

JUNE 17 1953 TO NOV 14 1953

SCRAP BOOK No 28

Stanley B. Ashbrook

1	Henry Hill - 5d57-El O.B. Cover	32	Jack Molesworth Re 90d61-Reported on cover Harmer Rooke Sale
2	Horace S Poole Re-Keokuk & R.I. River M	33	Jack Molesworth Re 3d Star Die From S.F. To GROVETON Va
3	Bruce Daniels 6/15-53 30d 1860 Boston Br PKT	34	Dr W.S. Pollard Re-New York "20" Marking
4	Warren Scholl - 2d 63 B.J. Bisect-	35	Robt Peck (2) 10d 1855 Type II off Cover To England
5	L.L. Shenfield 2d 1863 Brown With Fake Richmond P.M	36	Jack Molesworth 5d 47 Cover With Valentine
6	A.E. Guenther 5d 47 Cover Bardstown Ky To England	37	WM O. Bilden Three 1d 51 Pl 4- No Photos
7	Dr W.S. Pollard 6/23-53. 30d 1860 San Francisco	38	Raynon Hubbell Conted Essay
8	Philip G. Rust 3-10d 57 covers Robson Lowe Sale 6/10.	39	Robt Peck 24d 61 Cover Also Pair 1d Cover
9	Philip Ward - Re PL & R's	40	E. Bissegger 90d 1860
10	Shenfield-MacBride- Re Blockade Cover TO FORT LA FAYETTE	41	Earl Oakley Re 24d 61 Steel Gray Cover
11	Jack E Molesworth Re 5d 1862 Fire Red	42	Dr W.S. Pollard Re Conted 20d Green Cover "CHAPAL"
12	Jas M. Hardman Re Early Date Use 3d GREEN 1870	44	Jack Molesworth 1d 1851 OFF CRACK? Cover?
13	Jack E Molesworth Re-25d Cover TO FRANCE-	45	R.K. Meyer 10/6-53 Stampless To Germany
14	Philatelic Foundation 3d 51-1951-BISECT-Petersburg	46	Earl Antrim Blockade Cover-Germany TO OLD POINT Comfort
15	Dr W.S. Pollard Re Wells Fargo Cover WM B. Latham	47	J. David Baker 7/25 53 Various
16	Raynor Hubbell Fake Greenville Ah	48	E. Jaeger Re-Chase French Stampless
17	Robt A Peck 7/19- 28d Via P.C.M.	49	(No 43)
18	Jack Fleckenstein Re 30d 1861 Cover To China	50	Gilbert M. Burr Re-undred Postage
19	Henry H Clifford Re The Konwiser Error	51	W.H. Kiefaber Registered Cover 24d 61
20	Howard Lehman Re 10d 47 GREEN St Clairsville	52	Herbert J Block Re 1d 51-Crack?
21	Dan'l F Kelleher - Re Sweet 1847 Collection	53	Paul Christopher Cover 7 1/2d INVERTS
22	Jack Molesworth Re Cover With Local 1d 1857 Havana To Maine	54	J.A. Farrington Various Items
23	Robt Laurence Re 5d 1861 Butt	55	Gordon Harmer 5d-10d 47 Cover
24	Jack Molesworth Jenny Lind Cover	56	J.G. Fleckenstein Auction Lots Harmer Rooke Sale 10/20-53
25	Philatelic Foundation 8/1-53 - 2 Covers 3d 51 Honolulu - 10d 61 Type 1	57	Philatelic Foundation 1d 51 # Precancel 4461
26	Murl Kimmel Left Davis Papers	58	Dr W.S. Pollard Pony Express Cover Fox Sale
27	Bob Myerson Los A - 2 Covers	59	J.A. Farrington Re 1d 57 And OTHERS
28	Philip Ward Re Perry Carrier Book	60	Ralph Hoffman 10d 47 Cover
29	M.C. Blake Re-stampless From Cambridge Mass	61	Philatelic Foundation #4481 90d 1860
30	Morris Fortgang Harrison Sq. P.O.	62	Willy Balasse 5d New York - off
31	Edgar Jessup Re 90d 60 Armitage	63	Ezra D. Cole Various Covers CARRIERS
		64	E.C. KRUG Covers From Harmer Rooke Sale Oct 20 53
		65	Jack Molesworth Letter From MacBride
		66	" " Fake 3d + 15d 1869 Cover
			J.G. Fleckenstein Re 2 Covers Daniels Sale

June 13, 1953.

Mr. Henry W. Hill,
20-26 -2nd St., South,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Henry:

I am returning herewith the vertical pair of the 5¢ 1856 and I think it now looks very beautiful. I am also returning the cover with the 5¢ 1857 Orange Brown. I can assure you that the cover itself is genuine, that is, the use was actually Sept. 7, 1861 from New York. There has not been any monkey-business with the dates. Here is the analysis to prove same. First, note the "6" in the New York postmark. This was our credit to France and it means two things - (1) that the rate was 15¢ and (2) that the letter was carried to England by "Amer. Pkt." This did not mean that it was carried by a mail ship of U. S. Registry but rather that the U.S. P.O.D. paid the S.S. Line the "sea postage" to carry the letter to England. On such mail we credited France 6¢ per 1/4 ounce, i.e., 3¢ from England to France and 3¢ for the French internal. Note the routing per steamship "TEUTONIA." This was a ship of the "Hamburg Line" and the records show that this ship sailed from New York on Sept. 7, 1861 and was paid the "sea postage" on the U. S. Mail that she carried abroad.

Such sailings were on Saturdays and in 1861 Sept. 7th fell on Saturday. So much for the proof that the cover is perfectly okay.

Now the question arises - did this strip actually originate on this cover. I was not wholly satisfied that it did because Zareski knows the value of an O.B. on cover, so he, or some other crook could have removed a strip of the Type II Brown and substituted an unused strip of the O.B. and put fake cancels on such a strip. That is the reason I requested your permission to open up the cover. I sure had a hard time doing this as it was glued together with some sort of cement that was very difficult to dissolve and due to the thinness of the paper I was compelled to exercise the utmost caution. Fortunately everything came out fine and now we can see what is inside. I don't know why the person was so anxious to seal this half a letter sheet so that no one could see inside as there is nothing to hide.

I am more than pleased to assure you that I am definitely of the opinion that this strip did originate on this cover. I have several bits of evidence to substantiate my opinion, which I will not go into, but the main and convincing evidence is in the small circular French postmark on the two stop stamps. This measures approximately 21 MM and reads as follows: "ETATS UNIS - SERV. AM. CALAIS" with date in the center which reads, 22 SEPT 61. I seriously doubt if you will be able to read the lettering. This faint marking is in red and here is my proof that I think cannot be disputed. This marking was generally applied in black during 1861, but on the occasion of this mail trip it was applied in red. Most unusual but I can prove it. No Zareski would know enough to apply this marking on the stamps

#2 - Mr. Henry W. Hill - June 13, 1953.

and on this particular trip in red. I believe this is enough so I will notego into other convincing evidence such as the oil in the small PD which ties the strip and the oil in the red N.Y. grids, etc.

I sure congratulate you on this cover. It is a real rarity and as far as I am aware it is unique. I have no other record of a cover with a strip of the 54 1857 O.B.

I intend to write up this cover in my next Service Issue.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Mr. Henry W. Hill
20-26 - 2nd St., South
Minneapolis, Minn.

DO NOT MAKE ENVELOPE

Dear Henry

I am returning here with the
vertical pair of the 5¢ 1856 and
I think it now looks very
beautiful. I am also
returning the cover with the
5¢ 1857 Orange Brown. I can
assure you that the cover
itself is genuine, that is, the
use was actually Sept 7 1861
from New York. There has
not been any monkey
business with the dates.
Here is the analysis to prove
same. First note the "6"
in the New York Postmark.
This was our credit to France
and it means ~~two~~ ^{two} things
- (1) that the rate was 15¢

and (2) that the letter was
carried to England by "Amer.
P.M.". This did not mean
that it was carried by a
mail ship of U. S. Registry
but rather that the
U. S. P. O. D. paid the S. S.
Line the "sea postage" to
carry the letter to England.
On such mail we credited
France 6¢ per $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce -
I. E. - 3¢ from England to
France and 3¢ for the
French internal. Note the
rate per steam ship
"TEUTONIA". This was a
ship of the "Hamburg Line"
and the records show
that this ship sailed

from New York on Sep 7 1861
and was paid the "Sea
Postage" on ~~to~~ the U. S.
Mail that she carried
abroad. Such sailings were
on Saturdays and in 1861
Sep 7th fell on Saturday. So
much for the proof that
the cover is perfectly okay.
Now the question arises
— did this strip actually
originate on this cover? I
was not wholly satisfied
that it did because Zareski
knew the value of an
O.B. on cover so he,
or some other crook
could have removed a
strip of the type II Brown

and substituted an unused
strap of the O.B. and put
some cancels on ~~the~~ such
a strap. That is the
reason I requested your
permission to open up
the cover. I sure had a
hard time doing this
~~and~~ as it was glued
together with some sort
of cement that was
very difficult to dissolve
and due to the thickness
of the paper I was
compelled to exercise
the utmost caution.
Fortunately every thing

Came out fine and now
we can see what ~~the~~ is
inside. I don't know why
the person was so anxious
to seal this half a letter
sheet so that no one
could see inside as
there is nothing to hide.

~~I am pleased to report~~
~~I regret that I cannot~~
~~that the strip did~~
~~regulate on this cover.~~
~~On the two top stamps~~
~~is the one a small~~
~~circular French postmark~~
~~which~~

I am more than pleased

to assure you that I am
definitely of the opinion that
this stuff did originate in
this paper. I have several
~~bits~~ bits of evidence to
substantiate my opinion which
I will not go into, but
the main and convincing
evidence is in the small
circular French postmark
on the two top stamps.

This measures approximately
21 mm and reads as follows
~~"Bal"~~ "Etats Unis - Serv.
Arm. balais" with date
in the center which reads
22 SEPT 61. I personally

Particular trap in red.

I believe this is enough
so I will not go into
other convincing evidence
such as the oil in
the small PD which
ties the strip and
the oil in the red
N.Y. grids. Etc.

I pure congratulate
you on this ~~strip~~ cover,
it is a real rarity
and as far as I am
aware it is unique.
I have no other record
of a cover with a

doubt if you will be able
to read the lettering.

This ~~is~~ faint marking
is in red and here is
my proof that I think
cannot be disputed. This
marking was generally
applied in black during
1861, but on the occasion
of this mail trip it
was applied in red.
Most unusual but I
can prove it. No Zarski
would know enough to
apply this marking on
the stamps and on this

Strip of ltee 5 & 1857 O.B.

I intend to write up
this paper in my
next Service Issue

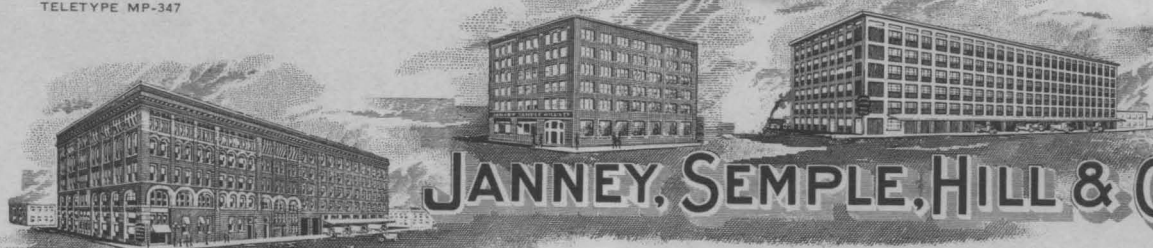
With Every good Wish

Cordially

ESTABLISHED 1866

TELEPHONE ATLANTIC 6191

TELETYPE MP-347



JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & Co.

22-26 SECOND STREET SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.

DIRECTORS:

A. J. HILL - B. J. CASE
H. W. HILL - H. P. HILL
R. M. FLEMING - E. G. LANDE
C. M. CASE, JR. - O. H. ENGLUND
A. E. COX - S. J. MIROCHA
P. L. COSGRAVE - T. S. SNYDER



6-16-53

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

Dear Stan; One of the biggest thrills I ever received was this morning when your letter arrived saying the 5c orange brown strip of three on cover was genuine. Looks like we hit the jackpot and lets hope that the other lots to come will be as good. Many many thanks.

Almost at the same time I received from London Lot I3I from Robson Lowe sale as well as lot I89. I am not going to bother you with the latter cover unless you care to see it. The Lot I3I I am enclosing for your inspection and interest as I am buying it subject to your O.K. As you will see it came from the Waterhouse collection and I think it will be useful as all of the stamps have position dots in the lower right hand corner. It cost me LII5*0*0 or about 322.00 but I like it.

If you can find time to tell me it is good or not soon I would appreciate it so I can remit to Dr. Bacher.

Kindest regards

Henry W Hill

B317 - Robson Lowe Sale of The TAPP Collection, London June 10
1953 - Bought By Henry W Hill. Lot 131 - Sale price £115. (#322.00)
Genuine In Every Respect Stanley B. Ashbrook 6/17 - 1953.

June 17, 1953.

Mr. Henry W. Hill,
20-26 - 2nd St., South,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Henry:

Yours of the 16th received and herewith I am returning the cover from the Tapp sale.

I was pleased that you got a thrill out of my verification of the Orange Brown cover. In this case it was not a mere opinion but I think that the evidence I submitted is proof conclusive that the cover is genuine in every way. I have additional evidence which I did not mention. Our good friend Les loves philatelic research work and I think he would like to have my explanation of this cover. Too bad that he has never had the time to study 19th U. S. rates and markings. I got Harold Stark interested in the study in the spring of 1944 and started him off at scratch and you know the results.

Regarding the cover herewith, lot 131, from the Tapp sale. I am pleased to report that the cover is genuine in every respect. This strip of the 5¢ most assuredly originated on this cover. I have signed it on the back as genuine. I had a letter yesterday from my friend Marcel Levy in Paris and he gave me quite a history of the man to whom this letter is addressed. Levy don't think that many covers from this correspondence was faked by Zareski. If you would like a copy of what Levy wrote me I will be very glad to send it to you.

I also return the page on which this cover was mounted with the description by Major Tapp. You will note that it is practically correct. I have an indistinct recollection that he sent me a memorandum regarding this cover and the various markings of which I gave him an explanation. His write-up is surely most unusual for a British collection. I made a photograph of the cover and also an enlarged photograph of the strip itself. As you are aware, the U. S.-French Treaty went into effect on April 1, 1857. This shows a use from New Orleans a little over a month later. The red New York postmark had never been used before April 1st. This accounts for the sharp impression.

Thanks very much for the postage.

I note that you also purchased Lot 189 in the Tapp sale. I don't think there is any question but what this cover is genuine. It shows the 29¢ rate from California to Great Britain prior to July 1, 1863.

With the best of wishes -

Cordially yours,

PHOTOGRAPH No. **123**
OF
ASHBROOK SERVICE

1861

Steamship Centonia



Black



Red



Red



Red Green

M. Demary, Jony, Lyon
Ptite rue de Semillon N° 5
France



Brown II

Red
Grid



Red

By
Weill Co.
5/3-43

BTTX

HORACE S. POOLE
1475 MONTROSE TERRACE
DUBUQUE, IOWA

June 15, 1953.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The enclosed cover is a recently acquired one. The hand stamp "KEOKUK ^{ARK}*ISL R.M" apparently stands for Keokuk & Rock Island River Mail". From the rate I would judge the date to be in the early 1850's.

A search of all the philatelic literature available to me has failed to show any reference to ^{Chase} marking. Dr. Chase in his book lists Keokuk & St. Louis Steam and S. B. Mr. Kline's book on Steam Boat Markings is not accessible to me, but an out of town friend says there is no reference to this marking in it.

If you have any data on this marking will you please let me have it.

This cover is going to you by insured mail, value \$25.00, and will you return it the same way, and let me know the amount of your fee for examination, when I will promptly take care of it.

Thank you for your time and trouble.

Very sincerely yours,

Horace S. Poole

P.S.

I have not heard from Henry Hill since his return, although a letter written from England told of his finding some nice 5¢ 1856.

Post Office Department

Received from: **STANLEY B. ASHBROOK**
P. O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.



MP

K

One piece of ordinary mail addressed
to **Horace S. Poole**

1475 Montrose Terrace

DUBUQUE

Iowa

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

June 17, 1953.

Mr. Horace S. Poole,
1475 Montrose Terrace,
Dubuque, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Poole:

I am herewith returning the cover as per yours of the 15th. I have looked up all of my records and I have no previous record of this marking. I quite agree that it stands for "KEOKUK & RECK ISLAND RIVER MAIL". I have copies of the Eugene Klein book and also his supplement, but it is not listed in either one. In my opinion the marking is genuine in every respect and it surely must be rare.

Klein's daughter is carrying on his work and is gathering data for a new supplemental listing to be issued in the not distant future. She is the wife of Dr. A. Jay Hertz and her address is 150 West 82nd Street, New York 24, N.Y. I am sure she would like to have advice of this scarce cover.

There is no fee for the above.

I have had several letters from our mutual friend, Henry Hill since his return from the continent and I am pleased to state that he acquired some beautiful covers on his recent trip.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

(28-2)

~~INSURED~~
~~\$2500~~

BRUCE G. DANIELS
7 WATER STREET
BOSTON 9, MASSACHUSETTS

TELEPHONE
LAfayette 3-0970

June 15, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Enclosed are two covers about which I would like to have your opinion. They are probably "old friends" to you but I have certain reservations about them in my own mind.

The 30¢ 1857 was in Kelleher's last sale and he told me that you wanted to see it. At the same time, he gave me a history on this cover. Originally it was Lot 169 in his 423d sale January 20, 1943, and was one of six or seven covers to Hong Kong from the same correspondence. I sincerely hope it is O.K. as it is a beauty.

The Well Fargo cover was in Bob Seigel's sale around March of this year. Kelleher has seen it and is of the opinion that it is genuine. Certain of our "friends" in the business, however, have damned it as a fake. I cannot find any particular data to prove or disprove this and I would appreciate your opinion.

I expect to be in Cincinnati in the near future and hope I can get over to Fort Thomas for a visit. The last time I was there was about five years ago for a few minutes with Sy Colby.

Please let me know what I owe for these opinions and I will send you a check to cover.

Sincerely,

Bruce G. Daniels
Bruce G. Daniels

BGD:P

Enc.

June 17, 1953.

Mr. Bruce G. Daniels,
7 Water Street,
Boston 9, Mass.

Dear Bruce:

Thanks very much for yours of the 15th with the two covers which I am returning herewith.

Regarding the 30¢ 1860 cover. I am pleased to report that this is genuine in every respect and is a very rare item. No doubt unique. I overlooked this cover entirely before the sale or else I would have had Dan send it to me. One of my friends who had me send for some other covers in the sale didn't mention this cover because he tried to get it back in the 1943 sale and took it for granted that I knew all about it. In that sale I also overlooked it and although I had Dan send me a number of covers from that sale this was not among them. As near as I can remember I never saw this cover before. You are probably aware that a lot of these Heard covers were sold at a sale in Los Angeles in 1932 by Bert Poole. I had a catalogue of that sale but this cover was not in the lot. I suppose all the superb Heard covers went East and were sold at private sale and Bert sold a lot of the Gulls.

A friend of mine who attended Dan's sale on the 5th wrote me about the cover and asked me if I thought it was genuine. He gave me sort of a description of it. For example, there was no rate to Hong Kong, that is, a single rate of 30¢ Via Southampton in 1860. There was a 30¢ per quarter ounce rate by French mail but this cover did not go that way. Further, the late William Hale who died in the Atlanta Penitentiary is known to have faked this particular Boston marking and applied it to various values of the 1857-1860 stamps off cover. For your information the 30¢ stamp paid a rate of 6 times 5¢ U. S. internal under the U. S.-British Treaty. No doubt you will recall having seen covers with the 5¢ 1857 to Hong Kong. It was customary in the late 1850's on letters to Hong Kong to pay only the 5¢ U. S. internal. Because of heavy enclosures this letter required 6 times the single rate. This is proved by the British postage due marking in manuscript on the face of the cover which reads, "6 shillings 6 pence." I have endorsed the cover as genuine on the back, but if you do not care for this you can erase same.

Regarding the other cover with the odd marking of Michigan Barr. I am very dubious about the genuineness of this cover but I hesitate to give a definite opinion regarding it, as I am not an authority on Local California items. Some very clever faking of such items was done in the past by several clever crooks out there and they had sufficient knowledge to make some very convincing fakes. There are two people whose opinion I would value regarding this cover -

#2. Mr. Bruce G. Daniels - July 17, 1953.

one is our mutual friend Edgar Jessup and the other is W. R. Parker of Oroville. If Parker would state it is good or bad I would not question his opinion in the slightest degree.

I note that you expect to be in Cincinnati in the near future and I can assure you it will be a pleasure to have you run out and pay me a visit. It is possible that we may be away during the latter part of this month and the early part of July.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Kelleher
Sale

6/5-53

Lot 16

Miss Augustine Heard & Co.

Hong Kong.

China

Blue F.L.

Via Southampton.

1860

Red



Black

30¢ 1860 With Red Boston BR PKT PAID - BOSTON AUG 22 1860 - Early Use OF This Stamp, Earliest Known Is AUG 10 1860. Letter Inside Dated BOSTON Aug 17 1860. On Back Two Postmarks - circular "LONDON SP 3 60" in Red - And HONG KONG - Oct 1 60 - 30¢ pay Was 6x5¢ U.S. Internal. The British Due Was 6 shillings 6 pence or 6x24 plus 6x2 or \$1.56 U.S. Total U.S. & British \$1.86 This Letter Was Routed Via Southampton. In 1860 The Rate Was PREFPAID - 33¢ per Single Rate To Hong Kong "Via Southampton". 6x33¢ = \$1.98 - The Difference Is 12¢ - or 6x2 = 12. This Was Probably The Delivery Charge of 6 pence At Hong Kong. In My Opinion This Cover Is Genuine In Every Respect

Stewart R. S. S. 6/17 1953

This BLUE FOLDED LETTER Was Lot 16 in The Kelleher Sale of June 5 1953. It Was Also Lot 169 in The Kelleher Sale (423rd) of Jan 30 1943. Recent Sale Price \$285.00 - 1943 Sale Price Was \$240.00. This Is A Very Rare Cover And The stamp

4274

Mint Sheet Brokerage



ORIGINATORS OF THE BID AND ASK STAMP MARKET

WARREN W. SCHOLL

LEE CHADWICK

18 E. FOURTH ST.,
CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

~~PARKWAY 3839~~
Sycamore 5763

To Avoid Delay Use Our
NEW ADDRESS
8470 BLUE ASH ROAD
ROSSMOYNE, OHIO Est. 1936

June 16, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Wonder is you could help us out on the enclosed item. The owner would like to know whether it is legitimate and also what it might be worth if it is.

Lee and I have both been quite busy since last we saw you and haven't been on the other side of the Ohio since last Fall.

If horses appeal to you, perhaps we might get together when Lee and I make our annual pilgrimage to River Downs.

Best regards,

Warren W. Scholl

WS:LF
Enc.

Post Office Department

Received from: STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.

One piece of ordinary mail addressed
to Warren W. Scholl

8470 Blue Ash Road
ROSSMOYNE Ohio

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION



June 18, 1953.

Mr. Warren W. Scholl,
8470 Blue Ash Road,
Rossmyne, Ohio.

Dear Warren:

Yours of the 16th received with the B.J. cover which I return herewith.

There was a post office in the eighteen sixties in Michigan by the name of NOBLE CENTRE, Branch Co., but this letter was sent sealed and there was no such a thing as a first-class rate of 1¢. Circulars could be sent unsealed, with no writing for 1¢. The smudge on the stamp is very unconvincing. About the only good points are (1) the manuscript "1 CT" does appear to be in the same ink as the address but this might not mean anything. (2) the piece of the stamp looks "old," if you can guess what I mean. In my opinion, I do not think the item has much value because I believe most any collector would hesitate to put much money in it. I am not overlooking the fact that while the flap might have been sealed, the left end might have been left open, and the enclosure could have been a newspaper clipping or printed circular.

Someday in the near future when I get my desk cleared I intend to drive out and see your new place - I think I would enjoy this more than spending any time at River Downs.

With best wishes to Lee and you -

Cordially yours,

Mint Sheet Brokerage



ORIGINATORS OF THE BID AND ASK STAMP MARKET

WARREN W. SCHOLL

LEE CHADWICK

18 E. FOURTH ST.,
CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

PARKWAY 3839
SYcamore 5763

To Avoid Delay Use Our
NEW ADDRESS
8470 BLUE ASH ROAD
ROSSMOYNE, OHIO

June 23, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Thank you for your report on the "Bisect"
cover which you returned to us.

Frankly it didn't look awfully good to us
but we wanted to make sure we had the right
information before returning it to the owner.

Lee will be back in the office sometime next
week and we both hope you will not be too long
getting out to see us at our new location.

We told the owner it would cost him \$5.00 to
obtain information on this lot and accordingly
we are turning the check over to you.

Cordially,

Warren W. Scholl

WS:LF

June 24, 1953.

Mr. Warren W. Scholl,
1870 Blue Ash Road,
Rossmoynce, Ohio.

Dear Warren:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 23rd with the check for \$5.00. This was totally unexpected but nevertheless very much appreciated.

Give my kindest regards to Lee when he returns.


We will be away from Home from June 27th to July 5th inclusive and all mail will be held at the local Post Office until my return.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

DARK BROWN.

Sold
out To
MS Throy
5/4 - 50/30

254 Red Pony (143L9) - Lot 428 in Sale By Robt A Siegel Apr 1 1953 -
Sale Price \$425.00 - Good or Bad? No Opinion Given
By Stanley B. Ashbrook  B316

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

June 15, 1953

Dear Jack:

I return herewith the 2¢ Brown cover which you purchased in the last Fox auction. I don't know where you got the idea that I examine all Confederate items in any Fox Sale. I may from time to time examine them but in no sense do I through inference guarantee them unless I am asked about particular items which has sometimes happened. I never saw this 2¢ cover before you presented it to me. Having now seen it it appears to me in all respects to be okay. The cancel is double struck, rather blurred, but there is no indication of manipulation that I can see.

Now with respect to the other 2¢ Red cover sent me under date of May 20 together with your letter explaining same --

We have examined this cancel very carefully, compared it with all known examples of the Richmond unscrifed cancel which job was carefully done by Tom Parks who specializes in this field. Our opinion is that this is a fake cancel. If you will compare it with other Richmond cancels of similar type you will see that the letter "r" is the wrong shape, the "c" "h" and "o" are too broad and that the placement of the State designation "VA" does not agree with any known example. The month and day date apparently were struck separately which accounts for them not lining up with the state designation. This is an extremely dangerous fake and should be photographed at once by Ashbrook for the records.

I might also mention that the period after "Va." is round instead of square as in the originals. Also the outer circle is much heavier than in all originals. I note that you state the source of this cover but I think you go too far when you say that all of stuff came from original finds. Personally I know it did not. I should mention that the envelope and the address and the manuscript "Cumberland C.H." and the date are all original and that very probably this cover stampless or with a pencancel stamp removed originated at that place and that the 2¢ was affixed and then a fake cancel applied.

No doubt this finding will be a shock to you since apparently you sold the cover. However, mistakes will happen. You should know that several large collections were searched before this decision was reached and no Richmond cancel that would match this fake was found. Will you please send me a photograph of same when you have them made.

Best regards,

LLS

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth

P. S. The Blockade cover with opinion will be forwarded to you shortly.

A.P.S.
S.P.A.
C.U.N.U.



C.S.A.
A.R.A.
B.N.A.P.S.

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

June 19, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

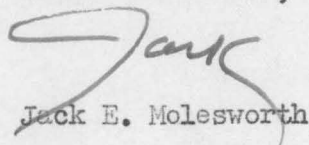
I shall be glad to send along the 30¢ 1869 as soon as it reaches me though same may not be for several months. Thanks for your reference to your "Stamps" ad in 1949 offering the Brooks cover. I shall attempt to find a copy.

Enclosed are 6 off-cover and 4 on-cover 11¢ 1851-7 items on which I would appreciate your examination and opinion confirming or rejecting the types noted on them.

I am also enclosing two Confederate 2¢ brown covers. The nice one with clear Richmond, Virginia, postmark has just been declared a fake by the C.S.A. Expert Committee after extensive examination and reference to ~~Richmond known postmarks~~. Evidently they found no postmark identical to this and therefore concluded it is not genuine though apparently it is not similar to any recorded fake cancel either. Larry Shenfield asked me to send him a photo and I wonder if you could make about four copies of a photo for me for which I shall be glad to pay you. Also, any comments you care to make regarding the cover will be appreciated as I secured it in the Hayden Myer collection which I secured from Cole so that its source was about as good as one could expect. The postmark tying the 2¢ brown to the other cover doesn't look quite right to me even though Shenfield has concluded that it is a double strike and O.K. Your examination and opinion on it would also be appreciated.

Advise your fee on the above and I shall remit promptly as usual.

With best wishes,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

x wonder if this stamp was used on
this cover?

June 21, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the following Confederate cover as per yours of the 19th - 2¢ Red Brown tied by a Richmond postmark of Jan 1 ? - addressed to Miss Mary G. Wilson, care Law(?) S. Marye, Richmond. At top a manuscript postmark of "Cumberland C.H. Jan 30."

In my opinion this stamp was not used on this cover originally and the Richmond postmark is a counterfeit. The black ink of this marking is modern and not of the sixties. I opened up the back flap of the cover and noted that this black ink soaked thru the paper like an aniline ink. I also note evidence inside that apparently the original stamp was removed and the 2¢ substituted. It is my belief that this letter originated at Cumberland C.H. (Cumberland Co., Va.) on Jan. 30 - year not disclosed. It is possible it had a 10¢ 1863 which had a pencancel. This stamp was removed and an unused 2¢ substituted and tied with this fake Richmond postmark. I believe that the cover itself - the manuscript postmark and the address are all genuine and a use during the Confederacy. Further, the stamp looks fresh and clean in comparison to the age and stain of the paper of the envelope at right.

I made photograph and will send you a print later.

Sincerely yours,

June 30th, 1953

Dear Jack:

I was sorry to hand you the bad news on the 2¢ brown cover.

