

Scrapbook No. 23 – March 1952 – June 1952

1.	Theodore Gore Re: 90¢ 1860
2.	H.R. Harmer Re: Japan Correspondence with Bern. Harmer
3.	Jack Molesworth Re: 6R1E
4.	L.L. Shenfield Re: Confederate Griffin Co.
5.	L.L. shenfield Re: Castroville Confederate
6.	Douglas Roth
7.	Chas. M. Putnam Jr. Re: The Lincoln Letter
8.	Chas. M. Putnam Jr. Re: 90¢ 1869, 24¢ 1861
9.	Philatelic Foundation Re: 90¢ 1860 + others
10.	Edga Jessup Re: Calif PP
11.	Ezra Cole Re: N.Y. single with fake Savannah PM
12.	Dr. W. Scott Polland Re: Lynchburg Way 6
13.	Van Dyk Mac Bride Re: Confederate Jackson, Ala
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15.	John Ayer Re: Forwarded 3¢ and 1¢ 1857
16.	Dr. E. Moser, article on covers
17.	Dr. R.A. Shafer Re: 3¢ 1851 Bisect, Thibodaijx, LA
18.	Dr. W. Scott Polland Re: Due 4
19.	Sterling Dow Re: 5¢ 1856 article in Lenex
20.	Harold W. Stark Re: cover to Sweden
21.	Harry B. Van Denberg Re: 4 covers
22.	Hugh L. Smiley
23.	William Michaels, Re: 2¢ 1869 cover
24.	A.W. Robertson Re: Ship Telegraph
25.	Robert A. Peck
26.	S.C. Johnson
27.	H.R. Harmer Re: 90¢ 1860 off cover
28.	George W. Linn Re: 3¢ 1851 with fake perfs
29.	J.G. Fleckenstein Re: 1¢ 1851 first day cover
30.	Dr. W. Scott Polland Re: Overland
31.	Harold W. Stark
32.	Morris Fortgang Re: 1¢ 1851 N.O. Due 3
33.	William R. Stewart Re: St. Louis cover
34.	M.C. Blake Re: covers under UPU
35.	D. Boardman Lee Re: Cayuga & Susquehana RR
36.	Col. H.L. Morris Re: Tallahassee Paid 10
37.	Lt. Col. Ed. Murphy Re: 3¢ 1851 Bisect
38.	Ezra Cole Re: New Harmony Ind to London 1840-41
39.	Tracy Simpson Re: Due 2, Carrollton, Miss
40.	D.K. Griere
41.	M.C. Blake
42.	W. Scott Polland Re: Cram Rogers and "Purser"
43.	Dr. O. Bacher Re: Fake cover
44.	E.W. McIntosh Re: 1¢ 1851

45.	Dr. R.A. Shafer Re: Confederate strip
46.	Dr. Don Silsby Re: 5¢ 1856 to France
47.	L.L. Shenfield
48.	John H. Hall Re: 3¢ 1861 Pink
49.	Phillip H. Ward Re: Fake cover to Zanzibar
50.	Philatelic Foundation Re: 90¢ 1860
51.	Ezra Cole Re: 2¢ + 10¢ 1869 to Halifax, 24¢ 1861 to England
52.	Jack Molesworth 3 covers
53.	Morris Fortgang Re: 1¢ 1851 91L1L
54.	E.C. Krug Re: Scarcity
55.	J.R. Vickers Re: Fake Confederates
56.	J.R. Fleckstein
57.	E.C. Krug Re: Ketter sale
58.	Morris Fortgang Re: 1¢ 1851
59.	Jack Molesworth Re: strip of 3, 1¢ 1851 Boston
60.	Henry W. Hill Re: 5¢ 1857 cover with pair to France
61.	Blank
62.	Dr. W. Scott Pollard Re: 4¢ rate to France 1870

THEODORE GORE
400 BROWN BUILDING
WICHITA, KANSAS
March 12, 1952

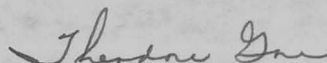
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I appreciate your interest concerning my stamps, and I am returning the letter you received from Mr. LaGanke. I am also enclosing a 90¢ stamp with a red grid cancellation. This stamp has been offered to me, but before purchasing it, I would like your opinion as to the genuineness of the cancel. The owner wants \$100 for it, which is a very reasonable price. I do not profess to be an expert, but I have not been able to detect any signs of repair; and, from as close an examination as I can give it, it would appear that the cancel was genuine.

I would appreciate very much seeing some of your 4¢ playing card reference copies. However, I would prefer that you withhold sending them to me until you return my 24¢ stamps, so that I could be able to compare the two.

Sincerely yours,



Theodore Gore

TG/co
enc-2

March 14, 1952.

Mr. Theodore Gore,

400 Brown Bldg.,

Wichita, Kans.

Dear Mr. Gore:

Herewith the 90¢ 1860 as per yours of the 12th. I have examined this copy very carefully and it is my opinion that this red marking is not genuine. On the back of the stamp along the center line is some sort of backing that also looks very suspicious but I did not make a minute examination of this feature as I am convinced that this stamp is not worth \$100.00. One has to be very careful in purchasing a used copy of the 90¢ 1860. Used copies are very rare, that is, those that are genuine, and they are not offered at anything like \$100.00.

There is no fee for this opinion.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 3-6481

H · R · HARMER, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL STAMP AUCTIONEERS

CABLES
HARMERSALE, NEW YORK

APPRAISALS FOR SALE,
PROBATE & INSURANCE

32 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

LEADING AUCTIONEERS OF
RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

DIRECTORS
H. R. HARMER B. D. HARMER
F. T. BUCK MARGARET MAHONEY

ALSO AT 39-42 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1.
ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

AUCTIONEERS OF THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" COLLECTION

14th
March
1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P. O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

If you will be good enough to look at our March 24, 25, 26 catalogue, Lot No. 491, you will notice that it is an 1869 10c with HIOGO, JAPAN cancellation.

Mr. Stephen Rich has written us that he published articles on this in 1944 stating that the cancellation was bad and that these articles have not yet been seriously disputed nor contraverted.

I would appreciate your opinion on this cancellation and if you feel the same way as Mr. Rich then I will no longer offer this cancellation by auction.

Your early advice will be much appreciated and I enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for it.

Very truly yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

Bernard D. Harmer

Director

BDH/MM
Enc. - return envelope

March 17, 1952.

Mr. Bernard Harmer,
% H. R. Harmer, Inc.,
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Harmer:

Replying to yours of the 14th, I regret to state that up to this writing I have not received a copy of your catalogue for a sale of March 24-25-26th, perhaps it went astray. However, I may be able to give you, very briefly, some information on the subject.

First - I never read anything that is written by one Steve Rich, because I do not have any spare time to waste. I do not recall any articles that he wrote in 1944 on the subject of the Hioga marking and even if I had such to refer to I would consider any opinions expressed by him as valueless.

Over the past ten or more years I have made quite a study of the Hioga, Japan marking and I believe the facts to be as follows:

(1) There was a genuine marking used at Hioga.

(2) I have never been able to definitely determine whether or not an imitation handstamp was made and used by a famous forger or whether the one found in his effects after his death was the genuine original. The party referred to lived in Japan for a period of years and it is entirely possible that in some way he may have acquired the original and genuine stamper and used it to cancel various stamps from which he cleaned the original cancels. It is a long, long story.

For years I borrowed every item that I could locate pertaining to this marking and made photographs. Here are three prints from my rather large accumulation of reference material. Kindly return these at your convenience. After much study I became convinced that the U. S. Consulate cover, which I own has a genuine strike of the Hioga marking. I have used this as my No. 1 reference and key piece. I also consider the cover with the pair of the 10¢ 1869 as absolutely genuine and this also applies to the 3¢ 1869.

If someone can prove to me that the stamper that was found in the effects of the forger above referred to, after his death, was an imitation, then perhaps I might be able to distinguish the good from the bad.

Finally, if Rich states that all strikes of this marking are fraudulent, he simply don't know his subject.

I ask that you treat this letter and the photo-prints as strictly con-

#2. Mr. Bernard Harmer, March 17, 1952.

fidential and do not disclose same to Rich as I desire no contact with him,
directly or indirectly or in any shape or form.

Sincerely yours,

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 3-6482

H·R·HARMER, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL STAMP AUCTIONEERS

CABLES
HARMERSALE, NEW YORK

APPRAISALS FOR SALE,
ROBATE & INSURANCE

32 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

WEEKLY PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF
RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

DIRECTORS
H. R. HARMER B. D. HARMER
T. BUCK M. G. CAVANAUGH
H. H. MAHONEY

ALSO AT 39-42 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1.
ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

AUCTIONEERS OF THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" COLLECTION

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

19th
March
1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks indeed for your long explanatory letter of March 17th which once again shows your ever-cooperative spirit towards persons who are endeavoring to maintain a degree of purity in the philatelic world.

Your observations are extremely interesting and it seems to me irrefutable and it is only regretted that perhaps your modesty prevents you placing some of this valuable information in print to nullify some of the quicker impressionist points of view that are expressed so volubly and so often.

I enclose a copy of my letter to Mr. Rich which I am sure you will consider has not passed anything on to him which was in your letter and confidential.

At the same time I return to you with thanks the photographs.

Sincerely yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

Bernard J. Harmer
Director

BDH:E
Enclosures

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 3-6482

APPRAISALS FOR SALE,
PROBATE & INSURANCE

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WEEKLY PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF
RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONEERS OF THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" COLLECTION

Mr. Stephen G. Rich
P. O. Box B
Verona, New Jersey

19th
March
1952

Dear Mr. Rich:

I acknowledge your letter of March 8th and have delayed replying until I looked into the question of the Hiogo Japan cancellation.

I have made some enquiries and whilst your article has not been disputed in the press, I am not at all satisfied that because of this you are necessarily correct.

There seems to be considerable evidence to justify that the item does exist in genuine condition and one of the reasons, but by no means the most important, is the fact that the 1869 10c which is so often found with this is catalogued \$25 as an unused stamp and only \$15 with the Japanese postmark. There are, I believe, a number of copies existing where there is no question of the 10c stamp being a cleaned copy so that it originally started off as a better stamp than it now is if your argument that all copies are faked stands up.

Please do not consider that I am using this as the sole reason for believing that the stamp exists in genuine condition. I am merely pointing this out as an additional reason why it should.

Thanks also for drawing our attention to Lot 533 which is the 15c bright orange -- a temporary relapse on the part of the describer.

Sincerely yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

Director

BDH:E



Messrs Chas Thorel & Co

RJM

HIOGA

Letter
Osaki

July 12 1870

Yokohama

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31
FORT THOMAS, KY.

Via San Francisco.

(38)



— Mr. Chas. B. Clark
6 Valentine Terrace
Blackheath Road
Greenwich, Kent;
England. S.W.

Hugo. 18 Mch. 71
— C. —

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31
FORT THOMAS, KY.

United States Consulate at



Gray Black

← SAME →

Gray Black



910
Gens Moller

Collector of Customs

San Francisco
Cal

No Date
Nothing on
Back

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31
FORT THOMAS, KY.

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

March 14, 1952

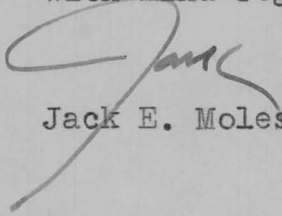
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan,

I am enclosing a 1¢ 1851 which I believe is a type 1B,
probably position 6R1E, and would appreciate your
plating it and also checking it for soundness.

Advise your fee and I shall remit promptly as usual.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/ecf
Encl.

March 18, 1952.

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth,
102 Beacon St.,
Boston 16, Mass.

Dear Jack:

Herewith the One Cent 1851 as per yours of the 14th.

This is 6R1E, a Type IV, an unusually nice copy, which,
in my opinion is sound. I have signed it on the back. My fee
is \$2.00 plus return postage or \$2.33. What is your price?

Sincerely yours,

PAID

MAR 26 1952

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

March 24, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P.O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your opinion on the "6R1E" which confirmed my own unsure belief concerning it. Enclosed is my check for \$2.33.

I have priced the stamp at \$225.00 retail and have several retail clients to whom I plan to submit it. If it is not sold to any of those I have specifically in mind, I would be pleased to return it to you at a later date and allow you a twenty per cent discount, making a net price of \$180.00. Naturally, if you would care to have it now, I would be pleased to send it along. If not, let me know if you would like to see it at a later date when I am in a position to price it at \$180.00 net.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/ecf
Encl.



A125



A 12g

c.c. ~~Mr. MacBride~~
Mr. Ashbrook ✓

Doherty, Glifford & Shenfield, Inc., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

March the seventeenth
19 52

Dear Colonel Hubbell:

Colonel MacBride sent me the enclosed, with copy of his letter to you.

The point at issue is not whether the GRIFFEN small postmark is good or not - it certainly is good, just as it is good on your stampless cover of Jun 24 (1861). The real point is whether the cork-killer that ties the 20¢ stamp is good or not - and that is not good! It has been "painted" on. The cover and postmark are okay - possibly pre-1861. Then someone either removed a pen-cancelled 1857 stamp, or a pen "5" or possibly "3", applied the 20¢ stamp and faked the cork-killer. There's a big thin spot under the stamp. This is an old, old trick!

The "Due 25" was probably added to give the cover a "real look". As MacBride says - it is not a true rate. It's so wasteful of good research time to go to great lengths to try to "re-construct" a cover that is obviously a fake! Griffen never used a cork-killer - only one Confederate city ever did - Vicksburg.

The 20¢ Rate by itself is not suspicious - lots of people used 20¢ stamps for 10¢ rates. They just happened to have one - they were really "small change" as you know.

This cover should be marked "TAKE CANCEL" and withdrawn from circulation and further speculation. Your first conclusion is still your best!

Regards,

L.L. Shenfield

Colonel Raynor Hubbell
220 East Poplar Street
Griffin, Georgia

c.c. Stanely B. Ashbrook ✓
Van Dyk MacBride

L. L. Shenfield
% Doherty, Clifford & Shenfield
Empire State Bldg.,
350 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK (1) N. Y.

March the eleventh
19 52

Copy

Dear Colonel Hubbell:

Colonel MacBride sent me the enclosed cancel
"CASTROVILLE, TEX" from you to check his opinion.

The spacing of the letters checks absolutely with
the example of the cancel used in 1868 on the stampless
cover to GIVORS, FRANCE altho this is black, not bluish
green as the example on your 5¢ green Litho.

- (1) I do not have any example of this cancel - in fact
never saw it before - altho MacBride believes he
has.
- (2) I do not understand why the earliest impression on
the 5¢ green (probably 1862) should show signs of
heavy wear (spread letters) while the later use
(1868) shows thin delicate letters. Possibly
Castroville had a new stamper made in 1865 or so.
But if so it is strange it was not the small circle
type which came into use widely at that period.
- (3) Castroville, Tex. is 35 miles W. by S. of San Antonio.
Present population - 680. Chances are it did not pos-
sess 2 stampers in 1862.
- (4) The 5¢ green has been washed and pressed so perhaps
the letters have blurred.
- (5) My opinion is that the cancel is genuine - despite all
the above qualifications. It just smells good!

Sincerely,

Colonel Raynor Hubbell
Box 573
Griffin, Georgia

LAWRENCE L. SHENFIELD
350 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964


March 20th, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Thanks for letting me look at this cover. I am returning it.

I have a number of covers from Yreka, about $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen in stock, not only from the Price Correspondence but several without the Bison all running along the same period. Up to now the only Bisons I have seen were on this Price Correspondence and I know nothing about the significance of it.



Re the Castroville Texas item. Now I know more about it. Like putting a jig saw puzzle together. This was in a lot that came from the West Coast which I turned down. When I returned it I told the owner that in my opinion it was a fake. He must have sent the lot to Hubbell. How things get around.

Leaving for Boston in a few minutes. Please excuse briefness.

Sincerely,

EDC:mkl



Ezra D. Cole.

By Douglas Roth

Fairways

MONA CRESCENT
NEWLANDS C.P.

South Africa
3/26 - 1952

3469 "Imperf"

5461 Butte



DOUGLAS ROTH

20 ELM PARK COURT

PINNER
MIDDLESEX

Telephone
PINNER
1236

Fairways,

Mona Crescent,

Newlands. C.P.

South Africa.

21st February 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I venture to enclose for your opinion a copy of Scott No. 67a, the 5c. 'August' and I should be glad to know what you think of it. I feel myself it is an acidified copy of one of the later issues. I also enclose what I presume must be a faked cover. The paper of the stamp is about $\frac{1}{2}$ thou thinner than usual and does not seem so porous. I send it in the hope that you may have the Greenfield cancellation and can check up on it. You will note that the stamp has a trace of grill.

I hope you do not mind my approaching you in this manner but expect you will be as interested as I am in the two items. If I can ever return the compliment in early Roumania or Capes I hope you will write me.

With many thanks in advance,

yours sincerely,

P.S. Is the 1847 5c. with a clear STITCH wmk very rare and can you say why it has been taken out of Scott. I have a superb copy and do not know what to ask for it.

March 28, 1952.

Mr. Douglas Roth,
Fairways,
Mona Crescent,
Newlands C.P.
South Africa.

Dear Mr. Roth:

I am in receipt of your letter of February 21st, enclosing the two items which I am returning herewith. The following are some remarks concerning them -

3¢ 1869 cover - The stamp is the ordinary 3¢ 1869 which had wide perforations which some "fixer" trimmed away. The 1869 stamps were never issued without perforations. Even the Scott Catalogue does not make any such claim and that publication certainly lists a lot of philatelic trash in 19th Century U. S.

5¢ 1861 buff. This is a copy of the regular 5¢ 1861 Buff color. Gibbon's No. 127 or Scott No. 67. I fail to note anything unusual about it.

I regret to state that my philatelic activities are devoted solely to U. S. 19th Century stamps, covers and postal history.

5¢ 1847 with stick watermark. Inasmuch as this watermark was a variety of paper manufacture and had no official significance the variety was removed from the Scott Catalogue and justly so. I do not regard it with any special significance and I believe that it is so generally regarded in this country. I doubt if a copy in an auction sale would bring any premium, still it might - one can never tell about auctions.

I note your British address of Pinner. I have had quite a bit of correspondence in recent months with A. W. Robertson of Pinner. May I inquire if you are acquainted with him?

Sincerely yours,



DOUGLAS ROTH

20 ELM PARK COURT

PINNER
MIDDLESEX

Fairways,

Mona Crescent,

Newlands. C.P.

South Africa.

Telephone
PINNER
1236

25th April 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of the 28th March and for the stamps returned. I am very much obliged to you for your kindness in giving an opinion on the two items.

I venture to enclose 4 items which I think are the so called re-issues and one reprint and should be once more glad of your assistance. I collect reprints and have a world wide collection of them which I find most amusing and of course instructive for reference purposes, and re-issues come into the scope of it. To cover your postages I enclose a dollar.

I left Pinner four years ago and have settled here and prefer living here to living in England as it is at present. I know Robertson well. He is of course a dealer like myself but collects personally Ship Letter marks.

Yours sincerely,

OK
\$1.00

June 15, 1952.

Mr. Douglas Roth,
Newlands C.F.
South Africa.

Dear Mr. Roth:

I am in receipt of your registered letter of April 25th with five U. S. stamps and a U. S. dollar note. I am returning the five copies herewith with remarks as below.

I was a bit interested in your statement that you preferred living in South Africa at present rather than in England and I wondered? Do you find taxation lower than in England or do you object to the socialist trend in Britain? The decent element in this country have much to object to and at times it is hard to stomach a lot of the lousy politics and damnable politicians.

I have found your former friend Alan Robertson quite a nice correspondent.

Sincerely yours,

Returned herewith

EAGLE CARRIER - 1875 REPRINT - Scott #104
2¢ Jackson - black - regular issue - Scott #73
(This stamp has a bad crease)
1¢ 1869 - 1875 reprint - Scott #123
6¢ 1869 - 1875 " " 126
10¢ 1869 - 1875 " " 127

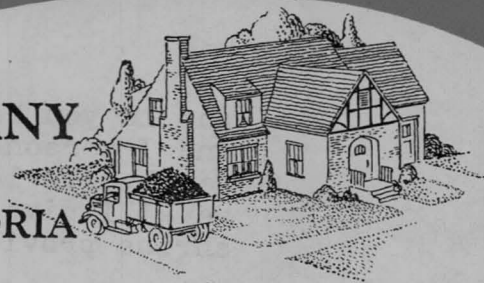
TELEPHONE 9133

PUTNAM SUPPLY COMPANY

Coal - Wood - Coke

OFFICE AND YARD
FOOT OF SPRING STREET

PEORIA



The Logical Fuel for Your Home from

ORIENT
COAL

the Heart of Franklin County, Illinois

March 20, 1952

Mr. Stanley B Ashbrook
 33 N Fort Thomas, Ave.,
 Fort Thomas, Ky

Dear Stan:

I know about the Lincoln letter which sold for \$1,600.
 That item was a franked free letter by Lincoln, P.M.
 of New Salem as well as being a letter written by A.
 Lincoln.

My Lincoln item is entirely different. To begin with
 it is not franked free by Lincoln but is a very inter-
 esting letter written by him.

" New Salem Nov. 10th 1835

His Excellency Governor Duncan

Dear Sir,

Understanding that Mr. Levi Davis of Vandalia is an
 applicant for the office of Auditor of Public Accounts,
 I take the liberty to say to you, that his appointment
 to that office would be entirely satisfactory to me,
 and, I doubt not, to most others who are the friends of
 Qualification and merit.

Your Obt Servt

A Lincoln "

The party Levi Davis was given the appointment.

The above letter was mailed from Vandalia on the 10th
 to Gov. Duncan at Jacksonville, Illinois. Actually
 the letter from a philatelic standpoint is an item
 of Vandalia. There is little doubt ^{in my mind} but that Lincoln
 actually wrote the letter in Vandalia, using his New
 Salem address on his letter to better identify himself
 to the governor. Lincoln was at that time ^{was} serving his
 first appointment to the State Legislature having been
 elected to that body in 1834.

Regardless it is a very fine item from an Illinois item
 of interest as well as a Philatelic item of interest
 although not by any means to the same extent as if the
 item had been franked free by Lincoln. (over)

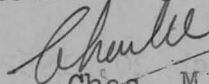
may have
 written it in
 New Salem
 & carried it
 to Vandalia
 expecting to see
 the Governor

Should you be interested in a write up of this item and I personally think it is a top flight item will be glad to let you do so. I rather have in mind that we will give this item to the Lincoln's New Salem shrine providing they can give it proper protection.

You never let me know about the package offer I suggested on the Pan San cover?

Regards,

Yours very truly,



Chas. M. Putnam Jr.

TELEPHONE 9133

PUTNAM SUPPLY COMPANY

Coal - Wood - Coke

OFFICE AND YARD
FOOT OF SPRING STREET

PEORIA



The Logical Fuel for Your Home from

**ORIENT
COAL**

the Heart of Franklin County, Illinois

March 18, 1952

Mr. Stanley B Ashbrook,
33 N Fort Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky

Dear Stan:

Am enclosing two stamps which I wish you would take a look at for me as to whether they have been tampered with in any way. Nice looking 90¢ Lincoln.

We have just completed a very interesting Exhibit. One of the finest Peoria has ever put on. Charlie Meroni was down and acted as the main speaker. Thought I had an extra program at the office but I see I can't send you a copy at this time.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Charlie
Chas. M Putnam Jr.

March 28, 1952.

Mr. Charles M. Putnam, Jr.,
% Putnam Supply Co.,
Foot of Spring St.,
Peoria 3, Ill.

Dear Charlie:

Yours of the 20th received. I think it would be a mistake to offer the two 10¢ 1847 covers together but more advisable to offer them separately. I don't think it would help either one to tie the other to it and I wouldn't like to run the chance of killing a prospect by attempting to force the two on him when his interest would probably only be in one.

I was very much interested in the story of your Lincoln letter and I will preserve your letter in one of my scrap books. Indeed I would like to write an article on it, either for one of my Service Issues or for "Stamps" whichever you would prefer. Or I could use it in my "Service" and later in "Stamps."

Re - yours dated the 18th and mailed the 25th enclosing the 90¢ 1869 and the 24¢ 1861. In my opinion, the former is perfectly okay and sound, but I don't recognize the cancelation. The 24¢ is a "changeling" of color and of no value (in my opinion). I judge that the original color was a "Lilac."

I was pleased to learn that you had such a nice exhibit, and I note that my good friend Meroni was down from the big city. They don't come any finer than "Chuck." I will appreciate one of the programs if you have one to spare. How is my good friend Dr. Snellner? Extend my regards to him when next you see him.

Watch my next "Service Issue" for quite a discussion on stamp colors.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

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March 27, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 North Ft. Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Items #3586 & #3603

Dear Stan:

Will you kindly let us have your opinion on the enclosed items which have been submitted to the Expert Committee for examination.

Thanking you for your usual prompt attention,
I am,

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

W. S. Boggs
Winthrop S. Boggs
Director

1
encl.

*P.S. I gave the Photo of the Vancouver
Cancel to Mrs. Dale to see if she
could find one in her stuff
W. S.*

March 31, 1952.

Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs,
% The Philatelic Foundation,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Herewith items #3586 and #3603 as per yours of the 27th.

I note that you referred the photograph of the 3¢ 1857 cover with the Victoria marking to Mrs. Dale and I certainly appreciate your kindness. Up to this time I have been unable to find any student of B.N.A. who is familiar with the marking though I have not heard from Wellburn. I will be more than interested to learn if Mrs. Dale has an example.

In some items that you sent me under date of May 22, 1951 was P.F. item No. 3060 - This a cover with a 3¢ 1851 "BISECT" postmarked "THIBODEAUX LA". Will you please advise me what opinion the Committee gave on this item. Stamped envelope herewith.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

14-F64-QUARTZ-20M.7



D15

BY P.F

Please write clearly in pencil, and sign your opinion.
(Do not use pen and ink.)

3603

904 1860 With
Red Grid.

In My Opinion This
Cancellation is Not
Genuine

William Spencer
March 31 1957



Please write clearly in pencil, and sign your opinion.
(Do not use pen and ink.)

NO 3586

In My opinion This
"12d Bisect" is A
Rank Fake

John E. Robinson
March 31
1952

John E. Robinson Esq.

Warner

N.H.



8122

April 1, 1952.

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup,
% MARCHANT
1475 Powell St.,
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Edgar:

Your two registered received.

Thanks for return of the Gwinn cover. I have a friend who wants it but I thought maybe you would like to have it because of the "Carrier" feature. On that account I consider it most unusual.

According to Perry, there was no Carrier Fee charged at New York on mail dropped in a box for out-of-town delivery prior to 1860, and I do not take issue with him. See My One Cent Vol. 2 - bottom of page 176. In other words, the Gwinn letter was dropped in a letter-box and was carried to the P.O. by a "Carrier" but the 1¢ fee was not prepaid and it was not collected from Gov. Denver at LeCompton, Kansas.

Re - my query of last September (returned) . I think it would be logical to suppose that the steamers did not stop at San Diego or Monterey but that on south-bound trips mail bags were dropped off at each port. On north-bound trips, north-bound mail might have been picked up but perhaps all the Panama mail was carried direct to S.F.

Thanks very much for sending me the Colson Bulletin of February 1947. I note that he calls the "Premieres" and "Issue." I may make a micro-film of this and include a print (if good) in one of my "Service Issues."

Yes Ed, I recall Broderick and the duel with Terry -

\$2.00 Green Pony - Have you any idea what became of the \$2.00 Green cover illustrated in the Knapp Pony Express book (1936) - page 19 - Fig. No.6? No, I never saw that W.F. & Co. - Paid - Sacramento on the P.F. "\$2.00 Green" cover. It is odd that it is unknown to you. Do you not think this cover is a fake? Maybe it had a 3¢ stamp in upper right and someone removed it and substituted the \$2.00 stamp. Among all of your Wells Fargo franks haven't you a single cover with that oval W.F. & Co. of Sac City? Where is the U. S. postage on this cover? U. S. postage should have been paid according to law. What sort of a report did you make to the P.F.? Also, do you know what sort of a certificate they issued?

Thompson of Beverly Hills. He has not replied to my letter. Harry Weiss didn't have much comment in reply. I suppose he didn't take time to check the article for errors. People like Thompson who write inaccurate stuff should be barred but editors will publish anything to fill columns as long as it "looks good." In the same way, a lot of "Experts" judge covers, i.e., if they look good. You will recall, (in that respect), that Ernie was of the

#2. Mr. Edgar B. Jessup - April 1, 1932.

opinion that as long as a cover "looked genuine" what was the difference.

Your pair Penny Post Via Nicaragua - Yes Ed, your Carhart cover is very desirable because of the "TOO LATE" but I think there is another feature that is of far greater interest but a feature that is overlooked by the most prominent of collectors of Westerns. I regard your Carhart cover as the earliest known use from California of the 10¢ 1855. Surely this use was 1855 and not 1856. Because other collectors are not as well posted as you are on the "unusual" in Westerns, why permit it to disturb you? However, our mutual friend Doc Pollard is learning at a very rapid rate.

When Bev and Don drive West they will be most welcome at Fort Thomas. Perhaps by that time I will know how to get 100 percent out of my Leica outfit. At some future date when you retire and have more leisure time you should take up philatelic photography. When I get into Leica color work I will get in touch with Don.

Calif. Penny Post covers - (three) - Thanks very much. I never did get a chance to photo the Ocean Mail cover before. I suppose I didn't send for it in 1942 because Lawrence had a nice cut on the front of his catalogue. Funny thing about this, Maurice Blake wrote me a letter about this cover several days after the Laurence sale (ten years ago) - I put that part of his letter in the Laurence Catalogue. I will make a microfilm of it and send you a print. It sounds rather strange after a decade. Maurice has learned a lot since then. If Souren bought the cover in the Mozian sale in 1944 how do you suppose it found its way into a Costales sale in 1949?

I do wish that you had the time to write the complete story of this Post. Someone must have lost considerable money when it was closed.

Yes, the other two covers are extremely nice and I will send you photo-prints later.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

P.S.--In case you do not have the record, the Penny Post Ocean Mail cover was Lot 1322 in the Mozian Sale of June 1-2-3, 1944 - and was illustrated on Plate 13 - My memo shows that I sent for it but I have no record indicating it was sent to me. It was in a sale of the collection of F. W. Bohle of Oakland. How did it get from Carhart to Bohle?

26
on
plate

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 31st, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Unfortunately here is a rush job. Will you look at this 5¢ New York, and drop me a little note that I can send out with the stamp, as to whether or not you think the cancellation is good.

This is not a recent find, it has been known for a long time, but I am going to get it listed in the catalogue and I think I can sell it. The stampless cover from Savannah Feb. 2, 1949 has the same postmark.

There is no question in my mind about this but I want you to check it.

Sincerely,

EDC:mkl

Ezra D. Cole.

April 2, 1952.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole,
Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ez:

Herewith the 5¢ New York. In my opinion, the red postmark is a clever fake, also the A.C.M. This is a cleaned copy and the "A.C.M." is not genuine, but an imitation. The postmark is most assuredly a paint job and not a strike. I feel sure that this was made in Europe as there are several features which are typical. I checked this very, very carefully and if you were here beside me I think that I could show you the features that are wrong.

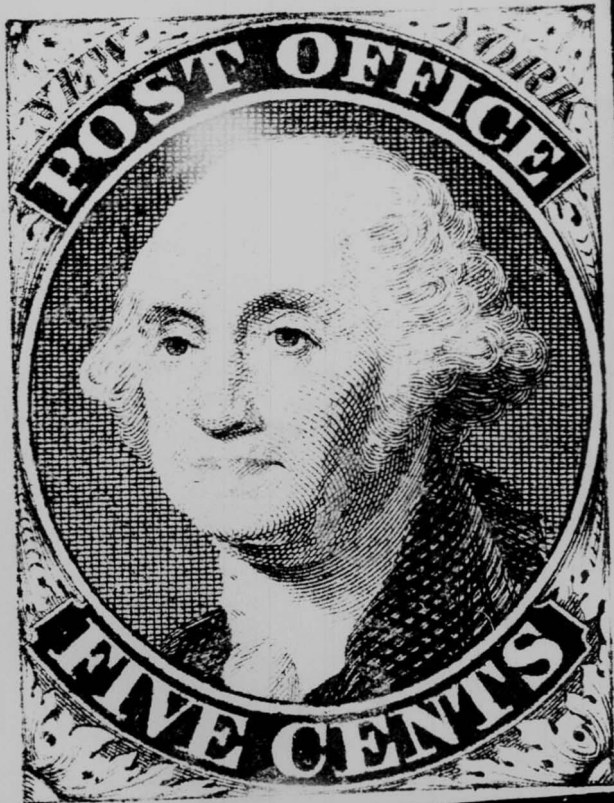
Regards.

Yours etc.,

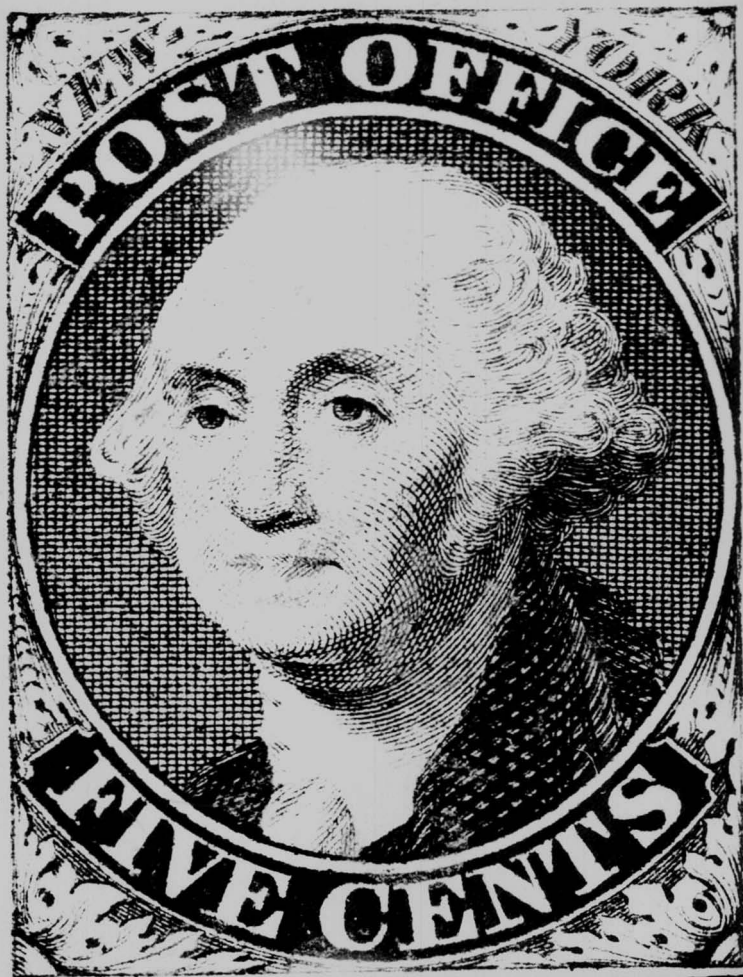
Re - this 54 New York by
Ezra D Cole April 1 1952

I made a tracing of a genuine
stroke of this postmark and it
did not match the painted
letters on the stamp - The
month and day letters were
completely out of line - the
"10" was out of line - On
the genuine the ~~1~~ tops of
the "1" and "0" are broken
on the stamp the tops of the
"1" and "0" were painted complete.

The stamp is genuine and
plate position No. 26. The "ACM"
is a fake and a paint job in
a "lavender ink" rather than
a red ink. Filed under
Savannah is a tracing of
a genuine stroke of this
postmark



THIS IS AN ENLARGEMENT
Made From A 35mm Microfilm
By STANLEY B. ASHBROOK



THIS IS AN ENLARGEMENT
Made From A 35mm Microfilm
By STANLEY S. ASHBROOK



THIS IS AN ENLARGEMENT
Made From A 35mm Microfilm
By STANLEY B. ASHBROOK



THIS IS AN ENLARGEMENT
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By STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.
HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.
ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M.D.
AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

3-25-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Here is a photograph of a folded letter with a 3451 tied by a black Way This is the same cancellation as on the 34 OB on The Way Bill, which you wrote about in your special serial. However, that cancellation was in blue and did not tie the stamps.

The contents of this letter are very interesting and explain why it was sent ^{Richmond, Va.} Canal Mail. The letter is headed, December 27, 1852, and is addressed to a Colonel Walker. This letter was written by one of the officers of the company, which ran, or owned the canal. From Colonel Walker they had apparently been obtaining slaves to work on the canal, and keep it in repair, and since a new year was coming around, they were letting Colonel Walker know of their requirements for the coming year. In the

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.

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ALBERT BUILDING

SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE 6120

letter ^{he} ~~they~~ says "I am willing to
hire Anthony and John to work on
the repairs of the canal, and will pay
you two hundred dollars per annum
for each with the usual clothing and rations."

The letter was probably written from
their office in Richmond, and said it
was easier to give the letter to one of
the captains of a canal boat, than to
take it to the Richmond P.O.
Undoubtedly the way was put on
at Lynchburg, and probably by this
time ⁽¹⁸⁵²⁾ was the designated method by
which the P.O. identified the source
of this letter. I believe that this way
will only be found in canal mail of the
James River Canal going into the
Lynchburg P.O. What do you think?
Kindest regards, Sincerely,
Albert Polland

April 2, 1952.

Dr. W. Scott Polland,
Albert Bldg.,
San Rafael, Calif.

Dear Doctor:

Your three letters of the 25th - 26th and 29th together with the photo-prints received. Thanks very much.

First, permit me to offer you my heartiest congratulations upon your election as President of the Staff of the Marin General Hospital. That was quite an honor.

I was pleased to receive the photo of the Lynchburg, Va. "WAY 6" cover and I think that we are now definitely certain that this marking was used at Lynchburg and that it is known in black and also in blue. Rather than go on the theory that this marking was confined to mail brought into Lynchburg by canal, perhaps it would be more proper to state that it was USED principally on "Way" mail brought in by the canal boats. Perhaps the canal ran thru isolated sections which were not near a regular post office and that it was the custom to send mail from such places by canal to either Richmond or Lynchburg. I suppose on unpaid stampless mail the stamper was used as a "rating" marking and on prepaid mail merely as a "killer." Let us suppose that a small batch of mail included prepaid and unpaid mail, so the same stamper was used for the batch. Off hand I do not recall the "regulation" concerning the receipt and handling of "Way" mail but I have an idea that such mail should have been postmarked. It seems that Lynchburg failed to do this.

The letter of this canal boat cover is indeed most interesting and I was pleased to receive the copy. Wouldn't it be nice now if we could hire a nigger for \$200.00 per annum plus board and keep. A lot of them are not worth that. I am "agin" everything pertaining to "civil rights" and the F.E.P.C. I go on the theory that it is utterly impossible to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. People like Eleanor who believe it possible are nuts.

Back to the subject - I believe that Lynchburg might have had sources of other WAY mail and that it really was not necessary to identify one particular source. Note the Chase book, (original) - page 298 - the "Way 6" - I have no proof, but I imagine this was used at Richmond. The Lynchburg was sans-serif.

Regarding yours of the 26th, it was of interest to note that Sac City did not use red for a p.m. after 1851. I have listed your Sep 30 as the earliest use known in California of the 3¢ 1851. Do you mind if I mention this in one of my Service Issues? Jessup has a cover which is the earliest use of a 10¢ 1855 from California.

#2. Dr. W. Scott Polland - April 2, 1952.

I was very much interested in your remarks on your photo equipment. I have had nothing but ill luck so far - if one thing hasn't been wrong then it has been something else - all my fault - I either under or over or fog negatives but perhaps someday I'll get the hang. Your outfit was made to be fool proof to a certain extent. Using a Leica for copying work is not as easy as is stated in their printed matter or perhaps it is and I am just a dumb cluck. If I ever get any decent results, I will send you some prints. I will have to have perfection if I ever use the darn outfit.

What I have in mind is to buy stock film and cut it myself so I can use lengths of a few exposures. I developed a roll of 36 exposures today and every one was over-exposed. I thought I knew what I was doing and made a number of negatives that I wanted to be right. I guess it is hard to learn an old dog new tricks.

Congratulations on obtaining Lot 93 in the recent Kelleher sale. It looks awfully good. I remember that Knapp had quite a nice one. A ship "42."

