should demand that he return to you the fee he charged you.

Mr. Jessup has a Gibbons cover which is a twin to the one you pronounced a fake, but it is minus the 10d stamp. It shows the "worn" condition of the handstamp and it is without the "77".

I am enclosing you a photo of one of these four covers as it was before Hardy added the 10¢ Imperf stamp. The "Via N" handstamp on this cover is perfectly genuine, and so is that part of the New York Postmark that remains on the cover. I was able to identify the exact type of the New York handstamp which was used, and I can demonstrate without any question of a doubt which one it was. And further it was of the exact type used on letters which traveled the Nicaragua Route at the time this particular "Via N" handstamp was used. On the Sierra Nevada cover, Hardy substituted the pair of 3¢ 1851 with the N.Y. Bar Postmark, but the handstamp "Stmr Sierra Nevada" is absolutely genuine.

And for your information I am pleased to give you some further flacts. I made a trip down East week before last and had a long talk with the man from whom Hardy purchased these covers. He told me all about them, and the source from which he obtained them, the latter being a descendant of Rebecca Gibbons. He confirmed my conclusions previously made in examining the covers, absolutely, by informing me that two of the covers had the original stamps when he sold the four to Hardy - (The "Steamship pair" and "the S. F. 5 Apr"), but that the other two had no stamps. He further informed me he presented the pair of 3¢ 1851, with N.Y. bar postmark to Hardy, so there remains no doubt that Hardy was the one who added stamps to the two covers.

In my last letter I stated that for one who was recognized as an authority to pronounce genuine items as fraudulent, was just as harmful to philately as the distrust created by the faker who manufactures fake covers. I did not mean that the recognized authority was as guilt of a crime as a faker.

You have condemned the Expert Committee of the A.P.S. for pronouncing these Gibbons Covers as genuine, and in doing so I think you have done them a great injustice.

Hardy is a member of the A. P. S. and I certainly think his action in the matter of these covers should be brought to the attention of the officers of the Society.

The party from whom Hardy acquired these four covers will be glad to testify to the facts which are as follows:

1st, From whom he acquired these four covers as well as others from the Gibbons correspondence.

2nd, That he sold two of these four covers to Hardy, one with pair of 3¢ 1851 "Steamship" and the other, the "Noisy Carrier" with 10¢ Imperf.

3rd, That he presented gratis the other two covers to Hardy. One of these, the "Sierra Nevada", the other "Via Nicaragua - In Advance of the Mails".

4th - That he also presented a pair of 3d 1851 out of his collection to Hardy. This is the pair with the N.Y. bar postmark which was on the cover when it was sent to you by Hardy.

5th - Other interesting facts which he is prepared to prove.

6th - That all the markings were on these covers when he acquired them direct from the descendant of Rebecca Gibbons.

I might add that this party is a reputable person and enjoys a fine reputation in his city.

On two of these covers Hardy placed stamps and attempted to sell them at prices in line with genuine items. I think he should be expelled from the Society and his expulsion publicized so he will not be able to prey on unsuspecting collectors in the future. Further, if the Board of the A. P. S. expels him, I think the matter should be called to the attention of Federal authorities because this was clearly a case of using the mails to defraud.

Undoubtedly this matter will be called to the attention of the A. P. S. Board, hence the purpose of this letter is to inform you of the true status of these covers. I think it would prove rather embarrassing to you, if you were called upon to prove your opinions that the markings were fraudulent.

Further referring to the "Noisy Carrier" Gibbons cover. I call your attention to item #16 illustrated in your book. This handstamp reads, "Noisy Carriers Publishing Hall, Long Wharf". There is no #77, and it is in black and the date of the paper is Dec. 20, 1856.

Further referring to the Gibbons cover with the "Via Nicaragua - In Advance of the Mails", (photo enclosed). You stated, "No other cover with this handstamp is known with a 10¢ imperf. They all bear a pair of 3 cent 1851's." On this point you are misinformed because covers are known with a 10¢ 1855 imperforate and this same handstamp in black. The Denver cover, above mentioned, is a use in 1856, and proves this handstamp was used as late as 1856. Where you have been consistently wrong, was your assumption that all these handstamps were applied by the Nicaragua Steamship Company or by the various ships of this Company, for propaganda purposes. The fact is they were applied by independent carriers who collected mail and deposited such collected mail in the mail-bags on board the Nicaragua Steamships. It is a matter of record that such collectors of mail received a

fee for such service, generally 12½ per letter, in addition to the regular U. S. postage. The mail-bags on the Nicaragua Steamships were merely a matter of accommodation and it is a matter of record the Company did not make any charge for transporting this mail. The fact is, if they had charged for the service, they would have been violating the U. S. Postal laws. They did insist that the mail they carried be prepaid at the regular rate of postage, and it was up to those who collected mail and deposited such mail in the mail-bags of the Nicaragua ships to see that such letters were prepaid, otherwise the officials on board the ships, in direct charge of the mail-bags, would have refused such letters, because a practice of carrying unpaid letters from San Francisco to New York would have brought the Steamship Company into direct conflict with the Post Office officials. I will explain why. Prior to April 1st, 1855, the prepaid rate was 6¢, unpaid 10¢.

Letters from California, carried by the Nicaragua ships and deposited in the New York Post Office were rated when unpaid as Ship Letters and subject to Ship Letter rates. For example, an unpaid letter to Maine was rated, regular postage from New York plus 2¢ ship, or 5¢ (unpaid) plus 2¢, total 7¢. If such a letter had been deposited in the S. F. Post Office, the sum which would have been due on delivery would have been 10%. Thus, on unpaid letters from S. F. to Maine (or to all points beyond New York City carried by the Nicaragua Steamship Co., and rated as "Ship letters" cost 3d less to the addressee than letters carried in the regular U. S. Mail Via Panama. As an example of the Nicaragua unpaid rate please note cover #20 in your book, which shows a 12d 1851, not recognized as postage (hence unpaid) at New York, the letter rated as a "Ship Letter" and subject to postage of 7 cts on delivery. Via Panama the rate unpaid was 10c. Why may I inquire did you not properly describe this cover on page 331 of your book? You claim you are the only authority who has ever made any philatelic study of the Nicaragua Steamship Company, and that for the past twenty-five years you have been collecting and making an intensive study of the "Via Nicaragua" covers and the markings on these covers. You stated, pge 331, "The postage to the East instead of being supplied by the usual pair of three-cent stamps, consists of the diagonal half of the Twelve Cent stamp which was at times used at San Francisco to produce a six cent stamp. This is affixed to the envelope, but cancelled by the double line "Steamship" in heavy black etc. " You certainly give the impression this half of a 12¢ 1851 prepaid the postage, whereas it most certainly did not, and whereas you state that 6¢ paid the rate, the actual amount paid was 7¢. You explained all the other markings on this cover but you were silent on the "New York Ship 7cts". It would appear to me that if you had spent 25 years in studying "Via Nicaragua" covers that you should have devoted some of this time to the study of this particular "New York - Ship - 7cts".

I covered this subject rather fully in Volume 2 of my recent One Cent book. I call your attention to a similar cover, page 267 - Figure 51 P in my book.

After April 1st, 1855, the rate, S. F. to the East was 10¢ and mail had to be prepaid. But suppose the Nicaragua Company had

ignored this law (which they did not) and after April 1st 1855, had accepted letters unpaid. Deposited in New York and forwarded elsewhere the Ship rate would have been only 5¢. Regular postage of 3¢ plus 2¢ ship. There was no rate for unpaid letters. As an example of such a ship rate, I call your attention to the cover I illustrated on page 262 - figure 51 J, of my book, "New York - Ship - 5 cts". Thus had the Nicaragua Company carried mail unpaid after April 1st, 1855, the rate would have been 5cts instead of the regular rate via Panama, of locts.

This explains the reason as stated above that the Company demanded that mail they carried in their accommodation Mail-gags be prepaid, so that the Company would not come into conflict with the Postal Laws or the Post Office Department.

While the Company did abandon the slogan "Via Nicaragua - In Advance of the Mails" as you stated, the independent collectors of mail used any slogan they saw fit. Hence the collector, or carrier, who used this particular handstamp, simply employed it, to designate that the addressor of the letter wished it to be forwarded by way of a "Nicaragua Ship".

Inasmuch as the Nicaragua Company had nothing to do with these handstamps, it is perfectly obvious that if the Company abandoned this slogan in 1852 that the use of the slogan independently by a carrier in 1856 certainly does not indicate that the marking cannot genuinely exist on a cover with a 10¢ imperforate in 1855 or 1856.

Your whole opinion on this cover was totally wrong as was your opinion on the Denver cover. In every particular you misread the story the Denver cover so plainly tells on its face to one familiar with the postal laws and markings of that period. Again I quote from your comment on the Gibbons cover - "Via Nicaragua - In Advance of the Mails".

"Why was the stamp removed? Simple enough. The whole cover was faked when the "Via Nicaragua - In advance of the Mails" was faked on. The cover had to have a California rate. This could only be either a pair of 3 cents in the earlier years, or a ten-cent in 1855. This cover had a 3 cent stamp on originally and could not be mammfactured into a California cover unless the California rate was substituted."

Now Mr. Wiltsee, I can obtain an affidavit from the original owner of these Gibbons covers, a descendant of Rebecca Gibbons. He is not a fly-by-night but a highly respected citizen of Wilmington, Delaware, and it would be absolutely absurd to charge him with making or applying fake handstamps to any of the covers he inherited. The fact is and he will be glad to verify the statement, that he himself removed the original stamps from these "Via Nicaragua" covers, because he did not collect covers, but stamps, and further he had no idea that the covers with the stamps were much more valuable than the mere stamps themselves.

He will verify the statement that these markings are perfectly genuine and that this particular envelope with the "Noisy" handstamp did not contain a 3¢ 1851, but that it did originally have a 10¢ 1855. I quote further from your opinion:

"Not being able to put on a pair of 3 cent which would cover the postmark, but which is what it should have borne, they clumsily affixed a 10 cent imperf, which does not fit. This led them into the error of a 10 cent rate on a handstamp that should have borne only 6 cents, and ruined the cover from every point of view. This only proves that the Rebecca Gibbons correspondence was used to build up faked covers. The concecter did not know that a 10 cent rate was impossible with the early handstamp "Via Nicaragua - In advance of the mails". The entire cover in my opinion is a clumsy fake, both as to stamp and cancellation and as to the "Via Nicaragua In advance of the Mails".

As mentioned above, the part remaining on the cover of the original New York postmark, is perfectly genuine, (see photo enclosed), and further, I can prove conclusively, beyond any question of a doubt, the exact type of postmark which was used to tie a 10¢ 1855 imperf to this cover. It was a type used on mail brought independently to New York, hence proves this letter came from California and further that it did not come in the regular mail via Panama.

In the light of the indisputable facts we have on this particular item, (as well as the other three), you must realize how utterly wrong your deductions were. It was for this reason that I mentioned in my last letter that I considered irresponsible opinions expressed by one, who is recognized as an authority, as equally harmful to philately as the fraudulent items manufactured by the French fakers. Of course the motive of the former is honest, and the motive of the latter is thoroughly dishonest, nevertheless the effect on the innocent collector is equally as harmful.

I am quite sure you are intensely interested in protecting to the limit the genuine and interesting covers of the California period of the Fifties. I am positive you sincerely desire to uphold all genuine items and I am also positive you desire to brand all spurious items as fraudulent. And further I am equally convinced that you have no desire to brand as false, items that are perfectly genuine. It is for this reason that I have continued this correspondence in the most friendly of spirit, because I have realized fully the errors you have made and if I can share with

you the results of some of my research work I honestly believe I am rendering a service to philately as a whole.

In the past I have attempted to give you all the cooperation at my disposal, but strange to relate you have not
evidenced the same spirit. I requested you last summer to send
me the four gibbons covers so that I could examine them. You
ignored my request, and saw fit to submit them to Heinrich, who
I understand charged you a substantial sum for an opinion. This
was money wasted, barown to the winds, because if Heinrich informed
you the "Via Nicaragua" markings were fraudulent, he was expressing
an opinion regarding matters he knows nothing. You should demand the return of your money because it was obtained under false
pretenses.

I could have given you all the facts regarding these Gibbons covers and would not have charged you a cent.

One more point regarding the slogan, "Via Nicagagua - In Advance of the Mails". You expressed the opinion this slogan had been discarded in 1852, hence its use on a cover with a 10¢ imperf in 1855 was impossible.

I call your attention to the handstamp, "Stmr Sierra Nevada - Via Nicaragua - Advance of the Mails". Here we have "Advance of the Mails", yet this handstamp is known on covers used late in 1855 and 1856. In fact there were several in the Denver correspondence. Would you consider these covers fraudulent because they contain a slogan which was discarded by the Company in 1852 ?

I totally disagree with the opinion these various handstamps had any connection with the Nicaragua Steamship Company, that they were used by this Company, or by the officers of this Company on Board their ships.

To me it is absurd to adopt as a fact such an unsound theory, but on the contrary plenty of sound evidence to discredit such a theory.

For example, if these handstamps were used by the Company on all the mail carried in their mail-bags why are such handstamped covers so rare? Surely the Nicaragua ships carried a vast amount of mail in their mail-bags, and it is perfectly evident that only a very small percentage of all the mail so carried was handstamped "Via Nicaragua". I have seen numerous covers that I am positive traveled East by the Nicaragua Route which were not handstamped "Via Nicaragua". The answer is certainly very obvious, these handstamps were applied by certain collectors of mail who charged a fee to gather up the letters, take them to the ships, and deposit them in the mail-bags. Business concerns sent large batches of letters by their clerks to the steamers for deposit in their mail-bags and none of these sent in this manner, were handstamped "Via Nicaragua". I have positive evidence to this effect.

And further - Why do we see practically all of these handstamps on letters going from West to East? Seldom do we see a

handstamp on a cover going East to West, and when we do we have no evidence whatsoever that the handstamp was applied in the East.

If the Nicaragua Steamship Company employed these handstamps on the mail they carried in their mail-bags in order to advertise the fact they could transport passengers to and from California in less time than that required by the regular U. S. Mail Steamships via Panama, then why, may I ask, did they use this advertising on mail they carried only on their trips from West to East and never on the mail they carried from East to West?

I think the answer is quite plain. In San Francisco, carriers or collectors made a business of forwarding such mail, and they had their own handstamps to indicate how the writer wished his letters forwarded.

In New York there were no such collectors or carriers who used handstamps in the same manner as those in San Francisco.

Take for example the cover you illustrate as #3 in your book. Here is an East to West item. In your description of this cover on page 326 you stated:

"No 3 - It would seem however, that the Vanderbilt Line in the East, did affix propaganea in the shape of a handstamp to their mail". I must confess I was rather astonished at this statement of yours, because this letter was most certainly carried entirely out of the mail by the Adams Express messenger in his own personal mail-bag, and was delivered by the Adams Company direct to its destination in Stockton. The Vanderbilt Line did not handstamp this letter because they had nothing whatsoever to do with it, and further, this particular "Via Nicaragua" handstamp was the property of the Adams Express Co. and was used solely and exclusively by them. Had you been in possession of these facts, I am quite sure you would not have mis-described this cover on page 326 of your book.

I think we should investigate information obtained from others in an effort to learn if such information is authentic. We should at least give credit to the source if we find such information is correct. In the opinion you rendered on the Gibbons Sierra Nevada cover you failed to investigate certain information which was incorrect and second you failed to credit the source of such incorrect information but gave it as solely as the result of your personal research work.

I quote from your opinion on the Sierra Nevada Gibbons cover "3 - The most serious objection when concocted the author was not sufficiently acquainted with his dates to realize that this New York postmark was not used later than 1852".

Here you refer to the New York postmark with the two bars. The fact is I mentioned in my One Cent book the latest uses known of this marking was in 1853. To be exact the latest use now known to me is May 13, 1853. I continue your opinion.

"See Dr. Chase's book, page 204. The Stemmer Sierra Nevada did not arrive on the Pacific Coast until May 1853. The New York two bar postmark was a sub-station in New York City, While the letters brought East were delivered to the main Post Office."

This is rather amusing, as you state the two bar postmark was a sub-station in New York. If you will look up one of my former letters to you, copy of which is before me, you will find I made the statement that "some students held the opinion these bar postmarks were used at sub-stations of the New York Post Office". I did not state that such was the case. In fact, you evidently assumed the students I mentioned were correct, and then you proceeded to state this assumption as a positive fact. The truth is that there were no sub-stations of the New York Post Office in 1851 and 1852, or the early months of 1853 when the bar handstamps were used. I quote further from your opinion:

"In the hundreds of genuine items mailed in the New York office that the writer has seen of all these various handstamps, none were ever mailed in the sub-stations which bore one, two, or three bars".

Now my dear Mr. Wiltsee. I have made some study of the postal markings of New York City and I have been in close touch for some years with the most competent students of this subject but I do not know of a single one who can identify any covers which were mailed in "sub-stations". I am quite sure I cannot. I suggest you read very carefully Mr. Perry's fine chapter in Volume Two of my book. It is Chapter 46. I know of no student who has definitely established the reason of these bar postmarks or why they were used. It is barely possible they were used by certain clerks in certain departments to identify certain classes of mail they cancelled. At this period in the English post offices, each "stamper" had his own individual handstamp with his initial in it. Thus the officials were able to identify which "Stamper" cancelled any mail that needed identification for any special purpose. It is berely possible this system was copied to a small extent in the New York Post Office for a comparatively short period by the use of these "bar" handstamps. This is purely a theory and nothing else. Chaze did not state these were sub-station markings. neither did I state they were, but you got the idea from me, but failed to quote your source, and gave the impression that you had made some study of New York markings and could identify mail deposited in New York sub-stations.

I apologize for the length of this letter, but I have gome to the trouble of making it lengthy and explicit, solely in a spirit of co-operation and not really in a spirit of criticism of various statements you have made in error.

I trust that you will receive it in that same sense, and I hope that a fuller understanding of these most interesting items will lead to a closer co-operation.

that either one of us are trying to establish as facts our own personal opinions.

I am enclosing herewith a number of tracings taken from envelopes in the Denver correspondence.

In lower right you will notice the Wm. M. Gwin in General Denver's handwriting on the "Via N" cover above. In the right bottom corner is a genuine Gwin frank taken from another cover in this correspondence. In this lot you will note letters from "Hon. A. Felsh" and Bela M. Hughes as well as other men of prominence.

Cordially yours,

Cover bearing handstamp from Noisy Carrier's MAIL Long Wharf, San Francisco, Cal. in frame with indented corners, addressed to Rebecca Gibbons, Wilmington, Del.

## ITEM NO. 2

Again we have a letter addressed to Rebecca Gibbons, Wilmington, Del. There are many objections to the fake handstamp above.

1. The color is black which so far is unknown in this type and has never been seen except upon letters coming from this suspicious correspondence. It is hardly possible that true items of a false color could exist in only this one correspondence and not in the other widely known ones collected throughout the land.

Comment by Ashbrook

Black color of handstamp - This proves me thing except that E.A.W. admits he has never seen this handstamp in black except on the Gibbons covers. Perhaps he has never seen such late uses of this handstamp, because the use is undoubtedly 1856 (Earliest known use of the 10¢ stamp is May 1855, this cover is S.F. Apr. 5. The earliest known use of a 10¢ imperf from S.F. is Sep. 1, 1855.) There is little question this cover is genuine and at the time it was handstamped, Kimball was using a black ink.

Further proof of a use in 1856. So far as I know, no covers showing this handstamp are known as late as April 1857, hence the use must have been 1856 or 1857. In 1856, Apr. 5 fell on Saturday. In 1857, Apr. 5 fell on Sunday. Hence this use is not 1857, because when the 5th or 20th fell on Sunday the mail steamship did not sail until Monday. Mail going by such delayed sailings were invariably postmarked with the date of the departure of the mail steamship.

2. The shape of the frame is wrong. Careful comparison shows that the frame line does not "bow" properly above the word "From". Also the bottom line does not "Bow" up sufficiently.

Comment by Ashbrook

Considering the very late use of the handstamp (Apr. 5, 1856) it is possible its worn condition may show slight changes from examples examined by E. A. W. several years (or more) earlier than this use may be noticeable in the impression on this particular cover. I think his comment on this point is of little weight.

3. The corner indentations are the most certain identifications of this fake. In the very manygenuine items known, the corner indentations are distinct, clear and deep, while in this fake item the corner indentations are blurred, dull and not clear. This difference is most notable.

Comment by Ashbrook

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Again the late use indicates a worn handstamp, and is better evidence of genuiness than other wise. A faker probably would not have thought to apply a worn condition of a handstamp to a cover showing a late use.

4. For some reason the creator of this item omitted the number 77 in front of "Long Wharf". This exists in all genuine items.

Comment by Ashbrook

Again we have further proof of the late use of the handstamp. The mythical faker did not remove the "77" but the number was removed by Kimball when he moved from 77 Long Wharf. The San Francisco directory will undoubtedly show that Kimball was not located at "77" on April 5th 1856. If E. A. W. has never seen examples of this handstamp in black and with no "77" it is perfectly evident he has never seen any examples of the use of this marking as late as April of 1856.

5. The comma or apostrophe after "carrier" and before the "s" is omitted. The apostrophe always occurs in all genuine items.

Comment by Ashbrook

The answer is very simple - Late use, worn handstamp.

6. The writer has never seen this handstamp, commonly called the "box" Noisy Carrier on a cover with a ten cent rate.

Comment by Ashbrook

Just because an authority has never seen certain genuine items is no proof whatsoever that they do not exist.

All genuine ones that he has seen in twenty-five years exist on a letter with a pair of three-cent 1851,

Comment by Ashbrook

The 6d rate from S.F. became obsolete on April 1st, 1855.

or the six-cent envelope. In other words, the Noisy Carrier did not use the box at the period of the ten-cent rate.

Comment by Ashbrook

There is no question but what the handstamp on this cover is genuine and it proves that Kimball did use this marking as late as April 5th, 1856.

As a matter of fact, as the ten-cent rate was in 1855, the Golden Age of propaganda was past,

Comment by Ashbrook

I would not call this a propaganda cover. Kimball made a business of collecting mail and forwarding it. In this case he acted as a carrier who carried this letter to the S.F. P.O. and mailed it for the writer, charging a fee for such service. It was customary for him to handstamp such mail, but such a marking can hardly becklassed as a propaganda marking.

and all the items the writer has seen with a ten-cent stamp bore

a very large oval handstamp, in black, "Noisy Carrier Mail San Francisco". (See Gold Rush Steamers, Photostat No. 14, following page 330.)

Comment by Ashbrook

E. A. W. directs attention to his book "Gold Rush Steamers" illustration #14. He failed to mention Kimball used several
"Noisy Carrier" handstamps of different types. His illustration
#15 - (Knapp collection), shows a 10¢ rate (3 % 3¢ plus 1¢) from
S.F. on Dec. 5th. This use is either 1855 - 1856 or 1857. My
guess is 1855. This reads, "By Mail Steamer - From Noisy Carrier's".
No address is given and the chances are that Kimball was not located
at "#77" at the time this letter was mailed.

Again referring to the Wiltsee illustration #14. He states all the covers he has seen with 10¢ 1855 stamps had this "very large oval handstamp". The date of this cover is "S.F. 20 Dec", and the year is probably 1856. It is possible this handstamp was first adopted at a period subsequent to the time when the box type (#77 Wharf) was discarded. It has no address, but E. A. W. states it was applied in black proving Kimball did use a black ink at a time when the 10¢ 1855 imperforate was in use.

Attention is called to the illustration #16 in the Wiltsee book. Here is a "Noisy Carriers" handstamp on a newspaper bearing date of "Dec. 20, 1856". It reads, "Noisy Carriers Publishing Hall, Long Wharf" and was applied in black. It will be noted the address at this time, Dec. 20, 1856, was "Long Wharf", not #77 Long Wharf.

Again a letter addressed to Rebecca Gibbons, Wilmington, Del. New York Post Office cancellation in black, handstamp in dark steely blue.

# ITEM NO. 3

This was the propaganda handstamp applied by the Steamer Sierra Nevada itself, and also bearing the propaganda "Via Nica-ragua Advance of the Mails".

Comment by Ashbrook

Here E. A. W. makes a very positive statement, thought there is no proof whatsoever that he is correct. He states what he believes to be a fact, whereas it has never been proved that this Sierra Nevada handstamp was applied on board this steamship. Facts are one thing, but theories are an entirely different proposition. Proceeding on the theory this handstamp was applied on board this steamship it is of course natural to assume there was but one handstamp and in all probability but one ink. However with no proof that this was actually where the handstamp was applied, we much consider the possibility that there were possibly several or more of these handstamps all of the same general type but with certain different characteristics. It is possible these special steamship handstamps (?) were supplied to carriers by the Nicaragua Steamship Company, for the purpose of especially handstamping mail to be forwarded by this ship. I have noted certain minor differences between some letters of one handstamp and the same letters of another. In such cases the covers I examined were from batches of

of correspondence that had never been in a dealer's hands hence there was no possibility of fraud. I have enlarged photographs and tracings of these items and in the big enlargements the minor differences are quite pronounced.

The Sierra Nevada was the only steamer so far known of the Nicaragua lines in the fifties to put her own name in her propaganda.

Comment by Ashbrook

This is true and it is entirely possible that this marking was applied on board this ship by the purser or whoever was in charge of the mails, but if this was the case, then it would appear there were at least three of these "Sierra Nevada" handstompo

There are many objections to this fake.

1. Careful study shows that the ovals are not the same shape. The true item is more "squatty" and fuller toward the ends. The fake is a sharper oval toward the ends.

Comment by Ashbrook

It is my opinion this marking is genuine in every respect and the differences noted hereby E.A. do not exist.

2. The color (not of course shown by the photostat) is entirely wrong. In the fake it is a dark steely blue, almost greenish. In the genuine items it is always a pale but bright blue.

Comment by Ashbrook

In no manner do I agree with this statement. I think the ink is genuine beyond any doubt.

3. The most serious objection. When concocted the author was not sufficiently acquainted with his dates to realize that this New York post mark was not used later than 1852.

Comment by Ashbrook

E.A.W. has no knowledge whatsoever of New York postmarks and has written me repeatedly in the past that he had never paid any attention to them. E. A. W. states the "faker" (?) was not sufficiently acquainted with his dates to know this marking was not used later than 1852. For that matter Wiltsee did not know this himself until I informed him, and called his attention to the mention in the Chase book.

See Dr. Chase's book, page 204. The steamer Sierra Nevada did not arrive on the Pacific Coast until May 1853. The New York two-bar post mark was a sub-station in New York City, while the letters brought East were delivered to the main Post Office.

Comment by Ashbrook

I also informed Wiltsee that some students held to the theory

that the N.Y. "bar postmarks" were marking Sused at branch post offices. I did not inform him this was an established fact but merely a theory and further that it was not a theory of mine. I have no proof these "bar" postmarks were used at branch post offices or sub-stations, in fact there were no branches of the New York Post Office in 1851, and there is little doubt they were in use at the main post office. In the London, England Post office, each "stamper" had his own handstamp, with his initial in it. It is barely possible these "bar" postmarks were individual ones used by certain stampers at the N.Y. Post Office.

In the hundreds of genuine items mailed in the New York office that the writer has seen of all these various handstamps, none were ever mailed in the sub-stations which bore one, two or three bars.

Comment by Ashbrook

I doubt if I have any way of telling the difference between mail deposited in the main N.Y. P.O. from that deposited in branches, still E. A. W. pretends to have some knowledge on the subject.

4. The concocter did fairly good work except in the shape of the letter "C" in Nicaragua. This fake as the "C" almost round, while all the genuine items, as is slown above, have is narrower in width.

Comment by Ashbrook

It is my opinion the marking is genuine.

5. The genuine items can be distinguished from the false by the fact that the serifs of the bottom line of the handstamp almost "chain" so as to nearly form a continuous line. In the fake this effect is lacking.

Comment by Ashbrook

It is my opinion this point is not proved because I feel quite positive the marking is genuine.

Attention is called to the following conclusions by Wiltsee, because they are really amazing when one considers they are by a student who, in his own estimation, considers himself an authority on this subject.

There exists no doubt whatsoever in my mind that the address on this piece of cover is genuine and also that the "Sierra Nevada" marking is genuine. There is however very grave doubt in my mind that this pair of 3/ 1851 stamps were actually used on this face of a cover, however it is barely possible they were. The earliest record I have of the use of this "Sierra Nevada" handstamp, is two covers each mailed in New York on May 9, 1854. One of the letters bears the S. F. date of "April 14, 1854.

In the Wiltsee book he illustrates (#21) a cover addressed to "Rebecca Gibbons" with a "Sierra Nevada" handstamp. This cover shows part of the New York postmark but the stamps (in all probability a pair of 3/2 1851) - are missing. Evidently when the "Gibbons" covers were discovered, the stamps on several or more had become

separated from the covers. Several such "Gibbons" items (stamps missing) are in different collections thruout the country. Wiltsee describes his Gibbons cover #21 in his book but he made no mention that he considered it a fake.

Regarding his earliest records of use of the Sierra Nevada handstamp. On page 333 he stated, "As to dates the author has seen this handstamp on a full letter dated July 15, 1854." One infers Wiltsee had not seen an earlier use.

I have never seen a use of the New York "bar" postmark later than April of 1853, but it is barely possible this handstamp might have been used as late as Jan. 15, 1855. The shade of the pair of 3d 1851 are definitely an 1852 color or printing, but a late 1854 use of this color later more impossible than an unusually late use of the N.Y. bar type of handstamp.

I have a record of six different covers that left S.F. on the Sierra Nevada, sailing on Dec. 9th, 1854. Several of these are dated S.F. Dec. 9, 1854". Five of these covers bear the New York postmark of "Jan 2" (1855).

The next sailing of a Nicaragua ship was "Dec. 23, 1854". This was the S. S. Cortes and mail carried by this sailing was postmarked "New York, "Han 15" (1855).

I have a record of a cover carried on this trip which is dated "S.F. Dec. 22, 1854". In this letter it is stated, "The Cortez cover is postmarked "New York, Jan. 15", but the postmark is the one of the regular types of that period and not one of the bar type. I believe it is barely possible the Gibbons cover, with which Wiltsee finds so much fault, is genuine in every respect, and that while handstamped to go via the Sierra Nevada, it actually did not travel by this ship, but went by the Cortes, which sailed on Dec. 23, 1854, and was postmarked New York on "Jan. 15" (1855).

It does seem strange that if a pair of 3¢ 1851 was missing from this cover that someone, would by mere chance pick a pair of 3¢ 1851 to add to this cover that actually had a New York postmark containing an established date of deposit in the New York Post Office of mail carried via the Nicaragua Route.

6. And to clean up. All the trips of the steamer, Sierra Nevada, are well known and on no trip could her mail possibly have arrived in New York so as to be deposited in the post office on January 15th, in the three years that she was running, 1854, 1855 and 1856.

Comment by Ashbrook

Inasmuch as we have no proof that letters were handstamped on board the S. S. Sierra Nevada, it is not unreasonable to suppose they were handstamped elsewhere. Perhaps they were handstamped at the office of the Nicaragua Line in San Francisco. Just because this Gibbons cover bears a Sierra Nevada handstamp is no proof the letter traveled by this ship, hence if there was no sailing in the years of 1854 - 1855 or 1856 of the "Sierra Nevada" whereby mail she carried could have borne a postmark of New York Jan. 15, is also no proof that this cover is in any way a fake. Though handstamped "Sierra Nevada" it could certainly have been conveyed by the Cortes

SAILS Tomo ROW. THIS

and deposited with similar mail this ship carried to New York and which was postmarked Jan. 15, 1855.

7. Under the quartz lamp it is clearly shown that these stamps have been moved.

Comment by Ashbrook

This statement I positively deny. Within the past month I have installed the very latest and improved model of an ultraviolet ray lamp, a model much in advance of other types now being used, and not even placed on the market. A special job was made up especially for me. I deny that this Gibbons cover shows that this pair of stamps were "moved". They may be a substituted pair but my quartz lamp does not show any evidence of this.

8. The period after "mails" is too close to the letter "s".

Comment by Ashbrook.

This statement is not true because the period after "Mails" matches perfectly with a number of examples I know beyond question of be genuine.

The writer is of the opinion that this was originally a large envelope mailed to Rebbcca Gibbons from New York at a substation.