I should be happy to have you propose a scale of fees on behalf of the C.S.A. You are in a splendid position to do so since you have made such full, and I presume profitable, use of the service. Why don't you write a formal letter to Crigler and ask that the matter be given action. For your information, Messrs. Ashbrook and MacBride and I have discussed this frequently and we are for it but the matter has never officially been brought before the C.S.A.

I have the photographs from Ashbrook of the two covers and I thank you for them.

With kind regards -

LLS

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth
102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

cc Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Mr. Van Dyke MacBride



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

June 23, 1953

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

700

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your prompt reply on the items submitted last week. Enclosed is my check for \$7 to cover your very modest fee.

I greatly appreciate your additional comments on the 2¢ brown cover and feel your observation with regard to the ink, the freshness of the stamp as opposed to the stains on the cover, etc. are far more convincing evidence of the cover's spurious nature than the indication of the expert committee that the postmark was not of a known type. The cover is now in my personal fake collection. Incidentally, I would greatly appreciate your sending an additional photograph for me to forward to the collector to whom I had sold this cover and to whom I have since made full refund with apologies.

Your comments with respect to "Enochs" are quite understandable and appreciated. I have heard from other sources that Hayden Myer was not too liberal a spender and therefore can understand that he may have been stuck with the 2¢ brown cover thinking that he was getting a very great bargain. In view of its clever nature I guess it is quite understandable that Cole missed it also.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

A. E. GUENTHER
638 AUDUBON AVENUE
MOUNT LEBANON
PITTSBURGH 34, PA.

June 20, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

It's been some time since I heard from you. I still have my collection but haven't been very active as a stamp collector. Now & then I buy an 1847 item.

Some time ago you told me you have been making a study of 1847^o used on foreign mail. I obtained an item out of John Fox's last sale that you might want to make a record of. Please note the enclosed. I couldn't make out the Ky. town postmark. It's a forwarded letter to Cairo, Egypt via Marseilles. What do you think of the workings?

Would a Photo bring out the workings more clearly? If so, then I wonder whether you would make a Photo. for me & of course I want to

pay for the Photos. I think the
enclust is a darn nice ton.

W E Guenther

P.S.

Just returned from a Florida
vacation. Didn't find a single
item worth buying on the trip down
a up.

June 24, 1953.

Mr. A. E. Guenther,
638 Audubon Avenue,
Mount Lebanon,
Pittsburgh 34, Pa.

Dear Mr. Guenther:

It was nice to hear from you again.

Re - the 5¢ 1847 cover which I am returning herewith. I noticed this in the Fox sale and sent for it and made a photograph, a print of which I enclose herewith with my compliments. Last month, when I examined it, I was unable to make out the town, so I put on the cover in pencil - "Ky. town?" On further examination the strike seems to be "BARDSTOWN, Ky." and perhaps "Dec. 4" (1850). Whoever mailed the letter must have been well known to the Postmaster as he evidently charged 14¢ to her account and forwarded the letter to New York as PAID, - the "19" in red was a New York marking.

I wonder if you noted the name of the addressee? It is Joseph Holt, who was appointed postmaster general by President Buchanan in 1859. Holt was a Kentuckian and a strong Union man. Incidentally, he was educated at St. Joseph's College at Bardstown, Ky. and made a trip to Europe in 1850, so a biography of him states. Bardstown is quite a historic old Kentucky town and many of its early settlers were French catholics.

We find that New York did not postmark a lot of foreign mail in the early fifties that did not originate there. This is a typical example - merely the credit of 19¢ to Great Britain.

This letter was forwarded to Alexandria "Via Marseilles" and the postage due there appears to have been "2/1" or two shillings one pence. I wonder if it was sent under separate cover from Alexandria to Cairo? This is certainly a very interesting cover.

With every good wish -

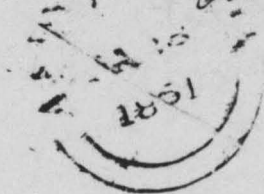
Cordially yours,

(28-6)

Bot By Guenther of Pittsburg

Received at Cairo No 2

Answered at Cairo.



BACK OF A257-PAIR 54 47 To
Jos Holt - Fox Sale 6/4-53 - Lot 106
FILM 50 No 2

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 GLENWOOD 4-2451

6-23-53

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

This cover arrived today
from the Robson Love Sale of June 10th
I am anxious to get your opinion of it,
because I am not ~~sure~~ of the opinions
expressed by the worthy gentlemen who
maintain that it is genuine.

Sincerely,
W. Scott Polland

P.S. Please let me know as soon as
convenient so that I may pay or return
the cover.

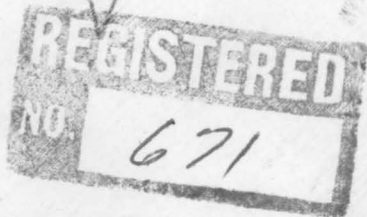
W.S.P.

W. A. Belmont
1011 B San Rafael, Calif

VIA AIR MAIL



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





THE BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, LTD.

EXPERT DEPARTMENT

The following are the particulars and terms of the Expert Department :—

Stamps will be received by or on behalf of the Committee on the following terms :—

All stamps sent or submitted shall be at the risk of the member submitting the same for opinion.

The Committee may decline to express any opinion upon any stamp submitted.

Stamps will only be accepted from members and members of Affiliated Societies.

Scale of Charges, including Certificate and Photograph :

No photograph is given in the case of forgeries, etc.

For specimens quoted in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue at £25 each or under in value which are pronounced genuine ... 4s. 6d. each.

For specimens quoted at £26 and under £50 ... 6s. 0d. each.

For specimens quoted at £50 or upwards ... 10s. 6d. each.

Where no catalogue quotation is given the charge will be on the highest scale.

In all cases in which the Committee are asked to pronounce upon the genuineness of a surcharge or overprint, 50% over the above fees will be charged.

Stamps which are genuine, but prove to be a common variety instead of the catalogue number under which they were submitted, and do not merit a photograph, will be charged at the lowest rate, less 1/-.

Blocks and covers will be charged according to the work involved and the size of the photograph required.

Specimens pronounced not to be genuine will be charged 2s. 6d. each, and when surcharged or overprinted 3s. 9d. each.

In all cases where the applicant for a certificate requires an answer to a particular question, and the Committee are unable to give a definite opinion, a fee of 1s. will be charged to cover the postages and expenses.

The above charges are subject to revision.

Stamps should be sent for opinion, together with cost of return postage and registration, to

Hon. Secretary, Expert Dept., B.P.A.,

3, Berners St., London, W.1.

The Council of the British Philatelic Association Ltd. and the members of the Expert Committee can accept no liability or personal responsibility for stamps submitted for opinion. All stamps submitted must be at sender's risk throughout. No responsibility can be accepted for any opinion expressed by the Expert Committee as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamp, or stamps, submitted to them and submission of stamps for opinion implies acceptance of these conditions.

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, LTD.

EXPERT DEPARTMENT

The following are the particulars and terms of the Expert Department :—

Stamps will be received by or on behalf of the Committee on the following terms :—

All stamps sent or submitted shall be at the risk of the member submitting the same for opinion.

The Committee may decline to express any opinion upon any stamp submitted.

Stamps will only be accepted from members and members of Affiliated Societies.

Scale of Charges, including Certificate and Photograph :

No photograph is given in the case of forgeries, etc.

For specimens quoted in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue at £25 each or under in value which are pronounced genuine ... 4s. 6d. each.

For specimens quoted at £26 and under £50 ... 6s. 0d. each.

For specimens quoted at £50 or upwards ... 10s. 6d. each.

Where no catalogue quotation is given the charge will be on the highest scale.

In all cases in which the Committee are asked to pronounce upon the genuineness of a surcharge or overprint, 50% over the above fees will be charged.

Stamps which are genuine, but prove to be a common variety instead of the catalogue number under which they were submitted, and do not merit a photograph, will be charged at the lowest rate, less 1/-.

Blocks and covers will be charged according to the work involved and the size of the photograph required.

Specimens pronounced not to be genuine will be charged 2s. 6d. each, and when surcharged or overprinted 3s. 9d. each.

In all cases where the applicant for a certificate requires an answer to a particular question, and the Committee are unable to give a definite opinion, a fee of 1s. will be charged to cover the postages and expenses.

The above charges are subject to revision.

Stamps should be sent for opinion, together with cost of return postage and registration, to

Hon. Secretary, Expert Dept., B.P.A.,

3, Berners St., London, W.1.

The Council of the British Philatelic Association Ltd. and the members of the Expert Committee can accept no liability or personal responsibility for stamps submitted for opinion. All stamps submitted must be at sender's risk throughout. No responsibility can be accepted for any opinion expressed by the Expert Committee as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamp, or stamps, submitted to them and submission of stamps for opinion implies acceptance of these conditions.

No: 17159

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, LTD.
EXPERT COMMITTEE

3 BERNERS STREET,

LONDON, W.1. 20 19

The Committee is of the opinion that the
UNITED STATES 1857/61.

Perf. 15, 15½. 30° orange,

used on cover, 25 SG: 91,

genuine.



Robsonhow
Arthur L.F. Jones
Sitonsy.

No: 17159

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, LTD.
EXPERT COMMITTEE

3 BERNERS STREET,
LONDON, W.1. 20 19

The Committee is of the opinion that the
UNITED STATES 1857/61.

Perf. 15, 15½. 30^c orange,

used on cover, 25 SG: 91,

genuine.



Robsonhow

Arthur H. F. Jones

Sitouny

MEMORANDUM FROM

Dr. O. Bacher

Major W.H.Tapp, M.C.,
Sunbury-on-Thames.

18/4/51.

Dear Major Tapp,

I write to add to the B.P.A. Certificate No. 17159 on a USA 30 c 1860, S.G. 91, on cover that in my opinion the stamp belongs to the cover and has been there since the time the letter went through the mails from San Francisco, Cal., to England. The cover plus stamp represents a fine example of that rather rare use of the 30 c 1860 from the Pacific Coast to a foreign country. It is a perfectly genuine item.

Yours sincerely

O. A. Bacher
Otto M. A. Bacher.

17159



B321 From The ROBSON LOWE LONDON Sale of June 10 - 1953 -
Lot 90. Bot By Dr W.S. Pollard - Sent To S.B.A. For opinion -
6/26-53 - OKAY in All Respects - shows 29d Rate From SF -
Nothing On Back - No Credit on Face - The S.F. office did
Not know How it Would Be Sent - Amer. or Br PKT -
See S.B. 20 - p. 7.

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO. Ltd.

The Leading Specialists in U.S.A. Stamps
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4 WARWICK STREET, LONDON, W.1

MEMORANDUM FROM

Dr. O. Bacher

Major W.H. Tapp, M.C.,
Sunbury-on-Thames.

18/4/51.

Dear Major Tapp,

I write to add to the B.P.A. Certificate No. 17159 on a USA 30 c 1860, S.G. 91, on cover that in my opinion the stamp belongs to the cover and has been there since the time the letter went through the mails from San Francisco, Cal., to England. The cover plus stamp represents a fine example of that rather rare use of the 30 c 1860 from the Pacific Coast to a foreign country. It is a perfectly genuine item.

Yours sincerely

O. Bacher

Otto M. A. Bacher.

17159



B321] From The ROBSON LOWE, LONDON Sale of June 10-1953 -
 Lot 90. Bot By Dr W.S. Poynter - Sent To S.B.A. For opinion -
 6/26-53 - OKAY in All Respects - Shows 29d Rate From SF -
 Nothing On Back - No Credit on Face - The S.F. office did
 Not know How it Would Be Sent - Amer. or Br PKT -
 See S.B. 28 - p. 7.

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO. Ltd.

The Leading Specialists in U.S.A. Stamps
 REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4 WARWICK STREET, LONDON, W.1

*Dr. W.H. Tapp, M.C.,
 Sunbury-on-Thames,
 England
 London*

17159



Dr. W. H. Gatliff
 No 16 The Grove
 Hammersmith
 England London

B321 From The ROBSON LOWE, LONDON sale of June 10 - 1953 -
 Lot 90. Bot By Dr W.S. Pollard - sent To S.B.A. For opinion -
 6/26-53 - OKAY in All Respects - shows 29d Rate From S.F.
 nothing On Back - No Credit on Face - The S.F. Office did
 Not know How It Would Be Sent - Amer. or Br PKT -
 See S.B. 28 - p. 7.

B321

B321 From The ROBSON LOWE, LONDON Sale of June 10-1953 -
Lot 90. Bot By Dr W.S. Pollard - Sent To S.B.A. For opinion -
6/26-53 - OKAY in All Respects - Shows 29d Rate From SF
Nothing On Back - No Credit on Face - The S.F. Office Did
Not Know How It Would Be Sent - Amer. or Br PKT -
See S.B. 28 - p. 7.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook -

Will you inspect the 3
enclosed covers from the
recent Robson Lowe sale?

(All 'Garnier' correspondence!)

Please sign them on the
back if O.K. & make any
pertinent comments in your
accompanying letter.

Please mail to Georgia
as I shall be back there

7/3/53.

Best wishes

Philip Rust

PHILIP G. RUST
Route 5
THOMASVILLE, Georgia

July 3, 1953.

Mr. Philip G. Rust,

Route 5,

Thomasville, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Rust:

Herewith the three lots from the Robson Lowe, London, sale of June 10th, Nos. 136, 146 and 147. I made a very careful examination of these and am pleased to report that each one is genuine in every respect. I signed each one on the back and you will find an analysis of each. I also made photographs and will send prints later. My fee is \$5.00 per cover and charge slip is enclosed herewith.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Lot 136. A genuine cover - signed on the back.

Regarding Major Tapp's description, most of it is correct but some statements are incorrect. For example, this did not travel "by sea" to Boston, also the statement that the H.S. of 3 of the "BRICK RED" came from "the sixth row" is surely incorrect as the 5¢ Type I, Plate No. 1 has never been plated and thus there is no way that I know of to identify rows from which a strip such as this originated. The "P.D." in BLACK is not unusual, and the Major's statement that the rate was not fully paid to destination is in error. There was no postage due from the addressee. The weight was not over 3/4 ounce. The "P.D." was French applied and indicated "Postage Paid To Destination." This is specified in the U.S.-French Postal Treaty of 1857. The rate was 15¢ per 1/4 oz. - Thus this was a "triple" of 3 x 15¢, i.e., over 1/2 but not over 3/4 oz. The red "36" is the U. S. credit to France of "36¢" as the U. S. share of the rate was only 3 x 3¢, as the only service performed by the U.S. P.O.D. was to transmit this letter from N.O. to Boston and put it aboard a British Mail Ship (Cunard) bound for Liverpool. We paid the French and they paid the British for transmission to the French frontier. Re - the Major's plating of the 10¢ 1857 strip, whether his 66-76-86R1 is correct was not checked by me.

(signed) _____

July 3, 1953

Lot 146. An exceedingly rare and valuable cover.

First, regarding the plate positions. I checked the two strips 64L1-74L1-84L1, 65L1, 75L1, 85L1, and found the plate positions correct. I did not check the third, (63L1-73L1-83L1).

This letter represented a 6 x 15¢ rate fully paid, from New Orleans to French destination (weight was over $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. but not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz). This letter was forwarded from New Orleans, La. on Nov. 25, 1858 - from New York on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1858, and from Boston on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1858 (no Boston marking). The large "72" was the credit of 72¢ to the French P.O.D. - the U. S. share of the rate being 3¢ per 1/4 oz. or 6 x 3¢ - 18¢. There was no French postage due on this letter as stated by Major Tapp.

This cover is genuine in every respect and is signed on the back.

July 3, 1953

Lot 147. This cover is genuine in every respect and is signed on the back. This was a double rate (2 x 15¢) (over 1/4 oz. but not over 1/2 oz.). From New Orleans, Nov. 17, 1858, and from New York on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1858, by British Packet (Cunard) to Liverpool. The "24" in the red New York postmark represents the U. S. Credit to France of 24¢.

July 3, 1953

1857/61
The Scott (Thomas Jefferson) & combinations
(ex Hakerhouse Bull?)

Approx - 436,000.

7003 Cover from "NEW ORLEANS NOV. 10. 1858" by sea to "BOSTON NOV 17 BRPKI" per Commodore J. J. via
LIVERPOOL-LONDON & "ET UNIS SERV BRAC 30 NOV. 58" **P.D. 36** "PARIS 1 DEC 58" "PARIS A BORDEAUX"
& NANTES the same evening.

This cover is franked for triple weight with a horizontal strip of three 3-cent red seals & 40 from the sixth row
& a vertical strip of three red seals 66R type 76R type 76R

The 36 indicates a reservation of qts by stamps i.e. 3x36 to USA POD & a credit of 36cts to foreign postage as
follows 3x6 = 18cts Trans Atlantic fee (imposed 6c) 3x3 = 9cts to GB POD & 3x36 = 108cts to FG POD = 36cts in all.

Now why the P.D. in black? It was of course understood that postage paid only to the frontier but this P.D. mark
was put on at CALAIS to indicate that the weight of the letter was over the 3/4 oz weight but still under the full 1 oz! It must be remembered
that the rates were current both in USA & GB whereas on the contrary in France the rates were only per 1/2 oz consequently a small
internal surcharge was due from the Addressee!

1857/61
Green (George Washington) type 100 used on cover to Nantes France -
in Hakerhouse Bull?
Scott No. 100A type 100C in design
25 Feb 1858

type 100 issued approx 2 Feb 1858

from Ed Loring New Orleans 24 Nov. 1858 bearing the "Ship Paris" Seal & the terms NO stamp in Green, cancelled over all three
ships "NEW ORLEANS 12 Nov 25. 1858" "Paris via" "NEW YORK LAND NOV 30 1858" with 12 red seal also 6x9" 30 for the
transit & 6x3" 15 for the P.D. for transit fee GB POD leaving a balance of 6x3" for the USA POD. Transit Channel "ET UNIS
SERV BRAC (date) 14 DEC 58"

Now this P.D. stamp in Black indicated to the French Postal Authorities that
& that French Domestic fees had still to be collected from the Addressee!
Qts charges only had been paid in full
Reaches Paris the same morning "Paris a Nantes the same evening & finally is delivered in "NANTES 42. 15 DEC. 58"

P.D.

type 85 cut 1	75 type 11	65 type 10	63 type 11	73 type 11	83 type 11
84 type 11	74 type 11	64 type 11			

Earliest use 8/Jan 187
type 93 in 200
- III 79

Double Weight - 103 lth = 30c
Virtual ship x. Scott. 49B type 49A type 49B type 1857/61

Lot 147
type A Approx 3,500,000.
.. III 2,850,000

Letter from (J. H. EIMER & CO) NEW ORLEANS NOV. 11 1858 leaves NEW ORLEANS La. NOV 17 1858 by ship to NEW YORK NOV 24 PAID 24
thence to GB by 55
Trans Channel ET UNIS SERV BRAC 6 DEC 58 finally is delivered in NANTES 7 Dec 1858 (60)
Postage 24c made up by (6c GB 6c French 70. 12c Ship Charge leaving 283c 6c for USA P.D.)

1857/61
the Secret (Thomas Jefferson) & combinations
(ex Waterhouse Collⁿ)

Approx. 26.00.

403 Cover from "NEW ORLEANS NOV 10. 1858" by sea to "BOSTON NOV 17 BR PKT per Commodore S J LIVERPOOL LONDON & ET UNIS SERV BR AC 30 NOV 58" **P.D. 36** "PARIS 1 DEC 58" "PARIS A BORD LAUX & NANTES the same evening"

this cover is franked for triple weight with a horizontal ship of three British 5c 1d 1d from the sixth row & a vertical ship of three 2c 1c 1c
The 36 indicates a reservation of 9c by stamps i.e. 3x3c to USA P.D. & a credit of 36c to foreign postage as follows 3x1 18c Trans Atlantic fee (Comard 6^c) 3x3 9c to GB P.D. & 3x3 9c in Fd P.D. = 36c in all.

Now why the P.D. in black? It was of course understood that postage paid only to the frontier but this P.D. mark was put on at CALAIS to indicate that the weight of the letter was over the 3/4 oz weight but still under the full 1oz! It must be remembered that the rates were current both in USA & GB whereas on the contrary in France the rates were only per 1/2 oz consequently a small internal surcharge was due from the Addressee!

Green (George Washington)

on cover to Nantes France

type 115 used approx

from Ed. Louquet New Orleans 24 Nov. 1858 bearing the Ship Post Seal & the Union N.O. stamp in green, cancelled over all the ships "NEW ORLEANS 24 NOV 25 1858" "Paris via" "30" with 1) reserved 45c 6x4th 3) fourth 8x6th for trans-Atlantic GB P.D. leaving a balance of 6x5th for the USA P.D. transit Channel "ET UNIS". Now this P.D. stamp in black indicated to the French Postal Authorities that & that French Domestic fees had still to be collected from the Addressee! The charges were then paid in full. See how "Paris the same evening" from a Nantes the same evening & finally is delivered in "NANTES 42 15 DEC 58" Stamps L.L.

P.D.

type III 85 cvt I	75 type II	65 type IV	type I 63	type II 73	type III 83
84 type III	74 type IV	(64) type IV			

Earliest use 8/10/187

type 2 93 in 200

III 79

Double Weight - 103 letters = 30.

Virtual ship x^c Scott 490 type 44A type 44B type 1857/61

Lot 147

type A Approx. 3500 000

III 2500 000

Letter from (J. H. EIMER & CO) NEW ORLEANS NOV 11 1858 to NEW ORLEANS. LA. NOV 17 1858 by ship to NEW YORK NOV 24 PAID 24 then to GB by 55
Chas. S. Channel ET UNIS SERV. BR AC. 6 DEC 58 finally is delivered in NANTES 7 DEC 1858 (60)
Postage 24th modify (6^c GB. C. French 70 12th ship charge leaving 2x3^c 6^c for USA P.D.)



83L	73L	63L
84L	74L	64L
85L	75L	65L

3 Covers Bot By
Philip Rust In The
Robson Lowe Sale
In LONDON - Tapp
Collection - 6/10-53

Back Lot 147
Robson Lowe Sale 6/10-53
Bot By P. Rust



In My Opinion This Cover Is Genuine In
Every Respect

Thom P. Rust
July 3 1953

3 Covers Bot By
Philip Rust In The
Robson Lowe Sale
In LONDON - Tapp
Collection - 6/10-53

3 Covers Bot By
Philip Rust In The
Robson Lowe Sale
In LONDON - Tapp
Collection - 6/10-53

74L	75L	curl 85L
(64L)	(74L)	84L
63L	73L	83L

In My opinion This Cover Is Genuine In Every
Respect *Philip B. Rust*



7/3
53



Bot By
P. Rust-

Lot 146 Robson Lowe Sale 6/10
53

146

700-
Bot By
P. RUST



Back of
Lot 136
Robson.
Lowe sale
6/10-53

In My Opinion This Cover
Is Genuine In Every
Respect

Wm. Robson

No. 27 550

22 MAY 1945

The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed *United States*.

1857 10c. green, Pl. I, Type I, three vertical strips
of 3 used on cover; the two strips of the re-cut variety
being 64, 74 and 84 LI, and 65, 75, 85 LI
Stamps, sent by [REDACTED]

of which a Photograph is attached hereto, and are
of opinion *that it is genuine.*

FOR THE EXPERT COMMITTEE.

M. Wilson

CHAIRMAN

No. 27,550

22 MAY 1945

The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed *United States*.

1857 10c. green, Pl. I Type I, three vertical strips
of 3 used on cover; the two strips of the re-cut variety
being 64, 74 and 84 LI, and 65, 75, 85 LI
Stamps, sent by [redacted]

of which a Photograph is attached hereto, and are
of opinion that it is *Genuine*.

FOR THE EXPERT COMMITTEE.

M. Wilson

CHAIRMAN.

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.
1616 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA 3

July 29, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

For your further information I would advise that I am going to prepare an article in the next several months for possible publication in the "American Philatelist", giving a resume of all Postal Laws & Regulations from the first and listing the publishers, etc. Since working at the Post Office library I find that they have a photostat copy, page by page, of the Postal Laws of 1804. This consists of 70 pages, printed in Washington for the Post Office, printer not mentioned. I also see that the so-called P. L. & R. of 1827 is nothing more than a 7 page pamphlet quoting the new Act approved March 2, 1827. This was distributed to Postmasters. The so-called Laws of 1863 is nothing more than a report prepared for a Committee of Congress, namely the Committee of Post Offices and Post Roads. The Government copy has written on the flyleaf "Not Adopted". Six hundred copies were prepared—five hundred for the House of Representatives and one hundred for the Post Office. Naturally had this been Post Office Laws, a larger quantity would have been printed in behalf of the Post Office Department. I also find that the Laws of 1872 is nothing more than a thirty-two page pamphlet in which a Committee of three appointed by the Postmaster General gave their report relating to the "Postal Service as revised, simplified, arranged and consolidated". The Library of Congress also has 1800 and 1808, which I have not as yet seen.

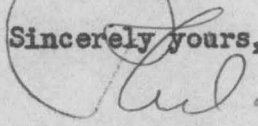
I spent a good part of last week in Washington, intending to complete my copying of the early letters. I am now going to endeavor to locate the press copy replies of the Post Office which are not in the library, although they have the bound press copies of the Postmaster General, the first, two and fourth Assistants, the Chief Clerk and the auditor. We do not know what has happened to those from the Third Assistant but the next time I am in Washington I will endeavor to see what happened to them. They also have some 10,000 photographs, some originals and some copies. I noticed a picture entitled "The Pony Express" and another illustrating the first train to carry U. S. mail. None of these have any markings on the back, so we will have to hunt up elsewhere what they really covered. They have been accumulating in the Post Office for years and no one seems to know why they have them or where they came from. On the two just mentioned there was printed on the plate on one "The Pony Express" and on the other "The First Train to Carry Mail". I imagine I am going to find quite a few attractive pieces.

While in Washington I saw Harry Lindquist, who stopped in the Post Office to visit me, and he suggested that my articles in "Mekeel's" be put together and published in either the "A.P." or "The Collectors Club Philatelist", where they would be better preserved. I am going to do this with the main articles, such as those on the Overland Mail, on the Postal Laws, and I will possibly get together those

that have been written up in "Mekeel's", bring them into a chronological order and then publish the stories in a monthly magazine. I doubt whether it would be necessary to publish them in pamphlet form although when the "A.P." have them set up I can get Stowell to run out a few for private distribution to those, like yourself, who would especially like to have them in some compact form. I have obtained much more information that has not been published and I will possibly carry these out for the next year or two in "Mekeel's".

I note you have written Jessup and will anxiously await advice as to what he has to say. I am sure Frank knew what he was talking about and he certainly is not one to convey false information.

Sincerely yours,


PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

McBride

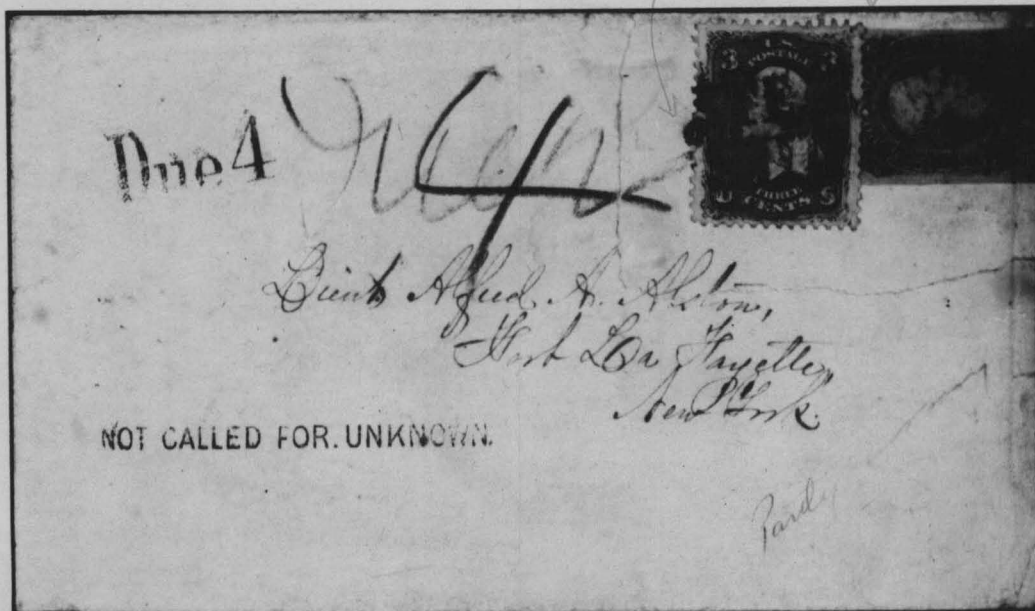
Please return

2
was "STEAM
SHIP" could
not from Nassau.

Black

Could be
fore tie

No tie
on K+B



Unsent
K+B



5

B313

Due 4

Black

Blue

Red



Black

No
Cancel

Print Alfred A. Mott,
West Co. Station
New York

NOT CALLED FOR. UNKNOWN.

Black

Paid

BY SHENFIELD JUNE 11 1953

Sam Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

July 30th, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

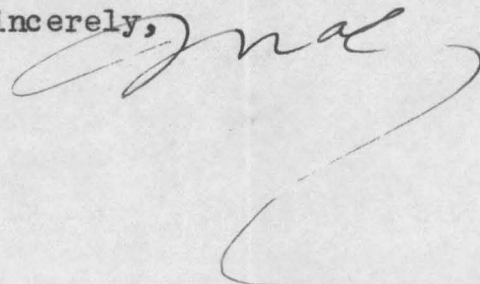
Your fine letter of July 26th serves to further prove how excellent and thorough a student you are! It seems to pretty well wind up the case of the Alston cover, and I shall gladly add it to the photographs thereof and put it all in my reference files for future use. As you well point out, much of it is necessarily pure theory, but as is true in so many cases, we have to couple theory with logic and hope that we have discovered the true story.

I continue to agree that there was nothing to indicate that the cover ever originated in the Confederacy, and it may well have been that this Lt. Alston was merely a visitor at Fort Lafayette. However, we will all keep a watchful eye out for further possible developments. I will probably use the cover in my story on Fort Lafayette, as one of the Civil War prisons in New York, - whenever I get around to writing it. Covers addressed to Fort Lafayette, or identifiable as having been sent from there, are very scarce things, and that is the reason I will use this one now, - with an adequate explanation of its shortcomings. Incidentally, Jack Molesworth who owns the cover writes that he has decided to keep it for his own reference collection.