Re - Paige 261. Yes, a very rare mail route. Congrats.

Again thanks for the photo-prints. I have been using the term "Depreciated Currency" covers but "Inflation" is shorter and is just as good - Your cover was by "P.C.M." - 30 viz 43 - to Sac. City. Very interesting.

I had Jessup send me his "Penny Post" cover (Ocean Mail) so that I could make a good photograph. I will use this in a future Service Issue. Did Ed ever tell you how he missed this in two actions (1942 and 1944) and then in a third, (1949) he managed to get it? Quite a story, and incidentally, quote a cover, as you are more than aware.

Your Mule Kicks are nice.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

The mental confusion in which I now find myself, thinking that I replied to Marcel's letter of March 13, but being unable to find my carbon copy, shows further reason why I should redouble my efforts this summer to finish my river mail handbook and have it over with. Thus far, all my work has been spade work, consisting largely of two categories of things: (1) viewing, photographing, and recording marks; (2) correspondence with other collectors about marks and covers. Both of these are important, but I believe it is now time that I must chop off that sort of spade-work and prepare my manuscript. If I go on forever collecting information, I will never get the manuscript prepared.

I begin now to wonder whether I gave Marcel the right answer. I still believe that there is some logic in my letter of Oct. 28 and my letter of Feb. 17. I cannot visualize the Lynchburg agent of the canal boat Eagle leaving the addressee of ~~of~~ the letter (both being Lees of Virginia) standing there while he hustles uptown to the post office and gets the stamp cancelled; that makes me think that the letter went ahead of the shipment, by stage or by post rider, and was therefore correctly marked "Way" (being brought in "out of the mail" by a properly appointed carrier, but not "Way 6." Perhaps that was the only "Way" mark the postmaster had, or could find at the moment, and as long as the carrier got his penny, and the addressee only had to pay 1¢, not 6¢, nobody raised a disturbance. I am sure nobody had to pay 6¢.

On the other hand, I am well aware of the possibility that the letter (which was really not a letter, but a bill of lading, and therefore entitled to go completely free of postage) went with the goods, and was therefore overpaid 3¢. It had then to be carried up to the post office before the captain could break bulk. The postmaster realized that it was arriving "out of the mail," and knew that he had to do something unusual to it. The only unusual mark he could lay hands on to show arrival "out of the mail" was the "Way 6" mark, which he used, thereby creating two errors: He did not collect 6¢, and it was not a "Way" letter, because the canal boat was not a "carrier" in the sense of the word as used by the P.O.D. I agree that this may have happened; but frankly, this explanation does not sound as good to me as the one I gave Marcel, namely, that the letter went ahead by stage coach or by post rider.

In case somebody asks, "But what about the filing memo, "Oct. 27,"? Doesn't that signify the date of receipt of the letter? Ordinarily, yes. But this time the addressee may have put the letter when he received it in a pigeon-hole of suspense matters, and left it there until the 27th, when the canal boat came in; in that case, the memo would mean the date of receipt of the shipment, but the letter.

One thing we must remember, which I mentioned in one of our discussion meetings at Cenex: We must always bear in mind that nobody alive today actually knows just what some postmaster did, or what some postmaster thought when he applied a certain mark, 100 years ago. We can say, "If he followed regulations, he did this . . ." or, "If he followed regulations, it appears that he had this in mind. . ." but we cannot state with certainty, a century later, exactly what somebody did or thought. We can only reconstruct the scene by the evidence we have before us.

We are now back to the photographs Scott Pollard made of the cover formerly owned by Bill and now owned by Marcel. I wish he had used Commercial or Process film and laid the cover on black paper; on white paper one can hardly tell the cover from the background, and being on outdoor film, it is very lacking in contrast. Every time a correspondent offers to make the photographs himself or have them made, rather than send me the covers, I know I will be disappointed. M. C. Nathan did that; with the best of intentions he made me a lot of pictures of covers, but on outdoor film and he reduced them without recording the scale.

Henry
Meyer
Wrote

July
6
1952

Marcel Levy has been writing me about that Lynchburg "WAY 6" cover which he got from Scott Pollard, and which Scott got from Bill Hicks. You know Bill showed it a year ago (literally a year ago) at Cenex. I have twice written him what I believe to be the explanation. I think the reason he asked over again was not a language difficulty; he seems to have none of that. It was a sincere desire to be absolutely sure that he was understanding me correctly.

I now find that you explained that cover in your "Special Service," for Bill quoted to me out of it, since he and I had been corresponding about that same cover. Tracy also mentions it in Chronicle No. 14, of which he sent me a preview copy because he wanted me to read what he had said about the discovery by Bill of a 3c 1851 with enough postmark to verify my diagnosis of Abe Rubel's ". . . NS & CAIRO RIV. MAIL" as "N. ORLEANS & CAIRO." But I fear Tracy has slightly overstated what you said in your "Special Service." You can decide when you read the Chronicle. He hasn't actually said that you said that which is an overstatement, but a careless reader may gather that. However, we can face that detail when it occurs.

I have been hunting out Mr. Levy's letters and my replies. I cannot locate my carbon copy of my reply to Mr. Levy's second letter about the cover he got from Bill. I am now wondering whether I really wrote him the reply, or did I have in mind what I meant to write, but because of the trouble I was having in February and March (which fortunately is now all cleared up and settled happily) I did not actually write it? If you don't mind going through the misery, will you please study my two letters to Marcel? To keep them separate from all other matters, I am enclosing them in one of my reply-envelopes. That will avoid mixing them with other papers.

July 8, 1952.

Mr. Henry A. Meyer,
516 Read St.,
Evansville, Ind.

Dear Henry:

Yours of the 6th received and herewith I return your correspondence with our mutual friend Levy of Paris. First, permit me to express my pleasure at the good news that your mother has fully recovered and is enjoying better health than before her illness in February and also that your arm is okay once more. As for myself, I am on a diet and I have not had any return of the gall bladder trouble - In fact, I am feeling fine at present and believe that I will be able to avoid an operation. The doctors say that such an operation in this age is very simple, yet for a man of my age no surgery is simple - in my opinion.

Now for the matters discussed in your letter. "Railroad - Way." I regret to state that I do not possess a copy of the Norona book that you mention. I have copies of his 1933 and 1935 editions of his "CYCLOPEDIA" - Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 but I never heard of the book you mentioned.

I have a record of this oval marking - It was on a cover tying a 3¢ 1867 grill. The owner sent it to me back in 1939 and I had quite a lot of correspondence concerning it. I wrote Chase about it and his reply stated that he had seen an example but did not know where it was used, etc.

The cover in 1949 was owned by Marvin Preston - 640 W. Woodlawn, Ferndale 20, Mich., and he advised me that it is addressed to a J. A. Gerarden - 120 Plum St., Detroit, Mich. Preston advised me that Girardin was a trustee of Notre Dame University and had a son there. I evidently had Mr. Preston send me his cover so that I could photograph it but at the moment I can't locate a print. I believe that he wrote me that Arthur Hall also owned a cover with the marking, but I never wrote Hall. If you wish I will try and locate a print of the photo I made. Advise. Does Remele know anything about it? Preston showed his cover to Fred Schmalzreidt but he had no information relative to it.

"RAIL R" - I have read your remarks very carefully and I must confess that I don't know the answer - We have "RAILROAD" and "RAIL R" and "RAIL ROAD CAR" and no doubt a number of others that I do not recall at the moment. Consider the latter - The wording seems to indicate it was applied by the route agent. I have a record of such a cover - a use in December 1843 - addressed to Boston - with a small handstamped "PAID" and a manuscript "12¹/₂" which indicated a rate for not over 150 miles. I do not believe that the marking was applied at Boston, hence it seems probable it was applied by the route agent - If so, then why was "Rail R" applied by a route agent? I have records of covers with the "Rail R" marking addressed both to Boston and Providence. You sent me a photograph last April of one to Providence with a "Paid" - a "5" and a "Steamboat" - a use in 1846. It was a cover belonging to E. N. Sampson.

I had a letter from Chuck last December in which he stated that he believed the "Rail R" marking was applied at Providence. ~~xx~~ A cover that I mentioned above with the "Rail R" addressed to Boston was headed New York March 10, 1846. No postmarks. It would appear that the "Rail R" on this cover was applied by the Route Agent. I haven't enough data on this particular subject to form a definite opinion.

#2. Mr. Henry A. Meyer - July 8, 1952.

Canal Boat Mail - I had quite a bit of correspondence with various people concerning the Lynchburg cover, and I enclose some clippings from my "Special Service" issues.

Henry I think the cover that Dr. Polland sold to Levy was carried by a Canal Boat from Richmond to Lynchburg (by Boat Eagle). This was of course a bill of lading and it is possible that the writers intended it to go by regular mail, hence put a 3¢ stamp on it, but instead sent it by the Canal Boat. Had it gone by regular mail or as you term it, Coach Mail, it would have had a Richmond postmark. The "WAY 6" was used merely as a killer on the stamp, and it of course don't mean that an extra 6¢ was collected at Lynchburg. In the case of this particular cover the Way 6 does not tie the stamp but Dr. Polland located another cover (which you mentioned) where the encircled "Way 6" did tie the 3¢ 1851 to the cover. I think this also went by canal boat in the same manner. Why was this marking used on these covers? My theory is this. I doubt if an agent of the Lynchburg P.O. met the canal boat when it docked, but I believe these boats carried Way mail from points along the canal which were distant from the regular mail route - or coach route. Why not? Such mail was probably sent unpaid and upon arrival at the Lynchburg P.O. in a batch were handstamped with this marking "Way 6" - meaning 6¢ was due. When the clerk came to a letter with a 3¢ postage stamp he went right ahead and used the rate stamp as a killer. I do not see any necessity to go far afield and create some theory which has no basis on which to construct it.

I might also apply this comment to Tracy's effort to give some legitimate standing to those fake "Way 2" covers. I doubt if any well-informed student on "Way" markings would give them a second look or consideration. Where there is no such a rate why attempt to construct theories to explain them unless one has some bit of evidence on which to theorize. In the case of this "Way 2" cover there is no basis whatsoever and I was disappointed at Tracy's remarks in his current "Chronicle" which arrived yesterday. Such remarks have a tendency to confuse collectors.

Ragatz - Yes, I had a very nice visit with him but of course he has not much interest in 19th Century U. S.

I had a letter from your friend Neal Grabert offering to loan me some 1815-1816 War Rate covers which I gladly accepted. Thanks to you for the suggestion.

I have no idea where he could obtain a Maysville Way but I will bear him in mind should one turn up.

I believe the above covers your letter of the 6th.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

COPY
for SAA

March 26th, 1952.

Colonel W. H. Semsrott,
501 Chamber of Commerce Building,
St. Louis 1, Missouri.

Dear Colonel Semsrott:

You did well indeed in finding such three nice examples of the Jacksonville, Ala. PAID 5 envelopes! The point of course is whether or not they really are Postmasters' Provisionals or merely Handstamped Paids.

I believe with you that they are the former, chiefly because the little typeset PAID 5 circle includes the initials W.T.A., which may well have been those of the postmaster. As in the case of other similar Confederate Provisionals, these initials apparently made a "control" marking of it. Also, I note particularly that the ink of the postmark dated February 24, 1862, differs from that used on its circular PAID marking, which would indicate that it was put on at a different time, and therefore that the envelope had been sold prior to its usage. A difference in the inking on the other two covers however, is not apparent.

While August Dietz did accept this as a Provisional, and so lists it in his catalog, I feel that I must point out that he was too generous in several such cases in the past, and that at least sometimes conclusive proof of Provisional issue has been lacking. The Scott people have been far more strict about that, which may be the reason why this Jacksonville, Ala. marking has never been listed in the Scott Catalog.

Because of the possibility that the presentation of these three covers might form a reasonable basis for recommending the marking for listing in the Scott Catalog, I am taking the liberty of sending these covers on to L.L. Shenfield, who is Chairman of our Authentication Committee, for his study and suggestions. He may want to submit them, or photographs of them, to the Scott people, but I shall ask him to then return your covers to you direct. I trust this will all meet with your approval.

The question of their value is a difficult one to answer. The Dietz Catalog lists them at \$50., but at best that is only an approximate figure and obviously cannot be based on either their comparative rarity or their market value. I would therefore suggest that you wait a while before attempting to price these for sale to others, and I will then be glad to correspond with you further on that point.

Cordially yours,

Vern Dyk Mac Bride
744 Broad Street
Newark 2, N. J.

For the Authentication Committee.

MacB/HK

c.c.:L.L.Shenfield



FAY, SPOFFORD & THORNDIKE
ENGINEERS

11 BEACON STREET, BOSTON 8, MASS.

TELEPHONE LAFAYETTE 3-1881

GRAYBAR BUILDING

420 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 3-8326

CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
JOHN AYER
BION A. BOWMAN
CARROLL A. FARWELL
RALPH W. HORNE
WILLIAM L. HYLAND
FRANK L. LINCOLN
HOWARD J. WILLIAMS

BRIDGES AND OTHER STRUCTURES
WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE
PORT AND TERMINAL WORKS
INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS
AIRPORTS

VALUATIONS
INVESTIGATIONS, DESIGNS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION

Boston 8, Mass.
March 31, 1952

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
P. O. Box 31
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a cover which I recently found in Boston with the 3¢ stamp cancelled in Detroit and the 1¢ stamp cancelled in Boston. I am interested as to what service the 1¢ stamp supplied, whether it was for a drop letter or for carrier service. I called on Dr. Chase recently and showed him the cover. He was not sure but suggested sending the cover on to you for your opinion. I would very much appreciate hearing from you as to what service you consider the 1¢ stamp served.

This seems to me to be an interesting cover for the 3¢ 51 Unit. I would appreciate it, if you have a photograph made, you would send a copy to me, advising me of the cost, so I can send it on to Mr. Simpson of the Unit.

I shall appreciate your advice.

Very truly yours,

John Ayer

JA:c
Enclosure

April 2, 1952.

Mr. John Ayer,
11 Beacon St.,
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Ayer:

I am in receipt of yours of the 31st enclosing the 3¢ 1857 cover. In my opinion, this is a "Forwarded" letter. It originated at Detroit and was delivered at a certain address in Boston, thus the postal service had completed the 3¢ payment. It was re-addressed, prepaid 1¢ and mailed as a "Drop letter," just the same as if it had originated in Boston. While it is a bit unusual, it does not have any Carrier Fee significance, hence I am wondering if Tracy Simpson would consider it of sufficient interest to justify an illustration. If you wish me to make a photograph, the charge will be \$2.00. I will hold the cover pending further advice.

I am wondering what you did with your Plate 6 block and if perchance you would be willing to part with it? I recently discovered in the Neinken collection a mint block of eight from the left pane of Plate 6 (4H x 2V) and in the Fortgang collection a mint H.S. of four. I was more than pleased to learn when I plated the items that the two pieces had originally been a block of 12 (4H x 3V).

My kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,



FAY, SPOFFORD & THORNDIKE
ENGINEERS

11 BEACON STREET, BOSTON 8, MASS.

TELEPHONE LAFAYETTE 3-1881

GRAYBAR BUILDING

420 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 3-6326

BRIDGES AND OTHER STRUCTURES
WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE
PORT AND TERMINAL WORKS
INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS
AIRPORTS

VALUATIONS
INVESTIGATIONS, DESIGNS
SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION

CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
JOHN AYER
BION A. BOWMAN
CARROLL A. FARWELL
RALPH W. HORNE
WILLIAM L. HYLAND
FRANK L. LINCOLN
HOWARD J. WILLIAMS

Boston 8, Mass.
April 4, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P.O. Box 31
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letter of April 2 in regard to the forwarded cover has been received and I appreciate very much your opinion as to its use. As you say, I doubt if it is worth while sending a photograph on to Tracy Simpson.

I still retain my Plate 6 block and do not care to sell it at the present time. I was very much interested to hear that two other blocks from the same plate have been found. I believe Mr. Ward wrote me about it some time ago.

Thank you, again, for your kindness.

Very truly yours,

John Ayer

JA:c



May 1860.



→
Detroit
May 12

By John Ayer.
Yellow Envelope

Mrs M. R. Hudson,

Care of
Ed. Whitney, Esq. Care of Rev. J. B. ~~Ans.~~
~~Spaugh, Soule & Co. 245 Washington St.~~
No. 9 T. Wharf.
Boston, Mass

PUTNEY 1772

17, HAZLEWELL ROAD
PUTNEY,
London, S.W.15
4th April, 1952.

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.,
33 N.Ft.Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

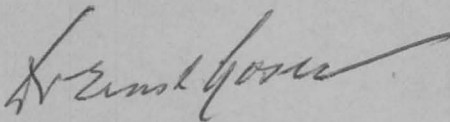
I have great pleasure in sending you
an article of mine on Early U.S.A. Covers.

I am pretty sure I do not say anything
that is new to American philatelists. However, collectors
of U.S.A. stamps in the Old Country know very little
about the fascinating earlier postal history in the
U.S.A., and my article is, of course, written with this
in mind. Unfortunately, the blockmaker reduced the
three covers on page 153 considerably in size.

As Mr. Van Dyk MacBride knows my
prisoner-of-war cover and Mr. John K. Bash was the one
who gave me the information re the rarity of my
quintuple Hawaiian cover, I am sending both of them
copies of my article, too.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Unusual Early Covers

By E. MOSER

The items described and illustrated in this article formed part of the author's display at the Members' Day competition, in which they attracted great interest.

(1) In 1848, only a few months after Mexico had lost Upper California to the U.S.A., gold was discovered there, and thousands of gold-diggers and settlers from every part of the world rushed to the Golden West. San Francisco, until then a place of steep hills, sand dunes and a few scattered huts and houses, soon became the centre of all commercial activity and, consequently, the centre in that waste area for receiving and distributing in- and out-going mail. The U.S.A. government immediately appointed a postmaster and fixed the rate for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letters from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast at 40 cents and from one place in California to another at $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents, but did not send any stamps. Nearly all the covers of these earliest days are, therefore, "stampless". A small supply of stamps was first sent in 1851, when the rate from the Pacific to the Atlantic was reduced to 6 cents on 1st July, 1851, if prepaid, and to 10 cents, if unpaid. The initial numbers consisted of 150,000 1 cent, 410,000 3 cents and 40,000 12 cents stamps, and they arrived in San Francisco in the middle of September. A few more supplies were sent until 1st July, 1855, when the rate was raised from 6 cents to 10 cents and prepayment made compulsory, but this amount was not nearly enough to keep pace with the quickly growing population. During all these years the mail went round Cape Horn, occasionally also via the Isthmus of Panama, and ships sailed about four times a year.

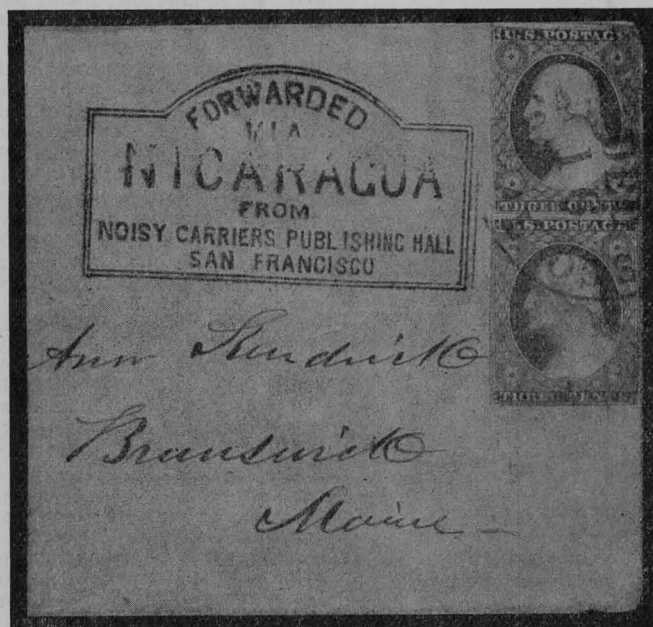
More enterprising than the official was the private service. So-called "Express" companies collected letters from the different mining camps and outlying places and brought them to San Francisco. There, carriers took the letters on board steamers and forwarded the mail through their agents to New York. This route went via the Pacific Ocean to Managua (on the Nicaraguan coast), then by mules and on boats over the mountains and lakes of Nicaragua to San Juan del Norte (now called Greytown) on the eastern side of Nicaragua and from there by ship again via the Atlantic Ocean to New York. The ocean-going ships used to sail once or twice a month, and so the whole journey from San Francisco to New York (or vice versa) took "only" 30 to 35 days.

One of the earliest carriers in San Francisco was *The Noisy Carrier*. This "business" was founded by C. P. Kimball in 1849. Kimball began as a news vendor who delivered letters in the neighbourhood as well. As he used to attract customers by his unusually powerful voice, he was soon known by the nickname "The Noisy Carrier", and he kept this as his trade name through many decades.

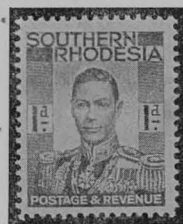
The above cover has a pair of the 3 cents dull red, 1851, and is cancelled "16th December, San Francisco". The handstamp is thought to be one of his earliest ones. A little later we find the text altered from "Publishing Hall" to "Publishers Hall" and again some time later the full

address is given—77 Long Wharf, San Francisco, Cal., where Kimball opened a small book- and newspaper-stall.

The other possibility of bringing mail from the newly discovered West to the East was, of course, by land. Here, however, the great difficulty was that the railway lines from



New York and from Chicago ended at St. Louis and St. Joseph on the Missouri, and that from there the routes went mainly through unexplored, dangerous country. For many years these trails were protected only by sporadic military forts, and people on horses or in coaches usually took more than 50 days for such a trip across the plains. In 1858 the first overland connection was opened officially. It connected the railway terminus at St. Louis with San Francisco and the coaches covered the whole distance of nearly 3,000 miles in 24 days. Arrangements had been made for changing the horses and, if necessary, the coaches at every station. These stage-coaches went via Fort Smith (Arkansas) through Indian Territory and New Mexico to Fort Yuma, following roughly the so-called Texas trail, then by-passed the difficult Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada and finally arrived in San Francisco via Los Angeles. For quite a long time this route was considered highly dangerous. Letters had to be especially marked *Overland*, and the mailbags had to be of small size, so that, in case of need, they could be carried away by the coach-horses.



1937



1937



1937



1938



1940



1941



1942



1943

KING GEORGE VI

DECEMBER 1936 — FEBRUARY 1952

The tragic suddenness of The King's death came as a severe shock to all his subjects throughout the British Colonies and Dominions. The seriousness of his last illness was not minimised in the newspapers, nor did his poor state of health pass unnoticed by those people who saw the film of the farewell to his daughter and son-in-law on their projected tour of the Antipodes; nevertheless, none could have known that the end was so near.

The late King's reign did not coincide with one of the happiest periods in history. Marred by the most devastating war yet known to mankind, followed by worldwide industrial and economic instability, with the forces of evil surging upwards in their relentless fight against right, his years of tenure of the throne brought with them a burden which none but the strongest and most upright character could have borne with fortitude.

Philatelists may feel gratified that The King sought relaxation, in some of his fleeting free moments, among those scraps of coloured paper which hold so much fascination for us all. Although, perhaps, not imbued with that absorbing enthusiasm of his august father, King George VI had for many years taken an interest in stamps, and as long ago as 1908 visited, together with his father, then Prince of Wales, an exhibition organised by the Junior Philatelic Society. Thirty-two years later he paid a surprise visit to the Stamp Centenary Exhibition, held at the London Museum, and in 1950 attended the London International Stamp Exhibition at Grosvenor House. On both occasions he showed the keenest interest as the finer points of the exhibits were explained to him by Sir John Wilson.

The King followed up his interest in stamps with practical demonstration. Not only did he form a magnificent collection of the issues of his own reign, but he graciously gave permission for portions of that collection, and also that formed by his father, to be displayed at philatelic exhibitions at home and overseas. It was a memorable occasion when, at the London International Stamp Exhibition, famous rarities from the Royal Collection were shown publicly for the first time.

The reign of King George VI is a compact and fascinating epoch in philatelic history. The stamps issued during that period have captured the imagination of philatelists far and wide, and have led to philatelic research scarcely less intense than that which has been conducted on the early Victorian issues.

With the beginning of a new reign a promising vista opens up before the philatelic gaze, a vista made all the more pleasant by the knowledge that Queen Elizabeth II herself is an enthusiastic collector. To her the members of the Junior Philatelic Society express their loyal wishes for a long and happy reign, coupled with the hope that, on those occasions when she seeks relaxation from the cares of state, the scraps of coloured paper may afford her true recreation and pleasure.

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN



1945



1952



1951



1948



1949



1950

The envelope which is reproduced here dates from this period. It is cancelled 10th October, 1859, San Francisco, marked "Overland", and has the London arrival marking 19th November, 1859. The envelope is franked with 29



cents (an envelope stamp 10 cents 1853, a 3 cents 1851, a 10 cents and two 3 cents 1857). It is impressed with the franks of Wells, Fargo & Co. "Through our California and Atlantic Express" in red on buff paper.

A year later Wells, Fargo & Co. were able to shorten the time taken from San Francisco to the Missouri from 24 to 12 days by using express-riders who changed their horses 75 times en route. This was the famous Pony Express. About that time Wells, Fargo and Co. also started issuing their first stamps (\$2 red and \$4 green), which pictured such a horseman at full gallop and giving the impression that Indians or highwaymen were close on his heels.

(2) The Civil War, which separated the North of the U.S.A. from the South between 1861 and 1865, is very interesting from the philatelic point of view. On 31st May, 1861, the Postmaster-General in Washington suspended every postal service in the "rebellious" states, and also the use of United States stamps and the interchange of mail between the North and the South. In order to prevent the use of the large quantity of U.S.A. stamps which were still in the hands of the Southern postmasters and the public, he declared the issue of 1857/60 as obsolete, and substituted for it stamps in different designs and shades. This new issue is now known as the U.S.A. August/September 1861 issue. Consequently, the Southerners were forced to establish their own postal service and, until their collapse in 1865, they produced (or imported from London) under the most difficult conditions the so-called Confederate States stamps.



Although the war went on for over four years with the utmost ruthlessness, both sides allowed their prisoners of war to send letters to their respective countries. Such letters were exchanged near Old Point Comfort in Virginia,

under flag of truce. When sent from a Northern prison camp to the South, they had to be prepaid with the new 3 cents U.S.A. stamp and were delivered in Richmond, the capital of the Southerners. From there such a letter was sent to the addressee with 10 cents postage due, which was the uniform rate since 1st July, 1862, for a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter within the 13 Confederate States of America. Very occasionally it happened that the prisoner possessed stamps which were valid in the Confederacy. In such a case, he could affix to his letter both stamps, the 3 cents U.S.A. stamp and the 10 cents Confederate stamp, but it is natural that such cases were very exceptional. Covers which bear both stamps are, therefore, quite rare.

The above cover is cancelled 1st December, 1864, Sandusky, Ohio, and 18th January (1865), Richmond. The prison censor's handstamp is G S B, Johnsons Island, O.

(3) The flag-of-truce cover, discussed above, might be classified as a "combination cover", i.e., according to Fred J. Melville's Vocabulary, as a cover which has been prepaid with stamps of "two or more countries". Historians could, however, dispute such a classification, as the U.S.A. never recognised the Southern states as a "country", which, in this connection, means as a nation. They considered the withdrawal of the Southern states from the Union and the formation of their own government as "pure insurrection and rebellion" against the authority of the Constitution (Lincoln in his inaugural address of 4th March, 1861). Accordingly, the fight of the 13 states for their freedom went into history, not as a war between "two countries", but as a civil war.



An indisputable combination cover, however, is the following example, in which the Hawaiian stamps prepay the journey from Honolulu to New York, and the U.S.A. stamps the journey from New York to Great Britain.

Until 1870, the Hawaiian kingdom had no formal postal treaty with the U.S.A., but both countries had agreed on the postal rates. In the middle sixties, the Hawaiian Post Office charged 5 cents from any part of their islands to the ship in Honolulu harbour, the U.S.A. Post Office 3 cents from any part of the United States to San Francisco and the captain of the ship 2 cents. The 5 cents were prepaid in Hawaiian stamps, the 3 and 2 cents in U.S.A. stamps which, since about 1855, could be bought at a few post

(Continued on next page, foot of column two)

DAYS AT THE J.P.S.

FEBRUARY MEETING

A large and eager crowd of members attended Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Danson's display of "Consular Offices in Egypt" on 3rd February. In introducing the display, Lieut.-Colonel Danson explained the origin and "raison d'être" of the Consular Offices in Egypt, and some 150 covers were on show, with detailed information and data on each sheet, to illustrate his remarks and demonstrate the great interest that attaches to these posts.

Most collectors, and in particular those concerned with "used abroad" postmarks, are well acquainted with the special cancellations used by the British and French Offices in Egypt, but in addition to these more familiar types, the display included a splendid array of covers which had passed through the Austrian, Italian, Russian and Greek Offices. The Austrian section included a range of stampless covers with a variety of cancellations, as well as several very rare "combination" items, one bearing Egyptian 1866 issue adhesives (valid only for internal postage) with an additional Austrian-Italy stamp cancelled in Alexandria to pay carriage from that port to Europe. There were also three covers from Austria to the Far East, each with additional British stamps cancelled "BO 1" (Alexandria). These were used for accountancy purposes to pay the proportion of postage due to the British postal authorities. Outstanding covers in the British section were the "Crowned Circle" franks of Alexandria and Cairo, as well as covers from Beyrouth to Europe, showing the combined use of British adhesives cancelled "G O6" (Beyrouth) with French or Italian stamps cancelled at the respective Offices in Alexandria. There were many attractive covers from the four French Offices at Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said and Suez, including some "combinations", either with Posta Europea "franks" or with Egyptian adhesives.

Similar combination pieces were shown in the Italian section, a number being franked with Sardinian stamps, which are not only of considerable rarity but of great beauty as well. These included an example with the "Piroscapi Postali Inglesi" (per British Mailboat) marking, of which very few are known. There are not many covers extant with postmarks of the Russian Consular Post, but the display included a number of these, showing two different types of cancellation, and all bearing stamps of Russian Levant.

Altogether it was a most satisfying show, which ended with a hearty vote of thanks to Lieut.-Colonel Danson, who had very kindly come up from Liverpool to present his display personally.

MARCH MEETING

A large attendance heard Major Willis speak on the "Epaulettes" and "Medallion" issues of Belgium. Major Willis described fully the production of these issues and used facsimile transfer rollers to illustrate his points. Among the wealth of material shown were essays, die and plate proofs, and a number of the rare shades of the

"Epaulettes", especially the dark red-brown, bistre, blue-black and lilac. Nearly all of the major fresh entries were shown, and after hearing Major Willis's lucid explanation members should be in no doubt as to their cause.

An amazing lot of the "Medallion" die proofs and specimens were shown, as well as the normals and the retouches. An interesting item was the plate 5 1 centime with redrawn "CEN". Another item which attracted great interest was the transfer roller-die trial plate, upon which examples of every value were printed. All the above-mentioned items, and many more, went to make the display one of the most interesting that we have had this season. Major Willis should be asked to come again as soon as possible so that we may have a further opportunity of studying his magnificent collection. A hearty vote of thanks to Major Willis was proposed by Mr. F. A. Pester and seconded by Mr. C. G. May.

O.W.N.

U.S.A. Unusual Covers

(Continued from page 153)

offices in Honolulu. On presenting such a prepaid letter at the post office in San Francisco, the captain received in cash his fee of 2 cents.

This peculiar relationship between Hawaii and the U.S.A. was completely altered by the Postal Treaty of 5th May, 1870. The rate for a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter was standardised at 6 cents and a 6 cents Hawaiian stamp took such a letter from any place in the Hawaiian Islands to any place in the United States (or vice versa). Each country retained the full amount of their postage collected, and any postal accounting between them became superfluous. This idea, which we nowadays take for granted, was in fact a big step forward and one which, at that time, had been accomplished by only very few countries. It became more general when, in 1874, the Universal Postal Union was founded by the United States, Great Britain and eleven other European nations. The disadvantage for the countries which did not join this U.P.U. was that their stamps had only "national" validity and were not recognised by the member-states, unless these had any special conventions with such non-members.

Hawaii joined the U.P.U. on 1st January, 1882. As she had a treaty with the U.S.A. (5.5.1870), but not with Great Britain, a single-rate letter from Hawaii to Great Britain had to be prepaid with 6 cents in Hawaiian stamps and, as the U.S.A. and Great Britain were both members of the U.P.U., 5 cents in U.S.A. stamps.

The above cover has 30 cents in Hawaiian stamps (a pair of 12 cents 1875 and a 6 cents 1871) and 25 cents in U.S.A. stamps (a pair of 10 cents 1873 and a 5 cents 1875). The cover is self-made and addressed to Todmorden, Yorkshire. On its back it is stamped "Honolulu Jun 2" and Manchester and Todmorden each "Jy 5 81". The 30 cents and 25 cents respectively show that this envelope weighed 5 times the single postage weight, i.e. between 2 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. Although single-rate letters from this period are seen occasionally, I am informed that quintuple ones are quite unusual.

April 11, 1952.

Dr. E. Moser,
17 Hazelwell Road,
Putney -
London S.W. 15, England.

Dear Doctor Moser:

Thanks very much for your kind note of the 4th, enclosing copy of your article in "The Stamp Lover." I read same with much interest and I must confess that I was a bit surprised at the extent of your knowledge concerning U.S. postal history. As stated in your letter, this is indeed rather unusual for a British philatelist.

Regarding mail from the Atlantic States to California and the Pacific Coast. Prior to October 1848, there was no established U. S. Mail Route to that far off section of the country and what mail did go to isolated localities and to the "Sandwich Isles" was carried to and fro by sailing vessels, principally whalers. Thus, mail carried privately. Such transit occupied four months or more.

The regular U. S. Mail Route was established in October 1848, and this route was by Panama. After it was established no mail was sent around the horn.

Please note the last three lines of the first paragraph of your article. One more point, mail "Via Nicaragua" was carried privately. The Nicaragua Steamship Co. did not have a mail contract.

May I refer you to my book on the U. S. One Cent 1851-1857 - Volume 2. I am sure Dr. Bacher has a copy and will loan it to you.

Again my sincere thanks.

Cordially yours,

A 55

May 22 57

Bag of Litter

Clef

3060

I don't like an item like
this - good or bad - and
prefer not to express an

of 1000000

March 14, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shafer,

25 W. ~~Bosman~~ St.,

Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor:

Replying to yours of the 10th, I will be glad to examine the cover referred to and the fee for an opinion will be \$5.00, which includes return registration.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. SHAFER, M. D.
25 W. WATER ST.
WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

Mar. 10, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

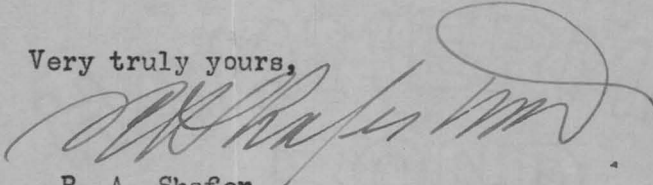
I have a 3c 1851 Bi-Sect on cover received from Sidney D. Harris. His price for it is \$225.00. He suggested that I send it to you for your opinion as to it's authenticity.

Mr. Harris is listed with the A.P.S. among their specialist experts for U.S. Vending and Affixing Machine Coil stamps.

I would not want to buy it unless I know it is genuine.

Would there be a fee involved.

Very truly yours,


R. A. Shafer

R. A. SHAFER, M. D.
25 W. WATER ST.
WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

Mar. 25, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

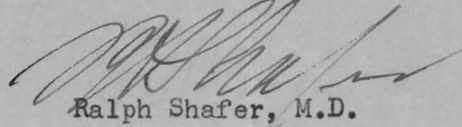
Enclosed find bi-sect cover for your opinion.

The photographs of the stamps shown in Mr. Chase's book are clipped, while this one is torn. I do not know what difference that would make.

I have a number of covers with U.S. #65 on them distinctly postmarked 1862 and 1863 from some cities in Virginia, and North Carolina and mailed to persons in the North and received by them. Could you tell me how they come to be used during the Civil War?

I have a cover brought out of North Carolina under a flag of truce, yet these others were apparently mailed out.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph Shafer, M.D.

March 28, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shafer,
25 W. Water St.,
Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor:

I am in receipt of yours of the 25th enclosing the Thibodeaux, La. cover. I want to make a very thorough investigation of this cover before making a decision and I will report to you later.

This will also acknowledge receipt of the \$5.00 in currency.

There is no actual evidence that this was a piece of circular mail, in fact, very little evidence that the cover is good or is bad, but I hope to develop evidence one way or the other.

Regarding the covers mentioned in your letter, if you care to forward them to me, I will be glad to examine them and there will not be any fee.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. SHAFER, M. D.
25 W. WATER ST.
WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

April 2, 1952

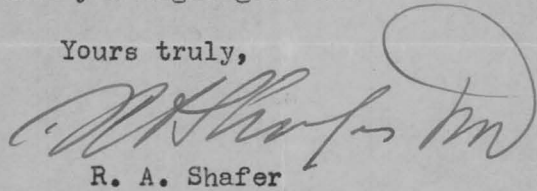
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas
Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed find three covers from different parts of the South mailed in 1863. I did not take time to look for the 62 and 64. We have a number of these covers.

Would appreciate any information you might give me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. A. Shafer".

R. A. Shafer

April 5, 1952.

Dr. R.A. Shafer,
25 W. Boscawen St.,
Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor:

Herewith the three covers (3¢ 1861) as per yours of the 2nd. There is nothing at all unusual about any of these covers because NEWBURN N.C. was occupied by Federal troops on March 14, 1862 and was used thereafter thruout the war as a permanent base. NEW ORLEANS, LA. was captured by Federal troops on May 1, 1862 and was lost thereafter to the Confederacy. NORFOLK, VA. was occupied by Federal troops on May 10, 1862, and was thereafter lost to the Confederacy.

Under restrictions mail passed thru the Lines, principally via Old Point Comfort but there is very little trouble to identify any such "Flag of Truce Mail," or "Prisoner of War Mail" - Mail to prisoners via Flag of Truce is known as Flag of Truce mail. Mail from prisoners to relatives or friends back home sent by Flag of Truce is known as Prisoner of War mail.

I am working on your 3¢ 1851 cover and can give you some advance information which I request that you treat as strictly confidential. This cover was submitted to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation about a year ago. The Committee sent it to me for my examination and opinion. Not caring to pass on it for lack of evidence I returned it ^{With} "no opinion." The Committee thereupon returned it to the owner and refused to give an opinion one way or the other.

I will try and make a further report next week.

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

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April 2, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Thanks for yours of March 31st in regard to #3060. I take pleasure enclosing a photograph of the item with my compliments and wish to say that the Committee declined to stick out its collective neck and it was returned without an opinion. If you think that an opinion can be given one way or another, I would then have to have this photograph back because we would need it for the certificates.

You may be interested to know that I am leaving for the Reinatex Exhibition in Monaco on the 23rd of April and expect to be back here about the middle of May and I am stopping off in London on my way back for a few days to visit some of my friends.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

Winthrop S. Boggs

Winthrop S. Boggs
Director

wsb/1

April 3, 1952.

Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs,

% The Philatelic Foundation,

22 East 35th St.,

New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

That 3¢ '51 "BISECT" cover was offered to a friend of mine who turned it over to me for an opinion. I am making an investigation and I will advise you if I come to any decision.

Strange, in the same mail as yours, I received a note from Chase stating he was leaving for Paris on the 15th. I trust that you have a most enjoyable trip.

Sincerely yours,

March 31, 1952.

Mr. George Buckner,
Sterlington, La.

Dear Mr. Buckner:

I am writing you at the suggestion of our mutual friend Mr.
Charles E. Walcott of New Orleans.

I am making an investigation of a cover which bears a postmark
of "THIBODEAUX LA" which has what purports to be a bisect of the 3¢ 1851.
The use was to New Orleans, and while there is no date on the cover, the
use was probably in the early or middle 1850's, provided the cover is
genuine, which is the point I have been requested to render an opinion.