Comment by Ashbrook

"Mailed from a New York sub-station" is perfectly ridiculous.

over-weight and carrying two 3-cent stamps (double rate). It is cut down and now exists only as a face in order to show that it was a double-rate New York letter. The fake Sierra Nevada handstamp was then affixed. While, of course, this supposition may be in-

Comment by Ashbrook

The whole trouble with Wiltsee is that he is positive (without any proof) the "Sierra Nevada" handstamp was applied "aboard this steamship". With this fixed idea in mind everything about this cover is therefore to him a fake, that is, its actual origin, California Rate, and the Nicaragua handstamp. He believes the N.Y. postmark is genuine, whereas a faker would have had less trouble in affixing a pair of 3/ 1851 in place of one that was lost. In many covers I have examined that went Via the Nicaragua Route it is most noticeable that a majority have the stamps affixed in the upper left corner and the various hand "Via N", stamps in the upper right covner. I believe the reason for this is that the handstamp was applied first before any stamps were affixed. Agents who collected mail to be forwarded "Via Nicaragua" charged a fee for performing this service, which was in addition to the regular U. S. postage. It would thus seem reasonable that the agents, such as Kimble and others, collected the letters without stamps, handstamped them "Via Nicaragua" and applied the necessary U. S. postage stamps.

Waking A Fake Viollicaroquo Hondstomb

Cover addressed to Rebbacca Gibbons, Wilmington, Del. bearing 10-cent imperf. with "N York May 27" cancellation in black; also "Via Nicaragua In Advance of the Mails" in oval in black. Color of cover manila or brown cream.

Comment by Ashbrook

The only thing wrong about this cover is the substitution of a 10% 1855 for one which was originally on this cover and ne was doubt lost and was missing when the lot of Gibbons covers were found. The black handstamp "Via Nicaragua" is perfectly genuine in every respect, and this cover unquestionably travelled the Nicaragua Route and was deposited in the New York Post Office. There is little question but what the envelope originally had a 10g 1855 stamp, which was tied by a New York postmark that was used on Via Nicaragua mail. There is no guess work about this because I can very easily prove the exact New York handstamp that which originally tied a 10% Green to this cover. The faker had a genuine "Via Nicaragua" cover with the stamp missing. He picked out a stamp he thought he could substitute but he knew very little about what he was doing because the New York postmark on the stamp he substituted was never used on incoming mail Via the Nicaragua Route. By removing the present lod stamp, traces of the substitution are very plain. In trying to match the parts of the original postmark left on the envelope with the postmark on the substituted stamp, he was forced to remove those parts which did not match. To do so he scratched the parts out with a sharp knife or razor, which thinned the paper very badly. These erasures are quite plain.

of The Envelope

# ITEM NO. 4

1. No other cover with this handstamp is known with a 10-cent imperf. They all bear a pair of 3-cent 1851s.

Comment by Ashbrook

This statement as applied to this cover is indeed very silly. No cover may be known to Wiltsee with a 10% Green and this particular handstamp, but covers are certainly known which bear this handstamp and were used at periods when the 10% stamp was in use. On page 264, in Volume 2 of my One Cent book is illustrated a cover (Fig. 51 K B) with this same Via Nicaragua handstamp. Wiltsee pronounced this particular cover a fake, but he made himself ridiculous because this cover came direct to the present owner from the Denver family, and there was no possible way any faking could have been done. The cover, is addressed to Gen'l Denver, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. Gen'l Denver was ekted to Congress from California and took his seat in December of 1855. Prior to this time he was never in Washington, and it is a matter of record when he left California and when he arrived at Washington.

There is little doubt this cover, used in December of 1855, or later in 1856. The 10¢ stamp was then current in California.

2. The reason for the above is obvious. The slogan "Via Nicaragua In Advance of the Mails" was the first invented, by the active minded operators of the Line on the West Coast. It was advertised in the newspapers, as all these slogans and letter-bags were, only in December 1852. In January 1853, according to the

Fig 51KB

SUCH AS KIMBALL AND

advertisements, the slogan of this Line of steamers was changed to "Via Nicaragua Ahead of the Mails" and maintained by it without change until the advertisement of all slogans ceased in 1856.

Comment by Ashbrook

This is nothing more than Wiltsee's theory and does not conform to the facts. The Denver cover shows this particular handstamp was used by someone as late as December 1855, or in 1856.

I state by "someone" meaning that I entirely disagree with Wiltsee that these "Via N" handstamps were prepared and used solely by the Nicaragua Steamship Company. Their business was the transportation of passengers and treasure and not the carrying of mail for profit. Forwarders of mail charged a fee to collect letters and deposit them in the mail-bags of the Nicaragua steamers. Unquestionably these "Forwarders" or Carriers provided themselves with various handstamps and simply used the slogans used by the Steamship Company. Many things/prove this was the case, hence the above statement by Wiltsee, is incorrect.

The writer places this use in December 1852 and early in 1853.

T Under these circumstances it is obvious that the cover bearing this handstamp could not carry a 10-cent imperf. which could not arrive m on the Coast before June 1855.

Comment by Ashbrook

Inasmuch as I can prove the type of the New York postmark that was originally on this cover, there remains no question but what there was on this envelope originally a 10¢ 1855. Therefore the use could hardly have been 1852 or 1853. Further Wiltsee don't know when the first supply of 10¢ 1855 stamps reached the Coast. Surely none whereout there in June 1855.

To The quartz lamp shows that the stamp originally on this cover has been removed and that the present one does not occupy the same position.

Comment by Ashbrook

One does not need a quartz lamp to see anything so very obvious. Only a bungler would turn out such a job as this. The fakers in Paris are real artists, those we have ever here are have plumbers and this is a sample of their work of substitution.

4. A comparison with the genuine shows the letters to be coarse and not resembling the genuine. The ink has an entirely different quality.

Comment by Ashbrook

I assume Wiltsee refers to the pert of the New York postmark on the cover. If so he does not know what he is talking about because part of the circle is absolutely genuine, also the letter "N" which was part of "New" (New York).

5. Certain critics have stated that the above handstamp is genuine but that the 10-cent stamp was added "afterward".

Comment by Ashbrook

Wiltsee does not refer to me as one of the certain critics, but I heartly agree with them and can prove they are right, whoever they are. Wiltsee states "the 10-cent s amp was added "afterward". I have explained above the present 10¢ stamp was substituted for a 10¢ 1855 which was not (?) on the cover when the find was made.

This is distinctly absurd. No letter could get through the New York Post Office without bearing postage and being cancelled.

Comment by Ashbrook

This cover originally had a 10¢ 1855 so the letter did not go thru the New York Post Office without postage.

If added years afterward, a pair of 3-cent 1851 stamps would have had to have been removed, but the lamp shows that this cover never bore a pair of stamps.

6. A careful examination shows that everything around the lo-cent stamp is faked. In the first place it occupies a position formerly occupied by a larger stamp. The attempted cancellation is ridiculous. The present stamp does not fill the space occupied by the removed stamp. It is now "N York" with just a little piece of the "B" of "New" showing. Also the circle covering the stamp is not round and the curve is so clumsily put on that it is visible to the naked eye. Also the ink in the added portion is much blacker than in the original portion, and under no circumstances could there be a difference if cancelled at the same time. Any tyro can tell that a stamp has been removed and another clumsily substituted with a fake postmark.

Comment by Ashbrook

Most of this opinion is too silly to enswer. The postmark on the present stamp is genuine, and any tyro expert should on the recognize this fact. Further, part of the original postmark, is genuine, so where does Wiltsee find the fake postmark to which he refers?

Why was the stamp removed:

Simple enough. The whole cover was faked when the "Via Nicaragua in Advance of the Mail" was faked on. The cover had to have a California rate. This could only be either a pair of 3-cents in the earlier years, or a ten-cent in 1855. This cover probably had a 3-cent stamp on originally and could not be manufactured into a California cover unless the California rate was substituted. Not being able to put on a pair of 3-cent which would cover the postmark, but which is what it should have borne, they clumsily affixed a 10-cent imperf. which does not fit. This led them into the error of a 10-cent rate on a handstamp that should have borne only 6 cents, and ruined the cover from every point of view.

This only proves that the Rebecca Gibbons correspondence was used to build up faked covers. The concecter did not know that a 10-cent rate was impossible with the early handstamp "Via

Nicaragua In Advance of the Mails".

The entire cover in my opinion is a clumsy fake, both as to stamp and cancellation and as to the "Via Nicaragua In Advance of the Mails".

Comment by Ashbrook

Wiltsee claims to be an authority on "Via Nicaragua" covers Buland his comment on this item is really amazing.

Cover addressed to Rebecca Gibbons, Wilmington, Delaware.
Bears a pair of 3-cent 1851 cancelled with "STEAM SHIP" struck twice.
Carries a "Via Nicaragua Rhead of the Mails" framed handstamp in dull black.

Comment by Ashbrook

This cover is no doubt genuine, as it shows no evidence of faking. Everything about it is quite regular and there is no reason to condemn it, because the pair of 3¢ 1851 is not tied. At the time of use of this particular rectangular "Via N" marking, the N.Y. P.O. frequently used this two line "Steam Ship" marking on mail from the Nicaragua Line ships. Wiltsee states this handstamp is "in dull black", showing that he must be troubled with color blindness. The color is not a dull black but a faded out dark blue.

This cover does not bear the positive objections that prove it not genuine.

- l. The objection that the writer has is that in 25 years of observation of these covers he has never seen this handstamp on a genuine item in a genuine correspondence in black. The handstamp is so poorly struck as to make comparison impossible.
- 2. The second objection is that it comes from a correspondence in which many fakes have been detected.
- 3. The ink has been examined by an expert and is entirely wrong.

Comment by Ashbrook

Wiltsee States, "The ink has been examined by an expert and is entirely wrong". Such a statement is pure bunk. The only reason Wiltsee thinks this cover is "wrong" is because he has tried to convince himself the three other covers in this lot are fakes.

# MEKEEL'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

Published Every Monday by the Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: U.S., Canada and Mexico, 1 year, \$1.00. Single Copies, 5c.

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

Vol. LVI, No. 19

PORTLAND, ME., MONDAY, MAY 12, 1941

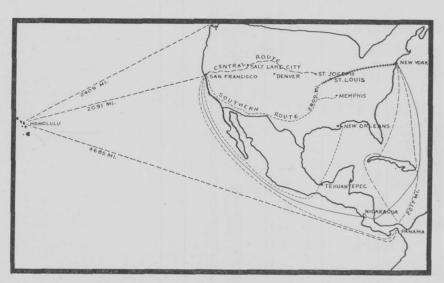
WHOLE No. 2627

# Mails from Honolulu To New York, 1851-1865

By CAPT. C. GILL, M. D.

The history of all progressive island dwellers is closely bound with, and markedly influenced by regular contact with the people of some mainland, during which an interchange of ideas occurs. This was true for the native Hawaiian after 1778. The largest share of his contact was with the nearest mainland, North America, particularly the Americans and English. Vancouver, British Columbia, and San Francisco were about the same distance away, altho there were few white settlers until 1830 or later. Curiously enough, the particular group of people largely concerned were from the New England region, on the far side of a distant continent, reached only by months of travel around the Horn. England and New England were about equidistant for ships that rounded the eastern portion of Brazil. There were Spanish-speaking people on the western parts of South and Central America, but commerce with them was practically non-existant. In 1800 a little trade existed between Hawaii and China, but this was handled by American and English shippers. After the arrival of the first missionaries in 1820 a new problem arose, that of supplying these people with merchandise and news from home. Others joined them in the fifteen or twenty years immediately following, so that the combined needs of the entire group, tho not very much, still resulted in a small but definite volume of trade. This was very small, tho, compared with the needs and wants for American goods that arose among the natives after the teachers and preachers had lived and worked with them a few years.

By 1850 there was still not very much to be brot from Hawaii to the United States. However, Hawaii was very important as a station for provisioning the whaling ships, of all nations, that hunted in the Alaskan waters. The tea trade with China grew considerably in volume, and Ha-



Map showing the mail routes existing between Honolulu and New York from 1850 to 1865. The regular channel for mail was first of all San Francisco altho some letters were carried by ships that went direct to Panama.

Honolulu - San Francisco, via Panama, regular route, 1850-65. via Nicaragua (out of the mail), 1851-55. via Tehuantepec - New Orleans, 1858-59. via Overland Mail, southern route, 1858-61. northern route, 1861-69. via Pony Express, 1860-1861. via Transcontinental railroad, after 1869.

waii was at the crossroads of the vast expanses of the Pacific, where ships and men could rest and recuperate. To supply the local needs for all purposes, that is, the every day residents and the transient sailors, there arose

a large commerce between the United States and Hawaii

The main travelled sea lane from Honolulu and Hilo was to San Francisco, with less travel to Seattle and still less direct to Panama. The vov-

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# Something Rare and Unusual For Philippine Collectors

e to San Francisco could be made a sailing vessel in twelve to fouren days, but the journey to Panama as over twice as far in miles, with verse winds and currents to make it ower. Steam vessels, or those using th steam and sails, were infrequent the Pacific until about 1850, and en only along the coastal routes, for

It was a long and dangerous trip ound the Horn, and the Straits of agellan claimed many ships as its The Isthmus of Panama was only few miles wide, so it was cheaper unload on one side, carry the cargo overland and reload to another ship on the other side for the rest of the trip. A fairly good portage had been established by this time, altho there was constant danger from poisonous insects and reptiles, tropical diseases and other things. The plans for a railroad materialized in 1850.

Some coastal shipping also developed, purely local between San Francisco and Hawaii, as certain needs arose. Fresh fruits and other products could be brot from Honolulu, and a profitable market found for them. Most dramatic of special needs filled by Hawaii was education of children. New England types of schools flourished in the Islands, because the missionaries had come from that region. Many of the new San Franciscans were Yankees, and preferred the type of schools to which they had gone. It was much shorter and simpler to send children to Honolulu for education, than around thru Panama, Joseph Asbury, in his book, "Barbary Coast", brings out the extreme shortage of laundry facilities in San Francisco during the gold rush, and that clothes were sent to Hawaii to be washed and ironed, and even at times to far off China.

The ships for the Pacific fleet came around the Horn, then remained on the West Coast, while a separate fleet sailed regularly from New York or New Orleans to Panama. San Francisco became the center of an American empire on the Pacific Coast, for the emigrants in the early 1840's, for the 49'ers and the gold rush people, and for the great emigration that followed in the next few years. The gold miners brot new needs for building material, machinery, clothes and all the rest of a long list of things the new land could not supply. For the thousands of people who left the Atlantic Coast for the new land, the easiest transportation for them and their needs was by boat. Whether they travelled by land or sea, there were many dangers, and many deaths.

This story is not about the com-

merce of Hawaii, but we have to mention it because the mails followed the same route, the two went together. A background must be built up so that a better understanding of the controlling factors is obtained, then we see why certain events transpired later on. In 1820 there was little or no commerce along the Pacific Coast, altho there was some direct with China in the tea trade. Whalers were busy in Alaskan waters. By 1850 Hawaii had developed large needs for goods used locally, and the Pacific Coast of the United States had many settlements and cities to be supplied from the same sources on the Atlantic Sea-board. Pathways were being established across the mountains and deserts between the Mississippi or Missouri and the Pacific, but it was still a trip of many weeks.

The distance in miles between Honolulu and New York has not changed between 1820 and 1940, but the time necessary to travel between those two cities has changed most markedly. In 1940 an air mail letter mailed in Honolulu arrives in San Francisco the next day, and can be delivered in New York City in less than 48 hours from the time it started. We witnessed the arrival on April 17, 1935, of the Pan-American clipper ship on the first experimental flight from California, the first of hundreds that have followed. We saw the airplane of Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith as it started its flight on November 4, 1934, the first air trip from Honolulu to California, and have as a souvenir one of the very few letcarried on that flight. A few months later Amelia Earhart flew over the same ocean wastes, the first woman to cross from Hawaii to the United States in an airplane.

In 1930 the fastest time for a letter was five days by boat and two days air mail to New York, a total of seven days, as against two of a decade later. In 1920 there was no transcontinental air mail schedule as we have now, and both ships and trains were slower, so it took on the average of six days by fast boat and five days by train, a total of eleven, with ten as the absolute lower limit of time. In 1900 boats took seven or eight days and trains six or seven days. Back in 1880 the Pacific steamers took 8 or 9 days and the train trip was days longer. Grandmother and grandfather made a trip to California in 1883. They took the Emigrant Special from St. Louis to San Francisco, which made the trip in the remarkably short time of 10 days. Going up some of the mountain grades the train moved so slowly the men got out and walked beside it.

(Continued on page 309)

#### SESQUICENTENNIAL — 1926

July 27, 1926, Philadelphia, first day cover 2c Sesquicentennial envelope, two varieties of cancellations, Model P. O.

Similar cover, except franked with 2c Sesqui, stamp

First day cover 2c Sesqui, envelope, franked with block 2c Sesqui, stamps, has only one Model P. O. cancel, but was flown and is backstamped Washington same day

THE THREE COVERS FOR 65c

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#### MAILS FROM HONOLULU TO NEW YORK, 1851-1865

(Continued from page 300)

This was before the day of the West-The trip from St. inghouse brake. Louis to New York by train was then three or four days. So, a letter in 1880 could be sent from Honolulu to a New Yorker in as little as 23 or 24 days, if good connections were made and neither Indians nor bandits attacked the "iron horse" and the string of carriages it pulled.

Farther back, 1858 to be specific, a regular mail schedule existed between New York and San Francisco, via Panama, which took on the average of 21 or 22 days. This was a marked reduction from the minimum of 28 days required in 1851, the year of the Hawaiian "Missionary" stamps. Prior to 1849 there was no regularly estab-lished mail service. Letters were sent by any boat that looked promising, by paying 40c to the ship's captain, with delivery expected between two and six months later, if the ship reached port.

Crocker quotes a letter of Postmaster-General David Kalakaua, written on November 4, 1863, to Mr. Clark, then in New York. The letter of inquiry was regarding the ordering of a new stamp. Apparently the answer was received, as the actual order for the stamps, mentioned in the first letter, was dated January 21, 1864. Thus we see that about two months and two weeks elapsed for a letter to go and the answer to return, about 35 days of travel in each direction, if the correspondence was attended to promptly.

Stanley Ashbrook, in his book on the 1c stamp of 1851-57, and A. R. Rowell's articles in *Stamps* of 1938, on California Ocean Mails, 1851-55, give us vivid descriptions of the early postal services. From them, and other sources, we have found the following descriptive matter. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company was incorporated in 1848, under the direction of William H. Aspinwall, most prominent of the American merchants using the Clipper ships to China. They built three vessels, the California, Oregon and Panama. These ships were about 200 feet long, carried 100 passengers and were not very fast. The service was inaugurated thru the Secretary of the Navy. and not under the Postmaster-General, as we would expect, as the Navy Department was interested in a steam powered merchant marine that could be of use in case of war. The company officials had in mind the extension of steamship service to the Orient, as well as the immediate money to be derived from the transportation of mail, men and machinery to San Francisco.

# UNITED STATES

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H. E. HARRIS & CO., 72 Transit Building, BOSTON, MASS.

The first American steamer to pass thru the Straits of Magellan was the ship California. The departure from New York was on October 6, 1848, and the arrival in San Francisco on February 28, 1849, in time for the crew to desert and join the gold rush. Steam navigation was dangerous at its best. because of dense fogs over land and sea, very few charts of the California coast, and very limited coal supplies to fire the wasteful engines. Between 1852 and 1854 six first class steamers were wrecked and lost along the Pacific Coast, namely the Yankee Blade, North America, Winfield Scott, S.S. Lewis, Independence and Tennessee.

The steamer Golden Gate was of a new class, a little over 2,000 tons, 270 feet length, with space for 800 passengers. It was the first of a larger, faster type of ship. The arrival in San Francisco was in November, 1851. During 1852 the trip to Panama was shortened to 14 days by the new boats. Only one stop was made, at Acapulco, Mexico, while the slower ships stopped several ports.

The steamer John L. Stephens arrived in San Francisco on March 1853, to take its place in the Pacific This was named after the first president of the Panama Railroad. Rowell tells us that in its first two years of operation it made 10 round trips between the California terminus and Panama, in which it carried over 12,000 passengers and over \$18,000,000 in gold.

The Panama Railroad was started in May, 1850, and was completed on January 28, 1855. Between these dates, as sections were finished they were made available for travelers, who could go part way by train and the rest of the 25 miles by mule or afoot. In 1852 it was possible to cross in one day, if an early start was made. This passage cost up to \$19. The cargo from the Atlantic ships was carted across the Isthmus and reloaded. Some vessels brot as many as 100,000 letters and 20,000 newspapers in one mail.

The Golden Age was the first steamer to cross the Pacific. It left New York, went to Liverpool, around Africa, to Australia, then Tahiti and It arrived in San Francisco in the fall of 1854, with a record of a daily average run of 2971/2 land miles.

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13	Nauru, De La Rue (1) 5.00
13a	Nauru, Waterlow (1) 160.00
43-48	Niger Coast (6) 1.90
19-20	Niue (2) 5.60
37-47	Palestine(11) 10.50
25-30	Penrhyn
72-77	Rhodesia, Victoria Falls. (6) 6.80
24-36	St. Kitts-Nevis(13) 21.00
118-31	St. Vincent
142-53	Samoa, Native Hut (12) 1.80
159-61	Samoa
9-16	Sudan, Arab Postman (8) 3.00
17-25	Sudan, Arab Postman (7) 1.75
D1-D4	Sudan (4) 1.75
74-82	Trinidad (9) 15.00
KenM	ore Stamp Co., Inc., Kenmore, N.Y.

#### Say MEKEEL'S to Advertisers It will help you and help us

#### Routes Other Than Panama

So far our description has been about regular mails carried over the Panamanian Isthmus. Other people were not satisfied with the partial monopoly of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and sought other ways to compete. Other routes were attempted, to shorten the time of travel. The Gadsden treaty of 1853 with Mexico granted permission to cross the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Surveys were made and a service was started in 1858. Mail went from New Orleans to Minititlan, then by river boat to Suchil, half way across the Isthmus, then by horse drawn coaches to the Pacific, and by steamer to San Francisco. The first trip took 18 days but later journeys were in as short a time as 15 days. The franchise was for a year, but was not renewed, and no other company sought the trade.

#### Thru Nicaragua

Geographers noted the possibilities of Nicaragua as a route, up the San

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COLLECTIONS AIRMAIL COLLECTIONS

We also buy Accumulations, Lots, U. S. and FOREIGN—ANY QUANTITY—Foreign Airmail and Pictorial Stamps. Quantities Used FAMOUS AMERICANS desired.

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A unique service, a unique stock and membership in a unique group — the China Unit. If you collect China or Manchukuo, you owe yourself at least an inquiry. [H. H. Renouf, Robin Farm, Belchertown, Mass.

UNITED STATES STAMPS

At 1/5th to 1/10th of Catalog
In my stock of U. S., I have some defective U. S. (some with slight tears, S. E., etc.) which to clear out I am offering at 1/5 to 1/10 of Cat. Value.

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of Empire Postage Stamps includes SCOTT'S and Gibbons' Nos. for the benefit of those whose collections are based on these catalogues.

Vol. 1. (Pre 1931) @ 5/6 plus 6d postage Vol. 2. (1931 and after) @ 1/8 plus 2d postage

#### Special 2 Years' Sub.,

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Includes Vol. 1 and 4 issues of Vol. 2, and saves you 3/8. Otherwise single volumes supplied as listed.

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LONDON, S. W. 1, ENG. [H1

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Γtf

Juan River to Lake Nicaragua, then a twelve mile portage on the Pacific side. Cornelius Vanderbilt and associates opened a freight and passenger service, advertising it as 700 miles shorter than via Panama, and with service so fast it was ahead of the mail. They started in 1851 and during the next two years took over an enviable portion of business. They had no mail contract, but they carried some letters delivered to the boat, for mailing at any American ports where they stopped. They had a stamping device which printed the words, "Via Nicaragua. Ahead of the Mails". This was applied to their letters, and often to other letters not carried by them. It served as a fine advertising slogan and was not intended to plead especially for mail business. The trip thru Nicaragua was more enjoyable than the trip across Panama. However, the railroad across the Isthmus was completed in 1855, which gave them a great advantage. A revolution took place in Nicaragua in 1855 and 1856 so the Vanderbilt lines shifted its trade to Panama, then entirely closed the shorter route in 1858. The Nicaragua trip took 21 days, in comparison to the 28 days of the Panama trip. The small number of letters they carried did not come from mail boxes, but had to be delivered direct to the boat. From San Francisco the letters were taken to New York, then placed in the public mail boxes and received their first cancellation in that city. Letters from Hawaii seldom travelled this pathway, as they were part of international mail. There were other companies that tried to cut in on the mail service, but without permanent success.

#### Overland Mail

In 1858 the Great Overland Mail Route was established between San Francisco and St. Louis or Memphis. These were the stage coaches, so commonly the center of attraction in story or moving picture thriller. By 1860 the travel time took an average of 211/2 days for the 2,800 miles, and trips were made semi-weekly. Letters the English government were sent this way when they arrived in New York between the departures of the ships to Panama. The southern route was changed to one more central during the Civil War, as gold was frequently carried from California.

Then in 1861 a change was made to a daily schedule. There was provision for the collection of mail brot to the main line from Denver and from Salt Lake City. This trip could be made in as little as 18 days.

The transcontinental railroad construction was started in the middle of the 1860's, along the stage coach route. The amount of track finished and in service by 1866 was enough to affect the overland mail a little. The western terminus was moved that year to Manhattan, Kansas, and to Cheyenne in 1867. The transcontinental line was completed in 1869. This was of such a late date as to have no effect on the orders of the Hawaiian Post Office Department for stamps. Their local difficulties were chiefly ten years before that, when the mail was much slower in getting thru.

#### Pony Express

Between 1860 and 1861 the Pony Express had the fastest letter service between San Francisco and New York. The letter went by pony carrier to the rail terminus, St. Joseph, Missouri, then by train to the east. The rate was \$5 per half ounce, and delivery across country could be made in 13 days. The company was a financial failure and had to go out of business. Its founders hoped to get the overland mail contract, but because of dishonest promotion schemes, lost the favor of Congress. It is that that very few Hawaiian letters travelled this

On July 1, 1851, the letter rate from New York to San Francisco was reduced from 40c to 6c on prepaid letters of not more than one-half ounce, and 10c on unpaid letters. On April 1, 1855, the rate was changed to 10c for either prepaid or unpaid letters.

Thus we see more clearly why so much time was taken by the letters of the early Hawaiian Postmasters-General, to travel to New York, to get an answer, then to make the order, and to have the stamps delivered in Honolulu. The letter mentioned, mailed in November, 1863, took between 32 and 35 days each way for the trip. San Francisco was the metropolis of the west, but it had not acquired yet such professions and arts as engraving. We mention these things, because they were important obstacles in the rapid ordering and obtaining of new stock of Hawaiian stamps. Had conditions been otherwise, there might have been no Numerals at all, and the stamps of Hawaii as we now know them today might have been very different.

## "NARIBO" LOOSE LEAF STAMP ALBUMS

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No. F-76 France, to Date. (Naribo New Plan Sections) 25c

Index has illustrated model sheet showing an attractive arrangement and description of each new stamp, grouped for each page. Write for new March price list. If your dealer doesn't serve you, send us your

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# The Quick Brown Fox Jumps Over The Lazy Dog

There you are: All the letters in the alphabet, with which we could make up reams of copy telling you how good our U.S. Mission Mixture is. But we think you would rather see for yourself — protected, of course, by our money-back guarantee.

1 lb., \$ .75 — postpaid -- 3 lbs., \$2.00 C. HAHN for STAMPS!

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# News, Views and Comments

Report of Progress Toward a Collectors Club Expert Committee

THE committee appointed to consider the feasibility of establishing an expert committee at the *Collectors Club* had a recent meeting and went over the entire subject rather fully.

It was generally agreed that such a committee would be very desirable but that it would be unwise to start it until a sufficient financial set-up was on hand to assure its success until it could be firmly established on a self-supporting basis.

It was felt that a sum of \$10,000 would be necessary to do this, the greater portion of which would be used to pay the salary of a competent manager for at least three years. There would also be some equipment and supplies necessary, although much of this has already been provided in the John N. Luff Room and more may be expected in the contemplated Joseph S. Rich Room.

About one-fourth of this amount has already been tentatively subscribed, providing the balance can be had, and if any of our readers would be interested in supporting this work a letter to that effect would be appreciated.

The personnel of such an expert committee was also discussed, and it is felt that the *Collectors Club* has among its membership competent authorities on most countries and would have contact with other expert organizations throughout the world who would cooperate if called upon.

It has been emphasized of late, however, that even the most scientific apparatus is useless unless the person using it has a thorough background of knowledge, a reference collection and adequate records. You cannot place a stamp or a cover under any gadget and have it automatically shout "fake" or "genuine." This apparatus is only of value if in the hands of a person who can draw the right conclusions from his observations, but more than that has a

background of knowledge and records upon which to substantiate his judgment.

We recently reported an amusing paper read at the *Collectors Club* by Elliott Perry in which he added to the equipment of every researcher a plentiful supply of solder, to "plug up the holes in his theories which could not be hidden by a jargon of scientific terms." Mr. Perry has supplemented this with another little story which seems apropos.

"In one of Clarence Budington Kelland's stories," Mr. Elliott relates, "he tells about a new schoolteacher who took a job in a country district where the pranks of the big boys made life well-nigh unbearable for any teacher, and the new ones rarely stuck it out for more than a few weeks. One of their favorite diversions was to take a big alarm clock to school and set it to go off in the middle of the teacher's discourse or some other appropriate time.

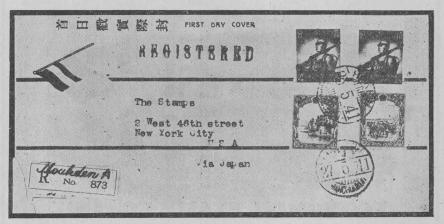
"Somehow the teacher got wind of this pleasantry and when the clock went off it was followed by such a terrific din that it was completely drowned out. The gorgeous racket turned the tables on the boys and made their effort seem puny and puerile. Teacher had smuggled a few dozen alarm clocks with extra loud gongs into the school room, concealed them, and wired them to a button which released the alarms simultaneously at his pleasure."

The American Philatelic Society have already set up an expert committee but they have advised the Collectors Club that they will be glad to cooperate on any plan that is finally worked out and which is mutually acceptable. We need a committee whose decisions will be generally accepted but it will require the active and financial support of dealers and collectors alike to make it possible.

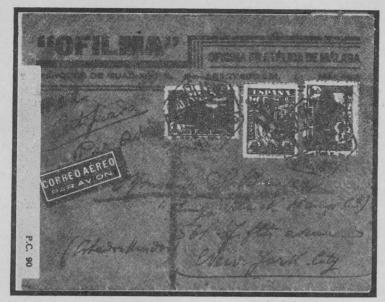
## The Trend Toward the Study of Covers and the Meaning of Postmarks

DURING the past few years, a steadily increasing number of collectors are turning their attention to the serious study of their covers and the meaning of the marks upon them, which have an important historical significance. Such study transforms even the most ordinary-appearing cover into an intensely interesting, historical document that may hold a fascinating story of adventure.

The early issues of the United States stamps and the covers of the period from 1847 to 1865 unfold the most spectacular episodes in the development of our country. This period covered the early years of the development of our transportation system, with the carrying of the mails by stage-coach, pony express,



First day cover from Manchoukuo bearing the new conscription stamp, sent us by courtesy John V. Sweet.



(Illustration courtesy Penny Black Stamp Co.)

The above cover was sent from Malaga, Spain, to New York by air. It did not bear any evidence of censorship at Spain, although mail coming from there now is usually censored, but this cover does bear the censor markings of the British at Bermuda, the first of such on an air cover from Spain to be reported to us. Another interesting point concerning this cover is that the "Correo Aereo" postmark at Spain shows the date -4.Jul.41-5, although it was backstamped at the Registry Division New York P.O. as received there on June 18, 1941.

steamship, canal boat, and railroad. It also carries us through the Civil War period, with its patriotic envelopes, its prisoner-of-war letters, blockade runners, flag-of-truce letters, and all sorts of other interesting connections with the history of the period.

Much of this growing interest and development of ideas is due to the untiring work of Stanley B. Ashbrook, whose Research Group for the study of U. S. postal history has done much to uncover important facts that permit a reconstruction of the history of the period.

His many books on the subject, and especially the United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-57, have done much to popularize and show the possibilities of this type of historical research. Volume 2 of this latter series of books not only covers the entire postal markings of the period of the

stamp in question, but it lays t' foundation for much historical search of this type. This has be supplemented by numerous article in the philatelic press, particularl in STAMPS and The Stamp Special ist, and we know from our growin volume of correspondence that a substantial number of collectors are following his suggestions.