You may not have heard of the bad news about old Gus Dietz, but he recently had to go to a Richmond hospital for an operation for cancer of the mouth. I hear the operation was successful and that he is at home recuperating, - and that the outlook for him is reasonably good. An even sadder story is that of his son August Jr., - a particularly fine and capable fellow, - who has now long been in the hospital with a serious disease of the spine, - and for whom I understand the outlook is pretty bad. All this has of course brought the work we have been doing on the new edition of the Dietz Catalog, entirely to a standstill, - and as of the present writing I don't know when and how it will be taken care of.

My very best to you, as always. Regards!

Sincerely,



MacB/HK
c.c.: L.L.Shenfield

Sam Dyk Mac Bride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

June 18th, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

I don't know that I have any important comments to make on your letter of June 11th to Larry about that cover we have been studying, but as you asked me to do so in yours of June 16th, I do suggest the following for further consideration.

In your letter you say that "British postage must have been paid" but that you had no explanation as to how it was done. It seems to me that the red crayon "4" indicated the British postage due, from Nassau to New York, - as in the case of the other covers in my STAMP SPECIALIST article, and the others referred to in my letter to you of June 9th. The hand-stamped "Due 4" is new to me, but I also advanced a possible theory as to its usage in that same letter.

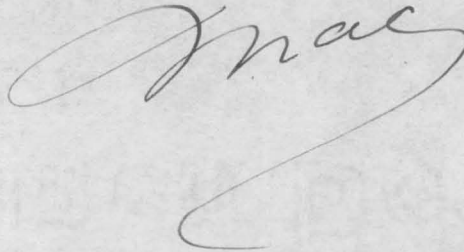
As I said therein, I was greatly puzzled about the "Due 2" written on this cover in blue pencil. It is entirely theoretical, but could it not have represented the fee due the ship captain for bringing the cover either from the Confederacy to Nassau or from Nassau to New York? The thing I find most puzzling on this cover, is the use of the U.S. 3¢ stamp canceled "STEAMSHIP". You apparently believe that this stamp was one of two such stamps originally on that letter, and that forms the basis for your opinion that it traveled by U.S. mail steamship at a 10¢ rate, - and thus 4¢ was due from the addressee. Then later you admit that you have no explanation as to how these two U.S. 3¢ stamps got put on the letter. Are there definite evidences that they were ever there at all? Originally it was Larry's opinion that both of the present stamps were "planted" on the cover, and that the "STEAMSHIP" cancel appeared to be fake-tied thereon.

If neither of these stamps originally belonged on this cover, then it was a stampless cover, - such as those I wrote about and referred to, and was sent as a "ship letter" postage due, and with a fee due the ship captain. Frankly, this seems to me to be the most likely explanation of it.

I continue to make no claim at all that it ran the Confederate blockade, - but it may have done so. Locating Lt. Alston as a Confederate army or navy officer would of course increase that probability, but would still not be conclusive proof. In any event, it seems most unlikely that he could have been a Union officer.

My best!

Sincerely,



MacB/HK

c.f.: L.L.Shenfield

P.S. Suppose you saw the enclosed announcement that I plan to sell most of my Confederate stamps and covers, in last week's STAMPS. There will of course be some mighty nice things in it, and I hope you'll attend the sale in New York next October with a pocketful of big bids!

June 22, 1953

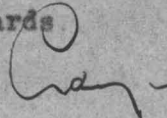
Dear Jack:

I return herewith the cover which we have been holding. It has been examined by the entire committee and the opinion is as follows:-

1. The cover should not be classed as a "BLOCKADE" cover.
2. There is some circumstantial evidence that it might have originated within the Confederate states. However, we cannot authenticate a cover on circumstantial evidence particularly when -
3. The cover has been manipulated - the 3¢ stamp may not belong and certainly the Confederate stamp does not belong. It is possible that it was a stampless cover sent from Nassau to New York.
4. There is no record in the archives that Lieut. Alston was a prisoner.

Therefore, you were perfectly right in being suspicious of this cover.

With regards



Mr. Jack E. Molesworth
102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

cc Stanley B. Ashbrook ✓
Van Dyk MacBride

June 19, 1953.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
350 Fifth Ave.,
New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

I agree 100% that the Alston cover should not be classed as a "BLOCKADE," as the evidence is too circumstantial. I do think, however, that it might have originated within the Confederacy and therefore classed as a possible.

I am very hesitant to give an opinion on an item where the evidence is not conclusive. It is far better to refuse an opinion than to do any guessing.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Copy to Mac

Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield, Inc.

ADVERTISING

cc. to Mr. MacBride

350 FIFTH AVENUE • Empire State Building • NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

June 16, 1953.

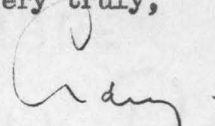
Dear Stan:

I have yours of the 11th with the logical explanation of the Cover that I sent you, and thanks for its return.

In substance I agree with your findings, but since there is no positive proof that this Cover originated in the South, am I correct in assuming that you will not call it a Blockade Cover without any qualification? As you know, I do not believe the Authentication Committee should authenticate items on substantial evidence. Do you agree?

CIVCOM

Yours very truly,



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

Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield, Inc.

ADVERTISING

350 FIFTH AVENUE • Empire State Building • NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

June the eighth
19 53

Dear Stan:

I enclose the so-called Blockade Cover and I give you herewith the opinion that Mac and I hold of it —

- (1) There is no proof whatsoever that it is a Blockade Cover. The 3¢ 1861 and the 10¢ Confed seem obviously planted on the cover.
- (2) It seems to be a "Due" letter from Nassau to N.Y. addressed to Fort Lafayette.
- (3) The only thread that might connect it with a Southern origin is the name of the addressee — "Alston", which Mac connects with a Southern family. Personally I consider that very thin.
- (4) Since the mails between Nassau and U.S. were open all during the War it could be only an ordinary letter from ~~someone~~ in Nassau sent to a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Lafayette.
- (5) All the markings on the cover appear to be okay except the application of the stamps.

Will you kindly give us your valued opinion.

Best regards,

Ray -

P.S. Have you been following the burblings and garglings of Hubbell in Weekly Philatelic Gossip. The more I read of him the less I like your nomination. This fellow can add nothing but a dealer's attitude to the work of the CSA. While he has done a lot to publicize Confederates as a dealer he brings no stature to the CSA.

June 7, 1953.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
Empire State Bldg.,
New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Further referring to your letter of the 26th regarding the cover from Nassau to Fort Lafayette. I have been so busy in the past several weeks on some special work that I did not have time to give special attention to the subject. In addition, the photostat is so poor I felt a bit disinclined to make any comment.

Mac was kind enough to send me a copy of his letter to you dated May 27th regarding the cover. This I have carefully noted and I wonder if Mac is not taking a bit too much for granted.

Of course, I suppose this could have been a cover that originated in the Confederacy but there is no actual proof that it did. I am wondering how Mac would explain the rate? Why the "Due 4?" Mac offers the suggestion that this might have been a stampless cover but if so, then why the Due 4? Of course, there isn't the slightest doubt but what the cover is not as it was originally - it surely has been fixed. I think I can fully explain the cover, but before doing so I would like to see the cover itself or a real good photograph of it.

To state that this was a blockade cover originating in the Confederacy would be pure speculation, even if it was definitely established that the addressee was a Confederate prisoner of war. For all we know at present, he might have been a Federal officer stationed at Fort Lafayette.

Perhaps Tom Parks could get a line on him in the "War Records."

I will admit that the envelope looks like it was homemade and the straight line could indicate that the addressee was no longer confined at Fort Lafayette. Does the Fort Hamilton indicate he was confined there on March 2, 1865? One thing is a cinch, that Confed stamp was never used on this cover.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mac and if I may offer a bit of advice it would be this - Mac don't write this cover up until you can explain fully the evidence that the cover itself presents. In other words, the key is - Why the Due 4 and where was it applied?

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Please see 4
indicates that 6¢ had
been paid — 4¢ was due



June 5, 1953.

Mr. Van Dyk MacBride,
744 Broad St.,
Newark 2, N.J.

Dear Mac:

Thanks very much for yours of the 27th.

Regarding the Nassau cover. I am writing Larry inquiring if there is any chance that he can borrow this cover for me so that I can make a good photograph of it.

Thanks for the tip on the Patrick book. I have ordered a copy.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

COPY

May 27th, 1953.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
350 Fifth Avenue,
New York 1, N. Y.

Dear Larry:

That Nassau-to-New York cover is certainly interesting. The sad part is that it was a mighty nice item which has just been injured by the faker who put on the stamps.

In my opinion it IS a blockade cover, - in that it doubtless originated in the Confederacy and ran the blockade to Nassau from where the cover travelled in the regular steamship mails to New York. Of course there is nothing on it to definitely identify that, except it is addressed to a captured Confederate officer imprisoned in Fort Lafayette, N.Y. That is why I especially regret that the cover has been doctored up, for it is the only one I recall having seen addressed to Fort Lafayette!

Even as it is, I shall probably want to refer to it and perhaps illustrate it in an article on Fort Lafayette, in my series on "Prisoner-of-War Covers from Prisons in and near New York City" in the AP. So, let's keep track of this cover and find out what happens to it after it goes back to the dealer who submitted it to you. I might even be willing to buy it "as is", remove the stamps, and try to return it to its probable original condition.

I think you will recall that I own an example of a cover which travelled this way, - mine could be identified as originating in Charleston, S.C., went to Nassau, and then to New York City. It too was stampless, - probably originally being in another envelope as far as Nassau. Incidentally, the postmarks on this one do appear to be O.K., as you say, and they all tie together. However, I don't think I ever saw the "NOT CALLED FOR UNKNOWN" handstamp before, - do you think that one is O.K.? Also, what are those Ms. endorsements on it which appear faintly in the photostat, - one apparently reads "Paid" something, and on the back is another word beginning with an "R".

I'll be interested to hear what Stanley thinks of this and hope he will send me a copy of his reply to you, - also would like your further comments.

As Ever,

MacB/HK

c.c. : S.B. Ashbrook.

June 5, 1953.

Mr. L.L. Shenfield,
350 Fifth Ave.,
New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Regarding yours of May 26th and the photostat of the cover from Nassau in Feb. 1866. I am wondering if I could get a look at the cover itself. I don't think that this can possibly be a blockade cover, but it is bad to pass an opinion from such a poor photostat. If possible I would like to borrow the item and make good photographs front and back.

Also thanks for the copy of your letter to Mr. Grigler.
More on this subject later.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield, Inc.

ADVERTISING

350 FIFTH AVENUE • Empire State Building • NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

May 26, 1953

Dear Stan:

I send you herewith photostats of front and back of a cover sent to the Authentication Committee by a dealer. The 3¢ 1861 bears the two line Steamship but this cancel appears to be fake tied at the left with a little blob of painting. The Confed is a K&B unused tucked under the 3¢ and the word "Steam" which should be tied does not.

Aside from the stamps, all of the markings seem normal. Of course the guy thinks it is a Blockade Cover sent from the South through Nassau to New York. In my opinion it is a stampless from Nassau with either a stamp removed and these two stamps substituted or with no markings other than the red crayon "4" over the "Due 2" in blue crayon.

The unpaid rate to the Bahamas was fourpence. I do not know whether the double line Steamship was used from the Bahamas but my memory is that it was not. This would enable the faker to put on a 3¢ with a cancelled fake, tie it a little bit and add the Confed for good measure. The back stamp markings are okay and are all in block.

I think we are being plagued with these fake Blockade covers, especially since the publicity given to a few real ones which can be made up out of stampless due mail covers from Havana or Nassau. This one just doesn't smell good to me. What do you think?

Best regards,

Clay

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

May 26, 1953

Dear Tom:

I think it is necessary for us to make a change in the method of submitting items to the Authentication Committee. Almost without exception these items come to me with return registered postage enclosed. This is fine but as you realize, it is often necessary to send these items to Mr. Ashbrook or Mr. MacBride or some other specialist before we conclude our opinion. Therefore there is extra registered postage which has been sustained by the members of the Committee.

Furthermore, it sometimes becomes necessary to make photostats or photographs and these costs have in most cases been sustained by your Committee. After talking to Mr. MacBride, we should like to change the rules somewhat and I request therefore that you insert the following in the very next issue of the CSA Bulletin:

* * *

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM AUTHENTICATION COMMITTEE

When items are submitted to the Authentication Committee, the sender is usually kind enough to send enclosed registered postage. However, it often becomes necessary to transmit these items by registered mail to another member of the Committee for his concurrence in an opinion. This means that in many cases two or three extra registration fees are necessary. Up to now the Authentication Committee has sustained these charges or in lieu of registration, has defrayed the cost of special insurance coupons. Also it sometimes has been necessary to have photostats or photographs made and in many cases the cost of these has been defrayed by members of the Committee.

In view of these circumstances and because there is no formal charge for the work of the Authentication Committee, we hope the membership will agree with the following new regulations for submitting items:

- (1) Enclose with the item a self-addressed envelope in which the item will fit and which bears sufficient postage for return registration. In addition, enclose stamps to cover one extra transmission of registration which, if not used, will be returned with your item.

- 2-
- (2) In sending an item you agree to defray the nominal photographic or photostatic charges in case such work is deemed necessary by the Committee. In only a few cases has the Committee found this necessary.

P.S. The Committee again would like to invite to the attention of the membership that many items are submitted on which no clear cut decision can be given. This includes stamps on covers not tied; stamps with undecipherable fragments of the cancellation for authentication, etc. Every member can save his Committee extra work by realizing that firm opinions cannot be given on such items. The belief that such items are good or bad must rest with the owner as there is no way to prove a case one way or the other. Such items are usually sold in auctions or by dealers as "not tied" or "unreadable cancel". This should be a fair warning to the buyer that the cloud over the item cannot be removed.

* * *

Tom, you may want to change this slightly, but please get it in early.

With best regards.

LLS.

Mr. Tom Crigler, Jr.
Macon, Mississippi

Van Dyk Mac Bride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

June 9th, 1953.

Mr. Stanley L. Ashbrook,
33 North Fort Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

I have been much interested in following your correspondence with Larry about that Nassau to Fort Lafayette cover.

In the first place, let me admit that I am far from being able to establish that it ran the Confederate blockade, - and there will be no "writing it up" of any kind until and if we find out more about it. Tom Parks has been unable to locate the name of Lt. Alston thus far, but if we do find out that he was a Confederate officer, then it is at least a fair presumption that the cover originated in the Confederacy. Nothing more can ever be claimed for it, however, under any circumstances.

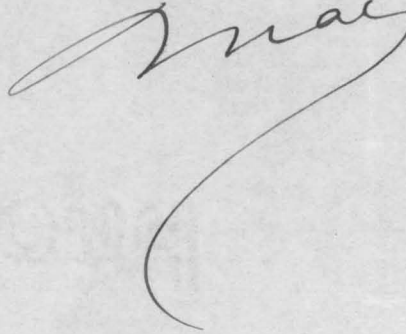
Most of the prisoners held in Fort Lafayette were captured Confederates of one kind or another, - although there were also some "southern sympathizers", traitors, and the like. This is the first cover of any sort I have seen addressed to Fort Lafayette, and that is the chief point of interest about it to me. The "Fort Hamilton, N.Y." postmark is that of the nearby fort of that name which still is there, - as are the ruins of Fort Lafayette a bit off shore on a small island in the narrows in lower New York Harbor. Fort Hamilton was doubtless the nearest post office which probably explains that marking. Lt. Alston had apparently left or been sent elsewhere by the time the letter arrived on March 2, 1865, - about three weeks after it left Nassau on February 13th.

I wrote up and illustrated a couple of covers which did originate in the Confederacy and travelled a similar route, in the STAMP SPECIALIST-Red Book, which I suggest you look up. They also bore a "4" in red crayon, which indicated pre-payment of the Nassau-New York postage rate. Earl Antrim owns a cover from the same correspondence which had an "8" in red crayon, - which probably indicated payment of the double weight rate. According to Larry, the cover which we are discussing has a red crayon "4" written over a "Due₂" in blue crayon. I can offer no theory as to the latter

marking, - which may have been put on in error and appears to have been partially erased so far as I can tell from the photostat. Could not the handstamped "Due 4" on this cover represent the underpaid share of an 8 pence rate for a double weight letter, such as Antrim's?

I am chucking all this into the hopper solely in the thought that it may help us reach some further conclusion about the cover. I'll be very much interested in what you have to say after you examine it, and incidentally be sure to send me prints of any photographs you take of it.

As Ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "May", with a long, sweeping underline that extends downwards and to the left.

MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L.Shenfield

Sam Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

July 8th, 1953.

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

Dear Stanley:

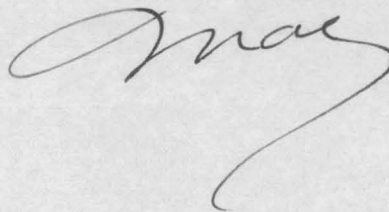
Thanks a lot for letting me see the photo of that beautiful "slave cover". I promptly forwarded it to Larry with your request that it be returned to you. Yes, - I have seen a few Confederate covers with slave dealer's corner cards or other markings on them, but I think this is the finest one I ever saw.

I also duly received yours of July 4th, and am glad to hear that you had such a nice vacation trip. If you get any further ideas about the postage on that Lt. Alston cover, I would be glad to hear them. However, I do think we have to bear in mind that the red crayon "4" doubtless indicated British postage due as did the blue "Due 2". I continue to doubt that that cover originally bore any adhesive postage stamps at all.

As for the mysterious "Lt. Alfred A. Alston", Tom Parks has found that there was a British navy lieutenant named Alfred H. Alston in New York City who in the 1860's published a naval book. He has also located a mysterious "A. Alston" in the Official Records of the U.S. and Confed navies, who apparently stole a Confederate steamer in Charleston and delivered it to the U.S. fleet! So, - while this mystery is still not solved, it does grow more interesting.

That sounds like a nice Lee item which you describe, and is very like one which I have, - photograph and all written from Lexington about the same time. If you photograph this one, - the letter and the cover, - I'd like to have a print very much.

As Ever,



MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L.Shenfield

Copies Sent
~~Shenfield~~
Tom Parks
Jack Molesworth

July 26, 1953.

Mr. Van Dyke MacBride,
744 Broad St.,
Newark 2, N.J.

Dear Mac:

At long last I have taken time out and looked up some data relative to the Alston "Blockade" (?) cover bearing an address to Fort LaFayette, N.Y. On back a postmark of "Nassau FB 13 65" and a U.S. double circle p.m. of "Ft. Hamilton Mar 2 1865 - N.Y."

I have referred to your article in the "Stamp Specialist" - Red Book - and have carefully noted the two covers you discussed, viz., Fig. 5 and Fig. 6. The first a use to New York in May - July 1862, the second a use in October 1863. Both probably from Charleston, carried privately thru the Blockade and mailed at Nassau. Both show a penciled "4" and the New York encircled "5." The Nassau postmarks have the word "PAID" indicating prepayment of the British postage.

I have before me an official list of U. S. postage rates for May, June and July of 1862 and the following is listed - "Nassau - New Providence - (Bahamas) - By direct steamer from New York - 5¢ per 1/2 ounce. I judge that this meant mail from any part of the eastern part of the U. S. by Mail Steamer (U.S.-Contract mail) to the Bahamas destination - 5¢ per 1/2 ounce.

Kindly refer to the Luff book, page 391 - Act of Feb. 27, 1861 - Section 9 - Mail brought into the U.S. by private ship - 5¢ if addressed to the port of entry or regular postage plus 2¢ if beyond the port.

It will thus be noted that the U. S. rate was apparently the same, but was it? We are discussing in one case a rate by contract mail ships from New York, U. S. or British, and in the second case - mail brought into New York by a private ship. Consider your cover of 1862 - Fig. 5 - in your article. Evidently this was brought in by a private ship if 4 pence was paid at Nassau and 5¢ was collected from the addressee at New York.

Now refer to Luff - page 393 and the Act of Congress of Mar. 3, 1863 - Section 31. The full wording of this section is very plain and I have a copy of the full text before me. Briefly it was to the effect that on unpaid letters brought in by private ships - if unpaid, double rates of postage were to be charged, viz., if addressed to the port of entry 2 x 2¢ - if beyond 2 x 3¢. The P.L. & R. of 1863 gives instructions that these rates be charged. If your cover, (Fig. 6), was brought in by a private ship in October 1863, why was 5¢ charged at New York? According to the law of Mar. 3, 1863, Sec. 31, it would appear that 4¢ should have been charged, - provided this was a Ship Letter, brought into New York by a private ship. Both covers, Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, were rated the same, so it is safe to assume that inasmuch as Ship Rates were different in 1862 and 1863 that these two covers

were not Ship Rates. We, therefore, refer to the U.S.-British Postal Treaty of 1848 and find that on letters to the Bahamas, the rates to be paid were as follows -

If carried by an American Packet the U. S. Internal and the Sea postage was to be prepaid. This was 5¢ U. S. Internal and 16¢ Sea, or 21¢. This paid the postage only to the Bahamas frontier, not to ultimate destination. If carried by a British packet, the only payment to be made was the U. S. Internal (not domestic) of 5¢. Postage from the U.S. frontier to destination was to be collected from the addressee. Thus your two covers (Fig. 5 and 6) were undoubtedly transmitted under the terms of the U.S. - British Postal Treaty - with 4 pence paid at Nassau, transmitted to New York by a British packet and 5¢ collected at New York from the addressee, same being the U. S. Internal. The charge would have been the same had the letters been destined for any office in the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains.

This brings us down to the Alston cover, postmarked on back, "Nassau - Feb. 13, 1865." A note by the official rates of postage for January 1865 that the same rate of 5¢ is quoted to Nassau, "By direct steamer from New York." In the list of sailings of February 1865, a British mail steamer sailed from N.Y. on Feb. 27, 1865 for "Nassau and Havana." This was the only departure for Nassau of a regular mail steamer for that month. If this Alston letter was placed in the Nassau post office on Feb. 13, 1865, as it surely was, it certainly would have been sent to New York by a regular mail steamer, and not by a private ship. That possibility is certainly out. We, therefore, have two, and only two routes, by which it reached New York, viz:

- (1) By British Packet, or
- (2) By American Packet.

Let us consider the first. If the red pencil "4" was put on the envelope at Nassau and represented a payment of "4" pence, then this letter was a single rate, and as such the sum due at New York should have been the U. S. Internal or 5¢. The hand-stamped "us 4" was applied at New York, but why Due 4?

. Again let us refer to Luff, page 395, Act of July 1, 1864, Section 8. This was the U. S. Steamship rate of ten cents. As far as I am aware, there was no American packet to or from Nassau, and evidently there was only one British mail ship each month. I am, therefore, suggesting the following theory to explain this cover. Whoever placed this letter in the Nassau Post Office paid the British Packet Rate of 4 pence and he (?) also put on the letter two 3¢ 1861. The letter was sent by a British mail steamer to Havana and placed aboard a U. S. Mail steamship for New York. On arrival at New York the two 3¢ '61 were canceled "Steam Ship" and inasmuch as the rate from Havana was 10¢ the letter was hand stamped "Due 4." In this connection I might add that mail from the West Indies was carried by British packets to Havana to connect with U. S. Mail ships on the regular U. S. Mail Route from Panama Via Havana to New York and touching at Charleston, S.C., etc.

I cannot offer any explanation for the blue pencil "Due 2" - This may have been an error and was corrected by the handstamped "Due 4."

I suppose this letter could have originated within the Confederacy and was sent thru the Blockade to an agent in Nassau who paid the British postage of 4 pence and put the two 3¢ 1861 on the letter. I believe that there were two 3¢ 1861 on this cover when the letter arrived at New York and that both were canceled with the well-known New York two-line "STEAM - SHIP." Somebody removed one of the 3¢ and substituted the 10¢ Confederate, thereby spoiling a very interesting study in

#3 - Mr. Van Dyke MacBride - July 26, 1953.

postal rates and markings.

I have carefully noted your remarks of June 9th regarding the addressee Lieut. Alfred A. Alston. I think Tom Parks should be congratulated on this research work of his on Alston and let us hope that he will uncover more information.

Regarding the laws, rates, etc., which I mentioned above, I am prepared to give you exact quotes if you desire any. I make no claim that my final analysis of this cover is correct but I have endeavored to suggest an explanation that seems to me to be correct.

With regards - -

Cordially yours,

July 26, 1953.

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

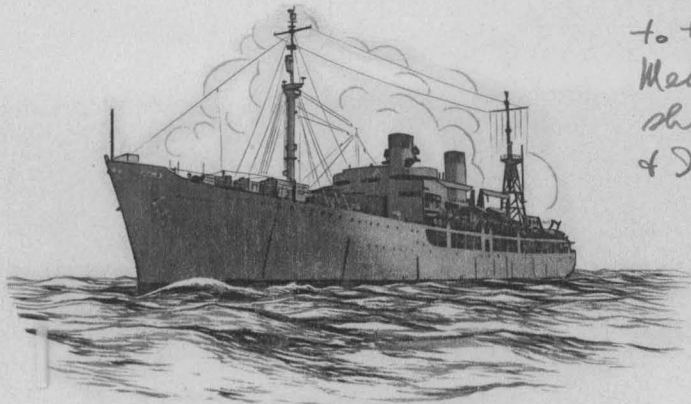
Dear Jack:

Here is a copy of a letter to MacBride
relative to a cover that you are probably familiar
with. If not, please return this copy.

I have a suspicion you submitted it to
the Confederate Committee.

Regards.

Yours etc.,



TRAINING SHIP EMPIRE STATE

THOMAS PARKS
3556 79TH STREET
JACKSON HEIGHTS, N. Y.

(In 1948 I made a trip
to the Caribbean and
Mediterranean on this
ship. It was 100% Navy
& I am an Air Force Reservist.)

July 29, 1953.

Dear Mr. Ashbrooke:

I must apologize for my tardiness
in thanking you for the fine photo of
the false "Richmond" on 2¢ red-brown cover
& your analysis of the same.

I have been on the verge of illness
due to overwork and am behind with many
obligations.

At the same time that I saw the
"Richmond" at Larry Shenfield's office, I saw
the Alston cover. Thanks for your minute analysis.

One stamp had parts of the words
"STEAM" and "SHIP" on it but the words were
wider than the stamp and should have
been tied on both sides. Possibly there
had been two such stamps on it originally,
& that they received this mark and were later
removed, and this other one placed as it was

without tie because it was not the original
A typically amateurish attempt at a
tie with a small ring was made which would
impress nobody but the person who put it on.

After I had told MacBride of the odd
identities of the two "A. Alstons" I found
at the library, he suggested I ought to write
up the story as examples of what research
into Confederate philately can get a person
into.

Do you by any chance have a photo of it?
If not, I'll ask Mac or Molesworth for one.

I have about 16 studies of various angles
of Confederate philately half organized and regret
that fatigue + hot weather prevent action on
them.

Have been studying "The Railroads of the
Confederacy" with particular interest because
I have a cover made from a contract for
the hire of slave labor by the Charleston &
Savannah R.R., postmarked Charleston,
and addressed to Engineer B. Herring, at the
Naval Iron Works, Columbus, Ga. Official records
show he was on the C.S.S. "Virginia" ("Merrimac") in the
fight with the "Monitor", and that his next post was
the Naval Iron Works.

With best regards, I am, Sincerely, Hos. Parker

Aug. 4, 1953.

Mr. Thomas Parks,
3556 - 79th St.,
Jackson Heights, N.Y.

Dear Tom:

Yours of the 29th received and I take pleasure in enclosing herewith a photo print of the Alston cover. I didn't photograph the back though I should have done so, because it showed two postmarks. Shenfield sent me a photostat of the front and back. My photograph don't show up the cancellation on the 3¢ very plain, so I have written Molesworth to send the cover to me so that I can make a photograph thru a red screen and blot out much of the 3¢ stamp.

I noticed somewhere about a new book on "The Railroads of the Confederacy." Can you tell me where I can obtain a copy? Thanks for your reference to same.

I note that you have not been feeling 100% of late but trust that you have fully recovered.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

Form 3817
Rev. 9-37

Post Office Department

Received from: STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31

33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.

One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to *Mr. Jack E. Molesworth*

102 Beacon Street

BOSTON (16) Mass.



THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

July 1, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of the photo print of the 2¢ brown cover and the Postmark, the first which I have received from you. I presume that you may have thought that another print was sent earlier though this was the first received. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate an extra print to send along to the client who originally purchased this cover from me when you return from your vacation.*

I am enclosing a 5¢ 1861, unused and in a bright brick red shade. I showed this to Paul Rohloff who indicated that he had a used copy of the identical shade but that it was supposed to be a color changeling. Since I have seen one other used copy in the identical shade to this one and both had the same rich shade throughout the entire stamp I am wondering if this prior conclusion that they are a color changeling could not have been in error. It would appear to me that a color changeling would not result in the same uniform color throughout the entire stamp since the color changelings I have seen in the 24¢ 1861's rarely have the same shade throughout the entire stamp. Your comments will be greatly appreciated. Also, is this supposed to be #67, #75, or #76? It is unfortunate that this copy does not have full original gum.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

* - will expect delay on enclosed.

July 6, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 1st received and I am enclosing herewith an extra photograph of the Confederate cover which accept with my compliments.

I return the 5¢ stamp and can assure you that this is a chemical color changeling. This is an item that was known and listed in the Scott Catalogue years ago as the fire red, at least that is my recollection but it must have been deleted prior to the early twenties. As I recall, the way the shade got its name was that a party who had several or more copies on and off cover claimed that he had obtained them from a safe which had been in a fire. Years ago there was a chap by the name of Andrews who turned out some remarkable chemical changeling colors. Whether he made these 5¢ stamps is not known but I haven't a doubt that he could have done so. I think this fire red has been written up at various times in the philatelic press but I don't seem to have a reference.

In the Worthington sale in 1917, Lot 310 was described as an unused copy of a 5¢ brick red "a shade formerly listed, part o.g. and rare." This was a copy of the fire red and evidently the shade was taken out of the Catalogue before 1917. I feel sure that Dan Kelleher can give you some further information as the shade must be well known to him.

No doubt Paul Rohloff got his information from me as I recall showing him a used copy in my reference collection.

I didn't examine your copy very carefully but it looked to me like a piece had been added at the lower right corner. If so, I suppose quite a clever bit of repair work.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

June 15, 1953.