If you have any covers used from that office in the late forties
or early or middle fifties will you be so kind as to loan them to me?
I will pay the forwarding expense, take excellent care of them and return
them to you without any delay.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Sincerely yours,

Sterlington, La
April 2nd

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed you'll find nine covers from my collection between 1840-1866 including one hand-stamped paid Confederate usage. I have about a dozen more covers in this date range but did not send them for they comprise the same four types of town cancellers the only difference being plain or fancy rates.

I collect Louisiana in its entirety from 1803 to date and have nine 11x17 volumes with many hundreds of covers and at anytime I can or my collection help you I shall be pleased if you will call upon me. I do not have the rare foreign rates and have never attempted to acquire them but my Louisiana stampless and Louisiana Handstamped and General Issue Confederates are the most complete I've seen anywhere.

If you will care to get some dope on the cover in question for me I'd appreciate it. From What Private Find, By Whom and the other types of covers found. I know one good source of covers in New Orleans and if he made the find it would be O.K. without further check but another New Orleans individual who has made some good finds is also a shifty and questionable character and if he made the find I would doubt it without volumes of proof. I would also appreciate a photostat of this cover regardless of what you decide.

I have no commensurative here at the house now to use as postage so can't guarantee if I can get you any good ones on this cover when I mail it to you.

Sincerely,
Geo S. Beecher

April 8, 1952.

Mr. George L. Buckner,
Sterlington, La.

Dear Mr. Buckner:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the nice little lot of Thibodaux covers which I am returning herewith.

I thought perhaps you would like to see the 3¢ Bisect cover which I have under investigation. Please note the thin watery ink of the postmark. This is very similar to the watery ink on your 1853 cover of "FEB 10" which I have put in a separate envelope. May I inquire what you think of this "Bisect cover?" It seems to me that the part of the grid on the cover is genuine, that is, if Thibodaux used a grid for a killer. The part of the grid on the stamp looks queer to me, that is, this ink (on the stamp) looks different from the ink on the cover. It is possible that this cover originally had a 3¢ 1851 stamp, which was tied with this grid but some faker may have removed a whole stamp, substituted this torn half a stamp and painted a part of the grid on the stamp. If I could locate a Thibodaux cover with a 3¢ 1851 canceled or tied by a grid like this one I would then be able to arrive at a more definite conclusion.

I certainly appreciate your kind assistance. I am most anxious to establish the truth regarding this cover. I regret to state that I know nothing of the history of this cover other than I have an idea that it belongs to a certain dealer. Where he got it I do not know. It was sent to me by a collector who is considering its purchase.

I remember years ago that a certain party in New Orleans faked a lot of packet covers from the "HARDIE" (?) correspondence. It may have been the dealer Pellitier. I am wondering if he is still living? Did he have a questionable reputation?

I enclose stamped envelope for the return of this "Bisect" (?) cover, and if you can dig up a grid for me I will be delighted to see it. I will send you a photograph later.

Again my sincere thanks.

Very truly yours,

Sterlington, La.
Apr. 10th

Dear Mr Ashbrook:-

Enclosed is the proof that we needed to prove the postmarks and grid. I did not search my complete collection so missed this cover which was mounted among my A cities. The small cover was mailed from Thibodaux July 24, 1856 (light orange, also found in brown and black) The 1851 was cancelled with your thin line grid as you can see for yourself and matches up. The letter was addressed to Assumption but Monsieur Landry by that time had gone to a small hamlet named Church and it was forwarded to him with the FORWARDED 3 all in bright orange and the Assumption cancellation added.

I think this cover which I am sorry I overlooked the first time will allow you to render a decision. The cover with the split 51 certainly needs a good repair job and if I had had more time I could have made a fine looking piece out of it for I have been repairing covers for many years.

Please return my enclosed two covers at your convenience

I am,

Sincerely
Geo. S. Bucher

April 14, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shafer,
25 W. Boscawen St.,
Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor Shafer:

Regarding the following cover which you submitted to me for my examination and opinion.

A part of a folded letter, postmarked "THIBODAUX La. - Apr 6" (black) - (no evidence of year use) - addressed to Mrs. I. C. Keener Box K No 41 - N.Orleans." This item has the left vertical half of a U.S. 3¢ 1851 - apparently tied by a seven-bar round grid (black).

I have made a very careful examination of this cover extending over several weeks and it is my opinion that this item is not genuine, by which I mean, that this half of a stamp was not used originally on this folded letter. To be more explicit, while it is possible that the partial strike of the grid on the cover is genuine, the extension of the grid on the stamp is not genuine but a painted job.

Sincerely yours,

April 14, 1952.

Mr. George S. Buckner,
Box 86,
Sterlington, La.

Dear Mr. Buckner:

Yours of the 10th received with return of the 3¢ '51 cover with the half stamp and your two covers which I return herewith. I certainly appreciate your kindness and if I can return the favor at any time please call upon me.

I find that the grid on the "bisect" cover is not the same size or type as on the enclosed "Forwarded" cover and after a most careful examination I am of the opinion that the "bisect" is a fake. I assume that there was a whole 3¢ 1851 on this cover originally and that some faker removed it and replaced it with the half stamp and painted the grid on the stamp.

Sincerely yours,

April 14, 1952.

Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs,
% The Philatelic Foundation,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Again referring to yours of the 2nd, I am returning the photo-print of #3060, together with a copy of a letter I have written to the party who submitted it to me. This item was offered to him for \$250.00 and had I okayed it he would have purchased it. I made an exhaustive study of this item principally because I wanted to satisfy myself if the thing was good or bad.

I think what happened was that this letter(?) originally had a 3¢ 1851, a faker removed it and substituted a half of a stamp, then painted an extension of the grid on the half stamp. Evidently a new wrinkle as I do not recall a similar item.

I trust you have a nice trip.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

2 Thibodaux Prints

April 25, 1952.

Mr. Tracy W. Simpson,
66 Alvarado Road,
Berkeley 5, Calif.

Dear Tracy:

I am enclosing two photo prints which please note and then return to me as I would like to show these to others who are interested in the 3¢ '51. One shows a 3¢ '51 bisect, the other is a bit of trick photography showing how I think this cover was originally.

This "Bisect" cover was sent to the Expert Committee of the P.F. for their certificate. They sent it to me and I refused to express an opinion because I was not willing to express an opinion until I had made an exhaustive study. As I receive no remuneration from them, I did not feel I could give up the time and expense. They returned the cover to the owner with "no opinion." The owner later turned out to be a dealer - small time - who submitted the cover to one of his clients @ \$250.00. The prospect was about to purchase it when someone suggested he send it to me, which he did. I notified him I would charge him a fee which he paid. After a very exhaustive study which included a hunt for other Thibodaux covers of the period and various photo tests, etc., I found that the Thibodaux postmark and the portion of the grid on the cover were both genuine but that the grid on the "Bisect" was faked. I made the "trick" photograph to show, approximately, how the cover looked originally. There is little doubt that this "bisect" cover is a very clever piece of work and one that was turned out by a very ingenious philatelic crook, because he could have removed the unused left portion of the stamp but this he did not want to do because he desired the grid to tie the severed portion.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--Since writing the above I have the copy of your letter to Henry Meyer. At the moment I do not recall the cover you referred to, but no doubt Henry will call it to mind.

April 14, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shafer,
25 W. Boscawen St.,
Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor Shafer:

Regarding the following cover which you submitted to me for my examination and opinion.

A part of a folded letter, postmarked "THIBODAUX La. - Apr 6" (black) - (no evidence of year use) - addressed to Mrs. I. C. Keener Box K No 41 - N.Orleans." This item has the left vertical half of a U.S. 3¢ 1851 - apparently tied by a seven-bar round grid (black).

I have made a very careful examination of this cover extending over several weeks and it is my opinion that this item is not genuine, by which I mean, that this half of a stamp was not used originally on this folded letter. To be more explicit, while it is possible that the partial strike of the grid on the cover is genuine, the extension of the grid on the stamp is not genuine but a painted job.

Sincerely yours,

April 14, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shafer,
25 W. Boscawen St.,
Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor Shafer:

Regarding the following cover which you submitted to me for my examination and opinion.

A part of a folded letter, postmarked "THIBODAUX La. - Apr 6" (black) - (no evidence of year use) - addressed to Mrs. I. C. Keener Box K No 41 - N.Orleans." This item has the left vertical half of a U.S. 3¢ 1851 - apparently tied by a seven-bar round grid (black).

I have made a very careful examination of this cover extending over several weeks and it is my opinion that this item is not genuine, by which I mean, that this half of a stamp was not used originally on this folded letter. To be more explicit, while it is possible that the partial strike of the grid on the cover is genuine, the extension of the grid on the stamp is not genuine but a painted job.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. SHAFER, M. D.

25 W. WATER ST.

WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

April 12, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas
Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

I thank you for the information about the covers. I should have known that, but did not think they had captured those places that early.

I have a number of oddities, such as a small fancy celluloid envelope very glossy and smooth which was hit with a hand stamp the same as the Alexandria stamp. It was hit several times before they could get the ink to stick plainly. It has a celluloid card inside announcing the wedding of a dentist, giving the month and day but not the year. It was mailed to Front Royal, Va., where it was given to me along with a number of confederate and stampless covers. The same family has lived in the home for several generations. I have not been able to find any record of a hand stamp ever being used. *The stamps are one cent, apparently local.*

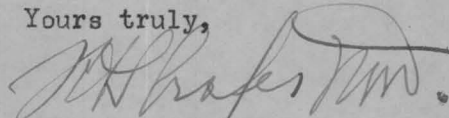
I have several stamps used through the Post Office here on folded letters like the stampless covers ^{used} in 1830. The stamps are tied on and apparently the amount paid for postage. I am unable to find anything in regard to these.

I have a blue New York stamp tied on cover. It must be a counterfeit, yet it was used through the mail. I also have a number of confederate oddities on covers that were used. Also a Lake Placid imperforate, with wide margins on cover. I can not find it listed.

There is no hurry about the bi-sect. I have quite a few other bisects tied on cover which apparently are genuine.

I hope you can determine it is good as I would like to buy something once worth the money.

Yours truly,



Ralph A. Shafer

April 14, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shaffer,

25 W. Boscawen St.,

Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor:

Since writing the enclosed I am in receipt of yours of the 12th, the contents of which I have carefully noted.

If not too much trouble I would like to see the Alexandria item that you mentioned. Your description is interesting. Also any other items which appear odd.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. SHAFER, M. D.
25 W. WATER ST.
WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

April 29, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas
Ky.

*A farmer from Warren Co just
come in with a pile of covers, and nice
Houston Tex. Confed. several strips that
1855-57 IV, a number of pieces that
- a Confed. dip. part of Ed. Strickland
Bedger, dated 1836-37, with early U.S. &
foreign glued in.*

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your information about the cover. I am happy to know one expert who will give his honest opinion. I just told Mr. Harris you were unable to pronounce it genuine, gave him no reasons. We never buy anything questionable from dealers.

The celluloid envelope enclosed was obtained from an old home in Front Royal, Va. There must have been two or three thousand covers, stampless, confederates, patriotics in the lot. I located these covers through the Methodist minister here, who died several years ago, aged about seventy five. It was his grandmother's home. I picked out the best of the stampless and others, this cover among them. When I offered to pay them they would not take anything. I left many slightly torn and after they gave them to me, I did not have nerve to ask for all of them.

I have another Alexandria stamped on a buff envelope, which is an exact duplicate of the stamp, addressed to Thomas Ott, Postmaster, Halltown, Va., which is about fifty miles from Alexandria. I obtained this from their old home along with a number of other covers and some post office records, showing that he was still Post Master in 1847. I took this cover to a stamp convention in Philadelphia several years ago. A number of experts measured it for about two hours and said it was exact in every respect. All I could hear was, it could be a fake and how much would I take for it. I felt like telling them that we have more U.S. rarities and oddities probably than they had ever seen.

This other cover was written by the son of the founder of Winchester. It must be a fake as there is no record of stamps being used this early. It was obtained from the old home along with others. I have two other covers with a slightly different design, one dated 1829 and the other, no date.

It took me a week to find these covers as we do not have them sorted or indexed.

We have added at least fifteen thousand dollars in U.S. to our collection this winter.

This winter, we ran adds in the local Virginia newspapers and were swamped with stamps, some as far away as Minnesota. We have been running adds about every four years and the times before, we had very few replies.

Yours sincerely

R. A. Shafer
R. A. Shafer, M.D.

May 2, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shafer,
25 W. Water St.,
Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for sending me the two items which I am
returning herewith.

They are very interesting and if you have any more
oddities such as these I would like very much to see them, especially
the other Alexandria.

Sincerely yours,

May 12, 1952.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole,
Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ez:

I was surprised to learn that Lot 270 in the Finney Sale sold so high and that Mac figured it was worth that price to him. A photostat is just as good as far as I am concerned.

I am enclosing a photo-print of a cover that was submitted to me recently. It was one of those old time glazed envelopes with a glazed card inside - some sort of a wedding announcement but no actual year date of where it originated. The owner stated that he obtained it in original find and that the family were friends of his, etc. Just to feel him out, I expressed the opinion that the thing was a fake but he assured me that there was no chance as the family didn't know anything about stamp collecting, etc. The handstamp looks like an imitation of the Alexandria P.M.P. This photo is natural size. I never heard of Alexandria using a handstamped Paid like this and I doubt if anyone else ever did. You might show it to Konwiser if you wish but don't let him know the print came from me. It looks like the first strike didn't register on account of the slick glaze on the envelope. It is possible that this never passed thru the mail - was delivered by hand - that the present owner got hold of it in a find and had the stamp made. It looked to me like a rubber stamp impression. Keep this for future reference, as others may show up.

Later

I never noticed on the cover itself that there was a postmark in the upper left - and only a deep photo-print brought it out. It looks like "Washington, D.C. Oct. 9, 1855" - At least the year date appears to be 1855. According to Chase, Washington, D.C. used an 1855 year date as early as May 1855. So why "Paid 5" in 1855. In this case I suppose this was a stampless - with "PAID" and "3" - note the large "3" under the faint strike to right. I guess this chap was trying to see if he could get one of his fakes by me.

I also enclose the dark print which don't show much of the Washington postmark or the "Paid 3."

Keep both for reference.

Yours etc.,

May 12, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shafer,

25 W. Water St.,

Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor:

Re - the two items that I returned to you in my last letter. You did not request my opinion regarding them so, of course, I expressed none. I doubt if one of the covers would fool any well-informed philatelic student but the Alexandria might. I am wondering if you have any idea as to who made this fake? I would like to publicize this in the philatelic press and if you can give me any information regarding it I will appreciate the favor very much.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. SHAFER, M. D.
25 W. WATER ST.
WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

May 13, 1952

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

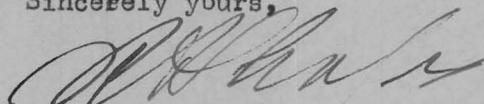
Enclosed find the other Alexandria cover. Halltown is about fifty miles North West from Alexandria, just across the line in what is now West Virginia.

I am convinced that no one here tampered with these cancellations. If any one counterfeited them, they most certainly would have cut this one off and used it as a stamp. What is your opinion of them? I am not asking with the idea of selling, because we have nothing to dispose of whatever, at any price.

The only stamps that we dispose of are cheap foreign duplicates.

The other cover, I notice is post marked May 20th, and I believe the South seceded April 17th. I did not think the capitol would use U. S. stamps that late.

Sincerely yours,



R. A. Shafer, M.D.

It took me a week to find the cover. In the mean time your last letter came, I had not looked at this item for about fifteen years.

R. A. SHAFER, M. D.

25 W. WATER ST.

WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

May 17, 1952

Your letter received. I have no idea who faked the Alexandria covers. The pile of covers the celluloid was in from the dirt and dust, it looked like they had not been disturbed for fifty years. I am satisfied none of the family ever heard of an Alexandria stamp. I am going to try and locate the preacher's widow, perhaps she can give me some history of the covers.

This cover enclosed was picked up with several 1855 covers and quite a few ordinary covers, dated to 1869 with a pile of old P.O. records, all addressed to the same person. The records show that he was postmaster in 1847. I knew nothing of the family.

What I would like to know is how these covers got in two small towns fifty miles apart, not even on the same highway. It is quite obvious the enclosed cover was not counterfeited by the same person.

I am almost certain these covers were not counterfeited in this section.

I have had the celluloid cover about twelve years and this one about twenty.

May 20, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shafer,
25 W. Boscawen St.,
Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for yours of the 13th and 17th with enclosures. I was pleased to see the additional cover with the "Alexandria" - Further regarding your cover in the glazed surface "ladies envelope." If you will examine this carefully you will find that there is a postmark of Washington which is dated "1855." Under the two "Alexandria" markings at right is the Washington "PAID" and a "3." A rate of "Paid 5" from Washington to Front Royal, Va. in 1855 does not make sense, hence in my opinion someone applied two strikes of a faked "Alexandria" stamper to this cover. I examined the two strikes on the cover very carefully under my microscope and I was convinced that they were not from a metal or wood stamper, such as were in use at that time but rather from a "rubber stamp."

The cover which I return herewith addressed to the "Agt" at the "Depot" at "Halltown" was an envelope that never passed thru the U. S. Mail, in my opinion, but rather was carried privately by railroad. For example, Halltown was a station on the old "Winchester & Potomac R.R." which ran from Harper's Ferry to Winchester, Va. It was six miles from Harper's Ferry. In my opinion this was a letter pertaining to the business of the railroad and was carried privately to the Agent of the R.R. at Halltown. I don't believe it ever had any connection with "Alexandria, Va."

Re - the Richmond cover of May 20 1861. Virginia seceded on Apr. 17, 1861 and was admitted to the Confederacy on May 7, 1861. However, U.S. postage stamps were used thruout the Confederacy until June 1, 1861. The C.S.A. Government took over the postal system as of June 1, 1861. A cover such as this is "a U. S. stamp used in Virginia after Secession."

I believe that both strikes of the "Alexandria" came from the same rubber stamp - the one on the cover herewith is merely a heavier strike.

Your comment will be most welcome.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,




Col David Hunter

Martinsburg

B Co

Va

A 140



PAID
5
JAN 21 1871
DEF. OFF.

Miss Mary E. Cloud
" Front Royal
Va.

A140



Mrs. J. C. Keener

(Box K. no 41.)
N. Orleans!

B139



Mrs. J. C. Keener

(Box K. no 41.)

N. Orleans!

B140

Also

See

A55



Mrs. J. C. Keener

(Box K. no 41.)
N. Orleans!

By P.F.
5/24 -51
Nº 3060

183

A55

APR 6



Mrs. J. C. Keener

By P.F.
5/24-51
Nº 3060

(Box K. no 41.)
N. Orleans!

A55

Mr Ott Agt



Halltown
Depot

20 mm
Yellow
Env

Nothing
on
Back

R.A.S

Mr Heist requested me to
to get to Hall the Envelope
to get to Hall the Envelope

A150

April 14, 1952.

Dr. W. Scott Polland,
Albert Bldg.,
San Rafael, Calif.

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the cover from the Paige sale which I am returning herewith, viz., Lot 261. One thing is sure - this was a "Forwarded Letter" and there was an extra rate for forwarding. Inasmuch as the "Due 4" is the only evidence of the charge it must be correct. But why "Due 4." Edgar must be absolutely correct in his analysis that the extra 1¢ was a "Way fee," thus 3¢ plus 1¢.

The letter was addressed to "Carver's Harbor." This was a small port on an island off the coast of Maine in what is now Knox County. (In the fifties Knox Co. was part of Waldo Co.). The village was established in 1850 but in 1879 the name was changed to "VINAL-HAVEN." I note the original address was "VINALHAVEN." It was forwarded to Belfast which is a short distance almost due north, a port on the mainland on the same bay. There was no ground connection. This letter was forwarded from one U. S. post office to another, so one wonders why there was any "way fee." Further, it was addressed to Carver's Harbor and it went there and was re-mailed there and forwarded to Belfast. Why 4¢? Did it go by a private vessel, the captain of which was entitled to a Way fee of 1¢? Hardly, because mail from a regular U. S. post office was not given over to non-contract mail carriers - such as a private vessel, to deliver. (that is, into the Belfast office). It does seem evident that this is some sort of a "WAY" cover but under what classification does it come? Ship fees were 2¢ not 1¢.

I intend to make a further investigation and I will advise you.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

Copy to E.B. Jessup

P.S.--Later - After pondering a bit over this cover I am wondering if the following is the correct solution - Perhaps at the time of this letter there were two small towns - close together. One was named "VINALHAVEN," the other, "Carver's Harbor." The former did not have a post office, but there was one at the latter. The letter reached "Vinalhaven" but in forwarding it to Belfast it was handed to a route carrier who carried it to Carver's Harbor as a "Way" letter and collected his 1¢ which was added to the forwarding postage of 3¢, making 4¢ due. Surely this must be the correct solution.

April 14, 1952.

Mr. Sterling T. Dow,
197 Pine St.,
Portland 4, Maine.

My dear Mr. Dow:

I am seeking a bit of information and inasmuch as it pertains to Maine postal history I am sure that you can enlighten me. In the recent Paige sale of March 21-22, Lot 261, was a Stage coach cover with a 10¢ 1857 from Timbuctoo, Calif., addressed to Vinalhaven, Carver's Harbor, Maine and forwarded to Belfast, Maine. For the forwarding charge, there is a Due 4. This cover was purchased by my good friend Dr. W. Scott Polland of San Rafael, Calif. I was intrigued with the Due 4, and wondered why 4¢ was due instead of 3¢. I had Dr. Polland send the cover to me and in returning it today I speculated as to the meaning. I am enclosing copy of the letter I wrote him and will greatly appreciate your comment.

I trust that you are in the best of health and that all goes well with you.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

April 26, 1952.

Mr. Sterling T. Dow,
1977^PPine St.,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Mr. Dow:

I thank you very kindly for yours of the 24th.

I have known Prof. Davis for a number of years and have collaborated with him on "Way" coverw. I intend to call the "Due 4" cover to his attention.

Re - the photostat which you enclosed. I judge the cover was from China. The "33" shows that the letter was forwarded Unpaid with 33¢ due at destination. The Portland, Me. marking shows transmission from England by "AM - PKT" - or "at the expense of the U.S. P.O.D." Thus our share of the rate was 16¢ Atlantic Sea plus 5¢ U. S. Internal. G.B.'s share was 12¢ or 6 pence. Thus these markings on the cover (12 - 6) was the British debit to the U.S.

Sincerely yours,

April 26, 1952.

Dr. A. R. Davis,

76 Brooks St.,

West Medford, Mass.

Dear Arthur:

Here is a photo of a cover that was in the recent Paige Sale. At first I was a bit bothered about the "Due 4" but eventually figured it out. I think it is a nice little philatelic problem so I won't spoil it and will let you figure it out. No doubt you noticed the cover in the sale.

My best regards.

Cordially yours,

P.S.--Please return the print - stamped envelope herewith.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

May 6, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas
Kentucky

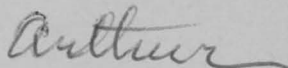
Dear Stanley:

When I first saw the Overland Cover in Sam's sale, I thought I had an explanation for the "Due 4". On inspection of this photograph I realized I was quite wrong. The letter was addressed to Carver's Harbor in the township of Vinalhaven, Maine. That was the only post office on the island at that time. The post office was changed from Carver's Harbor to Vinalhaven in 1879. Evidently the Cover was readdressed to Belfast and rated "Due 4" by the same hand; in other words, it was forwarded only once. Carver's Harbor was served by boat from Camden probably not on daily schedule in the 1850's. Of course the Cover could have been forwarded by private ship, but I think that would have required a five cent rate. It is my impression that this Cover was forwarded by regular route which would necessitate three cents due, but what the extra cent was for I am quite uncertain.

A "Due 4" has only three possibilities: (A) a four cent fee, (B) a three cent fee plus one cent, and (C) a double two cents. I favor the three cents plus one cent but cannot dream up the reason for the added penny. I look forward to your explanation of the puzzle.

With all kind regards.

Sincerely,



A. R. Davis

ARD:LT

May 12, 1952.

Mr. Sterling T. Dow,

197 Pine St.,

Portland 4, Maine.

Dear Mr. Dow:

Thanks for yours of the 1st.

Mr. Blake of Brookline is an old acquaintance. I had some correspondence with him relative to the cover from California to Carver's Harbor, Me. and forwarded to Belfast, but neither Mr. Blake or my good friend Dr. Davis of M.I.T. had an explanation regarding the "Due 4."

I am enclosing herewith two sheets from a Service Issue which I send to a small group of collectors who are interested in 19th U. S. - I hope that you will find my explanation of the "Due 4" of interest. You will find an illustration of the cover in the Paige Sale.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

M. C. Blake

May 12, 1952

11 Mason Street, Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for your interesting description of the "Randal" stage which was forwarded "due 4" from Larn's Harbor to Belfast.

I confess that I did not give the corn proper attention, though I was rather skeptical about the true founded idea of Arthur Davis.

A glance at a map and at Sterling Dow's list of Maine Post Offices, showing a gap at Vinal Haven from 1847-1879, might have suggested the correct answer which you so clearly state.

Sincerely yours,
Maurice Blake

Mr. Stanley R. Ashbrook,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

STERLING T. DOW
197 PINE STREET
PORTLAND 4, MAINE

15th May 1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you so much for your clear explanation of the "Due 4". The small accumulation of Maine covers I have made will be in that same Paige sale. I'll devote my time hereafter to my record of the postal markings of Maine but leave their collection to others.

Cordially,

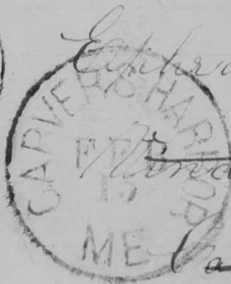
Sterling T. Dow



OVERLAND VIA PLACERVILLE & SALT LAKE.



Published by RANDAL & Co., Marysville.



Due 4

Epheam F. Allenwood

~~Bethel~~ Belfast

~~Carver's Harbor~~ Me

B 144



Published by RANDAL & Co., Marysville.



Due x

Ephraim F. Allenwood

Winnahaven Belfast

Corner Harbor Me

This Photograph
Was Made By
ULTRA-VIOLET
RAY
By Stanley B. Ashbrook

B138

By
Dr. W. SCOTT POLLAND
Albert Building
SAN RAFAEL, CALIF.



33

Waldoboro
Maine

United States

STERLING T. DOW
197 PINE STREET
PORTLAND 4, MAINE

24th April 1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have your enquiry of the 14th and had intended to answer it before. I regret that I can not add to your knowledge of the "Due 4". My friend C. D. McFadden is more conversant with postal rates and the postal laws and regulations than I am and he too cannot explain it. Your explanation that it may be a way charge, 1¢, plus the 3¢ re-forwarding charge looks reasonable, although I never heard of such a condition before. The man of my acquaintance who has made a study of "way" letters is Professor Arthur R. Davis (M. I. T.) whose home address is 76 Brooks Street, West Medford, Mass. Perhaps he can throw some light on the matter.

A few years since I bought the cover, a photostat of which I enclose (don't trouble to return it). I have always wanted to know how the rate of 33 was divided. I believe it was in the rate table in your book where I found that this rate applied from Chinese ports except Hong Kong. The "6" on the cover is evidently stamped and there is what looks like "12" in mss. In a circle on the back is

LIV4RPOOL
LIVERPOOL
BR PACKET
9 FE
62

All markings are in black. Did the American Packet receive 16¢ as was the case from Great Britain and can you tell me how the rate was divided? Any information will be gratefully received.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Sterling T. Dow

Aug 17 1951

U. S. Comments

By PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

McKeels

U. S. Revenue \$200 Second Issue

In a recent column we wrote of the attractiveness and desirability of the Second Issue \$500 variety of which only 204 copies were issued.

The Second Issue \$200 blue, black and red of 1871 is also one of our attractive early revenues and, unfortunately, for the average collector it is somewhat expensive. Like many of the early revenues, it shows the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington in black as the center design. This is surrounded by elaborate scroll work in blue and red. It is somewhat larger than most of the dollar revenues but not as large as the \$500.

This value, similar to the \$500, was also printed in sheets of eight. We have never seen nor heard of a multiple, nor even a pair. We have seen two documents with single copies of this stamp used in combination with other stamps. One document, covering sale of property to a New York Mining Company, is dated June 5, 1872 and has in the left margin of an Indenture a Second Issue \$200 along with a Third Issue \$5 and \$10 as well as a block of the latter. A second document somewhat similar is dated December 9, 1871 and shows a Second Issue \$200, a pair of the \$10 along with a Third Issue \$5 and \$10 in addition to a pair of \$10. Both documents show payment of tax in amount of \$255. We have seen no other documents with this high denomination.

There exists one copy of the \$200 in superb mint condition, as fresh as the day it was issued. This stamp was brought

into the shop of Burger Bros. in New York many years back, by a woman who had found it among some old papers. She had with her at the same time half of another stamp, the half being equally fresh with full gum. As even a damaged specimen of this rare stamp had value, Mr. Burger prevailed upon the woman to hunt carefully for the other half, but without success.

The records of the Bank Note Company show that 441 copies of this stamp were issued to the public. A receipt dated August 31, 1875 shows that at the expiration of the contract between the Treasury Department and Joseph R. Carpenter for printing stamps, there were on hand 735 copies of the \$200 denomination. We have seen no record as to what happened to these copies. Not having seen a copy used after this date, August 31, 1875, we are lead to conclude that these remainders must have been destroyed.

The 1856 5c

In a recently published booklet devoted to the 1851-1860 issues there are articles on the several denominations of this series. We note several errors in the article on the 5c denomination which certainly should have been checked before publication. The author carries on the old fallacy that this stamp was issued in 1856 "to pay the 5c registration fee established under the Act of March 3, 1855". Had he taken the trouble to read this Act he would have distinctly seen that the Act called for the payment of the registration fee in cash. Stamps could not be used and if the Postmaster through error accepted a stamp he would simply be five cents out of pocket when he accounted for his registered letters in his next report. It was some time later before this fee could be paid in cash. We do not have the exact date before us but Post Office documents state specifically the time.

The 5c stamp was principally issued to pay the "shore-to-ship" rate which was necessary

on certain mails going abroad. From our observation, most of the covers existing are addressed to France and originated in New Orleans where many of the single copies of the 5c were used. In fact, we are of the opinion that 80 per cent of the 1856 5c covers known originated in this city. We are also told that covers with strips of three are no rarer than those with singles or pairs. This conclusively proves that the author has little experience or has made few observations for this denomination is decidedly scarce in strips, is quite rare in pairs and is certainly much more plentiful in singles. A hasty glance at any of the important auction catalogues of the larger collections of covers will readily show this to be the case. We doubt if we have seen 10 covers in all with strips of three and we know we have handled over a hundred covers with singles and seen many more.

We all certainly make errors, and at times glaring errors, but it is our opinion when an article comes from the pen of one who is evidently a new collector that it certainly should be gone over by someone who is posted in an important publica-

Detroit's P. O. Service

A circular giving the story of Detroit's postal service may be obtained by collectors who send return postage with their requests to James H. Rademacher, Jr., president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, 706 Park Ave. Bldg., 2011 Park Ave., Detroit 26, Michigan. These circulars were distributed July 28 during Detroit's 250th anniversary parade by the letter carriers. Detroit's River Post Office is also described. We thank John B. Jackson of Ferndale, Mich. for this information.

Harmer Sales Successful

When the last lot of the H. R. Harmer, Inc. auction season was knocked down on July 11th at 32 East 57th Street, New York City, it brought their auction total for the season to a record \$774,662.

While the auctions were headlined by the "William L. Moody III" Collection, with its realization of over one-quarter million dollars, and the "Y. Souren" Stock, the season was more remarkable for the steady flow of fine properties that found their way to collectors throughout the world through the H. R. Harmer, Inc. auctions. Twenty-two catalogs were issued, comprising 67 sessions with a total of 25,702 lots.

A season that was expected to be relatively quiet and at a slightly reduced level was boosted in its early days by the first of the Moody sales when prices in general exceeded all expectations. The strong support continued throughout the September, 1950 to July, 1951 period, and at the conclusion it was evident that stamp prices, despite increased taxation and other drawbacks to luxury spending, had improved to some extent. The vast amount of material placed through the Private Treaty Department of H. R. Harmer, Inc. confirmed the extreme activity that existed, which was assisted by an increase in interest from purchasers outside the United States.

New U. S.



Anniversary of American Chemical Society. Sept. 4, New York City.

**WE WANT TO BUY
USED U. S.**

Below we are quoting prices that we will pay for unlimited quantities

KEL'S Weekly Stamp

S B ASHBROOK
33 N FT THOMAS A
FORT THOMAS KY
P O BOX 31

AUGUST 17, 1951

ed Nations Postage Stamp

3rd National Stamp Collecting Week

Following UP To Be Printed

National Stamp Collecting Week will be observed this year from November 11th through November 18th. It is anticipated that the hundreds of clubs which have participated in previous celebrations will be joined by many more for the third observance of the nation's leading hobby.

Beginning on Armistice Day, the thirty-third anniversary of the end of World War I, National Stamp Collecting Week programs will include events marking America's role in world affairs, postal history of that conflict, as well as the development of U. S. armed forces.

Every major national philatelic society and hundreds of local Stamp clubs have supported the observance of National Stamp Collecting Week. Post Office Department officials also back the program which is sponsored by the American Stamp Dealers' Association.

In connection with the 1951 observance, the A.S.D.A. will once more issue a kit of suggestions for planning local observances of the week. The kit will be available to stamp collecting groups after Labor Day, but stamp clubs wishing these kits may make application for them now by directing their requests to Peter G. Keller, Executive Officer, American Stamp Dealers' Association, 65 Nassau Street, New York 38, N. Y.

Also available to interested collectors is a special pamphlet produced by the A.S.D.A. on "How to Organize a Stamp Club". Requests for this pamphlet should also be directed to Mr. Keller. This pamphlet includes, among other features, a complete constitution, a form for membership application, forms for soliciting members, news release, etc.

The 1951 observance of National Stamp Collecting Week will be climaxed by the Third A.S.D.A. National Postage Stamp Show, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 16, 17, and 18th, in New York's 71st Infantry Regiment Armory, Park and Thirty-fourth Street.



The Secretary-General of the U. N. has approved the progress photograph of the design for a postage stamp which will be printed under the provisions of the Universal Postal Union.

This 5c stamp, the denomination of which is the same as the class surface mail sent from the United Nations, is dedicated to all parts of the world, is dedicated to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, developed by J. Enschede and Son, and will be manufactured by that firm. J. Enschede and Sons will be responsible for the design and printing. The photograph now published is a design by Mr. Hartz in connection with the stamp, which should not be considered as representative of the stamp. It is circulated for design layout approved by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General has appointed to give final approval to the design of the stamp.

French First Day Postmarks

France has broken with immemorial usage and has issued the covers of the Famous Men series at the birthplace of each, with the First day cancellation, 30 mm. single circle, reading "Premier Jour" at top, place at bottom, and straight across center the man's name, date in two lines below the name.

First day cancels have been received thus far from Delacroix, June 2, 1951 from Saint Maurice de Musset, June 2, 1951 from Paris; Gay Lussac, June 2, 1951 from St. Leonard de Noblat; and Talleyrand-Perigord, June 2, 1951 from Paris.

—Raoul Lesgor

Surinam Overprints

By P. BREED
1921 S. Burdick St.



Apparently there are two printings of the 1 cent on 7½ cent. Stamps of the first printing show a distance of 2 1/8 mm. between the cypher 1 and the c of cent while in the second printing the distance is 1½ mm.

There are also several variations in the bar and block

U. S. MINT, FINE

A few items picked at random from the Most Important Stock of United States Postage and Revenue Stamps in the Hands of any Professional. Whether you are hunting for the great rarity or simply the garden variety we are likely to have it. May we be favored with your want list together with reference if unknown to us?

1893 Columbians 1c to \$5 (#230-245)	223.00
1898 Omaha 1c to \$2 (#285-293)	110.00
1901 Pan American 1c to 10c (#294-299)	14.00
1908 Imperf. Blocks 4c (#346)	\$8.50; 5c (347)
1909 Imperf. Blocks or Lincoln (368) or Fulton (373), each	10.00
1909 Imperf. Blk. 1c (371)	13.00
1908 5c Coil (#351) single pair	

FOR ACTION

and

IMMEDIATE PAYMENT

Send Us Your

U. S. and FOREIGN
COLLECTIONS

WALTER GISIGER CO.

110 W. 42nd Street,
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

1951 Annual Catalogue

3c

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

5930 Commonwealth Avenue

Detroit 8, Michigan

April 12, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Another Saturday rolling around. The time sure seems to fly by. Not much news for the past week.

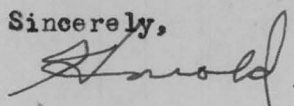
Enclosed find check for \$16.00 for the three covers. They are very nice. The 1868 and 1869 year covers are under the French P.O. treaty. However the third cover is interesting. I am returning it to you for further inspection. My dope is as follows: This cover comes under the Scarce 1/3oz. rate---1/3oz. --10¢; 2/3 but not over 1/2oz.--16¢; etc. This cover appears to be over 1/3oz. but not over 1/2oz. and thus took the 16¢ rate. We credited England 14¢. Our share 2¢. Difference between 16¢ and 18¢ is the depreciated currency penalty. Rate to England at this time was 2-2-2---6¢. The date on this cover is Sept. 1871. The date seems very early for this 1/3oz. special rate. I thought it did not come into general useage until 1873. I could be wrong since I have forgot where I got this information. What is your opinion.

Enclosed also is a nice cover to Sweden. As you have mentioned before you dont see many covers addressed to Sweden. This cover seems a bit different than the very few I have seen. All covers I have seen have been Prussian Closed Mail. Bremen, Hamburg and French could also handle to Sweden. This cover has the proper 42¢ rate to Sweden via Prussian Closed Mail in 1861. However it appears it did not go this route. It left Boston Am. Pkt. to England and I believe as a double rated cover prepaid to the British frontier and DUE from there on. My information on this does not show routing via England. However, England certainly must have had treaties with Sweden for mail exchange. I am not versed in the Manuscript marking, which I presume is the amount due on delivery. One of the markings looks like British 1Shilling due marking. Another good study for you to figure out.

The more one gets into the rates from 1868 on the more intriguing they become. Rates changed at a fast pace and I do not think we have anywhere near the complete information. The general picture is known but there seems to be quite a number of rates that were for a short time only. Perhaps laying the ground work for the cheaper rates that finally went into effect in 1875 (Postal Union).

Best of wishes to all.

Sincerely,



Monday -
April 21st., 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,
P. O. Box 288,
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

No doubt before you receive this you will have talked to Charlie or to Jack and learned that I was in the hospital last week for a check-up with a finding that I had gall stones and will have to have an operation. They tell me that gall stones is more of a female affliction than male. I never dreamed I would ever have any female troubles. Before any decision on an operation I have to have my heart checked, etc. At present I am on a diet and am minus many of the things that have been staple with me.

I had a nice chat with Charlie over the phone yesterday and explained why I would not be able to get up to the D.P.S. meeting at Adrian.

Yours of the 12th arrived okay and thanks for the check of \$16.00 for the three covers. I am returning the two covers that you enclosed. Here are some comments:

Cover to Sweden. You are quite correct - This shows no evidence that it was sent by Prussian Closed Mail and there is no credit indicating such carriage. The rate, as you are aware, was 42¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. by P.C.M. and I wonder if the sender didn't prepay it as such, rather than as a double 21¢ to the British frontier? Also, I wonder if he paid it as a single P.C.M. not over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and it was found to be over a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., so it was sent as a double "paid only to England" - That seems the best explanation to me. The pen marking to left is the British one shilling - so perhaps the Packet rate from England to Sweden was 6 pence per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or a shilling for a double. The 12¢ stamp is a Plate 3. The center pen marking looks like a one shilling marking had been crossed out. I wonder why? - Perhaps thought to be incorrect - crossed out - then found to be correct and re-rated to left. I will appreciate your comments.