This is also indicated by the attention given these covers in the auction catalogs featuring this type of stamp and the increasing prices that the are bringing.

If you have not followed thi trend, we suggest that you watch i from now on, for it may stimulate interesting ideas for you to follow.

At the present time there are splendid opportunities to follow this interesting study in current covers. The present covers emanating from the World War zone, including censored covers, concentration campletters, and things of that kind, offer fascinating possibilities at comparatively small expense.

-H. L. LINDQUIST.

#### Airgraph Photo Letters a Success

WARREN K. HALE, of Month treal, sends us a clipping from the Montreal Daily Herald, of Thursday, June 5, 1941, which reports that Britain's first experiment with the "Airgraph Photo-letters," has proven a huge success. It is expected the plan will be extended to the far-flung outposts of the Empire

How the plan works was recently described in STAMPS, so we wil not repeat it here. The cost of send ing each airgraph letter is only six cents, and greatly reduces the risk i delivery, as well as increasing the speed of delivery. The only criticist of the plan is that it allows no provacy, but since censorship has all ready eliminated any possibility of that anyway, this seems no draw back. Of course, the scheme also necessitates short letters, but the aspect is more than overcome by the satisfaction of getting them through with speed and greater safety.

The catalog numbers and prices used in the advertisements in this issue are all from Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalog unless specifically stated otherwise in the advertisement.

# NEW ACQUISITION

An accumulation of U. S. Commemoratives in P.O. State which were purchased at the time of issue. It is a long time since we have had such a fine lot and they have been amalgamated with our regular stock. We offer unused singles and blocks and cancelled singles. We have on hand most all other values and will be glad to quote. First orders will receive the preference.

Grade B:—are usually above the average offered at these prices. Grade A:—very fine to superb. All unused with original gum. A substantial saving can be made by purchasing sets.

	Unused				U	Used	
		Sir	ngles	Blocks			ngles
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			\$.20	\$1.25	\$2.00		\$.02
231 2c Violet		18	.28	1.75	2.50	.01	.01
232 3c Green		45	.70	3.00	4.50	.30	.45
233 4c Ultram	arine	75	1.15	6.00	7.50	.09	.14
	ate	70	1.15	6.00	8.50	.13	.20
235 6e Purple		85	1.35	6.00	7.50	.60	.80
236 Sc Magent	a	70	.85	5.00	7.00	.18	.25
237 10c Brown		85	1.25	11.50		.12	.18
	(8 Var.)	. 4.15	6.35	36.00		1.25	1.85
238 15c Green			3.40	20.00		1.25	1.85
239 30c Orange	Br	. 4.25	6.00		40.00	1.85	2.80
1898 OMAHA SER	IES						
285 1c Green		30	.45	1.70	2.50	.09	.13
286 2c Copper			.30	2.00	2.75	.02	.03
287 4c Orange			1.65	11.50	14.50	.55	.80
			2.10	14.00	17.00	.60	.90
	Br		2.40	17.00	21.50	.95	1.50
	Violet		3.00	27.00		.40	.70
SET 1c to 10c	(6 Var.)	. 6.00	9.85	68.00		2.40	3.75
	Freen		16.00				4.00
			30.00				
	Br		42.50				

# ECONOMIST STAMP CO., INC.

87 Nassau Street

New York, N. Y.

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# News, Views and Comments

The Research Group for the Study of U.S. Postal History

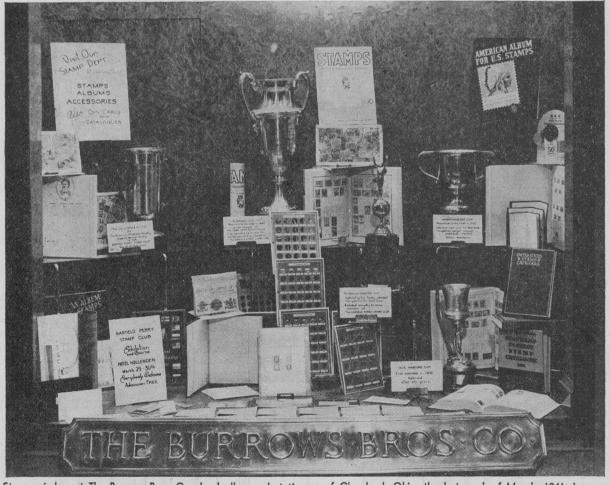
BACK in March, 1938, the late Edward S. Knapp, in cooperation with Stanley B. Ashbrook, decided to organize a *Philatelic Research Group* for the study of the postal history of the United States, for the period of 1845 to 1870. The prime purpose of the organization was to gather data of every possible source, particularly from the newspaper files of the period, and to com-

pile this data in such form that it could be furnished to the members of the *Group* as well as to writers and students on the branch of work on which the *Group* had specialized.

Membership in the *Group* was by invitation only, and each person so invited was expected to contribute towards a special fund to be used to defray the expense of gathering the data required. The original group so invited consisted of some of the most outstanding names in American philately such as Saul Newbury, Edgar Jessup, Frank A. Hollowbush,

Wm. West, Harold W. Carhart, Ernest A. Wiltsee, Wm. C. Michaels, Alfred R. Brigham, Harold C. Brooks, L. L. Shenfield, E. C. Krug, A. R. Rowell and Tracy Simpson, as well as the writer.

With the funds so provided, much original work has been undertaken. During the past three years, most of the research work has been the collecting of data pertaining to the Ocean Mail between the East and California, and between California and the East, covering the period 1849-1857 inclusive. Not only have



Stamp window at The Burrows Bros. Co., booksellers and stationers of Cleveland, Ohio, the last week of March, 1941, in compliment to the anniversary of the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club. Placards in the window explain how the internationally known Hanford Cup, Hennan Cup and Lagerloef Cup, shown there, are awarded. In the lower left of the window is a poster advertising the club's exhibition. The attractive arrangement of the window was the work of Darrell E. Ahleman, of The Burrows Bros. staff, and the photograph was taken by a photographer of the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

the sailing dates of all mail steamships of the above period been carefully compiled, but also the sailings of Clipper ships bound for California in 1849-1850 and 1851, and practically a complete record of the sailing dates of independent ships which carried mail, such as the "Via Nicaragua Line." The gathering of this data alone has been a tremendous task and entailed quite an expense.

There is an ever increasing number of collectors throughout the country who collect 19th Century U.S. on original covers, and the majority of such specialists are interested not only in the stamps themselves on covers but also in the variety of postal markings. An interest in the markings gradually leads to a desire for a knowledge of the meanings of the markings, the various rates, earliest uses of the different stamps of the different issues, etc. Much of such information is available to the advanced collector in various handbooks but information on many complex problems is not available to the average collector. Recognition of this feature alone was one of the principal objectives in the formation of the Research Group and Mr. Ashbrook has become the central figure of the Group for the gathering and compiling such data. There is no question but what covers take an added interest if the owner has a true appreciation of the background of the cover. This includes not only any historical affiliation but a truer conception of how the mail was transported in the period being studied, whether it was

by stage, steamboat, railroad, or steamship. A knowledge of even the essential features is not only educational but it provides a safeguard against the acquisition of fraudulent covers, because the one with a knowledge of his specialty is many jumps ahead of even the cleverest of forgers of covers because he possesses information which is not always available to the forger.

The work of the *Group* effort is therefore directing attention to a subject seldom mentioned in the philatelic press, i.e., the many fraudulent covers in circulation.

Believing the work of this *Group* should be continued and expanded it has been decided to extend an invitation to all serious collectors and dealers throughout the country who are interested in this sort of work.

Contributions are limited to a minimum of \$10.00, for which they will receive all of the reports of the Group, in mimeographed form, and have the satisfaction of taking part in a worthwhile work. There are no regular annual dues involved, but members of the Group are expected to contribute from time to time when the funds in the treasury have been depleted. Any one interested is requested to communicate direct with Stanley B. Ashbrook, 434 S. Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky. The Group should have the support of every serious collector of 19th Century U. S. stamps as it is doing an outstanding bit of constructive work and one which is quite unique in American philately.

# UNITED STATES - AIR POST STAMPS

op, no	tom, Left and Right.	Grade B C		Unused Grade B		Plate Block Gra	Single	Grade A
C1	6c Orange		\$.70	\$2.20	\$2.85	\$6.00(6)	\$.40	\$.50
-	Arrow Blocks T. or B			4.00	5.00			
	Center Line Block			5.75	7.50			
C2	16c Green		2.85	9.50		24.00(6)	1.00	1.2
02	Arrow Blocks T. or L			14.00	18.00			
	Cepter Line Block			20.00				
C3	24c Carmine & Blue		1.60	5.50	7.00			11 1.2
00	Arrow Block L			7.00	9.00			ALIDA I
	Arrow Block T			7.00				
	Center Line Block			9 00	11.00			
C4	8c Yellow Green		.40	1.50	1.75	3.00(6)	.35	.4
C5	16c Dark Blue		1.55	5.50	6.50	17.50(6)	1.20	1.4
C6	24c Carmine	1.65	2.00	6.75	8.00	17.50(6)	.60	-
C7	10c Dark Blue	12	.15	.48	.55	.80(6)	.02	
C8	15c Olive Brown	17	.20	.68	.75	1.10(6)	.08	
C9	20c Yellow Greer		.25	.88	1.00	1.45(6)	.06	
C10	10c Dark Blue		.18	.60	.70	1.10(6)	.04	
C10A	Booklet Pane Three				.60			
	5c Carmine & Blue		.10	.32	.40	80(6)		
C11			.11	.60	.75	.95(6)		
C12	5c Violet		5.35	0.00	21.00	40.00(6)		
C13	65c Green		0.00		21.00	40.00(0)		
C14	\$1.30 Brown		07 00		140 00			9.
C13 to C			35.00		140.00	*****		
C16	5c Violet		.10	.30	.35	.50(4)		
C17	8c Olive Bistre		.12	.40	.45	.65(4)	.01	
C18	50c Green	1.70	1.85	7.00	7.75	11.50(6)		***
C19	6c Dull Orange		.08	.28	.32	.35(4)		
C20	25c Blue		.30		1.10	1.75(6)	.08	
C21	20c Green		.25		.90	1.60(6)	.05	
C22	50c Carmine		.60		2.25	3.75(6)	.17	
C23	6c Blue & Carmine		.07		.28			7
	Center Line Block				.50			" when
	Arrow Block B. or R				.35	* * * * * * *		
C24	30c Dull Blue	33	.35	1.32	1.40	2.65	.18	

ECONOMIST STAMP CO., INC.

87 NASSAU STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

## An Expertizing Committee At the Collectors Club

Club has been given much consideration. In order to do this work properly, it had always been felt that the Club should have the proper set-up to work with. This would include not only the apparatus necessary for expertizing but access to suitable reference collections, and, of more importance, facilities for photographing and maintaining records.

With these ideas in mind, Hugh M. Clark presented the Club with the John N. Luff Room, which is equipped with photographic apparatus, quartz lamp, micrometer gauges, and much other apparatus that is necessary for work of this kind.

In addition to this, Charles J. Phillips began forming the nucleus of records which include photographs of thousands of known rarities. A movement is also on foot to establish another memorial room which would be equipped with additional photographic apparatus and files necessary for keeping adequate records.

The essential requirement of a reference collection has been solved temporarily at least by the offer of Scott Publications, Inc., to permit such a committee to use the Luff Reference Collection, which is probably the finest in existence.

So nothing remains to be done but to secure adequate financing and the individuals who will compose the committee.

In order to bring the matter to a head and consider the subject in its broadest aspects, Arthur W. Deas, President of the Collectors Club, has appointed a committee to study the possibilities and determine the feasibility of organizing an expertizing committee at this time. This committee consists of Alfred F. Lichtenstein and Arthur E. Owen, representing the collectors; Harry L. Lindquist and Hugh M. Clark representing the publishers; and Sidney F. Barrett and Emil Bruechig, for the dealers.

We feel that this is a step in the right direction and we hope that it will materialize in a committee qualified and equipped to carry on this all-important work.

-H. L. LINDQUIST.

The catalog numbers and prices used in the advertisements in this issue are all from Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalog unless specifically stated otherwise in the advertisement.

# CONFEDERATE COLUMN

By AUGUST DIETZ

An Outstanding Confederate Piece



Confederate Wrapper dated March 21, 1862, a unique piece, as described in the accompanying story.

remarked a collector to whom I showed the wrapper with its unusual frankature here illustrated. And it is just that, aside from its strip-of-five light blue Paterson tens and its magnificent single two-cent green. It is outstanding in many ways. . . .

I have seen quite a number of Confederate covers with multiple-rate letter postage. The greater number were official size envelopes used in the mailing of court documents, while others were of that blockade-rate required on Trans-Mississippi mailing, but this is the first wrapper with a high printed matter-rate postage that I have ever seen.

I am sure there were many during the war years, but stamp collecting had not come to the Confederacy and wrappers—unlike letters—were not preserved, at least not for the stamps that were on them. I consider the survival of this wrapper most remarkable.

It represents, too, an item of real postal history, in that it bears indubitable evidence of the two cents per ounce package-rate in the Confederacy in 1862.

A careful examination of the postmark reveals the date to be March 21, 1862—significant in that it places early use of the two-cent green.

The combination of ten-cent blues and a two-cent green is unique—and fortunate in this instance, in that the scarcer denominations were used. The excellent condition of the material may be readily noted from the illustration — more remarkable because, unlike an envelope, the wrapping paper was exposed to greater dangers of wear and wrinkling and tear—all of which, by good fortune, it escaped.

But let us take a look at the object itself. The cut-out measures 7½ x 4 inches. It is of gray-brown strong wrapping paper. The strip of Paterson tens are of the light blue shade, while the two-cent is in a deep green and perfectly margined. A manuscript notation in the lower left reads "26 oz." and the stamps amount to 52 cents, an amount that cannot be reconciled with the prevailing letter rates.

Addressed to Rev. Luther H. Wilson, Madisonville, Monroe Co., Tenn., it is quite probable that the printed matter it enfolded consisted of some religious publication emanating from Richmond, the home of several denominational papers during the War Between the States, and that the Pastor distributed this number among his subscribing parishioners—which would account for the weight.

Regarding the history of this wrapper, I am informed by the owner, Dr. Zaven M. Seron of Tampa, Florida, that it was the outstanding piece in a find of a small batch of war-time correspondence. In order to make the object more attractive, the Doctor has removed the uneven surplus of the original wrapper, trimming it

to the present size, but with care to preserve the complete addressing and the weight notation. In his letter to me, submitting it for inspection, he lays particular emphasis on the fact that it is not a cover, but a wrapper.

Accustomed as I am to being shown fine and unusual Confederate objects, this piece impressed me as being greatly out of "the usual run of the mine," and that the Doctor must, at least, share this showing with the readers of STAMPS.

Note

Since writing the foregoing, and stressing the scarcity of such surviving wrappers with printed matterrate frankatures, Lawrence L. Shenfield informs me: "\*\*\* I happen to have several newspaper wrappers and there is in existence a block of 12 of the 2c red used on a wrapper and paying the 12-oz. rate."

It would be interesting to collectors of Confederates to see a grouping of these rare objects illustrated and

storied in STAMPS.

## **MAY 3rd AUCTION**

Medium Priced U. S., 1893 to Date in Remarkably Fine Condition

Unused - Singles - Blocks - Positions

I offer the following Used Airmails:

U. S. 65c Graf Zepp. \$4.25 \$1.30 Graf Zepp. 9.50 \$2.60 Graf Zepp. 17.00 Set—\$27.00

#### J. J. KLEMANN, JR.

68 Nassau Street

New York, N. Y.

#### **ORDER IT TODAY!**



If you meant to answer last week's ad (outside back cover) but forgot . . . don't delay . . get out your copy of April 19 STAMPS right now and serd your order.

Don't forget to include a \$1. in your remittance for the "588" Variety Packet which is guaranteed to please you as it has thousands of others!

FREE: COLLECTORS HANDBOOK

# FIMER RINNG 203 MARKET ST.

Membership in your local Stamp Club will make your hobby more interesting.



Address communications to J. M. Bartels, 17 John St., New York, N. Y.

FTER many active years in the stamp business, it is quite fascinating to look back nearly half a century and note features of the stamp business in those early days.

My firm was founded in November, 1892, with a cousin, Thomas Semmes, in Alexandria, Va. He had accumulated a large stock, mostly of common U. S. stamps of the period, having conducted a stamp business for several years with his brother-inlaw, Gilbert Bastable, and later with Frank Lambert under the firm name of Semmes & Lambert, at Alexandria, Va. Thomas Semmes, now a retired clergyman, resides at Richmond, Va., enjoying good health at 80.

The writer had returned from Europe in 1892 where he had acquired extensive philatelic connections during prolonged stays in England and Germany. Equipped with a substantial stock of U.S. wholesale material, an extensive advertising campaign in European stamp papers soon overwhelmed us with orders. Most of the larger firms were among our clientele such as J. B. Moens, Brussels; Senf Bros., Leipzig; W. S. Lincoln, London; Paul Gewelke, Berlin; G. Lublin, Berlin; E. Petritz, Dresden; Schneebi, Zurich; Henry Heller, Berne; F. A. Hoffmann, Paris; Ad. Lohmann, Hamburg; Ferd. Redwitz, Stuttgart; Wm. Brown, Salisbury, and many others.

Very soon, on January 1, 1893, the great Columbians were issued and this first beautiful commemorative pictorial set was naturally in enormous demand. It was not difficult to get very large quantities of the 1c and 2c, denominations, 3-10c were naturally far more difficult though many orders per 100 of the latter were promptly filled. The 3c and 6c were scarce but worth face when used and quite frequently these values were placed on self addressed mail to secure enough to complete sets to 10c, but used values above 10c were rarely obtainable through regular sources.

Recently one of our old record books beginning with April, 1893, has come to light again, giving in detail wholesale prices and quantities supplied during the following two years. It should be borne in mind that in those days there was no such thing as distinctions between Nationals, Continentals, Americans or Re-engraved printings. For instance, a 3c green would be either ungrilled or grilled. No types of the 1851-57-1c were listed, all were sold at the same price, pairs, strips and blocks were priced as singles, etc.

Here is a selection of interesting figures copied from orders filled in 1893-95: The 1847, 5c were bringing 35c; the 10c, \$3.25, on cover, \$3.50; 1851, 1c we sold at \$1.50 per 10: the 3c many unpicked thousands at \$1 per 100; the 1857, 3c at \$5.50 per 1,000. Others as follows per hundred: 1861-3c-25c, grilled \$1; 1863-2c, \$2; 1869-2c (per 10) 50c, 3c—90c; 1870-82, 1c—10c, 2c— 50c, 3c-75c (per 1,000), 6c-1c each, 10c-30c per 100; 1875, 2c vermilion 15c per 100, 5c Taylor 15c per 10; 1883, 4c green 50c; 1887-88, 1c-4c, 2c green (per 10,000)-\$1.50, 4c carmine—\$1.25 per 100, 5c blue 50c; 1890 per 100, 3c-80c, 4c-25c, 5c-20c, 6c-\$4, 10c-20c, 15c -\$4, 30c—\$3.

The Columbians were in enormous demand, the records show single orders filled: 5,000, 1c-\$15; 2c, 15,-000, \$13.50; 2c cut squares per 10,-000, \$30; other values per 100: 3c-\$2, 4c—\$4.50, 5c—\$2.50, 6c—\$6, 8c \$4.75, 10c—\$2.50. Issue 1894/-95, 10c (sold to N. E. Carter) 5,200 for \$9.90. Numerous orders were for a combination at \$17.50; 10,000 each of 3c green, 1883-2c, 1887-2c, 1890-1, 2c, 1893-2c, 1887 cut squares 2c green, a total of 70,000 stamps, all were filled.

Sales made of Confederate States: 1861, 10c blue on covers \$7.50 per 10, 5c green on covers 40 for \$13.60, 10c on cover \$3, 2c green on cover \$3, five on same cover \$11.

#### FULL MARKET-

#### PRICE PAID

Prompt action if you wish to sell your collection - large or small.

M. LEVI =

33 E. 70th St., New York, N. Y.

#### SOUVENIR SHEETS

Russia, New Discovery, Ministure Sheet, 1st Philatelic Exhib. in Moscow 1932 Scott #485-486 (1x4) Imperf....\$30.00

#### WANTED

Miniature Sheets Cancelled, or on 1st day covers. Submit collections, or accumulations at your lowest price, for immediate cash

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#### SPECIAL BUILT FIREPROOF SAFES AND CABINETS For Stamp and Coin Collections

TAMMI SAFE & VAULT CO. 2204 S. Kinnickinnie Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

By Securing the Services of the Philatelic Research Laboratories, inc.

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES, INC. America's Leading Auction Galleries offer unequalled facilities for the disposal of important philatelic properties.

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\$5.00 America—\$2.00 Capitol—plus famous Americans, precancels, commema, dues, coils, blocks, pairs, old and new issues, 16c air spec., 15c apoet, delivery, high value pres.,—500 to 600 stamps to the lot—only \$1.00 per lot postpaid.

My Bargain Lists Sent Postage Brea.

Write for them today. Sets—Packets—Airmails.

H. TYNES, Box 261, E. St. Louis, Ill.

STAMP COLLECTORS ATLAS
This atlas is a great contribution to philately. There are many place names on
stamps which no longer appear in the ordinary atlas. The maps of this atlas show
every past and present stamp issuing
country or place. Completely indexed. Was
\$.25. NOW—15c.

LINDQUIST PUBLICATIONS
2 West 46th St. New York, N. Y.



#### FREE! U. S. & B. N. A. CATALOG

#### WITH NEARLY ONE THOUSAND ILLUSTRATIONS!

Send for our 80-page illustrated catalog, "United States Stamps, U. S. Possessions & British North America". Complete except for great rarities! Lowest prices! An invaluable check list and dependable source of supply. Large illustrated "Catalog of Foreign Stamps" also included. Both catalogs free on request.

H. E. HARRIS & CO., 75 Transit Building, BOSTON, MASS.

MINT ONLY

J. Avery Wells

## INTERESTING SHEETS

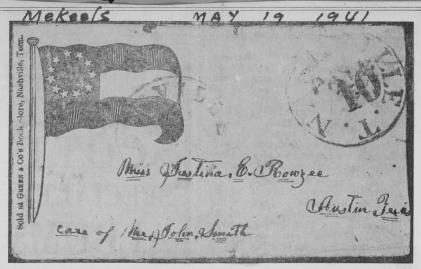
ONLY MINT

BELGIUM—#B179—CHARLEROI YOUTH EXHIBITION—With Town Hall and Belfry. \$.95
GERMANY—#B91-B92—OLYMPIC GAMES SHEETS—Two attractive Block-of-four sheets .69
HUNGARY—#B113—FLOOD RELIEF—Charity Sheet for Flood victims. . . .65
LUECHTENSTEIN—#B14—POSTAL MUSEUM—Imperforate Block-of-four Sheet . 1.05
LUXEMBOURG—#217—ANNIVERSARY SHEET—With special commemorative cachet . .85
POLAND—#B29-B30—WARSAW PHILATELIC SHEETS—Perforate and Imperforate . .2.35
POLAND—#B31—STRATOSPHERE BALLOON SHEET—Well designed picture Sheet . .75
PORTUGAL—EDINTENTALY OF THE POSTAGE STAMP SHEET—With Sir Rowland Hill .76
RUMANIA—IRON GUARD SHEET—Diminutive Sheet with Vasile Marin and Ion Mota. 2.55
TURKEY—#841—KEMAL ATATURK COMMEMORATIVE—100ku blue black portrait . 1.25

#### THE HOME OF THE POSTAGE STAMP

BOX 30, JACKSON HEIGHTS, NEW YORK Telephone HAvemeyer 4-2202

J. Van Kirk Wells



Photograph of the recently discovered unique Nashville Provisional surcharged 10 over PAID 5 in blue on Confederate 11 star patriotic cover which was sold at Public Auction on May 6th for \$135.00 by the Ohlman Galleries, 116 Nassau Street, New York City.

## The Providence Postmaster Find

E. Tudor Gross in sending a letter concerning the "Providence Find" writes

"As you know, Mr. A. B. Slater in 1930 wrote a monograph on the Providence Postmaster Stamp and has given us a very complete history of all the details connected with it. I very much regret that when he was preparing his article I did not send him the enclosed letter, as I am sure he would have wished to incorporate it in his article. As a Providence man, I was naturally interested in the Providence Postmaster Stamp put out in 1846 from this city and happened to know Mr. Henry B. Hagan, the son of John Hagan, one of the three letter carriers of Providence in 1846. For many years, local collectors had heard various stories about the so-called 'Hagan find'. These were greatly exaggerated and some rather fantastic. As a result, I asked Mr. Hagan one day to tell me what he knew about the find, although it happened before he was born. He told me what is contained in his letter of May 21, 1924, and I asked him to put it in writing so that I might keep it as a record. This letter I have had in my secretary ever since and only ran across it the other day when I was doing a hit of cleaning.

day when I was doing a bit of cleaning.
I know of no one living who is better able to tell the facts than Mr. Henry B. Hagan, and I thought your readers might be interested in what he had written, even if it was seventeen years ago. I think perhaps when I get this letter back from you I will turn it over to the Rhode Island Historical Society to be kept with the Slater book."

May 21, 1924.

E. Tudor Gross, Esq. Providence, R. I.

My dear Mr. Gross: In relation to and confirming our recent conversation about Providence Postage Stamps, original issue, I will say that I very much regret that the story was ever published with such exaggeration as to finding of a lot of these stamps by the late John Hagan, my father, and one of

the first letter carriers of our city.

I don't know who is responsible for the fanciful story of these stamps being used by his children, to paper the walls of a room, but I do know it is preposterous, absurd and a joke. As near as I can recall hearing my mother tell of it, for it all happened before I was born, the

real facts are these:

When it was decided to discontinue their use, the janitor was instructed to burn up the supply on hand, and when about to throw them into the furnace, my father picked up a few sheets (and not bundles as reported) and said he would take them home for the children to play with. Later as my mother saw the children putting some on a tree-box in front of the house, took charge of the rest and put them away saying that some day these may be valuable and in later years and after my father's death she dealt out a

U. S. RARITY #499c
2c 1917 issue imperforate horizontally (Catalogues \$400 in a pair). A fortunate purchase enables us to offer these, showing "blind perforations" through middle of bottom stamp, priced at
Per pair ... \$2.00 Per block ... \$4.00
Be smart, order at once. Our supply of these, through previous advertising, is rapidly diminishing.

RUMARK COMPANY 116 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.

# **NEW ISSUES**

Bulgaria, May 1st ovpt., piet. (6) \$1.25 China, 3c & 10c Sun Yat Sen (2) .03 Kansu ovpt. 3c on 5c ... (2) .20 Hunnan ovpt. 3c on 5c ... (2) .20 Provisional 3c red ovpt. . (1) .12 Airmails, re-engraved ... (3) .15 Czecho, Bohemia semi-postal prs. (2) .35 France Marcchal se ai-postals (2) .55 50/75c,50/80c, 1° ovpts. (3) .15 Ireland, 25th anniv. set s. (2) .18 Italy, new Hitler-Muse picts. (3) .15 Postage Extra on Orders Under \$1.00. Postage Extra on Orders Under \$1.00.

Remittances in Postage, 10% Extra. DOWNTOWN STAMP COMPANY

95 Bank Street

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Newark, N. J.

few to my older brothers to sell for whatever they could get. I am of the opinion and firmly believe that sixty sheets in all would cover the entire lot.

Very respectfully yours, (Signed) H. B. HAGAN.

(The Slater booklet was reviewed in Mekeel's, August 25, 1930, issue by Philip H. Ward, Jr.—Ep.)

t off ith avi: V

# rings Stamps on Sale May 1

0 Cents to \$5-Albums Furnished

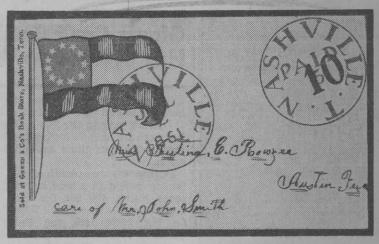
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stamps, re to be y 87/100 with the n of the 1-44/100 be vertinominating green; and \$5

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PATRIOTIC Confederate cover bearing rare surcharge.

Unique Confederate Provisional
One of the most unusual Con-

federate Provisional Covers ever known has been found in Texas.

The cover, in the possession of a Southern family since the Civil War, was given to the present owner by a great aunt who is a daughter of the "John Smith" referred to on the envelope.

It is a patriotic cover, bearing in colors an eleven-star Confederate flag together with the 5c Nashville, Tenn., handstamped provisional, postmarked July 2, 1861. This provisional, Scott's No. 61XU3 (Dietz Type 3), has

an additional blue surcharge "10" over the "Paid 5."

The item was sent to August Dietz of Richmond, Va. eminent authority on Confederate stamps, who described it as "an outstanding example" of a handstamped provisional and an exceptionally fine item. He stated that it might almost be called a "Double Provisional." After endorsing the rarity, Dietz announced that it would appear in the next Confederate catalogue.

The cover will be sold at Public Auction on May 6 by the Ohlman Galleries, 116 Nassau St.

Report to: Harry B. Keffer, Esq.

Elm St.

New Haven, Conn.

Subject: 1869 30¢ Scott #121 used on hotel cover from Philadelphia

to Paris.

Question: . Was this stamp genuinely used on this cover?

The series of photographs accompanying report will provide the answer to the question above.

Photos 1846 and 1847 are ordinary record pictures of the front and back of the cover.

Photos 1848 and 1849 show a clear difference between the ink of the cancellation where it appears on the stamp and where it appears on the cover. This point is made more clear in Photo 1848, which is an enlargement of the upper right corner of the cover showing all postmarks and cancellations. It will be noted in this photograph that the ink of the address is distinctly over the red "New York" postmark. The lettering in this postmark is irregular, yet it is of an even intensity throughout.

This is still apparent in Photo 1852B which was taken with a view to emphasizing the red in the picture and weakening the blue. Photo 1849 was taken with a view to the opposite effect, that of intensifying the blue and weakening the red.

From Photo 1848 it should also be apparent that the Philadelphia post-mark is over the French packet cancellation. A distinct doubling of the frame of this packet cancellation is noted both at top and bottom. A slight doubling is noticed in the "6" of "6E" but not in a single one of the other letters.

While the rate would be correct for a letter weighing more than a fourth of an ounce, the transit marks and receiving postmark are within correct limits of use. This in itself would not validate the cover in view of the other facts presented, all of which show that this stamp was mounted on a blank envelope. It was "tied" by brush work and the postmarks drawn or painted in.

On visual examination through the cover there is even the appearance of a slight thinning near the top of the stamp, though naturally this could not be confirmed without removing the stamp from the cover.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.

By (signed) Y. Souren
President.



"WARD'S PHILATELIC NEWS"

EDITOR
UNITED STATES CHRONICLE
"MEKEEL'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS"

STAMP BDITOR
"ST. NICHOLAS MAGAZINE"



PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

1616 WALNUT STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA.

U. S. A.

March 7, 1942.

CABLE ADDRESS
"WARD," PHILADELPHIA

TELEPHONE
PENNYPACKER 3237

Dear Stan:

I went down to the Mercantile Library yesterday and checked over the Philadelphia Directories for 1870 and 1871. The Directories were put out to Gopsill's Street Index and City Guide, published by James Gopsill of 201 South Fifth Street. I could not find any West End Hotel in either, but found five Charles T. Jones, listed as follows:

1 - Clerk - 618 Sansom.

2 - Bricklayer - N. Broad Street.

3 - Farmer - Ridge Avenue.

4 - President - 131 S. 5th.

5 - Sawmaker - 108 Otter.

I am going to try and get to the Historical Society this week and see if they can throw any information on the subject.

Sincerely your

phw.jr/l.

To-

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,

434 South Grand Ave. ,

Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Report to: Harry B. Keffer, Esq.

Elm St.

New Haven, Conn.

Subject: 1869 30¢ Scott #121 used on hotel cover from Philadelphia

to Paris.

Question: Was this stamp genuinely used on this cover?

The series of photographs accompanying report will provide the answer to the question above.

Photos 1846 and 1847 are ordinary record pictures of the front and back of the cover.

Photos 1848 and 1849 show a clear difference between the ink of the cancellation where it appears on the stamp and where it appears on the cover. This point is made more clear in Photo 1848, which is an enlargement of the upper right corner of the cover showing all postmarks and cancellations. It will be noted in this photograph that the ink of the address is distinctly over the red "New York" postmark. The lettering in this postmark is irregular, yet it is of an even intensity throughout.