Mr. James M. Hardman,
234 Eleventh Ave.,
South Charleston, W.Va.

Dear Mr. Hardman:

I am returning herewith the 3¢ Bank Note cover which has just been returned to me by Mr. Lester Brookman, who is quite an authority on the Bank Note issue. He is quite dubious that the year-date was actually 1870 and was disposed to believe that the "0" was a poor strike of a "6". As I advised in my letter of the 11th, I examined this very carefully under my binocular microscope and while it might be possible that the "0" was really a "6" I was a bit doubtful about this. The fact that the stamp is a National print does in a way confirm an 1870 use.

Because of more definite proof I believe it would be inadvisable for the catalogue to list this date as 1870, however, with your permission I would be glad to publish a short article in STAMPS with an illustration, stating that this is merely a possible 1870 use.

I do thank you for calling it to my attention.

Sincerely yours,



EDGAR B. SIMS
AUDITOR
STATE COMMISSIONER
FORFEITED LANDS

~~STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA~~
~~AUDITOR'S OFFICE~~
~~CHARLESTON~~

234 Eleventh Avenue
South Charleston, West Virginia

LAND DEPARTMENT

JAMES M. HARDMAN

June 23, 1953

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

Dear Sir:

I wish to apologize for my delay in replying to your letter of June 15th in which you returned the 3-cent Bank Note cover from SEABEC, ME., which I believe is dated "Mar 13 1870."

I regret that Mr. Brookman is of the opinion that the date is "1876" instead of "1870," but in so expressing himself, I do not believe that he took into account the following indisputable facts:

1. The stamp (a 3¢ National printing) IS the right stamp for an 1870 usage.

2. The 3¢ National is rarely found on covers as late as 1876.

3. The type of cancellation, in itself, is comparatively scarce and is peculiar to the period of 1866 to 1870. I believe that it is more common to the 1869 issue, and it is rarely found on a 3¢ green. I have never seen this type of cancelling device with a date later than 1873. It is somewhat similar to the small double-lined circle canceller which was used for cancelling revenue stamps. *In other words - this type of cancel itself almost dates the cover.*

4. Town cancellations are seldom seen with year dates for the period 1871 to 1877, with the exception of the not-too-common hexagon-shaped cancellers of the late seventies. Year dates are not common even for the years 1878 and 1879, with the exception of a few cities such as New York, Chicago and Washington.

5. If the date on the subject cover is "1876" then it must be assumed that the "6" is of the wrong font, or style, as compared with the other numerals. The correct style numeral would be "6" or very similar to the "6" of the typewriter which I am using.

6. If the numeral in this particular date is a "6," it is grotesquely shaped, thusly: 0.

Mr. Stanley R. Ashbrook
Page 2
June 23, 1953

7. It could just as likely be a "9."
8. The tiny blobs of ink appearing in the "0" also appear on the "7," of 1870, which by the same token could be concluded to be a "9."
9. There is no possibility of anyone's having tampered with this cover.
10. Too many things are RIGHT about this cover for the date to be anything other than "1870."

Mr. Brookman, in his excellent work The Nineteenth Century Postage Stamps of the United States, "evidently has not made any particular study or research as to the date of issue, but quotes from the rather belated report of November 15, 1870, of the Postmaster General, who, apparently writing from memory, and without the facts before him (whatever they were), makes two references to "the month of April." The P. M. G. writes that new stamps were prepared and issued in the month of April, but we know that this could not have been accomplished in a single month, and that sample sheets of the new stamps must have been completed before that time, and possibly were released to some post offices either intentionally, or unintentionally. Later, in his work, Mr. Brookman quotes Scott, more or less, and writes that it is "generally accepted" that the 1870 issue came into use during the month of April, 1870. I would like to stress that it seems quite evident that the P. M. G. was attempting to write from memory, in view of the vagueness of his letter, particularly as to dates, and possibly he erred as to the month of issue.

Almost conclusive proof as to the date on the subject cover could be had if it could be established that the name of the postoffice was changed from SEABEC to SEBEC prior to 1876. I do not have reference works available from which this information can be determined.

The three or four covers which I have from the same correspondence all indicate usage prior to 1874, and are franked with 3¢ Nationals. I am enclosing herewith one of these (since it is the only cover bearing a date) with the comparatively early back-stamp and manuscript date of June 1~~4~~, 1870. The addressee apparently was a relative or a friend of Mrs. Wallace to whom the March 13 cover is addressed.

In any event, knowing that every collector fancies himself finding unheard of rarities, I was fully and sincerely convinced about the date on the subject cover before I submitted it to you. In fact, it didn't even enter my mind that the date could be anything except "1870."

I deeply appreciate the interest which you have manifested in this cover, and I shall be grateful if you desire to write an article for

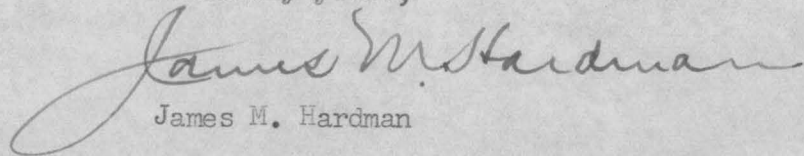
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Page 3
June 23, 1953

STAMPS magazine concerning the cover. Shall I return it to you for this purpose, or do you have a suitable facsimile or photograph?

The enclosed cover may be returned by ordinary mail----I feel that it is of insufficient value to warrant registering it.

Again thanking you for your interest and your kindness, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Hardman". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

James M. Hardman

JMH:eps

Enclosure

STANLEY B. ASHEROOK
P. O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.

June 25, 1953.

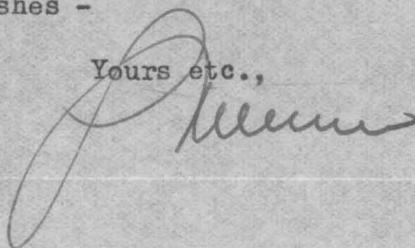
Mr. L. G. Brookman,
121 Loeb Arcade,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Les:

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. James M. Hardman, who owns the 3¢ Bank Note cover with a postmark which looks like March 1870. I am also enclosing a photograph so that you can follow his remarks. I will appreciate any further comments. I informed him that I did not possess any definite data as to the exact date the Bank Note stamps were actually issued but I was most doubtful if any were issued as early as March 1870. I do not think that many of his conclusions prove anything.

With best of wishes -

Yours etc.,



L. G. BROOKMAN

Stamps for Collectors

121 LOEB ARCADE
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

A.P.S.
C.C.N.Y.
S.P.A.

R.D.P.
A.S.D.A.
M.C.C.

July 3, 1953

Dear Stan:

I've never been busier and I cannot take time to mull ~~over~~ the question of 1870 vs 1876--especially since we can prove nothing one way or another at this time.

I do hope that Mr. Hardman can dig up another cover or so to prove his case.

I've been trying to phone you every day but I guess you must be on a vacation. Henry says he thinks you will be gone until the 6th. Of course I know you well enough to know that there isn't much question but that you will give me permission to lift the illustrations of the types that we used in my 19th Century books. These will be used to illustrate the types of the 10¢ and 10¢ '51's.

I have never been busier in my entire life--don't know how I ever will get everything done that I must do to fulfill my commitments.

Hope you are having a fine time as I write these lines.

Sincere regards,



June 25, 1953.

Mr. L. G. Brookman,
121 Loeb Arcade,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Les:

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. James M. Hardman, who owns the 3¢ Bank Note cover with a postmark which looks like March 1870. I am also enclosing a photograph so that you can follow his remarks. I will appreciate any further comments. I informed him that I did not possess any definite data as to the exact date the Bank Note stamps were actually issued but I was most doubtful if any were issued as early as March 1870. I do not think that many of his conclusions prove anything.

With best of wishes -

Yours etc.,

June 25, 1953.

Mr. James M. Hardman,
234 Eleventh Ave.,
South Charleston, West Virginia.

Dear Mr. Hardman:

I have carefully noted yours of the 23rd with the 3¢ Bank Note cover. I believe Mr. Brookman would appreciate seeing your letter so I am sending it to him today.

I am leaving tomorrow for a little vacation and will be away over the Fourth so I will not be able to write you until after my return.

Sincerely yours,

MOSS & WARD,
Shipping and Commission Merchants,
No. 41 SOUTH STREET,
New York.
P. O. Box, 5,895.



Mrs Joel G Gay
Methuen

Mass

New York June 1, 1870



New York June 1, 1870



SEBEC
Maine



Mrs Patience Walker
Stillbridge
Maine



A.P.S.
S.P.A.
C.U.N.U.



C.S.A.
A.R.A.
B.N.A.P.S.

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

July 15, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your letter of July 6th and the information on the 5¢ fire red stamp. I shall see what Dan Kelleher has to say about it when he returns from Maine where he is spending the summer. It is quite an interesting item. Incidentally I checked it closely and believe what you thought might be a clever bit of repair work is actually due to some ink marks which have been removed from the reverse of the stamp by bleaching.

I am enclosing an interesting cover which I recently acquired and sent along to a client. He returned it with the question as to whether or not a 5¢ stamp may have been missing in view of the 25¢ rate. I would therefore appreciate your examining it and signing on the reverse if you feel it is genuine as well as explaining the rate if such be your conclusion. Advise fee and I shall remit promptly as usual.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

A. P. S.

S. P. A.

C. S. A.

B. N. A. P. S.

A. S. D. A.

C. C. N. Y.

Jack E. Molesworth : 102 Beacon Street : Boston 16, Massachusetts

Dear Stan — 7/20

many thanks.
chicken closed.

Best regards,
Jack

July 17, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 15th. I made a photograph of this cover and included the enclosed memorandum, which you can keep if you wish. This was for my record. I don't like to sign a cover such as this without an explicit explanation, and this would have been hard to pencil on the back of the cover.

My fee for this is \$3.50.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

PAID

JUL 23 1953



The Expert Committee of
THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

No. 4330

Meeting of June 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Herewith is an item described by the applicant as follows:

Country U.S. Issue 1853 Denomination 3¢

Color dull red Cat. No. 11d

Brief Description

*1851-53 biect diagonal $\frac{1}{2}$
used on orig. cover.*

*Is cover genuine used in
all respects?*

The Expert Committee requests you to examine the item and give us your valued opinion. All expressions given are strictly confidential between you and The Committee.

(Details of opinion on inside.)

#4330

In my opinion, this half of a 3¢ 1851 was used on this cover as it now is, but it is most doubtful if it paid any postage. I assume that the Petersburg postmaster required the sender to pay 3¢ in cash (or charged same to a box account) and then stamped the letter as "PAID." This letter was sent sealed and required a rate of 3¢.

William B. Sumner
JUN 25 1853



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 GLENWOOD 4-2451

Dear Mr Ashbrook:-

7-15-53

I had a rough time with Edgar last Friday night. He was out to give me a bad time on some trading, and we didn't get along too well. Ermer had several manuscript towns in his collection such as Marsh's Landing, Simbs, Cascade City, Garrote and some others which I think are practically unique and that Edgar needed for his collection. Of course they do not have the splendor of a cover with a stamp and a beautiful cancellation, nor the value, but if you can't get them any other way, you must be satisfied with them as they come. I paid Ermer a pretty good price for some of these, but had a tough time getting an even break out

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 GLENWOOD 4-2451

of Ed gar, because I would not toss
to him some beautiful and very
rare stamps and covers which he
also needs.

In the Emerson Sale of April 12, 1949
(Kelleher 439) I bought a number of
124 '515, including lot 512. Now it
happens that this is the only portion
Ed gar needs to complete the unprint. He
didn't know that I had it until recently,
but it makes him very unhappy that
I haven't traded it to him.

I also have obtained recently
from Cole a most amazing Wells Fargo
Honolulu - see photographs. The story
back of this cover has completely changed
the story of Wells Fargo in Honolulu.
By good luck I got the evidence, and
the story will soon be published in
the Collector's Club Philatelist or Stamps.

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 GLENWOOD 4-2451

I think it is the most important Wells Fargo find of the year. Of course Edgar wants this cover, but so does every other W.F. & Co collector from Philadelphia to New York.

Enclosed is the Wells Fargo Free cover which I think is the grand-daddy of all W.F. & Co covers. Along with it is a photograph of a cover that was in the Wetzel collection, and now in Edgars, of the same person. Also is a printed copy of a letter to the same person after this person had become a Wells Fargo Messenger.

In considering this cover, I think it important to remember that it was May 20, 1852 that an advertisement appeared in the New York Times "Wells Fargo & Co's California Express" etc with address, list of directors etc. Samuel P Carter was

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 GLENWOOD 4-2451

then sent by the company to San Francisco and arrived by the Oregon on June 27, 1852. Four days after his arrival an advertisement appeared in the Alta California, but this was headed Wells Fargo & Co's Atlantic and Pacific Express, instead of Wells Fargo & Company's California Express. The other agent Washburn arrived on the steamer Success on July 10th and brought with him ^{eastern} newspapers and sixty five packages for Wells Fargo & Co. July 10th, 1852 saw the beginning of Wells Fargo & Company's important services: the handling of express matter and the carrying of newspapers.

Now it is my hunch that this cover may have originated in the east, because it is such Wells Fargo & Co

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 GLENWOOD 4-2451

California Express, and was carried by
their agent Washburn on his trip
to California, and delivered to Latham,
as marked in pencil, on July 13, 1852.
It went 'Free' because Latham at that
time was Adams's agent in Marysville,
and this was a courtesy service between
express companies. Of course I may be
wrong in my interpretation, but of
one thing I am sure, and that is,
that this cover is unique and I think
has great historical significance. Of
course Edgar needs this one badly.

Your Gray's Cal Express is new
to me. I don't think Edgar has one.
I would like a photograph.

I would appreciate your opinion of
the W.F. & Co cover. Also I wonder if
you have any additional facts or

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 GLENWOOD 4-2451

data concerning same.

kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Wm Scott Polland

Jessup
Collection

From
Wiltsee

40-
(500)

Rec^d July 23rd '50



Mr. William B. Lathrop

Sacramento City,
California

255B



Wethered & Tiffany
San Francisco

Lock Box 588 }



May 13/80



William H. Tiffany Esq
San Francisco
California

If Mr. Tiffany has
left to be forwarded
to him

Back Yankee



Wethered & Tiffany
San Francisco

Lock Box 588



NOT PAID 25¢

J. Edgar Palmer
Wm. Wethered & Tiffany
San Francisco
California
(Lock Box 588)

may 13/80

2558

Dr. "Triggs Palmer"

NOT PAID 25¢

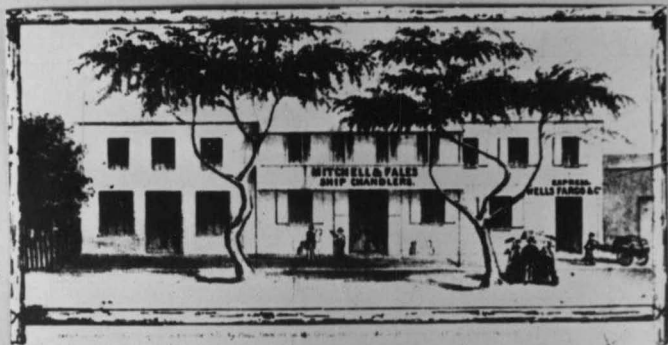


5/10 by mail

*Rep. Wetland & Tiffany
San Francisco
California*

(Look Box 598)

7970



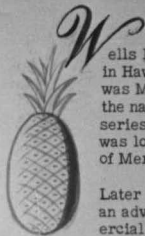
EXPRESS
WELLS FARGO & CO

Nº 4.

VIEW OF HONOLULU
From the Catholic Church.

LOOKING WESTWARD 1853

017B



Wells Fargo & Co's Express business in the early 1850's was handled in Hawaii by Lewis & Co. The second company to represent Wells Fargo was Mitchell & Fales, ship chandlers. A picture of their premises showing the name of Wells Fargo & Co. appears on a lithograph plate of one of a series of views of Honolulu by Paul Emmert, is shown here. This building was located at the corner of Nuuanu and Marine Streets, opposite the head of Merchant Street.

Later Wells Fargo was represented by R. Coady & Co. -- shown here is an advertisement of the Coady Company that appeared in The Pacific Commercial Advertiser, Honolulu, Hawaii, July 2, 1856.

RAYNOR HUBBELL
SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



COLONEL C. S. A.
MEMBER: A. S. D. A.
A. P. S.
S. P. A.

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

July 20/1953

Dear Stanley,
I am submitting two
separate matters. In either
or both cases you may bill
me for express service. When
I want is information, and
I always am willing to pay
for this.

Case I
This is a letter from a lady
who is both an A. P. S. and an
P. P. A. member about a Greenville
Alabama pair from Europe to her.
I never saw one. But I note
the Duty Catalogue says this
10 is Type II which would call
for Greenville Ala is script.

But the Private Postoffice
list the 10th with Greenville
also both in script and
Roman. It also says the
inscription was printed in
red - the ornaments in blue.

I assume this is a fake
but who am I to assume?
As it was sent to me ^{stamps with}
registered I enclose ~~an envelope~~
in which to mail is back
to me registered

Yours truly
J. M. Hall

Case *II

Who is this Dr.
Charles M. Reynolds - 48
Mass South St. - Covington
Kentucky who wants to
sell me a New Orleans
2^d Fed Provisional on a
piece with a shanty?
New Orleans trying to
be paid he is a friend
of mine.

I was going to register it back
to him and tell him this is not the
New Orleans Canceler but changed my mind
and thought I would show it to you

Justly

July 23, 1953.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,
Box 573,
Griffin, Ga.

Dear Mr. Hubbell:

Herewith the Confederate Greenville, Ala.
This is a rank counterfeit which has been well-
known for many years, and on numerous occasions has
been written up in the philatelic press.

Sincerely yours,

July 23, 1953.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,
Box 573,
Griffin, Ga.

Dear Mr. Hubbell:

Re - Dr. Reynolds. I have known him all my life - he was our physician until he retired from active practice several years ago. He surely thought his item was genuine, and I assumed it was if he thought so. I never saw it before. I am not charging you a fee in either case as it would be a loss to you, but will make it up some future transaction.

With regards.

Sincerely yours,

July 23, 1953.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,
Box 573,
Griffin, Ga.

Dear Mr. Hubbell:

I am herewith returning the 2¢ red New Orleans on a piece of cover. I regret to state that the stamp is a counterfeit and the postmark is fraudulent. My good friend Dr. Reynolds called me on the phone about this item and assuming the item was genuine, I recommended you as a reliable dealer who could probably place it to good advantage.

Sincerely yours,

RAYNOR HUBBELL
SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



COLONEL C. S. A.
MEMBER: A. S. D. A.
A. P. S.
S. P. A.

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

July 24/1953

Dear Stanley:-

I thank you for
your report on the 2 items
I sent you. I can well
understand about the
Dr. Reynolds matter but
now I am disturbed about
the 2nd New Orleans
still further. Frankly I
thought the Reynolds's
item was a genuine
stamp with a false
cancellation "New Orleans"
But you say the stamp
itself is a counterfeit.

As we pay the fee which
you did not charge but
I want to know the
distinguishing points on
the counterfeit 2 & 9 of
New Orleans. I have
3 or 4 of them named in
my plate which I thought
were genuine but I do
not want to be calling
them as genuine if
they are not.
I shall I send them
to you or can you send me
without my sending
them?
Yours self

July 26, 1953.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,
Box 573,
Griffin, Ga.

Dear Mr. Hubbell:

Replying to yours of the 26th, and reference to your copies in stock of the 2¢ Red New Orleans. Rather than send them to me I suggest that you send them to the Expert Committee of the C.S.A. I believe that Shenfield is Chairman of the Committee, but he may be on vacation at present.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

1850 Biltmore St.
Worchester 9 Ma
July 19, 1953

Mr. Henry B. Caphrook.
Fort Thomas Ky

Dear Sir..

I am enclosing two covers
The cover to Germany. I can't
figure this 28 cent rate. I don't
have the rates for 1865. But the
1857 rates I have don't come
any where near this rate. They
show a 15, 30, and 42 cent rates. Could you
tell me about it.

On the Patriote could you put a
value on it. It was submitted to me
by a friend and we were wondering
what value it has. Could you price it for
us. I am enclosing my check for \$1.50.

Very truly
Robert L. L.

July 23, 1953.

Mr. Robt. A. Peck,
1850 Biltmore St. N.W.,
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Mr. Peck:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 19th.

First, the 28¢ cover to Germany. This cover is perfectly genuine in all respects. It shows the rate "Via Prussian Closed Mail." Prior to the early 1860's, the rate was 30¢ per half ounce, prepayment optional, but in the early sixties it was reduced to 28¢ prepaid, 30¢ unpaid, per half ounce. Such mail was dispatched from New York or Boston in closed bags to England, thence cross channel to Ostend and thru Belgium to Aachen. At that point the bags were opened and the mail for Germany or beyond, sorted, handstamped and sent on its way.

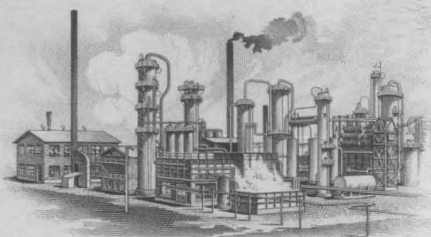
While this cover does not show any year use I believe the use was September 1863. The New York postmark shows a "7," which was the U.S. credit of 7¢ to Prussia. This letter was transmitted to England in a Cunard ship - British Packet - and the U.S. P.O.D. paid G.B. for transmission to the Belgium frontier by bulk weight. Prussia paid Belgium for transmission thru that country. The 7¢ credit was 5¢ for Prussian internal and 2¢ to pay Belgium (per 1/2 oz.).

Regarding the other cover. I doubt if this has a great deal of value and in my opinion \$5.00 would be about right.

I thank you for your check.

Sincerely yours,

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL *Refining Company* OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia Michigan.

July 17, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

In a recent issue of your "Special Service" you asked that anyone having covers with "Boston Br Pkt" markings on same submit them to you.

Here is a cover sent me on approval priced at \$12.50 which has such a marking. Went to Shanghai in 1865 via French Mail - the 30¢ postage indicates it weighed more than $\frac{1}{4}$ oz but not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Thered "27" would indicate we kept only 3¢. Cover looks OK to me. Is it anything unusual, Stan, and if so, tell me what there is about that makes it unusual except perhaps for the Boston Br Pkt marking and the red "27" which I just happen to have never seen before.

Weather is rather hot here but I'll bet its even hotter in Cincinnati. Come on up and pay us a visit for a week or so and we'll try and keep cool.

Am ~~send~~ sending this special delivery so you will get it Sunday. Just return by regular mail.

Regards.

JGF/
Enc:

Sincerely,

Jack.
J. G. Fleckenstein.

July 18th, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 30¢ 1861 cover as per yours of the 17th. It is genuine in every respect and well worth a price of \$12.50. This was a rate of 30¢ per quarter ounce by French mail and in my record of this particular rate I have photographs of several other covers to the same addressee. I note that almost an exact duplicate sold in a Doane sale in 1953 for \$12.00. I would think that the cover would be worth more at the present time. This Boston marking is not the one that I have been referring to in my Service. This has 27 at the Bottom, whereas the one that I think has been faked has "Paid" at the bottom. This letter went from Boston by British Packet to England, thence to France and by French mail to China. The only part of the rate to which the U. S. was entitled was the 3¢ internal under the U.S.-French Treaty. That is, 3¢ per quarter ounce. Thus the credit of 27¢ to the French. The French paid the British for transmitting the letter from the U. S. frontier to France. Such payments were by bulk weight instead of by individual letters.

Nothing new except that I had a nice talk with Charlie Shierson the other day and asked him if he had seen you of late.

Our best to you both -

Cordially yours,

By French closed mail

Black

Black

Red



A282



Red

By J.G.F.

Mr. Louis G. Hale,

Care of H. Fogg & Co.,

Shanghai, China.

Small
Blue Ink

July 21, 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thought you might be interested in the enclosed copy. If I have stuck my neck out too far, don't hesitate to correct me. Did you ever send Jessup a print of my cover showing the straight line "California"? Trust this finds you well.

Most sincerely,

(H. H. Clifford) *Clifford*

A. M. CLIFFORD ASSOCIATES
INVESTMENT COUNSELORS
639 SO. SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES 14

July 21, 1953

Mr. Hank Rubin
6509 Delmar Blvd.
University City 5, Mo.

Dear Mr. Rubin:

C
O
P
Y
I read with interest Mr. Konwiser's brief article in the July 18th issue of "Stamps" (page 94), which illustrated and described your cover from St. Louis to New York in 1818. While I am not a student of postal history of that period, I am afraid I must disagree with the conclusions reached.

My particular specialty is Western Express covers, in connection with which I have had to gain a reasonable knowledge of Eastern Express companies. According to Alvin Harlow's "Old Waybills," the first express in the United States was organized by a Mr. Gray, who operated between Boston and Lowell in about 1836. He was soon followed by Harnden and others. Within a comparatively few years thereafter, expresses were running as far west as Albany, and later to Buffalo. Hence it is extremely unlikely that any express was operating in 1818, and even more unlikely that one was operating as far west as St. Louis.

Now if you will look closely at your cover, I think you will find that the marking reads "Excess," and not "Express." (In those days a double "s" was usually written in the manner shown on your cover -- almost looking like an "fs".) Again I state that I am not a student of the postal history of that period; but I hazard the guess that postmasters were allowed the "free" franking privilege for all letters weighing 1/2 ounce or less -- and that they had to pay regular postal charges on any overweight, amounting to 25 cents per 1/2 ounce or fraction thereof for distances over 300 miles.

In other words, had Mr. Crane not had the postmaster's franking privilege, he would have had to pay 50 cents to send that letter to New York. As it was, his franking privilege saved him 25 cents. In further support of my line of reasoning, a letter could not be carried in the U. S. mail and by an express company at the same time over the same route. In later years, letters were frequently carried part way by U. S. mail and then by express, or part way by express and then by U. S. mail -- but never both at the same time over the same route.

The above is not intended to belittle your cover in any way, for it is a most interesting item from the point of view of postal history. But it should definitely not be classed as an express cover in any sense of the word, in my opinion. With kind regards, I remain

Very sincerely,

HHC:MJ

July 25, 1953.

Mr. Henry H. Clifford,
1/2 A. M. Clifford Associates,
639 South Spring St.,
Los Angeles 14, Calif.

Dear Mr. Clifford:

I never read Konwiser's column in STAMPS, hence did not note his analysis of the 1818 cover, which, by the way, was just about as silly as a lot of the stuff that he produces. One wonders why such people attempt to discuss subjects of which they apparently have no first-hand knowledge and lacking same, they submit their guesses as actual facts. That is the reason I try to avoid reading anything by Konwiser.

I wish to compliment you on your correct analysis of Mr. Rubin's cover.

In the year 1818 and long after that period there were no private express companies. I suppose there was such a thing that early as a "Military Express" but if Konwiser had such in mind he should have made mention of it. You are quite correct in stating the word was EXCESS and not EXPRESS, and spelled so as to resemble EXCEFS which was the custom at that time, both in print and manuscript. I congratulate you on your correct analysis of the rate, and I doubt if very many students of U. S. postal rates are aware that a postmaster's frank was limited to letters of 1/2 ounce in weight.

I have before me a copy of the P.L. & R. of 1817 and on page 14, Section 24, of an Act of Congress deals with "FREE LETTERS." I quote in part - "Each postmaster, provided each of his letters or packets shall not exceed half an ounce in weight." In the part of this edition entitled, "Instructions to the Post-Masters," on page 91 is "INSTRUCTION XV." This pertains to "FREE LETTERS" and lists those who have the privilege of free franking. On page 92 is the following, quote: "POST-MASTERS can only frank and receive as free, letters and packets which do not exceed half an ounce in weight." (end of quote) In the Luff book - under "APPENDIX" on page 384 will be found mention of Sec. 24 of the Act of Apr. 30, 1810 wherein FREE letters of postmasters were limited to one-half ounce in weight.

In my opinion, the Rubin cover is very interesting and no doubt very rare. I am sure that I have never seen one like it. It is my guess that postmasters tried to confine their free mail to 1/2 ounce, so they would not have to pay postage. Apparently, Konwiser did not appreciate the true significance and rarity of the cover. Just consider, "part FREE, part PAID." How interesting.

I might mention another very important fact. There was no reason why

#2. Mr. Henry H. Clifford - July 25, 1953.

any mail from St. Louis would have been forwarded in 1818 by other than the regular U. S. Mail Route to the East.

In the above mentioned P.L. & R. (page 48), the route East from St. Louis was listed to Vincennes, Ind. I suppose it was a coach route but it could have been "by horse."

Many thanks for calling my attention to the above.

I am enclosing a photo print herewith of a cover with the marking, "Gray's Cal. Express." As you are doubtless aware, I possess no knowledge of Western Express covers, hence do not know if this marking is common or rare.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

A. J. Crane $\frac{1}{2}$ g. Post.

Postmaster

$\frac{1}{4}$ g. Excep. D. J. PAID

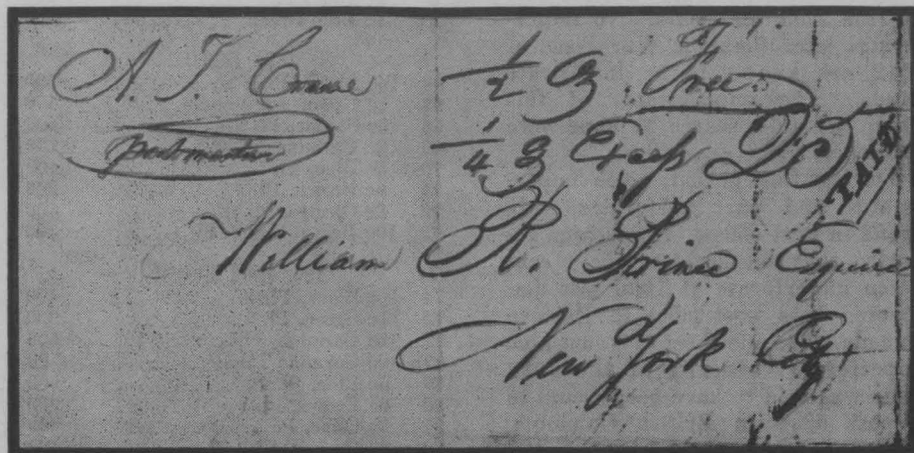
William R. Thorne Esquire

New York City

POSTAL MARKINGS

By HARRY M. KONWISER

Address correspondence to H. M. Konwiser, c/o STAMPS, 153 Waverly Place, New York 14



Postmaster's letter sent by Express, as discussed by Harry M. Konwiser in accompanying item.