Re - the cover from France to New Orleans in September 1871. I don't know exactly when the rates of 10¢ - 16¢ - 20¢ etc. went into effect but it is my belief that this arrangement became effective about June 1st, 1870. Perhaps a bit earlier or later - I don't know. On 10¢ rates via England, the earliest record of one with a 6¢ credit is June 28, 1870 - On the 10¢ rate the credit was 6¢ - on the 16¢ rate the credit was 12¢. On 20¢ it was also 12¢. Your analysis seems very sound because our share on a 10¢ rate was 4¢ - 2¢ U.S. Internal - 2¢ Sea. Thus to British Frontier with 6¢ from Britain to French destination. In the case of this cover it appears that it was rated as not over $\frac{1}{3}$ oz. with payment "only to Britain" - However, the French found it over $\frac{1}{3}$ oz. and rated it as entirely unpaid - 16¢ due in "Specie" in the U.S. with 2¢ internal as our share, hence 14¢ specie due to England. With 16 or 18 due this indicated gold at 112. I have no data as to what gold was quoted at in Sept. 1871 but 112 seems rather low. It is odd that there is no indication as to the sum due in "specie" (coin). At any rate, this is quite an interesting cover.

I have a number of microfilms re - rates in 1867 - 1868 and 1869 but I haven't had time to make enlargements.

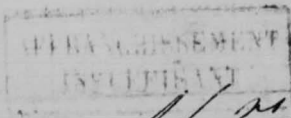
With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

First English Steamer



Sep
1871



M^{re} D. Barriere P^{er}mi
Due 18
Nég^t = Nouvelle 1

500 Etab Unis



THIS IS AN ENLARGEMENT
Made From A 35mm Microfilm
By STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

COIN AND STAMP STORE

HARRY S. VAN DENBERG

UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COINS AND STAMPS

HOBBY MODELS - CRAFTS - TOYS

209 SOUTH CHURCH STREET

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

2.5-52

Mr Ashbrook:

Will you please advise
how I go about it to secure
a Certificate of Genuineness
of the Corn shown in the
enclosed Photo -

1. The Cost for such Cert.
2. approx price a
collector would pay.

I have another Corn a (Government
Stamped one) addressed to same
person in same handwriting
with Post mark (Michigan Bar,
Cal. June 4) I think the envelope
is U-16 Dis-1 - It is a 10¢ value -

Personally I am certain
these are both Genuine -

Please return Photo -

Respy

Harry J. Van Dineburg.

I want to sell at highest possible
price -

1. Kans - Neb. V.F. to Superb. \$-4 Mint
1. Mint Sheet Bell V.F. to Superb +
- 1 - - 10¢ Bi Cent V.F.
- 1 " Blk 4 - 315 Superb.

Feb. 8, 1952.

Mr. Harry B. Van Denberg,
209 South Church St.,
Rockford, Ill.

Dear Mr. Van Denberg:

Replying to yours of the 5th, the 12¢ 1851 bisect cover appears to be genuine but, of course, one could not pass on the genuineness of a cover from a photograph. I believe that my signed opinion on the back of the cover would carry as much weight as that by any other source. I will be glad to examine the cover and if it is genuine I will signed it on the back in pencil as follows: "In my opinion this cover is genuine in every respect." I will also give you a letter to the same effect. The fee would be \$5.00.

You could send the cover to the "Expert Committee - Philatelic Foundation" - 22 East 35th Street - New York 16 - N.Y. They might hold it 30 or 60 days and charge you \$10.00, perhaps more. Or you could send it to the Expert Committee of the American Philatelic Society - addressing your letter to Mr. Harry C. Flierl - 124 Tillinghast Place, Buffalo 16, N.Y. I do not know what fee they would charge but they would no doubt take 30 days or more to give you a certificate.

I would hesitate to give you an opinion on value without examining the cover as value depends almost exclusively on condition. Of this I am sure you are aware.

I could probably place the cover for you to good advantage, charging a fee of 20%. I will be glad to assist you if agreeable.

I regret that I cannot serve you on 20th Century material as I have no knowledge of such, as I devote all my time exclusively to 19th Century U.S. - issues prior to 1880 - Including all stampless material from 1800. Also Confederates.

The photo-print is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

COIN AND STAMP STORE

HARRY S. VAN DENBERG

UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COINS AND STAMPS

HOBBY MODELS - CRAFTS - TOYS

209 SOUTH CHURCH STREET

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

April 19, 1952.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

I am referring to your letter
to me of Feb. 8th.

Mr. ? I just do not recall
his name at the Peoria Stamp Convention a few weeks
ago said your OK was better than anyone else and
at the time I had forgotten that you so kindly
offered to look at my 12¢ 1851 bisect on cover.

I enclose \$5.00 as you suggested
and also am willing to pay for telling em what I
should get for the

1¢ Type IV on cover US Mail
Honolul Cover
Block of Six #73

I am sending you a #U-16 Die 1 Cover that I think
will be of considerable help to you in your
appraisal of the Bisect. I feel they both should
be sold together and at What price Would you say?

Respectfully,

Harry S. Van Denberg.

Harry S. Van Denberg

*I will reimburse you for your
return Postage or Express charges.*

April 25, 1952.

Mr. Harry S. Van Denberg,
209 So. Church St.,
Rockford, Ill.

Dear Mr. Van Denberg:

Herewith I am enclosing the various items as per yours of the 19th (mailed the 21st). Thanks very much for the \$5.00.

Perhaps you were talking to Dr. Sneller or Mr. Chas. Putnam, both of Peoria. Both are very good friends.

① Your 12¢ 1851 bisect cover is genuine in every respect and I have signed it as such on the back. Although the only indication of year use is the penciled "1853" this is undoubtedly correct because during the months of August and September of 1853 there was a shortage of the 3¢ 1851 stamps at the San Francisco office and a number of other California Post Offices, and halves of the 12¢ were sold to supply the demand for two 3¢ to pay the 6¢ rate. That is the reason why we see recognition of post office officials of such half, or mutilated postage stamps. I generally refrain from expressing any opinion on values as there is such a diversity of opinion on the subject, however, in this case, I will make an exception. I believe this cover would bring from \$250 to \$300 at a New York auction at the present time. I think the 10¢ envelope should be sold with the bisect cover and I think it would be advisable to offer the two at one price. It is my guess that the 10¢ envelope hasn't much value.

② The One Cent 1851 is a Type IV stamp but a very nice copy. Just as a guess I think you should price the cover @ \$15.00. That may be a bit high but it is a pretty little cover.

③ The Honolulu stampless would probably bring between \$10 and \$15 at a New York auction.

④ Re - the 2¢ B.J. block - It has a straight edge at left and a piece missing at the bottom with ragged perfs at the top, also top perfs of bottom strip cut the designs. In other words - poor condition - and in my opinion - not much value, in relation to S.U.S. quotation of \$75.00 for a block of four.

I am making no charge for these expressions of values so take them for what they are worth. I would like to acquire the Honolulu cover if you care to sell it.

Sincerely yours,

COIN AND STAMP STORE

HARRY S. VAN DENBERG

UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COINS AND STAMPS

HOBBY MODELS - CRAFTS - TOYS

209 SOUTH CHURCH STREET

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

April 29, 1952.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

Thank you for your letter of
the 25th.

Yes it was Mr. Chas. Putnam
that had such high regard for you and your
opinions.

Last January a dealer wrote
me he had a customer for the cover at between
450 and 500 but he wanted 20% commission and I
felt it a little high when he had no investment
or expense.

A very similiar cover to my
Honolulu was sold in Aug. 1951, in the Sampson
sale for Fifty dollars, and in March 1951, Harmer
Rooke & Co., sold one for Fifty-one dollars.

Again thanking you for your
promptness, and help, I am,

Respectfully,

Harry S. Van Denberg

*Return 30¢ postage paid
by you for return of covr.*

May 1, 1952.

Mr. Harry S. Van Denberg,
209 South Church St.,
Rockford, Ill.

Dear Mr. Van Denberg:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 29th.

I mentioned in my letter of the 25th, that I generally refrain from expressing any opinions on values and your letter demonstrated what an error I make whenever I do so. Herewfter it is going to be a rule that I will not break under any consideration.

Sincerely yours,

COIN AND STAMP STORE

HARRY S. VAN DENBERG

UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COINS AND STAMPS

HOBBY MODELS - CRAFTS - TOYS

209 SOUTH CHURCH STREET

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

5-3-52.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Please do not put into practice your intention to refrain from expressing your opinions as to values.

You know you never hear when you are correct in your opinions only when for some reason you are "out of line."

I am finding that you must "shop around a little" in order to find the one that has a better outlet.

A recent experience. I

had was showing a New
York dealer a "corn" at
a recent Chicago Show.

I tried to get him to make
me an offer - finally he
said would you take \$20.00
and I replied "No" - some
days later from his New
York office he asked me
to put a price on it
and quoted him 70.00 and
he accepted my price - Had
he been "Fair" and offered
me \$50.00 in place of \$20.00
when he first saw the
corn I feel quite certain
I would have accepted - as I
has paid a dealer to appraise
it and it was appraised at \$40.00.

I would like to meet you some day. Respectfully Harry S. Van Hook

May 12, 1952.

Mr. Harry S. Van Denberg,
209 South Church St.,
Rockford, Ill.

Dear Mr. Van Denberg:

Just a few lines to comment on yours of the 3rd. I am sure it is a common trait of human nature to desire to purchase low and sell high. Perhaps a person should not be blamed. There is such a difference of opinion on values that one can hardly be right nine times out of ten. After all, condition has much to do.

I do not think it is fair to request a prospective buyer to make a bid. In many cases, a person is a sucker if he does so, because he may be dealing with a sharp-shooter who is devoid of any honesty whatsoever. In so many cases the smart chap uses the bid to get a higher price from someone else. If a person has something to sell he should name his price and stick to it until he is convinced no one will meet his figure. In that way there can be no argument or disagreement.

As far as I am concerned - no appraisals in the future - then no one can say that I said a \$100.00 cover was only worth \$25.00.

Sincerely yours,



Recd of Am. Home Miss Soc.

Bible House

4th avenue & 8th St

New York
City

H. S. M.

THIS IS AN ENLARGEMENT
Made From A 35mm Microfilm
By STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

Mrs Adeline M Barber

Darien
Walworth Co
Wisconsin

1853



By H.S.Y.

A 139

2317
Mrs Adeline Carter
Darien
Walworth Co
Wisconsin



Blue

Jun 4
Year ?

By H.S.V.

A 139

Paid

5000

Wm



PAID
Red



Red



Red

1852

28
MM

SF
Red
15 JUN

Jasper Canning Esq

Treasr A. H. M. Socy

150 Nassau St.

New York

H.S.V.

A 139

Wichita KANSAS.
April-20-1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook —

Being a friend of Ted Gore has prompted me to drop you a line. I thought you did such a beautiful job on his 1847 - having nice material to work with was a benefit also - But it turned very well done. Being a city Mail Carrier my collecting is very limited and when I do get something nice I generally have to sell it to some one like Ted.

However I am enclosing a few items which I thought you might like to look at. I am not particularly trying to sell these but thought you might like to see them.

Item I Post card mailed Sac & Fox Indian Agency Indian Territory July 19. 1874 note I. T. has been called to cancellation by hand & Agent changed to Agency - Took me a while to recall that SAC & Fox was a tribe of Indians. There is a reservation of them some where in Kansas today.

Item II 185761 Type II (anc. ~~Postcard~~). looks like R.R. to me although I can't find this listed in a list I believe in one of your books of R.R. cards.

I am also enclosing 3 damaged stamps all of Type A 25, one appears to have a very good transfer in U. R. corner the other two are very peculiar (The grill.) These two came

list of an old hand me down collection. I saved
these 3 for possible reference.

These two with grills down and (weak & strong) and on
2 definite colors - as I said - looked peculiar. However the
Washington BNC. on one made me think of #79 but this
has points down -

⑥ I'm also enclosing a few other covers. 4 Colorado T.
and one nice Washington. Patriotic. Also 1 steamboat
cover (note - Indian Prisoners on this). If you are
interested in any of the 6 I am open for offers. a fair
offer and they are no sweat yours.

I'm enclosing all of these because I felt they might
be something here that you might like to see.

Finally I am enclosing 1 cover which is marked on the
back a beautiful BNC.

I do some work for Ted. So have seen some of
your letters concerning some of your stamp dealing
so I feel I practically know you. Guess over the past
15 years I have written you a couple times.

I enclose return postage

Sincerely
Hugh L. Smiley
2800 N. Clarence
Wichita Kansas

April 25, 1952.

Mr. Hugh L. Smiley,
2800 N. Clarence,
Wichita, Kans.

Dear Mr. Smiley:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 20th with the various items which I am returning herewith.

(1) Sac & Fox Agcy was listed as a P.O. as early as 1857 but it was listed as Kansas in that period.

(2) The 3¢ '57 does look like a R.R. marking but I can't make out what. If you care to return it to me I will make an effort to identify it.

(3) Three 3¢ 1861 - no comment. I am no student of grills.

I never make any offers on other people's property. If you care to price and return the following items I will then decide if I care to acquire them.

- (A) Fort Lyon
- (B) 1¢ 1861 - Denver
- (C) Fort Garland
- (D) Denver 3¢ '61 - May 6

I don't think much of the 3¢ 1861 marked PINK.

I have been a bit under the weather of late, hence the brevity of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM C. MICHAELS
KANSAS CITY, MO.

April 21, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stanley:

Thanks for your letter. Among your "Quizzes" in "Stamps" several years ago you did have a picture of that Houlton cover and you asked if anybody knew anything about it. I think that is the only thing that ever appeared in Stamps, but I have a copy of a Canadian paper in which is published your little piece, and of course, if I write anything credit will be given all around.

Very truly yours,

WCM

WCM:A

*Yes, indeed, I'd like
to have a photo of
the cover - Thanks*

WCM

April 26, 1952.

Mr. Wm. C. Michael,
906 Commerce Bldg.,
Kansas City 6, Mo.

Dear Will:

Yours of the 21st received.

Checking my records very carefully, it appears that I have a record of five (5) of those Holton covers with dates as follows:

(1) Mar. 15 -	By (?)
(2) Apr. 19 -	Owned by W.C.M.(?)
(3) " 29 -	Owned by S.B.A.
(4) May 28 -	By A.F.Black
(5) Sep. 12 (?)	Owned by A.F.Black.

I enclose photo prints of 1 - 2 - 4 and 5. I was unable to find a print of my cover No. 3 - so I made a new negative and I will send you a print later. As these prints are from my files, will you please return them.

Re - Black's No. 5, it so happens that I have this cover on my desk at present so I made a new negative as the enclosed don't show the 2¢ to advantage.

I guess you are right about no article in "Stamps," and inasmuch as the data should be published I am delighted that you are undertaking the job.

They had me in the hospital last week for four days for a check-up as I have been quite miserable for past month or so. They found the trouble was gall stones. I am on a strict diet trying to postpone for the present, an operation. Some days I feel okay - others very miserable - this happens to be one of the latter.

My best wishes to you.

Cordially yours,

FROM THE DESK OF
WILLIAM C. MICHAELS

5/8/52

Dear Stan:

Got the photo
OK but I'm getting
so damned old and
tired and lazy
that it is hard
to get started
to work at anything.
I hope to get at
it before summer -

Regards

Wm



1819. Red.

*I would have sent, but the
card is rather a bulky one.*

Ranworth.

St. Lawrence Drive.

Pinner.

22nd. April. 1952.

Stanley B. Ashbrook Esq.

Fort Thomas.

Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

My apologies for the long delay in writing ... Mrs. Robertson has been rather ill and am glad to say is quite well again ... I have been travelling rather a lot, then I had Influenza and what with one thing and another I am woefully behind with my correspondence.

Last night I was looking through Postage Rates Booklet you so kindly sent me and the fearful thought crossed my mind that I had not acknowledged or thanked you for it (it came under separate cover you will recall) If I have already done so all well and good if not then my belated but most sincere thanks for the most interesting AND useful book. I wish our people here at the G.P.O. would bring out a similar sort of thing, though no doubt they will in due course as whilst travelling up with the Archivist of the G.P.O. from the Annual Convention of the Society of Postal Historians last week-end I gather that quite a number of projects and ideas are on hand ... not the least of which is a complete overhaul and reorganisation of the Records way back into the mists of time almost ... WHAT a task!!

I have added several useful items to the collection and particularly to the record since last I wrote to you, but as they are mostly G.Britain and NO US, I fear what rather excites us over here would leave you rather cold! There is however a small item upon which I would like your further comment and more information.... It concerns the mark "SHIP TELEGRAPH H.COFFIN" a tracing of which I attach to the top of this sheet. Details are :-

On front of Cover ... Letter written Philadelphia 26.May 1819. addressed to Yorkshire. The Handstamp is in Red below which is the current Liverpool Ship Letter(Framed Type) Manuscript Rating ~~4/9~~ 11d. (originally)crossed out and increased to 1/3 in Manuscript.

I should like to know more about this Mark which undoubtedly is of American Origin? We have nothing in this style or form appertaining to this country as far as I am aware. At The convention last week, several people seemed to remember an article on the subject somewhere but none could remember where or when ... Can you help me with the Story? Is the Mark A Private one for the Ship "Telegraph" Master H.Coffin OR is it a sort of Agents Mark applied at the Ship Telegraph Office run by H.Coffin ... At this date the Flag Signalling establishment for communication between ship & Shore for Vessels lying in Harbour.... Mr. Coffin being prepared to accept and deliver letters to a Ship In Harbour. Or is this all too Fanciful on my part. Your help would be greatly appreciated....

By Yours very Sincerely,

April 28th, 1952.

Mr. A. W. Robertson,
Ranworth
St Lawrence Drive
Eastcote Pinner Middx
England.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Your air letter of the 22nd received. I was sorry to learn of the illness in your family and trust that Mrs. R. and you have fully recovered. They had me in the hospital last week for a check-up and found that the misery I had been suffering for the past month was due to gall stones and an operation will be necessary sooner or later.

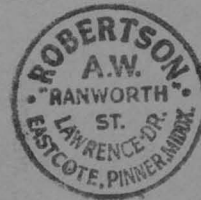
Re - your query re - the marking "SHIP-TELEGRAPH." Covers bearing this marking are quite familiar but I have no data on any American ship by the name of "TELEGRAPH" or of a Master by the name of Coffin, that is, of the period 1816-1819. I feel sure the marking was of a ship "Telegraph" and the master was "H.Coffin" but in none of my reference books on American ships of that period can I find any record of a ship by that name.

I have a record of a cover from Medford, Mass. (part of Boston) to Liverpool in November 1816 and the marking on the cover was a straight line reading, "TELEGRAPH - H.COFFIN" (SL 63X5) also one from Liverpool to Boston - Aug. 12, 1816 - with a S.L. 80X5 reading, "TELEGRAPH - H. COFFIN - LIVL." Also a cover like yours Manchester, England to Philadelphia in 1818. Also another one like yours from Philadelphia to Liverpool - but no record of the year. I am of the opinion the ship must have been of British register rather than American and that she sailed back and forth between Liverpool and Boston. If you obtain any data will you kindly advise me.

Re - the postage rate booklet that I sent you, I am quite sure you acknowledged receipt in a previous letter.

Re - Morton M. Shimp - 515 W. Chelton Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
As hear as I can recall I never heard of him. He is not a member of the American Philatelic Society (which is not so good(?)). I note he is a member of the S.P.A. (Society of Philatelic Americans. Most anyone can get into this Society - Incidentally I am an Honorary Member but I don't brag about it. I will make some inquiries for you but not knowing the man I would not care to write him as you suggest.

Sincerely yours,



Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.
Fort Thomas.

1st. May. 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

A hasty line or two concerning the "Ship Telegraph H. Coffin"
Query I made in my letter of a few days ago.

I spent last evening with Ethel Harper comparing our American Material,
and on the matter of the Ship Telegraph we turned up all sorts of reference works &
articles finally to discover a similar example photographed and in the Catalogue of the
"Napp" Sale.

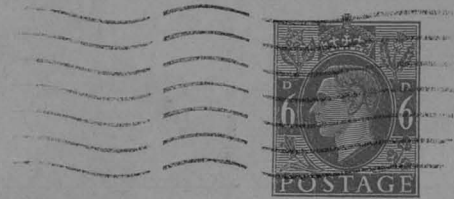
This cover was also endorsed in manuscript "Telegraph" on the front of--
so that the query now is answered, and I hasten to confirm this with you to save your
precious time in both seeking the answer (which you no doubt already had) and writing
on the subject in Particular.

Hastily, but as ever sincerely Yours,

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



STANLEY B. ASHBROOK, ESQ.

P.O. BOX 31.

33 N. FORT THOMAS AVENUE.

FORT THOMAS.

Kentucky.

U.S.A.

Sender's name and address :-



First fold here

Second fold here

To open cut here

To open cut here

P.S.

I have just thought whilst writing to you

A Mr. Morton M. Shimp.

515 W. Chelton Avenue.

Philadelphia, 44.

Has written to me on the subject of Ship Letters etc...
apparently he has some G.B. Material for exchange and I have
written asking if he would kindly send for my inspection. Whether
or not he knows me or of me I ~~knew~~ am not sure, but I think it would
clear any possible doubts in his mind if you would be so kind as to
write him just a VERY brief line of reference on my behalf

Conversely Do you know anything about the Gentleman which
would be helpful for my Reference Card ?

1850 Biltmore St NW
Washington 9 DC
April 26, 1932

Mr. Stanley Blackbrook
Fort Thomas Ky

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing two covers. One
a circular, and the other a letter.

Would you tell me on the circular if
there is a double transfer or curl in the C
of Cent also is this possibly a very early
use of the type firm.

On the letter is one of the type 5 from
Plate 6 and ^{rather late usage for imperfect} what plate is the imperforate stamp.

Please ~~accept my~~ accept my thanks in advance
I am enclosing a check for 6.00 is this
correct.

On the circular I am having an argument
on the stamp I do not think the marks are
a transfer but due to plate wiping and I correct
am having an argument over this with the
collector.

Very Truly
Robert H. Steel

April 29th, 1952.

Mr. Robert A. Peck,
1850 Baltimore St., N.W.,
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Mr. Peck:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 26th. Inasmuch as these two items do not have very much value I am returning your check and making no charge for the following information -

Cover with single copy. This stamp is the "F" relief and is a stamp from the bottom row of one of the Type V plates. In all probability from Plate 6. The stamp is not a double transfer - the bottom label shows some of the letters with white patches in the shading of the letters. This was caused by the paper being a bit too dry when the print was made, i.e., the paper was not quite damp enough to pick up the ink from the steel plate. Such "ink varieties" are not uncommon. This circular does not show any actual day, month or year of use but if the stamp is from Plate 6, it is probably an early use. The earliest known use of a Type V stamp is November 1857. We believe that three plates (5 - 6 - 7) were all finished at about the same time.

Cover with 3¢ Paid. I have marked each stamp on the cover.

If I can assist you at any time, I will be glad to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Evansville Stamp Club

DEPARTMENT OF PHILATELY
EVANSVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM
EVANSVILLE---INDIANA



MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS
OF EACH MONTH AT THE MUSEUM

S.P.A. BRANCH No. 92
A.P.S. CHAPTER No. 175
MEMBER N. F. S. C.

April 5, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Post Office Box 31
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have noticed, over a considerable period of time, your request in "Stamps" for information on War rates of 1815 and 16. I have a few War rate covers in my collection that I thought you might like to record and they are as follows:

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Strike</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Barnard, Vermont	Vincennes, Indiana Terr.	Manuscript		Oct.28,1815	37½¢	Stated on front - "Let this letter go with speed as it is on ac- count of the death of a son."
Charlestown, Ind.	Corydon, Seat of Govt. Indiana Territory	Manuscript		Mar.12,1815	12¢	None
Georgetown, Dist. Columbia	Post Vincennes, Indiana Territory	Black Hand Stamp Circle		May 3,1815	37½¢	"
Cincinnati, Ohio	Charlestown, Indiana Territory	Manuscript		Apr.11,1816	12½¢	This rate used during the one month.

I would be glad to send these to you for your inspection if you desire and I would like to trade the Vermont cover for a nice Confederate or Western cover. The others I must keep as they are part of my early Indiana Stampless collection.

Yours very truly,

S. G. Johnson

S. G. Johnson, Pres. Evansville Stamp Club
625 South Norman
Evansville 14, Indiana

April 15, 1952.

Mr. S. G. Johnson,
625 South Norman,
Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

May I thank you very kindly for your interesting letter of the 5th. Your Indiana Territory "War Rate" covers are quite exceptional and exceedingly nice. Your April 1816 cover is a rare item.

I would like to acquire your Vermont cover but I dislike the exchange route because I fear the other fellow may not be satisfied. Perhaps if you would put a price on the item we might be able to work out a satisfactory exchange.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley G. Johnson

625 S. NORMAN
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

April 24, 1952

Dear Mr Ashbrook:-

Thank you for your letter of April 15 on the "War rate covers" in my collection.

You did not ask me to forward the covers to you for more detailed study and I am wondering if the information I sent you was sufficient.

For the Vermont cover I would like a 75⁰⁰ cover or covers to that and in exchange - it could be Indiana stampless - western or Confederate and I shall not be unhappy about your choice. I feel sure -

Your honor only to write me at your convenience and I shall forward them for your inspection.

Yours truly
S. G. Johnson

April 28, 1952.

Mr. S. G. Johnson,
625 South Norman,
Evansville, Ind.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am in receipt of yours of the 24th.

I must confess that I was rather amazed at the valuation of \$75.00 which you placed on your War Rate cover from Vermont to Indiana in Oct. 1815. I am conscious of the fact that a person has a perfect right to place any value one thinks is right on any property one owns.

I have been buying War Rate covers at from \$2.00 to \$5.00 according to the rates shown and the only unusual feature that I can imagine why your cover is not in the same class is the fact that it is addressed to Indian Ty.

If you care to enlighten me I can assure you I will welcome the advice.

Sincerely yours,

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 3-6481

APPRAISALS FOR SALE,
PROBATE & INSURANCE

DIRECTORS
H. R. HARMER B. D. HARMER
F. T. BUCK MARGARET MAHONEY

H·R·HARMER, INC.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP AUCTIONEERS

32 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

ALSO AT 39-42 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1.
ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

CABLES
HARMERSALE, NEW YORK

LEADING AUCTIONEERS OF
RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONEERS OF THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" COLLECTION

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

1st
May
1952

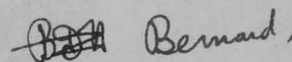
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I enclose a used copy of Scott #39 from our auction of April 28th on which I would appreciate your advice as to genuineness and also your signature on the reverse of the stamp if it is so.

I look forward to the return of the item in due course together with your account.

Very truly yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

 Bernard,

Director

BDH:E
Enclosure - Stamp

Lot 85 in H. R. Harmer
Sale of Apr 28 1952

May 5, 1952.

Mr. Bernard D. Harmer,

% H.R. Harmer, Inc.,

32 East 57th St.,

New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Harmer:

Herewith the U. S. 90¢ 1860 as per yours of the 1st.

I have carefully examined this stamp and I must confess that I have been unable to form an opinion as to whether the cancelation is genuine or not. Red ink, such as this, is not difficult for the expert faker to imitate.

I am sorry that I cannot give a definite opinion and authenticate the copy. There is no fee for the above.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 3-6482

APPRAISALS FOR SALE,
PROBATE & INSURANCE

DIRECTORS
H. R. HARMER B. D. HARMER
F. T. BUCK M. S. CAVANAUGH
H. H. MAHONEY

H · R · HARMER, Inc.
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ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

CABLES
HARMERSALE, NEW YORK

WEEKLY PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF
RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONEERS OF THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" COLLECTION

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P. O. Box 31
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

7th
May
1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your letter of May 5th and your comments concerning the United States 1860 90c.

Reciprocating your kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

Bernard
Director

BDH:E

GEORGE W. LINN
PRES. & TREAS.

CARL P. RUETH
VICE PRES.

GEORGE W.

LINN

INCORPORATED

COMPANY

HAZEL L. MORGAN
SECRETARY

L. F. TURLEY
ADVERTISING

PUBLISHERS OF

LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS



PRODUCERS OF

LINN PHILATELIC PRODUCTS

119-121 EAST COURT STREET

Sidney, Ohio, U.S.A. April 30, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stanley:-

Thanks for your letter. I can quite agree with you that the prime factor in these Grinnells is the cancel. If I could find a single cancel from any other source that matched these that would clinch the matter in my mind. There are however some points that are of interest. I have often thought that the early Hawaiian cancels which we know were hand set from type. Reason for this is that in one of them the W of HAWAIIAN is too high alongside the other letters in the word. This could come from a hand set cancel but I do not believe it would come from a wood engraving. Then on the one with U. S. Postage Paid, in italics, the S is a wrong font, being a straight rather than an italic letter. I do not believe that error would have been made by a wood engraver. Then as to the Grinnell cancels of both kinds, the one with the high W in HAWAIIAN seems to show also in the Grinnells altho the lettering is somewhat different, may have been reset. Then as for the one with U. S. Postage Paid in italic in the Grinnells, this looks like a wood engraving because there is a proper letter S but it is unlike an ordinary S in that it has small round balls on the ends of the S rather than serifs as it should be. I can readily believe that a wood engraver may have done such a thing.

Also, there is, I understand a period of about ten months in 1851 to 1852 in which there is no known dated material with Hawaiian cancels. This Grinnell material could very well have come from that period. Thus as I have said, if we could find one cancel that would match I would be satisfied.

It may surprise you to know that I wrote the Royal and asked them to state their reasons for calling these stamps off and finally got a reply. If you care to see it will be glad to send it to you. I will be glad to have the picture of the cancel you say you recently saw.

Now for another thing right up your alley. The enclosed cover is from a friend in Florida. He wants to know about it. Value etc. You will note the stamps are perforated but that the date inside is March 1856 and there is a scribbled 1856 at the end of the address. It is perf 15 too so not the 12½ perf. Will appreciate your remarks on it so I can send back to this man and believe you will be interested in seeing it.

Cordially,

P. S. I am going to Florida about the 10th May.

May 4, 1952.

Mr. George W. Linn,
119-121 East Court St.,
Sidney, Ohio.

Dear George:

Re - yours of the 30th, I certainly would like to see the reply you received from the Royal and if you will loan it to me I will return it the same day of receipt. I sure would like to know why they thought the Grinnells were bad.

Herewith I return the 3¢ '51 cover. I only made a superficial examination, hence the following opinion is off the cuff and I trust that you will not quote me as I did not make a thorough examination and further, I would charge the owner \$5.00 for an examination and opinion. The following is for you alone. I believe that the item is a fake, that some philatelic crook removed an imperf pair from the cover and applied these perforations.

I made a print of the Hawaii cover for you and I will try to have it ready to enclose in this letter. Note the style of the month logo. I do not recall that I ever saw this sort of type in a Honolulu postmark before. Maybe I have and didn't note it. Incidentally the owner of this cover intimated that he might sell the cover for \$50.00. Some fancy price in my opinion.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

May 7, 1952.

Mr. George W. Linn,

% Linn's Weekly Stamp News,

Sidney, Ohio.

Dear George:

Here is the photograph that I mentioned in my last letter. This shows a Honolulu postmark (28 MM) of May 11, 1852.

I note that Lot 2036 in the First Knapp Sale was a cover with this postmark (red) with an earlier date, viz., April 16 (1852). That is what the catalogue stated but I don't know whether the year use was 1852 or later. Also Lot 2035 in same sale listed a cover with this postmark dated Dec. 28 (1851).

This is the only record that I have of a postmark with type like
"MAY 11."

Regards.

Yours etc.,



Society of Philatelic Americans

THE NATIONAL STAMP SOCIETY FOR THE AVERAGE COLLECTOR

EXPERTIZING COMMITTEE

GEORGE RITTER, CHAIRMAN

RT. 8 BOX 534

TAMPA 4, FLA.

June 27th, 1952.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook,
P.O. Box 31--Ft. Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

Clint Vanderbilt and Steve Rich suggested that the enclosed cover be sent to you for record.

It is the property of one of our members--and was examined by these two gentlemen. They find that the cover has had exceedingly early use, and suggested that I get permission from the owner to send it on to you for your perusal and comments.

I also attach a stamped and addressed envelope with sufficient postage to pay registration fee and return postage.

I shall appreciate your comments--and, as usual, the member is now more anxious than ever to learn what he has. With kind regards, I am,

Cordially yours,

George Ritter
George Ritter
Chairman.

If there should be a charge, I personally, even tho not my cover, will pay it upon advice from you.

July 2, 1952.

Mr. George Ritter,
Rt 8 - Box 534
Tampa 4, Fla.

Dear Mr. Ritter:

Herewith the 3¢ cover as per yours of the 27th. I think that this item should be returned to the owner with the advice that he submit same to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation - 22 East 35th St., New York 16, N.Y. The Committee would charge him a fee and issue a certificate.

I am very much opposed to the practice of giving Expert Service free of cost to members of a Philatelic Society. Just because a person joins a philatelic society and pays a few dollars a year in dues does not entitle him, in my opinion, to free expert advice. Expert Committees of Societies which give such free service are in direct competition with the Philatelic Foundation, an organization which should have the support of every serious collector in this country.

I could give the owner a very definite opinion on this item and if he would send it to me I would charge him \$5.00, but I do not think that you should pay such a charge yourself.

Because I am a member of the S.P.A. I know of no reason in the world why I should give such service free of charge to some person unknown to me, just because he pays a few dollars each year as a member of the Society. I also refuse such free service to the A.P.S. Committee.

Expert opinions which are given free of charge are generally not worth a damn.

Sincerely yours,

See 23-28

July 2, 1952.

Mr. W. S. Boggs,

22 East 35th St.,

New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Please note copy of letter to George Ritter. He is Chairman of the Expert Committee of the S.P.A.

He sent me a cover with a pair of the 3¢ 1851 with perforations used from Portland, Maine in 1856.

I do not see how some people who don't know a damn thing about stamps can consent to serve on Expert Committees and attempt to express opinions.

Sincerely yours,

the expense of
to do so
in o

We are
Ger



Handwritten text, likely an address or postmark, is visible on the dark background below the stamps. The text is written in cursive and includes the words "New York" and "Post Office".

not

inhabitant of your town
We conceive it necessary to give you the
This removal or otherwise possible for
one of us who are obliged
at an

Yours respectfully

SECRET

O. Brown

With regard to your Town, please to give us what facts you can showing the legal re-
spective of
M. J. Brown

PORTLAND

March

1852

25
Buckingham

Now Best and Finest of White

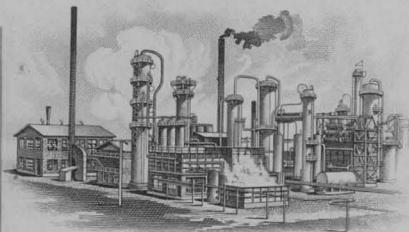


25
1
Oversus of the Poor
Winchham

M

See Scrap Book 23-p 28 - This was sent me by Geo Linn 4/30 - 52
And on 6/27-52 By Geo Ritter of TAMPA Fla -

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.

May 2, 1952.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
Ft Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Charlie Shierson and I entertained the DPS at Adrian last Wednesday. We missed you - everyone asked about you.

Had a letter from Mort. He and Anna are leaving for the west coast night of June 8th and he says they had expected to spend the day of June 9th with you and Mildred in Cincinnati, but he wonders if they will be able to do this account of your illness. I suggest you let Mort and I know how you will be feeling and if you want me to, I can fly down to Cincinnati at same time.

Rene has been trout fishing for more than a week now, up on the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin, Michigan. I understand she has taken some lovely catches of really large trout, and so far has beaten all records for catches this season. Hope she will know enough not to get drowned - this river is really dangerous.

I spent four days last week in Boston with Joan. Stopped in at the ASDA Stamp Show last Saturday in Boston. Saw John Fox, Dan Kelleher, Colby, Molesworth, and others.

The real reason I am sending this letter special delivery, Stan, is account of a cover Sam Paige showed me in Boston. Seems he has all the Clara DeWindt covers for sale, and among them is the "First Day" one cent 1851 cover illustrated on page 120 of your Vol I - a lovely thing with a nice position 5RLE Type I-B tied on and "JUL 1" in red on circular which is dated June 30th inside. Sam Paige said price was \$700.00 but intimated he might consider a lower offer. I asked Dan Kelleher about this cover and Dan said he originally sold it to Judge Emerson for \$500.00 and the Judge kicked like the devil at the price but paid it. Dan said he "thought" Clara DeWindt paid somewhat more than \$500.00 when she acquired the cover but not more than \$600.00 - Dan was not specific on this. I asked Dan if he thought I ought to pay \$700.00 for it and he just shrugged his shoulders. Later I asked Fred Schmalzreidt about it and Fred said that if it was the ONLY first day cover with the 1¢ where a "JUL 1" postmark is on face of cover, it was unique and perhaps I ought to have it. All the other so-called 1¢ first day covers have only a printed date INSIDE the circular to indicate they "might" have been used July 1st. What shall I do on this, Stan? Shall I offer Paige less than \$700.00 or what?

Regards.

Sincerely,

Jack
J. G. Fleckenstein.

May 3, 1952.
Saturday A.M.

Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein,
419 Union St.,
Ionia, Mich.

Dear Jack:

Re - your air special just received. The biggest sucker stuff in this game is to make a dealer a counter offer - so if you fail to obtain the cover from Paige - don't make him a bid - The sharp-shooters generally use such offers to induce someone else to buy it at a higher price. \$700.00 is a terrific price for the cover even in these times at the depreciated dollar. Use your own judgement but I suggest you tell Paige that you would like to have the cover but for him to name the lowest price he can accept and you will then decide, that under no circumstances will you make any bid for the cover.

I wouldn't doubt Dan's word on anything but I can hardly imagine Clara De Windt paying as much as \$500.00 for any cover. I never put her in that class. There is no question but what this is a wonderful cover and I think it is the finest 1¢ '51 First Day in existence. I do not recall any that even approaches it. There is no question but what it would fit into your collection or in Mort's, but I wonder if Mort would pay as much as \$500? Suppose for example, you would bid Paige \$500, he could then go to Mort, or someone else and say, "Jack bid me \$500" and that might influence Mort or someone else to pay \$600 or \$700. Paige knows what his limit is - why don't he name it to you.

Re - Mort's visit to Cincinnati on June 9th. At present I don't know when I will have the operation. Some days I feel okay, on others I am in considerable pain half the time, but I try to stay at my desk and keep going. It is the photographic work that punishes me. I wrote Mort that I would give him plenty of time to decide about his visit here and I will do the same with you. I may be all over with the operation by that time and I might be in the hospital.

This must be wonderful weather for fishing.

Best wishes.

Cordially yours,

May 7, 1952.

Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein,
419 Union St.,
Ionia, Mich.

Dear Jack:

Re - my last letter - I intended it to go "air mail - special delivery" but I believe I forgot to mark it "Special Delivery." Too bad.

The following is confidential so please do not quote me. Searching thru my records I found that the 1¢ '51 cover - July 1, 1851 - was an Emerson cover and was Lot 42 in the First Emerson Sale of Oct. 19, 1937 - It was sold to "Order" @ \$175.00 and according to an old memo I found, whoever bought it sold it to Clara De Windt for \$250.00. Thus Dan must have been in error. I was today informed that Paige bought the collection outright from Clara but this may and may not be true. There is no question but what the cover sold too cheap at the Emerson Sale but so did a lot of items because on the day of the sale there was a very bad break in the N.Y. Stock Market.

In the Knapp Sale (First) Lot 2374 was a cover with a H.S. of three of the 1¢ 1851 used from New York City to Lockport, N.Y., tied by the red square grid. The postmark was "NEW YORK - JUL 1" - The strip was from the top row of the left pane. Have you a catalogue of the First Knapp Sale? The sale price of the cover was \$115.00. I don't think anyone is going to break their neck to pay Paige a tremendous price for Clara's cover, but according to my records, these two covers are the only 1¢ First Day covers known with postmark of "JUL 1" - I am sorry I was unable to supply all this information in my letter of the 3rd.

This is a good subject for my "Special Service" and I will mention it in the Issue that I am now preparing.

With regards.

Cordially yours,

Regarding the annulment of his contract, G. Chorpennig stated: "May 11th, 1860, Postmaster-General Holt ordered my contract annulled on the ground that the service was not performed in accordance with the terms of the contract xxxxxx When my contract was annulled my coaches were running over the road weekly and carrying such of the mails as were given me. The department gave me no notice of dissatisfaction with the service, as was the regular custom. xxxxx My contract was annulled upon charges I have proved false and unfounded." (end) (Quote from the "Overland Mail" by Hafen, page 157).