This is still apparent in Photo 1852B which was taken with a view to emphasizing the red in the picture and weakening the blue. Photo 1849 was taken with a view to the opposite effect, that of intensifying the blue and weakening the red.

From Photo 1848 it should also be apparent that the Philadelphia postmark is over the French packet cancellation. A distinct doubling of the frame of this packet cancellation is noted both at top and bottom. A slight doubling is noticed in the "6" of "6E" but not in a single one of the other letters.

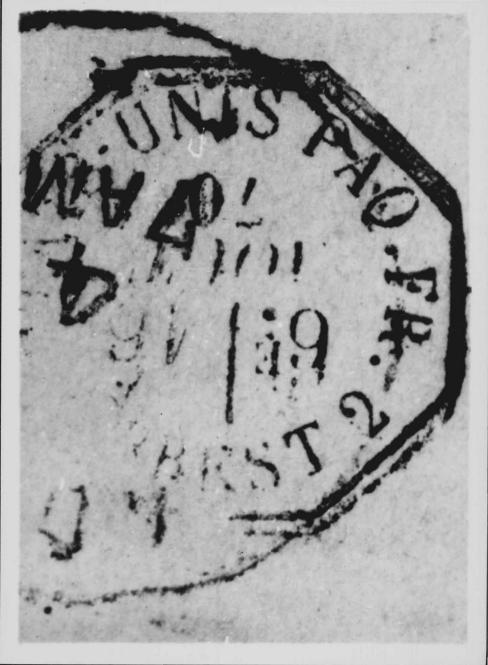
While the rate would be correct for a letter weighing more than a fourth of an ounce, the transit marks and receiving postmark are within correct limits of use. This in itself would not validate the cover in view of the other facts presented, all of which show that this stamp was mounted on a blank envelope. It was "tied" by brush work and the postmarks drawn or painted in.

On visual examination through the cover there is even the appearance of a slight thinning near the top of the stamp, though naturally this would not be confirmed without removing the stamp from the cover.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.

By (signed) Y. Souren
President.





"WARD'S PHILATELIC NEWS"

EDITOR

UNITED STATES CHRONICLE

"MEKEEL'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS"

STAMP EDITOR

"ST. NICHOLAS MAGAZINE"



PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

1616 WALNUT STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
U. S. A.

March 10, 1942

"WARD," PHILADELPHIA

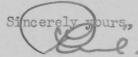
TELEPHONE
PENNYPACKER 3237

Dear Stan:

I have had the records of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania checked and find that there was no West End Hotel listed in Philadelphia in 1870. The first Directory that lists such a hotel is 1877 and at that time it was located at: 1526 Chestnut Street and the proprietor was: Conner T. Jones. The 1879 Directory gives the name of a similar hotel, located at: 505 South 23rd Street, which was operated by: Christian G. Nagele. I do not know if this is the same hotel that moved or not. The early directories from 1869 to 1876 do not even mention such a hotel.

phw.jr/h.m.l.

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



Feb. 23, 1942,

Mr. Robert C. Hooghkirk, Edgewood Stamp Co., Milford, Conn.

Dear Mr. Hooghkirk:

Referring to the 30¢ 1869 cover which you sent me for an opinion in August 1940. I am now convinced that my opinion at that time was partly in error, and that the 30¢ 1869 did not originate on this cover.

I think that there is no doubt but what the three postmarks on the face are genuine, except that possibly an alteration may have been made in the year date of the French marking. In all probability the date of use of this cover was later than 1870 and that the 30¢ stamp was substituted for the one which was originally on the cover. My suspicion is that the original stamp was a 10¢ National.

I sincerely regret that my conclusions in my former letter were undoubtedly in error, and I therefore enclose my check for \$2.00 in return for the fee I charged.

Sincerely yours,

#### EDGEWOOD STAMP COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1900

ROBERT C. HOOGHKIRK

MILFORD, CONNECTICUT

March 5. 1942.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letter dated February 23rd at hand. We return your check herein since it was our understanding that your fee was for examining and not for declaring the item genuine. Would you care to tell us on what basis you have formed your opinion that the 30¢ 1869 did not originate on this cover? Originally the writer had this in mind but the most careful examination could not detect that the stamp had been changed. We assume that you photographed the item and had the photo for reference when you changed your decision. Understand in this I am not attempting to argue the matter but am simply interested to find out just what the situation is that would cause you to change your mind. Incidentally, do you take on the examination of any foreign items - early British North America, etc.? Will be glad to hear from you when convenient.

Sincerely, R. C. Horghlind.

RCH : G

Feb. 23, 1942.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer, 15 Broadway, New Haven, Conn.

Dear Harry:

Yours of the 18th received. I think that about all that can be said of Souren's report is that the photographs are very good. In short his opinion is that someone took a black "West End Hotel" envelope, put a canceled 30¢ on the cover, painted the tie and "drew or painted" in the postmarks. As evidence of the latter, he states that the red N.Y. postmark is over pen lines of the address and the Philadelphia is over the French. Consider this. Here is a point which is very develving in examining covers. A think washed line will always look like it is under a heavier drawn line. My opinion is that the New York and French postmarks are genuine and doubtless the Philadelphia marking is also genuine. If so, the New York was not put on over the address and the Philadelphia was not put over the Fench. My guess is that the year dates were altered. I think the "0" of "70" was changed from a latter date possibly "73" or even "76." Note how much heavier the "0" is than the "7" and how much larger (?) it is.

As partial proof that the year of use was not 1870, I find that there was no sailing of a French packet from New York on August 5, 1870. TheyFrench sailings were twice a month:

S.S.Pereire -- July 9 S.S.Lafayette - July 23 S.S.Wille De Paris Aug. 6 S.S. St.Laurent - Aug. 20

I think you will find that Aug. 5, 1870 fell on Friday, and this was an off day, as no mail packets departed on Fridays. I haven't a list of sailings for 1871, but it is quite possible that this use was 1871, and that Aug. 5 fell on a saturday in 1871 and further that a French mail packet sailed on that date. Could you drop over to Yale and look thru the New York newspapers of August 1871 and check me on the above? Also you might check me on the above 1870 sailings.

On second thought I am more inclined to believe that this use was actually 1871 as the New York postmark doesn't show as much wear as do strikes of this marking in 1873 and later. If Souren thinks this marking is a fake, he is just plain muts. It is exactly the same marking as Rust sale #2159 and no one would say 2159 is a painted or drawn in marking. I believe that a 10¢ National was removed and the 30¢ substituted, and the use was 1871. Why should Zareski draw or paint postmarks when it is not necessary.

Note that "70" again. Note the vertical line thru the fake "0." Is this line a trace of the former "1?"

In a few days I'll have the dope on the West End Hotel at Philadelphia and whether or not that "C.T.Jones" was the proprietor in 1870. Doubtless this will prove very little.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer, Feb. 23, 1942.

Yes, the 10¢ grill cover could easily be changed by a crook to an 1869 issue cover, but why a 10¢ 1869, why not a 15¢ or a 30¢? How many collectors know that the rate was only 10¢ by direct steamer to Prussia in Jan. 1870?

Ezra showed me the 15¢ 1867 cover and I made a photo of it as it was an excellent example of the class of covers on which substitutions are made. Every marking on this cover would be 0.K. for a 15¢ 1869 cover and if the faker was greedy he could use a 30¢ instead of a 15¢ and few would know that the "6" in the Boston meant a 15¢ rate instead of a 30¢ rate.

Regarding Tows. My only interest in Hawaii is in U.S. Hawaii rates and covers. I had in mind getting in touch with someone who had made a study of the subject, because I have done quite a bit along this line myself. Spence Anderson showed me several covers with 3¢ greens and they were contrary to usual uses. Spence informed me later he had sold the covers to Tows. I wondered if he had seen similar uses and was familiar with such items. Perhaps we could swap ideas. That is what I had in mind. I wrote Tows and mentioned the covers. In reply he stated that he would be glad to lunch with me the next time I was in New York.

Harry it is possible Richey might be interested in any of the Hawaii covers that you have unsold. If you care to send some out to me, I'll be only tooglad to submit them to him.

Regarding the photographs. That certainly is fine and I'll take good care of them and greatly appreciate your kindness. They are excellent reference material.

The idea occurred to me that you might know of someone who has a little time and would go thru the 1871 file of New York newspapers and compile a list of the sailings for the Research Group. Naturally, we will pay for such work. I wanted to see if there were any news items or notices regarding rates of postage to France in 1870 and had a search made of the files at the New York Library covering period Dec. 1869 to Sept. 1870 but failed to turn up any information.

Whenever you want to join our little Group just let me know. We will be only too glad to have you with us. In the next Bulletin I will include some data on the 1870 sailings.

Please keep the enclosed photo so you won't forget the New York post-mark, also take a look at this lot in the sale.

Yours etc.,

Feb. 16, 1942.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer, 15 Broadway, New Haven, Conn.

Dear Harry:

Referring to that 30¢ 1869 cover submitted to me by the Edgewood Stamp Co. of Milford, Conn. I am enclosing you a photo of a cover which is Lot 2159 in the coming Rust sale on Feb. 24th. I think this has the same red "New York" postmark that was on the 30¢ cover. You will note the date of the Rust cover is March 1876. It is a wobbly looking circle and it looks much older on the Rust cover than the strike on the 30¢ cover. I located a 30¢ 1869 cover in a prominent collection which was supposed to be used on Mar. 1, 1870 and strange to state, this Rust cover is also "Mar. 1" and the marking is an exact duplicate of the one supposed to be used in 1870, wear and all. I have a suspicion that the 30¢ Mar. 1, 1870 cover was a later use probably in 1873 or 1874 and that originally it had a 10d bank note. I don't imagine this particular handstamp is scarce but I would like to see all the examples I can locate. If you have any covers in stock with this marking will you be so kind as to loan them to me?

One other thing about the "30¢ Mar. 1, 1870" cover. It was from New Orleans and has a postmark reading, "New Orleans - Feb. 26 - 2 P.M. La." I don't ever recall seeing a New Orleans postmark with the time of day used so early. I think New Orleans didn't start to use these time of day postmarks until along about 1875. Do you ever recall seeing an earlier use? New York, Boston, and Philadelphia started the use in the late sixties of the time postmarks but I have no record of the exact years.

As near as I could determine, none of the year dates on the #dge-wood cover were altered, hence I think the use must have been in Aug. 1870. But at that time we had no treaty with France and postage could not be prepaid to French destination in this country unless there was some temporary arrangement about which I know nothing. I am more suspicious than ever that the 30% stamp did not originate on the cover, but was the use 1870 and what stamp was on the cover originally? These are points I intend to clear up. Why was there no French postage due marking? I'll appreciate your co-operation.

Ezra was here with the Rust sale, and no doubt any local bids will be turned over to him to execute. I doubt if I could change any arrangements at this time but I will certainly bear you in mind should occasion arise.

J.M.Bartels, 17 John St., New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bartels:

It is unfortunate that not all of the expert opinion that has been given on the 24¢ pair has been uniform. You did not inform me who had given opinions on the item so if I tread on the toes of any of my friends it will at least be without malice! Stevenson once said, in his early work on the grills, "by their footprints you shall know them" and it is still wise to form ones opinion from the grills in question and not from the opinion that someone has given on them.

It is my unbiased opinion that both the grills and the cancellation of are faked. I base my conclusions on the following observations;

- 1. I am unable to note any evidence of the so-called "spiral effect" that can usually be quite easily seen on any genuine grill and which is particularly easy to detect in a horizontal pair. The effect can be checked by an examination of the top and/or bottom horizontal rows.
- 2. In looking at the pair of stamps from the back, the grill on the stamp which is then the right hand stamp has one of the characteristics that is very often found on fake grills. When the stamps are observed by holding them at the proper angle to direct light, (indirect or fluorescent light is just about worthless in the studying of grills), it can be observed that a slight ridge seems to follow along the omtaide edge of the last vertical row on the left. The most common faked grills seem to be those that have been coming out of California in various mixtures and bargain rate deals and all of them have this particular fault to a marked degree. This particular fault on the 24% pair is not enough to condemn them in itself but it all adds in to the final result.
- 3. I have often observed that faked grills quite often do not seem to have broken the fibres as well as the genuine in spite of the fact that they may appear to the eye to have done a very good job. When these fakes are placed in benzine the grills do not appear to show as quickly or as strongly as the genuine. This pair does not respond as quickly as a quantity of genuine grills that were tested against them.
- 4. Viewing the stamps from the back, the grill on the stamp at the left shows an irregularity in the grill points that I do not believe ever appears on genuine grills. If the stamps are held at an angle to the light it can be noted that the last vertical row on the right(left stamp) is quite irregular. The second grill point from the bottom is far out of place as it is too for to the right, and from what can be observed of the grill point that forms the bottom right hand corner, it is also too far to the right. This effect can be noted in several other places on each of the two stamps.

a tension Bright Segrent The shape of the individual grill points is very good and the grill is a very dangerous one in my opinion. I conclude that the cancellation was applied after the grill due to the fact that ink did not enter some of the squares, that are quite clearly defined by the absence of ink within them. The faker was clever enough to bring out this effect by a fairly light cancellation.

Unless you are convinced that I have drawn the right conclusions in regard to this item I would be glad to have you tell those experts who have examined the stamps of my findings. Perhaps upon close examination they may find their previous examinations have been too hasty. If the opinions were given on casual inspections it is not to be wondered at that some were given as "genuine" because this is a really clever job.

It comes to mind that it might be inferred by the paragraph about the cancellation that I was using the cancellation to help prove, by my method of reasoning, that the grill was false. The reverse is true--I believe that the cancellation is false because I believe the grill is false.

No man knows all the answers or bats 1000% all the time--either I am right or the experts that have previously looked over this item are right. Take your choice. (who say the guil is O.K.)

Glad to have had the opportunity of examining this pair.

Sincerely yours,

L.G. Brookman

Mr. G. Gilbert, March 20, 1942.

Question marks indicate figures or letters which are not legible. I will be glad to submit the cover if you wish to examine it.

Again may I repeat, if my information was in error regarding Mr. McCoy I sincerely apologize. However, this is of little concern because I am not interested in McCoy in the slightest degree. It is entirely immaterial to me whether he resigns as editor or continues his office.

No, Mr. Gilbert I made no pretense to a knowledge of everything, and regret that I gave you that impression. I had in mind that we might collaborate to the mutual advantage of American Philately on certain phases of U.S.-French rates, this because I do not claim to know everything. I thought perhaps such a collaboration would perhaps solve certain problems for which I haven't the correct answers at present.

If I have disputed your theories on our early plates, it is not because I wish to perpetuate any errors of the past but solely because I honestly believe your theories are wrong and I strongly resent the publication of information which is contrary to established facts. I am positive that your statements can be disproved.

On the British steel plate #27 I was quoting from memory. If I erred in the demomination of the stamp, it was quite beside the point. The point I was raising was that one of the early Perkins Bacon steel plates yielded over a million impressions. It is really immaterial whether it was the Penny black or Penny red. What has the color, black or red to do with the assertion I made. I was not aware that the Eagle and Franklin plates are still in existence. If they are, and all I have is your statement, then it can be proved whether or not you are right or wrong.

Both of these plates were made in 1851 and I am positive they were steel lates. However, if you can prove otherwise, then more power to you, and promise you I will humbly apologize to you and make whatever restitution you demand, even to the extent of offering you a public apology and my thanks for correcting a most important point in our postal history.

Inasmuch as you are to produce the proof of your statements, I see no reason for the present to continue our argument as to whether the Toppan Carpenter plates were steel or copper. If you can prove they were copper, or rather can prove that the Franklin and Eagle plates were copper then most assuredly it would be very absurd to argue with you. All I can add is that I wish you luck.

Very truly yours,



#### HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN

111 WEST 56TH STREET NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-1900

#### Dear Mr. Ashbrook

your last later July came to have , but I was not very well for a few bays and I has to stop . It is a lit difficult to look at the cover Nº 1788 from the catalogue. There is a Shift in the french marking which may be sufficions, however, the rate may be correct 24 c. U.S. portage and 30 c fruch one It was carried from W.y. by W.S. packet and Lander over to the maritime P. O. in Cherbourg.

I suppose that by now you have been veading my article on U.S. plate made by "Galvaroplasty". -. I am sorry to day that a few errors did made by "Galvaroplasty". -. I am sorry to day that a few errors proofs come out. It seems impossible have to get proof prints of corrected proofs.

In France I made an agreement with your & Tellier never to print catalogue.

A France I made an agreement with your aus dates. I corrected the special catalogue.

Aughting before having an O. K. Signed and dates. Then in Here, they even district put my name on top of my article. Then in the list of the 19 coffer plates, they printed 30 plate 4 second state, there can be us second state it is just like the import, steeled galvanoplasty.

Then on the SE 1847, the reproduction is from a Reprint day down Die,

and they print Phate Proof! - It is discouraging. I have some very interesting publications, but I am fetting

1- I have articles on France - Early and also Bontcauxistus, never published 2- Thave a complete study of France early Refrints and quantity printer no our knows there were toro Reprints and different

3- I have a complete study of Bolivia first islue, I can also from that Kahl is wrong, no Referents ever exister, only forferies. 4- I have a study of Brazil the two first issues from coffer plates.

Former 15 years, I have been waiting to find the proof that if my diduction

mere right I 11 - 2-1: This is the first the proof of the first the proof that if my diduction mere right, I should find like in U.S. plate I Cimented to ans fer

reafpeaving later. I found the proof a fortnight ago in N.y. Haffily in was a the hack of a letter of a fortnight afo in N.y. Haffily in was a the hack of a letter of the letter of the stand of the st in was on the back of a letter and no one looked at the stamps, they wanter the stamps on the front of the cover. Everyone has been the collection before me. what happened to U.S. plate 1 one cent happened. to Brazil secont issue. But it is not inverted. Some old transfer which hav been burnished, reafpeared, list of course only in late printing in early ones it does not show up. The same thing keppened to a "Rembrandt's " coffer plate in the 17th contary.

- I have a complete study of all the Muxico plates.

- A study to detect the Referents of Mexico.

- A complete study of careada exply plates.

None of these have ever Been printed.

Do you know someone I can vely on for printing: would you allow me to reproduce the illustration you Sine on page 226. of you I cent blue. I hough of copper, this plate was steel handened and therefore it could not be reconditioned. I have the exact fame thing in a lexico plate, but as it was of coffer, but not stules, the plate could be used further. When of steel or copper steel hardened it is impossible. I know what happened to that plake, Jame then, happened to a Mexico one. I mently found a cover, unfortunately very poor, but it seems an interesting document. Sent from Mexico City on the 4 Oct 1856, it arrived in New Orleans on Nov. 19 and beans two - 1 Real yellow Mexico 1856 ant a pair of 3 c. 1851 imperf, both items being cancelled with N. Orl. portmark, Mexico and U.S. Stamps. Further the lexico stamps are cancelles also by a red oral forwarding Agency FORWARDED By this being struck a Lecont time FRED "CAMERBON" reny clearly on the coner. MEWORLEANS the leter is addressed to New York. Rufortunately someone put dirty ink on the name of the addressee and part of it even ment over one of the llexico stamp. I also found this time a beautiful cover withe HAWAIIAN 15 (alsolutely date) on a straight line dated 1850, San Francisco ned complete date) for mark 400. I also found a Calif. cover with 30, "over land mail "sent to south state, how long did this 30 rate over land up to 3000 miles last? I picked it up for 250. yours very somerely excilent.

Feb. 5, 1942.

Mr. G. Gilbert, % Hotel Great Northern, 118 W. 57th St., New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Referring to yours letter of the lst. It is true that the cover illustrated in the Knapp catalogue, Lot 1788, is a rather poor illustration but the point I wished to emphasize was this. The rate on this cover was originally 15¢ U.S. postage, not 45¢ as the cover shows. The 30¢ did not originate on this cover but was added by some crook.

Regardless of the French cancelation or how genuinely it appears to tie the 30¢ stamp, the postal markings on this cover clearly show, to those who can read them, that the original rate was 15¢ and not 45¢. If you were familiar with the U. S. French postal treaty in effect at the time, this letter was mailed, you would realize at a glance without even looking to see what stamps were on the cover that the original rate was 15¢. Thus a cover with a U. S. 12¢ and 3¢ 1869 with the simple addition of a 30¢ stamp is reputed to have sold for \$210.00 and no doubt the sale was authentic, hence the buyer has a 30¢, 12¢ and 3¢ 1869 for which he raid \$210.00. As a cover, the item is valueless because it is not what it was originally.

I read your article in the Collectors Club Philatelist but have no comment to make other than this. The 1847 plates were copper, all the Toppan, Carpenter plates of 1851-1857-1860 were of steel. Perhaps you hardly realize how far your statements to the contrary, differ with the facts. Regarding the 1847 plates, if you think there was only one 5¢ plate of 100 subjects and one 10¢ plate of 100 subjects then you are most certainly wrong, but it would be as futile to argue on this subject as arguing with a person who thought the world was flat. Of course my dear Mr. Gilbert, it is perhaps none of my business what statements you publish, that is certainly your own concern, but what disturbs me is the harm that your misstatements accomplish.

I rather marveled at your reference to the affidavit in Mr. Luff's book and I wondered if you thought that our foremost American students were not thoroughly familiar with every word in the Luff book. I am wondering if it occurred to you that Mr. Luff's book was written in the late 1890's and that in the many years which have passed that many of his statements and theories have been proved to be wholly in error.

The affidavit you quoted from the Luff book has been printed and commented upon many, many times in the American philatelic press, yet you seem to have just discovered it and to have assumed that here indeed was an actual fact.

There were so many errors and misstatements of fact in your notes on pages 64 and 65 that I have little doubt that the wording under

Mr. G. Gilbert, Feb. 5, 1942.

the illustration will be noticed. Perhaps the editor really did you a favor when he omitted your name from the two articles. Perhaps many readers will conclude that this was done on purpose and that the articles thru error were published in the January issue instead of the April issue.

For any of my remarks which may be misconstrued, may I humbly apologize.

Regarding other articles you have prepared, may I refer you to my good friend Mr. Harry L. Lindquist of New York. Whenever I feel the urge to inflict my writings upon the patience of American collectors I appeal to Mr. Lindquist. He is undoubtedly the foremost philatelic publisher in America, in fact we have never had his equal. In addition, he is a charming gentleman, and one who always has his feet on the ground, if you know what I mean. So I am sure Mr. Lindquist can offer you the best of advice and I haven't a doubt but what he will be pleased to do so.

Regarding the illustration on page 226 (Vol. 1) of my book. I suppose you refer to Fig. 19W. You will note that I stated that Plate 3 was made of steel, hence if you wish to use my illustration to refute my statement of fact, I fear my dear Mr. Gilbert, I will be forced to refuse, because I hardly think it would be exactly fair.

Regarding your cover from Mexico thru New Orleans. Please note the cover I illustrated in Vol. 2, page 262 of my book. Here the 10¢ 1855 was canceled in Mexico hence was not recognized for any payment of postage in the U. S.

Regarding your Hawaiian cover. May I inquire if the straight line postmark is as per page 242, Vol. 2, tracing "H" (lower right corner of page) in my One Cent Book?

Re - your query about the 3¢ rate "Via Overland Mail" from California. The rate of 3¢ applied to distances of 3000 miles or less. The Overland Mail Route was opened in September of 1858. The mileage from San Francisco to St. Louis by the Route was 2794 miles, hence a letter could be sent from San Francisco by this route up to 3000 miles. As there was no "Overland Mail Route" prior to 1858; this rate was actually in effect so far as California mails were concerned from Sept. 1858 until July 1, 1863. On the latter date 3¢ became the nation wide domestic rate of a half ounce letter.

As Memphis was one of the terminals of the "Overland" no doubt your cover went to a southern destination thru Memphis instead of St. Louis.

Sincerely yours,

Feb. 5, 1942.

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the illustration will be noticed. Perhaps the editor really did you a favor when he omitted your name from the two articles. Perhaps many readers will conclude that this was done on purpose and that the articles thru error were published in the January issue instead of the April issue.

For any of my remarks which may be misconstrued, may I humbly apologize.

Regarding other articles you have prepared, may I refer you to my good friend Mr. Harry L. Lindquist of New York. Whenever I feel the urge to inflict my writings upon the patience of American collectors I appeal to Mr. Lindquist. He is undoubtedly the foremost philatelic publisher in America, in fact we have never had his equal. In addition, he is a charming gentleman, and one who always has his feet on the ground, if you know what I mean. So I am sure Mr. Lindquist can offer you the best of advice and I haven't a doubt but what he will be pleased to do so.

Regarding the illustration on page 226 (Vol. 1) of my book. I suppose you refer to Fig. 19W. You will note that I stated that Plate 3 was made of steel, hence if you wish to use my illustration to refute my statement of fact, I fear my dear Mr. Gilbert, I will be forced to refuse, because I hardly think it would be exactly fair.

Regarding your cover from Mexico thru New Orleans. Please note the cover I illustrated in Vol. 2, page 262 of my book. Here the 10% 1855 was canceled in Mexico hence was not recognized for any payment of postage in the U. S.

Regarding your Hawaiian cover. May I inquire if the straight line postmark is as per page 242, Vol. 2, tracing "H" (lower right corner of page) in my One Cent Book?

Re - your query about the 3¢ rate "Via Overland Mail" from California. The rate of 3¢ applied to distances of 3000 miles or less. The Overland Mail Route was opened in September of 1858. The mileage from San Francisco to St. Louis by the Route was 2794 miles, hence a letter could be sent from San Francisco by this route up to 3000 miles. As there was no "Overland Mail Route" prior to 1858; this rate was actually in effect so far as California mails were concerned from Sept. 1858 until July 1, 1863. On the latter date 3¢ became the nation wide domestic rate of a half ounce letter.

As Memphis was one of the terminals of the "Overland" no doubt your cover went to a southern destination thru Memphis instead of St. Louis.

Sincerely yours,

Feb. 13, 1942.

Mr. G. Gilbert, % The Hotel Great Northern, New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Perhaps you misunderstood my remarks regarding cover #1788 in the second Knapp sale.

I was not seeking an expert opinion, but merely cited this cover, in order to try and find out if you were well informed on the meaning of the markings - U.S. and French - on covers of the period of 1869-1870 and 1871.

What I was discussing more than anything else was the rate, and that the rate did not correspond with the markings. I stated that the 30¢ stamp did not originate on this cover, that the original rate was 15¢, not 45¢. I wasn't particularly interested in whether the original rate was paid by the 12¢ and 3¢ or by a 15¢ Lincoln of 1866 or 1867. Perhaps the original rate was paid by one of several combinations of 1861 or 1867 stamps. I didn't examine the cover itself, but only a photograph, and from this it was impossible to form any definite conclusion on the 12¢ and 3¢.

Regarding the meanings of postal markings. I am enclosing a photograph which kindly return. This is a very simple little problem, but can you explain it? Don't bother if you do not care to do so, as I am only inquiring for the purpose of trying to ascertain if you possess any knowledge of the subject.

Very truly yours,

Feb. 18th, 1942

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

Enclosed your photo

None of the three stamps ever belonged to this cover.

Originally there was probably some U.S. stamps from Calif. to N.Y.

Further, no other stamps were affixed to the cover.

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) G.Gilbert



#### HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN

118 WEST 57TH STREET
111 WEST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-1900

Feb. 18# 42

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

None of the three stamps ever belonged to this coner.

from Calif. to N.y.

Further, no other champs more affixed to the coner.

yours very Linewely

N. 12. Endant your flots.

Feb. 20, 1942.

Mr. G. Gilbert, 118 W. 57th St., New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

I was hoping that you and I might be able to do some work together on U.S.-French rates, but evidently you are not well posted on this subject. Evidently no more so, than your remarks published in the Collectors Club Philatelist. You know, the most amazing thing connected with your last article, is not the misstatements which you made, but the fact that an editor of a magazine of the standing of the C.C.P. would publish same. Truly anything can happen in America. No doubt Mr. McCoy has edited the last number of the C.C.P. This is a mighty good thing but you should not feel elated over the fact that perhaps it was you who cost him his job.

I am returning the photo so that you can follow my remarks.

You were quite right in stating that none of the stamps on this cover were originally on the cover, but you were wrong in assuming that there were any U. S. stamps on the cover originally. There were no stamps on the cover from California to New York. You see my good friend, under the postal treaty between this country and France, prepayment was optional and the rate was 15¢ per 1/4 oz. Under the treaty the rate was the same from San Francisco as it was from New York.

This cover was sent unpaid and the rate was 15%, not 30% as the faked stamps show. No doubt you are familiar with the French marking "8" or 8 decimes which was collected in Nantes. Were you aware of the fact that the New York postmark in black was definite proof that this letter was sent unpaid? Were you aware of the fact that this postmark said in effect to the French postal officials, you are to collect 15% (or 8 decimes), on this letter and out of this sum you are to credit us with 12%, because we have debited you this sum, because this letter is sent to France by American Packet at the expense of the U.S. P.O. hence we, the U.S. are entitled to all that you collect except the French domestic of 3% which you are to retain under the treaty.

The blue "15" in pencil was put on at San Francisco and indicated the letter was a single rate of 1/4 oz., the postage due being 15¢ or 8 decimes.

I wanted to find out if you were familiar with these points, all very simple, because I would like to find some Frenchman who did know something about U.S.-French rates and markings. It is a very interesting subject, I can assure you.

Sincerely yours,

Feb. 20, 1942.

Mr. G. Gilbert, 118 W. 57th St., New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

I was hoping that you and I might be able to do some work together on U.S.-French rates, but evidently you are not well posted on this subject. Evidently no more so, than your remarks published in the Collectors Club Philatelist. You know, the most amazing thing connected with your last article, is not the misstatements which you made, but the fact that an editor of a magazine of the standing of the C.C.P. would publish same. Truly anything can happen in America. No doubt Mr. McCoy has edited the last number of the C.C.P. This is a mighty good thing but you should not feel elated over the fact that perhaps it was you who cost him his job.

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The blue "15" in pencil was put on at San Francisco and indicated the letter was a single rate of 1/4 oz., the postage due being 15¢ or 8 decimes.

I wanted to find out if you were familiar with these points, all very simple, because I would like to find some Frenchman who did know something about U.S.-French rates and markings. It is a very interesting subject, I can assure you.

Sincerely yours,

H.L. LINDQUIST

#### 2 WEST 46TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y.

February 25, 1942

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

Dear Stan:

I was much interested in the photos and exchange of correspondence with Gilbert, and am returning the file you sent on this as you may want it back.

I was not particularly surprised, however, as I doubt if many American specialists could supply the answer. But it is a good check-up.

Sincerely yours,

L.B Enc. N. B. Mr. Mc. Coy told me long ago that since his marriage, he intended Hell Stories you Feb. 23.42

anything about.

Us. Stanley to five up his job at the Callestors Club. Please do not Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook. Fort Thomas Ky. Dear Jir Enclosed of an veturning your HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN photo. Probably you dist not understand my last leter as I told you more of the 111 WEST 56TH STREET NEW YORK CITY Heree Hamps ever belonger to the cover. TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-1900 I added that no portage stamps ever fair the transportation to France as the tax show it 0:80 being charges. I of course to not know the American portage but I dais that possibly a 3 c. Staref was applied on the conv from California up to N. York. But more of the 3 stamps over helonged to it and no other stamps fait any fortage. Noor let me tell you that you make a great mintake if you think that this cover was carried by an American Packet. Itwas carried by a french packet boat. you so not know the french war king. your souring letter I cannot unserstant from a philatelist. Let me tell you that it is impossible to print 10 to 20 thousand Sheets from Loft Atecl plates, even today, ask specialists. Lot me tell you that it was impossible 80 years ago to reant a still handened plate, ask specialists. Let me tolly on that if since 40 years a mistake was made; writers should read Perkins own writing. No one even knew that his fateut was first taken in America in 1813 with Mr. Murray. I have told patent specialist in metals in New York, that American writers thought a steel handened state could be recut in oner 100 subjects, 80 years afo. They laughed and Said they should know better, electric light littert exist in these days. Even today it needs electric light power to melt or soften stiel handened metalplate. you letter exp specialist in metals.

you know American Stamps. But you so not know that in many countries Electrolytic Coffer was used for the manufacture of stormy plates. The three Argentine Plates of the Rivadaria issue are here in Herr york (not only one as I wrote). They are from vecess enfraving, and they are of Galvanoplastic Copper. These three plates one Steeles " like the U.S. 1851 plates . They are the property of a leading U.S. Stamps from These three plates to exist in very poor worn state like the 3 c. 1851 early ones. Still they mere necut and steeled later on , the Refrints were made by the firm Perkins and Baron I have the complete shorts in my property have in N. y. for over forty years a great mistake has been fring on 'from one writer to the next one; and never chicket up. Please near Terking own writing. The first steel plate in U.S. is the 10c 1855, it is a poorone most of the subjects have an uncomplete scroll, why should this plate he pooner than the 3c. ones. " Do you know that the Canada 3 pence (Beaner) plates or the manufactured with a broken Die! I have here proof in complete sheets of plates , I and 2 . \_ . with this Die , It would have been impossible to manufacture a steel plate the way Penkins was manufacturing his own plates. And I can add that he was a master brain. No one else in 1851 knew any other manufacture for steel flates. The 100 plate 1 was made after his instructions, it mas the trial stell plate in U.S. Possibly you know some Specialists in metal and infraring. Just ask then if it was possible to soften a Steel handened plate 80 years als without spoiling the whole engraving. The only way was to melt the metal in a fournaise, to get it doff again, it was then liquid. Galvanoplastic coffer is to hard that when was for typofraphic enfraring over 80 thousand Sheets can be printed without the plates heing worn. When of necess enfrances - 12 thousand theets may be printed then it has to be next and put afair in the electrolytic bath, it can print them about 24 thousand sheets. what was postible in old bays. yours sincerely. Sciebert.