Postmaster's Letter Sent by Express

A. T. Crane, Postmaster at St. Louis, sent a letter to New York, in 1818, but couldn't get it sent free of cost, so put it in charge of the Express, paying 25 cents to convey the letter to New York. This letter was sent when Missouri was a Territory. Most letters of this period bear St. Louis markings—straight lines. Hank Rubin, 6509 Delmar Blvd., University City 5, Mo., owns the unusual cover illustrated here.

* * *

3-Cent With Rare Mark

"I have a cover from Illinoistown, Ill., which has a straight-line town postmark. This is a \$20 item in the Stampless Cover catalog, as boxed, dated, etc., and so what is it worth on my cover?"—G. Borheg, Afton, Ill.

What is the right reply? The town was not a large city in 1858, which is the given date for the postage stamp. Is it worth as much as the Stampless, which has a date?

* * *

Data on Fort Assinaboine

In the April 25 issue of STAMPS Frederick Langford discussed a Western cover of September 20, 1880, stamped "FORT ASSINABOINE." Information on this Fort was requested, as Mr. Langford believed that its location in the Western United States is unknown. I received the following information from the National Archives and Records Service. A FORT ASSINNIBOINE, Montana, was authorized by Congress on June 18, 1878, and officially named on December 30, 1878. It was garrisoned May 9, 1879 by the 18th Infantry, Colonel Thomas H. Ruger commanding, for the purpose of protecting the citizens of Montana from the hostile incursions of that portion of the Sioux tribe that had withdrawn across

the International Boundary Line after its victory over U. S. troops in the Yellowstone country in 1876. The post was abandoned July 25, 1911. The Archives have six feet of records for the period 1879-1908. Anybody want to do the research? —Paul H. Gantt, P.O. Box 7417, Washington 4, D. C.

* * *

Another Fort Assinniboine

R. H. Murch, of Kirkwood, Mo., writes he has a cover postmarked Newport, R. I., Jan. 8, 1898, with a 13-star cancel, addressed to Major W. F. Carter, Surgeon U.S.A., Fort Assinniboine, Montana. The receiving marks read: "Fort Assinniboine, Mont., Recd., Jan. 13, 1898."

* * *

More "W" Brooklyns

Boyden V. Rice, read our June 13 column, and noted the reference to "W" used as a Brooklyn, N. Y., marking. He writes he has the same cancel on a 3-cent green. It is a large "W"—one-half inch high, of Gothic type.

Mr. Rice also has a 3-cent green with a white on black, circle size of a nickel (5-cent piece). "Very nice and clear," says Mr. Rice, "mailed from Ann Arbor, Mich., with a Chicago & Detroit R.P.O. postmark." Then he has another "W" with a 2-cent brown stamp, with circle size of a nickel, similar to Ann Arbor item, mailed from Warrensburg. (State is not clear.)

* * *

Cali Cancellation

Re your Cali, Colombia markings, U.S. Postal Agency.

This was the same deal as the Barranquilla agency of a few years previous. Both were set up as airmail transfer

points under the USPOD. Why? Because the plane schedules were such as to give overnite layovers at these points which allowed time for the working of the mail. This of course is just the rough generalization of the reasons without going into details.

Going just on memory, as my extensive notes don't seem to be at hand, the agency at Barranquilla was established in July 1936, and operated until July 1937; the one at Cali, from October 1940, to January 1942.

Registry backstamps are the only markings of which I am aware and these would be applied to all individual air mail registers handled either to or from South America (primarily West Coast). I have a record of two types of backstamps of the Barranquilla agency; one a straight line and the other the usual circle. For Cali I only have a record of a circular backstamp. As any material on these agencies is about ready for publication I should appreciate very much hearing from anybody who has any markings other than for registry backstamping or a backstamp not incorporating the word "registered." I should also be interested in hearing from anyone who might have any other information that might be of value.

Of course it should be understood that these agencies were not of the same order as for example the Shanghai, China, agency. Their only function was the receipt, distribution and dispatch of transit air mail and they did not perform other post office operations. During the years not otherwise covered the Cristobal, Canal Zone, post office has performed a similar function for the USPOD; and more recently the Air Mail Field, Balboa, C. Z. These changes have moreover roughly followed schedule changes.

—George W. Brett,
Chicago, Ill.

SOME ARE IN THE MOUNTAINS

And I suppose some are in the trees too, physically as well as mentally. We are home though and here we'll stay. Regardless of the fact that many of the stamp dealers call it off for the summer and wait to see which way the wind will blow in the fall, we keep the wheels humming despite the weather.

The reason for this is that our multifaceted operation demands material twelve months of the year. Our financial resources are such that we want to buy and we do buy regardless of the season. You don't have to take your chances on a changing market in the fall. You don't have to be wary of overheated temperaments or under nourished check books.

All year round and this summer in particular we can serve you. We can serve you fully and completely and with just as much zest as we do in the wintertime.

If your lot is large or small; if it fits into an envelope or needs a box car; so long as it is worth twenty five dollars or more you will want to sell it to the logical buyer. Bring it here, ship it here, or write for the booklet which explains why more and more of the big collections are being sold to Miner Stamp Company. The weather here does not affect the value of your holdings.

Miner Stamp Company
OLD STONEHURST INN
HARVEYS LAKE, PA.
Phone: 9-6103

July 18, 1953 ☆ STAMPS

were on sale to the public through the Philatelic Agency at Ottawa, and are well known to collectors of Canadian stamps.

In 1923, an unsevered sheet of 200 of each of the 1 cent yellow, 2 cent green, and 3 cent carmine, imperforate horizontally, were issued as a favour, and 20 panes of 100 of each of these three values were set aside. Later, these extra panes were sold as a lot, and subsequently, broken up and distributed. In answer to popular demand, the 1 cent yellow and 2 cent green were re-issued imperforate horizontally, and sold to the public through the Philatelic Agency at Ottawa. This re-issue can be readily distinguished from the originals. The 3 cent value was not re-issued at the same time as the other two values. It has been stated that no 3 cent plate was available.

The 1, 2, and 3 cent values exist, also, in imperforate tete-beche booklet panes. These are the scarcest of all the imperforate tete-beche booklet panes.

The higher denominations of this issue exist imperforate. These are not common, and are rarely offered for sale.

War Tax Issue 1915

Only one sheet of the die 2 is known. It came on the market in 1924. In 1928, two sheets of the die 1 were distributed. A few years later, the imperforate vertically, imperforate horizontally, and a large number of imperforates, all of die 1, appeared. The total number of extra imperforate sheets of die 1 is unknown, but, it is interesting to note that a number were burned about twenty years ago.

Confederation Issue 1917

Originally, it was thought that only one pane of 50 existed, but, later, three more panes came on the market.

Historical, Confederation, and Scroll Issues, 1927-1928

Rumor has it that a large order for imperforate and part perforates was sent to the Post Office Department by a former stamp dealer. These stamps were prepared, but, due to a change in government at that time, they were not delivered to the dealer. Eventually, they came into the possession of three prominent collectors, and were gradually sold. The holdings of the three original owners have been sold, and the last large lot is being distributed by a well-known American dealer, at the present time.

It is difficult to estimate the total

number of imperforates and part perforates of these issues, as it has been reported that some sheets were burned.

Issues of 1930-1942

Most of the imperforates of these issues have come on the market during the past ten years. No imperforates later than the War Issue of 1942 are known to be in private hands. The imperforates of this group are quite scarce, as none were printed in large quantities.

During this period, some imperforates and part perforates were found in post offices. It has been reported that one sheet of the 1 cent green imperforate of 1930 was discovered in a post office in Eastern Canada. The one sheet of 5 cent blue imperforate vertically of the 1932 issue was said to have been found in a post office in British Columbia. The 5 cent blue imperforate vertically of the 1935 issue was found both in Montreal and Ottawa. Lastly, the 1 dollar violet imperforate horizontally was found in London.

There is an interesting story told of a clerk in a suburban post office in Vancouver finding an imperforate sheet of 7 cent airmails. Apparently, he noticed the lack of perforations, and took the sheet home and provided the missing perforations by running it through his sewing machine. Next morning, he took the sheet back to the post office, and sold the stamps over the counter, presumably to non-collectors.

The author wishes to express his appreciation of the valuable assistance given him by A. F. Brophay, L. A. Davenport, J. N. Sissons, and other friends.

THE CENTS ISSUES OF CANADA 1859-1942 IMPERFORATES AND PART PERFORATES

All listings are imperforate unless marked PP-H for part-perforate horizontally or PP-V for part-perforate vertically. These, and other abbreviations are:

Pl.—Plate No.

1st Pr.—1st Printing

2nd Pr.—2nd Printing

TBBP—Tete Beche Booklet Panes

Sc. #—Scott Number

T.—Type

N.I.—No Imprint

Scott #	Denomination	Quantity
1859-1867 ISSUE		
14	1c Rose, T. 2.....	100
20	2c Rose, T. 2.....	100
15	5c Vermilion, T. 2.....	100
17	10c Red Lilac, T. 2.....	100
18	12½c Blue Green, T. 2.....	100
19	17c Blue, N. I.....	100

1888-1896 ISSUE		
34	½c Black, T. 5.....	400
35	1c Yellow, T. 7.....	800

Scott #	Denomination	Quantity
36	2c Green, T. 6.....	600
41	3c Vermilion, T. 7.....	1,000
42	5c Gray, T. 5.....	800
43	6c Red Brown, T. 4.....	600
44	8c Gray, N. I.....	800
45	10c Brown Violet, T. 5.....	1,000
29	15c Gray Violet, T. 4.....	400
46	20c Vermilion, T. 8.....	200
47	50c Blue, T. 8.....	200
F2	5c Blue Green, T. 5.....	400

1897 ISSUE

66	½c Black, Pl. 1.....	300
67	1c Green, Pl. 2 and 4.....	400
68	2c Purple, Pl. 3.....	400
69	3c Carmine, Pl. 6.....	200
70	5c Blue, Pl. 1.....	400
71	6c Brown, Pl. 1.....	200
72	8c Orange, Pl. 1.....	300
73	10c Brown Violet, Pl. 1.....	300

1898-1902 ISSUE

74	½c Black, Pl. 1.....	400
75	1c Green, Pl. 8.....	200
77	2c Carmine, Pl. 3, 4 and 10.....	500
77b	2c Carmine TBBP.....	20
79	5c Blue, Pl. 2.....	200
80	6c Brown, Pl. 1.....	200
81	7c Olive, Pl. 1.....	200
82	8c Orange, Pl. 1.....	200
83	10c Brown Violet, Pl. 1.....	200
84	20c Olive, Pl. 1.....	100

1898 ISSUE

85	2c Black Lavender & Carm.	200
86	2c Black, Blue & Carm., Pl. 1	1,000
85	2c Black & Blue, Pl. 2.....	200
85	2c Black, Pl. 5.....	200

1903-1911 ISSUE

89	1c Green, Pl. 1 and 2.....	400
90	2c Carmine, Pl. 1 and 2.....	400
90	2c Carmine, Pl. 13 and 14.....	100,000
90b	2c Carmine TBBP, Pl. 1.....	20
91	5c Blue, Pl. 1.....	200
92	7c Olive, Pl. 1.....	400
93	10c Brown Lilac, Pl. 1.....	200

1908 ISSUE

96	½c Black.....	200
97	1c Green.....	200
98	2c Carmine.....	200
99	5c Blue.....	200
100	7c Olive.....	200
101	10c Violet.....	200
102	15c Orange Red.....	200
103	20c Brown.....	200

1922-1926 ISSUE

136	1c Yellow, Pl. 179 and 180.....	50,000
126a	1c Yellow 1st Pr. PP-H, N. I.	2,200
126a	1c Yell. 2nd Pr. PP-H, N. I.	50,000
105b	1c Yellow TBBP.....	7
137	2c Green, Pl. 188 and 189.....	50,000
128a	2c Green 1st Pr. PP-H, N. I.	2,200
128a	2c Green 2nd Pr. PP-H, N. I.	50,000
107c	2c Green TBBP.....	10
138	3c Carmine, Pl. 126 to 131.....	100,000
130a	3c Carmine PP-H, N. I.....	2,200
109a	3c Carmine TBBP.....	7
110	4c Olive Bistre, Pl. 6.....	200
112	5c Violet, Pl. 23.....	200
114	7c Red Brown, Pl. 7.....	200
115	8c Blue, Pl. 1.....	200
118	10c Bistre Brown, Pl. 25.....	200
119	20c Olive Green, Pl. 9.....	200
120	50c Black Brown, Pl. 4.....	200
121	\$1 Orange, Pl. 1.....	200

1917 ISSUE

135	3c Brown, Pl. 7 and 8.....	200
-----	----------------------------	-----

1927 ISSUE

141	1c Orange, Pl. 4 and 6.....	1,500
141	1c Orange PP-H, Pl. 6.....	1,500
141	1c Orange PP-V, Pl. 6.....	1,500
142	2c Green, Pl. 13.....	1,500
142	2c Green PP-H, Pl. 13 and 14	1,500

(Continued on Page 95)



FORT MONTAGU BEACH HOTEL

G. WALTER FENDER
~~JAMES O. CARROLL~~
VICE-PRES. AND GEN. MGR.

NASSAU ★ BAHAMAS

CABLES · MONTAGU · NASSAU · BAHAMAS

Aug. 20, 1953

Dear Stan:

Just got your letter of Aug 17 and glad to hear about that article by Thorp endorsing your proven view that envelopes were primarily issued to provide the express companies a means of legally carrying mail. I remember the controversy very well, for I was right in the thick of it, and felt right along that you were 100% right. So it is a satisfaction to me also. To have Thorp endorse it so conclusively.

Konwiser's creation was certainly a weak one - but knowing Harry, I am sure he was trying to be funny in stating it was his first ever - for he knows better than that.

If any of you can visit New York, going or coming, by all means try to do so. But if you cannot make it this time, no doubt some other occasion will present itself before long.

Thanks for the birthday congratulations. I never try to remember them but a party developed here - much to our surprise. Best wishes to you and Mildred Harry

BEN PULITZER *Creations, Inc.*

MANUFACTURERS OF MEN'S NECKWEA

"ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW"

1270 BROADWAY

NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

July 24, 1953.
Registered Air Mail

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

Dear Stan:-

Last June you wrote to me regarding the 10¢ 1847 cover listed in the Collectors Club Philatelist and I told you that as soon as I got back to New York I would send it to you so that you can photograph and examine it.

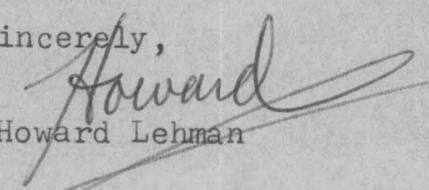
I came back to New York last week and after straightening up a few of my affairs, I went over to the bank vault and got this cover out together with another stampless cover which I am enclosing.

I have checked the cancellation with various other St. Clairsville cancellations and found that the cancellation on the stamp and cover coincides exactly with all the other cancellations that I have examined. In addition, this cover came from a very reliable source whom you know personally and I am absolutely confident that it is 100% O.K.

As soon as you are through with it would you kindly return it to me, care of this firm, as I am now associated with these people and will receive my mail here in the future.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,


Howard Lehman

PG/HL
Encls.

P. S. I'd appreciate if you would make an extra photo for my files.

July 26, 1953.

Mr. Howard Lehman,
1/ Ben Pulitzer Creations, Inc.,
1270 Broadway,
New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Howard:

Herewith your 10¢ 1847 cover together with the stampless.
I made photographs of both and I will send you prints. I am also
enclosing a refund of your postage.

I find that no 1847 stamps were sent to St. Clairsville, O.
but this was a very small office just west a few miles of Wheeling, and
supplies were sent to that office on several occasions.

This green is typical of the period. I wonder what it was
made of, also if it was a "homemade" product.

The stampless is quite a nice companion piece and adds a lot.

I trust that your new business connection will prove most
agreeable in every way.

Again thanks.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--Congratulations on your current 2¢ Green Article in the C.C.P. -
Nice work.

C157

This Photograph
Was Made By
ULTRA - VIOLET
RAY

By Stanley B. Ashbrook

THRU THE KINDNESS OF THE
OWNER OF THE WITHIN ITEM.
THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS MADE
BY STANLEY B. ASHBROOK. IT
IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
THAT NO USE BE MADE OF
THIS PRINT WITHOUT THE
CONSENT OF THE OWNER OF
THE ORIGINAL. Stanley B. Ashbrook.

U
POST OFFICE
S



TEN CENTS
X

Daniel F. Kelleher

::

7 Water Street

::

Boston 9, Mass.

Dear Stan:

5/12/53

The rats you wish to see are out.
Be assured when I have them together, I'll
send them on.

I have spoken to Everett many times on loaning
his 10⁴ 47 plate without result.

I have his entire collection of 47^s here in a
vault, but am not at liberty to display it anywhere
else. He expects about \$8000.00 for the plate which
contains 100 singles, 33 pairs, 10 strips of three, 4
strips of four and one strip of five.

Best regards
Dan.

May 22, 1953.

Mr. Daniel F. Kelleher,
7 Water Street,
Boston 9, Mass.

Dear Dan:

Thanks very much for yours of the 12th.

If you can send me the four lots before the sale, I suggest you send air-mail - registered - special delivery. I will put them right back in the mail the same way.

I appreciate the data on what the Sweet plate consists of. Guess we might as well forget about the photographing. I hope he gets his price, but \$350.00 for a 10¢ '47 seems a bit high.

Best of wishes -

Cordially yours,



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

July 29, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for sending along the copy of the letter which you wrote MacBride on the Alston "Blockade" (?) cover. You were quite correct in assuming it was submitted by me to the Confederate Committee. Actually, though I was rather sure that it was probably a Blockade cover, I did not have any illusions as to the authenticity of the 10¢ Confederate stamp which I was sure had been added over a spot where a 3¢ stamp had been removed. I have read your conclusions very carefully and agree 100% with them. It is certainly amazing what can be concluded on the basis of extensive knowledge, outstanding reference material, and rare deductive reasoning. This cover incidentally came to me from a European source which had previously produced a Blockade cover with both a U. S. and Confederate stamp tied on it. This cover was incidentally sold to Col. Whittle who might be glad to loan it if you would like to examine it. I am sure that it was 100% O.K.

I am enclosing three items on which I would appreciate your opinion. One is an interesting Eagle Post Local tied in conjunction with a 1¢ 1851 which I believe is probably quite genuine but which I would appreciate having your opinion on both as to authenticity and rarity. The second is a cover which I believe could have been a Blockade cover forwarded from Havana, Cuba. Shenfield has previously seen this item and indicated that there is no way of telling whether or not it was a Blockade cover though any comments you might have would be of interest. The third is an off-cover 1857 which I suspect might have been a Type 1a before the perfs destroyed the top. Your opinion will be appreciated.

Please advise the cost and I shall remit promptly as usual.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

July 31, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 29th received and I have carefully noted your remarks regarding the Alston cover. I do not recall that I have any correspondence with the Col. Whittle that you mentioned, but I would welcome a sight of his Blockade cover.

Regarding the items herewith, I regret to state that I have no knowledge whatsoever of U. S. Locals and I wouldn't know whether the enclosed is genuine or not.

Regarding the cover from Havana, there is no evidence whatsoever of Confederate origin. I suppose that it could have been carried privately to Havana and handed to a commission house to send to the U.S. On the other hand, the chances are that it originated in Havana, probably from the firm of the handstamp, placed aboard a U. S. mail ship for New York, where it was rated with the familiar Steamship 10 of the New York Office. It was sent to Lincolnville which is in Waldo County, Maine, where a 1857 was attached and the letter forwarded to Camden in the same county.

Regarding the 1¢ 1857, this was a poor example of Type 1C before the perforations at the top destroyed the type. I did not plate the stamp but it came from the E relief which was used on the fifth and sixth horizontal rows of Plate IV (see my Vol. 1 - page 232 - Fig. 20E - also see page 237 - Fig. 20L).

There is no charge for the above.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Catalog No. _____

LAURENCE & STRYKER

Lot No. _____

7 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Cat. Value _____

Dear Stan:-

Would you consider this buff or
brown yellow. I hope to put stamp on
the next sale and could appreciate your
opinion as to color.

Sincerely
Bob.

CARE IN HANDLING STAMPS, AND TURNING THE PAGES, WILL BE APPRECIATED.

July 31, 1953.

Mr. Robert Laurence,
% Laurence & Stryker,
7 East 42nd St.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Bob:

Herewith the 5¢ 1861 as per yours of the 29th. I don't think that there is enough brown in this color to entitle the stamp to be called the brown-yellow. I think the shade is the usual buff, though it may be a bit darker than the average copy. What I think is more important about this stamp is to determine whether the gum is genuine, whether the perforations are all good and whether or not the stamp has been cleaned. If I owned this copy I would send it to the Foundation and request a thorough examination of all the three points which I have mentioned.

With every good wish - believe me,

Cordially yours,

A.P.S.
S.P.A.
U.C.N.U.



U.S.A.
A.R.A.
B.N.A.P.S.

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

August 5, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your letter of July 31st and the information contained therein.

Enclosed is an interesting cover with a strip of three of #68 tied on and postmarked "Jenny Lind, Cal.". A client to whom I recently sold it had it questioned by several of his friends and asked that I send it along to you for examination. Your examining and signing the reverse if you feel it is okay will be greatly appreciated. Advise your fee and I shall remit promptly as usual.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

Aug. 7, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the cover from California to England. I think you will find a full description on the back. There were three towns in the U. S. which were named after Jenny Lind - one in Arkansas and the other in North Carolina. I don't know whether the post offices still go by that name or not. As stated on the back, the rate to California from 1849 up to July 1st, 1863 was 29¢ but as of the latter date it was reduced to 24¢, the same as from the Eastern part of the United States. I suppose the person who sent this letter didn't have anything but 10¢ stamps, or else he didn't know the correct rate.

My fee for signing the cover is \$2.00.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

A 283

*Prepaid
August 4th 1866*

1866



Rev? John Forster
"3" →
Stam Bourne
Salstead
Essex
England



Red
Red

*See
28-*

*A283A
BY JEM*

4351

This parcel is genuine x
- The payment of 124 U.S.
indicates it was a
double rate, i.e., over $\frac{1}{2}$
ounce in weight. The
addresser no doubt paid

2x 5¢ Hawaii	= 10¢
Ship Fee	2¢
U.S. Postage 2x6	12¢
	<hr/> 24

The letter was brought to
 San Francisco and
 at that office entered the

U. S. mail. There should
have been a San
F. post mark showing
date of departure from
that office for Panama
The 3¢ stamps are canceled
with ~~the~~ an eight bar

Kempers grid that was in
use at O.F. in the first
6 or 8 months of 1852
and applied to mail
bound for the east
via Panama. ~~Co~~

6/



Gene &
July 1852

Recd from

Honolulu

Miss

Sarah Catherine Rush
Care of the Nov Richard Rush
Sydney
near Philadelphia.
United States of America



Via Panama

B341

Red Filter To show S.F.

Black Grid - 8 Bar-Kings

4287 1953 - See A283 -

F1218 - Red - 153cc

A 283



Miss

Black
1852-8

BAR GRID

Care of the

Sarah Catherine Rush
Nov. Richard Rush
Lyndham
near Philadelphia.

via Panama

United States of America



Red

Gene &
July 1852

Rec'd for from

F.L. By P.F. #4351
8/7-53

Nothing on Back

A 283

1861

TYPE I

PAGE

Magee, 316 Chestnut St. Phila



By P.F.
 39026
 8/7-53

THE TREE OF LIBERTY

PAID
 10

Red



1861

PA

Black

Type I

A. E. McArthur Esq
 148 S.E. James Street
 Montreal.
Canada

Brown Enf

July 25, 1953.

Mr. A. Murl Kimmel,
Robinson, Kans.

Dear Murl:

I will forward to you on Monday next the material that you sent me together with the photographs which I made. This will go by registered mail. I will also forward a second package which will contain the binder. In the registered package you will find that with each item I included a photograph. For your information, the prints which are glossy paper are regular photographs on glass plates. All of the others are from microfilm, that is, enlarged prints made from microfilm negatives. This method is a bit cheaper but entails a little more work. One more word about the microfilm method. I can make enlargements to any size. You will note that the prints of most of the Davis items were enlargements from microfilm. If you want any extra prints or any prints of a larger size you can advise me. I was not sure whether you wanted reproductions of all of the Davis items or not, so I went ahead and made them anyway.

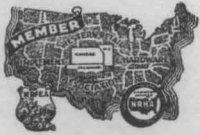
Regarding the Davis items, I have very little knowledge regarding autographed material but it is my impression that Davis was a very prolific writer and that he autographed material is therefore not rare.

I was very much interested in your remarks regarding conditions in your part of the country and I wish it were possible for Mrs. Ashbrook and I to drive by and pay you a visit and I am sure we would thoroughly enjoy ourselves and it would be a pleasure to look over your material.

How about a charge of \$25.00 for the photographic work?

Mrs. A joins me in kindest regards to Mrs. K and you.

Cordially yours,



PHONE 52

Kimmel's Chevrolet Company, Inc.

A. MURL KIMMEL

GARAGE AND SERVICE STATION
HARDWARE AND IMPLEMENTS



SALES AND SERVICE

ROBINSON, KANSAS

July 3, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

I am in the process of mounting several different collections for show, and I am enclosing to you one Lincoln Patriotic cover and one British Propaganda cover which I wish you would photograph the stamped, addressed side so that I might display both sides of the cover on a page, unless you think the stamps are too faded to make a decent picture for show. I have many others which are stamped on the back side and which someday I want to send to you for a good photograph. Also, I am sending four Mulready covers which I have opened and spread out and would like to have you take a photograph of the inside printings and reduce them to a size that I can show on the same page with the cover. That is, if the photographs can be made so the printing can be read. I know so little about photography that I don't know the possibilities. I want to leave everything to your judgment.

I am also enclosing to you fifteen Jefferson Davis letters, one which is by his wife. I would like to have you peruse these letters and to comment and criticize as you see fit. I bought them from a large library which was recently sold in Lincoln, Nebraska, and which you might have seen an account of in the newspapers. It was written up all over the country and I had an opportunity to buy in on the entire library, but didn't feel financially able to take a chance on a book collection. It amounted to over \$100,000 and the book dealer in Kansas City who asked me to go in with him on the purchase of it acquired around \$60,000 of the library, and the Kansas City Library bought the balance, which included over 1,000 volumes on Lincoln. I would loved to have gotten in on it, but I can't do everything and I can't afford everything, so I had to pass it. But among the many hundreds of manuscripts in the book collection, these fifteen Jefferson Davis letters were found and the book dealer in K. C., knowing that I was interested in everything Confederate brought them home for me. It would please me no end to hear what you have to say about the entire collection, as to their goodness, and perhaps as to their rarity, if any.

In preparing to mount them for show there is the one marked A which intrigues me no end, and which I would like to have a complete photograph of, that is every section of the piece. I have another party very interested in this particular item, and while I do not think I will sell it I might change my mind. Therefore, I would like to have a record of it for my files.

Guess I have layed out quite a little work for you, but I would appre-



PHONE 52

Kimmel's Chevrolet Company, Inc.

A. MURL KIMMEL

GARAGE AND SERVICE STATION
HARDWARE AND IMPLEMENTS



SALES AND SERVICE

ROBINSON, KANSAS

Stanley B. Ashbrook

Page 2

July 3, 1953

ciate it no end if you would take care of it for me as I know of no one who turns out photographic work like I have seen you do. And don't forget I would also appreciate any comments you have to make.

Everything is going on about as usual for this time of the year in a farm area. Our crops are good, but our incomes are down and most farmers are in debt so far it will take them the next two years to get out if they have good luck. Farm prices have been sagging to the point where it has almost become a tragedy. I never did believe in subsidization, but the minute Ike started to let down and reduce expenses this farm country began to suffer. And I don't mind telling you anybody in business in an area of this kind is going to suffer along with them. I am highly in favor of our new government, but believe me it is going to mean a sweat-out period before we can all become adjusted. I used to think I knew a little something, now I've decided I don't know the answer to anything and I'd sure hate to have the job of our new administrators trying to please and pacify the world. Am sure sorry you are not going to make the Houston convention and cannot pay us a visit, as my wife had told me she invited you all to stop by Robinson. This is a good place to come to rest. Nice and quiet here, all you can hear in the middle of the night are the coyotes howling; and the hoot owls roost with the chickens. But I don't blame you for going East to visit Stan, Jr. whose graduation I have read about in several philatelic magazines. His honors and accomplishments, and desire to go ahead must be a source of much pride for you all.

Trust I may hear from you at your earliest convenience, and thanks for all your efforts in my behalf. Kindest regards to you all.

Sincerely yours,

A. Murl Kimmel

AMK:jl

July 13, 1953.

Mr. A. Murl Kimmel,
Robinson, Kans.

Dear Murl:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of yours
of the 3rd, with the Jefferson Davis material. I
will get at this within the next few days and will
advise you.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Post Office Department

Received from: STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31
88 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.



One piece of ordinary mail addressed
to Bob Myerson

927 Stanford Ave
Los Angeles (21)

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Calif

POSTMASTER.

July 22, 1953

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
33 No. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

Good Morning Mr. Ashbrook:

About a year or so ago I became interested in collecting California covers, my object to see how many different towns I could find (1850-99). I particularly became interested in San Francisco markings and have picked up whatever came my way.

Awhile back I obtained the two enclosed covers and they puzzle me a bit, so I thought perhaps you could enlighten me. They both are in French and seemingly sent from S.F. to Havre, however there seems to be no S.F. postmarks. On the printed one there is a Panama marking which indicates it went via Panama.

Another question is do you think the earlier cover was printed in S.F. or printed in France and sent to S.F. for the local firm to distribute? If printed in SF it would certainly come under the "scarce" category, I believe.

Any help you can give me with these two covers would certainly be appreciated. I've enclosed a stamp addressed envelope for your convenience.