"CHORPENNING ROUTE STAGE COACH COVERS"

While it is quite possible that other covers are in existence of the same type as cover No. 44, I have only a record of the two mentioned in these notes, viz., Cover No. 44 and the Ex-West cover illustrated in my One Cent Book, Vol. 2, page 281. However, a second type is known, published by "Randall & Co., Marysville" - with the same cut of stage and six horses but with different type in the routing, "Overland - Via Placerville and Salt Lake." This cover is in the Jessup collection, and bears the postmark of "Forbestown, Cal. Mar 8." It was Lot 184T in the Gibson Sale by Ward in 1944 and sold @ \$245.00. Later it was sold in the Brigham Sale by Kelleher, Dec. 1, 1950. It is probably unique.

"CHORPENNING ROUTE CHOO CHOO COVERS"

Covers in this class are a combination of route direction and propaganda for a railroad to California. For example, such wording as, "PER OVERLAND MAIL VIA PLACERVILLE AND SALT LAKE. HURRAH! BUT WE MUST HAVE THE" with a hand pointing to a cut of a R.R. engine and cars. In a later issue of this Service I will discuss the various types of the "Chorpennig Choo Choo covers," which I have been able to record, with the assistance of my good friend Edgar B. Jessup.

For a map showing the Placerville - Salt Lake Route, kindly refer to my One Cent 1851-57, Volume 2, page 277, and may I remind those interested, that the Chorpennig - Hockaday Routes became the route of the famed "Pony Express" of 1860-1861.

THE ONE CENT 1851 FIRST DAY COVERS - JULY 1, 1851

How many first day covers are known bearing the One Cent 1851? In my book, Volume One, page 122, I stated that four covers were known showing a FIRST DAY use. Fig. 15U on page 120, illustrated a single used from Boston which we will refer to as No. 1. I quote from page 122: "Of the other three first day covers two were used from New York City and the other from Baltimore." (end) I will list the four covers as follows:

No. 1 - Single - Cover postmarked Boston "Jul 1" - A folded circular dated June 30, 1851. This cover was shown to me by Mr. Dan'l Kelleher in the early nineteen twenties, and went into the collection of Judge Robt. S. Emerson, who passed away in January 1937. On page 122 of Vol. 1 of my book, I stated that this cover was in "a famous eastern collection." When that part of my book was written, Judge Emerson was still alive. This is the only cover known to me with a single one cent 1851 with a postmark of

"Jul 1" (1851). In the First Emerson Sale, by Kelleher, held in New York on Oct. 19, 1937, this rare cover was Lot #42 and was sold to "Order" @ \$175.00. Later, it passed to the collection of Mrs. Clara De Windt.

No. 2 - Horizontal Strip of Three (1L1E - 2L1E - 3L1E) on cover used from New York on July 1, 1851 to Lockport, N.Y. This is a folded letter with a New York postmark of "JUL 1" (1851). The strip is from the top row of the left pane of Plate One Early and is canceled and tied to the cover by the N. Y. square grid in red. This cover was in the Edw. S. Knapp collection during the nineteen thirties and was in the First Knapp Sale, held May 5 to 10th, 1941 as Lot 2374. The sale price was \$115.00. It is the only First Day One Cent cover that I have ever seen with a strip of three.

Covers No. 1 and No. 2 are the only One Cent covers in my record that show a postmark of July 1 (1851). I estimate that over twenty "FIRST DAY" 3¢ 1851 covers are in various collections thruout the country.

(To those interested in the latter, kindly refer to the fine article by the late Leo J. Shaughnessy in the "3¢ '51-'57 Chronicle" - Issue, No. 7.

Philip H. Ward, in his column in Mekeel's - Apr. 24, 1950, had the following remarks about the Knapp cover, quote: "Quite recently we have been shown a strip of three on cover with bright red grid cancellation used from New York City on July 1. The letter is addressed to Lockport, N.Y. and a notation shows that it was received July 3, 1851 - Thursday P.M. The stamps in question are positions 1-2-3L from Plate One Early." (end) A part illustration of the cover was shown in the Knapp catalogue.

No. 3 - A single on a folded printed circular dated New York July 1, 1851. The stamp tied by a New York red square grid. This was formerly in my collection and while there is actually no evidence that it was placed in the New York Post Office on Tuesday, July 1, 1851, I was always content to believe that such was the case.

No. 4 - A single on a folded printed circular dated "Baltimore July 1, 1851." The stamp tied with a round grid (18 MM) in black. The cover addressed to Mt. Airy, Va. This cover was formerly in the collection of Mr. Harold W. Carhart. Similar to No. 3 there is no actual evidence of use on July 1, 1851.

Since my book was published in 1938, I have only been able to record one additional possible First Day cover, which I have listed as -

No. 5 - Likewise - a single on a folded printed circular, dated New York July 1, 1851. The stamp on this cover is tied by the New York square grid in black. Covers No. 2 and No. 3 have the square grid in red. I have a record of a 3¢ 1851 cover used on July 3, 1851 with the square grid in black, so no doubt, red and black were used as early as July 1, 1851. Cover No. 5 was shown to me by Mr. John A. Fox in December 1944.

ONE CENT 1851 COVERS
USED JULY 3 and 5, 1851.

Back in the nineteen twenties I had a cover used on July 3, 1851 but because it was not a First Day I failed to record a complete description of it. When the Carroll Chase collection of his 1¢ 1851-1857 was sold by

Kelleher in May 1925, Lot 40 was a beautiful cover with a H. S. of three, Plate One Early, used from Charleston, S. C. on July 5, 1851. The catalogue stated that only one earlier cover was known. Because this was the second earliest known use at that time, the cover fetched the high figure of \$81.00.

In the West Sale by Ward in May 1943, Lot 308, was a cover with a single 3¢ used from Nashua, N.H. on July 5, 1851. This cover bears the postmark of "JUL 5." It was purchased by Mr. Harry Keffer for \$31.00. I note that it is again coming up for sale in a Keffer Sale, ("The Collector's Shop - 105th Sale), scheduled for May 28th next, (1952), as Lot 24.

I have a clipping from a Rochester, N.Y. newspaper of July 3, 1851, which stated that supplies of the new 1851 stamps, 1¢ - 3¢ and 12¢, were placed on sale at the Rochester Post Office "during the forenoon" of the 30th of June, which was Monday.

I have never seen the use of a 12¢ 1851 during the entire month of July 1851.

(end of Issue No. 14)

May 8, 1952

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.
HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.
ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M.D.
AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

4-16-52

Thanks very much for your letters of the 14th, and particularly your thoughts regarding the Due 4. I think in your P.S. you have it right, and it is very interesting. Your colored quiver is certainly worth the postage which I am returning - many thanks

I had a hot session with Jerry last Saturday night, which lasted until 3:30 A.M. As usual I had to give him a few unusual items. In return I got a mixture of everything, valued from 0 - 50^{or} or more. What a remarkable amount of material he has. He has been going over his lot recuts of the 1855, and has between 40-50 superb copies on or off cover.

I got one cover from him, which although damaged, is still a nice item. This cover has the the Geo B Hitchcock "Per

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
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ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

Overland stage, ~~via~~ Los Angeles corner card,
and is addressed to Genl. E Hitchcock,
Care Henry Hitchcock, Saint Louis, Mo.
It was a double weight letter, and has
two 3¢ 57 cancelled San Francisco ^{Aug.} ~~July~~ 1860.
It was then forwarded to New York, and the
stamps have a second cancellation, Saint Louis
Aug 20, 1860. Now no additional postage was
added for this forwarding. Here was a case
where a double 3¢ rate carried the letter
all the way to New York. The correct rate
should have been double 10¢ or 20¢,
for the total distance. I don't know if
you have seen the cover, but it is very
interesting. The Hitchcocks in this case
were all related.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,
W. Scott Polland

April 23, 1952.

Dr. W. Scott Polland,
Albert Bldg.,
San Rafael, Calif.

Dear Doctor:

Yours of the 16th received, and I note you had quite a session with Edgar. I sure would like to be a silent witness to one of those swapping affairs. I would sure be on your side.

The "Hitchcock" cover you described is very interesting. I don't seem to have any record of it in my files but I suppose it is the type as per Knapp 1494 (first sale). Was there only one type? It is very odd that no forwarding was made from St. Louis. This seems most unusual. Incidentally with the Overland rate of 3¢ to St. Louis and a 3¢ forwarding rate to New York - such a routing was 4¢ cheaper than the 10¢ rate. I don't think this interesting point ever occurred to me before. I don't know much about the various types of stage coach covers but don't you think a Hitchcock is one of the scarce types?

I was in the hospital four days last week for a check-up - Xray etc. Kidney stones were suspected but it turned out to be gall stones. An operation was recommended and I was put on a strict diet - looks like I am to avoid the staples I love best. Today I had a cardiograph - (is that what they call it?) and then my doctor suggested we don't consider an operation for the present. I sure had a lot of pain in my back (right side) for the past month, also across my abdomen right under my ribs. I always thought gall stones was more of a female ailment, and I never suspected I would have any female troubles. Maybe its change of life - or something.

If you care to send that Hitchcock on sometime I will be glad to make a photo - We could give one to Edgar. Did he have another?

My best regards.

Cordially yours,

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.
HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.
ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M.D.
AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

5-1-52

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks very much for
Yours of the 29th. also for the excellent photographs.
I am sure that Jimmy missed the significance
of the Hitchcock cover, because when I saw the
2-3¢ '57 stamps I asked, if this wasn't
a forwarded rate, and he said no, because
he felt, that both stamps were tied by the
San Francisco cancellation. I am sure that
I felt the same way at the time, and I
think it must have been the light that
fooled us, because obviously ~~you~~ you are quite
right; it is a forwarded cover, and certainly
most unusual. I think Edgar got rid of
it, because he considered it just a poor
double rate, damaged item, and he didn't
want it amongst his good ones. He will
probably want it back when he realizes
what it is, but I will keep it for awhile
anyway, and let him suffer.

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.
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ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

You are certainly welcome to use any
of my covers at any time in your serial.

That fake 10¢ '47 cover looks like
the type done in France. I am amazed
that it ever went into auction.

Kindest regards and hoping you are feeling
better.

Sincerely,
W. Scott Polland.

P.S. Incidentally the San Francisco
cancellation shows thru the 3¢ '57 stamp
so clearly, that in certain lights it looks
almost like it was on the stamp, instead
of underneath it.

W.S.P.

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
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ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

5-3-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

I think you are getting some fine results with your camera and enlarger and that your new films will give as good results as your regular. I am sending the results on to Edgar.

We had a meeting of the Western Cover Society last night at the Palace. Harry Gray of Oakland arranged an auction of some remarkable Western material, about 150 lots. Where he found them I do not know, but Jessup added about 20-30 items so you can imagine what the material was like. Some weeks ago you sent me a photograph of a Cho-Cho cover with a picture of a train and "Via Overland" underneath it. Someone had torn the stamp off the cover. Now in this auction was such a cover, but it was franked by the most perfect 10¢ 1857 I have ever seen, serial Boston, postmark 55L and framed by the San Francisco postmark.

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
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ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

This is one of the 2 pontones Edgar needed
on cover for his superb collection of snails.
It is the finest Chos-Chos cover I have
ever seen and worth far more than the
\$205⁰⁰ it brought. Jessup is very happy
about it. I had been telling him I
was going to run him up to \$200 unless
he bought me dinner and gave me several
covers. I did not bid on it, because I
knew Jessup just had to have it. It is
interesting that the owner put it in the
auction, with a valuation of \$5⁰⁰ on it, not
realizing its true worth. Prices on other
items were very high. California toms and
common W.S. to which used to bring 1-3
went for 7-10⁰⁰ - Both Jessup and I were
driven away from several items, prices got
so high. However, I got 27 items for
about 120⁰⁰ which was not too much for
the average.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,
W. Scott Polland.



April 25, 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,
P. O. Box 288,
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

Here is a 1¢ 1851 cover which is apparently okay. I suspected that the stamp did not originate and so checked the postmark very carefully. This is an odd type of a N.O. with the capital A with dot of "LA" and it was only (?) used in 1856-1857. Can you figure why "Due 3??"

They have me on a strict diet but so far I can't notice any particular good from it. I was hoping it might help to postpone an operation for the present at least.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

May 7, 1952.

Dear Stan,

First of all, how do you feel. Better I hope.

Am returning the five France to New York covers. They are very interesting, especially the different N.Y. Steamship markings. I dont understand the different centime rates unless they are different internal rates. All covers were less than 1/2oz. to take our 10¢ steamship rate.

Am enclosing a cover to France in Feb. 1875. 6¢ and 7¢, making 13¢. What is your explanation.

Enclosed also is a letter from Arthur Van Vlissingen. I have been corresponding with him regarding the supplementary mail cancellations. I told him you and I were also working on this angle and gave him some of my observations.

Regarding your 1¢ cover and as you say used in 1856-57. I dont know what the manuscript in the upper right conner is. It looks like Union 2¢ or Union 20. Is this a boat notation? If so the letter might be a prepaid 1¢ Way with the postage due. I believe the 5¢ unpaid rate was off at this time. If this is true the cover should show a way marking. The letter might be a double 2¢ local rate or a possible double circular rate.

Not much else to talk about. We have been having wonderful weather. 75 to 85 every day. Charles Shiererson's party was very nice.

Best of wishes and take care of yourself.

Sincerely,

Harold

May 10, 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,
P. O. Box 288,
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

Yours of the 7th received with enclosures as stated.

Some days I feel okay - others not so good, in fact, quite miserable with pain front and back. I am on a strict diet and hope that it will help but I believe that the only recourse is an operation. I have had all sorts of advice - some advise going at once and getting it over with, others say - take it slow and avoid an operation unless it is absolutely necessary to get relief. I hope to put it off to the middle of June unless the case gets worse. At any rate, I am up and at my desk every day as usual but at times I have to recline and completely relax.

Herewith the cover to France with 13¢ paid. This use was Feb. 1875 and at that time the rate to France was 9¢ for each $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce - The registration fee was 10¢, so there was no way that I know of to make up a 13¢ rate. France joined the U.P.U. on Jan. 1, 1876 and the rate became 5¢ - with a fee of 10¢ for registration, so this could not be an error in year use - say an error in the "75." I suppose whoever mailed the letter did not have stamps to make up 9¢, so overpaid the letter by 4¢. I read over the whole 1874 Treaty but there is nothing in it which provided for any combination of 13¢. Have you a copy of the Treaty? Have you any other suggestion to explain the 13¢?

Thanks for a look at Van's letter. It contains some interesting data and I made a microfilm of it to file for future reference. I am returning the photo-print so that you can refresh your memory regarding it. This the 1¢ 1851 cover - New Orleans with Due 3. This N.O. postmark is an odd type with the "LA" with a small capital "A" with dot below. I believe it was only used in 1856-1857, thus we can approximate the year of use. At that period there was no penalty for an unpaid rate, nor was there any "Way fee" of 1¢ on river mail into New Orleans. Perhaps there are two explanations, viz: (1) Perhaps the letter originated at some point up or down the Mississippi River and was handed to someone on a steamboat bound for New Orleans to be mailed there as a Drop letter. Upon arrival at New Orleans, it was handed to an agent of the N.O. P.O. and coming from out of town was rated as Due 3 - confirming use after March 31, 1855. It should have been rated Due 2 with credit for the 1¢ payment as there was no P.O.D. Regulation which stated that partial payments on domestic mail be ignored. It should have been marked Due 2. My second theory is a land Way letter with prepayment of the Way fee - but postage of 3¢ unpaid and Due. One can take their choice. Which solution do you prefer? The "UNION 20" in upper right is "20 Union St."

Yes Harold, the weather has been wonderful up until today - Saturday - but I suppose you are having much the same - heavy overcast here and rain -

#2. Mr. Harold W. Stark - May 10, 1952.

one of those intensely gloomy days.

I was sorry we were unable to get up to Adrian for the D.P.S. Meeting.

My best regards -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--Do you remember those big reconstructed blocks of the 12¢ 1857 that belonged to Richey and which I took off a cover going to Ireland? Richey paid Perry \$1,000 for the cover years ago. I took over the balance of the Richey material a year or so ago. I am in need of cash (account of illness) - would you be interested in these large reconstructed blocks if I made a special price of \$600 to you?

Sunday -
April 20, 1952.

Mr. Morris Fortgang,
114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N.Y.

Dear Morris:

I have been feeling rotten for past month so they sent me to the hospital for a check-up last Wednesday - I returned Saturday afternoon - verdict - gall stones and an operation necessary. Thus you will understand why my last letter was a bit short. Its a bit hard to do stamp work when one has an aching pain in the back.

I note that yours of the 14th arrived the day I went to the hospital. Here-with I am returning the various items. I will refer to them as per your letter (4/14/52).

No. 1 - Mes, I find I had no previous record of this vertical pair which is as you state 5 - 15R6 - I made a photo for my record.

No. 2 - Yes, you are quite right - This V.S. is 7-17-27L6. I found I had a photo of it. It was sent to me at one time by Bill Cheney.

No. 3 - is 23R6 - nice plate variety.

No. 4 - I doubt if this is a Plate 6. It looks more like Plate 7 and, of course, could be a Plate 5? (a guess).

No. 5 - A "curl in head" - This variety is well known to me but I cannot remember at the moment the plate or position. If you will send it to me later on when I feel better I will be glad to look it up for you.

No. 6 - Question - is this 15R6? The answer is yes. I signed it on back.

No. 7 - Your plating is correct - This is 43R3 but I don't think the year date is 1856 but rather 1858. I believe that the postmark is HARTFORD CT and I have no record that this office used a year-dated postmark as early as February 1856.

No. 8 - I think it could come from Plates 5 or 7.

No. 9 - I cannot lay hands on my reference copy but I think this is surely 1L7.

No. 10 - This postmark was used in 1856-1857. At which time there was no penalty for an unpaid rate. I suppose the letter came from up the river and was intended to be mailed as a Drop upon arrival in N.O., but was handed to a P.O. clerk and rated as an out-of-town. I think it was an error in rating it "Due 3," as credit should have been given for the 1¢. It should have been marked "Due 2." I don't know what "Union 20" meant unless it was "UNION" (Miss). There was an office of that name.

With best wishes -

Sincerely yours,

1451

N.O.

DUE 3

April 25, 1952.

Mr. L. V. Huber,
4841 Canal St.,
New Orleans 19, La.

Dear Mr. Huber:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of recent date.

Herewith is a photo-print of a cover submitted to me by one of my good friends with the query - "Why Due 3?" I note in your book that this type of postmark was used in 1856-1857. It is one that is easy to identify. The stamp was evidently used on this cover originally - as we see it.

I am wondering if you can offer an explanation of the Due 3 - or the meaning of the "Union 20." I figured that the letter originated up the river - say in 1836 - 1857 and was handed to some steamboat purser to carry to N.O. and mail as a "Drop," hence the 1¢ pay, but the letter was handed to the P.O. agent and rated as out-of-town - However, this was an error as credit should have been given for the 1¢ payment. That was the best that I could do - so perhaps you can give a better explanation.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

VICTOR HUBER & SONS

Cemetery Memorial Design and Construction
4841 CANAL STREET

Galvez 5560

NEW ORLEANS 19, LA.

Proprietors of
HOPE MAUSOLEUM
3,676 Crypts

Victor Huber
1875 - 1941
Leonard V. Huber
Albert R. Huber

April 28, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P. O. Box 31
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letter of April 25, was received. I think that your hypothesis about the "Due 3" on the cover, a print of which you sent me, is correct. The "Union 20" has a very simple explanation. 20 Union Street was the address of the firm from 1854 to the time that it was succeeded by Carroll Hoy and Company. You may recall that I wrote you on January 24, 1950, concerning this firm, its predecessors and successors.

With best wishes, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Leonard V. Huber

LVH:HH
Encl.1

May 10, 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,
P. O. Box 288,
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

Yours of the 7th received with enclosures as stated.

Some days I feel okay - others not so good, in fact, quite miserable with pain front and back. I am on a strict diet and hope that it will help but I believe that the only recourse is an operation. I have had all sorts of advice - some advise going at once and getting it over with, others say - take it slow and avoid an operation unless it is absolutely necessary to get relief. I hope to put it off to the middle of June unless the case gets worse. At any rate, I am up and at my desk every day as usual but at times I have to recline and completely relax.

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P.S.--Do you remember those big reconstructed blocks of the 12th 1857 that belonged to Richey and which I took off a cover going to Ireland? Richey paid Perry \$1,000 for the cover years ago. I took over the balance of the Richey material a year or so ago. I am in need of cash (account of illness) - would you be interested in these large reconstructed blocks if I made a special price of \$600 to you?



Ammon 20 68

DUE 3

Black

Mrs. Buchanan, Carroll St.

New Orleans

La

By M.F.
4/20-52

POSTAL HISTORY AUCTIONS

WILLIAM R. STEWART

435 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET

PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS

May 8, 1952

Stan

Another!

Bill

May 12, 1952.

Mr. William R. Stewart,
435 North Washington St.,
Park Ridge, Ill.

Dear Bill:

Herewith the St. Louis Bear cover. I am sorry, but I do not pass on U. S. Postmasters. I advise sending this to the Philatelic Foundation for a certificate.

I have been a bit under the weather, hence delayed sending for a few things in your sale of June 7th next. I would like to see the following lots:

138 - 485.

Thanks.

Sincerely yours,

May 26, 1952.

Mr. William R. Stewart,

435 North Washington St.,

Park Ridge, Ill.

Dear Bill:

Re - that St. Louis Bear cover that you sent me.

Going thru my records I found that I did not have any record of a "Paid" marking such as is on this cover. This suggests the possibility that the stamp did not originate on the cover - that it was mailed unpaid with 5¢ due and that the "PAID" is a fake.

Yours etc.,



GRAY
BLUE
PAPER.

Plate 1
Die III

PAID

Red

[Handwritten flourish]

Wm Louther & Co
Palmyra

Folded
Letter

Mr.

Feb 18/1847

Letter
Genuinely
Dated →

By WM R Stewart P.33
5/12 1952 SEE 5623

M. C. Blake

March 19, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

11 Mason Street, Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for these photos with your interesting letter of the 17th. Evidently my attempt at the rating on the keybold cover of May 11, 1861 from N.Y. per Bremen via England 10 grand Canary was far afield. A curious combination of stamps to substitute where the 90¢ alone would have been correct. I wonder what stamp or stamps originally were used on this letter.

Here are three covers from Spain to Boston, arriving:

- ① 1/21/69 by AM. PKT. 10¢ collect - no charge in U.S. NOTES
- ② 5/5/69 2 IN U.S. NOTES (33 x 3 3/4 mm.) - BOSTON (938A) on back
- ③ 12/22/70 3 IN U.S. NOTES (37 x 3" mm.) - BOSTON (938B) "

Why 2^d and 3^d in notes? These are new changes to our record. Incidentally the BOSTON circles in black on reverse are "new" since publishing the Boston book.

I wrote Joe Barr re No. 4 on his PLATE NO. 1, p. 153 in *Covers* book for 1951. I suspected this was a New York style of 1/2 reports that his note (p. 152) Fig. 4 "(also other rates)", the fields are on covers through N.Y., but he loans me the cover with this 35 (Fig. 4) and it bears on reverse a black still another variant for the Boston record (938C). It is a stampless from Liverpool 20 Nov/69 "Scotia via Queenstown": was the unpaid rate, single, 12¢ or 24¢ in 1869? Sincerely yours,
Maurice B.

Mr M. C. Blake
11 Mason St
Brookline (46)
Mass

POST CARD APR - 2 1952

Dear Maurice

Please pardon my
negligence in replying to yours
of the 19th which ~~has~~ arrived.
Recently ~~I will~~ with
Contents. I will write you
within the next few
days Sincerely yours

April 5, 1952.

Mr. M. C. Blake,
11 Mason St.,
Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

Now for your letter of the 19th after all the delay. Have been terribly busy and in addition, suffering from a bit of lumbago - at least I suppose that was the trouble.

Regarding the \$1.16 rate to the Grand Canary. Perhaps if I could remove the stamps from the cover, I could get some evidence as to whether this was a stampless originally or had some other stamps. This cover was in the Seybold sale in 1910 and sold at \$27.00. Perhaps it was a paid stampless, perhaps it had three 30¢ stamps. Seybold was a collector of covers - one of the earliest - I have wondered if he lacked a cover with a 90¢ 1860 and tried to locate one for years with no success - then some obliging faker made one for him. The 30¢ 1860 was not scarce on cover and this cover might have had three 30¢ so the faker took them off and filled up the corner with four stamps, one of which was a 90¢. Thus Seybold got what he wanted - a 90¢ 1860 cover. This is all guess-work of course, but there is no guess-work that the original rate on this cover was 90¢, and it seems most improbable that a business firm would have over-paid a letter by 26¢ in those days. Unused copies of the 1¢ '57, the 24¢ and 90¢, were not worth very much fifty years ago and a black grid was very easy to imitate. There was a crease in the letter sheet but fakers cannot iron out such defects, and, of course, a stamp placed over a crease has to have a crease to look like a genuine use.

Herewith the three covers from Spain. I am not much good on foreign mail to this country. Consider your No. 1 - Boston 1/21 - 69 - The rate to Spain at that time by British Mail was -

22¢ ($\frac{1}{4}$) credit to G.B. 12¢
34¢ ($\frac{1}{2}$) " " " 24¢

You will note that the U. S. kept 10¢ on both rates. No change by your No. 2 of May 1869 - Your No. 3 - Dec. 1870 - the rate was via England - 16¢ per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz -
credit to G.B. 12¢
28¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. - credit to " 24¢

Again your No. 1 - It appears that the Spanish rate was paid only to England - This letter was brought over by "An Amer Packet" with 10¢ Due - On this we did not owe G.B. anything - hence no accounting - Correct?

Your No. 2 of May 1869 - I do not understand this, however, I doubt if the "2" is the U. S. due from the addressee. In December 1870 the rate via England was -
16¢ per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz (credit to G.B. 12¢)
28¢ " $\frac{1}{2}$ oz (" " " 24¢)

Open mail 4¢

Perhaps you can figure these out.

#2.

Mr. M. C. Blake - April 5, 1952.

Re - your query about the U.S.-British rate of 1869 - The prepaid rate was 12¢ per $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. - Jan. 1, 1869 to Dec. 31, 1869 inclusive. Insufficiently paid - or unpaid letters from G.B. to the U. S. were subject to a fine of 5¢ - such fines to be retained by the U.S. - On letters to G.B., part paid or unpaid the British fine was 2 pence - same to be retained by G.B.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

M. C. Blake

April 8, 1952

11 Mason Street, Brookline 46, Mass.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrooke,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for your letter of the 5th with comments on my three covers from Spain to Boston in 1869-70.

My only solution would be that the black 10 of 1/21/69 indicates 8^d Am. Pkt. + 2^d U.S. internal due at Boston on letter paid from Spain only to England, as you say.

In that case such a letter arriving by Br. Packet in May 1869 should show a Br. credit of 2^d U.S., even though no such credit was used in the case of the 12^d rate on letters just between Britain and the U.S. - Thus, as the credit was not shown on this cover from Spain via England, the Boston P.O. charged 2 IN U.S. NOTES to the recipient. If so, then in Dec. 1870 with no credit shown by Britain when $\frac{1}{2}$ the 6^d rate from Britain was to be the U.S. share, the Boston P.O. charged this 3 IN U.S. NOTES to the addressee.

I hesitate to trouble you with another puzzle, but what do you make of the 110 in red pencil on the cover from Boston to Dedria in Aug. 1875 (photo from Kellaker sale), and another from N.Y. July 1875 in the recent Cortes sale?

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

April 10, 1952.

Mr. M. C. Blake,

11 Mason St.,

Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

Re - the 1.10 credits. Doubtless you will recall that settlements under the U.S.U1 (July 1, 1875) were in French money - that 1.10 or 2.20 meant one franc 10 centimes or 2 francs 20 centimes, etc. In the "Bank Note Section" of the Knapp sale I think you will find various examples to different countries.

I have carefully noted your remarks on the three covers from Spain and if I can discover anything new on the subject I will advise you.

I am wondering if I sent you a copy of my Service Issue on the subject of the Depreciated Currency covers? If not I will send one to you.

With Easter Greetings -

Cordially yours,

M. G. Blake
11 Mason Street
Brookline 46, Mass.

April 21, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

In reference to the last sentence of my letter of April 14th, it occurs to me that the British red ink mss. 3 from London 7/1/73 might well indicate 3d. PAID in cash on stampless cover to Boston, rather than Br. credit of 3¢. No currency abbreviation for pence or for cents is shown.

Sincerely yours,

Mannie

VIA AIR MAIL



SAVE THE EASY WAY
BUY U.S. BONDS OR
PAYROLL SAVINGS



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

33 N. Fort Thomas Avenue

Fort Thomas

Kentucky

11 Mason Street,
Brookline 46, Mass.
April 14, 1952.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for your letter of the 10th reminding me of the Knapp Sale Bank Note covers with U.P.U. markings in terms of French money after July 1, 1875, which I do not think I had noticed or understood.

I was mislead by attempting to harmonize the Boston red pencil 110 on cover with 3¢ and 24¢ stamps of 8/16/75 via London to India (Kelleher Sale 3/21/1952 Lot 71) with Lots 70, 72, and 73 in that Sale, which were used in 1872-1874, as follows:

Lot 70	10¢, 12¢'70 -22¢ rate Boston credit mss.18	U.S.kept 4¢
	1/22/73	
Lot 72	two 10¢, 24¢'70-44¢rate Boston "	" " 8¢(2x4¢)
	12/18/72	$\frac{36}{2}$
Lot 73	24¢, two 30¢black-84¢rate Boston"	" " 12¢(3x4¢)
	12/2/74	$\frac{72}{3}$ (but Brit. 4x18¢)

I should be very glad to have a copy of your Service Issue on the Depreciated Currency covers, if you have an extra copy to spare. You did send me part of your discussion of this subject to read, which I returned. I believe it was in your reference to the U.S.Mail & P.O.Assistant of June 1863, p.3 that it stated that the U. S. NOTES premium ratings were computed on a silver basis.

I find I have three covers from Spain via London PAID to Boston 3/4/69, 4/15/69, and 5/5/69 each with mss. blue pencil 2 over handstamped(SL)U. S. NOTES, none showing any Brit. credit to the U.S., so my guess that this 2¢ was for U.S.internal on covers across the Atlantic by Brit. mail steamers seems logical, when 10¢ was charged on similar mail brought by American Packet. My notion that the blue pencil 3 IN U.S.NOTES on cover from Spain via London PAID to Boston 12/22/70 was $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Brit.-U.S. 6¢ rate seems less probable, though the only other possibility would seem to be that the 3 was depreciated 3¢ in NOTES for 2¢ coin as perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 1870 4¢ open mail rate, but this would be a large % depreciation. Furthermore, I have a stampless from London PAID 7/1/73 with mss. red ink Brit. credit 3 to BOSTON/JUL/13/PAID(BPM 941)red.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice B.

April 22, 1952.

Mr. M. C. Blake,
11 Mason St.,
Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

I was in the hospital for four days last week for a check-up due to trouble I had been having for the past month. The verdict was gall stones and an operation was recommended. I am on a strict diet and believe it will be beneficial.

Your letter of the 14th received and I am enclosing herewith copies #10 and #13 of my "Special Service". Do not return but please keep them confidential.

Re - "Depreciated Currency" covers, I have a little booklet which gives the daily price of gold on the New York "Gold Exchange" from Jan. 1, 1862 until May 1866. In case you would desire any quotation of that period I will be pleased to furnish it.

I note the last paragraph of your letter re - the covers from Spain. I found that I had a photograph of a stampless cover from Barcelona to San Jose, Calif. The year date is not plain - but it may be \$75" - (Feb. 27) - This has a New York marking reading:

NEW YORK
MAR
20
DUE 3
U.S.CURRENCY

I am wondering if this don't mean that the rate was paid to the U.S. Frontier and regular U. S. postage only was due (3¢)? Inasmuch as there was no foreign settlement to be made Due 3 meant simply that.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

April 28, 1952.

Mr. M. G. Blake ,

11 Mason St.,

Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

Re - your card of the 21st - in reference to the cover
of 7/1 - 73. Perhaps if I could have a look at it I might be
able to come up with something.

Re - Paige Sale 3/21 - Lot 261 - Did you wonder why "Due 4?"

Sincerely yours,

11 Mason Street
Brookline 46, Mass.

April 29, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 North Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

I have received your letter of the 22nd with the complimentary sample copies of your Special Service Issues Nos. 10 and 13, which I have read with great interest. I thank you ever so much for your kindness in sending them to me.

There would seem no doubt that the covers from Spain were prepaid only to the U.S. frontier with internal here due at destination. The NEW YORK-DUE 3-U.S.CURRENCY appears are more practical or accurate form than blue pencil 2 or 3 over SL U.S.NOTES used at Boston. Whether such small denominations of NOTES were current in the 1870's I do not know, but I should surmise that a few cents due would be paid in coins in any case. I have never seen a Boston marking containing "U.S.CURRENCY".

It is my recollection that I once found a New York and a Boston U.S.NOTES of the same date with slightly different premiums for the same rate, but I do not have the record at hand. At the moment I find 24 - 52 both N.Y. and Boston on 12/24/64 @ 216; also Portland 15 - 18 and Boston 24 - 29, both approximating 120, on August 20, 1863. These may check with your N.Y. Gold Exchange, which may have accorded with the silver ratio, quoted in your Special Service No.10, page #59, par.3:

" Letter stamps are prepared with changeable figures, with which all such letters for this delivery are rated, as soon as they arrive by steamer; the premium on SILVER at that time being adopted as a basis. "

I am sorry to hear that you have been suffering from gall stones and I earnestly hope and pray that you will obtain speedy relief and full recovery. With very best wishes and regards,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

M. C. Blake


April 30, 1952

11 Mason Street, Brookline 46, Mass.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

In reply to yours of the 26th here is the
British 15473 with red ink 3.

Also enclosed are covers from which BPM,
Nos. 936 and 936A on Plate 56 were traced. The  on
the cover with 936 seems in same ink as IN U.S. NOTES,
but I left it out of the Boston book as uncertain. I should
appreciate your comment. (No need to register these.)

I did not notice the miss Due 4 on lot 261
in Page's sale of 3/21/1952, but see it in the photo.
Arthur Davis comes up with the possibility of a double
2^d ship letter change from Rinal Sluon into Carvis Harbor
and then 2^d Carvis Harbor to Belfast. As the 2x2^d
ship letter rate into port of delivery did not come into effect
until July 1, 1863, perhaps Prof. Davis's surmise may
do. Due 4 seems written at Carvis Harbor. What
is your view?

Sincerely,
Maurice Blake

May 13, 1952.

Mr. M. C. Blake,
11 Mason St.,
Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

Regarding the covers contained in yours of the 30th, here are some comments:

(1) Stampless from London July 1, 1873 - The U. S. British rate at that time was 6¢ or 3 pence. I think the "3" is the single rate paid at London, but it is odd that the writer did not use stamps.

(2) From Paris - 27 Aug. 1876 to Massachusetts via Boston. A U.P.U. cover. The French applied "T" in triangle indicated a letter that was "unpaid" or "insufficiently paid" under U.P.U. Regulations. You will find this under Section "2" of Article 3 of the "Detailed Regulations" of the Treaty - See 1875 P.M.G. Report, page 163. In the case of this cover it was prepaid at 30 centimes, whereas it required two (2) rates or fifty centimes - therefore, was insufficiently paid by 20 centimes, or a fifth of a franc - the equivalent of 4¢ in U. S. money - Hence 4¢ was due at destination in U. S. Notes. As the U. S. kept all deficient postage and didn't have to make any foreign settlement in "specie," no specie premium was charged the addressee, hence 4¢ in U. S. Notes.

Regarding the figures in upper left - these are in accordance with the Treaty Regulations - The top figure is "1/2" or one-half franc - indicating what should have been paid - the lower figure is 0.30 or "30 centimes" the amount of postage that was paid.

I enclose a photograph of a cover from Sweden - 1883 - sent unpaid - two rates due. If you have occasion to differ with me on any of the above analysis, I will appreciate advice.

Re - your covers from Spain. Do you not think that inasmuch as no foreign settlements had to be made by the U.S. P.O.D. that under the law no specie premium could be legally charged addressees?

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

FROM LONDON
July 1-73



Red

941

M.C. BLAKE

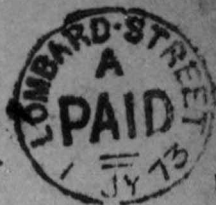
7/13/73

Magome Hons.

Boston.

Mars. to

3d (or 3^d class?)



Red

(2)

②

2 1/2

F 11

1/20

Yellow

Roll No. 1

1/2
0.20



Mr. John C. Cutler, Esq.,
[936E] (Frank? or Boston?)

MR. BLAKE

Syringham,
Berkshire County,

IN U.S. NOTES

States. 936 Boston

Mass.
from Boston (952)



2231B



950C



Blue
British
2½D

J. T. Hud. Brown. Esq.

950A new

[950B? new] Boston?

By M.C. Blalce

Boston. Mass.

Messrs. A.M. Howland & Co.) United States
#168 Congress. St. America

P. O. Box 371,
Ithaca, N.Y.

May 6, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box # 31,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

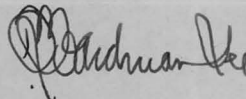
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I enclose a cover having a strip of three
of the 1¢ 1851, which I would like to have you
"expertize" if you will be so good.

Whatever your charges are I shall be glad
to remit on receiving your statement of same.

As I am expecting to use this cover in an
exhibit in about two weeks time, it would be
much appreciated if you could return it fairly
promptly.

Very truly yours,



dbl/b

May 8, 1952.

Mr. D. Boardman Lee,
P. O. Box 371,
Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lee:

Herewith the One Cent 1851 cover as per yours of the 6th. I have authenticated the cover on the reverse.

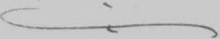
Please note that the postmark is not the name of a Railroad but rather the R.R. stands for Rail Route. This letter was mailed direct with the U. S. Mail Route Agent in charge of the mail on a Rail Road Mail Route. Sometimes the P. O. D. used the name of the railroad to designate a mail Rail Route but not always.

The strip comes from Plate Early and the types are as listed on the back.

My fee is \$2.50.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P.O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.


D. BOARDMAN LEE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
ITHACA, N. Y.

May 12, 1952.

Mr. D. Boardman Lee,

P. O. Box 371,

Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lee:

Thanks very much for yours of the 9th with
enclosure.

Sincerely yours,

May 13, 1952.

Mr. D. Boardman Lee,
P. O. Box 371,
Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lee:

I am today in receipt of the booklet, "A History of the Railroads in Tompkins County" by Hardy Campbell Lee. This is indeed a most interesting article and I am delighted to add it to my library. May I thank you very much.

I note that I was wrong and that there was a railroad by the name of "THE CAYUGA & SUSQUEHANNA R.R.," which ran from Ithaca to Oswego - a distance of 33 miles. The Mail Route was No. 1365 in 1853 - 12 trips a week and the annual compensation was \$1,415.00.

Sincerely yours,

May 13, 1952.

Mr. C. W. Remele,
14 East Carrillo St.,
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Dear Chuck:

Re - yours of the 7th. Horace Poole sent me a few covers recently but they came at a time when I was not feeling good and I do not recall very much about them. My mail has been so heavy in the past six months that I find it impossible to remember details on many items sent to me. I made a microfilm of one of the Poole covers but the print was a failure. I am enclosing it herewith.

Chuck when it comes to railroad markings I am a mere novice and my knowledge is close to zero. In this game it is simply impossible to cover all the various fields and to make a living at the same time.

Recently an attorney of Ithaca, N.Y. sent me a cover with a strip of three One Cent 1851, "type IV - tied to a cover with the marking "Cayuga & Susq R.R." (33 MM). I noted that this marking was listed in Chase book but a superficial search thru my "Travel Guides" failed to give me any information, so I wrote him that in my opinion there was no R.R. by that name in 1853 and the marking was probably the name of a Rail Route. Here was a case of some guess-work that I could have omitted. He made no comment on my guess but sent me a very fine booklet entitled "A History of the Railroads in Tompkins County" (New York) and in this booklet I learned that there was such a railroad. In fact, a complete history regarding it. I am wondering if you have ever seen or heard of this article? If not, write and obtain a copy. It was published by The De Witt Historical Society of Tompkins Co., N.Y. - Ithaca, N.Y. 1947 - Publication No. 4 - Author, Hardy Campbell Lee. If they cannot supply a copy I will be glad to loan mine to you.