March 4, 1942.

Mr. G. Gilbert, % Hotel Great Northern, 118 West 57th St., New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I was reliably informed that because of your articles in the C.C.P. that the Editor had been relieved of his office. I have no way of knowing whether this is a fact or not. Illness and other reasons are often given as excuses for resignations and in this case I considered the ill-founded statements you made were just reason to request his resignation. Nothing is quite as harmful to philately as a misrepresentation of facts. If I made an error regarding McCoy, my apologies are yours, because I have no greater desire than to adhere closely to facts.

If I slightly misunderstood your remarks regarding the photo of the fake cover which I sent you I am sorry and there is no harm done. I understood your remarks to mean that postage on the cover at the rate of 3¢ had been paid from California to New York. I assumed that you meant that 15¢ was the rate from San Francisco to Nantes and because there was a "12" in the New York p.m. that 3¢ had been paid and 12¢ was due. The fact is such reasoning is in error as the sender paid no postage on this cover.

I note that you are quite positive that I made a great mistake in thinking that this cover was carried by an American packet. This only proves how you jump to conclusions and how utterly wrong you are in your conclusions. I see no reason why I should take the trouble to point out your errors to you but nevertheless, I am doing this very thing, in the hope that you may better know our classic early issues, our rates and our postal markings. Again I am returning this cover to you so that you can see your error. Note the New York postmark in black with the "12." This is an exchange debit marking to the French P.O. and meant in effect - "We are charging you 12¢ on this letter out of 8 decimes you are to collect from Nantes."

You will find I am right if you will read the provisions of the U.S.-French postal treaty of 1857. You will find the text in the 1857 Report of the U.S. P.M.G. a copy of which is at the Collectors Club or at the New York Public Library.

This letter was transmitted to France at the expense of the U.S.P.O.D., or according to the term used, "American Packet." This did not necessarily mean in a ship of American Registry, but in this case the ship was the "Fulton" of the "Havre Line." You can check me on this if you wish at the New York Public Library. The U.S. P.O.D. paid this line for transporting this letter. See if I am not right when I state that the "S.S.Fulton" of the Havre Line sailed from New York on Nov. 10, 1860. The New York and Havre Steam Navigation Co. was under U.S. Registry and received a U.S.Mail subsidy. The "Fulton" was not a French Packet, but its French port was Havre.

Had this letter been carried, as you so positively state, by a French

Mr. G. Gilbert, March 4, 1942.

Packet, there would not have been a "12" (12¢ debit) in black in the New York postmark, buthrather a "3." The U. S., French rate was divided thus - 3¢ U.S. domestic - 3¢ French domestic and 9¢ sea. So you see Mr. Gilbert had the letter gone by French Packet, the French P.O. would have been entitled to 9¢ sea and 3¢ French domestic or 12¢ and the U.S. could only have entered a debit of 3¢ against this letter.

I note you considered my last letter a "sneering letter," but consider the cause of same.

You state in your letter that it is impossible to print 10 to 20 thousand impressions from soft steel plates. Naturally I don't know what you mean by soft steel, but I do know beyond any question of a doubt that your figures are positively silly when applied to the quality of steel plates used by Perkins Bacon & Co., and the Philadelphia firm of Toppan Carpenter Casilear & Co. Many steel plates made by these two frims were not hardened for some time after they were transferred. I have no time to waste arguing such facts with you as the facts are matters of record, so far as Perkins Bacon & Co. in the records of that firm.

If you have never read Bacon's book, "The Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain" I would advise you to read it. This book was written from the records of Perkins Bacon & Co.

Regarding Perkins. I don't think there is any mystery about the early patents he obtained in this country before he went to London. His activity in this country is a matter of record and well known.

You refer me to specialists. The replies you obtain from specialists depends to a great extent, on the questions asked. What do you mean by a steel hardened plate? Perhaps you have one thing in mind which is quite contrary to the methods used in the 1840's and 1850's. Surely you must know that only the surface of a steel plate was hardened, and not the whole plate, from surface to back.

Perhaps you didn't know that Perkins Bacon re-entered positions successfully on hardened plates. Well they did and its a matter of record. Mind you, I didn't state whole plates were re-entered but rather certain positions. An explanation for that is this. With the means at disposal in the early 1840's it was not possible to obtain informm hardening over the entire surface of a plate, hence may I say, a thinly hardened position, in time wore thru the hardened surface. Thus it was possible to re-enter such positions.

Regarding impressions. I wonder if you knew that over one million impressions were obtained from Plate #27 of the Penny Black.

Consider Plate #1 of the Penny Black. This plate was finished on April 8, 1840, and that it was put to press on April 11, 1840. It was in constant use until May 26, 1840, when it was taken out of service and repaired and surface hardened. Between April 11 and May 26, there were many times "10 to 20 thousand" impressions printed from this unhardened plate, all of which is a matter of record, so you see how utterly absurd your conclusions are.

Yes, you are quite right, I do know American stamps, and I know that

the 1847 stamp were printed from copper plates and that all the Toppan Carpenter stamps of 1851 to 1860 were printed from steel plates. It makes no difference whatsoever if electrolytic copper was used for stamp plates in many foreign countries, that is of no concern to me, as my study pertains to United States stamps.

Why do you make an unfounded statement that mistakes have been passed down from one American writer to another, with no correction. You are not familiar with the facts. Few mistaken theories of 40 years ago are now accepted as facts.

Surely you know that the Government specified steel plates for our 1851 stamps. Do you think they would have permitted Toppan Carpenter to use anything else but steel plates?

You assume that the 10¢ 1855 was our first steel plate and that it was a poor one - poorer than the 3¢ plates - because many of the stamps had incomplete scrolls. You mistake entirely the reason for the incomplete scrolls. It is perfectly absurd to attribute the "incomplete scrolls" to the metal of the plate. I remind you the incompleteness was due entirely to the reliefs on the roller. Stamps of the top row show the die design complete at top, those in the bottom row show the design complete at bottom. If parts of the designs were short on the three reliefs this was due to a desire to obtain larger gutters in the horizontal spacings not because of the composition of the metal.

Very truly yours,

A March 11.42 Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook Fort Thomas Ky. Gear Sur your litter of the 18th inst. July came to hand. I am veturning TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-1900 enclosed the photo. For Mr. He Coy I may till you that I has Timer with him and his wife long ago, and that he told me he tis not intend going on with the Cal. Club. and wones give up his job there. with regard to the coner of which you sout me the photo, I am sure this coner was taken across the ocean by a freuch boat . - . It is possible that at first it was intended to take a U.S. boat, but for some reason, it I took a french one. \_. Remember Heat the figure 8 is is not hand written, but Itnick with a hand postmark. Then you have 12 cents in the U.S. one, but this Lis corrected & by 15, which does not mean 15 cents, Sout 15 centimes which makes 3 U.S. cents. 3 cents or 15 contines have to be fait to the U.S. P. Off. 80 centimes being the rate between U.S. and France at that time Possibly energthing could be proned by the back of the cover. This figure 8 does not belong to a U.S. boat, it belongs XX to a french one. I wrote a whole book on the french boat and has in my private collection the official reference sheet firing all the portmerk which were on board of parket boats. I feel how the Shape of this & is the french one.

If this letter has been carried by an american boat it should have the origin french postmank on it, do that the U.S. P. off. Should be eved ited of 60 centimes or 12 cents.
You do not seem to know that we last in France Lines 1802 exchange offices with special rates for U.S. and Conattritain. But some of these are affect only on boats, before the belivery to the postal dervice, as there were also some special conventions with packed boat company. On board of these boats was a special post office. Some boats were officially accredited in this case you should find even the name of the boat, later on these boats were refishered 1-2.3. 4 the according to the Mr of loads deserving the line. For Great Pritain me has a duplicate one for normal, one for transit. Transit are rave. There last ones run from 1. 4 up to 6:670 The warest one is (6: 63°4/10) Passilly some people knew that perkind dis take fatut in U.S. but I know of no publication registering the Perkins and Murray patent concerning the manufacture of Itell plates from a woller which is refintered in washington in 1813. I Lee by your letter that you mean you know everything, then please so not make tack a mistake as to write the about plate nº 2 27 for the spenny black. Let me tell you that only releven plates mere used for this stamp; trumbued one to elsen. Please read then that a few prints were faken before hardening, all bling gray. Then further no spenny black are known with recutting. The corner letters only were " prenches " the sufraring was reconditioned which is a quite different thing from recutting. Two U.S. plates the Franklin and Eagle Carrier still do exist. It is therefore possible to check up. The eagle one is ture to be copper, and steeles; Just like the three plate I intent to write about, which are of necess enfraring, which are officially electrolytic coffer, which are recut like the 3c. U.S. 1851. and the of which I have proofs in sheets showing the natures, and a note from Perking and Bacon, raying these plates are "strely" And further more the plates are in Wear fork.

March 20, 1942.

Mr. G. Gilbert, % Hotel Great Northern, 118 W. 57th St., New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Regarding yours of the 8th. I am thoroughly familiar with the various French markings used on U. S.-French mail. Of course the "8" is a French marking and of course this was a French marking and indicated the sum due on delivery of this letter. The "8" meaning "8" decimes. You are quite mistaken in assuming that the blue pencil "15" was applied on a mail steamship or in France, the fact of the matter is, it was applied in the San Francisco Post Office and it indicated the U.S. rate of 15¢ per ½ ounce under the U.S.-French Treaty. Again you are quite wrong in your interpretation that the N.Y. postmark was as you state. I merely advise you to read the terms of the U.S.-French Treaty of 1857. I don't ask you to take my word because you don't seem to be willing to credit any facts which are submitted to you. Read the treaty and you will find that debits were to be handstamped in black and credits in red. This marking is in black, hence it is a debit of 12 cents to the French Post Office. This alone proves that the letter was transmitted in an American Packet, because as I told you if the letter had been carried in a French Packet our debit would only have been 3 cents, not 12 cents.

I am also familiar with the French Packet markings used on U.S. French mail and numbered from #1 to 4 inclusive. For example, I enclose herewith a similar item to the photo I have been sending you. This a single to ounce rate from New Orleans to Paris in 1866. Note the encircled "15." This is a New Orleans rate handstamp and was applied at New Orleans. It is the same as the blue pencil "15" on the San Francisco cover. Now this letter went by French Packet and this French packet marking was applied by the French mail crew on board the French steamship. The date in the New York marking is "Sep.8," the same as the date of the French marking. The N.Y. marking is in black, hence a debit and a debit of 3¢. This because the letter was carried at the expense of the French P.O., hence all the U.S. was entitled to receive out of the total rate collected was only 3¢ or our own domestic from New Orleans to New York. Here again we find the French handstamp "8" or 8 decimes, the French due marking. Do you still insist that the San Francisco letter went by French packet? If so, why did we only debit France 3¢ on the New Orleans letter (French packet) and 12¢ on the San Francisco letter.

If you display such total ignorance on such simple problems as the explanation of U.S. French markings, I ask only in fairness, how do you expect me to place any credit on your various theories regarding our early stamp plates?

I even gave you the name of the American Packet that carried the San Francisco letter. I told you it was the American Packet "Fulton" of the "Havre Line." Perhaps you would be interested in knowing that the markings on the back of the cover confirm this. One is "E - Havre A Paris + 25 Nov + 60 - ? - " with E at bottom. This a circular with octagonal center. Another is "Paris 24 Nov 60 - ?" and "Mantes - 24 Nov 60 - 42 (?)."

# Stephen G. Rich

P. O. BOX B
VERONA, NEW JERSEY

PUBLISHER OF:

MITCHELL-HOOVER BUREAU PRINT CATALOG UNITED STATES SLOGAN POSTMARK CATALOG UNITED STATES STAMPLESS COVER CATALOG HANDBOOK OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE METERS

March 4, 1942

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

Dear Stan:

Your letter of March 2nd on the Providence lc 1851 cover chased in one mail leter than the Yellow Book number of the Stamp Specialist. I am, therefore, going to make this a long letter in order to discuss matters in the Specialist.

I agree fully with your contentions as to the status of supposed precancels made with devices which do not clearly proclaim their precancel nature. It seems to me that the entire matter is solved by using this differentiation between precancels and "provisional precancels". If the device doesn't tie, is also used for regular cancelling, and anything else about the piece indicates precancel use, I think we are safe in considering an item a provisional precancel.

The real question is not whether the Providence star was actually used in Providence, but whether it is known from other pieces to have been normally or regularly used for ordinary cancelling (postcancelling, as we call it among precancel people).

Now for the Stamp Specialist articles. I am really delighted with both of your articles as well as with a great deal of the rest of that number of the Specialist.

Your article on 1847 Double Transfers effectively disposes of all the contentions of Mr. G. Gilbert as to manner of making and size of 1847 plates, with one possible exception. The plates still could be made in thin brass and backed by electro-deposited copper. The rest of his contentions of course fall to the ground completely because the facts as you report them on this one point of double transfers, are sufficient to disprove everything else.

I am particularly delighted with your article on the 1861 issue. I am so delighted that I am seeing to it that some appreciative

# - Stephen G. Rich

P. O. BOX B VERONA, NEW JERSEY PUBLISHER OF:

MITCHELL-HOOVER BUREAU PRINT CATALOG UNITED STATES SLOGAN POSTMARK CATALOG UNITED STATES STAMPLESS COVER CATALOG HANDBOOK OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE METERS

(2)

Mr. S. B. A., March 4, 1942.

words will find place in the column by J. Jones in the Stamp Review. I never have any trouble in getting any idea that I suggest used in that column. I shall probably even suggest to Mrs. Severn that she write an article or editorial for Mekeel's giving your treatment the necessary summary and applause, with due or more than due mention of source of what she says--meaning, not that she will mention me, but that she will emphasize your original contributions.

My own reaction, after reading the article carefully, is that by your new information and by bringing all the facts into understandable order, you have at last changed this part of the U.S. philatelic story from one of controversy to one of understanding. It is really a swell job that you have done.

I will make a few detail comments which I think may be of possible service and which I hope you can embody in an addendum article along with anything you may get from other people.

First, I refer to page 97 and the report of prices of the "Samples". I was interested to see that these prices have been reduced conspicuously in the past two years, and in the case of the 12c reduced 50%. It is evident that from one and another source the information as to their true nature is reaching Hugh Clark and he is steadily but slowly deflating these values. You know, of course, that I have a particular point of view on stamp catalog values. I feel more strongly than ever that the actual last reported sale price of each item, or the median of the last two to six sales occur at intervals of two or three months, should be reported as the catalog price. I don't believe anybody ever actually gave \$2500.00 for a lc sample or \$3500.00 for a 12c sample. I would like to see Scott do what we did in the Bureau Print Catalog, and report actual market as of the date at which he closes his catalog copy. I don't think any other system of pricing can be fully honest and fully reliable.

Leafing back to page 95, I think the present number 66 has been misnamed as to color for many years. I have seen this stamp.and if I am not mistaken there is a copy in the collection made by my father which I still own but have not looked at in several years. I keep it in the safe deposit vault and have maintained it separate from my own collection partly as a matter of sentiment and partly with the idea that if my nephew really gets interested in a large

Looked there Mas.5 It is NOT in the JSRich Coll.

# Stephen G. Rich

P. O. BOX B
VERONA, NEW JERSEY

PUBLISHER OF:

MITCHELL-HOOVER BUREAU PRINT CATALOG UNITED STATES SLOGAN POSTMARK CATALOG UNITED STATES STAMPLESS COVER CATALOG HANDBOOK OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE METERS

(3)

Mr. S. B. A., March 4, 1942.

way in philately, I will leave it to him in my will.

At any rate, my distinct impression is that the tone of this stamp is entirely unlike that of any other dull dark red which Scott describes by the hopelessly obsolete color name "lake". I am sorry you did not raise the point that this is really no more than a deep brick red. I might point out that the group of pigments known to chemists as "lakes" had not come into use this early, at least in inks used for printing of any sort. It has been singularly unfortunate that, because the first of this group to come into use was a dark red color, stamp people have stuck to using the chemical name of the group for this color. Actually, nearly all the pigments used in the current U. S. stamps belong to this group and are lakes.

On page 112 and of course in your list on page 120, I am exceedingly sorry to see you sticking to certain color names which in my opinion don't belong and are even misleading. I refer to "steel gray" and "steel blue".

You will recollect that in Mekeel's Weekly there was an editorial on these color names or at least one of them in the number of December 8, 1941. I think it would have been an additional contribution to point out that these names are without real significance. What you call "steel gray" is to my eye identical with the color called "gray" on such stamps as Belgium numbers 50, 60, and 82. I understand by "slate" a blackish variety noticeably different from this.

What you call "steel blue" would appear to be more accurately described as bluish gray.

I have a very strong suspicion, based on seeing my own material and also on having seen the same cover owned by C. S. Thompson to which Mrs. Severn refers in her editorial, that there really was a printing in a greenish gray and probably none in blue-gray. I think Mrs. Severn has the right idea in suggesting that the bluish gray is the color changeling. I understand that all the alleged "steel blue" items on cover show the greenish tinge more or less strongly.

I now turn over to page 114 and the paragraph at the bottom. It is too bad you didn't get a little more of the story involved.

Harry J. Mandel (whose name did not have two l's at the end) was the chief contact that stamp people had between 1890 and his death

# - Stephen G. Rich

P. O. BOX B
VERONA, NEW JERSEY

PUBLISHER OF:

MITCHELL-HOOVER BUREAU PRINT CATALOG UNITED STATES SLOGAN POSTMARK CATALOG UNITED STATES STAMPLESS COVER CATALOG HANDBOOK OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE METERS

(4)

Mr. S. B. A., March 4, 1942.

about 1904, with the American Bank Note Company. He was a skilled technician of some sort and he not only had access to all information, but also was able to salvage from material culled from the old files philatelic stuff of various sorts that otherwise would have been destroyed. Mr. Mandel and my father were good personal friends and as a boy in grammar school I remember Mr. Mandel as a visitor in our home. He and my father rode bicycle together and would often both return for dinner at our home after a Sunday all-day ride.

I have often heard my father say that Mr. Mandel deceived neither himself nor anyone else as to the nature of these various unusual items. The information simply was not written down and Mr. Luff and others simply forgot all about it.

If I am not mistaken, the information or misinformation about National Bank Note Company plates was not derived from Mr. Mandel, but was taken by Mr. Luff from information in the hands of earlier writers and students of U. S. stamps. It would be interesting to trace this back, starting with seeing what the old Tiffany book says on this subject. In the absence of contrary evidence we might naturally expect Mr. Luff to have given full credence to statements by Tiffany on such matters.

I want to make it clear that I am not trying to do any adverse criticism but I am merely suggesting to you further points on which the treatment might be rounded out. I still think it is a magnificent job that you have done.

Cordially yours,

R:D

# Stephen G. Rich

P. O. BOX B
VERONA, NEW JERSEY

PUBLISHER OF:

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March 5, 1942

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

Dear Stan:

Between dictating and completing my long letter I happened to be over at the Collectors Club for a meeting. Naturally some of us were discussing your articles on 1861 and 1847. I merely pass along a few comments derived from that discussion.

You will probably be found fault with by some of the boys on the ground that you could have checked up certain matters connected with the actual date of contract for the 1861 stamps with either the contract itself or an abstract of it which Clarence Brazer published in the Collectors Club Philatelist as part of his series in the history of the Bank Note Companies. I have been trying to locate the exact points at which this would have some bearing and my impression is that it is mainly in connection with the question as to the status of the 10c items mentioned on pages 104 and 105. My understanding is that the contract bears the date of August 15th; but without hunting up the contract as reprinted and rereading it, I will not be able to tell you definitely whether that is the date at which it became effective, or the date specified in it for either first delivery or stamps or latest date by which first delivery should be made. It no doubt is much easier for you to check this than for me.

Cordially yours,

Mention of the contract date and its bearing would have helped to clinch the points in your atticle. 434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 11, 1942.

Mr. Stephen G. Rich, P.O.Box "B", Verona, N.J.

Dear Steve:

Yours of the 4th and 5th received, and may I thank you very much for your kind words on my recent 1861 article. They were greatly appreciated, I can assure you.

First a few comments on yours of the 5th. You mentioned that fault might be found by some of the "boys" on the ground that I failed to check on certain matters connected with the actual date of the contract. Well do I know from whence came this unfounded criticism. You erred in stating "boys" when in fact there was only one, and this one person is the egotistical self-appointed "authority" who has set himself up as the Court of Last Resort to pass on all questions concerning our stamps, our postal history, our postal markings, etc., etc. Anyone who dares to differ with this human mixture of egotism, jealousy and hate is apt to be accused of inventing most anything.

Now for the facts. In reality I didn't have to check up on the 1861 contract because I have all the essential points of this document in my mind, having read and re-read it many times. If I failed to mention the points brought up by one Elliott Perry, it was not that I had failed to check carefully on certain matters but because I did not consider these "certain matters" were of any special importance.

The first deliveries of the new 1861 stamps by the National Bank Note Co. to the Stamp Agent, were made on August 16th, 1861, but the actual contract was not signed until November 5th, 1861. In this document it was stated that the contract was to commence on August 15, 1861, and was for a period of six years. In my article I plainly stated that the first deliveries were made on Aug. 16th, 1861, and may I ask you, if you think that my failure to mention that the contract was not actually signed until November 5th was of any importance whatsoever?

Some of Perry's stuff is a pain in the neck, and the above is a very glaring example. It seems that my 1861 article furnished him an excuse to write various friends of mine thruout the country. In none of these letters which were sent to me, was one single word of credit, but on the contrary, harping criticism. Note the following sentence from one of these letters:

"or check the statements onpages 104 and 105 regarding the 10¢ - 24¢ and 30¢ plates against the fact that the contract was signed on August 15th 1861, which most important date is not mentioned anywhere in Stan's article that I can find."

Now my dear friend, need I comment further on such total distortion of fact?

The very heart of my article was this. In the middle 1890's, John Luff invented a special issue of U. S. postage stamps, and this mythical issue was composed of three entirely different classes of items as follows:

#3 Mr. Stephen G. Rich, March 11, 1942.

only excuse I can offer for sticking to obsolete designations, is because certain terms have long been in use and it is very difficult to change them. For example, we should not refer to the 10¢ 1861 Type I as the "10¢ August," but rather as the "Type I," but the term "10¢ August " is so fixed in the minds of all, that it is difficult to persuade collectors to drop the term "August." Why refer to the 24¢ 1861 violet as the "24¢ August?" How absurd.

You are quite right in stating that the term "Steel Blue" should be referred to as "Bluish Gray," but would collectors know that I was referring to the real "Steel Blue" if I used only the term "Bluish Gray?" My use of the terms "Steel Gray" etc. were not attempts to coin any new color terms but rather a sincere desire to demonstrate that there were more than one classification of the colors used in the fall of 1861. In other words, that all "Steel Blues" were not actually the real "Steel Blues."

Steve perhaps you did not realize how very near the truth you were when you referred to "color changelings," of the 24¢ 1861. Well do I know that I have certain items in this stamp for which I paid fancy prices and which I long ago became convinced were not natural or original colors. However, this is a ticklish subject and I am at a loss to determine how to handle it in a perfectly fair and impartial way. Don't take it for granted that I have been fooled by certain changelings and consider them as real original colors.

Regarding Mandel. All I know is what I have been told by various persons who claimed to have some facts. Luff published figures in his book which had not been published by Tiffany or any other student and as I recall, Luff stated his figures were from the records of the American Bank Note Co. Mandel was undoubtedly the contact man between Luff and the American Bank Note Co. and I have been told that Mandel was discharged from the A.B.N.Co. because of his philatelic activities. I attempted to get some information from the Company regarding Mandel but met with no success. I get the idea that Mandel was a subject they did not care to discuss.

Who was responsible for making the 1895 die proofs of the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847? Who other than Mandel? The A.B.N.Co. was not supposed to possess the original dies or transfer rolls in 1895. Evidently the P.O.D. didn't dream that the originals, (whether dies transfer rolls orlaydowns) were in existence when they had the counterfeits made in 1875. Why make imitations if the originals were in existence? When Mandel made his printings in 1895 he believed that everyone outside of the A.B.N.Co. thought the "dies" were destroyed in 1851, hence how could anyone imagine that his reprints were not made in 1851 or earlier. I don't know that Mandel made these printings but who else can we suspect? I think Luff was hand in glove with Mandel and that the information which Luff obtained from Mandel was solely respensible for Luff jumping to the conclusion that the "Premieres" were a separate issue and were actually issued. Undoubtedly Mandel gave Luff much valuable data as well as proofs etc. When Luff learned that there were 1861 plates numbered from 1 to 8 inclusive, and that these eight plates were the values of 14 to 90¢ inclusive, he jumped to the conclusion that these eight plates furnished the "first issue of 1861" and that if stamps were issued from any one of these plates, stamps were actually issued from all. You see he had good reasons to believe he had discovered something new and he was so convinced in his own mind that he was right that he forgot that his conclusion was only a theory, not a fact. Thus he stated that his theory was fact and that his theoretical issue was actually issued. It is true that the "designs" of his 10¢, 24¢ and 30¢ were actually issued, but he made the error of assuming that they were issued in the "trial

#4. Mr. Stephen G. Rich, March 11, 1942.

colors" he assigned to them, when of course he had no proof to back up his assumption.

Again permit me to thank you for your much appreciated letter. Your comments were constructive, and your appreciation was heartening.

My best wishes are yours.

Cordially,

March 28, 1942

Mr. Stanlet B. Ashbrook 424 South Grand Ave. Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Your letter of March 23rd duly came; and I have had great pleasure in reading it several times. Now I think I understand your point of view on many of these matters. This Sunday afternoon is a splendid time to discuss at length, without interruption, the various matters. Thus, you are in for another long screed from me (I always call a letter of Harry Konwiser a " screed", and I think he does me the same "honor.")

In particular, your explanation on the matter of the unimportance of the date of the 1861 contract, sets me entirely right. My only comment would be: this explanation would have materially strengthened your entire case, in your Yellow Book article. You can NOT take it for granted that the other chap either does understand, or wants to understand, this situation. Your explanation seems very probably correct, even with due allowance for governmental red tape. It makes sense: it covers the situation.

Let's be perfectly open about E. Perry and his motives. His business depends upon his keeping in the limelight as one of the outstanding students of earlier U.S. stamps, if not as THE one real scholar in the field. He would be more than human if he did not resent someone else following through this 1861 matter from where he had reached on it. Even if he agrees entirely with your results— as I think he sooner or later will have to—— he must object at any possible point, if only out of due regard to his own need for publicity. Let's not object to this. He is in the business; and he shouldn't be expected to do otherwise. We would be most foolish to expect a disinterested or "constructive" motive. Let's don't fool ourselves.

It's too bad you fell for the London boys' assumption of superiority. My impression is that the only difference between the scholarly group in London and ours in these parts, is that there are more stamp scholars in England than here, and they have been doing stamp scholarship longer. They are neither better nor worse than we are. They have the advantage of a larger group to criticize each other's work. That results in most of their material being developed further ere it sees print.

When it comes to an understanding of stampless covers, there just isn't anyone in England who is in the same class with our good

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friend "Harry the Kon" (Konwiser). Nobody there appears to know and understand British covers like H.M.K. does those of our own country. On British stamps and British cancellations they are top-notch, of course-- yet they fall down and are muddled on matters that are simple to typros here. There isn't a work on British cancellation styles that's even remotely nearly as good as what Tucker did on machine types that appear with Slogans, in the U.S. Slogan Postmark Catalog. There isn't anything done in England that even remotely approaches in quality either the Steiger Meter Handbook or the columns John Coulthard runs in several American stamp papers on meters. Little Althea Harvey, another newcomer in the meter field, already beats anything British, in the various American weekly stamp papers in which she runs columns.

Our British friends fall down badly on the philitelia problems invelve such as are involved in precancels. They don't even know so elementar; an idea as that of a precancel, or a provisional precancel. Some of their best men recently have tried to distinguish their own scarce precancellings as "pre-postmarked" stamps, just because the handstamped device that was used, looks like a postmark in general shape and has full date (day, month and year). I say--AW NERTS.

All I objected to, or mentioned adversely, was their fumbling on the stamps of an African land, Natal. Knowing that your stamp interests are confined to certain U.S. periods, I purposely didn't give you any details. I just mentioned a flagrant case.

This matter of catalog pricing does interest me very much. It has interested me from as far back as I have been collecting. It got my interest very much, during the period from about 1929 to 1932, here before I was a stamp catalog publisher. It still interests me, and the more so because I know that it is possible to handle the price situation far better than most publishers are doing.

Everything you say in your first paragraph on that subject is of course entirely true. If I were to discuss the points you raise in this paragraph, and many that you raise in the next, I would simply be copying most of what I have said in my article, Statistical Work Among Stamps, in Mekeel's Weekly of March 9,16 and 23, 1942. So I just refer you to that article. Please read it through, and see whether it doesn't cover many of your doubts pretty completely.

In cold fact, what I am suggesting in my articles, is already partly in use. The stamp trade doesn't follow Scott's catalog, but the price lists of Stanley Gibbon's Inc., as the accurate price report on U.S. stamps. Usticke of Stanley Gibbons Inc. does not "set a price" in the sense of subjectively deciding what a stamp "ought to be worth." His prices are clearly reports of what he, a large and successful merchant of U.S. stamps, finds he can actually sell the stamps for, in the open and competitive market.

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The fact that he thus prices his lists, is what makes them so much used by the trade, and why informed collectors also rely on them.

I don't know what procedure he uses in compliing his prices; but I feel pretty sure that he really does assemble actual reports of actual sales on the various items.

This doesn't mean that only auctions are considered. By far the larger quantity of stamp sales, even of scarce items, are by private sale. And it is right at that point that I think your discussion of Hugh Clark and his priving becomes inadequate. You appear to take it that Clark ought to "study the auctions." See my article in Mekeel's--- what he really needs is one good clerk emplyed full time in rempti assembling all sorts of price reports on each stamp, U.S.' and foreign, and computing medians each year as the work on the catalog progresses.

Hugh Clark does "try to be fair" but he works from an inadequate basis, when it comes to pricing. He lacks statistical information. He also has some sort of an idea that he ought to set a price "at which a dealer can make a living." I have heard him say so, often. I also know that he has the funny idea that he must "protect goldenter collectors in their investment in stamps." What he can't seem to understand, is that the "protection" is illusory. He can keep a stamp priced at \$65.00; but the discounts actually in force push it down to \$30.00 or under, in many a case. All he does is to make the stamp owner think he has something that will sell for more than it ever actually brings.

Lindquist told Clark, eight years or so ago, that he ought to have a statistical clerk continually compiling price information for his catalogs. Hugh couldn't see where it would make him any money. Hugh has spent three or four times what such a clerk and the work and equipment would cost, each of the last three years, doing things that nobody gave a hoot about and that even started up the old threat of a competitive catalog-- I mean his silly gradiose numbering system, his rearrangement of order of stamps, etc. He insists upon not doing what I know at least 4 out of every 5 collectors want-- authoritative price reporting.