Many thanks,

Sincerely,

Bob Myerson

Bob Myerson
927 Stanford Ave...
Los Angeles 21, Calif.

APS 23076
WCS 227

July 25, 1953.

Mr. Bob Myerson,
927 Stanford Ave.,
Los Angeles 21, Calif.

Dear Mr. Myerson:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 22nd. The one with the printed date line of 1849 was not deposited in the San Francisco Post Office, but was in all probability carried privately to Panama City and placed in the mail at the British Postal Agency at that place. Thenceforth it was rated the same as a letter originating at that city and transmitted by British mail ships from Chagres to Liverpool and thence to France, an unpaid letter with postage due at Havre of 15 decimes. This was the equivalent of approximately 30¢ in U. S. currency at that time.

Regarding the other cover, this was not deposited in the San Francisco Post Office but was evidently sent under separate cover to a commission firm in New York by the name of Hargous Brothers, who placed it in the New York Post Office for transmission by British Packet to England and thence to France. This cover does not show any New York postmark, but it has a pencil "5" which was the U. S. debit to Great Britain for the U. S. internal charge of 5¢ under the U. S. - British Postal Treaty. This letter was sent unpaid and like the other one 15 decimes was collected from the addressee.

For furnishing an analysis of covers I charge various fees. The fee on these two covers is \$1.50 each or \$3.00.

One more point - I doubt if the printed sheet was executed in San Francisco and my guess is that the printing was done in New York or possibly at Mexico City.

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.
1616 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA 3

August 13, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Here is a copy of a letter I have just received from Jere Barr dated August 12th together with a copy of my reply.

I have never taken the trouble to write out before as to why Perry and I had our original break. Here is the story and I have no desire of having a thing to do with him personally.

Since last writing you, I have talked to Davis further and he has not received one cent of the \$1,500 which Perry was going to collect for the publication of his book. I had understood from Hollowbush that it was supposedly in press and that part of it had been printed. There is no doubt that he was in error and as far as I can see, unless he locates some other angel, it will be many months before the publication is available. I know he will not send me a copy for review but should he send a copy to "Mekeel's" they will send it to me and I will review it not in my column but in a separate unsigned article, such as are found in this publication from time to time.

I have your letter of the 10th and certainly agree with you that an answer can serve no good purpose.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

enc.

C O P Y

August 12, 1953.

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

Dear Phil:

I have your note of the 10th advising that Gossip will take a page ad providing we will take payment with an ad in Gossip. I do not see how we can do this. If we should do this, how would we explain to Mekeel's, Stamps and Western Stamp Collector why we did not give them ads too. However, I am sending copy of this letter to Mr. Shaner and Lt. Col. DeVoss and if they do not concur in this thought of mine I will write you later.

I note that Minkus is getting out a U. S. Catalogue with Brookman's aid. I had considerable correspondence with Brookman about the 24¢ Continental, which you and I have spoken about. I still believe that about 150,000 of these 24¢ Continentals were sent to Post Offices by the Stamp Agent in March, April, May and June 1875, and that the 364,950 24¢ stamps destroyed in 1885 included a large lot of the 24¢ 1869 which were withdrawn from the Post Offices around 1870. I think the scarcity of covers with the 24¢ 1869 stamp proves that there were not a lot sold. The figures I sent you taken from Luff's book indicates a balance within 14,000 between those received and those sold and destroyed.

Would it be worth while to try to get Minkus to catalogue it? I don't know Minkus and you could do this better than I can. There are several Bissell covers dated in August 1875 sent to India which I believe have the 24¢ Continental; then came from Boston, one of the larger P. O.'s, who would naturally have the high-value stamps.

Elliott Perry has been helping me with much information about the Bissell "Find" which I have completed and sent to him for checking. I know you and Perry do not hit it very well. I have sent Perry these same figures and I think Perry is beginning to believe it my way. He says that if my conclusions are correct, then the 24¢ Continental is not an awfully rare stamp.

While on the subject, I very heartily wish that you fellows wouldn't scrap so. I think a lot of Perry and his opinions and I believe that you and Ashbrook are exceptionally well informed. Why don't you say something nice about Perry in your Mekeel's column? I would like to see you and Perry good friends. He is writing a Book on the Carriers. Say a word about his knowledge of these. You're big enough to start the ball rolling. I believe Perry will be at Newark and I am looking forward to you're being there and maybe we can persuade Ashbrook to come also. Am I too frank with you? Our hobby shouldn't be a battle-ground; it should be a group around a peace table. I think Perry is wrong about the Ship to Shore, but that can be smoothed over and I think a few nice words from you would help. The Collectors Club Philatelist had a few nice words about Perry and I immediately sent them to him; he had a squabble with them some years ago. Think it over!

Sincerely,

Jere. Hess Barr.

C O P Y

August 13, 1953

Mr. Jere. Hess Barr
11 Howard Street
West Lawn, Penna.

Dear Jere:

I have your letter of the 12th and note your remarks in regards to "Gossip". Personally, I agree with you and do not think that we should give them an ad in the Congress Booklet in exchange for an ad in "Gossip". If we accepted such a proposition from them, we certainly should extend it to the other papers.

I note your remarks in regards to the 24¢ Continental and, of course, we are both in agreement on this point. I will take the subject up with Minkus but I think a letter from you on the subject, coming from a collector, will have much more influence. State your facts in a communication to him and I would suggest that you send a copy of the communication to Brookman.

I am glad to learn that Perry is coming around to our way of thinking. From the information I have located in the Washington files, and which were enumerated in my recent column, I am of the opinion that no fair minded person would fail to believe that the 24¢ Continental exists.

As to your last two paragraphs on getting together with Elliott Perry, I would advise that our disagreement is not due in any way to our being on two sides of a question for I have never doubted Perry's ability but it is the man himself whom I absolutely do not like and it is my opinion that more people dislike him than anyone else. Last year he preferred charges against me with the Board of Vice Presidents of the A.P.S., trying to have me removed because of the article I wrote in regards to the 5¢ 1851 wherein I differed with Baker's conclusion in the "Collectors Club Philatelist". He did not think that it was a gentlemanly act to criticize a new writer and felt that I should be removed from the Society accordingly. Our real trouble started from some 15 or 20 years back when I purchased the Bandholtz 1847 find. Perry, Burger, Klein and myself were all after this lot and instead of making a special trip to Boston, we awaited, unknown to each other, until the Kelleher Sale, when we arrived in town at the same time. Perry was sent especially to Boston by Ackerman to buy the lot which he wanted badly. I happened to want to take the boat trip from New York, so I arrived earlier than the rest. I called Bandholtz about eight in the morning, went out to his place and bought his collection, paying him, as I recall, around \$12,000 or \$13,000. When I arrived around ten o'clock to look over Kelleher's lots, someone said what is the package under your arm and I told them - Bandholtz 1847's. Perry immediately stated he did not believe it and I made an offhand remark that I cared little whether he believed it or not. Judge Emerson was there and wanted to see it and as he was a good client, I naturally

let him go over it. He asked me what I wanted for it and I told him, along with Perry, that the price was \$20,000. I knew they could not possibly figure it out on such a basis. Perry and Emerson did not attend the sale that night but spent the whole evening going over the collection. When I returned to Dan's office after the sale, they were still working on it and Emerson had picked a number of outstanding pieces for which he offered me several thousand dollars. Perry said that he figured it carefully and would give me \$12,500, which was about my cost. I told him I had no intentions of selling it at such a figure and they wanted me to leave the collection with them over night so that they could go over it again and make a better offer. I told them I was taking it back to the hotel with me that night and would put it on the pillow beside me, incidentally stating that it was the first time I would ever sleep with stamps. They knew I was leaving for Philadelphia early the next morning. Perry called me about eight thirty and as I recall, offered me \$14,000 as his final figure on the lot. I told him I was not interested, that I had a collector client who was interested and I would naturally prefer to sell to him. Perry knew that I had Gibson in mind and told me if I sold it to Henry Gibson he would refuse to plate it. I told him I did not give a damn as to what he was going to do and that I would handle it to my own satisfaction. I called Gibson up that night by phone, told him I would be home the next morning at seven or eight o'clock. He phoned shortly after I reached home, told me he would not go to church but would stay in so I could bring the collection out for his inspection. I told him the Perry and Emerson story and asked him \$16,000 for the collection. He considered the price fair, said he would take it and I left it with him. The next morning, when he arrived in his office, there was a letter from Perry telling him that I had the collection and if he paid me over \$12,500, which was less than Perry's second figure, that he was stung and that under those conditions he would not plate the stamps. Gibson showed me the letter and thought it was a very ungentlemanly act. I told him that if he was not satisfied, after receiving Perry's letter, we would call the whole deal off and I would break it up and sell it to a number of people. He told me he was satisfied when he saw it and still satisfied after receiving Perry's letter. After he started to go over the collection in more detail, we got together and figured out each individual piece, pricing them at the figures that I would have priced them had I broken up the collection and sold it retail. As I recall, the total amounted to around \$21,000. He picked out what he wanted for his own collection and, from my memory, I believe there were about \$6,000 or \$7,000 worth of stamps left. He had since talked to Perry and Perry had agreed to plate them for him. He said if I felt that I wanted to handle the duplicates, I had first call but he would like to give some of them to Perry in view of his agreeing to plate them for him. I believe I took about six pieces out of the lot, which I sold, and Perry sold all of the others, which were, of course, the less important items, at the prices placed upon them, proving conclusively that the stamps were worth all that Gibson had paid and more too.

The matter was forgotten when Toastern, Ed Stern and myself sailed together in October 1924 to London to attend the Waterhouse Sale. Perry was there and when we three, who traveled together, reached the Savoy Hotel, Perry was in the lobby talking to Paulson of Chicago. We naturally went up and started to shake hands and when I reached my hand out, Perry pulled his back. We have not spoken or recognized each other since that time. I was there to represent Sinkler and not only to buy what he wanted at the sale but to travel through Europe in his behalf. As I recall, I had a letter of credit of \$50,000 or more. Sinkler needed all of the mint blocks and I persuaded him to give me a figure on the block of eight of the 5¢ 1847. As I recall, his figure was \$1,500. Perry was passing the information around that he came to London for Judge Emerson to buy one or two covers and that he was going to

take the used block of the 1847 home with him. When I heard this I made up my mind I would take it away from him no matter what the cost. As a result, I topped Perry's figure of around \$3,000. When I got back Sinkler took the block for it was so beautiful he added it to his unused collection.

Since that date Perry has taken a number of cracks at me and at my writings although he has never mentioned my name. However, he has written his stories in such a way that anyone who reads the stamp papers would know as to his reference. Since the London visit I have never mentioned his name in my column and never expect to do so. I have no desire whatsoever to make friends with him for several of us have agreed that quite possibly he has a screw loose somewhere for he has been antagonistic to even his own best interests. He fought with Senator Ackerman, hence Ackerman called upon me during his last years to sell the rarer things of his U. S. and foreign stamps, which Perry could not move at the higher prices then placed upon them. He called upon me to handle his stamps in his behalf and I acted as his sole agent from the time Perry broke until he died, and sold some \$200,000 worth of stamps for him. I did a lot of trading with Ackerman for he was willing to take stamps instead of cash for many pieces, such as the block of sixteen 1847 5¢ now in my collection.

I am simply telling you this so you will know why I do not want to meet Perry. He strongly dislikes me and I strongly dislike him. Life is too short to put up with such people. It is my opinion that Stan Ashbrook will take the same stand and I am sure if he comes to Newark, and I certainly hope he will, that he will not want to shake hands with Perry and let bygones be bygones. I think Stan's thoughts in regards to Perry are even stronger than mine, if such a thing is possible.

I will look forward to seeing you at the Congress, where I expect to be for at least a day. I have not as yet decided as to whether I will stay overnight, although I may.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

P. S. I have dictated this letter and am now leaving for Cape May. My secretary will write it, sign it and mail it to you. There may be a slight error here or there but I doubt it very much for she is very careful.

Aug. 15, 1953

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr.,
1616 Walnut St.,
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Dear Phil:

Under date of July 16th, 1951, I loaned you a photo print of the 5¢ New York 1862 reprint plate of nine. I have copy of the letter before me and note that you never returned the print. I trust that you have not misplaced it. Do you know of anyone who owns an original full sheet? If so, I would like to borrow it and make a good photo print. As I wrote you at that time, I have a vague recollection that I obtained the print from Perry, but it may have been given to me by Reggio. No doubt you remember him. In all probability there is a sheet of the reprint in the Lapham collection.

Yours of the 13th received and I was very much interested in the copies of your correspondence with our mutual friend Jere Barr. At various times in the past some of my good friends have approached me with similar suggestions that I bury the hatchet with Perry and forget the past. If anyone has any desire to learn why I have turned down any suggestions all they have to do is to read thru various issues of his Pat Paragraphs. I think his Smart-Aleck remarks were due solely to jealousy and were written with the sole purpose of trying his best to discredit me. I am absolutely sure that he hurt himself far more than he did any damage to me.

It might interest you to know that within recent months I addressed a letter to him inquiring what he would charge for plating copies of the 10¢ 1847. I addressed the letter simply as Elliott and stated that this was not to be construed as a friendly letter but merely a matter of business. In reply he gave me his terms and stated that he was soliciting contributions for his Carrier book, also inquired if I could furnish a photo print of the Compound envelope showing 10¢ plus 1¢ from New York to California with the Ocean Mail postmark. In reply I stated that I would supply him with a print for \$2.00, which he sent and I sent him a print. Incidentally, this cover was photograph #82 in my April 1953 Service Issue.

Further regarding yours of the 13th. I don't know why there has been so much secrecy about the Perry book, but as near as I can find out, Jessup never served as Chairman of a committee to raise funds, and within the last several days he advised me that he had no knowledge whatsoever of how much money had been raised though he was aware of the fact that Perry had personally solicited contributions thruout the country. One thing that I did not know was that a committee had been formed, headed by Henry Meyer, to edit the manuscript before publication, and to eliminate any wise-cracks or personal attacks. I understand that several of our good friends are on this committee, and that my name had originally been suggested, but was turned down. By whom, I do not know, but probably Perry. I under-

#2 Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr. - Aug. 15, 1953.

stand that MacBride is on the committee, though he never mentioned this fact to me. Also Hollowbush, Tracy Simpson and several others who I do not recall at the moment. Whether this committee has ever done any work or seen the manuscript, I do not know. I have an idea, however, that Hollowbush is not telling you all that he knows about the proposition. While I have no actual knowledge, I have a strong suspicion that Don Steele is tied up with the proposition in some way. It looks to me like all the money that Perry has collected has gone into his own pocket to pay him for his work. I wonder if the contributors were informed in advance that such would be the case. If Bernard Davis goes ahead with the proposition, he will surely run into trouble, because there are plenty of precedents. As for example, Ackerman, Needham and Lichtenstein. Regarding the 24¢ Continental. Why don't you write a letter to Brookman and quote Barriss remarks on the subject? And inquire of Les as to his views. I think the important point is to identify copies of the 24¢ Continental before doing any listing. If such a stamp cannot be positively identified, why should it be listed?

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

H. L. LINDQUIST

PUBLICATIONS

153 WAVERLY PLACE, NEW YORK 14, N. Y.

July 31, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Ward's letter regarding the Perry book is interesting, and in the meantime I had also had confirmed to me that the Philatelic Museum and Bernard Davis were behind the book, and I can already see trouble brewing ahead.

In the first place, if Bernard thinks he can bring out this book for about \$2500, I think he has a rude awakening coming. If it is properly illustrated even the cuts won't cost that much; and if it is a bound book each book will cost at least 42¢ for binding.

If the total receipts to date amount to only \$1500, which Perry has grabbed for himself, I think they will have some tough scratching to get another \$1500 because they have already taken the cream off the top. But that's their problem and unless they get a real angel to finance the whole book, I think they are going to have trouble before they even get started.

I'm returning Ward's letter as I presume you will want it for your files.

I'm leaving for Nassau tomorrow, to be gone three weeks. It's rather warm down there I believe, but we've got air-conditioned rooms and I think we'll enjoy it. I'm going there because I have never been there before and several of my good friends more or less make it their headquarters during the Yachting season.

I suppose you know all about the new Minkus Standard Catalog. Les Brookman is going to edit the United States section, but Minkus is going right ahead with his plans for a complete catalog, which of course will compete with the Scott Catalog. He has a lot of big plans for promotion through new fields, and possibly the book can be gotten out without affecting the Scott Catalog, although of course, any competition is apt to be felt.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



HLL/G

PHILIP H. WARD, Jr.
1616 Walnut St.
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

July 27, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Your letters of July 24th and 25th have both arrived this morning, the later letter coming in, in the first mail and your earlier letter in the second mail.

We have been guessing all along, so I immediately picked up the phone and called Davis to learn what it is all about. You will recall that Perry spoke at the Writers' Breakfast at the A.P.S. meeting in Philadelphia and asked for support for his publication. As a result, he has followed up these remarks by writing individually to a number of collectors and dealers throughout the country. Davis tells me that he wanted \$3,000, of which \$1,500 would go to him and the other \$1,500 would be paid to the National Philatelic Museum and incidentally, deducted from your income tax, and this \$1,500 would go towards the publication of the book. In such a case, Davis said he would add \$1,000 more for he felt it would cost fully \$2,500 to publish it. He tells me that Perry has received checks amounting to upward of \$1,500 for authoring the publication and he mentioned that there was a substantial check from Henry Gibson. He has a list of the ten or twelve people who financed it but I did not take the time over the phone to find out who they were. He has not as yet received one cent towards publication and will do nothing until \$1,500 is at hand. He tells me he is a little sore with Perry for writing the article in Scott's Monthly, describing some new Carriers belonging to Mrs. Bulger of this city. It was Davis' understanding that everything on Carriers, new or old, from Perry's pen should appear in this publication for the first time.

Now that I have the straight facts, I know positively the details Davis has given me are true to the best of his knowledge and belief. I think I will take up the subject again with Frank Hollowbush when I see him. I am going to the shore for a couple weeks but will be back one day during the time and after that I expect to go to the Mountains for a week or ten days. I will begin to get back to normal after Labor Day, at which time I will possibly see Frank and discuss the details. Perry appealed to Mrs. Bulger for money but she never met him except when he asked her to loan him the covers to write up and feeling that she knew nothing about him or his proposition, was not inclined to donate anything. She has since ignored the request due to the recommendations of others. Davis said Perry was going around with a poor mouth trying to appeal to sentiment rather than philatelic work in collecting for his booklet.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

SPRUCE TOPS
Kennebunkport
Maine

August 13, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

Your comments regarding the Wm. Hale counterfeit stampers mentioned in your letter of July 17th are interesting.

Here is a cover that seems rather puzzling to me. If the letter went by a postman from the outskirts of Cambridge and was put into the first P.O. as a Way letter, could the Cambridge postmaster pay the carrier his 1¢ and then send it on "Way to Boston"? How would Harnden get it to pay the "Way 6"? Were these script markings applied by the Cambridge or the Boston P.O.?

The French and British script ratings suggest that Harnden paid only to the French frontier (?).

Kennebunkport has been celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the town, once named Arundel until about 1721.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

Spruce Tops
Kennebunkport
Maine

August 15, 1953

Dear Stanley -

Here is one more puzzle which I hope may arrive before you return my Harnden Way 6 corr, so as not to require but one reply for both items.

The faint foreign mail postmark looks like BOSTON AM. PKT. / MAY / 25 / PAID - PAID left of center which is unlike any in BPM on PLATE 50, p. 177. Also handstamped "Credit 32 is new". I cannot make this credit go with the 90¢ stamp in May 1865. For credit 32 in 1865 by AM. PKT. it would seem that the rate should have been 53¢ for 1/2 oz. Sincerely yours, Maurice B.

Aug. 17, 1953.

Mr. Maurice C. Blake,
Spruce Tops,
Kennebunkport, Maine.

Dear Maurice:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 13th with the Way cover to Rome. This seems to be quite an interesting little item and I would like to study it before returning it to you. In this connection, I am wondering if Doctor Arthur Davis of M.I.T. has ever seen this. As you are aware, he is quite a competent student of Way covers. I am wondering if you would have any objection if I sent it down to him for his comments.

We are having a bit of what might be termed cool weather here in this Ohio Valley at present, so I judge it must be actually cold up your way.

So your Maine town is celebrating its three hundredth anniversary. I am sure this must be quite an event.

With best wishes -

Cordially,

"Spruce Tops"
Kennebunkport
Maine
Aug. 18, 1953

POST CARD

AIR MAIL

6¢

U. S. A. Treasury Department Mural in
Post Office, Kennebunk, Maine.
S.P.A. - (The Brick Store Museum)

VIA AIR MAIL

KENNEBUNK PORT, MAINE

— 300TH ANNIVERSARY —

1653 — — — — 1953



In reply to your Air Mail letter
of the 17th 5.30 P.M. received here just
24 hours later - I showed the
way to Boston - Way 6" corn to
Arthur Davis soon after I got
it last spring in May - Then he
had "no comment" - I invited him
to have luncheon here Aug. 12th
when I heard he and Mrs. Davis
were en route northward in Maine.
I again showed him this way card
but he had no solution to offer.
Study it at your convenience
Yours, M.E.B.

THIS SIDE FOR CORRESPONDENCE

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

THIS SIDE FOR ADDRESS



ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST LETTER-KENNEBUNK POST OFFICE FROM FALMOUTH-JUNE 14, 1775

Aug. 22, 1953.

Mr. Maurice C. Blake,
Spruce Tops,
Kennebunkport, Maine.

Dear Maurice:

Your card of the 18th received, and I note that Arthur Davis had a look at the cover to Rome, so I am returning it herewith. One point that I overlooked was that the letter was dated the 29th and the Cambridge postmark is the 30th. This might indicate that the writer was away from his home-town at the time the letter was written. I think it is well to bear in mind that at the time this letter was written, the postage to destination could not be prepaid, but the U. S. domestic rate had to be prepaid. I will await with interest your comment on my last letter regarding the cover.

How much longer will you be in Maine?

With kindest regards -

Sincerely,

Aug. 18, 1953.

Mr. Maurice C. Blake,
Spruce Tops,
Kennebunkport, Maine.

Dear Maurice:

Your Air Special arrived about 7:30 P.M. last night. I note the Maine postmark is 7 A.M. same day. This is the first time I have ever received an air-mail letter from the East the same day it was mailed. I note your letter is dated the 15th.

Re - the 90¢ '61 cover in the Harmer, Rooke sale of last May 19th - Lot 65. When I received the catalogue I noticed this cover and the "32" credit which appeared entirely wrong. I cut the illustration from the catalogue and put it in my files but where, I do not know, as I have been unable to locate it. My conclusion was that the cover was a fake and I intended to write Gordon Harmer but I decided why should I bother? I note the cover sold @ \$120.00. I do not recall that the Expert Committee sent it to me before or after the sale.

The question is simply this - why should the U.S. have retained 58¢ out of 90¢ paid? What service could we have performed to entitle us to 58¢? I suspect that this was a 53¢ rate by "Am. Pkt." to England - our share 21¢ and a credit of 32¢ to the British. The "32" was not applied at Boston but at New York. I also recall that I noted the killer because it resembles a killer on a 90¢ cover that was in the F.D.R. collection. I referred to your book. Again I have today noted that it does not look like 968 on Plate 59 but it is something like 1237 on Plate 73.

Later

I found that I filed the catalogue illustration of the cover with the F.D.R. illustration. I am enclosing the latter herewith. Please return as it is from my files. I also enclose two other photo prints showing the N.Y. "32" credit. Strange, but one is an underpay of 1¢, the other an overpay of 1¢.

I am today writing Harmer, Rooke & Co. that I suspect Lot 65 in their May sale is a fake and can they have it sent to me.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Aug. 19, 1953.

Mr. M. C. Blake,
Spruce Tops,
Kennebunkport, Maine.

Dear Maurice:

Further regarding the WAY cover to Rome. I doubt if I can furnish the answers to your queries because this cover certainly has me puzzled. It has a Cambridge postmark and the letter is date-lined Cambridge. I can hardly believe that the latter Post Office or the Boston Office could have turned this letter over to Harnden to convey to England, thus I suppose we would have to assume that it was entrusted to Harnden before it reached the Cambridge Post Office.

I suppose the writer entrusted the letter to Harnden to mail and paid him to do so, giving Harnden money to pay the charges. The writer was no doubt a resident of Cambridge but he may have been elsewhere when he wrote this letter - but if this is true and he gave it to Harnden, why was it placed in the Cambridge P.O. - and further if that office sent it to Boston and Boston placed it aboard a Cunard ship, how was the British postage paid.

The magenta manuscript looks like the British 2 shillings one pence or is it 2 shillings ~~and~~ pence? The oval "PD." is surely French and I suppose indicated that French postage had been paid - though I suppose it could have meant that postage had been paid in full to Rome. All very puzzling. I haven't the slightest idea who put the "Way to Boston". Have you any explanation for the "163 BABUINO"(?)

I have not attempted to read the letter but I wonder if it contains any clue?

I will await your reply before returning it as I would like Dr. Davis to have a look at it.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

"Spruce Tops"
Kennebunkport
Maine

August 21, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

Since receiving your air mail letter of the 18th I see under stronger light and glass that the postmark on the Harmer, Rooke photo (Lot 65, May 19, 1953 Sale) is N. YORK AM. PKT. PAID/MAY/25, so I need not have been concerned about the markings on this cover for the Boston record, though I shall be interested to know where the letter originated if it is sent you for inspection. The 90¢ stamp was described as "Creased where letter was folded", but it certainly does not seem to check with the 32 credit and I wonder whether the cancellation on the stamp and cover was postally applied.

Many thanks for the three photos herewith returned. The cover of Dec. 1863 has the correct 32 credit even though 1¢ underpaid by 52¢ in stamps; but the cover of Nov. 23, 1868 has 24¢ and 30¢ when the rate via Marseilles had been changed from 53¢ to 42¢ per ½ oz. on Jan. 1, 1868. Would not 32 be the correct credit for a half-ounce letter out by Am. Pkt. in 1868 for China @ 42¢ postage via Marseilles?

I had recorded the Delano cover-BOSTON BR. PKT. PAID/MAR/2(5?) in 1865 (BPM 712 red) with 90¢ '61 cancelled by BPM. Pl. 59:968-9 (variant bars) "French Mail via Marseilles" credit 81/3 ms. red BPM. 764C (new) to Hong Kong - from the Kelleher Sale of Mar. 21, 1952, Lot 447 photo; but I must admit I do not grasp the rating 90¢ credit 81¢ via Marseilles in 1865, unless it was taken from the notation "French Mail" as to be per French Closed Mail at 3x30¢ credit 3x27¢ (cf BPM. Fig. 36, p. 155; Note 808, p. 170). Actually the letter seems not to have gone by Fr. Closed Mail.

The Way to Boston - Cambridge - Harnden - via England and France to Rome item certainly offers possibilities for speculation. I do not believe Harnden had the cover until after it was postmarked in Cambridge. I suppose Harnden paid the 5¢ internal plus 1¢ Way and the British 2/1 or 6(?) against personal credit of sender, recipient or the banker of either and perhaps the French decimes charge was paid at Rome. I guessed that 163 Babuino (or Bambino?) is a street address in Rome, as the script and ink are not quite like the "Way to Boston" and "Way 6".

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice Blake

P.S. My letter dated the 15th was written late Saturday the 15th, but no mail leaves K. port till 7 A.M. Monday - as postmarked AUG 17.

Aug. 25, 1953.

Mr. Maurice C. Blake,
Spruce Tops,
Kennebunkport, Maine.

Dear Maurice:

Yours of the 21st with enclosures received.

Regarding the 90¢ cover, Ex-Harmer, Rooke Sale, Lot 65, May 19th, 1953. I wrote Thatcher of that firm, informing him that I was suspicious of the cover and that he might care to so advise the buyer. Up to this writing I have not had a reply. That firm would very much prefer to have a customer get stuck with a fake cover than to be bothered with making a refund. I can assure you that I have learned this by experience.

I also wrote a friend of mine who is in the habit of bidding on every 90¢ 1861 cover that comes up in a New York auction, but he informed me that he did not buy this cover.

Regarding the photograph you returned. Of course, you are perfectly right on the cover of 1868 with the 54¢ rate. However, it does seem odd that we credited 32¢ and kept 22¢. I will look into this.

Again regarding the Cambridge cover to Rome. I think that your analysis would be perfectly okay if it were not for one point which seems most important to me. That point is this - You stated that you do not believe that Harnden had the cover until after it was postmarked in Cambridge. Do you believe that after a letter was deposited in a United States post office that it would have been turned over to any private carrier to transmit? Harnden was just an expressman with no official connections with the Cambridge or Boston or U.S. post office. Do you believe that the Cambridge postmaster would have had any authority to turn this letter over to Harnden? I think that this point is the most important one regarding this cover.

During the Gold Rush days miners at the old mines gave various express companies written instructions to the San Francisco Post Office to deliver to the latter mail addressed to them. In other words, I suppose a postmaster would deliver mail to a private carrier upon a written order from the addressee but how could this have happened in the transmission of this Cambridge cover if the writer wanted Harnden to forward the letter to London why put it a U.S. post office. I will be glad to have your comment.

If the letter was deposited in the Cambridge Post Office how could it be a Way letter into Boston? There was no such a thing as a Way letter from one post office to another. I don't know why this letter should have been handled any different from any other letter going to Europe at that time. If it first entered the U.S. Mail at Cambridge, the regular procedure would have been to send it to the Boston Post Office, and from there put aboard a Cunard ship for

England. I am sure that I do not understand how any postage could have been pre-paid.

Perhaps a further study will bring out the facts.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

"Spruce Tops"
Kennebunkport
Maine

September 2, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

Thank you for return of the Cambridge- Way to Boston- Harnden- ANGL. 4 BOULOGNE/18/JANV/48 cover to Rome with your letter dated Aug. 22, with magenta concentric NEWPORT, KY. FORT THOMAS BR./AUG/24/1953 and single circle dull purple KENNEBUNK PORT, MAINE REC'D/AUG/26/1953/8³⁰ AM on back of the enclosing registered envelope.