I note that you intend to go East next month and if you can make Cincinnati I assure you I will be more than pleased to see you.

Sincerely yours,

D. BOARDMAN LEE
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
213 SAVINGS BANK BUILDING
ITHACA, N.Y.

March 5, 1953

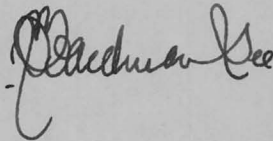
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
A.P.S. 2497
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Further with regard to the Cayuga & Susquehanna cover, about which I wrote you last May. I am enclosing it herewith, with the thought that you may wish to correct your statement on the back regarding the existence of the railroad.

I hesitate to bother you with it, and let me know if there is a further charge. I enclose \$.60 to cover registered return postage.

Very truly yours,



DBL:w
Enc.

(23-35)

March 7, 1953.

Mr. D. Boardman Lee,
213 Savings Bank Bldg.,
Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lee:

Thanks very much for your kindness in returning the 1¢ 1851 cover to me for correction. It is my opinion, that the R.R. in the postmark meant "Rail Route" rather than "Rail Road." In some cases, the mail route took the same name as the railroad, in others, it did not. Possibly the former was because the route originated and ended with the same town names as the railroad.

I note that the date of your cover is "17 JUN" and my guess is that the year of use was 1852.

I recall the interesting booklet that you sent me on the railroad.

Sincerely yours,

(23-35)

Vertical Strip of Three From Plate One Early - Top Stamp is
Type II - Middle Stamp Type III A - Top Line Broken - Bottom
Stamp - Type II - Strip is Poor Impression Due To Paper Being Too Damp
RAIL ROUTE Postmark "CAYUGA & SUSQ. R.R. (33mm) - Cayuga &
SUSQUEHANNA RAIL ROUTE.

William B. Shuman
3/7-53

SEE 23-35

TALLAHASSEE
PAID 10

May fourteenth
19 52

Dear Colonel Morris:

I looked at the material you sent under date of May 10th and I, like you, would be undecided as to whether one of them was a Provisional. Too often I have seen enclosures shuffled as to dates, probably due to the fact that the family read the correspondence and tucked the wrong enclosures into the covers.

To my mind it would be entirely untenable to accept the premise that because this happened twice in the same correspondence the writer supplied himself in advance with envelopes and then used them later. I do not know of any previous occasion where the Tallahassee Paid 10 gives the appearance of a Provisional.

With best regards,

L.L. Shenfield

Colonel H.L. Morris
1708 Peachtree Road, N.W.
Apt. 11
Atlanta, Georgia

341851 Disect

Fort Worth, Texas
May 16, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 North Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

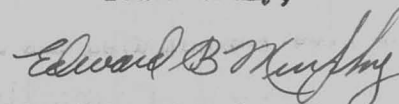
I have enclosed a cover which I believe is an excellent job of forgery and shall appreciate it very much if you will give me the benefit of your experience and knowledge.

What I plan to do is to make up a album page with a short write-up explaining the forgery. Don't you think the idea sound? Could you suggest a suitable write-up?

The more I look at this cover the more I believe I would like to make up about eight album pages (one frame) on the three cent 1851. As my retirement income is very limited I can't spend large sums of money on stamps therefore have to think up simple and inexpensive ways to collect. What would you suggest using to make up these pages, cancellations, postal markings or what to make up a nice small collection?

I shall be grateful for any help you may give me.

Yours truly,



Lt. Col. Edward B Murphy (Ret)
3836 Hill Top Road
Fort Worth 9, Texas

May 20, 1952.

Lt. Col. Edward B. Murphy,
3836 Hill Top Road,
Fort Worth 9, Texas.

Dear Colonel:

Herewith the New Orleans cover as per yours of the 16th. Yes, you are quite right, this half a 3¢ 1861 stamp is a fake - also the grid killer and the "Paid 6." This cover was originally a stampless cover sent unpaid, with 5¢ due, (1851-1855 - the single rate was 3¢ paid - but 5¢ unpaid), hence the "5" in the New Orleans postmark. New Orleans never used a grid anything like this fake nor any such a "Paid 6". I am sure you can make a write-up for an album page from the above data.

Your query re - some album pages of the 3¢ 1851 is rather a large order, because specialization of this stamp covers such a large field. I suggest that you show the year colors from 1851-1857, that is, the most typical color that was used for those seven years that the imperforate stamp was in use - Include some plate varieties and cancelations and anything nice in the way of covers. I believe that I would watch the Eastern auction sales and anything you see that you think would fit in well into the kind of collection you desire, then make a bid that you think will obtain it for you. I advise patience and not try to form such a collection in a short space of time.

Sincerely yours,

Black
PAID

Red



P. E. Freeman Esq.
Care Apt. Niven Esq.
Yermillorville
Lafayette (La)

By E.B.M.

A150

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

May 16th, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

Here is a puzzle. This is one of those queer things I picked up in New York for 10¢ and I don't understand it .

In the first place I never saw but one other penny black used on any kind of a letter to the United States and only one to Canada. As you know the penny black only paid the postage from shore to ship for the British Inland postage and nothing else.

This letter apparently was mailed in Albany. Sl. or "St". This is a British postmark. I could check the town I suppose and then somehow or other see what happened by the marks on the back. "Liverpool Ship Letter", "British Due" marking that looks like an "8" and one unreadable. By the postmark it came to New York and has the New York postmark on the face. I do not know where the blue "Paid" was applied possibly in New York. It is too bad the corner is torn off with the rating mark, for I would like to know how this was rated. Then also the New Harmony post mark. why?

Except for the little piece in the upper right corner I think this cover is all here, but it is a queer thing. I do not want to sell it for it is so peculiar but Maybe Chuck Meroni could throw some light on it.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

May 20, 1952.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole,
Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the cover to England, as per yours of the 16th.

As Sherlock Holmes would say: "My dear Watson, this cover is very elementary" and I know you will agree after I see if I can dope it out.

It originated at New Harmony, Indiana on Nov. 20, 1840 and was addressed to London, England - postage of 25¢ (torn upper corner) prepaid to New York Nov. 30 1840 (U.S. prepayment required). (over 400 miles 25¢). It went to Liverpool as a "Ship Letter" with 25¢ or a shilling due at London. The crossed out manuscript rate at right center is "1/". From London it was forwarded to Brighton with a One Penny black in Jan. 1841 - (Note the Brighton P.M. on back).

New Harmony was settled by a society of Germans under George Rapp as early as 1814. They called themselves "Harmonites" - under a system of a community of property. The story of the town and the nuts who tried out their social experiment is rather interesting. Look it up. Didn't I see an article on the subject in the Readers' Digest within the past year?

Re - Keffer sale - I had Harry send me the following lots - which are the only ones that I have seen -

82, 83, 86, 88, 96, 210, 213, 216, 261, 273, 275, 279, 280, 296, 325, 335, 337, 464, 472, 486, 488, 570, 576, 643 and 645.

I advised Henry Hill not to let the nice things in the 5¢ '56-'57 get away from him and he advised me that he was having you bid for him. He should buy #210. Of course, you know most of the covers in this sale as they nearly all are from sales in the past.

I did not see lots 277 - and 278 (for Gore) but Lot 279 is what I call the 24¢ Cincinnati Violet because copies that I have seen were late uses at Cincinnati in late 1863 and 1864. This particular cover (Keffer 279) was submitted to me by Bob Laurence in February 1943 so perhaps it came up at a later date in one of his sales. I called it as a "Deep rich reddish violet" - Brooks had a similar cover used from Cincinnati in 1864 with a 24¢ Violet in almost the same identical shade. The only trouble with the Keffer 279 is that the stamps are so heavily canceled. If you can obtain it at a price in line with the heavy cancels I think Gore should acquire it.

Finney sale. Thanks, I will clip the item in "Stamps" (MacBride) and put it in my catalogue.

I am feeling some better.

Regards -

Yours etc.,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

May 22nd, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

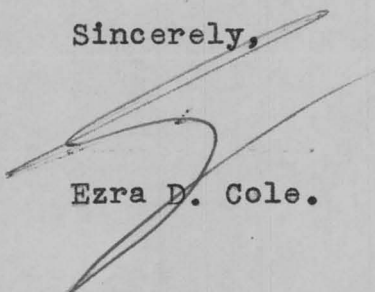
Yours of May 20th. You are perfectly right my dear Mr. Holmes, I was trying to work that cover out backwards, no wonder it did not make sense. Now I have to read that letter and see if it means anything at all.

I don't know whether Hill will bid on Lot 210. He should. Ted is bidding on the 24¢ stamps.

I note the covers you have seen. Is there any that we should try to buy? We do not have too much time so answer this promptly if you feel well enough and think we should bid on them.

It is apt to be a spotty sale in that some prices will be higher than blazes but others will probably be cheap.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

Stanley Henry Mayes (Evanville) send me a Carrollton Miss cover having WAY
in two places almost exactly like the photo you sent. His has 2 perforated
stamps; yours an imperf. He thought it a fake. I wrote him per
below. *CWS* Read your last letter + many thanks. Will write soon.

66 Alvarado Road,
Berkeley 5, Calif.
April 23, 1952

Dear Henry,

I received your fine letter with its many interesting photos, etc. This is not a reply to it but just enough to say how sorry I am to hear of the illness of your Mother and to express the hope that her recovery will be permanent and that she may be spared to you for many, many more years. It is distressing to learn of the difficulty with your arm -- but you say that it is responding to treatment, so aside from "cramping your style" for a while, it will have no permanent effects.

I return the CARROLLTON cover with the WAY 2 together with the print that Mr. Ashbrook sent me last year showing a similar cover -- which was the one written up in CHRONICLE Issue No. 13. Your letter expresses the thought that your cover is a fake. Perhaps it is, but the fact that there is another exactly similar cover as shown in the photo inclines me to think that it is not a fake. The place of mailing is CARROLLTON, MISS -- not LA, as stated in the write-up in CHRONICLE. The write-up said LA because it looked that way -- it being a small blub of ink, quite faint, and as the letter was addressed to ~~Max~~ Buchannon, Carroll, it was only my guess that it was LA. This changes the complexion of things because Carrollton, Miss. is not a steamboat landing -- not even on a waterway. The explanation offered as a possibility in my CHRONICLE write-up obviously does not hold. All this will be mentioned in the next issue. The Ashbrook cover bears an S-2 from plate 6 or 7. Yours bears an S5 in a color that was current in 1858 and 1859 -- sort of a brownish -- quite characteristic of plate 10 (early), used in 1857 and 1858. It is not from this plate, however. The Ashbrook cover shows "Chg 44" and yours shows Chge 33. The addresses are written similarly but I don't think they are in the same handwriting. That the box numbers to which the postage is charged (presumably) differ, indicates the senders were two different people.

The reason I don't think these are fakes is that a faker who thought it would be a good idea to make a WAY 2 marking would be inclined to place it on various covers; ~~skamxha~~ that is, from various towns. Also more of them would have come into the philatelic market. Also, the faker does not ordinarily bother to place his faked mark on a cover with a badly cut-in stamp, as is the Ashbrook cover.

Here we have two exactly similar covers, except one is S2 and the other S5, from an obscure small town in Mississippi. Would the faker have sought out two covers from exactly the same town and of almost exactly the same period to apply his faked mark? Of course he could, but is it likely? Both markings of the townmark are faint and yours shows much oily inking (a reddish townmark). I don't know the color of the townmark on the Ashbrook copy.

I feel that the WAY 2 was probably not put on at Carrollton as the ink shows no sign of being oily. However, it may have been put on at that point, using another handstamp pad. To me, the thing looks like another philatelic mystery and perhaps a solution will come up for it. I'm sending copy of this letter to Stanley, and it would help if you would photograph your copy and send it to him also.

Sincerely yours

Lucy W. Simpson

TRACY W. SIMPSON
66 ALVARADO ROAD
BERKELEY 5, CALIFORNIA

April 30, 1952

Dear Stanley,

I think your analysis of the Thibadoux bisect is very cleverly done. As you say the faker must have known something about how to get the right effect. I suppose the cover shows some evidence of a stamp having been over the cover at left of the bisect -- also why would one want to use a bisect on a letter postmarked at Thibadoux?

You mailed to me about a year ago - a photo || The WAY over 2 cover written about to Henry Meyer is the one noted as from you in Issue No. 13 of our CHRONICLE -- and you will see the marking illustrated in that issue. This should call the case to mind.

The two photos are enclosed. Did I tell you that Arthur Wardwell has found a cover bearing a blue LOUISVILLE & CAIRO S.B. dated route agent marking -- encircled of the usual size -- used in 1859? Henry Meyer has all details -- or will when Wardwell sends him the cover. A tracing of it will appear in next CHRONICLE. It beats all how much information comes to light.

With best wishes, and kind regards also to Mrs. Ashbrook (amanuensis).

Sincerely yours

Tracy

**HOBBY
INTERESTS**

PICTORIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
EARLY EVANSVILLE
HISTORY
EARLY OHIO RIVER
STEAMBOATS
STAMP COLLECTING
MEMBER: COLLECTORS CLUB,
S.P.A., A.P.S., C.P.S.

Henry A. Meyer

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT • CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
RESIDENCE 516 READ STREET
TELEPHONE 5-6380
EVANSVILLE • 11 • INDIANA

**PHILATELIC
LINES**

SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA
POSTAL HISTORY
GERMAN POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY
& NAPOLEONIC COVERS
STEAMBOAT COVERS
CAPE TRIANGLES
BRAZIL • HAWAII

May 18, 1952

Dear Stan and Tracy:

I believe I can save time by writing you a joint letter with carbon copy, since nearly everything I have to say concerns both of you.

Tracy: It is well that you sent a copy of your letter of April 25, analyzing our two WAY 2 covers, to Stan. It saves me a lot of explaining. The whole thing is as much of a mystery as two covers which Maurice Blake sent me for study recently--but long before the 1851 period. I am here--with returning your photograph of Stan's cover. I took me a copy of it for my own use only; I will not have any occasion to publish anything about it, because it is not a steamboat Way mark. Enclosed are some prints of covers I borrowed from our fellow-route agent Richard K. Meyer, name a coincidence only. I'll refer to them when I comment to Stan about them.

Stan: On my WAY 2 cover, somebody has printed "FAKE" big and heavy. Somebody gave it to me as a worthless fake several years ago, and I can't begin to recall who it was. I had it with me in Cincinnati when Chuck Remele and John S. Campbell were there, but didn't think enough of it to bring it along over to Fort Thomas with me. Perhaps it is better than I thought. I am enclosing it for you to study, and also a photograph of it for your file. Thanks for the print of the LOU. & CIN. S.B. MAIL LINE cover belonging to Dr. Winter. Now we must look for more covers on which the S.B. is or looks like S.S. until we come to a conclusion.

Stan: After asking many times, Richard K. Meyer of Peoria finally sent me a lot of album pages with 3c 1851 and 1857 stamps on covers and on pieces, but only a few were those I asked him for because I saw them at Cenex. Instead of the steamboat covers, most of them were double postage covers because of forwarding or overweight. He has a remarkably interesting lot of such covers, showing postage paid every way possible and unpaid every way possible. I am sending both of you some photographs of the more interesting or noticeable covers, but many more are just as significant. Tracy, if you want to describe or illustrate any of these, Richard should be asked first; but it would really be worth while to ask him for the loan of all his double-postage covers and do a really nice write-up of the whole lot, for you will find just about every possible case covered.

Tracy: I now have all the photographs printed to illustrate the write-up of route agent markings which come in pairs of non-identical twins, but I can't draw the arrows or do the write-up until school is out in June. If your plans for the next Chronicle have not already gone too far, suppose you hold the matter up until I can do it up right for you. When I do, I'll send Stan a carbon copy and a set of prints when I send them to you, so that he can add any comments before you let it go to press.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

April 25, 1952.

Mr. Henry A. Meyer,

516 Read St.,

Evansville, Ind.

Dear Henry:

Here is a photo-print of a cover that was sent to me by Dr. Roser who stated that it belonged to Dr. Winters.

I have a copy of a letter that Tracy Simpson wrote you this week but I regret that at the moment I cannot recall the WAY 2 cover mentioned by him. If you will send me your cover maybe I can lend some assistance.

Best wishes.

Cordially yours,

May 27, 1952.

Mr. Tracy W. Simpson,
66 Alvarado Road,
Berkeley 5, Calif.

Dear Tracy:

Yours of the 24th received with the photo print which I am returning herewith. I am sure that I never saw this print before and quite sure that I did not make it. I have never used such a grade of photo paper. In addition, I almost invariably make pencil notations of the color of the markings and include the initials of the owner.

Tracy I have carefully noted your remarks regarding the possibility that these two covers might be genuine but here are my reasons for believing otherwise - (1) I know of no Way Fee of 2¢ that would apply to a letter such as this. (2) In addition the marking has a very "queer" look.

In the next Chronicle will you please mention that I did not send this print to you, never saw this marking before it appeared in the Chronicle, know of no such rate and finally that I firmly believe the marking to be fraudulent.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Henry.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

From Henry Meyer July 5 1952

- 4 -

Here is a carbon copy of your letter of May 27 to Tracy. I, too, firmly believe the WAY 2 covers to be fakes. There is simply no basis on which they could be genuine. Tracy goes overboard thinking up excuses for them; he does not usually do that. It is odd that he is so sold on them. Did you notice, the ink of WAY 2 does not look at all like the ink of the 57 period; it looks like modern stamp-pad ink when used with metal type, such as a newspaper slug.

Your letter of May 19. Thanks for the photograph of the Fleetwood cover.

Your letter of May 21. Mostly about the "WAY 2," which has already been sufficiently discussed. Thanks for letting me see the two pictures, one of the 3c 1851 fake bisect, and the other showing how you think it was done. Very cunning. Am I supposed to keep them, or return them? In this same letter, you return a bunch of photographs I sent, part of them the Richard K. Meyer covers, and some others from various sources. Any time I send you pictures of covers, if they will help your files any, keep them, unless I say to return them. I always make some extra prints.

Yes Tracy, I noticed your remarks on the fake "Way 2" cover and to be quite candid I do not think it advisable to try to advance theories to account for fake markings. There is no evidence on which to base an assumption that the marking might be genuine, hence I think it is bad to theorize that there is even a remote possibility that it might be good. Such a discussion merely confuse collectors, and lead nowhere. That is my candid opinion, and I trust that you will receive it in the good spirit in which it is given.

I think your current Issue of the Chronicle is exceedingly fine and I wish to again congratulate you on the fine work you are doing. I think it is ashame that such a valuable contribution to serious philately is supplied practically free of cost to the collecting public. I know full well what it costs in time and energy and in personal expense, to compile an Issue such as this and it is not right or just, that it be given away free to a large number of people, many of whom will capitalize on it.

Mrs. A. joins me in best wishes to you our very valued friend.

As ever yours,

SBA To
Simpson
July 10 1952

TRACY W. SIMPSON
66 ALVARADO ROAD
BERKELEY 5, CALIFORNIA

May 24, 1952

Dear Stanley,

I am very sorry to hear that you have been laid up and hope by now you are feeling better and that an operation may be found unnecessary. As we get along we seem to become a prey to this and that, and as my wife tells me "we live on borrowed time." My wife has been quite ill for most of this year -- a sort of complication of things, but so far I have been okay (knock on wood). By all means take it easy, and I do hope that that diet gets rid gradually of what ails you.

As to the photo of the WAY 2 cover, I send it herewith and will appreciate its return in the enclosed stamped envelope when you have inspected it. The cover has been among my photo pile for several years along with many others that "came from Stanley." Now I may be mistaken, but if so I hope no harm is done. Many photos of yours came from Jessup who at times had some duplicate photos, for as I recall you had an arrangement with him for supplying him with photos, and I also recall having "gone in with him" to get some extras for my files.

In looking over my photo pile for what might be interesting for Chronicle readers I came across the photo and wrote it up as being from you because it was very firmly in mind that you had sent the print directly to me.

I don't feel as if I should cross off this WAY 2 instance as a fake merely because there was "no such rate." For I have a number of instances where things are not what they seem; the principal examples being collecting from the addressee in the period when such collection was expressly prohibited. The fact that these two covers are from such an obscure out-of-the-way place -- and this marking has not shown up elsewhere -- makes it unlikely in my mind that a faker would have taken two such obscure covers -- both of 1857 or 1858 usage (they appear that way) -- and applied his WAY 2 fake handstamp on them and to none others so far as we know. Carrollton is about 17 miles from the Yazoo River. It might have been a regular postoffice of deposit of stage mail from a river landing. The fee might have been 1ct plus 1ct; that is, 1ct to the steamboat for out of mail, and one cent to the carrier who brought it in. The Gazetteer says Carrollton, Miss., is on "Big Sandy Creek." Might this even have been big enough for a small boat that picked up mail of nearby plantations? No, you probably don't agree with me -- but I am not yet quite ready to scratch those covers off, though when I bring the account down to date in next CHRONICLE I will mention that there is of course always the possibility that the covers are fakes.

I greatly appreciate your kindly comments and the data you give on the other items of Henry's. I am abstracting the last part of this letter for Henry, but am not sending him the part about the photo prints and your arrangement with Jessup, etc. With warm regards and best wishes for your complete recovery -- and promptly, I remain

Sincerely yours

Tracy

Pollard's Sept 30 '51 pair of obs from Sacramento is from photo 5(c) New York photo 65-66L22
The San Francisco pair Oct 1 '51 addressed to Christopher Henry Esq. Castle garden East stamps from Rose two photos
Hence, the first shipment of 3 is to California contained at least

or merely 2 cts to the steamboat 65-66L22

Carrollton

Miss

orange

Red

hy 33

Yellow
Env



WAY

2

Black 10x10M



Mrs Berchman Carroll Co

*Am Orleans
La*

FAKE
300

By Henry A Meyer 5/20-52

ZOB-F128-GREEN-PAN-16 Sec

May 20, 1952.

Mr. D. K. Grieve,
1886 E. 93rd St.,
Cleveland, 6, Ohio.

Dear Don:

Yours of the 15th received and I can assure you it was nice to hear from you.

Thanks very much for your kindness in the loan of the 3¢ 1861 cover which I am returning herewith. The letter enclosed is very interesting and the envelope and letter make quite a nice combination as well as one that is most unusual and, of course, very rare.

This was a letter from a Confederate Prisoner of War, confined at the Rock Island (Ill.) Federal Prison and addressed to Louisville, Ky., which was never under C.S.A. control. What makes this item of special and very unusual interest is that it was smuggled out of the Prison and mailed as a regular letter from Rock Island - (on Nov. 14, 1864) - which fact is mentioned in the letter. The man gave a very good account of the conditions prevailing within the prison - an uncensored P of W letter. If I ever saw another one in this class, I do not recall it.

Don, I regret to report that I have been a bit under the weather since March. I went to the hospital last month for a complete check-up and they found I had gall stones, so I suppose I will have to take time out sometime next month for an operation.

I don't seem to have occasion to get up to Cleveland in recent years but I sure would like to get up there sometime and attend one of the meetings of the Garfield-Perry and also to have a look at your collection.

Whenever you have anything that puzzles you a bit and you think I might have some sort of an answer I will be more than pleased to have you send it to me.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Wilson L. Langhan
Barrack 65-

Under-



Yellow Env

Miss Cora, Smyser
in Care of Smith & Smyser
By D.K. GRIEVE
Louisville Ky

A150

M. C. Blake

May 17, 1952

11 Mason Street, Brookline 46, Mass.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stanley:

Thank you for your letter of the 13th, with all of which I agree, viz.: (1) 3 d. PAID in London on stampless 13 Boston July 1873; (2) from Paris 27 Aug. 1876. 30c. in stamps, short paid by 20c. = 4¢ IN U.S. NOTES due at Boston; (3) Sweden (photo enclosed) stampless double rate U.S. CURRENCY 10 at Chicago. By 1880 instead of U.S. NOTES (discontinued 1878-9) my cover from Cardiff 2nd d. stamp shows BOSTON DUE 10 Cts. in circle. However, you did not mention my cover from Ville Franchet Sept 11, 1878 with 35c. stamps French ^{blue} ^{pen} ^{cancel} T 35 via Boston 9/23/78 (952 in name) with 13 IN U.S. NOTES = 13¢ x 5 = 65c., so without any premium presumably the correct rate was 1¢, i.e. 100c. of which 35c. was prepaid and 65c. or 13¢ due at destination (Concord, Mass.)

May I ask your comments on three different kinds of Boston 15 markings enclosed, none of which appeared in the Boston Book: - (1) from BOSTON (204) red JUL 18 1814 to Lunenburg, Mass. which is 42 miles NW of Boston - single 10¢ by act of 1799 & 1810, seemingly increased 50% nearly 4 months before act of Dec. 23, 1814 became effective Feb. 1, 1815 (through Mar. 30, 1816);

(2) (15) cancel on 3rd 57 II from Boston (992) red 8/12/61. If the Boston P.O. had such a (15) for use on an unpaid single to France (as N. Orleans or Troy, N.Y. for example) I have never seen it (I've turned up this year). (3) I think this T (15) = 15c. or 3rd unpaid of 5¢ U.P.O. rate must be Boston, though I left it off PLATE 56, keeping the tracing on file.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,
Maurice Blake

May 23, 1952.

Mr. M. C. Blake,
11 Mason St.,
Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

I find that I made a memorandum on your cover from VILLAFRANCHE - 9/11 - 1878 - with the 35 c. French stamp but failed to include it in my letter. Yes, I figured that it must have been a quad rate, with 100 c. due, 35 c. paid and 65 c. due.

Regarding the three covers you enclosed and which I return herewith. No. 1 - Boston - July 12 - 1814 - Inasmuch as no rate of 15¢ would apply (of which I am aware) as of July 1814, the only explanation that I can offer is that the writer made an error in the year date. My guess is that the letter was actually written in July 1815 - not 1814.

No. 2 - I have no record of this encircled "15," used at Boston, but I think it is possible that the Boston office might have had such a rating stamp. If we were certain that this was not applied at Boston then we could theorize that the Boston office failed to cancel the stamp and when it reached Marshfield, Mass., that office used one of their rating stamps to cancel the stamp.

No. 3 - Boston 1889 - Rate was a single - of 25 centimes - 10 centimes paid - 15 centimes due (15). This was 3¢ U.S., but why the British "3d" - ? Why wasn't 1½ pence due? Boston was an exchange office so I judge that the encircled "T" and the "15" were applied there. Do you agree?

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

M. C. Blake

May 27, 1952

11 Mason Street, Brookline 46, Mass.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd with all of which I agree.

I could think of no other explanation of the 15 script rate, ^{except that} unless the Boston letter was mis-dated "July 12th 1814" for 1815, unless advance information of a proposed 50% increase had reached the Boston P.O. in 1814 prior to its enactment. However, I have Boston covers of June 8 and Nov. 16, 1814 correctly rated.

The British 3^d rather than 1½^d puzzled me also. It would seem that London charged the letter as if wholly unpaid in 1889, or assessed a penalty for part payment. I count the (T) (15) as Boston.

Enclosed is a pencil sketch tracing of a stampless cover, which I located in my files after sending you the 3"57 tied by (15). I find this cancel is identical with the (15) on this cover from New Orleans. I am showing these two covers this week, but if you care to see the stampless, please let me know. The enclosed tracing is for your files, not for return to me.

Sincerely, as ever,
Maurice Blake

May 29, 1952.

Mr. M. C. Blake,
11 Mason St.,
Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 27th.

I believe that we have the proper solution of your 1814 letter with the 15¢ (manuscript) rate. The War Rate was as per Act of Congress Dec. 23, 1814 (Sec. 2) and was to become effective as of Feb. 1, 1815, so I can hardly imagine that any postal clerk had an idea that it was in effect prior to the passage by Congress.

Regarding the cover from Boston to England in 1889. The wording of the original U.P.U. Treaty specified that double postage be collected on unpaid letters, but on part paid mail, that only the deficient sum be collected. That was the 1875 Treaty. I really do not know if any change was made by 1889 but I will investigate. I am wondering if a revision was made whereby double postage was collected on insufficient payments.

Re - the encircled 15. I have a record of two different types of this rating stamp that were used at New Orleans. I think the type you have surely must have been a stock type that was manufactured by a stamp concern and supplied to postmasters thruout the country. I have a record of one type used in 1863 and the other, slightly different, used in 1866 at New Orleans. I believe that San Francisco also used a type which was very similar.

Thanks for your sketch. I will place it in my New Orleans file.

Sincerely yours,

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.
HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.
ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M.D.
AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

5-24-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Can you tell me anything about the markings "PURSER" on this cover. I assume that it may have replaced the word SHIP, or have been used in place of it, but did it by any chance have a very special meaning, other than that the mail was taken from the boat to the post office by the purser. Was it put on by the post office - I think it was - or did it originate on board boat? Do you know when this mark was used? The Due 7 on this letter would suggest origin of the letter from the east and before the 3¢ rate was inaugurated. I have seen very few covers with "PURSER" and I think they may be quite rare.

The other photograph is that of an extremely rare, perhaps unique, express combination. The markings are not too clear

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.

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ALBERT BUILDING

SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE 6120

on the photograph, but quite good on the original. This cover was given by the Wilcot family to the collector, from whom I got it, many years ago. This collector shows only California ghost towns, and when I saw this remarkable cover in his collection some months ago, I tried him I would really make it worth his while on a trade. He lives up in Napa, and last Sunday he drove down to see me.

Of course the strong back of the cover can only be put together when you are told that young Wilcot, the son of the postmaster had left Sacramento and was in Shasta when this letter arrived. I think probably up to this time, the letter had gone free by U.S. mail. The faint red "advertised" was probably put on at Sacramento, and in some way young Wilcot heard about it. Since mail delivery was so poor at that time by regular channels, Wilcot probably asked Crane-Rogers to get this letter for

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SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

him. However, Ham-Rogers did not
go to Sacramento and they probably
asked Gregory's & pass to bring it
to them. The 3rd rate indicates a
rather early use - 1851? Now this is the
only cover I have ever seen with this
odd type of Ham-Rogers, and it is
the only cover I have seen in combination
with Gregory's. All other Ham-Rogers,
and they are rare, if in combination, have
connected with Adams & Co., of course my
interpretation of the markings may be wrong.
It will be interesting to talk to Jessup
about it. He says he has seen the cover,
and of course wants it.

Kind regards,

Sincerely,

W. Scott Polland

May 26, 1952.

Dr. W. Scott Polland,
Albert Bldg.,
San Rafael, Calif.

Dear Doctor:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 21st with the two photo-prints.

Regarding the marking "PURSER." I regret to state that I have no definite information whatsoever. I have seen this marking on mail that originated in Salvador - also a folded letter that originated at London (1869). My guess is that it was a stamper used aboard a ship, or ships, and by any Purser who was serving. Further, that it represented mail that was handed direct to a Purser for transmission to San Francisco. In the case of your cover I believe the "Due 7" and the target (killer) were both applied at S.F. but that the "Purser" was applied aboard a steamship running between S.F. and Panama.

I suppose covers with "Purser" are scarce but the reason may be that all the various pursers may not have applied such a marking to letters that were mailed direct with them. We see more of the S.F. "Due 7" marking than we do of "Purser." Perhaps it is better known on covers without any stamps. I seem to recall that several years ago the Mower firm in S.F. had a big lot of stampless covers from a certain correspondence and in the lot were quite a number with this "Purser" marking. The correspondence was the "CHRISTIANSEN." Several such covers were in a Fox sale of May 1, 1948. I never made much effort to keep track of them.

This reminds me - note Knapp First Sale - the description of Lot 1987. I may have made such a guess but if I did I sure was wrong. Perhaps I had the idea that "Acapulco" was the name of a steamship. Do you figure there would be much difference between Lot 1987 and your cover?

On your other cover, I am a total bust. My knowledge of Western Express covers is zero. I am very sorry.

If you do not mind I would like to keep both photo-prints.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Ridgeway, Wis.
Feb 10

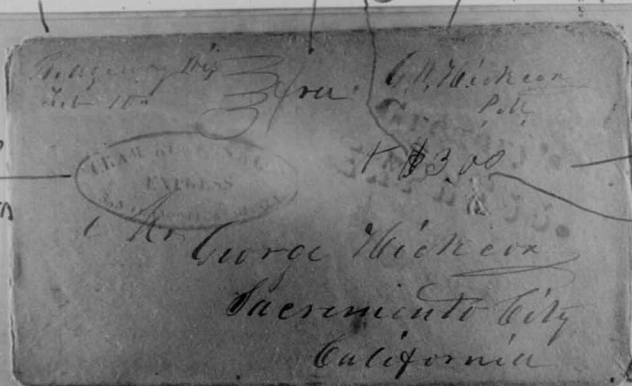
Free

PART OF
RED ADVERT

CW Helix
PM

GRAM ROBERTS & CO
EXPRESS

SAO FRANCISCO + SHASTA
(Blue)



CB
GA
Ex
B.
3.0

95

FAKE COVER - 30¢ 1860 ADDED - AND N.O. Postmark Painted
Letter Inside Dated N.O. Jan 26 1861 - In Lower Left is
"O.K. N.E.W." (Sir Nicholas Waterhouse) Rate Was A Single of
15¢ By The "Amer. Pkt." Havre Line - U.S. Share 12¢ - French
3¢. By Dr O. Bacher of LONDON - May 26 1952 -

continental

prints

May 26, 1952.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
Regency House,
1-4 Warwick St.,
London, W.1, England.

Dear Doctor Bacher:

Herewith the fake cover received this date via the B.P.A. From your previous description, I surmised this was by the Havre Line (Amer. Pkt) direct to Havre, hence the French share was but the 3¢ per ½ ounce as per the New York credit. I doubt if this is a bit of Zareski's work as he is not in the habit of turning out such poor work, and it is well to bear this fact in mind, just because a New Orleans postmark on a faked cover appears to have been handstamped is no reason to suppose it is genuine. That fellow Zareski has extremely clever imitations made - It is easier to handstamp than to paint.

One of our most prominent U. S. collectors is a bit peeved at me at present because I informed him one of his prized covers is a fake. It has a 5¢ 1857 Brick Red tied by an imitation New Orleans postmark and my friend believes it is genuine and blames me for "trying" to destroy the value of his cover.

Do you intend to inform Sir Nicholas that this cover is bad? I think it is a very crude and amateur job - Take a glass and have a look. I don't need to point out the various obvious faults to you - You have far too good an eye for that.

I signed it on the back and if Harmer or you do not care for my note you can use an erasure.

I would like to have this cover for my fake collection - if it can be sold.

With regards.

Cordially yours,

OTTO M. A. BACHER, D.PH.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

MEMBER B.P.A., P.T.S., A.P.S.
COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS



REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, LONDON, W.1.

TELEPHONE: GERRARD 4900

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.,
Fort Thomas,
Ky.

May 15, 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I am sending you tomorrow via BPA a cover on which I would very much like your opinion. I don't think that in the many years I have had the pleasure of being in correspondence with you I troubled you too frequently with a request like this and I therefore hope that you will ^{be} kind enough to give me the benefit of your opinion.

The cover was lot 548 in the H.R. Harmer sale of May 13th. It attracted me because it is postmarked New Orleans January 26, 1861, the day of the secession. So I bought it. Afterwards I got my doubts as the red New York Paid postmark gives only a credit of "3" to France. With a 45 c rate (triple), but the letter weighing only between 1/4 and 1/2 of an ounce, that low credit does not make sense to me. The cover bears in the left corner a "OK NW" in black pencil, a marking applied, I suppose, in the very olden days. I don't think our friend is still okaying covers, since his experience with 30 c's 1869 covers etc. some years back.

My good friend Cyril Harmer gave me, of course, extension of time on the item and suggested - I tell you this in confidence - the Philatelic Foundation for the examination. My reply was that I would rather have your opinion on the item, adding some of the well-deserved flatteries for you which I must not repeat. He readily fell in with my suggestion and that is that.

Very many thanks in anticipation.

Best wishes

and kind regards

cordially yours

Encl. 52 c in stamps for AIR return
of cover VIA BPA. Thank you.

PS. Hoping against hope: should you find the cover "OK", would you be kind enough to mark it in your usual manner. The rare case of you and NW being together on such a cover would thus have happened.

May 20, 1952.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
Regency House,
1-4 Warwick St.,
London, W.1. England.

Dear Doctor Bacher:

I have yours of the 15th and note that you are forwarding me through the B.P.A. cover for my examination and opinion. I note that it was lot 548 in a sale by H. R. Harmer, hold in London on May 13th. I regret to state that I do not receive their London catalogues, so have no advice as to what stamps are on the cover or its destination, but if it shows a rate of 45¢ to France and the red New York postmark shows only a credit of 3¢, then it is practically certain that the original rate was only 15¢ - And further, it should show direct carriage to France, (to Havre) by "Amer Pkt." If it is bad I will sign it on the back in pencil as a fake and if Mr. Harmer or you desire to erase my notation, you can do so. To be perfectly frank, and I assure you, in all modesty, that if this cover was sent to the Expert Committee they wouldn't know whether it was good or bad. However, if bad and it looked good, they would, in my opinion, authenticate it as genuine.

There is no doubt in my mind that a lot of gyp dealers submit items to the P.F. that they know darn well are bad, hoping the Committee will pass them as good, so they can defraud some innocent buyer.

I will advise you the day of receipt of the cover and return it without delay, and assure you that I am always pleased to render you a favor.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,



THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

MANAGING DIRECTOR: O. BACHER, D. PHIL.

MEMBER BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN, PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY, LONDON,
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY, COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS.

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

BANKERS:
BARCLAYS,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.
TELEPHONE:
GERRARD
4900

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

June 13, 52

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I write to thank you very much for your work on the phoney cover, received yesterday via BPA and returned to Harmer's today, and your letters of May 26 and 27.

I do not know the owner, and Harmer did, of course, not tell me, who he is. Anyhow, Harmer will return the cover to him and he will then see your remarks on the reverse. I have a strong suspicion that it comes direct from NW, though he assured me last night over the phone, when we discussed a different matter, that he "Hadn't sold a single US stamp for years now". My suspicion is based on a remark of Harmer's and on certain material in the same sale where the cover was offered. NW invited me to come to his country place in about 10 days. I am looking forward to the call and will then try to find out more and possibly discuss the matter. Please treat all this in strict confidence. I shall write you again after my visit.

Very many thanks again and kindest regards
cordially yours

PS. Referring to an earlier letter of yours:

I like Bob Siegel. He has a fine knowledge and says that he sends any doubtful cover to you for your opinion. This is the best testimonial of honesty a man can procure. I know of too many who like to bypass you for obvious reasons.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.

33 N. Fort Thomas Ave.

FORT THOMAS

KY.

USA.

Second fold here

First fold here

Sender's name and address :-

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.,
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK ST.,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON, W.1, G.B.

THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER



Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/1K

To open cut here

To open cut here

June 16, 1952.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
London, W.I. England.

Dear Doctor:

Your air letter of the 13th reached me today - rather good time.

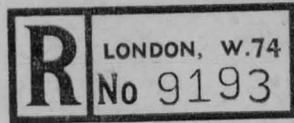
I think most everybody likes Bob Siegel but if he ever sent anything to me for my opinion, I do not recall it. Maybe I have a bad memory. Yes, you are quite right, there are a lot of dealers who want no part of me. For example George Sloane is very bitter because I found that he had okayed as genuine a Sperati copy of the 5¢ New York. In the May 17th issue of "STAMPS" - page 227 - (look it up) - Gene Costales advertised a 1¢ 1851 Type I - as a "SUPERB" copy. I wrote him it was a badly damaged copy that had been cleverly repaired. In reply he advised me that he had examined it very carefully and could find nothing wrong. I doubt if he wanted to. Now he is sore and removed my name from his list. People who cut corners don't like to have people notice the cuts. Of course, there are a lot of gyp-artists in New York who would like to cut my throat.

There is scarcely a day goes by without me finding one fake cover. Collections must surely be full of them. And it seems to be the fad to pass them on and let some innocent buyer stand the loss. I suppose few are destroyed.

Of course, I will not mention the possibility that N.W. might have owned that cover you bought in a Harmer, Rooke sale. His okay on it might not mean that he ever owned it. Still it might.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Stanley B. Ishbrook, Esq.

P.O. Box 31.

33 W. Ft. THOMAS AVE.

FORT THOMAS

KY.

U.S.A.