I am entitely without any information on the history of the 1894 or 1895 die proofs of the 5c and 10c 1847

Your discussion of the matters involving harry Joseph Mandel, Sr. (yes, I knew his son, H. Joseph Mandel, Jr. and later was in college with his younger sont, beorge Mandel) is most interesting. Luff didn't have to make any money out of selling stamps. He was a high-salaried man with Scott's from 1893 to about 1904; then went with Stanley Gibbons Inc. at a still better salary; and came back to cott's, about 1909 I think, with still better pay. You seem to

for the collection.

and damn that "beg vusiness" stand. I coult ever pull a bet of stamp fun but some horse's ass raises can, instead of langung with me!

be reading into the doings of this remote period the stamp conditions of the last 15 years, when stamps have become a "big business." Up to the sale of his collection in 1906 or thereabouts, Mr. Luff was a buyer, not a seller of stamps. He put all his savings into his collection. I have often heard my father, who certainly was in a position to know, say that John Luff's original U.S. collection was his real saveings bank. He tucked away \$3,000 worth of material every year for twenty years; and I know that it was generally understood that he realized over \$60,000.00

I don't believe Mr. Luff ever "realized the great mistake he had made, "as to the 1861 issue. The doubts on them did not even begin until he was way past 70 years of age and had become almost bedridden.

Now that John Luff is gone, Hugh Clark is simply sitting tight on what Luff did, years and years ago. Hugh Clark's motives in this are not clear to me. He's always ready to talk about the harm of "upsetting" things. But he went and upset the entire catalog, twice, in recent years, at great expense to himself.

I agree with you that the 3c scarlet and 3c "lake" (it isn't a LAKE because it came out before the group of pigments called lakes went into use), and even more the 2 cents Navy green, belong with the Proofs and ssays. These stamps were listed before there were any catalog listings of proofs and essays. That does not make their original listing right; nor does it excuse their being kept in the "regular lists" any longer. You'll have to ask Hugh Clark, not me, why they are kept in the lists.

And now as to Hiogo. What you tell me is very interesting. I covers a lot of points. But we are still in the dark on the one point that really matters.

## On what date was the U.S. Postal Agency at Hiogo opened??

That is the one point that matters. Everything else will fall into order, once we get that. And that's the point on which I can t get information from Washington. Want to be a good Samaritan and write the P.O. Dept (you no doubt know whom to address, better than do IW, and ask this information? I sent to the First Assst. Postmaster "eneral's office, Records Division. They didn't answer it, but referred it to the Division of Foreign Mails. That division sent me a quartion-dodging reply. I wrote them for specific, definite information on this one point— and they declined to answer— said that letter "closed the correspondence." Whom can I write to who will have power and be willing to use it, to force that impertinent, rude, beaureaucrat who wrote that way, to asnwer quickly and specifically? That

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insulting stuffed shirt of an official is my employee-- I am a taxpayer and he is my hired man--- and I want to get not only the reply but also an apology for not answering first time. And Stan you can dmamn well bet that I will publish the paology, if I have start a new stamp paper to do so.

(I feel better with that tirade off my chest).

The Hiogo question is whether the well-known double circle "HIOGO JAPAN" cancellation on loc '69, and maybe on other stamaps, isn't an out and out fake. I think it is. Hale faked it-- we know that. See Postal Markings, Jan. Feb or March 1937. I have never seen it on cover. I have seen a few of the loc '69's with it. They all match the imprints of the Hale gake.

I want to debunk the Hiogo Double Circle. If the date of establishment of the Hiogo agency of the U.S. P.O. ept. was late enough so that this item on stamps earlier than the 1870 issue is obviously bad, we have clinched the matter.

The one complication is that it may have been the mark of a consular mail agent. I do know that we have a consular cancellation on the 3c bank note, from apparently between 1870 and 1873. This is a regular consular handstamp, oval with eagle, reading "U.S. Consul" or "Consulate" etc. We pictures it in Postal Markings, I think in 1936 -- but this isn't like the double circle of Hiogo.

The debunking article is all written, requiring onlt the date of establishment of the postal agency to complete the story.

Re: 24c 1861. I do not have any covers, in either my own collection or my father's. I do have one or two cases of dated cancellations spang on the stamp. If the are useful, I will look them up. Yes: I feel pretty sure they are in at least one or two cases year dated.

The cover that I want you to see, and which I mentioned, with the gray-green color of this stamp, belongs to Chas. S. Thompson, editor of Weekly Philatelic Gossip. Better ask him to let you see it.

Cordially yours.

me the Knaph cover. It isn't this same cancellation at all. It's a well known San Francisco hollow starm Cork cerdle

My tyling 15 lousy Hoday.

March 30'42

Dear Stan. = Licture of cone on Knapp Heongo (spelling H1000 on all canas is wrong cover is not Correct mmy March 29 letter. It is thees (toughly) SOR



Mr. Stanley B. Childrook.
434 S. Carand Ceve
Forth Thomas
Ku.

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

April 2nd, 1942.

Mr. Stephen G. Rich, 118 Sunset Ave., Verona, N.J.

Dear Steve:

Yours of the 28th received. I will reply in sections as opportunity offers.

First - Hiogo. I had no particular Knapp cover in mind but in looking thru the Catalogue (2nd sale) I note Lot 1726. I am sending for a photo. I regret to state that I do not possess a file of Postal Markings. Further I do not seem to be familiar with the cancelation you sent me on the postal card.

Washington. I have had very little success in obtaining much co-operation down there, but I am trying out a new source and if I have any luck I'll advise you.

More later.

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

April 2nd, 1942.

Dear Steve:

I suppose you read Ward's review of my 1861 article in Mekeel's. I am enclosing you a copy of a letter I have today written to Phil. I am sending this copy to you for this reason. At first I intended to make this an open letter to Phil and to offer it to Mekeel's for publication, then reconsidered this and decided not to do so unless I had Phil's permission. What is your opinion? Do you think it worth while to continue the argument or to forget it? I really don't know of any good that could be accomplished by paying any attention to the rather foolish arguments he made in his criticism of my article. What do you think?

I wouldn't ask you to do it, still I certainly would welcome an impartial review by you of Ward's remarks. I am sure you could find planty of meat in (A) my article (B) Ward's criticism (C) my letter to Ward - or could you?

Yours,

# Stephen G. Rich

P. O. BOX B
VERONA, NEW JERSEY

PUBLISHER OF:

MITCHELL-HOOVER BUREAU PRINT CATALOG UNITED STATES SLOGAN POSTMARK CATALOG UNITED STATES STAMPLESS COVER CATALOG HANDBOOK OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE METERS

May 2 1942

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

Dear Stan:

Your long and interesting letter of April 20th has been on the table quite a spell. Between being away at Precancel Roundup in New York April 24-26, and then having a hefty job of planographic originals to prepare, a fraternity organ job for which I get good pay, the past eight or ten days have been fairly well occupied:

It will be interesting to see how Ward quotes your letter and what comments he makes. As for myself, you saw that I " went off the deep end" to come out with the proper views, in last week's Mekeel's. Jones should be in Houseworth's of today's date with some very interesting comments, bearing on the question of why varieties were so casually accepted in the older days. He also has some comments, a week later, as to the real reasons why your stuff is attacked--- tracks it down to the actual inajured pique and the actual fear of monetary loss.

The more I read your letter, the more it seems to me that we really differ in terminology only.

I don't quite get the point involved in your continuous and your repeated insistence that you don't know anything about foreign stamps or 20th Century U.S. The problems of catalog listings and their accuracy are no different on other countries and on recent issues from what they are on U.S. 1847-69--- except that we have MORE information to work from on U.S. 1847-69 in most cases. There 's far more misinformation around, uncritically printed in placed from the London Philatelist up and down, about later 19th Century stuff such as Natal, Orange Free State, than ever went out on U.S. 1847-69.

Seems to me that what I've learned from Cape Triangles, Natal, Orange River, and especially from the problems met with in helping Lobdell get points straight for his recent articles on Union South Africa in the Collectors Club Philatelist, ought to have a very definite bearing on the U.S. 1847-69 problems.

The problem of correct catalog listings has three aspects, and unless all three are covered, you have an incorrect job. You seem interested in only two of them.

Aspect No. 1. The question raised is:

What stamps exist?

The immediate corollary is:

How describe them correctly and unmistakeably?

You are interested in this aspect. In fact, you start off the letter by referring to the striking cases of the 24c lilac and red lilac, 1861 issue. The dates given by Scott are erroneous.

All right. You published correct information on one of these points. A nd you expect Clark automatically to notice that you had this information in an article in Stamps? Well, you evidently don't know the amount of work a catalog-maker has.

On matters of this sort, Hugh Clark is properly cautious (believe it or not:) He would naturally want to see that cover which shows the <a href="mailto:lilac">lilac</a> color in Feb. 1863.

And, being a catalog publisher myself and doing the New Jersey section for the Stampless Catalog, I know that EACH separate item must be put into a separate letter or on a separate memo, if you want the catalog maker to handle it.

Did you write Hugh Clark a letter about the 24c lilac and its date of earliest use? If you didn't, you can't blame him if he let his old statement stay for lack of information.

And he would have asked you to let him see the cover. He would have been right, too. You can't trust the other chap's color judgment to be the same as yours.

Then on the 24c Red Lilac date. Did you write Clark a separate letter and raise this question? If you didn't bring it to his attention, you can't find fault if he lets the old statement stand.... even though as I think you will find if you trace it, it is a misprint which occurred when they first put these dates into the catalog. We had a misprint of about equal fodishness stay in the Bureau Print Catalog for three successive semi-annual editions, all because nobody every write in to either Dr. Mitchell or myself about it. I found it,

Aspect No. 2. The question raised is:

What arrangement of the known stamps shows their

mutual relationships most accurately.

This is the point involved in deciding where to list the 3c vermilion---whether under actual stamps, or elsewhere---, in deciding what to do with the "3c August" and the 30c black, etc.

Aspect No. 3 The question here raised is:
What is the stamp actually selling for when the catalog is made.

The catalog is NOT simply an orderly list of all the known stamps arranged in the proper way. It is a market or price propert. It started, years ago, by reporting what the catalog maker was actually charging for those items. It then gradually drifted into a sort of guessed listing of supposed values, bearing year by year a

decreasing relation to the actual market --- a relation decreasing steadily as the quoted "values" from stamp to stamp became more and ma more divergent from each other as to proportion they were of the actual market price.

My two articles on statistics in Mekeel's Weekly cover this matter pretty thoroughly.

What I want to ram home is, that in my judgment a catalog listing is NOT correct until it qualifies in all three aspects. Collectors definitely do want to know which stamps are hard to get--- which ones they must pay high prices for. Your catalog does NOT serve their needs unless it reliably indicates relative worth--- this means that if one stamp sells for \$50.00 and another for \$70.00 actually, the catalog is untruthful if it quotes the first at \$100.00 and the second at \$200.00. If the catalog is not going to be on a net price basis, then at least its discount rate must be both constant and known. Short of that, it's a dishonest book.

Now if you tell me that this relationship is going to be shown, as to relative scarcity, by simply giving the figures for the quantities issued on each stamp, I tell you that there isn't any greater untruth told than to give such figures. Here's a perfect example. There were at least 5 times as many printed of the 5 cent 1847 as of the 1925 5 cent Norse American. Yet the 5 cent 1847 is known probably about 100 times scarcer unused, and 40 times scarcer used, than the 5 cents Norse-American. It's the quantity kept, that is the fact that decides the supply--- and the number of prospective buyers of course decides the price level at which a stamp is sold. Take for example the prize item of Union of South Africa-- No. 2 double print. 5 copies known. Last sale, 1932, was for \$120.00-- all earlier sales for less. 5 copies know-- just 5. There are not enough Union specialists the world over to run the price up above that-- and this same copy went begging from 1924 to 1932, in dealers' hams, offered at \$80.00 by T. Allen in 1924.

And now I come to various specific questions which may or may not have been included in the systematic exposition of the situation.

Hugh Clark and your suggestion for an advisory group of "the best students we have of 19th Century U.S.":--- well, the B.I.A.people got him to accept and work with such a group for U.S. 1894 to 1938 issues. For a while all went well; then Hugh got headstrong again and simply wouldn't do anything they recommended. They tried to get him to change something or other that Hugh was set on having his own way-- he gave 'em the usual blah about sticking to what John Luff had originally set out, etc. This simply backs up your idea that Hugh wouldn't even want such a group on the 19th Century U.S. classics. You are right. He doesn't want to have any group to pass responsibility to. And what's more, he dern well knows that the same thing would happen, only much more so, as happened with his Bureau Issues group. Those who thought they should be on

the group, and who are omitted, would do as they did on the B.I.A. group-- sneer, deprecate, belittle, and sabotage the work of the group-- spe\_cially if any of their pet ideas were not followed.

Catalogue price quotations are part of honest and accurate listings. They are not a separate item. This cares for the entire set of xxx questions you raise about the 90c 1869, especially the perforated or finished essay (or isn't it a proof?) No. 122a.

Well, who ever expected the A.P.S. to be interested in these matters? I't doesn't exist for that purpose. It wasn't organized to handle any moot questions. By the way, don't you think it's about time the A.P.S. was de-organized, thrown into receivership and disbanded? It has ceased to do anything worth while for stamp collectors. The S.P.A. wasn't in any better state, for a long time. It's only since the group centering around J. Edward Vining took hold, and adopted the policy of doing the opposite of the A.P.S. on any matter, instead of copying the A.P.S., that it has been worth while.

As for the 30c black matter, I have not looked into Perry's mind and so can't tell you his motive in publishing his article. My guess is that wounded vanity, for his not having been spericially mentioned by you in this and other articles, for each item which he discovered, was the most probable motive. He evidently saw a chance to score, by catching you on your not having mentioned the matter of the Foster statement as to actual use. You left a wide-opn gap and he used it. He outsmarted you that time.

Now when we come to the question of color names, I wish you would read what I wrote and not bring into the matter considerations that don't belong. I say this because you take it that I say something is "wrong" with the color name of U.S. No. 213. I merely said that Nos. 213, 217x dark shades, 260 and 275a, all are to my eye the same color and should be described by the same color name. And I don't give a tinker's damn if some moronic bureucrat in Washington, sollen like a toad with petty importance, gave any one of them a different name. As a catalog man, my first principle is that any officially-given color name is almost sure to be a silly or an incorrect one.

The mere fact that certain incorrect names have long usage doesn't make it any more sensible to use them than to continue to call the mixture of proofs, samples, and one actual stamp, an "1861 First Issuel" The color names are wrong -- and if it is wrong to perpettate the error on 1861's it is wrong to perpetuate the error on a color name. It is equally a LIE in either case.

"Lake" cannot be replaced by any one term, because it has been misused for several color names. The 3c 1861 is dark indian red or dark terra cotta. The 2 cent 1890, No. 219d, is crimson. Have you any Harvard men among your friends? Put a 2c 1890 "lake" against the Harvard banners in their dens and see it vanish as part of the solid crimson color of the banner. Yes-- I did it.

The 2 cents Columbian never was violet. It's a perfect purle-brown. Not a trace of violet in it.

And now for the Hiogo rate, the Knapp cover, etc. I see that I didn't make things as clear as I though I had.

The Knapp cover cancellation is NOT the "Hiogo Japan"double circle at all. I think that's obvious. That's what I have been saying right along. I said to you in at least two letters, that this is NOT the cancellation about which there is doubt. I stated categorically that this is a well known San Francisco canceller of the period.

The marking that I think exists as a fake only is the well known one of HIOGO JAPAN in small circle with smaller circle within. So far, never seen except on 10c 1869 off cover. Hale the faker is known to have had such a canceller -- it is shown among the proofs from his devices illustrated in Postal Markings No. 67. All the pictures agree with the fake -- all the pictures of the cancellation. What's more, so do the few copies of the stamp with it that I have seen.

We can't get anywhere on the Hiogo matter till we know when that postal agency was established. That may settle the question. And you know how I am stymied on this -- how the P.O. Dept. avoided replying to specific query and when I wrote again, insultingly declined to look it up further.

I have been going after them through other sources. I got the Washington Service Bureau of the Newark Evening News on them with an inquiry on this. I got The Answer Man, radio station WOR, on them with an inquiry on this. If I can get any other sources after them, I mean to keep it up, till I get a definite reply or till I get the reply that the information can't be had at all.... it might turn out not to be in the records, though that seems unlikely.

We agree on the matter of the probability that the 4 cents overpayment on the Knapp cover from Hiogo does not probably signify anything.

As ever

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

May 11, 1942.

Mr. Stephen G. Rich, Verona, N.J.

My dear Steve:

Your letter of the 3rd received and read with much interest. I am afraid, my good friend, that you selected a poor person when you picked me out, with whom to discuss catalogue prices and other phases of catalogue editing. I really think I can discuss other subjects more intelligently. I like to dig into other problems and leave names and catalogue editing to others who are far more capable along this line than I am.

It is true I have my own ideas as to what should go into the catalogue and what should not be included. I have a hard and fast fule on this subject and it is based wholly on the principle of honest editing and dishonest editing. Either an item should be listed or it should not be listed. A thing is either honest or it is dishonest and all the excuses in the world don't make an honest thing out of one which is dishonest. A man is either honest or he is dishonest, there is not middle ground so far as I am concerned. If Hugh Clark had any desire to play fair with American collectors he would give us honest listings of our stamps. He can offer this excuse and that excuse and can rave about this or that, but the plain facts are, that he persists in listing bits of paper which have been totally discredited and which have no legitimate place in his catalogues.

This letter is just between ourselves, and in it I would like to make a few comments on your remarks in Mekeel's of April 27th. These remarks are for no other purpose in the world but to correct certain incorrect conclusions which you have.

I think you rather gave the impression that I came along and built up my study of the 1861 Issue on the research work of Perry and Brazer and perhaps others. Steve, on this assumption you are wrong. I was studying the 1861 Issue long before Perry ever even considered what the mess was all about. As for Brazer, well be never came into this picture until recent years, so I won't even discuss him. Perry did some good work in the early thirties but aside from arriving at the conclusion that the Premieres were never actually issued, he never solved in any way the mess of misstatements that Luff published in his book. No Steve, I did not base my study on the work of Perry, much less Brazer, and I think I can show by correspondence in my files that I arrived at the solution of this 1861 issue, independently of the work of others. I can easily name the bits contributed by both Perry and Brazer, and while their contributions were helpful to the final solution they were not vital. In fact, I had arrived at the correct solution before certain of their discoveries were put into print.

As early as the 1920's Chase and I worked together on the 1861 issue. At that time Brazer was not even known in stamps and further, I think

I can show that Perry's knowledge of the issue at that time was practically nil.

So much for that point. Now for your remarks on the 24¢ steel blue. There is unquestionably a real 24¢ steel blue color and this real color is no changeling. It is deep and rich and it runs strongly to blue, in fact it is a gergeous deep blue gray, not merely a bluish gray, but more decided, a blue gray. This is what it should be called no doubt. Now we do have two other classifications which are sold by dealers as "steel blue:" (A) Grays with a bluish cast but far more gray than blue. I call such stamps steel gray. Why? Well it is a name I coined to differentiate these stamps from the real steel blue.

(B) color changelings. In this class are sold stamps which are claimed to be steel blues. I think most of them are deteriorated copies of my steel gray, perhaps a few are extreme deteriorations from the steel blue.

Yes, Steve, I am positive there was a real steel blue color and that fresh copies are in existence. By fresh I mean stamps which have not been subjected to exposure, dampness, etc.

There is also the real 24d violet, but it is absurd to refer to this violet as a "24d Premiere" or a "24d August".

In the 5¢ we have the buff, the mustard, the brown, the red brown, etc., etc. Also in the 5¢ we have the pink, the rose, the carmine and many others, and likewise in the 24¢ we have the violet, the steel blue, the red lilac, the brown lilac, etc., etc.

The 24¢ violet has no right to be listed as #60, no more than it would be right to list the 24¢ steel blue under #60.

Why did we first have the 5d buff, then the mustard, then the red brown etc. etc.? All are simply changes in colors, not separate issues and all should be grouped in one group and not separately on different pages in the catalogue. The same applies to the 24d colors.

We have a 24¢ "Premiere," that is a "trial color printing" and if you wish call this #60 and list it only unused, because this trial color, the same as the 3¢ scarlett trial was never issued to the public. It was a "sample," part of the set put together and sent to foreign governments to show what the new stamps were going to look like. It doesn't make any difference what this "sample trial color" is called. It can be called a "Premiere", "A First Design", "an August," an "Essay", a "sample" or what not. In my article I told what it really is so what difference does it make what it is called so long as the fact remains that it was never issued to the public, hence it is not a regularly issued U. S. postage stamp, hence has no legitimate excuse to be included in the catalogue in the section devoted to "regularly issued stamps."

I quite agree with you that in certain details in my article I may have gone astray, but I maintain that such details were inconsequential, that the main and important point was that I took the mess that Luff invented, took it apart, and put each item of his made up issue into their proper place. No one had ever done this before. Here I claim was the very heart of my story. We will use my solution as a foundation

#3 - Mr. Stephen G. Rich, May 11, 1942.

on which to build the final solution of all the details. Hence if I went astray on certain details, I have by no means abandoned these details but hope to solve them later.

Regarding Perry's work. I can point out to you why Perry failed to reach the correct solution. He was trying to solve the problem by using as a foundation for a solution the Luff fairy tale.

One cannot reach the truth on a foundation of lies and misstatements. I made up my mind I would have to discard everything that Luff stated and start clean, not with an issue, a mythical issue, but with each element that Luff used to make one issue. Then I got down to the truth.

With these thoughts in mind you can imagine my reaction when I read your remarks in Mekeel's.

Regarding corrections in the catalogue. No, I don't expect Clark to read everything I put into print and then hasten to make catalogue changes, but when a really important article is published, I do think it is his duty to read it and digest the data presented and use same to make the catalogue more accurate. He could at least do this with 19th Century U. S. if the articles are by well known writers, who by reputation, are known not as crackpots. On this you will agree I am sure.

I thought I had a lead down at Washington whereby I was going to get some data I need very badly. If successful I intended to pass this lead on to you. I now fear it was another dud.

Again I repeat, I read your letter with much interest but I find it unnecessary to comment further on various points mentioned. Perhaps there
is one exception - the A.P.S. The A.P. justifies its existence, in
my opinion if there is no other reason. I think Kimble is trying to do
a real job and I think we should all help him to that end.

With best regards,

Cordially yours,

March 18, 1942.

Mr. W. L. L. Peltz, 82 State St., Albany, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Peltz:

I don't recall that I ever saw a 5¢ 1847 from Albany canceled with a black grid, therefore I was pleased to see this cover and to learn that Albany used red until December 1850 and then switched to black. Chase mentioned several post offices where black cancels were used but he did not include Albany. Thanks.

I also think that this cover definitely fixes the office which used the curved "U.STATES." I was never quite sure where this was applied. Albany was one of the exchange offices and mail went to Montreal in closed bags. As this cover surely originated in Albany, this handstamp was applied there. Inasmuch as it is partly under one stamp, it was applied before the stamps, hence the letter must have been mailed without the stamps, with postage paid in cash, or charged to Emery & Co. Do you suppose those pen marks have any significance? I was just wondering. The so-called Wheeling precancel was not a regular precancel but evidently some kind of a control mark. I have wondered if it wasn't applied to stamps used on "charged mail." Do these pen marks on the two 5d mean that the postage used on this letter was charged to the account of Emery & Co.? Are they "control marks" of the Albany P.O.? Naturally these are just wild guesses so take them as such. The stamp in upper right seems to be well canceled with the black grid, so evidently the pen marks were not for the sole purpose to show this stamp was properly canceled. This raises the question, which was applied first, the black grids or the pen marks. Perhaps the evidence indicates the grids were applied before the pen marks, because the black grid ink has some oil in it, and it seems pessible that over certain "heavy oil"spots" the ink of the pen failed to register properly, as stated above, all of this is guess work.

I have been wrong on some of my deductions on U. S. Canadian mail of the period subsequent to the first part of April of 1851. The postal agreement entered into with Canada in late March 1851 provided for the prepayment in either country of the postage to destination. The rate was 10¢ per 1/2 oz., in the U.S. to destination in Canada, provided the office of origin was within 3000 miles of the frontier exchange office. Over 3000 miles the rate was 15¢, as for example California.

According to the Canadian notice the "Agreement" was to go into effect in Canada on April 6, 1851. Thus the two 5¢ 1847 stamps on your cover paid the "whole postage" to Drummondville and there was no postage due in Canada.

At last I seem to be getting the U.S.-Canadian mail rates and markings straightened cut.

Again referring to your piece of cover. Evidently my theory on the

Mr. W. L. L. Peltz, March 18, 1942.

"10" was wrong. I now believe that the two stamps paid the full postage from Canada to the U.S. destination and that the "10" was part of two U.S. markings reading, "10 Paid."

The 1852 P.L. & R. - Section 343 - stated, "Under the agreements with Canada and New Brunswick, the respective United States exchange offices are required to stamp "U.States" on all letters sent into any of the British North American provinces xxx and to mark all paid letters received from the said provinces with the word 'Paid' and the full amount of the U.S. and Provincial postage paid thereon, both in red ink, and to mark all the unpaid letters from said Provinces in black ink, with the full amount of U.S. and Provincial postages due thereon." The "lo" on your piece is in red and in a different red than the Kingston, hence U.S. applied in conformity with the above regulation. Evidently handndstamp "Paid" was originally on this cover.

The "agreement" stated that the "whole" rate was made up of two parts 5 d U.S. (within 3000 miles) and 3 pence Canadian. Each country to retain all postages collected in each country. The Canadian notice (of April 2, 1851) stated that the rate from the U.S. to Canada was 10 cents or 6 pence Canadian currency. Hence the payment on your cover (piece) was O.K. In this case, however, Canada was the loser as she should have received 6 pence on this letter instead of 3 pence.

The agreement stated that less than the "whole combined rate cannot be prepaid."

This letter is intended as a little chat with you, making a guess here and there, with the insertion of some facts I had overlooked heretofore. I'll certainly appreciate your comments and criticism.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 3, 1942.

Mr. James H. Baxter, 140 Elmwood Ave., Norwood, Pa.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

In the October and January issues of the Collectors Club Philatelist, Mr. G. Gilbert published some articles relating to the composition of the plates used for the U.S. issues of 1847, 1851, 1857 and 1860. I am wondering if you read these articles and if you agreed or disagreed with the author's conclusions.

The Gilbert articles have raised quite a controversy and I think that advanced students of the above itsues would heartily welcome some comments by someone whoseould speak authoritatively on the subject. In view of your fine articles on line engraved stamps in the American Philatelist, I am wondering if you would care to comment on the theories advanced by Mr. Gilbert.

Sincerely yours,



## JAMES H. BAXTER

- 140 ELMWOOD AVENUE • NORWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA
- U. S. A.

March 15. 1942.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook. 434 S. Grand Avenue. Fort Thomas. Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Unfortunately, I am not a subscriber to the Collectors Club Philatelist and have not read the Gilbert articles referred to in your letter.

If it is possible for you to forward copies of the articles I shall be willing to comment on his theories after I have carefully studied them.

Sincerely yours.

James H. Baxter.

March 23, 1942.

Mr. James H. Baxter, 140 Elmwood Ave., Norwood, Penna.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

Yours of the 15th received. I thought perhaps you were a member of the Collectors Club and had received the C. C. Philatelist with the two articles by Gerard Gilbert, formerly of Paris, France, now residing in New York City.

In the October 1941 issue, Gilbert stated that the "Early plates" of U. S. stamps, issues 1847 to to 1860, were made by "Galvanaplasty." In the January 1942 issue, he had some further remarks along the same lines. He made the claim that the Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. plates of the 1851 issue were not steel plates but were actually copper plates, "steeled."

May I inquire if you are fully conversant with our 1847 and 1851 stamps and if you believe you could dispute or confirm the statements made by Mr. Gilbert? If so, I feel confident that the collecting public would warmly welcome a criticism by you of the Gilbert articles. So far no one has answered his statements in print. I think this should be done. If agreeable to you, I will have copies of the Collectors Glub Philatelist forwarded to you at my expense.

Several years ago I published a series of articles in "Stamps" advancing the theory that the 1847 stamps were printed from copper, plates, not from steel plates. As these articles have some relationship to the Gilbert statements may I inquire if you read my articles? If not perhaps I can arrange to forward you the back numbers containing my notes. I would also welcome your criticism of my notes.

Sincerely yours,



## JAMES H. BAXTER

140 ELMWOOD AVENUENORWOOD, PENNSYLVANIAU. S. A.

April 5, 1942.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook, 434 S. Grand Avenue, Fort Thomas. Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your offer to have copies of the Collectors Club Philatelist forwarded to me is appreciated. If this is done I shall be willing to express an opinion after reading Gerard Gilbert's articles.

Without qualification I can not say that I am "fully" conversant with our 1847 and 1851 issues, but I believe I have certain information which may be helpful in proving or disproving theories which have been advanced.

The articles which you published several years ago in Stamps caused quite a controversy at the time. I do not recall having publicly asserted whether I agreed with you or not; but I do recall having agreed with you on on certain points. If you will give me the dates when the articles appeared I will look them up in my files.

As I am home weekends only, I would appreciate having my mail aarrive not later than Friday so that I may give it the proper attention.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Boyte,

April 10, 1942.

Mr. James H. Baxter, 140 Elmwood Ave., Norwood, Penna.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

I have instructed the Librarian of the Collectors Club to forward you the October 1941 and January 1942 numbers of the Collectors Club Philatelist, which kindly accept with my compliments.

In order to save you the trouble, I am forwarding you, under separate cover, the five numbers of "Stamps" which contained the article on the 1847 copper plates. There is no need to return these.

I will indeed greatly appreciate your comments on Mr. Gilbert's remarks and also your frank criticism of my article on the 1847 "copper plates."

May I ask your opinion on the following:

Is it not a fact that a stamp with a double transfer from a copper plate would have different characteristics than the same variety from a steel plate? This includes of course a re-entry or a fresh entry.

May I further inquire if you ever examined the controversial "Knapp 100 1847 shift?" If not have you ever examined a fine enlarged photograph of this item? If so, is it your opinion that this variety could by any chance, be "an error of printing" or as Elliott Perry calls this stamp, "an imitation shift?"

Quite a bit of controversy has taken place in recent years on the "Knapp shift," and the "copper plate theory" of the 1847 issue.

Now we have the Gilbert theory added to the collection. I think the collecting public would greatly welcome some comments by one who is qualified to discuss these three subjects. I hope you are that authority and can give us something more than a lot of guesses.

Sincerely yours,

## 434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

April 10, 1942.

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Sincerely yours,



## JAMES H. BAXTER

- 140 ELMWOOD AVENUENORWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA
- U. S. A.

May 3, 1942

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I wish to thank you for the two copies of the Collector Club Philatelist which arrived early last week and the five numbers of Stamps which arrived the week previous.

I have not had the time to carefully read your article on ther 5c 1847 copper plate theory but have carefully read Gerard Gilbert's article.

Which plates could be duplicated by electro-deposition of metal at the time the early issues of our postage stamps were printed is correct. But he offers no proof that the stamps were printed from galvanoplastic plates. He also assumes that since these plates were available in Europe they were also available here. This I believe is a fallacy. I have completed my research on the development of the electrotyping method of duplicating plates in America and shall begin to collate the data this week. As soon as the article is completed (it will be very short) I shall sent it to you to use in any manner you see fit.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to examine an enlarged halftone print of the "Knapp 10c 1847 shift." At the time I made a celophane tracing of the extraneous lines on the stamp but was unable by superimposing the tracing on the stamp to find where these lines corresponded to the original engraving. Someone, I believe it was Horace Barr, of Reading, Pa., told me he had made a photographic transparency and he too was unable to match the lines with the ariginal. Until a duplicate is found the Knapp shift cannot be classified as anything but a printing variety.

If the Knapp shift is a plate variety the difficulty in finding a duplicate is probably due to the fact that the stamp is part plate and part printing variety; i.e., a portion of the extra lines may be a genuine shift and the balance may be simply ink smeats or offset pigment. If such is the case it would be difficult to determine where the plate variety ends and the printing variety begins.

You know this stamp perhaps better than anyone else. Can you not, by comparing the Knapp shift with known plate varieties, find at least a similarity that would substantiate my theory that the stamp is in fact a mongrel?

Yes, it is fact that there are differences in characteristics between steel and copper plate prints. This is especially true when the original was engraved in copper but there are some who claim they can differentiate between prints from steel and copper plates even though the original was engraved in steel and transferred by siderography. It follows that double transfer varieties would have different characteristics when transferred to copper than they would have when transferred to steel.

As soon as I complete my criticism of the galvanoplasty plate theory I shall undertake to carefully study your copper plate thoery.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Baxter.