That Wednesday afternoon, August 26th, my cousin, Miss Mary Gilman Pulsifer, resident here in the summer and at 11 Mason St. in Brookline in the winter, after luncheon as usual in the dining-room became short of breath upon going for a rest in her own room and in a few minutes had passed away from a coronary, quite peacefully, in her seventy-eighth year. She was an exceptionally fine person to whom I was devoted. The Service here on Friday was very inspiring and burial in a Gilman family plot at Dover-Foxcroft, Maine followed on Saturday, the 29th. A Memorial Service will be held in Brookline on Wednesday, September 9th, at the Harvard Congregational Church of which she had been a member for over fifty years.

My thoughts are rather far away from philately at the present time, but I may mention one or two points to which you refer in your letters of the 22nd and the 25th of August. It is true that postage to foreign destination could not be prepaid in December 1847 to the U. S. Post Office Department, but it could be so paid by cash or on credit with Harnden & Co. and also with one or more other private firms in Boston who so advertised and had their own agents or correspondents abroad. What official arrangement for foreign mail between the Boston Post Office and Harnden existed, if any, I do not know. Since publishing Boston Postal Markings newspaper notices showing engagement of Harnden & Co. by the P.O. Department for the transport of the Boston-New York U.S. Express Mail in 1842-1843 came to light. The letter doubtless was brought to the Cambridge P.O. by a private individual or by a post route carrier and transport from the Cambridge P.O. into Boston would presumably have been by vehicular conveyance. Such a foreign letter might have been outside the domestic mail bags and handed to Harnden by the driver, for collecting ~~at~~ the 6¢ Way charge (1¢ Way plus 5¢ internal under 300 miles). It bears no Boston P.O. handstamp.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

The "B" of Boston in "Way to Boston" is by a different hand from the "B" of "163. Babuino" which could be street address in Rome.

Sept. 7, 1953.

Mr. Maurice C. Blake,
Spruce Tops,
Kennebunkport, Maine.

Dear Maurice:

Your letter of the 2nd received and I was very sorry to hear of the passing of your cousin, Miss Pulsifer. You must have been very devoted to her and I can realize that the suddenness of her passing was a very severe shock. Please accept my sincere sympathy.

Last week I mailed you a confidential memorandum regarding the fake 90¢ 1861 cover in the Harmer Rooke Sale last May 19th. I am now enclosing a photo print. You will note that the buyer removed the stamp and reperforated the left side after the sale. I believe that Harmer Rooke & Co. would have refunded the purchase price upon my recommendation had the buyer not damaged the stamp with a fake perforation. When I returned the cover to him I told him that in my opinion, this was a very bad practice and that if he would take my advice, he would never tamper in any way with a stamp or a cover.

Further referring to the Cambridge cover, I did consider the possibility that this letter might have been turned over to Harnden and Co. for transmission to England, but I discarded that theory because in my opinion this would have been most irregular and I have never heard of a similar instance. By what authority could the Cambridge or the Boston post office turn over a piece of mail to a private carrier for transmission, when such mail was supposed to go thru regular channels? If we are to consider that either of these U.S. post offices did such a thing, then of course the entire picture of this cover is changed.

My kindest regard -

Cordially yours,

MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

November 19, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

I wondered whether the small oval China and Japan mentioned as a fake in your letter of the 13th was authentic, but as I wrote when I first saw the advertisement photo of this 1869 cover I did not feel qualified to pass judgment on it.

I believe I have evidence that my Way 6 from Cambridge to Boston for Rome via Harnden prepaid to London, postmarked at the Cambridge office December 30, 1847, could have been and doubtless was so handled under Boston Post Office authority.

The Boston Post Office notice in the Boston Almanac (p.163) for the Year 1847, compiled in the last quarter of 1846, states (p.163):

" The foreign Postage on Letters to any part of Great Britain, or the Continent, can be prepaid at this office.

Letters for these Mails can be forwarded from any post office in the United States, by mailing them to Boston for distribution, post paid to Boston; - nothing more is necessary. "

In the list of Expresses (Almanac for 1847, pp.164-6) Harnden is noted at 8 Court Street in Boston.

However, the P. O. notice in Almanac for 1848, compiled late in 1847, also on p. 163, states:

" Foreign Mails.-- A mail is forwarded to, and received from England, via Halifax, Nova Scotia, by the British Mail Packets, on the 1st and 16th, for eight months in the year, and once a month for the four winter months. Mails for Calcutta, and all other Foreign Ports, are sent as often as opportunities occur.

The Foreign Postage on Letters to any part of Great Britain, or the continent, can be prepaid at Blake, Coolidge, & Wheeler's office, 8 Court Street. "

In this Almanac for 1848 (compiled late 1847) I find this among the pages of Advertisements on p.178:

" Harnden's Express, For Boston, New York, Providence, Philadelphia and the South and West. Proprietors, Blake, Coolidge, & Wheeler. D. Brigham, Jr. and J. H. Blake, 8 Court St., Boston; B. W. Wheeler, Union Bldgs., Providence; F. W. Coolidge, 6 Wall St., New York; Office in Philadelphia, 43 South Third Street. "

Though I can trace no direct connection with my surnamesake, these combined statements with the Harnden and other markings on my cover indicate that Harnden's representative must have been allowed by the Boston P. O. to pay the Way 6 as well as the Foreign Postage through England to the French frontier.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

Nov. 21, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrooke
Fort Thomas, Kentucky
Dear Stanley:

With reference to the Harnden cover, of which I wrote you yesterday, I believe it left Boston by the SS Hibernia, which arrived at Boston from Liverpool on the morning of December 25th, 1847.

My record does not show the sailing date of the "Hibernia", which was surely early in January 1848, as the ANGL - BOULOGNE is 18/JANV/48 on my cover, postmarked CAMBRIDGE/DEC/30(1847).

Perhaps you may like to have the dates of arrival and departure at Boston of the British Mail Steamships from and to Liverpool in case you do not have all of these dates. Sorry it is not a complete record. It would take more search to fill the gaps.

I only just noticed a red two straight-line handstamp over the addressee's last name "Hedge" and touching the ^{black} ANGL and the hand on red circle PAID, but I can't fully decipher it. Looks like VIA PI (or DI?) UNEVRA?

perhaps the French-Italian frontier(?).

Nor do I know whether "May to Boston" and "May 6" are by the same hand, perhaps both by the Cambridge P.M., or May 6 might have been put on in Boston P.O.(?).

Sincerely,
Maurice C. Blake

①

MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

Dec. 5, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

In reply to your letter of Nov. 28th, there is no doubt that Harnden served as mail agents, recognized by the U.S. P.O. Dept., both for the Boston-N.Y. U.S. Express Mail from July 20, 1842 until February 1844, and for British Steamer Mail from N.Y. via Boston and at the Boston office. Harnden died in 1845, so evidently Blake, Coolidge Wheeler carried on this foreign mail service, started under Boston P.M. Gordon with Harnden and continued until 1847-8 under P.M. Greene, even without any Post contract for mail from N.Y. to Boston.

Pat. Par. No. 24, p. 590 quotes a notice of July 22, 1842 from the Albany Daily Advertiser re apartments in steamers and railroad cars carrying the great Atlantic Mail via Stonington, Boston and Providence R.R.s. "to be used as Travelling Post Offices, and that the charge of these Post Offices has been assigned by the Postmaster General to Harnden & Co."

The advertisements re U.S. Express Mail by P.M. Gordon of Boston on July 20, 1842 and by Harnden & Co., General Mail Agents, dated "Boston, July 21, 1842; as well as ads. by N.Y. P.M. John L. Graham and by Harnden & Co., 3 Wall St., N.Y. of Jan.-Feb. 1844, Mar. 1844, and Feb. 1845 appear in Pat. Par. No. 53, ^{p. 1764} which appeared in "SEPTEMBER 1949", just after "Boston Postal Markings to 1890".

In the P.O. N.Y. Graham notice of Feb. 25, 1845 mail for HIBERNIA "closed at P.O. Nassau St. on Thursday the 28th at 45 minutes past 3 o'clock P.M. The overland postage [to Boston] of 18 3/4 cents on each single letter must be paid." [Note error - should read Friday 28th or Thursday 27th]

Harnden & Co. 3 Wall St. adv. stated: "Letters bags for the Royal Mail Steamer 'Hibernia' will close at Harnden & Co's. foreign letter office on Thursday and Friday, 27th and 28th, at 1/4 to 4 o'clock P.M. Letters can be prepaid at this office to any part of Europe. Postage to Boston single letters 12 1/2 cents, or 50 cents per ounce." #

MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

(2)

Dec. 5, 1953

N. Y. P. M. Graham had issued a long notice
against private express es on March 26, 1844, but
evidently Harnden & Co. still continued as per the
forgoing notice in Feb. 27-28, 1845, without a gov't contract:
(Put Par. No. 53, p. 1766)

"POST OFFICE

New York, March 26, 1844

English Mail. — Letter Bags per Royal Mail Steamer Caledonia,
which leaves Boston on Monday next, the first day of April,
will be closed at the Upper and Lower Post Offices in this city,
on Saturday next, the 30th inst., at 15 minutes past 4 o'clock, P. M.
After that time, letters can be paid to the Mail Agent on board
the Stonington boat until 5 o'clock, at which time she leaves
the wharf. As the Post Office Department is determined to exert
all its energies to prevent the lawless transportation of letters on
the mail routes by private express, companies and individuals,
and as no letters are received on board the British steamer unless
through the Boston Post Office, the public is cautioned that there
will be no certainty in any mode of transmission except through
the mail. The contract which formerly existed between
Messrs. Harnden & Co. and the Department, by which the
former were authorized to receive postage on letters from
this city to Boston, has been cancelled. A special agent
of the Department has been employed to accompany the
mail from this city, and deliver it at due season to the
Boston Post Office.

JOHN LORIMER GRAHAM, P. M."

Harnden's 12 1/2 rate must have helped influence the reduced
inland rates of the act of 1845 and thereafter some method
must have been used at Boston for prepayment through
Harnden temporarily of European postage on letters coming
into the Boston P. O., normally with required inland postage to
Boston prepaid, but unpaid "Way 6" on any Cambridge cover.

Unfortunately this Put Par. No. 53 contains some of E. P. S.
attributed to 34 + 18 prepaid delivery controversy.

I should like return of my list of Boston Savings of
Nov. 1847 - Sept. 1848.

Sincerely yours, Maurice Blake

Dec. 8, 1953.

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

Dear Maurice:

Re - your "Cambridge cover to rome." I enclose a note from Elliott Perry together with some pages from his "Pats", also copy of a letter I have written him today. Please return the above at your convenience.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Dec. 8, 1953.

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

Elliott:

Thanks very much for the data on Harnden. I want to loan this to Maurice Blake and as soon as he returns the sheets from "Pats" I will return them to you.

The question came up because of a cover that belongs to Blake, photograph of which I enclose herewith. The letter inside is dated Cambridge, Mass. Dec. 30, 1847, and the blue postmark on face is the same date. It shows "Way to Boston" and also "Way 6" - also a "Paid" of "H & Co" (Harnden & Co.) The London p.m. is "Paid." I assumed that this was sent unpaid "Way 6" to Boston, and that office turned it over to Harnden who paid the "Way 6" and then one of their messengers carried it to London and placed it in the British mail, prepaying the postage. The London p.m. is "Paid." I regret this photo print is so poor. There is no evidence that I can see to indicate how the writer paid Harnden. What struck me as very unusual was the fact (C) that the Boston P.O. turned this letter over to Harnden to convey to London and how did they know that the writer wanted it prepaid?

Keep the photo for your files if you wish.

Yours etc.,

December 3, 1953



Stan;

Check \$33.33 for John's plating work on last batch of 10c 47s received last night with thanks.

Regarding the Harnden matter, tear sheets from Pats 53 are enclosed. The adv. at the bottom of page 1766 may answer your query, or in part.

The Harnden chapter in the Independent Mails book was written several years ago and I have not looked at it recently but I recall that at one period Harnden's mail bag was locked in the New York Post Office and unlocked in the Boston Post Office (or vice versa on westbound trips). Letters which were addressed to foreign countries would - or might - be turned back to Harnden to deliver to the ship, not as a private carrier, but as an official mail agent of the U.S. Post Office.

However, I see no reason to believe the Boston Post Office would have used Harnden's Express to take mail to outbound ships after the P.M.G. annulled the arrangement with Harnden in February 1844. If there was any such arrangement at a later date I have found no evidence of it.

The facts would seem to be against a similar arrangement at a later date. Harnden's Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Hartford and Albany business - which became a gold mine - was practically given away to Thompson, and I think not so many years passed until Adams got most or all of Harnden's Boston-New York business, which also became extremely profitable.

It seems very doubtful if Thompson or Adams wanted the mail business, or could have got it if they did want it. The P.O. Dept. stopped using package express men as mail agents, and Route Agents whose only job was to look after the mails were put on the boats and trains. The Act of 1845 made the carriage of mail on post routes by private carriers "out of the mails" illegal and most of such private carriage stopped June 30, 1845.

It is true that years later the Department was still complaining about expresses carrying letters - which was being done - but this was at least partly due to the fact the transporting "orders" was not illegal under the law, and such "orders" often included personal correspondence.

Yes, later on and when it happens to be convenient for you, I would like to see registry instructions you mention. Right now too much other work is on hand. Copy for the January installment of the Haiti serial - and maybe enough for February also - is here being checked now and there is a dead line to meet.

Yesterday the last ^{of the} short chapter for the Carrier Book was completed but new data has arrived which will have to be added to other chapters.

The 10c 1847 express packages have all come fully prepaid and

#2

Stan



all have been returned to you collect.

As ever,

Ernest Curry

P.S. I might add regarding Graham's adv. "F" and the comment on it (pages 1765 and 1767), that Hale & Co., and Spooner's Letter Mail ~~had~~ had then (March 26, 1844) begun their independent mail service between Boston and New York and were carrying letters at 5c if prepaid by their "twenty for \$1.00" stamps. Also that some U.S. courts did not agree with Graham's use of the word "lawless" and some independent mails continued to operate until the Act of 1845 became law.

MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

Dec. 10, 1953

Mrs. Stanley B. Aschbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

Your letter of the 8th received, with excerpts from Pat Par. No. 53 and Elliott Perry's letter to you of Dec. 3rd, but without a copy of your letter to him which you mentioned as being enclosed also. The two former are returned herewith.

I note that Elliott Perry sees "no reason to believe the Boston Post Office would have used Harnden's Express to take mail to outbound ships after the P.M.B. annulled the arrangement with Harnden in February 1844."

He has not seen the evidence I gave you from the Boston Almanac for the year 1848, which closed its summary of "Events in Boston during the year 1847" on October 16, 1847 (p. 32): "The steamer *Cambria* arrived; and "General Events in 1847" ended Oct. 22, 1847 (p. 42), when copy for the Almanac for 1848, in which these summaries for 1847 appear, was soon closed. Hence the Boston Post Office (p. 163) was prepared in the latter months of 1847. An integral part of this P.O. Notice by Nathaniel Prime, P.M. is "The Foreign Postage on letters to

MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

2
Dec. 10, 1953

any part of Great Britain, or the Continent, can
be prepaid at Blake, Coolidge & Wheeler's office,
8 Court street." And on p. 178 is the
advertisement I previously quoted to you:
"Harvard's Express - Proprietors, Blake,
Coolidge & Wheeler - 8 Court st."

I have had in mind your request
to borrow my copy of the Boston Almanac
for 1850, which on pp. 149-153 gives the only
detailed list of foreign rates in any issue of
the Almanac. At last I have been able
to find an extra copy of this Almanac for
1850 and it also contains the domestic rating
by Wm Mayden, P. M. (p. 149) of single to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.;
double $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 oz.; quadruple over 1 oz. - 2 oz. etc.

Now you may record of a domestic triple
rates from July 1849 to June 30, 1851, i.e.
15¢ for under 300 mi; 30¢ for over 300 miles;
1.20 to California?

With the extra 1850 Almanac I have found
also an extra copy of the 1848 and send
both to you for your library with my
compliments.

Sincerely yours,
Maurice C. Blake

Neither of these copies is intact in front,
but the P.O. notices are complete and
they are not easy to find these days.

December 13, 1853



Stan;

The express package with twenty 10c 1847s arrived Thursday evening after my letter had been mailed. If John doesn't have too much trouble with the "hardboiled eggs" they will start back to you on Tuesday the 15th.

5c New York; I don't recall any suggestion that the plate of nine was made as early as 1845, so you may have something. However no reason for making such a small plate occurs to me. The Greig C.D. Post plate of 1842 contained 42 subjects and ten years or more ago I learned that the U.S.C.D. Post plate of the same year contained at least 40 subjects and probably not more than 120. The Hale plate contained 20, the small American Letter Mail had 20 (and probably the large stamp also), and the Pomeroy had 40 in two panes of twenty. I don't know that the size of other "Independent Mail Route" stamps of 1844-45 has been determined but as the usual price was "20 for a dollar" it seems unlikely that the plates or sheets had less than twenty stamps. I do not know of any local post stamp around that period which had less than ten stamps.

U.S. Express Mail; I agree that the small red "5" was a collect rate applied by the route agent, and that pen cancelled 1847s on the New York-Boston Route would not be expected. These are two of the reasons why the "ensemble" smelt fishy to me. The "5" could be one of those illustrated on page 910 in Pats #32. Altho the usual route was via the Stonington boat and Providence, the route via Norwich boat and Worcester was used at times, and ~~there~~ mail was also via Springfield. This last may have been all closed

carried pouches from New York and the south, with no route agent, and possibly only in winter when the steamers could not operate regularly on Long Island Sound. The intricacies of this service have not all been worked out. At least, not here.

Maurice Blake has sent me the info. regarding the proprietor's of Harnden's Express etc. in 1848, which solves part of the problem his cover presents. It seems possible that the annulment by the P.M.G. of Harnden's U.S. Express Mail service did not affect Harnden's contract with the Cunard Line which passed to Harnden's successors and was still in effect when the Boston Almanac for 1848 was prepared.

There was only one railroad thru Cambridge - the line first known as the Fitchburg R.R. I cannot lay my hand on data about this railroad but even if it was in operation as early as 1847 it is probable there were still stage routes into (or thru?) Cambridge. No reason occurs to me why a letter written in Cambridge could not have been handed to the mail stage driver, with a cent for the WAY fee, 5c postage to Boston, and Harnden's postage - all in cash, - and the money for Harnden's postage sent to Boston with the letter. Trains did not run frequently in these days. The same mail stage

(See #12)

#2

Stan

12/1



may have deposited mail in the Cambridge Post Office, and picked up mail for Boston, with the letter for Harnden's Express, which letter would have been postmarked in Cambridge as the law required. It is doubtful if the mail route from Cambridge to Boston was as much as four miles. Probably three miles would be nearer the distance.

As ever,

Wm. L. Perry

* This statement is questionable. The line was in operation to Concord (20 miles) in 1844, and to Fitchburg (52 miles) in 1845. But as late as 1853 no "Cambridge" station appears on the line. But there were several stations on railroads, some or all of which later became branches of the Fitchburg R.R., in what is now Cambridge. There was a "Cambridge Crossing" station on the Boston & Worcester, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Boston.

The map on page 62 of the B.P.M. book shows a station at Cambridge (1 mile) on the Lowell Road, and at 2 miles and 3 miles on the Fitchburg road. The last was West Cambridge. The others may have been at Cambridgeport or East Cambridge. One mile from the Fitchburg R.R. station in Boston, or from the Boston & Lowell R.R. station there, would be somewhere near the present Lechmere station or the Boston elevated, subway and bus system in East Cambridge (or Cambridgeport?).

As early as 1854 there were four post offices in Cambridge, viz; Cambridge, Cambridgeport, East Cambridge, West Cambridge, and at least one in Somerville which may have been near the Somerville Station of the Fitchburg R.R. - three miles from Boston. Altho it does not seem likely, I suppose there is a possibility the Harnden letter was given to a baggageman on a railroad train where a closed pouch contract was in effect, and put off at the station with pouches for the Cambridge post office.

In recent years there are stations on the Fitchburg line at Cambridge (3.4 miles) and West Cambridge (4.2 miles) from Boston.

Probably Maurice can find an old Boston-Cambridge map and determine whether the letter could have been WAY on a railroad, or had to be by stage coach.

P.S. You are to be congratulated on finding the P.L. & R. for 1863. Curiously enough, the 1866 edition states; "This compilation of the Postal Laws is the first that has been made since 1859."

As ever,

Wm. L. Perry

BY

M.C. BLAKE

B343

B343 - By M.C. Blake
See S.B. 28 - p29

Wm. to Barton 163. Baburiffay 6

531A

531A

For

Red

Blue
Cambridge Red

Rev. Frederick H. Hedge

12/30/47

Red

436

Aux soins de Messrs. Tortona & Co.

Black

1/18/48

Rome.

By Steamer.

B343

Magenta

LETTER CAMBRIDGE MASS DEC 30 1847 -

114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N. Y.
August 13, 1953.

Dear Stanley:

Thanks for your kind letter of Aug. 10 and thanks also for the splendid set of photographs of the Ackerman mint block of 70. I am greatly pleased with these prints. Do you know who owns the Ackerman block at present? Of course, I shall keep these prints, as well as the 15¢ rate cover to France, and I am enclosing herewith my check in the amount of \$30. in payment of both items.

Re-- Photograph 104. Yes, this cover shows the legal use (not a freak use) of a stamp after it had been declared illegal by an act of Congress. It is quite unfortunate that the cover had to be accidentally destroyed.

I am enclosing herewith a "Return Registered Letter Bill" which may be additional proof, if any were needed, that the registry fee provided for in the Act of March 3, 1855, was payable in money at five cents per letter, and not by stamps.

The bill is headed

"Post Office, Weld, Me. Feb. 7th, 1857."

"Registered Letters Received from Harrison Square (Jan. 30, 1857)"

The bill shows that 4 registered letters addressed to Richard Blamey(?) were received at the Weld office from Harrison Square. An incorrect registry fee of 35¢ was charged by the postmaster at H. Sq., in addition to postage, paid by stamps, aggregating 21¢ for the 4 letters.

The column headed "Registry Fees./ Cents.", indicates that there was no choice as to how this fee was to be paid -- it had to be paid in "Cents" or Money. The next two columns refer to postage and are headed "Originally paid at this office"/"By Stamps"(or)"In Money." Inasmuch as these forms were printed sometime between March 3, 1855, and Jan. 1, 1856, both methods of payment were legal. The last column, headed "Free"(of postage) indicates that persons having the franking

(over)

Aug.13,1953.

-2-

privilege nevertheless had to pay the registry fee on this class of mail.

I.Field, P.M. at Harrison Square was unfamiliar with the registry fee rates and so he apparently overcharged the sender of the letters in the amount of 15¢. He was unaware of the fact that the registry fee was 5¢ per letter regardless whether it was a single rate letter, a double or a quad.

The four letters may have consisted of two single rates, one double and one triple, or possibly one single rate and three doubles, which, in either case, aggregated 21¢ postage. By charging 5¢ per rate, Mr.Field arrived at the 35¢ figure. The Postmaster at Weld, Mr.Nathan Dummer(?) didn't know his rates either and so he assumed the bill was correct as rendered and marked it "correct" as required by regulations.

Mr.I.Field, who apparently was a conscientious postmaster, although he couldn't spell too well, upon inquiry at Washington, or other means, discovered his error and on March 24 wrote to the P.M. at Weld, requesting him to make the necessary corrections. This letter is also enclosed herewith, and also the Free cover showing on back the corner card of Isaac Field, Grocer, at Harrison Square. Are my theories correct, Stanley, or am I off the beam?)

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Morris

Aug. 19, 1953. -

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

Dear Morris:

Re - yours of the 13th. Thanks very much for your check for \$30.00 for the cover to France (3¢ 1857) and the photo prints of the "Ackerman block" from the right pane of Plate 7. I think this block is a wonderful item and I recall how delighted I was to see it when Ackerman loaned it to me way back in the late 'teens. Elliott Perry at that time was Ackerman's philatelic secretary. In 1945 I bought that pane from an Eastern dealer and I think I sold it to the late Harold Stark. I would like to buy it back at the price he paid me.

Thanks for a look at the registered items. I suppose that you are aware that Postmaster Field used his little circular hand-stamp at times to cancel stamps. Did you notice my tracing on page 90 - Vol. 2 - my One Cent book? This marking is well known on the 3¢ 1857 - Type II.

Morris, I believe you mis-read the Registry receipt. Perhaps this was a corrected copy. I think there was only one letter and the postage was 7 x 3¢ - 21¢, and the registered fee was 7 x 5¢ or 35¢. The "4" was the number of this particular letter. I believe that it has been stated that Harrison Square is now a part of Boston. I note that Field kept a grocery store.

Do you not believe that the memo on the back of the receipt proves that this is a corrected copy?

Re - the 3¢ 1857 cover to Paris. Did you note this was thru the Phila. Foreign Exchange Office - and was routed Via Portland, Maine? The latter was a scarce Trans-Atlantic Mail Contract to G.B. This cover is scarcer than you might suppose.

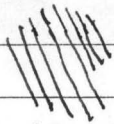
Regards.

Yours etc.,

To _____

DATE

8/18/53

Grid is Red. Ever see those short strokes?  90° has same.

12 + same kilowatt - not plain -

N.Y.A.P. Red as usual

Amen above 12 + not a Cancel
but off set smudge -

Back marks very interesting.

N.Y. - Jan 26

London - Feb 2

Cale. - Mar 16 -

as round the world it went.

I've seen black back stamps
before - same wording some
where -

Please return

Both P + N were known to secrecy also
very funny. I know you'll protect
me - let me have your opinion

Aug. 21, 1953.

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

Dear Edgar:

Herewith the photo print. In my opinion, this cover is a fake - I do not believe that by any possible chance these stamps originated on this cover, in fact, I think there is plenty of evidence that they did not.

As you know, this cover was in the Lapham exhibit at the 1936 New York Show. I made a description of it at that time, but there was one important point I overlooked, in fact, did not appreciate it at that time, and that was the British postage due in manuscript. I never knew that this was on the cover until I saw the photograph. I have my original notes that I made in May 1936 and I will let you see them if you would care to.

The New York postmark shows Am. Pkt. JAN. 26, and, of course, the year was 1861. The records show that the sailing on Jan. 26, 1861 was by American Packet and the P.M.G. Report of 1862 shows that the ship that carried the mail from New York on that date was the S.S. Edinburg, also sometimes spelled Edinburgh. This ship was built in the early '50s for the Glasgow and New York Steam Navigation Company, but was later sold to the Inman Line. No doubt it was a ship of that line in Jan. 1861. I have a table rates of postage for January 1861 and there was no such a rate to Calcutta or multiple such as \$1.32. On mail going by American Packet the sender was only supposed to pay U.S. postage of 21¢ per 1/2 ounce to the British frontier. This was 5¢ U.S. inland and 16¢ Atlantic sea. After arriving at London such a letter was then rated as if it originated in the British Isles. Thus the manuscript postage due on the face of the cover of 2 shillings 11 pence. I believe that this cover was originally a stampless with 21¢ paid in cash at New York. I regret to state I do not know what the rate was from England to Calcutta in January 1861, but if this letter went as routed the postage would have been rated per quarter ounce. I judge the letter weighed between a quarter and a half ounce, that is, over a quarter ounce but not over a half ounce.

On a letter sent by American Packet in January 1861 the total rates were as follows: not over 1/4 ounce 39¢ - not over 1/2 ounce 45¢ - not over 3/4 ounce 84¢ - not over 1 ounce 90¢ - not over 1 1/4 ounce \$1.62. This was on mail thru France Via Marseilles. The chances are that the British due marking is not two pence 11 shillings, but rather 2 shillings, 4 pence. To be sure I am sending a tracing to Robson Lowe and inquiring as to the exact meaning of this manuscript marking.

#2 - Mr. Edgar B. Jessup - Aug. 21, 1953.

I am also sending him a rough tracing of the marking on back and requesting an explanation of same. I have been unable to find this marking listed in any of the British books on their postal markings.

You will recall that at one time I figured that this cover may have been a 45¢ rate with a 30¢ - 12¢ and 3¢, and that someone removed the 3¢ and substituted the 90¢, however, this theory is out because of the British postage due marking. Another very important feature is that there is no evidence of any postage credit to the British. I believe that this proves conclusively that only the American and sea postage was paid and this would have been to the British frontier at the rate of 21¢ per 1/2 ounce.

Regarding the cancel on the stamps, in January 1861, they used a ringless grid in the foreign department of the New York Post Office. In fact, they have been using it for months prior and for a number of months subsequent, but I do not recall ever seeing a strike with broken bars and I don't believe such a cancelation was used, but still such a type may have been.

It certainly is very strange why there should be so much secrecy about this cover and the only explanation that I can give is that the Redhead knows very well that the cover is a fake. I believe the best bet in all the world is the following - Never trust an effeminate person. I wonder what the Redhead would say if you told him that you would buy the cover at his price if Ashbrook would sign it on the back that in his opinion, it is genuine.

I note that P. & N. were also sworn to secrecy, so I don't suppose that Doctor Polland will mention it to me. I will treat all of this as strictly confidential and I will never mention it to Polland unless he mentions it to me first. Of course, I have no objection if you show him this letter.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Aug. 21, 1953.

Mr. Robson Lowe,
50 Pall Mall,
London, S.W.1, England.

Dear Mr. Lowe:

Will you be so kind as to give me a bit of information. The enclosed tracings are on a cover from the U. S. to Calcutta, India, in Jan. 1861. I would like to know if the British due marking is 2 shillings 11 pence, or is it 2 shillings 4 pence? Also can you give me an explanation for the other marking? I will greatly appreciate the favor and will be pleased to return it at any time. Stamped addressed envelope herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Aug. 26, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

Herewith the Tampa program as requested. I don't think that there is anything in it of interest to me, so don't bother to return it.

Regarding the Garnier cover illustrated on the front of GOSSIP, issue of August 22nd, last. This cover looks perfectly good. Of course there were a lot of genuine covers in the Garnier correspondence when Zareski acquired the lot and he didn't find it necessary to fake a lot of them. For example, there would have been no reason to have monkeyed with a cover such as this. It has a strip of the brick and the date of use is okay, viz., N.Y. Nov. 2, 1858. My earliest record is Oct. 6, 1858. The markings show that this was a quarter ounce letter that left New York by British Packet, hence our share was only 3¢. I see no reason at all to question this particular cover.

Thanks for the information about Lot 65 in the Harmer, Rooke sale of last May 19th. I immediately wrote Molesworth inquiring if he was the purchaser. I also had a very nice letter from Thatcher, stating that if I would express the positive opinion that the cover was not genuine, they would advise the buyer and make a refund. Otherwise they would not wish to arouse his suspicion. I think this is very fair.