26193





THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO. LTD.,
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET,
LONDON, W.1. (off Regent Street)



THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO. LTD.,
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET,
LONDON, W.1. (off Regent Street)



THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

MANAGING DIRECTOR: O. BACHER, D.PHIL.

MEMBER BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN, PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY, LONDON.
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LONDON, W.1.

BANKERS:
BARCLAYS,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

TELEPHONE:
GERRARD
4900

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

June 27, 1952

Just a short reply to your kind letters of
June 16 and 22.

Spent a very pleasant afternoon with Sir N. at
his beautiful country home. He still has a most wonderful
collection of US!

The cover in question had been put up by him at
Harmer's. He thought it was genuine! In the meantime he
got it back with your comments on the back. He was quite
satisfied and bowed to your authority. That I had been the
temporary buyer he does not know and I have no reason to
tell him. I was not asked and so I did not say anything
in that respect.

That the Bilden cover is genuine after all is
indeed a surprise. The item was in bad company at the
time and I did not like it. You may note that I am
sometimes a little too careful. That I return something
I bought to the auctioneer happens extremely seldom. If
I would do that often, people would say I know little
about "my" US. The drawback of that policy of upholding
one's reputation is that, as in the Bilden case, I
occasionally fail to pick up a desirable good item.

As to Bilden himself I have had no contact with
him for about a year. I do not seem to have the right
material for him at the right prices. But his agent here
does not seem to buy for him either.

We have a sweltering heat here and I am just
off to Wimbledon to watch the tennis.

We are due to start for the Continent on July 16.
I hope to find some better US there. But we don't go to
France - so the chances of picking up some of the works
of art by the back-room boys in Paris etc, are slender.

With best wishes

cordially yours

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.

33 N. Fort Thomas Ave.

Fort Thomas

Ky.

USA.

Second fold here

First fold here

Sender's name and address :-

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.,
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK ST.,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON, W.1, G.B.

THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER

Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/IK

To open cut here

To open cut here

1^{re} Armes



Monsieur Louis Segurmeau de Lignac
Chateau de Portets



Par Carthus
Gironde

France

O.K. Mr

LPRS..

PHOTOGRAPH No. 45
OF
ASHBROOK SERVICE

Box 505,
Houlton, Maine..
May 19, 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Inclosed you will please find a 1851 one cent stamp and also a letter that I received from Willis F. Cheney of New York City.

I believe^{it} is the type III as does Mr. Cheney. I was looking at some of my stamps one might last week and was using a powerful glass when I noticed that this stamp had broken lines at the top and bottom.

I do not know what Mr. Cheney means by "His charge is nominal" but if your charge is not too much I sure would like to have your opinion on this stamp as to what it is and what value it is on todays market.

If it really should be something good I suppose that I shall feel that I should sell it. Then I could buy some of the stamps that Mr. Cheney mentions in that last of his letter. I have an offer of this collection but I could not handle it at all so I thought that I would ask him if he would want to buy it.

Hoping that you find that this is a real good stamp I remain,

Very truly yours,

E. W. McIntosh
E.W.McIntosh.

May 22, 1952.

Mr. E. W. McIntosh,
Box 505,
Houlton, Maine.

Dear Mr. McIntosh:

I am in receipt of yours of the 19th enclosing the One Cent 1851. My fee for an examination of the stamp would be \$2.50 plus return postage of 33¢ or \$2.83. I will hold the stamp pending your reply.

May I inquire if you have ever seen any covers that passed between Houlton and Woodstock at a local rate of 2¢ when the rate to other parts of N.B. and Canada was 6¢ - say back in the seventies or sixties?

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--I note Mr. Cheney advises the use of Ivory Soap to clean a stamp such as yours. In my opinion no soap or cleaning preparation should be used on this stamp or any other early U. S. stamp.

Box 505,
Houlton, Maine.
May 24, 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Received your letter this morning. Inclosed you will find a check for \$2.83, the amount mentioned in your letter.

You mentioned letters with the 2 cent rate going to Woodstock N.B. Did this rate work both ways? I have never taken any notice to covers in the 60's or 70's as they are too "new". I have quite a few of the old Canadian and American stampless covers that passed each way over the boarder tho.

If you are interested in covers such as you mention I will try to locate some for you. I could start checking around Houlton and I have some collector friends over the boarder that might be able to locate some of the early covers. In the past two years I have passed up probably about 20,000 covers because they were too "new" for my collection. Most of them had early local postmarks both U.S. and Canada. I have been sorry since tho.

If there is anything in local or Maine marks that I could help you with I would only be to glad to do so.

Yours truly,

E. W. McIntosh
E.W.McIntosh.

May 27, 1952.

Mr. E. W. McIntosh,
Box 505,
Houlton, Maine.

Dear Mr. McIntosh:

Yours of the 24th received, enclosing check for \$2.83 for which please accept my thanks.

Herewith I am returning your One Cent 1851. This stamp is a Type IIIA and comes from Plate 4 - S.U.S. No. 8A. The "top line" is nicely broken but the bottom line is not what we call broken. For a stamp to classify as Type III - both top and bottom lines must have a distinct break rather than a faint blurr for a line.

I am enclosing a photo print of a cover used in April 1870 from Houlton to Woodstock. This 2¢ rate was what was known as a "Line Rate" and dated back as early as 1851 or 1852. It applied to certain border towns and was in force when the regular U.S.-Canadian rate was 6¢, and in the early period of the fifties when it was 10¢.

If you can locate any such covers for me I will be glad to purchase them.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. SHAFER, M. D.

25 W. WATER ST.

WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

May 29, 1952

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Ky.

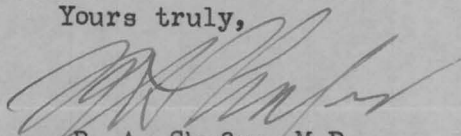
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I believe you are right on those covers, no comment. I am ~~curio~~ curious to know how the one happened to be with the good covers at the old ladies home.

I am enclosing a Confederate which apparently is genuine. The name on the letters inside does not correspond with the address, but were in cover when I found it.

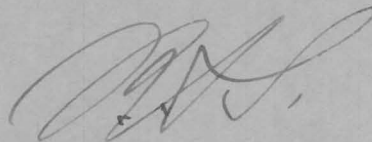
I am enclosing a doubtful bisect.

Yours truly,



R. A. Shafer, M.D.

Can a laboratory microscope
be set up to look at stamps in
more detail? If so I would appreciate
knowing how this can be done



June 4, 1952.

Dr. R. A. Shafer,
25 W. Boscawen St.,
Winchester, Va.

Dear Doctor:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 29th.

In my opinion the Confederate cover is perfectly genuine in every respect but I wonder if the present enclosures belong in this envelope? However, I suppose that it makes very little difference.

In my opinion the cover with the 2¢ 1869 and the diagonal half of a 2¢ 1863 is not genuine.

Regarding a microscope for the examination of stamps and covers. I use a B & L binocular low power. One with high power is not advisable in my opinion as too much magnification serves no good purpose. I think my instrument cost about \$225.00 in 1946.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,



H. Camillus Baker Esq.
321 N E Third St
Washington
D. C.

Dr RAS.

A151

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
NITRE AND MINING BUREAU.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



James Baulden
of way the country
Virginia, Mr.
way the Vill.

Blue Env

1864

Mr. S. G. Hensley
Dr
RAIS
Hetherill

2nd

A1511

DON H. SILSBY, M. D.

324-326 LANDERS BLDG.

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

May 30, 1952

Stanlêy B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

My dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a cover that has some features that I do not understand. I have indicated most of these features on a work-sheet which is enclosed with the cover. Just make any notations you care to on the work-sheet.

I would like to know the amount of postage which this cover required. Why just 5¢ postage on the cover? Does the "96" indicate the amount in cents, or francs, and how was it split up? A assume that the 5¢ stamp paid the rate from New Orleans to New York only, as mentioned in your Special Service.

How about your Special Service for next year? I think the first year is over. Sent me a bill for for the coming year.

Lela joins me in sending best wishes to both you and the Mrs.

Cordially,

Silsby

DON H. SILSBY, M.D.

324-326 LANDERS BLDG.

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

May 30, 1952

Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

My dear Mr. Ashbrook:

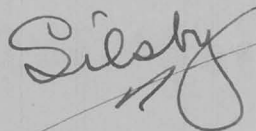
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I would like to know the amount of postage which this cover required. Why just 5¢ postage on the cover? Does the "96" indicate the amount in cents, or francs, and how was it split up? I assume that the 5¢ stamp paid the rate from New Orleans to New York only, as mentioned in your Special Service.

How about your Special Service for next year? I think the first year is over. Sent me a bill for for the coming year.

Lela joins me in sending best wishes to both you and the Mrs.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Silsby", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature across the page.

June 4, 1952.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,

350 Fifth Ave.,

New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Herewith a Mobile cover - "Drop 1 CT" of May 26 - What is your opinion of this item? It sure is an interesting study. I made a photograph and later I will send you a print. Note the code C N N N on the back. This looks to me like Alvin Good's handwriting and if so, it is the Worthington code of \$40.00. Do you suppose the Commodore paid that sum for this cover years ago?

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Doherty, Clifford & Shenfield, Inc.

ADVERTISING

350 FIFTH AVENUE • Empire State Building • NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

June the thirteenth

19

52

Dear Stan:

This is a puzzle. The envelope looks Confed. The Town mark was used in 1860 and afterwards in the Confederacy. The "DROP 1 ct." is the proper Mobile drop stamper during the 1851-1857 period. The drop rates were, as I remember -

- (1) Prior to 1851 - 2¢.
- (2) 1851-1861 - 1¢.
- (3) In the Confederacy - 2¢.

I have no record of this "DROP 1 ct." stamper used in the CSA. Mobile usually used a big black "2" on the drop letters I have seen.

Now if this is a Confed then the May 26 date must be after 1861. The CSA rate of 2¢ drop went in on June 1, 1861. It could not be 1861 for another reason -- all Mobile town marks of 1861 are year dated. Therefore if it is a drop letter used CSA, it is 1862-63 or 64, and the double strike of the drop 1¢ stamper might mean simply the total of 2¢ or the proper drop rate. This assumes the post office used the old stamper for some reason or other. All this ignores the mss. "Clipper" for a moment.

Now if it is pre-Confed. use - 1857-60 - the stampers cannot mean "drop" because the rate was 1¢ and not 2¢ (unless the second strike is just a "bobble" which would be too obvious a solution). If it is not a "drop" the 2¢ due could be a private ship rate giving life to "Clipper" except for the fact that the rate should have been 6¢ to port of entry. Also it should have been marked "ship" and not "Drop".

Do you think "clipper" means a ship term. Wasn't "Clipper" a New England term for their particular sailing ships? If it is a private ship letter of the Confederate period arriving at Mobile, it is possible that it was dropped in the post office by the ship's captain as a drop letter and therefore paragraph 2 above would cover. On the other hand, it cannot be a blockade letter or it would be marked "Due 12" according to CSA rates. Enough of the cover is missing to have borne a 3¢ 1857 or a Confederate 10¢ stamp in 1862-63 or 64. In that case it could be a private ship or blockade cover provided the 2 "DROP 1¢" stampers equal 2¢ and the "drop" part of the stamper meant nothing.

(over please)

Are there any clues in the above that are close to the solution you have in mind for I am sure you have the solution?

I don't know anything about the Worthington Code but \$40. seems a lot for it even in those days.

Best regards,

Carry

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

June 20, 1952.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
350 Fifth Ave.,
New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Yours of the 13th received with return of the Mobile "Drop 1CT" cover. Thanks very much for your comments. I regret to state that I have no solution for this cover and about all I can do is to indulge in a bit of guess-work. So here goes.

Yes, I agree that the envelope looks Confed but I am wondering if the use could have been after the war, rather than during the war. The postmark is May 26 and I am wondering if this couldn't have been May 26, 1865?

Larry, I am not very strong for the suggestion that the two strikes indicated a 2¢ rate. I do not recall a single case of such a rating and had it been intended I think it would have been marked in pen - Due 2¢. I don't think the use was May 26, 1861 because envelopes were not scarce as of that early date.

Re - this double circle postmark. To my knowledge this type did not come into use until 1860 - How early Mobile put the type in use, I do not know, but I have seen its use on the 1¢ 1857 and on the 3¢ 1857 which would mean before June 1, 1861 - I have little doubt that I have seen plenty of 1¢ covers used with it in 1860, but I do not recall seeing any 1860 or 1861 strikes without a year date.

I haven't the slightest idea as to the significance of the word "CLIPPER" - and I cannot see what relation such a word had with the rate. Yes, "Clipper" was a term applied to the fast sailing vessels that were extensively used in the New England around the Horn traffic in the pre - 1850 era. By the sixties, steam vessels had taken over to a very large extent.

None of the theories involving a use prior to the end of the war in 1865, seem to fit, but I can see where a use in May 1865 or even in May 1866 would fit. Cities which had no free delivery system were charged 1¢ for Drop letters, and, of course, Mobile did not have free delivery in 1865. *Seem To fit*

I will welcome your comment on the above.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Doherty, Clifford & Shenfield, Inc.

ADVERTISING

350 FIFTH AVENUE • Empire State Building • NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

June 27, 1952

Dear Stan:

Thanks for the dope on Gene Wulfekuhler. It confirms what I heard, much to the disappointment of the auctioneers who thought they could do better with the property.

I note your last paragraph - gosh it doesn't seem like Gene who has always been very appreciative when he stopped at our house for a meal but I think the boy is a little frantic at having to give up his collection.

Will reply to the drop letter problem after thinking about it. Hot as hell here. Take care of yourself.

Best regards,

Garry.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

Sept. 11, 1952.

Dr. David T. Sellers,
710 Van Antwerp Bldg.,
Mobile, Ala.

Dear Dave:

Here is a cover that does not belong to me but is the property of Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr. of Daytona Beach, so please take good care of it. I am sending it to you hoping that perhaps you can help us out in establishing whether or not it has any Confederate connection. I do not believe that it has but several of the Confed specialists seem to believe it has. Can you send someone to the Mobile Library and see if a "Wolff & Co." was in business in Mobile in 1862 - 1863 - 1864? If this use was 1861 or 1865 then of course this wouldn't be a Confed. This looks like a homemade envelope so my guess was that the use might have been 1865 or 1866. I am wondering if a Mobile directory of any year lists a "J. G. Stewart."

My best regards.

Cordially yours,

Sept. 11, 1952.

Mr. Eugene Wulfeckuhler, Jr.,

P. O. Box 5401,

Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Gene:

Yours of the 9th received with the Mobile cover. I am sending it down to my friend Dr. Sellers in Mobile and requesting him to do some research work on it - look up old directories, etc.

If I can locate a print of it I will send one to you.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Enclosed the Drop 1st - I still feel this has a 50-50 chance of being Confederate due to m^c Call's position on the postmark. Is it possible the postmark is a fake?

If we could obtain an old city directory of Mobile perhaps Walff & Co. was in or out of business in either the 50's or 60's.

If you photo this please send me a print.

You may keep the cover as long as you wish, I have no intention of exhibiting it and if something crops up that definitely marks it as pre-war you can have it. I will write you if I need it, but doubt if I will.

If you send this out, it is not necessary to register it, in the event of its loss I will hold you blameless.

I wrote Jack to send you the Ship Island in the event it is not sold - It is not necessary to register it on its return to Jack.

Sincerely

Gene W.

23-61

DR. DAVID F. SELLERS
710 VAN ANTWERP BUILDING
MOBILE 12, ALABAMA

HOURS:
10-12 A.M.; 2-5 P.M.
SATURDAY P.M. AND SUNDAY
BY APPOINTMENT

Dear Stan:
Was very rich after talking
to you and am just now
catching up with back work.
I'm real sorry in the delay.
I hope the enclosed data may be
of some service to you. The
books are following under a
separate package.

Most of the people in
Mobile was pleased that
Mr. Thompson Gary was
packed out of Washington.
The city of Mobile went
Republican.

Hope to write you in a
few days — as I have some
time I wish you to see
again — I hope you had
a very very happy birthday.
And am sorry I was not
there to greet you personally.

Sincerely
David

MOBILE CITY DIRECTORY 1861

(There was not another directory until 1865).

Wolff and Co. Wines, liquors, etc. 22 N. Commerce St.

Wolff, S. Dr. of above firm. Res. 94 St. Joseph St.

Wolff, F. Firm of M. Cohen & Co. 117 Dauphin St.

Stewart, John, Engineer steamboat James Battle.

Stewart, James G. Capt. Clerk steamboat LeComte.

Stewart, John at Turner and Stackham.

DIRECTORY OF 1865

Wolff, S. firm of J. Lichentag and Co. Res. cor. St. Francis at Hamilton.

Wolff and Co. wines, liquors 32 N. Commerce St.

Wolff, Dr. S. wines. Res. E. St. Joseph and N. Congress St.

Wolff, F. Commission merchant 22 N. Commerce St. Res. S. Dauphin at Ann.

1866 and 1867 same as above.

Stewart, John Capt. 5 Quartermaster Building.

Stewart, James firm O'Donnell and Stewart 28 Government St.

Stewart and Co. Cotton merchants 33 St. Michael St.

Stewart, Jas. G. above firm. Res. Conti and St. Emanuel.

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~~Stewart~~

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Stewart and Co. Cotton merchants 33 St. Michael St.

Stewart, Jas. G. above firm. Res. Conti and St. Emanuel.

Directory of 1866 and 1867 same as above.



Home
Made

All Black

J. B. Stewart Esq
Care of Wolff & Co.
Mobile
Ala

E. W. Jr

A151

206-F128-GREEN-PAN-16

A151

JOHN H. HALL

115 Broadway
New York City 6

May 29, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Box 31
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan:

I enclose herewith a very fine 3¢ 1861 -
tied on cover by framed "PAID," with red Boston, Mass.,
December 6th. It does not seem to have the bluish cast
that I look for in a true "PINK" (or Pigeon Blood) and
I would greatly appreciate your opinion.

I hope you have been well since we had
that pleasant visit in Toronto last fall.

With kind regards,

Always,

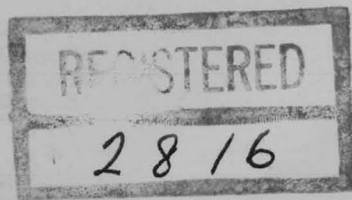
Sincerely yours,



JHH:dc
enclosure

REGISTERED MAIL

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Box 31

Fort Thomas, Kentucky

REGISTERED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED





June 4, 1952.

Mr. John H. Hall,
115 Broadway,
New York 6, N.Y.

Dear John:

Herewith the 3¢ 1861 cover as per yours of the 29th. I do not think this comes under any of the "PINK" classifications such as the "S.U.S. Pink," Pinkish Rose - Rosy Pink, near Pink, etc., etc. In fact, I doubt if the use was in Dec. 1861 but more likely Dec. of 1862 - I think this is just an early rose - the color is surely more of a reddish rose than a pinkish tint. Do you not agree? The real "Pink" and "Pigeon Blood" are very definite tints and the difference between the two can be plainly seen when unquestioned examples are laid side-by-side for comparison.

I had a little flare-up this spring and a four days check-up at the hospital rendered a verdict of gall stones. I am now on a strict diet and feeling much improved, and hoping I can avoid an operation.

I trust you are in the best of health and that all goes well with you.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

I have just purchased in Harry Keffer's last sale what appears to be a most beautiful cover with copies of the 7¢ and 24¢ Bank Note used to Seychelles Islands from the famous Goodhue correspondence. This is indeed one of the prettiest covers I have seen but I do not like the idea that the Boston British packet shows a 40¢ payment for the British Government. How could they obtain 40¢ from a payment of 31¢? Do you think a stamp has been removed from this cover and these two added, or was there a third stamp originally on the cover, which is now missing? I at first thought there was a second 24¢ immediately above the present 24¢ but I can see this is not the case for it would have covered the red British marking as well as part of the address. I am in hopes that the 40¢ indicates payment possibly in some other currency and that the cover is good for I am anxious to have it for my own collection.

June
3
1952

Am taking lunch with Frank Hollowbush today as he gets up from the seashore every Tuesday.

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

June 5, 1952.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr.,
1616 Walnut St.,
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Dear Phil:

Herewith the Goodhue cover as per yours of the 3rd (Lot 559 Keffer sale 5/28/52). It is quite evident that something is wrong because the "40" in the Boston postmark indicates the credit to G.B. out of the total postage paid, and, of course, "40" cannot be credited out of "31." Further, this Boston postmark was used when mail was sent by British Packet requiring a total rate of 45¢, thus the original rate on this cover was 45¢. And further, these Bank Note stamps were not used on this cover because this Boston postmark was not used when the Bank Notes were current for the simple reason that in 1870 and until the U.P.U. the rate was 24¢ not 45¢. This cover was used in the eighteen sixties and in all probability a 15¢ 1866 Lincoln and a 30¢ 1861 were removed and the present stamps removed. There was a London postmark which had a year date on the face of this cover but the faker removed the greater part of it to eliminate the year date which did not coincide with the Bank Note stamps. Traces of it are over the Boston "40" marking.

I enclose a photo print (which kindly return) of a cover which had markings similar to the ones on this fake cover - No doubt you have some Goodhue covers showing the well-known 45¢ rate.

If you want to look up the rates to "Zanzibar" or "Seychelles Isles" you will not find them listed under those headings but rather under "Mauritius." It is ridiculous to show a combination of a 7¢ Continental and this Boston Postmark. I doubt very much if any Goodhue covers exist showing uses as late as 1873. I have no record of any.

I will probably use this cover in my "Service." I doubt if you will have any objection. (for Boston postmark - see the Blake book, page 171.)

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Via Marseille



A. P. Goodhue

Tanzania

C. C. Africa

Case De Brion

Seychelles Isles.

PHOTOGRAPH No. _____

OF

ASHBROOK SERVICE

46

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-5667

WINTHROP S. BOGGS, DIRECTOR

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

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CHAIRMAN

MRS. JOHN D. DALE
VICE-CHAIRMAN

THEODORE E. STEINWAY
TREASURER

JOHN R. BOKER, JR.
ASST. TREASURER

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SOL GLASS
ROBERT L. GRAHAM, JR.
H. D. S. HAVERBECK
DR. CLARENCE W. HENNAN
EDGAR B. JESSUP
MALCOLM JOHNSON
OSCAR R. LICHTENSTEIN
A. H. WILHELM

May 29, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Enclosed are our numbers #2623 and #3656 on which we would appreciate your opinion. We know the 90¢ is extensively repaired but the cancellation is the question.

I had a most enjoyable trip to Monaco and the exhibition was small but consisted of extremely fine material. The emphasis being, of course, on the stamps of the continent of Europe. Aside from VanDyke MacBride's confederates and some 1847s of John Hall and VanVelthoven, there were no U. S. stamps.

I have many times thought it would be nice if I could come down to see you and stay overnight. I was wondering if it would be possible sometime in June to do just that and I am sure we could have a most enjoyable talk about stamps in general and U. S. stamps in particular. I would also enjoy seeing the records which you have so carefully built up over these many years.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

Winthrop S. Boggs
Winthrop S. Boggs
Director

wsb/l
encl.

June 5, 1952.

Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Herewith the two lots #2623 and #3656 with notations.

Regarding a visit. Of course, I would be delighted to have you come out and visit with me but think it advisable if you would arrange to make it sometime in July - say around the middle.

In March I was troubled with quite a severe pain in the small of my back and when it failed to show any sign of diminishing I went to my physician. He failed to locate the cause and sent me to the hospital for a thorough check-up. I was there for four days and they Xrayed me from every angle and came up with a verdict that I had gall stones. I went on a strict diet and it is only in the past week that I have been entirely free of pain. I am hoping the diet will relieve the trouble and that I may escape an operation. However, if the darn thing flares up again I probably won't fool around but go at once and have it over. Of course, I realize that the operation is not one that is really serious but at my age, any major operation should not be taken lightly. I have some out-of-town visitors scheduled for the latter part of the month, provided I am well enough to see them which I believe I will.

In another thirty days I should have a pretty good idea whether or not the diet is going to relieve the cause of the trouble and if it does I will be delighted to have you come out.

I note that you had a most enjoyable trip and I will look forward to hearing details of it.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

June 2nd, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

Enclosing all of the Kansas material I have. Not much.

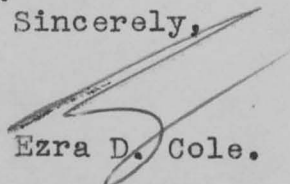
Enclosing a Canton, Mississippi cover. This should go with the cover you sold from the Moody collection.

Also two covers from Harry Keffer's sale. Do you think the 1869 cover is good? This is an odd rate?

The 24¢ cover is rather pretty. I did not buy it for the blackish violet. What color do you call it? I think Ted Gore might like it if you approve.

Please return these last two.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

June 5, 1952.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole,
Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ezra:

Your two letters of the 2nd received. Am pleased to report that I am feeling much better and have been free of all pain for almost a week. Looks like the diet is having its effect.

Of the covers that you enclosed I am returning the two that you requested, viz: 2¢ plus 10¢ 1869 to Halifax, N.S. - In my opinion, this cover is okay and the stamps were originally used as we see them. The rate is a 2 x 6¢ - double rate - I suppose there must have been some heavy enclosures.

24¢ 1861 - No Ez, this is not the blackish violet but rather the #78 - Dark Lilac - However, it is a nice cover and I have marked it on the back.

I am holding the following and will report later:

1¢ 1857 - Type I - Canton, Miss.

3¢ 1857 - Leavenworth, Kans.

1¢ 1857 - Dornphar, Kans.

7¢ - 1¢ - 3¢ - Bank Note Registered - Pleasant Ridge, Kans.

Stampless - Brownsville, N.T.

More later.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--Re - your letter of the 2nd and that St. Louis "bear" cover. Look up the Harmer sale of the Bear cover and note the style of the handstamped "PAID" on all the covers. Boggs has not sent me any covers since his return but he did send me a 90¢ 1860 with a Supplementary Mail cancel (off) and a 1¢ '57 Type IIIA - (off) for opinion! Re - the cover in the Keffer sale with the 5¢ 1857 strip of six. You are mistaken this is a H.S. of 6. I have a record of it way back and always listed as a H.S. of 6. Too bad Henry failed to buy it.

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

June 4, 1952.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue,
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

I acknowledge with thanks your card requesting the 1¢ 1851 cover, but regret that it is currently out on approval. However, the customer is prompt so I should hear within a week and will send right off if he returns it.

Enclosed are three covers sent for various purposes as follows:

#36, Three copies tied on cover "Per Prussian Closed Mail" with "Short Paid" marking. Thought this might be of interest in connection with your recent writeup of this service. Also, I can't figure out what the rate should be unless it was a double weight letter and it looks too tiny for that. What do you say? O.K. to photograph for writeup if you wish.

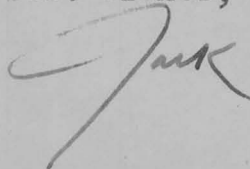
#60 or #70? - Note comment on back that Morgenthau says "August" and Elliot Perry "not". Advise cost of your opinion and endorsement on back and I shall remit promptly.

#72 on Cover - Rare and Genuine I believe and hope you will agree. Would appreciate your endorsement on reverse if such be the case. Advise cost and I'll include with above.

I noted that the Brooks 10¢ Athens Prov. cover realized \$600 in the last Fox sale, same price you had on it. Tried to get a client of mine to go over \$600 for it, but he would only give me a bid of \$500 plus. Wonder who bought it?

Received a want list from Ed Stern that looks like Huber's. Is he dealing with Stern now do you think?

With best wishes,



June 6, 1952.

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth,
102 Beacon,
Boston 16, Mass.

Dear Jack:

Herewith the three covers as per yours of the 4th received this date.
Here are some comments -

#36 - three singles on cover to Geneva - Swiss. This cover is sure cockeyed from most every angle - The rate Via P.C.M. to Switzerland in 1860 was 35¢, and this was apparently a 1¢ overpay or it could have been a 1¢ plus 35¢ Carrier - 1¢ to a New York mail-box. It surely went P.C.M. as it has an "Aachen" marking - but on the 35¢ rate to Geneva Via P.C.M., the U. S. credit should have been 12¢ - this shows 7¢. And further, the envelope shows the N.Y. "Short Paid" - which should have rendered the 36¢ payment void and instead of a credit in red there should have been a debit in black of 46¢ (2 x 23¢). The stamps are from Pl. 3 and would be right for November 1860 and they do look like they originated on this cover. I do not know the meaning of the "FRANCO" marking - don't recall that I ever saw it before. Perhaps it might hold some explanation. I made a photograph and after a further investigation I may use it in my Service - thanks.

24¢ 1861 to England - This is a very common shade and I doubt if my old friend J. C. Morgenthau ever pronounced this a 24¢ Violet (August). I have signed it on the back - no fee.

90¢ 1861 - The last time I saw this cover was in 1937, when it was sent to me by Donald Tucker of Boston @ \$150.00. I made a record of it at that time. This is from the well-known Goodhue find and it is as good as gold. I have a photo of a similar cover used just a few weeks previous. This was the 2 x 45¢ rate (over $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. - not over 1 oz.) to Mauritius - of which the British share was 2 x 40¢ and the U.S., 2 x 5¢. I have signed this on the back and am charging you a fee of \$2.50 plus return postage of 33¢ (\$2.83).

Re - the Brooks cover - I don't know what happened but apparently there was some slip-up. It was to be illustrated and it wasn't and why it sold as low as \$600 I don't know. I have so far had no advice from Brooks but wrote him yesterday inquiring about it.

Re - Huber. I have an idea he is in touch with a number of dealers. Several weeks ago he wrote me that he was dealing with Fox. That's about all I know. He sends some things to me but no doubt the majority go to the P.F. At least that is the advice I gave him. He is interested in off cover material and I do little outside of covers.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Per Prussian
"closed mail"

Willis. Nov 60

W
Brown
Campagne malsure
a chene bongeries

BY JEM 6/6-52



W
Red
Mr C. P. Willcox

Geneva
Suisse
PAID
Red

FOR COVER WITH THIS FRANCO
MARKING SEE GREEN SALE. N°5
BY DOANE 11/4 -42 -LOT 344

208-F128-GREEN-PAN-16 Sec

A1527

*Per French Steamer
Via Marseilles, Aden,
and Seychelles.*



Mr. Albert P. Goodhue,

Zanzibar,

CARE

Dr. Brooks,

EAST COAST AFRICA.

SEYCHELLE ISLES.

BY MOLESWORTH

FOR SIMILAR
COVER SEE GREEN
SALE BY DOANE
N^o 5 - 1 1/4 - 42 LOT 91

A152

114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N.Y.
May 26, 1952.

Dear Stanley:

Mrs. F. and I were happy that Mrs. A. and you liked the Coronet story about Joe. But you aint heard nuthin yet. Wait until we tell you about our daughter, Madeline.

I am enclosing several items for your comment.

1. Vertical pair (81-91L1L) tied to folded letter by postmark of "Washington City, D.C. Nov. 10, 1856". Pair shows complete sheet margin at bottom and almost complete margin at left.

This impression proves, I think, beyond reasonable doubt, that the lower left corner sustained at least two injuries -- the first, shall we say, about the middle of 1856, and the second sometime in 1857 just before the plate was retired from use.

This theory is indicated by the heavy scratches already showing at this date, Nov. 10, 1856, that runs from a point under the "N" of 'One' S.E. to a point directly under the "E" of 'One', illustrated in your Work, Page 183. Another scratch starts at the bottom of the left plume and runs N.W. for about 3 MM., not illustrated. A scratch also shows in the lower left margin.

This impression does not show the X scratches that run through the lower left Scroll, illustrated. Since this copy seems to show a fine, damp impression, it is reasonable to assume that if these Scroll scratches had been on the Plate, the ink surely would have "taken". The conclusion seems inevitable, that these Scroll scratches occurred at a later date, probably early in 1857. The condition of the Plate by this time was such that it did not take much to injure it. Since perforated copies of 91L1L exist that do not show any of these markings, it seems logical to believe that perforated sheets came from leftover stock that had been printed even earlier than you originally suspected.

2. This copy with sheet margin at left was printed probably in 1853, possibly '54, and shows considerably more of the inverted ornament "R" than appear in the faint traces of the 1856 impression. Should there not be listed a fourth condition of the erased positions, i.e.: "Certain lines which showed in early printings and gradually faded or disappeared in late printings?"

3. A Type V stamp, Relief "F" bottom row. The horizontal perforations are approximately 27 M.M. apart. Is it possible that the perforating machine was reset for the early printings of the type V stamps? Could this be the tallest type V stamp known to you?

4. This one really baffles me. Here is a Type V stamp Relief "C", a gorgeous engraving and impression on a deep, rich blue shade, on hard white, crisp paper. The ornaments to left are as complete as you will ever find on any Type Va stamp, even the side scratch running thru ornament "F" is missing. And yet the ornaments to right show the side scratches. Even so, these ornaments show more completeness than is usual in a "C" Relief. The scratches occurring at the upper half of the design are sharp, while those at the lower half show up as thin colorless lines. Was an attempt made to burnish the scratches from this position? Have you plated this anomaly?

-over-

5. This is a magnificent engraving, isn't it? Not often, even in the very earliest impressions, do the side scratches show up as completely as shown in this copy. Note plating mark in upper left margin.

6. Type V Relief "E". I think this Postal Marking is just as rare and beautiful as anything produced by a handstamp and deserves a place in any specialized One Cent 51-57 collection. It is just possible this Beaver, Minn. 1st, 18?? was applied to this stamp while Minn. was still a Territory, but of course this will be well nigh impossible to establish.

7. Do the Plate markings, the diagonal lines running from ornaments "L" to "M" and thru "N" indicate anything on this "E" Relief?

8. Can you plate, for me, this C relief showing curl in head?

9. Type Va ? Plate 6? Relief A. Beautiful engraving and impression showing a U curl running from bottom of "O" of 'Postage' downward thru colorless oval and upward touching "S".

We were sorry to hear that you spent such an uncomfortable day last Tuesday. My sisterinlaw is up and about, doing her daily chores as usual and has never been happier.

Your letter to Eugene Costales is typical Ashbrookian procedure. Your courage and integrity is appreciated by all serious philatelists.

In my next letter I may be able to give you some definite information as to our plans to visit you. Mrs. F. and I would like nothing better than to spend a day or two with the Ashbrooks. And we do wish you an early recovery. With kindest regards from all of us to all of you,

Sincerely,

Morris

June 6, 1952.

Mr. Morris Fortgang,
114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N.Y.

Dear Morris:

I have been waiting to reply to your letter, thinking that any day the 1¢ 1851 cover of July 3, 1851 might come in, but up to this writing it has not arrived so I will not hold up any longer.

Herewith I am returning the various items enclosed in yours of the 26th. Here are some remarks -

(1) Cover with 9111L etc. This is indeed a most remarkable pair and I suppose that it came from Judge Emerson's collection as the Hardy memo on the back is in his handwriting. He died in January 1937. I have carefully noted your remarks re - the various states of the plate that produced different markings on 9111L. I enclose a photograph of a single. Someone loaned the copy to me and I have no memo of the owner. It must have been sometime back. Compare this print with your stamp and note how heavy is the diagonal line running S.E. from the "N" of One. Please return this print to me as it seems to be the only duplicate I have but if you wish a print, I will make a search and see if I can find one.

(2) Single 9111L - This is quite some stamp and it seems as though I have seen it before. It shows the upper part of the sheet margin to fine advantage. I agree as to the impression - probably late 1853 or early 1854. It would be nice if we could classify in their proper order the various states of the 91L invert and I suggest that you undertake the task. It would be a welcome contribution. I wonder what Mort has in this class of material? I wonder if he can show a 91L like your cover or my photo-print. I have a faint recollection that I discussed the various states of 91L with Mort, or it might have been with Fleckenstein. You are correct about the perf inverts. I have a 91L perf that shows a very late worn impression but no trace of the "N" diagonal line. Thus perforated sheets don't always indicate the last impressions.

(3) 1¢ '57 - single - Type V - bottom row - This is certainly a wide copy - most unusual. I enclose a photo-print of a strip that I thought was "wide" but I have no MM measurement of it, also a single that I had laid aside as "wide" but your copy is wider than any I have on hand at the present time. Whether the machine was reset on purpose is anyone's guess. We certainly do not find top and bottom row copies as wide as this and we wonder how come this copy is so unusual.

(4) Single - Type V - sharp impression - "C" hard crisp paper - early stock - good color - early shade - these points I note, and agree with you. I do not know the position of this copy nor the plate but I think it may be a Plate 5, and probably not a real early impression from that plate, because some of the faint surface scratches have almost disappeared. I do not think this comes from the left pane of Plate 7 and I am sure that it don't come from the right pane.

(5) - 1¢ '57 - Type V - single - This is a "fair" impression but I doubt if it

#2. Mr. Morris Fortgang - June 6, 1952.

is very exceptional. The scratch in upper left could easily identify the position.

(6) 1¢ '57 - Type V - single - manuscript postmark. I do not think this stamp could have been used as early as May 1858.

(7) 1¢ '57 - Type V - "E" - I note nothing exceptional - other than some scratches, faint mottling - grainy plate - probably Plate 9.

(8) 1¢ 1857 - Type V - "C" - small "C" curl in back of head - red grid. I have never been able to locate this position and believe that it must be a Plate 5 stamp. Years ago I ran across a horiz. strip of three - the right hand stamp the same as yours. I have never found a duplicate. I am enclosing the print which please return. You will note the left side ornaments of these three stamps are not as complete as your copy No. 4 herewith.

(9) 1¢ '57 - Type V - top row single - I think it is extremely doubtful if this is from Plate 6 and I am quite dubious that the small curl that you noted is consistent. It is possible that I might plate this from the top row of some of the other plates.

I have been feeling much better for over a week and have been almost free of pain until today - but it is not bad.

Mort called me by phone one night recently and stated he had abandoned his Pacific trip so would not be here next week (the 9th) but planned now to run out toward the end of the month. He said he was going to call you by phone which no doubt he did.

We would be pleased to hear about your daughter.

Our best wishes to Mrs. F. and to you.

Cordially yours,

Lincoln Young Jr -



1856

ATL5 RED E28-405K B153 BY FORT

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.

May 28, 1952.

Wed/PM.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No Ft Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

What a nice letter! I should like to know such a nice person. I have never met him, maybe will someday. He should watch his eyes. We only get one pair. Thanks for letting me read it.

Funny how one gets "stuck" on certain stamps. I have never cared for the 5¢ 1847, never, but have always liked the 10¢ 1847. I have always liked the 30¢ 1860, the 90¢ 1860, the 90¢ 1869, the 5¢ buff and certainly the 5¢ red brown of 1862. I have contended with only a few years observation that this latter stamp was much more rare than the buff and if you will be governed at all by the quantity offered at auction you will agree. This is particularly true of nice copies in very fine shape. I asked you this once before and you said you doubted if I was right and of course I don't know myself whether I am or not. Here is what I wanted to ask you about that stamp. I have just picked up a little cover from an auction John Fox had last week, lot 194 for which I paid \$17.00. It is a nice copy on a cover to Halifax of the red brown, SUS 75. On the back it is stamped as "Collection of W.C. Michaels." and in what I think is his handwriting is this "5¢ red brown, much rarer on cover than the 5¢ buff."

The Scott catalog states as follows:

5¢ Buff 1861 Aug. 18, 1861 (All others about the same week, 1¢, 3¢, 10¢, etc)

5¢ Red Brown- Jan. 2, 1862. (And then the 2¢ Jackson and 15¢ Lincoln & 24¢ Lilac)

5¢ Brown 1863. But no date of the first issue or finding of same is given. Was this change of color an order of the Bureau or did it just happen?

I have three covers with the 5¢ Red Brown dated

Jan. 30, 1863 Bangor, Me. to Germany.

Jan. 6, 1863 New York to Halifax (Just bought from Fox)

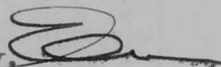
Sep. 16, 1863 Boston, Mass to Cape of Good Hope.

Was the red brown still being sold at Boston as late as September? This was a letter to Howland and a business letter, and likely to be stamped with current postage at as large a city as Boston.

While I have few covers with the 5¢ brown (SUS 76) I find nothing earlier than 1865.

Don't you suppose there must have been just a blending of the red brown into the brown as the months went by.