Man 4th 1862 Mrs Caroline Carson 6 Each 14 th Street Newyork Come C. C. Detrusted (55A) 40 Junity Buildings 20% Jan witter Col lin E. H. y courtain I Rope I hove the hiretorn her

Confederate "Thrue Blochade" covers, Fig.5 from Charleston may 4th, 1862" via Narsanto N Sate of letter or of inpenalt receipt? 2 or January? "H" in red erayon "Narsan - B - TY 26-62-July- Jy-Ju PAID" in red. Jary - Jy - Ja (5) in black Fig. "4" in red Erayon "Nassau-C-OC-21-63-PAID" in red (5) in black Fig. 7 Ounde of flap from Oct 21'63

> Van Dyk Mao Bride 744 Broad St. Newark, N. J. U. S. A.

#### 744 BROAD STREET NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

'April 6th, 1942.

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

Dear Stanley:

I am writing to ask you to help me in connection with an article I have about ready to publish in the STAMP SPECIALIST, on the subject: Confederate Blockade Covers. The idea for the article arose out of two covers I secured recently, and of which I send you a photograph. Then I decided to expand the article and illustrate other blockade covers in it, so as to make it more suitable for the SPECIALIST rather than STAMPS.

Larry Shenfield of course wrote a splendid article on this subject a few years ago in the AMERICAN PHILATELIST, of which I have a copy. Also I saw Larry yesterday and went over the whole subject with him pretty thoroughly. However he got "stuck" as I had, on one angle presented by the two particular covers of which I enclose photographs. He felt sure you could straighten it out, as it is a matter of what rates were paid as indicated by the markings on these covers.

I am enclosing the last few pages of the first draft of my proposed article, - this being the portion of the article referring to these particular two covers. Will you now read them, and then come back to this letter?

The point is of course to get a more adequate explanation of the postal markings, - particularly of the black numeral "5" in a circle. The red "Nassau - Paid" postmarks and the red crayon "4" Shenfield thinks indicates the regular ship rate from Nassau to New York, paid in advance on these covers when they were mailed at Nassau. At first he thought the black "5" was the ship rate due and unpaid on the covers when they arrived in the New York postoffice, - but this doesn't make sense to me. Why was anything due in New York if they were full paid out of Nassau? Also why is the usual round New York City postmark missing? One theory is that the port of entry might have been Baltimore or some other place than New York, and then forwarded to New York City, with 5¢ due. If so, why no postmark of such port of entry? Just what ship rates were involved in July of 1862 and October of 1863 between

Nassau and U.S., - note that these two letters were mailed a year and three months apart, have identical postal markings, and therefore both must have followed the same route, whatever it was!

So there is the problem, and I will look forward with great interest to your views on it, - as well as any other comments you may care to offer on the enclosed portion of my article, and on the "logic" set forth therein. If you possibly can, will you let me hear from you on this very promptly, - for Lindquist is waiting for me to submit the article.

Sincerely yours,

MacB/HK

You can heep the photos and/or the article, if you want either or both, - or return to me!

Few covers which went the other way, - out of the Confederacy to Europe or elsewhere have been located, although there must have been many of them. The Confederate postoffices would not accept them for there was no "legal" means for sending them to their destinations. They could only be sent by private arrangement with the ship owners or their agents, and no postal markings were placed on them until they reached their first legal port of entry, - Nassau, Bermuda, or perhaps England, where the regular rates of postage were paid and they were safely on their way. Therefore, unless the original enclosure survived, or there were revealing notations on the cover, it is difficult to definitely identify them. However, the two covers now described in this article are among the exceptions for there are strong evidences that they were carried by blockade runners from Charleston to Nassau, from whence they were mailed to New York City. Evidently the sender, in beleagured Charleston, thought this a surer way to get letters through to New York than via the "Flag of Truce" method through the fighting lines, or perhaps this sender did not want these letters censored!

Figures 5 and 6 are illustrations of these two covers, and a study of the postal markings on them reveals their story. Delivered by the blockade runner from Charleston to the postoffice when it reached Nassau, postage of 4 pence was paid each cover being so marked with a "4" in red crayon. Sent on to New York, the postoffice there handstamped the "5" in a circle in black, covering the ship-rate due in New York, which would have been in red if paid in advance. An unusual feature is that the regular New York circular postmark is lacking, - but this probably was because the covers went by private ship from Nassau to New York rather than by a regular mail ship.

Let us now note the dates involved, which are most interesting. The first cover bears a penciled notation, - "May 4, 1862", obviously the date of the letter which it enclosed. However, the circular postmark of Nassau, which is in red, is dated July 26, 1862, - indicating that it took nearly the months for the letter to get through the block-

he was 1662 ments of your way what the Now was farmer what the way he was farmer what the way were been 54" in means of your what the way were been 54" in means of your what the way what the way he was been a 54" in means of your what the way when the way what the way when the way what the way when the

ade and disposing of any idea that this cover may have originated in Nassau rather than having come from Charleston. The second cover is post-marked "Nassau, B.W.I., Oct. 21, 1863" a year and three months after the first one, and yet it bears exactly duplicate postal markings, which would tend to prove that this was a well established route for such letters.

eaddressed to

While there can hardly be any doubt of the Confederate origin of these letters and of their passage through the blockade, additional proof is found in the notation which the sender happened to write inside under the flap of the second envelope, which is illustrated here as Figure 7. In a small feminine hand is written:

"Minnie sends love. The members of the family do not know I am writing. Col. Wm. C.H. of Columbia (?) died in Charleston lately. I hope I have the direction (?) but am doubtful."

Here is local gossip from Charleston being sent to a friend, one Mrs. Carson in New York, - probably the original letter held more gossip and news but the lady who wrote it exercised the woman's privilege of "just a word more" and squeezed the additional news on to the flap just before sealing the envelope! And it was Evidently 5 long and true friend
many friends in Charleston ship for more than a year later she was still writing Mrs. Carson, and using the same means of sending her letter through the blockade!

These two interesting covers were discovered by Mr. James S. Hardy who obtained them from an old resident of Charleston, who was a relative of their writer, and whose Aunt was the "Minnie" mentioned in the post-script. Together with the other covers here illustrated, they now occupy an honored place in the Blockade Covers section of the author's collection of Confederate Stamps and Postal History. Acknowledgment of aid in gathering much of the data in this article is also gladly made to Messrs. August Dietz, Elliott Perry and Stanley Ashbrook, and particularly to Mr. Lawrence L. Shenfield who was the author of a scholarly article on Blockade Covers which appeared in The American Philatelist of June, 1938.



April 9, 1942.

Mr. Van Dyke MacBride, 744 Broad St., Newark, N.J.

Dear Mac:

I doubt if I can give you the correct answer to those two blocade covers. About all I can do is to theorize, so take my guesses for what they are worth.

First, I think you are right in assuming these covers originated in Charleston and were run thru the blocade to Nassau. Several points indicate this, as I will explain later.

Second, I am practically sure that the encircled "5" was applied at New York, because I have covers showing this exact type used there. It is an odd type and the chances are it was a type used only at New York, but of course we can't be certain as to this.

Third, I assume, of course, these were "ship letters" brought to New York by private ship from Nassau.

Fourth, it was not always customary in the late fifties and sixties to postmark "ship letters" (at New York) with "Ship", hence the absence of a New York postmark. I can show you many covers of this period from Cuba, (say late fifties) which have no New York p.m., only the rate stamp "10" or "20."

Now as to this encircled "5," and ship rates. The act of February 27, 1861, provided, "Every letter, brought into the U. S. in any private ship or vessel shall be charged 5¢, if delivered at the post office of arrival, but if conveyed beyond (to another P.O.) then 2¢ in addition to the ordinary rate of postage." You will note that this law made the rate the same whether to port of entry or to distances under 3000 miles.

Example:

Received at New York addressed to N.Y. - 5d

Received at New York addressed to San Francisco - 12¢

Now note the act of March 3, 1863: Drop rate was 2¢ Ship letters double ordinary postage.

The point I am trying to emphasize is this:

The ship rate in 1862 was 5¢ but in Oct. 1863, it was 2 X 2¢ or 4¢, on a letter brought by private ship to New York and addressed to New York.

Both your letters are rated "5" but one is 1862, the other Oct. 1863. What is the answer?

Mr. Van Dyke MacBride, April 9, 1942.

The ship rate on the 1862 letter is correct but why was the 1863 letter rated "5" when it should have been rated "double ordinary postage" or to be explicit "double the drop rate?"

I think the answer is this. Neither one of these covers are the ordinary "ship letters," but rather, they come under the following regular rate:

"Bahamas - By direct steamer from New York - 5 cents." (This rate from the 1863 P.L. & R. - rates in effect April 1, 1863). I den't know whether this rate was optional or not, that is, whether or not it had to be prepaid. The 1859 P.L. & R. gave the same rate. If the markings are in black, I judge the rate was unpaid and 5¢ was collected on each letter at New York.

Now for the "4." I am not sure as to the meaning of this, but I judge it means that four pence was prepaid at Nassau on receipt of the letter from Charleston. I doubt if the Nassau "Paid" meant that the letter was paid to destination but rather that the British postage had been paid. The only reference I have to explain the "4" is the following, (referring to British west Indian rates):

"1862 - town delivery 1 pence, under 30 miles, 2 pence, 31 to 60 miles, 3 pence, over 60 miles, four pence." (See "Hand struck Postage Stamps of the Empire" - Robson Lowe - 1938-39 - p. 185).

Re - the "May 4th 1862." I would say this is the date of the letter, not the date of receipt. The British abbreviations were as follows, (naturally Canada also, and a good point to remember):

JA - Jenuary JU - June JY - July.

If you don't mind, I will keep the photos, also your notes as this subject is quite interesting.

I am sure Larry would be interested in what I have written above, so I am sending him a copy of this letter in order to save you the trouble.

One thing more - I think the absence of "Ship" means perhaps that these were not private ship letters - second, the absence of "Paid" (at New York) means (?) that postage was due of 5¢, black surely (?) indicates this.

Re - "By Direct Steamer from New York." Was this British or American Packet? My guess would be British, which would mean that the "4 pence" paid the British postage to the U.S. frontier and we collected the U.S. ship to shore rate of 5%. Outgoing, the rate was no doubt, "5% (prepaid) by direct steamer, meaning British Packet" - this our regular 5% shore to ship rate, such as a 5% rate by British Packet from Boston to Halifax - shore to ship, only - balance due at Halifax. Thus, had this been an outgoing letter (N.Y. to Nassau) the British postage would have been collected at Nassau.

My final guess would be that the 4 pence paid was the British postage

#3.

Mr. Van Dyke MacBride, April 9, 1942.

paid and carried the letter to the U. S. frontier (at N.Y.) with the U. S. ship to shore rate of 5% due on delivery. Take your choice.

Best regards.

Cordially,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 12, 1942.

Mr. H. Morgan Ryther, South Main St., Belchertown, Mass.

Dear Mr. Ryther:

Referring to yours of the 4th. The only possible explanation I can offer for the 3¢ plus 1¢ cover is that it was a "prepaid Way rate." This of course is based on the supposition that the 1¢ stamp actually originated on the cover. Of this there is no visible proof. A prepaid Way means that the Route Agent picked this letter up on his route into Worcester, deposited it in the P.O. there and collected his Way fee of One Cent. It was not the general custom to prepay the Way fee but it was frequently done, and when the fee was prepaid the receiving office was not obliged by the Regulations to mark the letter "Way." The use of the 3¢ Type I indicates a use in 1858. If the 1¢ was used on the cover, then 1857 would be too early.

What interests me more than the rate or use is the imprint copy of the ld. This Type V stamp does not come from Plates 7, 8, 9 or 10, hence it must come from either Plates 5 or 6. Inasmuch as I have never seen a position 50R (such as this is) from either of these two plates it is not surprising that I am unable to identify the particular plate. Inasmuch as no one else of whom I know has ever devoted as much study to these plates as I have, it is quite improbable that there is an existing record. The most probable use of stamps from the early part of 1858, hence this ties in with the probable date of use as given above and leads me to believe that the ld stamp was actually used on this cover. Why it was canceled with a pen at Worcester instead of with the grid, I do not know.

Another explanation for this cover might be this. It was originally mailed from Worcester with the 3¢ 1857 and was addressed to H.A. Bridgman at Amherst. Bridgman, later crossed out his name and also the Worcester postmark and re-addressed the cover to Miss Dickinson at North Amherst, sending her a circular in the envelope unsealed and pre-paying same with the 1¢ 1857. The Amherst office pen canceled the 1¢. As you know, it was not always customary to postmark circular mail. I would be interested in learning which one of my explanations of the use appeal to you as the more probable.

If by any chance you have no particular use for the 1¢ stamp, I would like to acquire it for the reasons which I have fully explained above.

Regarding the stampless cover. While I have various lists of Post Offices in the 1830's and 1840's, I have no list which gives the names of postmasters from 1839 to 1851. In the 1839 list, Lyman Gilbert is listed as the P.M. as I note from your memo the same man was the P.M. in 1836 and 1837.

I haven't had much luck in being able to find Postal Guides of the

Mr. H. Morgan Ryther, March 12, 1942.

1830's and 1840's. If you run across any duplicate copies at any time, I will appreciate an opportunity to acquire such as I can use.

The fact that Erving, Mass. handstamped the cover both front and back is quite unusual, but why this was done in this case is a mystery to me.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. -- May I suggest that you write K. P. Aldrich, Chief Inspector, Post Office Dept., Washington, D. C. I am sure that Mr. Aldrich will give you the names of the postmasters at Northfield in the forties.

S.B.A.

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From the Collectors Club Library W. R. M'Coy, Librarian

January 29, 1942.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook Fort Thomas Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I was astonished the other day in looking up something in the Collectors Club PHILATELIST to find that you evidently have never had any articles in that paper.

I expect to have quite a little to do with the next (April) issue and it certainly seems to me that an article by you on some pertinent subject would be a fine thing to include in the issue. As you know, the PHILATELIST really ranks very high in the philatelic literature field and articles in it are rather widely read and referred to.

We would be willing to have cuts prepared for anything without cost to you and I am sure that you know the high type of cuts which we have been using.

I would consider it as a personal favor as well as appreciation of some of the assistance the Library has endeavored to give, if you could let me have something. The subject and length of your own choice.

Yours very truly

W. Lloyd Heath

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Feb. 4, 1942.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook Fort Thomas Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

A few years ago I took part in a minstrel show given by Mens Club in my Church. In that show I sang a song titled "You Can't Blame Me For That". Guess I'll have to come out to Fort Thomas and sing the chorus to you to cover my position re the matters in third paragraph of your letter. All I am doing is "making up" the paper.

However, Mr. McCoy is going to be away until after the April issue is ready and I'll have to be the goat for anything wrong in that one.

My feeling about the PHILATELIST is that it is one of the FEW serious philatelic publications that exist nad I would like to see articles by the leading (and I am NOT throwing bouquets at you) students appear in its pages. It was for that reason I wrote as I did. I think that the PHILATELIST will be the one to be honored by having an article by you in its issue.

I would appreciate it very much if you could get out an article, length to be your own judgement, on some good interesting matter for the April issue. I plan to send copy to printer as early as I can, not later than Mar. 15th if possible. Would like something that could be FULLY illustrated. We can have any photographs made here if necessary if you supply the original material. Of course there would be no charge of any kind to you.

I certainly appreciate your evidence of cooperation and will await further word with interest.

Sincerety Cloud Heath

W. Lloyd Heath

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Feb. 13, 1942.

Mr. W. Lloyd Heath, % The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Heath:

Yours of the 4th received, and at about the same time the January issue of the C. C. P. arrived, with the perfectly ridiculous remarks by Gilbert.

I know full well that you had nothing to do with the publication of Gilbert's nonsense, but does the October and January issues justify your statement that the C. C. P. is one of the few serious philatelic publications that exists in the world today? Can a publication be considered serious if the Editor in charge knows practically nothing about the subjects treated?

Truly anything can happen in America. Here we have a foreigner accepting American hospitality, one who knows absolutely nothing about United States stamps, and whose ego borders on insanity. This French expert proceeds to tell us that all American students are wrong, and to prove his insane conclusions he cites evidence that was discredited years ago. One might expect such stuff in the Western Stamp Collector, or perhaps even in Gossip, but not in a journal, supposed to cater to advanced collectors.

You very kindly asked me to submit an article for the April issue. Perhaps some people can sit down and dash an article off the typewriter in ten or fifteen minutes but I have never been able to do such a thing. Any serious article that I prepare, requires much time and thought, perhaps several days labor, making special drawings, photographs, etc., for which there is no remumeration.

In all frankness may I ask, if you were in my place, would you feel very enthusiastic about taking time out to prepare an article for a publication that publishes such rubbish as Gilbert's stuff in the October and January issues of the C. C. P.?

Over four hundred years ago, the inhabitants of this planet thought this globe was flat, but Columbus had a different idea and proved his theory. One would hardly suppose there were any civilized people today who still thought the world was flat but according to reports, one Wilbur Glenn Voliva of Zion, still contends that the world is not round but flat. Suppose the National Geographic published an article by Voliva in which he based his conclusions on the flat theory by quoting some cracked brained scientist of the pre-Columbus age. What would the readers of the National Geographic think of their editor? Would they think he was justified in publishing this "new evidence?" Or would they think that the Voliva remarks were nuts?

Note Gilbert's closing words on page 65. Referring to the plates of the 1847 issue he stated:

"The plates which were destroyed on Dec. 12, 1851, were the only

Mr. W. Lloyd Heath, Feb. 13, 1942.

ones which ever did exist."

Here is a positive statement, not an expression of a theory. I wonder if you realize how totally absurd such a statement is? "The plates destroyed" were plates of 100 subjects," and Gilbert tells American Philately that the only plate which ever did exist, say of the 10% value, was a plate of only 100subjects. Just imagine that and this rubbish appeared in the C. C. P. which prides itself that it is one of the few really serious philatelic publications in the world.

If Gilbert is right, then I don't doubt that the world is flat, and that the moon is made of green choose.

Yes, anything can happen in America, but I dare say no such similar rubbish on British stamps could have slipped by the editor of the London Philatelist.

If the army and navy heads in command at Pearl Harbor had been German officers, Hitler would have court-martialed and shot them long before this, but what will we do? Why no doubt they will go seet free and be retired on pensions.

Yes, anything can happen in America. Any crack pot can get his stuff published in the C. C. P. provided he comes to us with a reputation as a "great foreign philatelic expert."

No wonder foreigners laugh at American Philately and look with scorn at all the silly rubbish that appears in our philatelic press, including probably my own stuff, which by the way, is utterly ridiculous if Monsieur Gilbert's latest research work is authentic.

I realize that the C. C. P. wouldn't dare to publish this letter, but I entertain the conviction that there is more truth herein than in the space given over to the French Expert in the October and January issues of the C. C. P.

Cordially yours,

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FROM THE COLLECTORS CLUB LIBRARY W. L. Heath

Feb. 16, 1942.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Yours of the 13th at hand. I don't blame you in the slightest for your remarks and everything else. You are not the only one who feels the same way.

This will have to be one of those "Under the Rose" letters where we can let our hair down and go to it but to be treated as absolutely confifential.

As you say, I had nothing to do with the publication of the article. All I have been doing for the past two issues is "making up" the pages for the printer. I was not at all impressed with the article and went to the bat with the editor about it but was "put in my place" by him.

I have always been very proud of the C.C.P. and what it has (laways stood for. That is reason I wanted the article by you so badly, because I knew that it would be a feather in the C.C.P. hat to have an authority like you (no bouquets - just facts) in our paper. I HATE controversial issues. They haveno place in the C.C.P. and if I ever have full say the will be none.

Am trying to get so much REAL material for next issue that there will be no space for article by "our friend" (or anyway, nothing about U.S.)

This is off the record, but I hope you will cooperate with me and we will see what we can do to make the April issue a bang up 100% philatelic issue.

Hastily Rloyd Healty

## Feb. 16 1941

Dear Stanley, Hers is too books for to Resemb groups. also here is a first doubt of a most that I depend out -y asterday ( Sunday) A.m. of anything, in this is suitable for the next issue of your "release", it okays
to use it. Dell philatelia paper they may copy if they please. I've been getting "borned up" over owned to the things, to thought I'd let It steam. I left it in the first draft form, feeling it would be revealed by your. In not like EBJ with a strong at back & call to do personal release in mensely. An lonking forward to not specifist. of Mr. Chyps . I have the your home. A. Attempt Sincerly yours Long whinpon

Feb. 18, 1942.

Mr. Tracy W. Simpson, 1475 Powell St., Oakland, Calif.

My dear Tracy:

Yours of the 16th received. So far as I can learn, no one has taken Gilbert's remarks seriously. Personally I think he is a mental case, and I say this advisedly because I have been in correspondence with him for some months. I have tried to set the fellow right and really have at times been quite indulgent and went out of my way to explain to him that there was no way in the world that many of his statements could be correct. Getting disgusted, I tried to insult him by telling him in plain English that such and such a statement (in a letter) was absurd. His Galvanaplasty theory is all wet and hasn't a semblance of fact.

The 1847 plates were copper and the 1851-57-1860 plates were steel. The toppan 1851 plates were made by exactly the same process as the Perkins Bacon plates. Toppan Carpenter were in very close touch with Perkins Bacon and there is no question but what they exchanged ideas and followed practically the same methods of manufacture. In 1851, the Government specified steel plates and the Toppan firm used steel plates. In all my years of study of the 1¢ plates I never ran across one single bit of evidence to indicate anything other than steel plates. Every single piece of evidence fits together like a jag-saw. For example, take my study and explanation of the 1¢ inverted transfers. Could a plate such as Gilbert suggest, produce these? Never in a million years. Take the Plate 2 flaw. Characteristically steel plate. When one considers such things one can only come to the conclusion that Gilbert is not only "NUTS" but is actually crazy.

I'll argue with Uncle Ike of the Philatelic Peach Orchard but I won't take time out to argue with mental cases.

Such irresponsible slop should never have been published and believe me I have raised almighty hell about it. Had McCoy known anything about 19th Century stamps, he never would have accepted the Gilbert rot. But I can tell you this in confidence - McCoy has been fired as editor of the C. C. P. and there will not be any more Gilbert stuff in the C. C. P. Further, he hasn't a chance to get anything in "Stamps." I have put Kimble wise and I don't think Ralph will accept any of his stuff.

In the March A.P., Les Brookman will have quite an article on the 1847 issue and at the last minute before going to press, Les called me by phone and read me some comments he had added on Gilbert's stuff. I advised him to cut it and ignore completely all of Gilbert's remarks on the 1847 stamps. I suppose he took my advice.

All of which boils down to this. I don't suppose there is even one member in the Research Group who took Gilbert's stuff seriously, hence perhaps it might be wasted effort to call attention to Gilbert's

Mr. Tracy W. Simpson, Feb. 18, 1942.

remarks. On the other hand, there may be some members in the Club, who are not sufficiently informed and may have got the impression that maybe Gilbert had something new. So this is what I suggest, suppose we publish your article in the C. C. P. rather than limiting it to 30 members of the Group. I'll be glad to insert a notice advising Group members to watch for it in the April C. C. P.

Now I am very rusty on the 3¢ 1851-1857 so I further suggest that you have Doc look over your notes and add any points which you might have overlooked.

Regarding your remarks on the Luff Reprint in Gossip. The place for these remarks is in Gossip and inasmuch as I am on friendly terms with the editor, perhaps he would not refuse to bublish them.

Further - regarding your remarks on the S.U.S. Hughey Clark is a very touchy individual and don't welcome public criticism of his omissions, errors, etc. I judge the purpose you had in mind was to obtain some revisions in the 3¢ listings. I think the best way to accomplish this objective would be to let me send your remarks to . Hugh with my wholehearted endorsement.

Hugh thinks that if anyone has any kick coming he should take it up with him personally and not call the whole world's attention to listings which could be criticised.

The next "Stamp Specialist" will be out next week and in my article on the "Premieres" you will find I offered a number of suggestions for thealogue revisions, but what I want to call your attention to is this. I was very guarded in any criticism of Hugh, and besides, this article is supposed to be a means of paving the way for badly needed revisions in the not distant future.

Perry to pose as a big shot has severely criticised Luff and the catalogue, in "Pats" as no doubt you will recall. As a result of the way Perry has handled his suggestions, Hugh has no use for him in the world, hence with such bad blood between them, Perry's ravings have little influence on Hugh.

Again referring to your notes. In several places, you stated that Gilbert might be right on his Galvaneplasty theory. I am just wondering if this is the proper attitude. Consider the nature of the argument you are discussing. A remark, "he may be correct" might leave a doubt in the reader's mind, hence you weaken your argument. If you are convinced Bilbert is wrong then perhaps it would be better to go whole hog. You are a student of the 3¢ stamps and plates. Gilbert is not, therefore you should, in my opinion, write from an authoritative viewpoint. You can at least state that you have never seen any evidence to make you even suspect that the plates were not steel and that you would not entertain any such an idea unless sensible and convincing evidence was presented which certainly was not done in this case.

Understand Tracy, you are my friend, and I am volunteering the advice in this letter as friend to friend, with the full understanding that you are to accept any part that sounds reasonable to you and to reject any that does not appeal to you. I want you to know that whatever is

Mr. Tracy W. Simpson, Feb. 18, 1942.

O.K. with you is O.K. with me and if, after mulling over my views as expressed in this letter you would still prefer to carry out your original intention return your notes to me and I'll gladly follow your wishes in the matter.

This will acknowledge receipt of your check for \$10.00 for the "Research Group" for which kindly accept my thanks. You have been very generous in your support of the "Group" and I certainly appreciate your fine co-operation.

I delivered your message to Mrs. A. and Stan Jr. and also to Mr. Chips. Mr. Chips is really quite some man, all decked out in his heavy winter fur overcoat. Mr. Chips is no ordinary dog, as he is quite a gentleman in conduct and taste. For example, he not only enjoys hamburger, steak, but is very fond of beans, carrots, cake, salt rising bread, and greatly enjoys topping off a meal with some walnuts from Edgar's ranch. Imagine a dog eating nuts as well as cake and raisins.

We send you our kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Den Harris des de la production de la pr

Dear Sir:

I beg to take issue with Mr. Gerard Gilbert who writes in the January, 1942 Collectors Club Philatelist that it is his belief that the plates of the 3c 1851 were produced by electrolytic deposition of copper or, later, iron on copper; or that the later states of plates 1, 2, and 5 were made by deposition of a "steeling" surface by electrolysis of ferrous solution.

Such a process could not produce most of the known double transfers that exist on the later state of plates 2 and 5, or on the intermediate and late states of plate 1. Double transfers that occur on later states of a plate, and which are new transfers; i.e., not found on the previous state of the plate, obviously could only have gotten there by having the transfer roll impressed into the plate. This is contrary to the assumptions of the "galvanoplasty" idea, which is that later states of these plates were made by merely depositing more copper on them, and then recutting the plate to improve its surface.

The arguments given in support of the galvanoplasty idea, at least with respect to the 3c 1851 plates, will not "hold water" when examined critically. The author makes quite a point of the Luff theory that "in preparing the earlier plates of this value the surface of each plate was laid off in little upright rectangles .... into each of these rectangles the design was transferred." From this, the point is made that steel intaglio work could not have been done if the rectangles had been so drawn in advance.

The "little rectangle" theory was exploded by Dr. Chase years ago. One has only to examine a block of four of these stamps to see how the rectangles, which comprise the recut outer lines of these stamps, are not in alignment either vertically or horizontally, though better aligned vertically than horizontally. If they were laid out on the plate prior to transferring the designs, the work would have been done in some regular way; say, by T square and triangle, which would have produced reasonably exact alignment of the rectangles. The best evidence, of course, is comprised in the greater portion of the three right rows of the left pane of plate 3. No rectangles exist at these positions. Instead, the engraver drew some vertical recut lines adjacent to the stamp impression, using from one to four lines, arranging them, apparently, to create a more pleasing appearance of spacing - most likely to conceal from the casual observer that serious misalignment had occurred in transferring those positions. It is inconceivable that he drew these prior to the impressions of the transfer roll.

Another point that discredits the "little rectangle" theory is that if it were valid, there would be no reason for having the guide dots appear on the plate in the exact manner that they do.

The author quite clearly implies, also, that the early states of the 3c 1851 plates showed signs of wear and were remade for that reason, finally producing the "late" state in which the previous copper was now overlaid with iron. He then states, with respect to plate 1 (late), that it produced over 308.475 sheets "without getting worn in any way." If these statements be examined, it is evident that redepositing metal upon an

early state of plate could not remove traces of previous wear. All it would do would be to increase the thickness of the plate. All of the signs of the previous wear would be carried to the new state of the plate. Now it so happens that the early states of these plates did not show any sign of wear. I have over 300 copies from each of the early and intermediate states of plate 1, and there is no sign of wear on any of them. However, and by contrast, the stamps made from plate 1 (late), contrary to the statement of the author, do show excessive wear in the last year of use, the late impressions being almost caricatures of the stamp.

I will only briefly touch upon why the early states of these plates were re-worked. It is probable, as hinted by Dr. Chase, that the impressions were not found to be deep enough (possibly to handle the inks that were available, causing slowness of printing due to wiping difficulties). Possibly, the numerous short transfers of the early states may have had something to do with it. Of one thing it is certain, they were not reworked because they were worn. Dr. Chase's book states definitely, with respect to the early state, "The plate of course showed no wear while in this state." He repeats the same statement with respect to the intermediate state.

Another matter that opens the entire "galvanoplasty" theory to question is an analysis of what would have to be done to produce a recessed plate by using the process. A single transfer roll between the original die and the plate would produce a recessed impression in the gutta percha. If this had copper deposited thereon, the only way a recessed plate could be had for printing would be for the paper upon which the stamps were printed to be pressed against the side of the copper that bore the recess. This would be the top of the copper, or the side opposite to the gutta percha impression. This means that the copper shell, after removal from the gutta percha, would have embossing on the bottom. If this was then mounted on a metal backing, the mounting problem would be most difficult. However, even if we assume that this hurdle could be overcome, how can we explain the fact that all of the finest lines of the design continued on the liquid, or top, side of the copper shell while it was being built up by deposition? Knowing something about extra-thick electroplating, it is my opinion that the fine lines would not all be retained, though of course the underneath side of the plate, in direct contact with the gutta percha, would have every line retained.

It is believed that the only way the above can be controverted would be to say that the gutta percha was never recessed at all, but that it was embossed. This would require, then, either that the original die be used for making recesses in the gutta percha ( and we know it was not because the original die was too big), or that there were two transfer rolls that were intermediate between the die and the plate. The last is possible, but most unlikely.

It is submitted that even if a few of the above considerations can be brought within the scope of the "galvanoplasty" theory, the evidence of the new double transfers that are found on late states of certain plates is incontrovertible. From this, it is a reasonable conclusion that such being the case for these plates, it is likely to be the case for the other plates made by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Company.

CCs: Dr. Carroll Chase

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Mr. Leo J. Shaughnessy

Tracy W. Simpson

# 1962

Berkeley, California

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 13, 1942.

Mr. Tracy W. Simpson, 1475 Powell St., Oakland, Calif.

Dear Tracy:

I can no more explain this letter than you. It is sure queer and quite the opposite of the stuff handed to me. Looks like there is some double crossing somewhere. Why not withdraw your notes and have Lindquist publish them in "Stamps?"

Heath is lying to you as it is not too late for the April issue. He has been begging me to give him something for the April number. I was informed McCoy was "out," had resigned. Thanks for this "tip off" and nothing of mine will go in the C. C.P. Like many such organizations, this Club is run by a clique and generally such cliques are a bunch of heels, so I make it a rule to give them a wide berth. This includes all philatelic. societies, even the Royal, which by the way, gives me a pain in the neck.

Look at the A.P.S. - Wilhelm - Guest - Klein - Davis and a few other nincapoops. I can't stand the sight of Wilhelm - the pain he gives me is terrific.

Let me know what you do.

Yours etc ..

Dear Stadow st al bost.

This other thing to think by 3/19

Brother thing

2903 Forest Ave., Berkeley, Calif. March 19th, 1942

Dear Mr. Heath,

Is regard to your letter of March 4th commenting upon my letter of Feb. 26th addressed to the Editor of the Collectors Club Philatelist, I have been expecting to hear from Mr. McCoy concerning the disposition that the Cl b without to give to my letter. Inasmuch as nothing has been heard regarding it up to date I believe it advisable to go into the matter further in the interests of the Club of which I am a member.

The Gilbert article was clearly a case of somebody getting out of his depth. As I understand it, the article was not submitted for approval to those who are familiar with the subject — and known to be qualified — such as Chase, Ashbrook, etc. This being the case, the question now is — what should the Glub do about it? If it side-steps it as unimportant there is no question but that the issue will be carried to the outside philatelic press and this would not be favorable to the Glub's prestige. If however, the Glub will wash its own linen by permitting the prompt publication of an expression of disapproval, either mine or that of someother qualified person, the situation will be covered nicely. Certainly our Glub, which is presumed to be an authoritative body must do its own policing when what it publishes will not stand up under light of the most cursory examination.

My letter was as factual and dispassionate as I knew how to make it. I did not go outside of the field in which I enjoy something of a reputation. It is clear to enybody that the late state of Plate I of the lct. 1851 tells the same story as the three 3c plates to which I referred, but inasmuch as the lct is "out of my sphere" I made no mention of it. Neither did I state any conclusions that are beyond the premises mentioned. As to my qualifications for discussing this subject, I mention that since Dr. Chase's 3s have been largely broken up, my collection is clearly second only to that of Leo Shaughnessy's. I had the good fortune to receive Grand Prize at the APS exhibit at the San Francisco 1939 Annual Convention for my 3s. As to the opinions expressed in the letter sent you on Feb. 26th, I suggest you get in touch with Ashbrook, Chase, or Shanghnessy to whom I sent copies. I have heard from all of them and aside from a slight alteration of a part of the reference to Luff's "little rectangles" (which I will correct prior to publication) the letter has the complete endorsement of them all.

If whoever decides such matters as this is still of the belief that my communication should be "laid on the table," I request that you place all correspondence in the hands of Mr. Lichtenstein for review. If, because of failure of my own Club to act, this matter is permitted to drop, I would feel obliged to press this subject in the outside Bhilatelic magazines. This I will be loath to do, naturally. However, there is too much incorrect information floating around now about our early stamps — which is passed on from person to person, thereby persisting until it appears to have a semblance of truth — for me to stand aside and see this matter stand as it does at present. Sincerely yours

Feb. 7, 1942.

Mr. Karl Burroughs, 46 Langdon Ave., Watertown, Mass.

Dear Mr. Burroughs:

I am returning herewith your cover with the vertical pair of the 5d 1847. I think you will find that the pair comes from the same pane as your 89L-99L pair, that is, it is 81L-91L1 instead of 81R-91R1. I find I have a photograph of this same pair which was sent to me by Steve Brown some years back, together with a photograph of a 91L1 with big sheet margins. I am enclosing a print of this single. Steve loaned me his negatives and I made duplicate prints. You will note his single has no margin dot to left and that this sheet measured 10 1/8 mm.

I agree with you that there was some recutting on the 5¢ Plate #1 but so very little that I never thought it was practical to call attention to them for fear their extence might be overestimated.

Regarding marginal dots. The Emerson straddle copy showed a gutter of 7 mm, and the main mmarginal guide dot was 2 mm from the left pane and 5 mm from the right pane, thus we find left pane, loth vertical row positions with dots 2 mm to right but if a right pane first vertical row position does not show a sheet to left of 5 mm or over, it will not (?) show any marginal guide dot to left. My record shows that 50Rl-90Rl (D.T.) and lookl show no marginal guide dots to right.

I quite agree with you that all the guide dots were punched on the plate.

I note that you secured lot 2188 in the first Knapp sale. Congratulations. I have no photograph of this item. I am rather sure that the only marginal dots that can be considered as "guide dots" are the ones to left and right of the tri-foliate ornaments.

I am awfully sorry but I do not have a duplicate print of your 89-99Ll pair. If you would like for me to make a new print for you, please let me know. I have no system for filing negatives and when I run out of any duplicate prints I have to search thru a lot of negatives to locate the one desired.

Under separate cover I am sending you a photo of your proof block made when it belonged to Emerson, also copies of the Steve Brown photos. I made a new negative of your pair and will send a print later.

March 3, 1942.

Mr. Karl Burroughs, 46 Langdon Ave., Watertown, Mass.

Dear Mr. Burroughs:

Yours of the 21st received. I have often wondered if you ever succeeded in locating the positions of your large proof block of 30? This I have not been able to do, and if you have plated the block I would prefer that you do not give me the positions as it would be better if we solved the plating independently. Here is the progress I have made. Naturally the top horizontal row of the block can come only from the 2nd, 3rd or 4th horizontal rows. Hollowbush has an irregular block of 12 which I believe was cut from your block. This block is 5 vertical X 2 horizontal with the bottom row consisting of a strip of four, which joins the bottom row in your block.

In other words, if the top row in your block is from the second row, the positions would be 15L to 20L inclusive. This would make the positions in the Hollowbush block as follows: 11, 12, 21, 22, 31, 32, 41, 42, 51, 52, 53 and 54. The bottom row in your block would be 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60.

The Norcoss block of 16, (4 X 4) duplicates positions in the Hollow-bush block as follows: 11, 12, 21, 22, 31, 32, 41 and 42. This it will be noted that the 8 missing positions in the reconstruction of your block plus the Hollowbush block are supplied by the Norcoss block. I may, of course, be wrong in my conclusions but nevertheless I am passing them along to you and you may be able to prove or disprove them. If I am correct then we would have a reconstructed block of half the pane.

Further the Serphos used block of 12 comes from the second and third horizontal rows in your plets. Of course you have discovered this but I would like to have your confirmation. It is to be regretted that such an unusual block was not of more assistance.

Regarding the Emerson straddle copy. I was not able to match this with any position in your block. I have a good record of 100L and also 10L, so this leaves three positible positions from which the Emerson copy could come.

Re - the 90% 1860 double transfers. The listings have been in the catalogue since the early twenties and when they were made I am sure they did not refer to any particular positions, but were record from copies noted regardless of plate positions. So far as I am concerned I don't know much about the left pane, so it is possible this pane might have produced some nice examples. 60R is an excellent example of the top double.

Re - the 5¢ 1847 die proofs, dot or dash on left frame line opposite the lower part of "U." I have no record of a used stamp which shows this mark, nor have I any plate proof which shows it. I note you have a plate proof which shows this mark, also several used stamps.

Mr. Karl Burroughs, March 3, 1942.

Can it be possible the marks are identical with the die proofs? If this marking was on a relief used for a plate why is it that so many positions fail to show it?

Have you a photo of the Ward unused block of 16? I intend to ask Ward for a print, perhaps I could induce him to let me have two.

Sincerely yours,

April 22, 1942.

Mr. Karl Burroughs, 46 Langdon Ave., Watertown, Mass.

Dear Mr. Burroughs:

Sometime ago you were kind enough to send me photos of the two Kennedy covers, so I am returning the ones which were received this week.

I am enclosing herewith a stampless Kennedy which I have had for many years, probably back to about 1918. At one time I had perhaps ten or fifteen similar Kennedy items and no doubt I still have them packed away with a lot of junk. What do you think of this item? Do you think it came thru as it is or do you think that at one time it had a log 1847? I judge the curved "Paid" is the New York, still this color seems odd for New York, not red enough, and perhaps too much brown. If this was applied at New York do you think it would have been so hand-stamped if the cover contained a log 1847? Perhaps yes, if the cover was of a vintage of 1847 or 1848, but in May 1851 it seems to be rather irregular for New York to use the curved "Paid" in addition to an adhesive stamp.

Suppose we go on the theory that the letter came thru as is, then it what way does it differ from the two covers, photos of which you sent me?

I am not questioning either one of these covers, but rather, merely discussing them. Both of these covers have 10¢ stamps which are not tied to the cover. In addition the grids are different though one cover is Sep. 3, the other Sep. 10 (1847).

Note the Sep. 3. If this was originally a stampless about the only place where a log could have been added is in the place where it is. Note the Sep. 10. Here the stamp is crowded close to the upper right. Was it added? Was it so placed, in order not to cover up the pen "4," which was surely struck subsequent to the time the stamp was put on by "Dorwin" who rented Box 160.

Again referring to my cover. You will note the date is "May 12 1851," hence this is rated according to the "Agreement" of April 1851 between the U. S. and Canada. Under the terms of this agreement, letters to the Eastern U. S. were rated at six pence, which prepaid the postage to destination in the U. S.

Each country was to keep all postages collected, in other words, no settlements on balances. Now this stampless cover shows it was rated in Canada at "six pence" and evidently this sum was charged to Box 251 (note "Paid 251"). In addition, Montreal stamped it "Paid," hence this cover did not require a 10¢ stamp, so it is perfectly evident it came thru as it is.

I am calling your attention to these points for the following reasons:

Mr. Karl Burroughs, April 22, 1942.

First, I think a crockcould take this cover and add to it a 100 1847 which had a red grid struck fairly in the center, and how many collectors would be able to recognize the difference between the two covers of Sep. 3 and Sep. 10 and this stampless item with a 100 added.

Second, some could state that your two covers were perfectly good and in the same class as my stampless, the only difference being that originally all had 10¢ stamps but that someone removed the one on this cover. Of course the date and rating disproves this.

Third, some could claim that all three covers did not originally have stamps, as proved (?) by my stampless cover. Thus you can see the fallacy of such opinions.

Again regarding the "Sep 3." Unless I am mistaken this grid looks like one used at Brattleboro, Vt. In fact I have a 5¢ 1847 (off) with a Brattleboro grid struck in the exact center like the 10¢ on this cover. All of which may not mean a thing.

This is just a little discussion between ourselves, and in no way is it any criticism of the two Kennedy covers. So far as I actually know at present, they are good as gold.

Regarding Kennedy covers. I have seen various Kennedy covers which had the 10¢ stamps "securely" tied. At least, I don't recall that I ever questioned any of the "ties."

What I would like to see and examine is a number of Kennedy covers, all I could locate, make photos of each and then study the whole lot, side by side.

Regarding the  $5 \not < 1847$ . I think Chase was right on his three dot #80, but I am not quite sure that the bottom stamp in your pair is the #80 to which Chase referred, nor do I see what relation this pair has to the Emerson straddle copy. I have a memo of the plating marks on the latter and I am enclosing copy herewith.

Re - Lots 112 and 125 in recent Kelleher sale. I saw the latter but not the former, but I have an illustration of it as published several years ago. I wrote Dan that he had mis-described lot 125, and that this was a rate from Panama to San Blas. As a mate to this you should have the 30% rate cover from Panama to Maine, with S.L. "Panama" in red on face. The owner is holding it at \$600.

I am not familiar with the minor D.T. of the 5¢ but will make a note and watch for any such a variety.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Dear Stan:

just

I have finally found my records (temporarily lost when I moved about 2 years ago) and I now find that Emnie paid me off during the first week in November, 1938 so he apparantly paid me off) before your deal was completed. I do not know when he submitted the cover to you or if you had worked out a deal or a tentative deal with him by that time. Cassell had told me that he thought I closed the deal with Ernie in May, 1939 but I thought that it was before this and now that I have found my records I am certain.

Thus it now appears that he may not have gyped me (unless he actually had the deal set up when he bought me out). There is, however, no doubt whatsoever but that he lied to you and cheated you. I have at last obtained the letter from Miss Bobb and I enchose it. Note that she says she didn't receive any mail from Jacobs—I think Ernie and I agreed that the whole deal should be carried on under my name although he for the cover and probably bought a bank draft in my name to send to her. Apparantly Ward was after the cover but we beat him to it.

Had a letter from Chase this A.M. in which he wolanteered to give me some dope on the territorial use of the '47's. Will answer him today and accept his invitation but may not be able to put in in the article until the tail-end or until it comes out in booklet form. I have a hunch that Stowell is pretty well fed up with changes and additions to the text at the moment so I won't bother him, if I can help it, for a few days.

Will be glad to meet you in Chicago, if you desire, whether or not I have been clipped on the 7RlE deal. I have a strong belieff that Ernie knew what he was doing when he bought me out. Can you give me any further information about your deal with him?

Nothing else at the moment.

Best regards,

Les

Member C. C. N. Y. T. M. P. S. T. C. P. S. S. P. A. A. P. S.

## BROOKMAN STAMP COMPANY

121 Loeb Arcade - Fifth and Hennepin Minneapolis, Minn.

January 22, 1942

We are always in the market to buy Stamps

Dear Stanley:

My I.Q. is not high enough to permit me to understand or comprehend M.Gilbert. My impression is either that he is crazy or we are crazy ourselves!

I do not know just what plate he is talking about but he infers that it was made about 1863 (79 years ago). I will be glad to read his article which I believe is to be published in the January C.O.P. I had thought this would now be in our hands but my copy has as yet not arrived.

I will write Harold Brooks today regarding that cover and I think that he will forward it to you unless he already has a photo that we can use. He may not be at home as he often travels in the winter.

Would you object to my showing a proof of your " Specialist" article to my good friend, and student, E.M.Oleson? I can assure you that it would go no further. He is an old-timer, very well informed on U.S. and, in my opinion, one of the best informed men in the world on Foreign stamps. The last portion of this statement is a big one but he can live up to it. If he had any desire to become known he would have a wonderful reputation among philatelists.

Had hoped to have gally proofs of the article from Stowell by this time-should be here at any time now.

Was just leafing thru your Vol. 1, 1¢ book last night and noted that the illustration of the strip of three 1¢ 57's. dType la. (I believe the illustration was number 20LL) was ar remarkable example of a reperf job. The remarkable part of it was the fact that the strip had such a huge top margin that it was possible to reperf it and still have a very wide margin. How could this be? I'd like to stick that item under a lamp and see if the top margin was "a la Zaresky". That is a slight slander on Zaresky as he would be more careful of the perfs-especially those of the middle stamp.

Nothing more at the minute.

Best regards,

Proofeede

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 24, 1942.

Mr. L. G. Brookman, 121 Loeb Arcade, Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear L. G.:

Re - yours of the 22nd. No, I have no objection to your request to show the proof of the "Stamp Specialist" article to Mr. Oleson. I wanted to keep this article confidential for the sole purpose of trying to get a "yes" or "no" statement from Perry. So far, he has refused to commit himself. In this game, it is no disgrace to be wrong. My God, I have been wrong more times perhaps than right, but after all, what's the difference? Perry considers it a crime to be wrong. He goes on the sheory, if once you are wrong you must in honor bound, still contend in the face of all evidence to the contrary that you are right. Sort of ala Luff. In other words, drunk or sober, that's my story and I'll stick to it come what may.

Re - the last paragraph in your letter regarding the strip of 1/2 1857, Type IA, figure 20 LL, page 248, Vol. 1. Don't you honestly think that I would be a rather dumb student of the 1/2 1851-1857 if I couldn't detect a reperf job? Now honestly L.G. you must have a very poor opinion as to my 25 years work on the One Cent stamps. Really in truth I am not quite that bad, though I do not kid myself as to my many short-comings.

Re - that illustration. The strip itself is perfectly 0.K. and perfectly genuine in every respect. It is no fake perf job but is in fact the finest 1¢ 1857 piece known. What is wrong is the illustration. It is a "retouch" job and done in a bungling way, by none other than myself. Sir Nicholas sent me a photograph of the strip and it was photographed against a white background, hence the fine margins didn't show up plain and a reproduction in a half-tone cut would have been almost meaningless, so I took pen and fink and blocked out all the background on the photograph. You must confess that my two center vertical rows are quite good. Perhaps I could have been more careful with the marginal perfs, but at least I did not exaggerate the margins. No, I am not quite as bad as you think. I really think if this strip had been a reperf job I would have discovered it at once. Yet maybe I am not that good.

At any rate, you are not the only one who has called my attention to this illustration which proves that many collectors note perforations as they well should.

## Sincerely yours,

I enclose one "call down" I received on that illustration. This chap said I was just plain dumb. His letter is so good I have inserted it in the margin on the opposite page (249) in my own personal copy of the book. Please return.

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 27, 1942.

Mr. L. G. Brookman, 121 Loeb Arcade, Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear L. G.:

Herewith a photo of an item in the collection of Mr. W. L. L. Peltz of Albany, N.Y. You have Mr. Peltz's permission to illustrate this item if you wish.

Stamps canceled in black. Kingston in orange red. The "10" in red. My theory is that this was addressed to a point requiring a 10¢ U. S. rate. (hence the red "10"). Party sending letter was not aware of our 5¢ and 10¢ rates. Stamps canceled in Canada. Kingston exchanged mail with U. S. at Cape Vincent N.Y., Sackett's Harbor, N.Y. and Oswego, N.Y. See Ashbrook Book Vol. #2, page 335. When letter reached this side of the Line, the U. S. mail clerk did not recognize the 5¢ '47 because it was canceled in Canada, hence he rated the letter "10" or 10¢ due at destination.

Mr. Peltz informed me that he has owned this piece of cover for many years and came to him from a collection formed by an Albany collector. In all probability the item was from an original find in Albany.

You will note there were four strikes of the ring cancelation.

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 29, 1942.

Mr. L. G. Brookman, 121 Loeb Arcade, Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear L. G .:

Under separate cover I am mailing to you the originals of the cuts to appear in the coming "Stamp Specialist." You have my permission to have new cuts made and to use same in your March 1942 A.P. article on the 1847 issue. All that I ask is that you advise Lindquist of this action and request his permission.

You will note I have sent you all the cuts except the original photograph of the Hammatt "C" shift. As I only have one copy of this I don't wish to take any chance of losing it.

I recently learned that Dr. Mundt had some remarks in a Kohl publication of about 1926 on the 5¢ '47 - Beaver combination and illustrated a piece of cover. I obtained a copy from the C. C. library but the page with date is missing. I made a photo of the page with his remarks and illustration but I cannot read the Hun gibberish so will have to find someone to translate it for me. Would you like a photo print? Perhaps you might like to note this in your article so someone in the future can't say, "Did you see Mundts remarks etc."

More later -

Hastily yours,

Jan. 31st, 1942.

Mr. L. G. Brookman, 121 Loeb Arcade, Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear L. G. :

Many, many thanks for the superb copies of your two books. This was mighty nice of you and I certainly am delighted to have them for my philatelic liberary I intend to check both with your original articles in the P. P. so that I can see for myself what changes and additions that Perry (the Handbook "committee") made.

Re - camera. No, I don't use a Graflex for philatelic work, but rather a large 8 X 10, reducing and enlarging camera. When stretched out it is 8 feet long, hence requires a solid table of great length. Naturally the heart of any camera is the lens and I use several very fine ones. I also use filters, Wratten panchromatic plates, special developer etc. and have been at this stuff for many years, hence from year to year tried this or that. I have also done some work with exposures made on special plates by my quartz lamp. One never knows what results will turn up, some lines more than expected sometimes less. I have a Graflex and a Bell Howell Movie but Seldom use these indoors. So far as I am concerned, my photography has been an indespensible adjunct to my philatelic work. You can imagine the record I have extending back to 1915.

You gave me a big order when you asked me to explain the difference between copper plate and steel plate D.T.'s. I fear I couldn't include same in a letter, because it would take up far too much space. I Imagine yourself a hard steel relief coming into contact with a copper plate and the same hard steel relief coming in contact with a steel plate. There is the heart of the subject. Naturally the effect would be different, fust the same as burnishing on a steel plate would be different from burnishing on a copper plate.

Re - the "D" Gerber block. I can't say that the shade indicates the year of printing, nor would I say the impression is exactly worn. What might be said is that it is not a sharp fine early engraving. Suppose we postpone further theories on the "DZ until a later date. It is quite possible our two articles might bring to light some further helpful material.

Well perhaps by this time you have received Perry's "Pats." He threatened to tell the real origin of the Knapp stamp but did he, in your opinion? Do you now know what Perry thinks the stamp is? I note his remarks are continued so perhaps he will tell us in the next number.

Regardless of all of the comedy in Perry's story, the fact still remains, that the Knapp copy is no error of printing. It is either an outright fake or it is a genuine plate variety. Because it comes from 23Ll and because all of the copies Perry has seen of 23L do not show

Mr. L. G. Brookman, Jan. 31st, 1942.

a D.T. does not prove a thing. Such stuff does not prove it is a kiss any more than it proves it is a painting.

I don't go very strong for Barr's theory as it has some holes in it, and Barr is aware of this fact. But if Barr is not on the wrong track perhaps there might be some sense to his reasoning. Fake or genuine plate variety - that is the question, and if Perry discards both and sticks to his "kiss" idea then he will be out on a limb.

Knowing Knapp as intimately as I did I know darn well he never gave a rap what Perry thought about his stamp, but can you blame Ned if he threatened to sue Perry if he came out in print and branded the stamp as a "painting?" Perry insinuates that it was very unfair in Knapp to refuse to give him that permission.

Again many thanks for the two lovely books.

Sincerely yours,

Dear Stanley:

One of the local collectors that has been interested in the controversy over the Knapp Shift suggested the other day that the Knapp might be the results of a "double offset". I told him that I did not think that such an offset should ever be strong enough to show up in the fashion that the Knapp does. What do you think about this?

I have often felt that the Knapp might have been made in the following fashion: the sheet could have been, during the process of removing it from the plate, partially dropped back on to the plate. This might have made a partial impression. This partial impression, which resembled the "Post Office" shift, might have caught the eye of an "artist" and a little paint job could have been applied to strengthed the extra lines.

Any ideas about the above?

The 7RIE cost \$500 to the owner, plus \$100 to me. What did you pay for it? Unethical as H—— for me to tell you but I guess we each have a right to know. By the way, can you tell me the date of your purchase of the item? That is important from my standpoint. Don't ever expect to do anything about it but I'd like to know the score on this particular game.

Nothing else at the moment. Still waiting to get further proof from Stowell.

Best regards,

April 9, 1942.

Mr. L. G. Brockman, 121 Loeb Arcade, Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Les:

I have long been suspicious that I was gyped on that cover, hence in you and I comparing notes we are merely checking up. I hate a liar, but when you find one out the best thing to do is to say nothing, simply file the dope away in a safe pigeon hole in your brain for future reference.

I paid \$1375.00 for that cover, so unless I figure wrong, you made \$100, our go between made \$775, and I made \$375.00. At least I did better than you. All of which was 0.K. provided nobody lied to a close friend.

Here is the dope. I was told the cover had to bring \$1750, the net cost was \$1,000, and if I sold it at \$1750, he would divide the 700 bucks with me. This I did and in order to show perfect faith on my part, I had the buyer make check payable to E., and not to me. Then E. sent me his check for \$375.

The date of the transaction was Dec. 11, 1938. He never told me where he got the cover, and I had no idea it came from you until I heard indirectly some months ago that you had sold it to him. If he paid you \$1,000 net, then everything is 0.K. and on the up and up. If he paid you even a dollar less, then he lied to me and cheated me, because we were to divide all I got over net cost. I got \$375 whereas I should have received \$575. This is all just between you and I but if I have the right dope this little funny business is not going to do him any good, believe me, and I won't every have to divulge the fact that I suspect anything wrong on this one particular transaction.

Re - the Knapp shift question. I think if your friend could examine the stamp, he would be impressed with the strength of the "shift." you are aware how much ink is lost in an offset. Your suggestion that the "artist" might have repainted the offset lines would be a good suggestion, provided the stamp showed any evidence that such a thing might have been done. Frankly I don't think there is a bit of evidence in this direction.

If your friend is interested in a study of the Knapp stamp, tell him I suggest that he do the following. Have an enlargement made of 31Rl, and one the same size of the Knapp, then study the two side by side, each and every line. Compare the shifted lines on the 31R with those on the Knapp.

Don't quote me on the following but ask yourself if I am right.

The trouble with certain shifted lines on the Knapp stamp is this both shallow and deep lines, say of a certain letter, the "O" for
example, are shown as a heavily printed line. Get the idea? Also I

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ask, could this be possible on one of Perry's "imitation shifts?"

Remember one thing, Perry is absolutely sure that I think the stamp is a plate variety. I don't want to disabuse his belief.

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas. Ky.

April 10, 1942.

Mr. L. G. Brookman, 121 Loeb Arcade, Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Les:

I am enclosing you a letter received today from Baxter, also copies of my reply and one I wrote him on Mar. 23. Kindly return all three.

What is your opinion of this bird? Note how he classifies himself,

"Philatelist and writer of Educational Philatelic Subjects."

Boy that sounds to me like he hates himself. There are a lot of crackpots in this game and I hope J.H.B. is not one of them and can give us some dope which will be sensible and authoritative. I am a trifle suspicious of anyone who advertises himself as a "Philatelist." I have never seen anyone do that but some guy who was hanging onto the lunatic fringe. I recall that several years ago some writer out West advanced the thought that stamp collectors seldom wind up in the bug house, that philately was such a health giving hobby that those philatelically inclined never go nuts. Hell, that has not been my experience because I have met more nuts in this game than exist in any other avocation, profession or group.

I hope that being a "philatelic writer" has paid Baxter better than it has me, yet one could hardly put me in his class because I make no claim to being a "writer" especially a "writer of Educational Philatelic Subjects."

At any rate, let us hope I have this bird sized up wrong. Looks to me like he sort of avoided committing himself. What do you think? He evidently read my "copper" articles, but is it possible he can't remember whether he agreed with me or not? To hell with the points I raised - the only question was copper or steel. Now he has to read my articles over again to find out whether or not I was right?

Maybe he is the great authority who whispered silly notions in Perry's ears - notions about "imitation shifts." Perhaps that is the reason he is allergis to me. What do you think?

Yours etc. .

Dear Stan:

It sometimes takes a long time for murder to out but it looks like our friend made a slight error in lying to you—and probably to me. At the time I made this deal (to take the \$100 and get out) I was in Chicago and to save my sould I can't recall or find in my records the date of this deal. Seems to me that he paid me by check. I have just not phoned Cassell and asked him when I "seld out" to Ernie and he tells me that it was at the time we sold Ernie and Voorhees the "Miller" collection which was in May, 1939. Ernie told me that he was still holding the cover and didn't know how long it would be Before he could find a buyer for it!

On the assumption that since he lied to you, and, if my dates and your date is correct he also lied to me, there is a good possibility that he also lied about the amount he is supposed to have paid the woman. The woman's name is Miss Verna Bobb, 134 Arch Street, Sunbury, Pa. I have just sent her an airmail letter in which I teld her that "for Business reasons" I wanted her to inform me in a letter of the amount paid here for the cover and the date she received payment. Should hear from her in a few days.

So the Knapp didn't even have the benefit of a tiny little kiss to start out with. Just a nice paint job from start to finish. Right?

The first time I ever talked with Perry about this, I think it was at Buffalo, I tried to get him to tell me what he thought about it. I told him then that it looked like a paint job to me but I think that he tried to make out that it was something else although he wouldn't give me an satisfaction regarding it. Wonder how he will finish his article in Pat's? He expected to have it in print long ago but something seems to have dedayed #43.

In regard to the A 7RIE--if Miss bebt comes back and says that he paid her less than \$500 I think we had better work out some kind of a deal to put him in the nuteracker. Naturally, I won't say anythingto him without consulting you fully--don't want to get you in bad--even with a liar.

Best regards.

Les

434 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Feb. 11, 1942.

Dr. Carroll Chase, R.F.D. #1, Milford, N.H.

Dear Doc:

Yours of the 6th received returning the Brooks 7RlE - 6¢ Essay - 1¢ die proof - photos - etc.

I will treat your letter as strictly confidential and will not show it to anyone or quote you in any way. I will not even show your letter to Harold.

I am not especially interested in who did the monkey business but I am almost positive that the damage was not from a natural cause but occurred in an effort to restore the stamp. I rather believe you concur in this opinion. I think that there was some spots of gum on the face of this stamp and that this gum became damp and adhered to the back of an envelope which laid on top of this cover in a bundle. When pulled apart the blue ink in front and back of the head on the 7R (where the spots of gum were) pulled away from the stamp and left two damaged spots. Someone attempted to touch up these spots with the result that the stamp is probably worse than it was. There was no damage to the paper. Surely you have seen similar examples. I am sure I have.

Regarding the cancelation. I am reasonably certain that the bars were painted over the left damage, simply for the reason that originally the bars did not extend out that far. In squaring up this square grid on a large photo, the ends of the bars should not have extended to the left beyond the limit of Franklin's head. There is no evidence of a double strike.

Re - the 6¢ Die. I agree that there are two sides to this controversy but I am taking the opposite to Perry just because I enjoy getting his goat. If I am on the wrong horse, what's the difference. However, he has no more proof than I have and I'll be damned if I'll let him force his theories on me.

He made a positive statement in Brazer's book that the original 6¢ die had layout guide lines when as a fact he has no proof of this.

Naturally he would have to state this in order to make his theory work. He does not contend that the proof I sent you came from the original 6¢ die but rather from a laydown from the original (6¢) from which the lines were removed. Do you get the point? In order to make his theory work he is compelled to invent a mythical die and this mythical die had guide lines. Now I don't intend to swallow such stuff unless his theory can be proved to be a fact. He don't claim that anyone has a proof from the mythical original die, nor does he know of anyone who ever saw a proof from his mythical die.

I don't consider that the dots and dashes above and below the "Six Cents" label prove a single thing. In this case, what didn't exist could have been added, just as well as what did exist could have been erased. One

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theory is no more logical than the other. In other words, the 1¢ die was the master die and it was as we see it on die proofs, without the dots and dashes. On the laydown used to make the 6¢, the dots and dashes were added. This was Brazer's sole convincing proof. Perry took this theory and invented his mythical die and made a positive statement that Brazer's theory was not a theory but a fact. Good Lord if he can invent one unknown die why couldn't he invent a dozen or more to make his theory work out, if this had been necessary.

Regarding the "Dot" on the bust on the 6¢. I don't think this was consistent. It wasn't on the 6¢ Essay, which I illustrated in Vol. 1 of my book and I am quite sure it wasn't on the proof you illustrated in your 3¢ Book. So there is no proof here that the 6¢ came first.

I can't imagine why all the 6¢ proofs which I have seen were cut close. I guess I have seen at least a half dozen and all were trimmed and mounted on thick card. All were in a black brown.

Those layout guide lines were on the ofiginal master die, that is a cinch. If Perry's mythical 6¢ die was the original or master die, why were these guide lines taken up and transferred to a laydown on which the label was changed to "One Cent." Note the large One Cent die (Vol. 1) page 53 of my book. Note the extent of these lines. Note especially the vertical lines. Why was it necessary to transfer all these long lines to a laydown or duplicate die. In addition, the 6¢ label was either cut off on the relief or burnished out on the duplicate. How come the guide lines at bottom were not damaged in such an erasure. Note the two dots under the "C" of Cent. These are intact. I think a very careful examination will show that the bottom line (or lines) on the 1¢ was the original and that the center part was erased, (over the two vertical dots and between the ends of the ribbons.

Perhaps Perry's theory (copied from Brazer - not original) would be ideal, if the 1¢ had no layout guide lines and 6¢ Essay proofs showed these guide lines.

I think it is absurd to assume that the issuance of a ld stamp was an after thought. If there was no need for a ld value then surely there was less need for a 6d value.

It is true that Drop letters and circulars (also 5¢ shore to ship rates - foreign mail) didn't require stamps to prepay these rates, but neither were 3¢ stamps required to pay the 3¢ rate. Because some dots and dashes exist on the 6¢ and do not show on the 1¢, is the sole excuse Brazer had in starting this stuff. He has a mania for "new discoveries."

I have no explanation to account for the close trimming of the 6¢ proofs. I never saw any proofs trimmed like these. Yes, why was it done? None of these essays show any traces of guide lines so the trimming was not done to eliminate such lines. My illustration in my book shows a big sheet at the bottom but this hurnhshedrdboard, not the trimmed proof. An error in the photograph.

I think the lø die at Washington is the original and perhaps it will show positively that there was no alteration in the label.

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It is true that it could originally have had a "Six Cents" label and before it was hardened the label was changed to One Cent, but donsn't Perry's theory fall down here? If the 6¢ proofs come from a laydown, the 6¢ die had to be hardened to make the roller which made the laydown. After it was hardened was it softened and changed to a "One Cent?" Sounds like bunk to me.

Perry advertised that he was telling the true story about the Knapp shift, yet in his "Pats" he didn't tell a thing. He gave a very twisted account on the inside page of the cover. Ned had no use for Elliott and he didn't care any more about what Perry thought of his 10% stamp than you care what Souren thought of the Brooks 7RIE. Perry wanted to bust into print with the statement that the stamp was a fake, a painting. Knapp notified him if he did he would sue him for libel. Note how Perry deliberately twisted these facts and they are facts.

I think you did right in replying to Perry as you did. Let me do the scrapping with him. I don't mind, and I do get his goat and as the Irishman said, "That is the 'intenshun'."

Yours etc.,