Sincerely,



June 6, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3000 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Re - yours of the 28th. I have been so tied up with the Confed deal that I did not have a chance to answer your letter. Had an out-of-town guest here for three straight days and when a thing like that happens I sure get behind. I was also down in Kentucky Friday and Saturday.

I note you obtained the 5¢ Red Brown cover, Lot 194, in the Fox sale and also note the question that you raised. Em, I do not believe that the 5¢ Red Brown is more rare on cover than the 5¢ Buff, but I think that the Buff is a more popular stamp. Apparently the Buff was only issued between August 1861 and January 1862 and it is my belief that the Red Brown was issued over a longer period. Of course, it could be argued that because the Buff is the more popular stamp it is in greater demand, hence is quoted higher both off cover and on cover. I have sometimes wondered if multiples of the R.B. on cover are not just about as scarce as the Buff. I doubt if Will Michaels would really be much of a judge as to the relative scarcity. I doubt if anyone knows why the Buff was changed to the Red Brown or why the latter was changed to the Brown. As you are aware the dates in the catalogue are from my records and mean the earliest uses I have seen. My dates are as follows:

Buff - Aug. 19, 1861 (not Aug. 18 as you state)

Red Brown Jan 2, 1862

Brown S.U.S. gives 1863 - at one time the catalogue gave "March 1862" but I never could verify - I also heard of an Apr. 29, 1862 but was also never about to verify - The Luff book gives Apr. 10, 1863 as the earliest.

I never made a real effort to obtain records of the earliest uses but I am inclined to believe that the red brown was used all during the year 1862 and possibly into the first quarter of 1863. If so, then I certainly think the stamp must be more common than the buff.

Em, as far as I am aware we have nothing to go by but the covers themselves. The war was on and I suppose it didn't make much difference to the public whether a 5¢ stamp was printed in a Buff - a Brown, or a red brown. I am hoping that my further search of newspaper files of 1861 will shed more light on the 1861 Issue.

With best -

Yours etc.,

June 8, 1952.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr.,
1616 Walnut St.,
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Dear Phil:

Our mutual friend Emmerson Krug recently inquired of me if I believed the 5¢ 1861 was actually a rarer stamp than the 5¢ 1862 Red Brown. He stated that he had searched thru files of old auction catalogues and found more copies of the Buff offered than copies of the Red Brown. In reply I stated that I felt reasonably certain that the Buff was the scarcer of the two but afterwards I got to thinking and I wondered.

I believe that the Buff was the only 5¢ stamp in used from August 1861 to January 1862 but that the Red Brown was in use all of 1862 and part of 1863 - that is before the Brown was issued. What is your impression?

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.
1616 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA 3

June 11, 1952

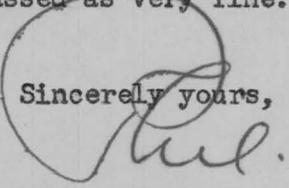
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

I have your letter of the 8th and would advise that from my experience, the 5¢ buff is far rarer than the 1862 5¢ red brown. As a matter of curiosity, I have referred to my stock and find that I have 11 copies of the 5¢ buff and have about 30 copies of the 5¢ red brown. The reason more of the buff have been offered at auction than the red brown is because of the fact that it is a rarer stamp, cataloguing more, hence is offered separately, whereas the red brown would be sold with something else or left in the balance of the collection to be sold as one lot. Right at present I find I have more unused copies of the buff than the red brown but this is due to the fact that the demand is greater and when I attend an auction I will buy a buff if it goes at a reasonable figure, whereas I will seldom buy a red brown unless it is a perfection copy that can be bought at a fair figure.

When I first read your letter I thought you were referring to the 5¢ red brown of 1857. This catalogues \$7.50 less than the 5¢ buff but from my way of thinking, is much rarer. Of this stamp I have exactly two copies in stock in cancelled condition and neither one can be classed as very fine. This is quite an evasive item.

Sincerely yours,


PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

Thanks for Bulliten. Have not read it carefully yet but I have skimmed thru it. Re Red Brown., and 5¢ 1861s. I think you should go one step further and break down the 5¢ buffs into at least two shades, the olive and the buff and the 5¢ brown into three shades, maybe both into three to keep them even. Say :

Buff
Olive yellow
Olive

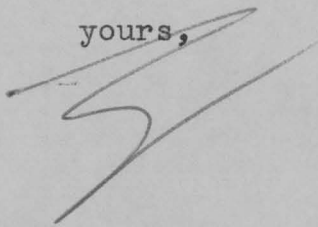
them:
Red Brown
Brown
Black Brown.

Now, in MY OPINION the RED BROWN is rarer than any of the top three. On cover, off cover, in multiples BUT it is not as rare UNUSED WITH FULL O. G. MINT SUPERB, in other words. And I don't mean "Gibbons unused" There is a great deal of trouble in separating the shades, some honest errors by collectors, some by dealers that don't know and A GREAT DEAL BY both dealers and collectors who WRONGLY CLASSIFY the colors. If all the alleged red browns were properly called what they are "BROWN" everyone would wake up and see how rare the real stamp is. A number of collections have a brown and a black brown as the two stamps instead of the Red Brown and Brown. Now a REAL FINE UNUSED block of the RED BROWN is something that there may be a couple known. I mean really RED.

To sum up. The red brown is just as good a stamp as the buffs. All in superb condition are rare and desirable. A buff is more saleable, because of its catalog value, but it is not any rarer except MINT SUPERB.

Re 12¢ bisect cover, Ex Hind ex Brandy. Did not Em have this and did ~~not~~ you sell it for Him ? ? I bought it in the Brandybury sale for \$120 and think it was for Em. If not do you know where it is ~~now~~ Now.

yours,



INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TO Friend Ashbrook,-

FROM

SUBJECT Letter from Mr Herbert Crook in regard to old covers.

5/27/52. 19

Please find enclosed a letter from Mr Herbert Crook in regard to the old covers that I sent to you some time ago, in which you said they were all fakes.

I got this letter from Mr Crook some time ago, but misplaced it, and just ran across it today, so am sending it on to you as you requested me to do.

Mr Crook passed on about 3 weeks after I got this letter from him, and to me he was what I call a gentleman & a scholar, his honesty & integrity was above reproach, and my only regret is that the old covers turned out to be fakes.

After reading will you please return this letter to me, as I wish to keep it.

COPIES TO

SIGNED

J. R. Ickers.

TO

DATE

19

IN REPLY TO ABOVE MEMO:

Courtesy wins Friends
FOR FLORIDA...AND YOU!

FROM

(WRITE AND SIGN ON BACK IF MORE SPACE IS REQUIRED)

June 8, 1952.

Mr. J. R. Vickers,
P.O.Box 1011,
Lake City, Fla.

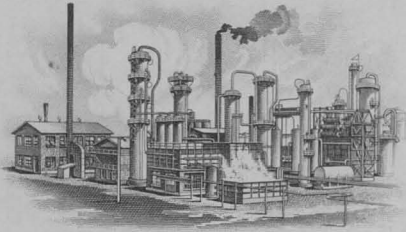
Dear Mr. Vickers:

Thanks very much for yours of recent date with the letter from Mr. Crook which I am returning herewith. I was indeed sorry to learn that Mr. Crook had passed away.

I suppose we have little conception of how many people have been gyped by the class of crooks cited in the enclosed letter. How unfortunate to have such a name as Mr. C.

Sincerely yours,

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED
CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

~~CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN~~

Ionia, Michigan.
June 9, 1952.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
Ft Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Got a nice lot of twenty covers from Harry Keffer's recent sale. Harold Stark went over them carefully and said they were all good with possible exception of the one enclosed - all were from 1861 through 1879. Harold said I got some good items. I thought prices were very reasonable on all items I obtained. I looked the lots over when Keffer was in Detroit.

The cover Harold doubts was Lot 529 which is described as a registered cover. If registered and used in 1874 as indicated, the registry rate was 8¢ and if it took 4 x 3¢ rate, it would make up the 20¢ that is on this cover all right, but Harold says there is nothing about this cover to indicate it was registered and only explanation he can offer, he says, is that the sender required 6 x 3¢ rate (18¢) and had a couple of 10¢ stamps on hand and just didn't give a damn and put them on. Otherwise he doubts if these stamps were originally on this cover in 1874. What is your opinion Stan?

Finally got a long letter from Mort Neinken. He says he talked with you on phone and told you his plans. Says he plans to spend Sunday June 29th with you and wonders if I can be there same time. I hope I can and will try.

Joan is back from Boston. Did well - is now a senior. She plans to on driving back to Boston tomorrow and spend six weeks in summer school. Weather has turned hot - suppose it is just as hot or worse in Cincinnati.

Regards.

Sincerely,

Jack
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/

Enc:

PS: This cover cost me \$11.50 and I paid Keffer but told him I might return it for a refund if you think it doubtful.

June 11, 1952.

Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein,
419 Union St.,
Ionia, Mich.

Dear Jack:

Re - enclosed cover, as per yours of the 9th. I think that this could have been one of several or more things but in my opinion it certainly was not a "Registered." There is no evidence whatever that it was and if the date (1874) is correct, then there would have been evidence of registration. This might have been a 7 x 3¢ with a 1¢ stamp missing and it might have been some sort of a wrapper and a circular rate. The use of the 10¢ 1869 in 1874 is rather unusual.

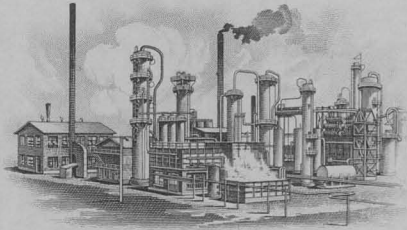
I hope that you can get down while Mort is here. I am looking for him on the 29th.

Am feeling much better and attribute it to the diet.

Regards.

Hastily yours,

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
Ft Thomas, Ky.

Ionia, Michigan.
June 15, 1952.

Dear Stan:

Check enclosed for One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars in payment for "Special Service" for next twelve months. Have enjoyed this very much and only wish you could get more students of philately to subscribe. Please receipt the enclosed invoice and return for my files.

Was especially interested in the last issue of June 4th 1952 (Issue No. 15) page 97, on the faked cover which was Lot #559 in Harry Keffer's sale of May 28th 1952. Especially so since I acquired Lots #560 and 561 which both have 24¢ 1870 stamps tied thereto. Makes me wonder if perhaps my two lots are fakes too, altho Harold Stark passed both as OK. You are no doubt familiar with the two lots I acquired - Lot #560 was Lot #517 in the Gibson sale - is this lot genuine? Lot #561 was a Rev. Bissell cover to India and Stark has a couple of covers with identical stamps from the Bissell correspondence which he says are OK. Give me your opinion on these two lots Stan, please.

As suggested by you in your letter of June 6th - I am enclosing two covers to Halifax, N.S. that I think are interesting. Each bear a 5¢ stamp, one cover with the 5¢ Type II of 1860 tied on, and with a black numeral "5" which I take to mean that 5¢ was due in Halifax. The other cover with a 5¢ red brown of 1862 (which you mention in Issue No. 15 as being scarcer than the 5¢ Buff) and which is tied by a black Boston grid and with the black "10 cts" which I suppose means the sender lost the 5¢ postage he applied. Then Harold Stark gives me the data on Postal Regulations Section 260 reading:

"Steamers of the Cunard Line sail from Boston twice each month touching at Halifax, and when letters are sent by that conveyance for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island, the United States postage is five cents the single rate, to be prepaid. The Inland rate is collected on delivery. On newspapers by this route, the postage is two cents each."

But Harold cannot tell me when this rate went into effect nor when it ceased to be in effect. Can you give me this information, Stan?

Glad you are feeling better. Watch your health and diet, Stan, and no doubt you will not require an operation. Rene sends her best to you and Mildred and Stan Jr, with which I join her. Regards.

Sincerely,

JGF.k
Enc:REG:

J. G. Fleckenstein.

THE COLLECTOR'S SHOP

POSTAGE STAMPS - COINS

BOOKS - PAINTINGS - PRINTS

Collections Purchased, Sold or Appraised

17 BROADWAY

NEW HAVEN 11, CONNECTICUT

Telephone 7-4495

June 16, 1952

J.G. Fleckenstein, Esq.
Ionia, Mich.

Dear Jack:-

Thanks very much for yours of the 13th.

When I wrote up the cover with the two 10c 1869's I did not give it much time and you will note that in the catalog I made no mention of any registry feature. Since you returned it this morning I have spent a little time on it and have come up with the following;

You are 100% correct when you say that it is an 8c registry rate with 12c postage. Neither Stan or myself looked at the cover very closely. The stamps belong on there as they both are cancelled with the same killer which is repeated on one stamp and ties it to the cover. There is no physical evidence whatsoever of any missing stamps. On the upper left of the envelope is a manuscript #17 which was the registry number.

I think you will find that most everyone passes up legal size covers too lightly and as a rule they sell for what the stamps are worth. In this case the cover sold for less than the stamps can be sold for. If you want an example of this registry rate with 1869 stamps I think the cover is well worth keeping but on the other hand if you want the refund of \$11.50 let me know and I will send check by return mail.

Sincerely



Copy to Stanley Ashbrook

June 19, 1952.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer,
17 Broadway,
New Haven 11, Conn.

Dear Harry:

Thanks for yours of the 16th confirming my opinion that Lot #210 was a strip of six rather than two strips of three. I remember that cover way back to 1930, and it has always been described and listed as a strip of six.

Thanks for the copy of your letter to Fleckenstein regarding Lot #259. Jack sent the cover to me and it was my opinion that it was not a registered letter because the only evidence that it might have been was the number at left which I noted. By 1874 there was no longer any regulation regarding secrecy on Registered mail. I think that if you would read the Regulations regarding Registered Mail (1873 P.L. & R.) you would agree that this was not a registered letter. One important section required the name and address of the person registering the letter be on the face of the envelope. I wrote Jack that this might have been a 7 x 3 1/2 letter with a 1/2 missing - or it might have been a piece of circular mail - a wrapper - which required a printed circular rate of 20¢, but at any rate, I simply could not believe it was a registered letter.

Best regards to you Harry.

Cordially yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.

June 19, 1952.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer,
17 Broadway,
New Haven 11, Conn.

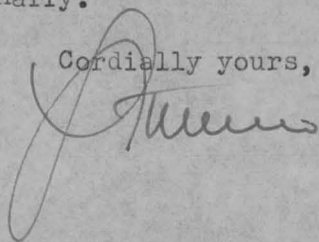
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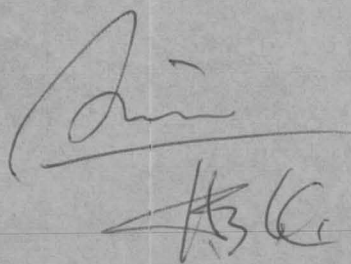
Best regards to you Harry.

Cordially yours,



Dear Stan:—

I dislike very much to be obstinate in this respect but this cover in addition to the number has the sender's name and address on the face of the envelope.



America

Boston Br. Pkt
May 27

Halifax May 29 - 1863

Red
Brown

CTS
10



Alexander Keith Esq
Halifax
N.S.

Steamer for Halifax

"Boston Br Pkt"
on Back

Halifax Nov 30 1860
on Back

Black



Red & Black
Grias

William Ware Esq
Halifax
Nova Scotia

Black

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Saturday, June 7, 1952.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

Your letter of the 5th just came this morning. I have been gone all week to Florida and just got back last evening. Sure had a nice trip as far as weather goes but it has been very warm here since I got back.

I return the letter to Ez. It's hard to account for the attitude in Detroit. Of course sometimes moneyed men like them become hard up for cash and that could be the reason. Lots of folks are over-extended these days of inflation. And maybe they were not confed collectors? And like me wouldn't know a frame-line from a TEN. I hope they have not made you feel so bad that you lose the ground you have gained against that gall bladder. Worry wont help you a bit, you know. By the way, I mailed you my copy of the Finney prices to which you are more than welcome.

As you request I am mailing you the lots from the Collector's Shop sale for you to look over or photograph if you wish. You asked for lot 144 which was not one of mine I regret to say. Did not even bid on it. So I enclose lot 141 which you may have meant. I like it. And also I enclose lot 126 which I think is a nice one, dont you. You saw lot 88 you say and must have liked it too. I would like your comments on all of these covers. My check for return postage is enclosed.

I saw lot 559 from the above sale, had it here, and was myself, little as I know, puzzled at the rate. I have quit bank note covers ever since I sold my covers thru you. But I did see some of these Keffer ones that he included in lots I asked for. Lot 570 was the freshest, most wonderfally colored affair I ever saw in a cover. It should have brought a big price if appearance means anything.

I too sent Harry a dollar for a price list and when Ez said he would send me the prices if I would send my catalog up to him I wrote him back that I had done so BUT what I would like to have was the buyers names which he generally does not give me. I am hoping he will do so. It may be that the catalog you have has the buyers names and is to be further loaned to me. We will see if so.

Sincerely,

Ez.

Covers enclosed:

126-	63.00	215-	28.88	313-	15.75
141-	55.13	225-	39.38	335-	26.25
146-	63.00	268-	78.75	337-	44.63
155-	39.38	276-	60.38	406-	14.18
214-	89.25	291-	57.75	409-	18.38
	<u>309.76</u>		<u>265.14</u>		<u>119.19</u>
					Total-- \$694.09

June 11, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson G. Krug,
3000 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Just a line to advise that the covers arrived safe and will have my attention. I have just glanced over them and I note you got some nice ones.

Re - my Service Issue. You will see I made quite an issue out of your query. I will send a copy to Gordon Harmer.

Am feeling okay.

Hurriedly yours,

June 11, 1952.

Mr. Emerson C. Krug,
3000 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Herewith the Keffer auction lots. Remarks as follows:

Lot 126 - I think this is quite a fine copy of the type. Evidently others had the same opinion. The red oval was applied at Detroit.

Lot 141 - Knapp bought this in the White sale and sent it to me on Feb. 25, 1937. This is a very odd rate and while I may have seen others it is the only 26¢ rate to Germany recorded in my files. I made photos at the time of front and back. I suppose the reason is that there was no such a rate and it was sent "Paid Only to England - 21¢" - Thus 5¢ overpay. New York should have marked it "Paid only to England." The proper rate was 30¢ Via "Prussian Closed Mail" but being 4¢ underpaid it was sent "U.S.Pkt" to England and "Paid Only to England" - Very interesting and I suppose darn few rate students would be able to explain it. It was Lot 2514 in the first Knapp sale and sold @ \$35.00. That memo on the back is by Knapp.

Lot 146 - To England and "Forwarded to Paris" - Nothing said about this feature by Keffer - "16" is "16" decimes due at Paris or about 30¢ U.S. The Anglo-French rate was 8 decimes per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. (very high).

Lot 155 - Stamps are from Plate 12.

Lot 214 - You got a real bargain in this cover. Vert pairs to California are rare.

Lot 215 - You certainly stole this one - The use is early for the Brown (I) - Aug. 1, 1859. My earliest record is July 6, 1859.

Lot 225 - A bargain - That German year date on the back surely must be "60" - If so, then this use is Cincinnati May 21, 1860 - My earliest of record is May 14 and I have a record that Knapp had a May 21, 1860. This must be that cover.

Later

Correct - this is the Knapp cover - It was Lot 2621 in the Knapp sale and sold @ \$75.00. I was right in stating that you got a bargain.

Lot 268 - Very cheap - rate is a quad - Credit of "1" is 4 x 3. I think this pair is darn nice for a 30¢.

Lot 276 - This is a steal - Typical "August" color of the 10¢ Type I.

#2. Mr. Emmerson C. Krug - June 11, 1952.

Lot 291 - Very pretty - Compare the colors of the 5¢ with that of Lot 276 - The pale mustard was evidently the first batch of ink used and because it was so pale and lifeless it was soon made darker. These two covers make a nice pair demonstrating that fact.

Lot 313 - Your comment would be on a par with mine.

Lot 335 - I photographed this before the sale as the rate is very unusual.

Lot 337 - This cover was in the Gibson sale by Ward and was Lot 251 and sold to Kelleher @ \$90.00. Illustrated in cat. Looks like you got quite a bargain. Along about 1940 I borrowed the Gibson foreign rate covers to study. I photographed this cover at that time. There were a lot of "Pierce" covers. This was a rate by "P.C.M." and the credit was 14¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ (single) - this the "28" pen credit.

Lot 406 - I question whether these two stamps were used on this cover - The date is 1867 which is very late for the R.B. The stamps look like they had been "pasted on" after another stamp or stamps had been removed. This letter originated at Havana (or in Cuba) and was sent under separate cover to New York where it was put into the U. S. Mail to France with the postage paid. The "ARAGO" was built in 1855 and I didn't know that she was still in service in 1867. Apparently this went by the Havre Line direct to Havre and the credit by that route was 3¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. Therefore, I don't understand why there is a 9¢ credit on this cover. It seems to me that the original rate must have been 45¢, thus a credit of 3 x 3¢ on a rate of 3 x 15¢. Why some faker removed the original stamps and substituted these is a mystery. Ezra would not catch a fake such as this.

Lot 409 - A use in July 1862. Why is this stamped "Insufficiently stamped Vaa Marseilles" and if "short paid" - what was done about it? Here is the answer. The letter was routed, "By Overland Mail - Via Marseilles" but the rate in 1862 by that route (overland across France from England to Marseilles) was higher because of payment for French transit. The rate was 51¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or 57¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce - but a year or so earlier it had been lower, viz., 39¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or 45¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. That is how the writer paid the 45¢ - evidently unaware of the change. The rate in 1862 "Via Southampton" was 45¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., so this letter was not sent across France, as routed, but by "Southampton" - meaning by sea from Southampton, Gibraltar and Suez, etc. - Thus the rate was Okay "Via Southampton, but not "Via Marseilles" - Interesting don't you think? I will probably use three of these covers in my next Service - Do you have any objection? Lots 141 - 406 and 409.

I don't know whether you can get your money back on the fake 5¢ R.B. cover of 1867 but I think if you send it direct to Harry and inform him I said it was bad that he will refund.

Thanks Em for the check for \$5.00.

Of course, I will not bear any ill will against my Detroit friends and as far as I am concerned it is all water over the dam. I would not have made such a request were it not that they assured me several years ago that if I ever needed any capital for such a deal they would back me to the limit. What is that saying about deeds speak louder than words. You are quite right - What is to be - is to be.

#3. Mr. Emerson C. Krug - June 11, 1952.

Thanks Em, for the list of the Pinney prices.

Ward bought Lot 559 Keffer - I informed him it was bad - He returned it and got a refund. It is in my current Service. The added 30% on cover was sold to Dr. Bacher in a H. R. Harmer London sale in April. He also got his money back. It was guaranteed by Sir Nicholas Waterhouse. I didn't see Lot 570.

Today I received a list of prices from Keffer - Ez sent me a priced catalogue but it has only a few names of buyers - He did not instruct what I was to do with it. I am holding pending advice. I don't think it would be worth sending to you if you have a list of the prices.

I am feeling okay - no discomfort.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

June 11, 1952.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole,
Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ez:

Re - Krug - Keffer lots -

141 - Did you ever see a 26¢ rate to Germany? What is your idea about what is odd about this cover?

409 - How do you explain this? If "insufficiently paid" what was done about it? "Insufficiently Paid" meant "Short Paid" but was anything done?

406 - What is wrong with this? Why is it a fake?

Up to this writing no word from Wulfekuhler - or anyone else on that incident.

Hurriedly yours,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

June 13th, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

Your note of the 11th re: Krug-Keffer lots.
To be perfectly honest with you I can't remember the
covers.

Lot 141 is not photographed. It is Ex William S,
White, ex Knapp.

Lot 406 again not photographed. Price was \$13.50
I guess the stamps were worth it.

Lot 409 again not photographed. Em wanted it for
the red brown. Could not figure this cover out for the
damn thing went via Marseilles, and everybody in the world
must have had a crack at it.

If Em writes me and send me the covers then probably
I can answer some of your queries.

Sincerely,

EDC:mk1

Ezra D. Cole.

June 17, 1952.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole,

Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ez:

Re - the three covers - Keffer sale to Krug - 141 - 406 and 409. I will not take time to go into details about them as I intend to write them up in my "Service" - provided Em has no objection. Lots 141 and 409 are genuine but Lot 406 is a fake.

Re - Lot 141. This was to Germany with a pay of 26%. Did you ever see such a rate to Germany? I doubt it. The explanation of #409 is very interesting.

I think if Em would send #406 direct to Harry he could get a refund. I wrote Harry the cover was bad. When things like this come up I think buyers should not bother you to return. However, I suppose Krug will not send #406 back.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N.Y.
June 11, 1952.

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for your letter of June 6, in which you comment on the various items I submitted. It never occurred to me that the cover with 91L1L came from the Judge Emerson collection. The cover was offered to me by a Boston dealer at \$50. and I snapped it up.

Re photo of single 91L1L, which I am enclosing herewith, you write, "Someone loaned the copy to me and I have no memo of the owner. It must have been sometime back." Yes, it must have been sometime back, and I would certainly love to have a copy of this print, because it is a collector's item. You see, Stanley, this is the very photo you used for your illustration in your Work, Vol.1, P.183, Figure 17, I.

Your suggestion that I attempt to classify the various states of the 91L invert is flattering. Your suggestion is a command, and I shall report from time to time whatever progress I have made. Nary an important article on early U.S. stamps appears in print but that we see in the background the hand of Stanley B. Ashbrook.

Enclosed herewith is photo of "wide strip of three." Whether the machine was reset appears problematical. I have a copy of 52R9 showing vertical perforations almost as far apart as the horizontal. Then there are stamps that are quite narrow vertically.

I am enclosing several items which may enable you to determine their plate origin.

(1) Charleston cover showing a 1¢ '57 tied to circular by the Charleston foreign rate marking used in error. The stamp surely (?) is from Plate 5 and, if so, the date May 21, 1858, would make this an early use, which of course still doesn't mean anything. I obtained this cover at the Collector's Shop sale the other day.

(2) South Hadley Falls cover, dated July 2, (1858). I had shown you this cover recently. If the stamp on the Charleston cover is from Plate 5, then the S.H.F. stamp also is from the same plate, since the stamp on the former cover is stamp to left of stamp on the latter. This is shown by

(3). I obtained this pair today and realized the plate markings corresponded to those on the above two covers. Note the similarity of the rich dark blue color of all three items. I think it is very rarely that we find such shades on the Plate 7 stamps. Wouldn't you say these stamps definitely come from Plate 5?

(4) This copy I had shown you recently. Your comment was - "sharp impression, hard crisp paper, early stock, good color, early shade I think it may be a Plate 5."

(5) To show that #4 was no accident, I am enclosing this copy, which has similar qualities, although the ornaments at left and right are not as complete and the Plate already shows signs of wear. These two copies seem to indicate that Plate 5 (?) was made of soft steel, which gave us impressions that were most gorgeous, but the Plate became worn after very short use. The engravings from Plates 5 and 6 seem very similar to those of Plate 1 Early, I think.

Now note, Stanley, that neither of these two copies show the side scratch that runs thru ornament "F" of the "C" Relief on Transfer Roll #4. If this scratch had been on the Relief that produced these stamps, they certainly would have shown on these printings. Is it ridiculous to suppose that these copies came from a Transfer Roll that was made prior to Roll #4 and was used to enter on Plate 5 only a few vertical rows and then for some reason was discarded? Or perhaps you may have a more plausible theory to account for the missing scratch markings. Most likely. Meanwhile, I shall search again the source whence these two stamps came, in an effort to locate similar material.

Mrs. F. and I shall accompany Mr. & Mrs. N. when they visit the Ashbrooks later this month, and we extend our best regards,

Sincerely,

Morris

June 17, 1952.

Mr. Morris Fortgang,
114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N.Y.

Dear Morris:

Re - your registered air of the 11th which came today. I had forgotten that I used the photo-print of the 91LLL in my book. Fact is, I haven't read the book since I wrote it back in the middle thirties. I hate to read a letter I have written and I hate to go back and read articles I wrote years ago. I invariably find that in the interim I learned something new and many times I blush at the old stuff. I have looked high and low for a duplicate print of the one I sent you but no luck. To try and find the original negative would be worse than searching for a needle in a hay-stack. I never have had time to index my negatives. After I make prints I box them up and send them to the basement. Sometimes I have to locate one and then it is an all day's job. If I can possibly find a duplicate print of that 91LLL I will send it to you.

Re - the items that you sent.

No. 1 - The pencil marking is mine but I must have made it years ago and I long since discontinued calling a postmark a "cancel." I should have stated Charleston postmark used on foreign mail used to cancel stamp - This probably thru error. This stamp is certainly a very, very early impression from either Plate 5, 6(?) or 7. It might come from the left pane of Plate 7 - or from the left pane of Plate 6 - any one of the first five positions (11 to 15L6) but I doubt it and believe that it does come from Plate 5 but I have no evidence.

No. 2 - Very similar in color and impression.

No. 3 - Very remarkable that you would locate a pair proving the stamps on the above covers are adjoining positions. No, Morris, I would not state that this pair and the two singles are definitely Plate 5 but it seems quite possible that they are. About the best I can do at present is to photograph them and hold for further study.

No. 4 - I don't see that I can add anything regarding this. When we can complete the plating of the left pane of Plate 7 and the entire Plate 6 then we will have an almost complete record. Then we can be definite as to whether any certain stamp comes from Plate 5. Until then we can only speculate.

No. 5 - I have carefully noted your remarks on the comparison of No. 5 to No. 4. It is true that neither of these copies show the little side scratch at left - but I can show you positions in the right pane of Plate 7 which show that small line whereas other positions in the same pane show no trace of it. There are many odd things like this in the study of the Type V stamps and it is these various puzzles that make the plates very interesting.

I note that Mrs. Fortgang and you plan to accompany the Weinkens on their trip to Cincinnati on the 29th. That is fine and we will try to make your visit very enjoyable.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

May 26, 1952

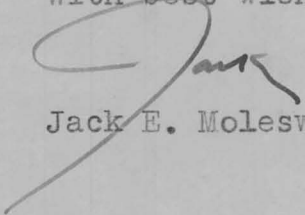
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan,

Thank you for your prompt return on the "July 3" 1¢
1851 cover. My retail price on this cover is \$85.00,
but I would be glad to sent it along to you at a net
price of \$75.00. Advise if you are interested .

I have one retail client to whom I shall be offering
it this week, but seriously doubt that he will have any
interest.

With best wishes,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/ecf

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.

May 29, 1952.

Mr. Morris Fortgang,

114 East 84th St.,

New York 28, N.Y.

Dear Morris:

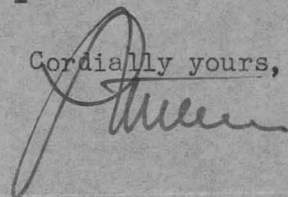
I have located a mate to your 1¢ 1851 cover as follows -
A blue folded letter from Boston to New York with a horizontal strip
of three of the 1¢ stamp canceled with three red grids (round).
The postmark reads: "BOSTON 3 JUL - 3CTS." The letter inside is
dated Boston July 3, 1851. The strip is the very interesting posi-
tions of 98R1E - 99R1E and 100R1E. This is offered to me @ \$85.00
and I can offer it to you subject to sale plus 10%.

If interested please advise me by return air mail.

I am listing and describing this cover in the Service Issue
which I am preparing at the present time.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Please send.

Rec
JUN - 1 1952

Jack E. Moleworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

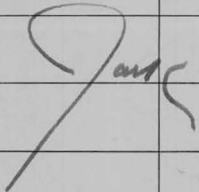
Date June 9, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Address Box 31

Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Terms: 10-Day Consignment

CAT. No.	DESCRIPTION	Net PRICE
7 & 8A	Strip of 3 on cover pmk. 7/3/(51)	\$ 75 00
	My client returned this cover without comment so I'm happy to be able to send it along to you and hope that you can make out well. It should be worth \$100 or more to someone who wants such an example.	
	Thanks for your comments on the other covers. My check for \$2.83 enclosed for the 90¢ Opinion. I'm pricing the cover with three #36's at \$50.00 and the #72 cover at \$225.00 if they should be of interest to you.	
	It was a shame not to have illustrated the 10¢ Athens cover as it doubtlessly went unnoticed by many bidders hidden as it was. I'd have paid \$500 for it myself so \$600 to a collector was a bargain.	
	With best wishes, 	

114 East 84th St.,
New York, 28, N.Y.
June 9, 1952.

Dear Stanley:

Your Special Service is unquestionably the most valuable philatelic literature produced today. I wouldn't be without it at any price. Enclosed is my check covering renewal of my subscription.

If the July 3 cover is from Jack Molesworth - and if the strip of three is not tied to cover, and if one of the stamps is badly creased where the cover was folded - then I would rather not have it.

In my next letter, I shall enclose some stamps that I suspect come from Plate 5 - and give you my reasons why I believe Plate 5 was entered by two transfer rolls:

- (1) Transfer Roll #4, and
- (2) Transfer Roll #3A.

My theory is that 3A was made immediately after #3 -. Certain Reliefs on this roll show combinations of side scratches that are different from those of Roll #4.

Mrs.F. and I are happy that you are feeling better, and we extend our kindest regards to Mrs.A. and you.

Sincerely yours,

(Morris)

June 11, 1952.

Mr. Morris Fortgang,
114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N.Y.

Dear Morris:

You are quite right, the 1¢ 1851 cover is the one owned by Jack Molesworth - I have it here on my desk and am returning it to him. Regardless of the condition, I think the cover is worth his price as so very few One Cent covers are known used so early. As far as I am concerned I don't see that it makes much difference if a cover was used on the first, the second or the third or fifth, but, of course, when it comes to the One Cent I am very prejudiced in its favor and I see it in an entirely different light than anyone else. With full appreciation of this weakness I think anyone is perfectly justified if they differ with me on values, condition, desirability or most any other point.

I haven't the slightest doubt that the strip originated on this cover - though it is not tied - further one stamp has a bad crease - this is indeed a bad feature - but the strip is 98-99 and 100R and the use is July 3, 1851 and darn it all - I like it - but I'll admit I am very prejudiced and one would be foolish to take my advice. Incidentally you probably noticed that I mentioned this cover in my current Service Issue and just in case, (mind you - just in case) you might change your mind, I am going to hold the cover - Send me an air special if you do. Jack's price is \$85.00 and if you don't care to pay me a commission it will be okay.

Thanks very much Morris for your check for \$100 for your 1952-1953 subscription to my Special Service. Did you note my reference to the 7R1E in the current issue? It will be interesting to see what Costales does about that stamp. I have indisputable proof - photographic - of the repaired damage - I dare him to offer it as a "superb" copy. There is far too much crooked stuff going on and it is sickening - but like the weather - everyone talks about it - but no one does anything.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

20 b. F128-GREEN-PAN-16 Sec

Red
Grinds
98-99-100 RIE



PAID
Mess. Cooper & Hewitt
New York
3cts

By J.E.M.

5/21-52

Red

1851

B149

ORIGINAL RATE WAS 15d - SAILING WAS FROM BOSTON ON WED. OCT 17 1860 -
Year was thus 1860 - Stamps are BROWN - Type II - Color EXACTLY
Right For This Period. Red GRID ON STAMPS LOOKS OKAY
And OKAY FOR NEW YORK - Ringless GRID - In My Opinion -
This was originally A H.S. of 3 - And One Stamp At Left
Was Removed Because of Vertical Crease - By
Henry W Hill 6/20 1952 - S.B.A.

189 B

C

TELEPHONE ATLANTIC 6191
TELETYPE MP-347

DIRECTORS:
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S. J. MIROCHA



JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & CO.

22-26 SECOND STREET SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.



6-16-52

Dear Stan;

Have been away on business in Iowa for two weeks and so have done but little with my stamps. Ezra Cole was successful in getting from the Keffer sale Lots, I25, I30, I36, 224 and 396. On bt 210 I told him it probably would sell for around 600.00. At 550.00 with no evidence it would ease up in the bidding he stopped. I had told him to buy it for me but from my telephone conversation with him I learned that they had a mail bid that was way too high to his thinking and mine and so let it go. Well someday it will come up again,

I am enclosing two covers, The one to Marseille with the pair I am quite sure is a fake. I bought I ^MMarseille three years ago. What is your opinion. The other cover I have just received from Paris with 5c 51 to Bordeaux via British Royal Mail. What do you think of it.

Regards

Henry

June 20, 1952.

Mr. Henry W. Hill,
20-26 - 2nd St. South,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Henry:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 16th. The 5¢ 1856 cover is absolutely okay in my opinion and I have signed it on the back. It is a late use before the U.S.-French Treaty went into effect - (effective Apr. 1, 1857). It has the "G.B. 1 F 600" marking. This did not appear on U. S. Mail to France until January 1st, 1857 and it was only in use for three months. While the stamp is a bit close at right, I think it is quite a nice copy - good color, etc.

Regarding the other cover - I checked the year dates very carefully and the use was actually in October 1860. I believe that this pair was originally a strip of three and that the third stamp to left was removed because it had a bad crease. This color of brown would be correct for October of 1860. The red grid on the pair appears to be genuine - a ringless grid. In October of 1860 a ringless grid was used at New York on mail to England and France. Of course, the original rate was 15¢ as the New York postmark proves. Thus taking all the above evidence into consideration I believe that the pair originated on this cover but that it was originally a strip of three. Had this pair not originated on this cover I think a faker could not have resisted the temptation to tie it to the cover. I have signed it on the back.

Regarding Lot 210 in the Keffer sale. I am quite sure that Ezra acted on his better judgement and was of the opinion that the cover was not worth a high price because he was under the impression it was two strips of three rather than a strip of six. I have no desire to question his opinion but I examined that cover before the sale and I was convinced it was a strip of six. Since the sale I wrote Keffer and a letter received this week assured me it was a strip of six - not two strips of three - All of this is just for the record because it is now too late to do anything. Such errors are bound to occur and no blame can be attached. One thing is sure - someone got a real bargain in that cover because it is unique and a very great rarity.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

B169

By Quartz Lamp - At 208 - F64

M. Thomas Canada

Mrs Vidal Hermanos
p. a. D. Sebastian Vidal



Marsella
France

ORIGINAL RATE WAS 15¢ - SAILING WAS FROM BOSTON ON WED. OCT 17 1860 - Year was thus 1860 - stamps are BROWN - TYPE II - COLOR EXACTLY Right For This Period. Red GRID ON STAMPS LOOKS OKAY And OKAY FOR NEW YORK - Ringless GRID - In My Opinion - This was originally A H.S. of 3 - And one stamp at left was removed because of vertical crease - By Henry W. Hill 6/20 1952 - S.B.A.

B169

BY HENRY HILL

DEVELOPED 7/7-52

British Royal Mail

On Back
BOSTON
MAR 25 (1857)

Late Use
Before Treaty



N.O.
Mar
?



Scouty

Monsieur Pour et Sene x
By H.W.H.
Bridgman
France

B163

B163

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.

W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.

HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.

ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M.D.

AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE 6120

6-16-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook

Isn't this one of those
rare 4¢ rate covers to Israel? At any
rate I would appreciate your opinion.

Sincerely,
W Scott Polland

June 20, 1952.

Dr. W. Scott Polland,
Albert Bldg.,
San Rafael, Calif.

Dear Doctor:

Herewith the 4¢ rate to France in July 1870. Yes, you are quite right and this is a very pretty little item - very neat - etc. This rate was in effect in the first seven months of 1870 and it merely paid the U. S. rate to England, that is, to the British frontier, rather than inside England. In other words, no British rate involved in the payment. At that time, the rate to England was 6¢ and was supposed to represent -

2¢ U. S.
2¢ Sea
2¢ British.

Thus you can see why a pay of 4¢. After arriving in England the letter was then rated the same as a letter originating in England and unpaid, that is, under the Anglo-French Treaty. The odd curly kew is the French due marking "5" decimes. The "G B 400" related to a charge to be made under the Anglo-French Treaty, and not to the total postage due. It applied to this class of mail from the U.S. Bear in mind that our Treaty with France expired as of Dec. 31, 1869 and at this time we had no postal treaty with that country.

A nice way to find these 4¢ rates is with a 3¢ and 1¢ 1869 - It is surprising how rare such covers really are - Another nice combination is a pair of Black Jacks - 1867 grill or a pair of 2¢ Bank Notes or better still a 1¢ and 3¢ Bank Note. I do not recall seeing any covers with four 1¢ stamps.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,