The following is very confidential and I know that you will treat it as such. Do you remember that old 90¢ 1860 cover that I have always referred to as the Armitage cover? It has a 90¢ 1860, a 30¢ and a 12¢. We had quite a bit of correspondence on this in the past. It was in the Lapham exhibit at the 1936 Show. It was addressed to Calcutta, India. As you will recall, I have long contended that this cover was a fake. For several years past and perhaps more, it has been in the hands of Colson, who has tried to sell it to several of our friends, but in each case he has sworn them to secrecy regarding it. I don't know why, but I have a suspicion THAT he made them promise not to mention it to me or give me any description and not to show me a photograph. If the cover is genuine, why all this mystery? I saw the cover at the Typex and made notes regarding it, but I didn't know enough about foreign markings at that time to be positive whether it was good or whether it was bad. How do you suppose this cover ever got out of the Lapham collection and into Colson's hands? I have an indistinct recollection that one of our friends told me that Colson had offered him a 90¢ cover to Calcutta but he had to promise to hold it for at least a year and not mention it to anyone, and if I recall, the sale was to be "as is." Do you know of anyone who is on excellent terms with Colson and to whom we could get Colson to send the cover? I should would like to get a look at that item and to bet at two or three to one that the darn thing is a fake before I have had a chance carefully examine it. Could you feel out Caspary and try to learn if Colson ever tried to sell the cover to him and if he remembers it? The cover was in a collection that Armitage sold to Lapham and I think you will recall that the covers Lapham did not wish to retain were sold thru Kelleher along

#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - Aug. 26, 1953.

about 1933.

Regarding our trip East. We plan to leave here on the morning of the 9th of September - This is Wednesday. And we have to be in Newport by Saturday noon, the 12th. Inasmuch as the hotels there will be very growded because a large class is due to graduate on the 11th, we are going to try and stay in Providence. This would mean that if we spent a night at Nyack that we would have to drive from here to your home in two days. I believe it is considerably over eight hundred miles, and inasmuch as the two girls are going to do all of the driving, I am wondering if this wouldn't be too much for them. Mildred received Jean's note and she will write her.

The Harmer, Rooke catalogue of the Clapp collection is before me and it looks like Marc had some nice covers. I note several that I sold him out of the Richey collection.

With regards.

Cordially yours,

Robson Lowe

DIRECTORS:
GWENLLIAN J. BURY.
B.M.G. BUTTERWORTH.
ANNABELLE LOWE.
ROBSON LOWE.

LIMITED.

50 PALL MALL, S.W. 1.
LONDON.

TELEPHONE: TRAFALGAR 4034-4035.
CABLES: STAMPS LONDON.

ALSO AT
BOURNEMOUTH.
AGENCIES IN
BOMBAY,
MELBOURNE,
NEW YORK.

7th Sept. 1953.

Stanley B. Ashbrook Esq,
P.O.Box 31
33 North Ft. Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky., U.S.A.

IRR/LRR.

Dear Mr Ashbrook,

Your letter of Aug. 21st addressed to Mr Robson Lowe was passed to me as it arrived on the day that he went on his annual vacation.

Not being quite certain of all the answers personally, I consulted my friend Alan Robertson who is most certainly the uncrowned Ship Letter King of this country.

He asked to have the tracings over this week-end so as to refer to his collection and I have this morning received his reply which I herewith enclose so that, if you so desire, you can communicate with him direct.

In any case, as we are all members of the Society of Postal Historians (of which I have the honour of being President this year) we are delighted at any time to be of mutual assistance to each other should the occasion arise, and I can assure you that this is the case with Alan Robertson as it was with me in being able to pass the query to the right quarter.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours very truly,

Leslie R. Ray

Postal History Department.

Sept. 22, 1953.

Mr. Leslie R. Ray,
1/ Robson Lowe, Ltd.,
50 Pall Mall, S.W. 1, England.

Dear Mr. Ray:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 7th, enclosing the letter from Mr. Robertson, with whom I have corresponded in the past. I am today writing Mr. Robertson direct and no doubt he will send my letter to you.

Again many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 22, 1953.

Mr. Alan W. Robertson,
Ranworth,
St. Lawrence Drive,
Pinner - Middlesex,
England.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Mr. Leslie Ray was kind enough to forward to me your letter of the 5th of September in reference to an inquiry I made of Mr. Robson Lowe. No doubt I should have been more explicit in a description of the cover that I have under examination but what I wanted to be sure of was the British manuscript marking on the fact of the cover, and which I concluded was "2-11" or two shillings, eleven pence.

The cover in question was from New York City and addressed to Calcutta. It was routed, "pr Overland Mail Via Marseilles." The cover has U. S. stamps which show a high rate of \$1.32. This cover has been authenticated as genuine by a number of our leading students in this country and a high value has been placed upon it. I have known the cover for almost twenty years and I am absolutely positive the U. S. stamps were not used originally on this cover.

I am satisfied in my own mind that the use was from New York on June 26, 1861, but at that time there was no such a rate or combination of a rate amounting to \$1.32, nor can I account for any such a rate as "2-11."

Under the U.S.-British Postal Treaty no partial payments were permitted - it was all or none - Thus you can appreciate that a combination showing a supposed payment in the U.S. of \$1.32 and a British due of "2-11" certainly does not make sense.

The rate from the U. S. to India in January 1861 was as follows:

"Via England and British Mail Via Marseilles"

Not over 1/4 ounce	39¢
Over 1/4 - not over 1/2 oz.	45¢
" 1/2 - " " 3/4 "	84¢
" 3/4 - " " 1 oz.	90¢
" 1 oz. " " 2 oz.	\$1.80

and 90¢ for each additional ounce

The above rates were made up as follows:

	<u>1/4</u>	<u>1/2</u>	<u>1 oz.</u>	<u>2 oz.</u>
U. S. Inland	5¢	5¢	10¢	20¢
British	12¢	12¢	24¢	48¢
Atlantic	16¢	16¢	32¢	64¢
French	6¢	12¢	18¢	48¢
	39¢	45¢	84¢	\$1.80

#2. Mr. Alan W. Robertson - Sept. 22, 1953.

The British due of "2-11" does not agree with any of the above rates. The British due was the equivalent of 70¢ in U. S. currency and I note that there was a rate of 70¢ to India in 1861 as follows:

"By Prussian Closed Mail Via Trieste 70¢ per 1/2 oz.," but surely this letter did not travel by that route because there is a London postmark on the back of the cover.

I do not believe that any change has been made in the dates of use by the faker but as stated above, the use was actually in January 1861. If so, I am unable to explain the British "2-11."

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 22, 1953.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
Regency House,
1-4 Warwick St.,
London, W.1. England.

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for your kindness in the loan of the 12¢ 1857, Plate One, Imprint, which I am returning herewith. I think your price is very fair but at the moment I do not know of anyone in particular who might care to purchase the stamp. What I desired was a photographic record. I am sure that Sir N. would like to have this copy.

I am enclosing herewith a tracing on a cover from New York by way of England to Calcutta in January 1861. I feel sure that the U. S. stamps to the amount of \$1.32 were not used originally on the cover. The enclosed marking appears to be two shillings, eleven pence. Do you agree, or could it be something else?

I have just returned from a little visit with Carroll Chase and we had quite an enjoyable reunion.

Again many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

FROM

O. Bacher, D. PHIL.

B.P.A., P.T.S., A.P.S., COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK.



17-9-53.

Dear Mr. Ubbelohde,

Referring to your kind letter of
Sept. 4, I now enclose the 12¢ #36
with post deposit. I value it at \$2.00
net and should you like it and have
a client for it, you can of course sell
it. Otherwise I would offer the copy to
Sir W. I trust you will agree with my
price which, in my opinion, is still modest
in view of the value such an item must
have for the Specialist.

— Hope you have had a good rest
and remain, with best wishes, cordially yours

UBacher

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO. LTD.

The Specialist in U.S.A. Postage Stamps

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4 WARWICK STREET, LONDON, W.1

Telephone: GERrard 4900

P.S. Please do not refund postage, because it gives me
pleasure to show your items of interest to you. U.S.

Oct. 4, 1953.

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

Dear Ed:

Further referring to the fake 90¢ cover to Calcutta, Jan. 26, 1861, I am now practically sure that the rate on this cover originally was 42¢ and in all probability, the 30¢ and the 12¢ originated on this cover, that is, the faker removed the 12¢ and substituted the 90¢, then he put the 12¢ stamp down in the lower corner. This was a double 21¢ rate and it was paid merely to the British frontier, carriage by American Packet. In other words, a single rate to the British frontier was 5¢ U.S. Inland, plus 16¢ Atlantic Sea, per 1/2 ounce. This explains why there was no credit from the U.S. Post Office to the British, and it also explains the British "Due" of 2 shillings, the same as if the letter had originated in the British Isles. I am enclosing herewith a photograph of a cover that was in the Brown sale, Lot 909. This was a single rate to Calcutta by American Packet with postage of 21¢ per 1/2 ounce. I am now absolutely convinced that this is the solution to the fake cover. You will recall that on the latter was the New York postmark with American

Packet. Will you please return the enclosed photograph.

I wish that I could write this cover up in the press because I feel absolutely sure that Colson knows that it is a fake.

With 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.

Sept. 28, 1953.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I have been brooding over your tracing for quite a time and also searched my files. Nothing similar came my way but quite a number of "2/-" scribbled in different ways, sometimes hardly recognisable, preferably in the late forties. May not your marking just be a rather distorted "2 SH"? I cannot read it as "2/11" and while the "2" is unmistakable, the rest is in my opinion neither one figure or more but nothing else than an illiterate writing of "sh". Of course, I may be wrong and you might describe my reading as a fanciful guess. Anyhow, is the marking as such not of an earlier period than the sixties? Isn't something fundamentally wrong with the cover? Apart from that the stamps on it were, as you state, originally not on it.

To know your final conclusions will be of great interest to me. I am also expecting to see one day your write-up of Mr. Hill's entire with the strip of 3 of No. 30.

Many thanks for looking at the Imprint copy of No. 36 which came safely back to me. I have not seen Sir N. for about 3 months. He told me over the phone after my return from the Continent that, in the meantime, unknown to his friends and relatives, he had - married again. While I hope he will be very happy I realise that, for the time being anyhow, he will have no time to spare for stamps. So I decided to "give him a rest" if I may put it that way under the circumstances. He is 75 and still working hard in the City. He has the proverbial vitality of the old Englishman (aren't Kentucky men similar in that respect?).

Best wishes and kind regards
yours sincerely

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

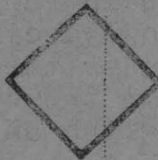
← First fold here →

Sender's name and address :-

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.,
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK ST.,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON, W.1, G.B.

← Second fold here →

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

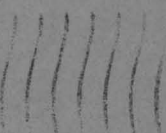


← To open cut here

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

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



THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER

Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/1K

Oct. 1, 1953.

Dr. O. Bacher,
% Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
Regency House,
1-4 Warwick St.,
London, W.1, England.

Dear Dr. Bacher:

Yours of the 28th received.

I wrote Alan W. Robertson of England about the manuscript marking and while he was unable to give me a definite opinion, he thought it was probably "2/11". You may be right about the "2 sh." but I seriously doubt this as I have never seen any such an abbreviation on a cover. I thought at first perhaps it stood for "2/4" but Robertson doubted that this was the case. I haven't seen the cover in question since it was exhibited at the New York 1936 Show and the chances are that the owner won't let me have a look, fearing that I would condemn it. On account of this, I doubt if I will be able to have a definite solution any time soon.

Regarding Mr. Hill's 5¢ '57 Orange Brown vertical strip on cover. I gave this a right-up in one of my Service issues last summer and if I have a duplicate copy I will mail it to you.

I was surprised to learn that N.W. had married. The fact is I didn't know whether he was a bachelor, a widower or had a wife living. A man has to be very brave and have a lot of nerve and confidence in himself as well as some other things to marry at the age of 75. Let us hope that the union proves just as agreeable as if he and his lady were twenty. Past generations of Kentuckians were indeed very hardy, probably due to the fine bourbon whisky and beautiful women, but I don't know so well about the present generation.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,



Back of
#155

HRH sale
4/27-48
Lot 53



Red
Grids



Capt James L. Smith
of St. Newark of New Bedford
Care of the Governor of
Hawaii

Red
H.R.H
Sale 4/27
1948
Lot 53

Red

26JA

#155

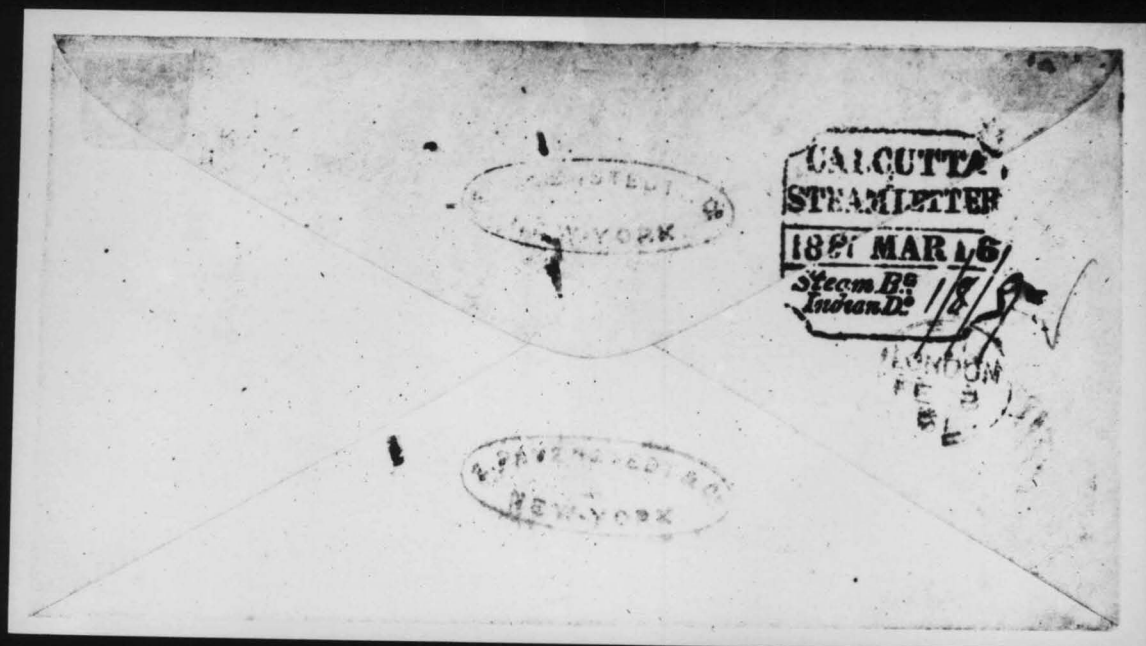
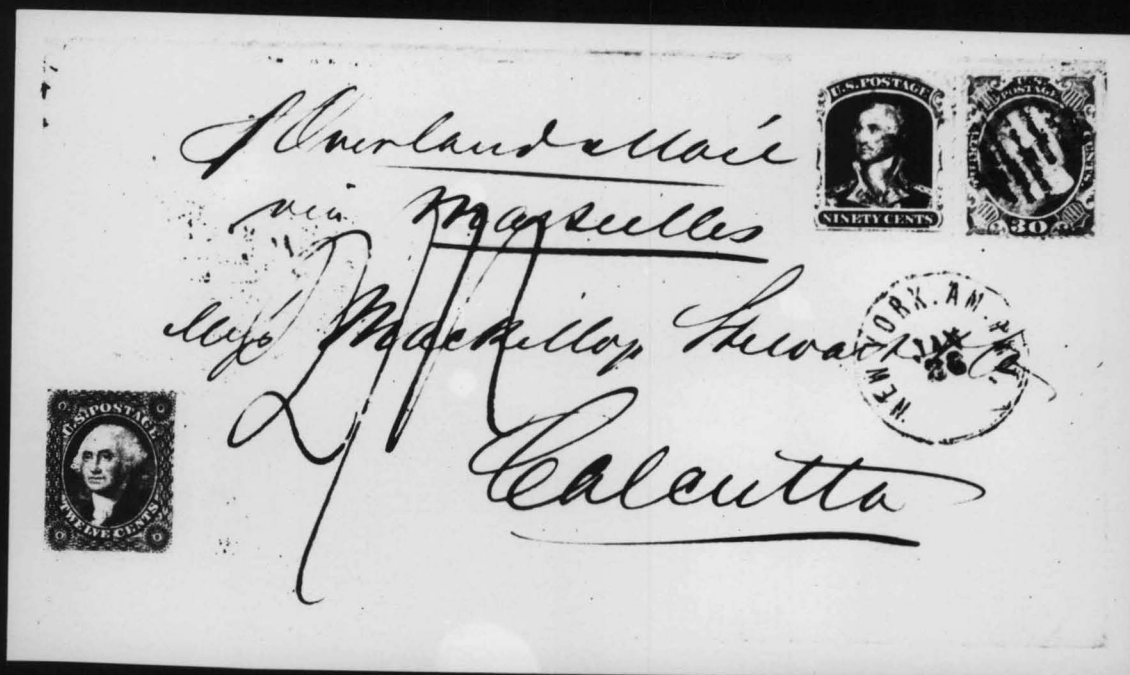
See Back

per overland mail

via Singapore

Celebes Ids.
East Indies

NEW BEDFORD JAN 13 1857



31

1 1/2

Ranworth.

St. Lawrence Drive.

Pinner. *Middlesex*
.....

5th. September. 1953.

Leslie Ray Esq.
50 Pall Mall.
London S.W.
.....

RECEIVED

7 SEP 1953

Dear Mr. Ray,

Please forgive the delay in writing to you on the subject of the two enclosed tracings. When you originally asked for my opinion in the matter, I did not anticipate that it would set the pretty little problem which has transpired.

Whilst appreciating the compliment you pay me in asking for advice concerning Postal Rates, I am afraid that 1861 is a late date for me to find representation in the Indian Section of my Ship Letter Collection ... for it was in those volumes that I had hoped to find the answer; alas nothing seems to tie in satisfactorily.

I feel that we are somewhat hampered through not having the actual cover before us, as this I am sure would give further help if only by that unqualified "sense" which comes from handling much material.

Presuming that the letter was normal weight etc. the amount of 2/- can be accounted for with certainty ... being 1/- U.S. to England and 1/- to India by NORMAL sea route. Having never seen any English Manuscript *Wyna* with ANY similarity to the outline traced, we are safe in taking this to be 11d. But without seeing the cover I don't know just how to account for that amount. By 1867 there were different rates in operation according to whether the letter was endorsed and went either via Brindisi, or Marseille as compared with direct sea route from Southampton ... the period as I say is rather late for my own studies, but I believe a somewhat similar difference in rates existed during the ten years preceding that date. Has the cover any instructional endorsements of any kind I wonder ?? It is awfully difficult to arrive at conclusions with only the VERY bare information in our possession.

The Calcutta Steam Letter Handstamp is not uncommon and of course relates to the charges raised by the Indian Post Office. The Manuscript additional at the foot although reading 1/8/9. HORIZONTALLY is of course a more easily written "sum" of

Steam Bg. 1

..... anna India Ship Letter due. ("Bearing")

Indian do. 8

..... annas India inland rate due. "

9 annas.

which was quite normal on incoming letters and as a purely Indian internal accounting mark had no relation to the country of origin of the letter or the route it took.

I am so sorry that the more important query remains unanswered, one wishes particularly to be of help in such matters both to yourself and also to our mutual friend Mr. Ashbrook who is always so unfailingly co-operative when we in turn present our little postal history problems.

Again I say that sight of the cover may spark off a line of reasonable speculation, and produce a better result than the lengthy cross-checking which on this occasion has been the reason for such a long delay in writing to you.

Sincerely yours,

Alan W. Roberts

B357

SEE S.B. 28 P33

Brown
II



Elias Ayres Esq-
Groveton
Va

From S. F.
June 1 1861
To GROVETON
Va

Buff Env
By J.E.M.

Type
V

P. 9

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

August 24, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

Enclosed is a very interesting and unusual cover which
I just acquired.

I would greatly appreciate your examining it and giving
me your opinion on it. It will be okey to write it up in
your Special Services if you wish.

With kind regards,

Jack
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/p

Sept. 1, 1953.

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

Dear Doctor:

Further regarding your cover with the New York 20 of Apr. 30 (1853). The following is some data that might be interested.

On April 23, 1853, the following news item appeared in the New York Herald:

"The U.S. M.S.S. Crescent City arrived yesterday from Aspinwall, having left there on the evening of the 12th inst. The next day, when 150 miles from Aspinwall, she passed the steamship Falcon from New Orleans for Aspinwall."

The crescent City was scheduled to sail on a return trip to Panama on April 28th but she did not sail until the 30th.

In the issues of the New York Journal of Commerce of Apr. 28, 29 and 30th, an advertisement read, "S.S. Crescent City will sail on Saturday April 30th at 2 P.M. from the Pier at foot of Warren St., North River." No special reference to the delay in sailing of the ship was found in the shipping news items, though there was mention of many strikes at that time.

At that period the "U.S. Mail S.S.Co." advertisements reads as follows: "Carrying the great U. S. Mail - Only through weekly U. S. Mail Line for California and Oregon via Aspinwall and Panama - Leaving New York on the 5th, 13th, 20th and 28th of each month." In the issues of the Journal of Commerce from April 15th to 27th inclusive, the Crescent City was advertised to sail on April 28, 1853. Just a century ago last April.

I believe your cover may be unique as it shows one of the rare weekly sailings - most unusual. Perhaps Edgar would be interested in the above data. I am sure you are familiar with the "weekly sailings" of 1853.

Re - your cover from Vancouver and mailed at Olympia W.T. I haven't the slightest idea how this was conveyed to S.F. - My guess would be, by stage to Astoria and thence by water. I note the "Purser" and the "Due 10." Both nice.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

1850 Baltimore St N.W.
Washington 9 DC
Sept 1, 1963

Mr. Stanley B Ashbrook
Fort Thomas Ky.

I am enclosing my check for
Three Dollars.

Also a Ten cent type II and a
Cover.

Is it possible or is it a counterfeit
Cover. This cover has never seemed
right to me. Could be short paid?

On the Ten cent stamp could this
be a proof Paper seems to be too white
for the regular issue.

Very truly
W. B. Ashbrook.

Sept. 3, 1953.

Mr. R. A. Peck,
1850 Biltmore St. N.W.,
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Mr. Peck:

Yours of the 1st received and I am returning herewith the cover to England and also the single copy of the 10¢ 1855 Type II.

Thanks very much for your check for \$3.00.

First regarding the single, I can assure you that this is perfectly okay in every respect. This Type II copy is a very early impression and I judge the use was sometime in 1855. The earliest known use of the 10¢ imperforate is May 19, 1855. Early impressions were on this grade of paper. This copy has been well preserved and there has been very little if any deterioration in the paper. The engraving company used a much better grade of paper in 1855 than in later years.

Regarding the cover, I am pleased to inform you that this item is genuine in every respect and I have signed it as such on the back. Under the U.S. - British postal treaty the rate to England from 1849 until 1868 was 24¢ per half ounce, no part payments were permitted - full postage or none had to be paid. This letter weighed over 1/2 ounce, hence 48¢ should have been paid. Anything short of that was wasted. There is a postmark of origin but it is not legible. From that office the letter was sent to the foreign division of the Chicago Post Office where it was found to weigh over 1/2 ounce and consequently it was marked "Unsufficiently Prepaid," and it was rated as entirely unpaid. Therefore, when it reached England it was marked in manuscript with 2 shillings due from the addressee. The Chicago postmark read as follows: "Chicago AM. PKT." with a "42" at the bottom. It is odd that the amount of postage paid is the same as this 42, but there is no relation whatsoever between the two values. The "42" in the postmark is our charge or debit to the British Post Office for our share of the total postage of 48¢ or 2 shillings. Inasmuch as this letter was carried to England by an American packet, we were entitled to 5¢ inland and 16¢ sea or 21¢ out of each 24¢. Thus out of 48¢ that the British collected our share was 42¢. It is quite evident that the U.S. Post Office did very well on this particular letter as they actually received 84¢. I trust that the explanation that I have given you is perfectly clear but if not kindly advise. Incidentally the two Chicago markings are struck in blue, whereas according to the terms of the treaty they should have been applied in black. The four 10¢ stamps are all Type V. and one is a center-line copy. The two 1¢ stamps are both Type V and one of these shows a crease in the paper before printing.

Very truly yours,

BY MAILMAN W. B. WILSON
ROBT PECK

B365

F128
RED-15 SEC





Jack E. Moleworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

9-16-53.

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your two letters of Sept. 4th which I have delayed answering since I gathered you will not be back in Fort Thomas till about the 18th. Though I am sorry to learn that the cover is a fake, I do appreciate your calling it to my attention as I would much prefer to lose \$120 on it before selling rather than sell it in good faith and then later have it returned for refund and lose not only the \$120 but the goodwill of the customer to boot.

Though it may have been unwise to have had it reperfed, I kick myself mostly for not sending it to you upon purchase before paying for it as is my usual custom on such items. Why I did not send this one on I don't know, but guess it was an oversight due to the heavy pressure of business at that time. I was pleasantly surprised at Thatcher's offer to make refund if you could assure the owner the cover was bad since such is strictly contrary to the "21 Day" clause in their terms of sale and have been waiting to see if they would write to me after receiving your letter but have heard nothing from them to date. Though I agree with your doubts that they will now take it back since it has been reperfed, I am going to send it back to them and frankly point out that I had it reperfed to improve the appearance but since it is not genuine and thereby almost worthless hope that this fact of its being reperfed will not be of any significance. If they are in good faith in wanting to make restitution on it this fact may not make any difference, though I believe their refund offer was merely a tribute to you and that they will probably use the reperfering as a way out of making refund. It's worth a try and I, of course, will not press the matter if they refuse as I actually according to the terms of sale have no right to a refund in any case.

I believe I have learned something from this cover and doubt I will be deceived as easily again in the future. The only reason I can think of that led me to ignore inconsistency between the cover markings and the apparent 90¢ rate, something which I believe I have enough knowledge gained from your Special Service and letters to at least have questioned, was a vague idea I had that there was a 90¢ rate to China. I believe this recollection was due to a cover in the March 21, 1952 sale of Dan Kelleher with a 90¢ 1861 tied and addressed to "Hong Kong, China" with the further notations, "French Mail, Via Marseilles", "Per Overland Mail", and a "Boston Bf. Pkt. PAID" marking. I presume you have this catalog and would appreciate a comment or two from you on it. Also today in looking over Lot #105 in the Sept. 22nd Harmer, Rooke Sale I noticed a cover with a 3¢, 24¢, & 30¢ 1861 tied on addressed to China, Via Marseilles, etc. and a "36" credit in red ink manuscript. Does this give you sufficient details to comment on

(over)

this 57¢ rate to China apparently by the same route as the other two covers? Incidentally, though I did not send the #72 cover to you originally asking for your opinion, I do appreciate the work you put in on it and see no reason that you should not be paid the same as if I had originally sent it to you asking an opinion. I am therefore enclosed check for \$5.00 which I hope will cover it. Your work should have saved me \$120.00; that it may not is entirely my own fault.

I greatly appreciate your advice on the reperfering angle and can certainly see your justification for taking a dim view of any monkeying with covers in any way. Also, I value my reputation for honesty in all dealings above most anything else and would not for the world want to do anything that would reflect on it. I believe it is important that I explain in detail my policy in this regard not only as a means of explaining my actions but also for your further comments. Whenever I buy a cover that is marked up or has a ragged opening due to careless initial opening, I always attempt to clean it up and trim or even up the ragged opening to improve the appearance and in many case make something saleable that otherwise would go begging. I believe you would agree that there is nothing wrong with this. Likewise, if the cover is ripped or torn and its present appearance can be improved or preserved by placing some hinges or a bit of paper on the inside to hold the tear together, in other words repairing it, I likewise do that, the work of course being obvious to anyone examining the cover though I generally mention the repair in my written description on the envelope in which it is enclosed. In otherwords everything I do to a cover short of reperfering the stamp is obvious to even an inexperienced observer, but is none the less generally mentioned in my description unless it is so insignificant such as trimming the open end as to merit no special comment. Up to this point I hope that you will agree that nothing that will deceive future buyers or that is unethical has been done, but will appreciate your comments if you don't.

The next step is of course the reperfering of the stamp which I agree would not be obvious, esp. a good job, to any but the most experienced observer and therefore might deceive the next buyer even tho I adequately described it to the first buyer. This is a strong argument against the practice and would be decisive if I considered reperfering to be in the same class as repairing, regumming, faking cancels, etc. on stamps. Though I would not condone or engage in repairing a stamp on a cover so that it was not fairly obvious on a casual examination, and I do not consider the obvious repairing of a tear in a cover to be in this class, I consider reperfering belongs to a different area since such is merely finishing the job that the Govt. failed to complete. Also, there would be need for such reperfering if it were not for the foolish prejudice which collectors in this country have against "sheet margin" copies which actually are scarcer and should be worth more than these perfered on all sides and I believe are in most cases abroad. Also, if jobs can be done that are so identical to the Govt. perfering as to practically defy detection, I don't see that it makes too much difference except for the fact that the market here values straight edges for less than regular copies, in itself unjustified, and by reperfering a copy of lower market value has been made into one of higher market value. Based on the above reasoning my policy has been to have items reperfered occasionally where I feel it will significantly improve the appearance, but to always without exception note this fact in my description of condition



Jack E. Moleworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

when offering the stamp for sale. This policy is open and above board and intends to deceive no one unless they are so naive as to doubt my statement as to reperfining and deceive themselves. Relatively speaking this is the most conservative policy with regard to reperfining of any dealer in Boston, except Harris, and most I know in New York all of whom have items reperfed and sell them with no mention of the fact feeling it makes no difference but still to my way of thinking not giving due weight to the fact that they are deceiving the customer who in most cases would not buy the stamp if he knew it were reperfed, at least not at the same price.* Most of these dealers are ASDA members though the more reputable will gladly admit to this practice and make no attempt to hide it, a few even going so far as to have the statement about reperfining in their ASDA pledge penned out before they would sign it and join. This clause requires that anything such as reperfining be described to the prospective buyer on sale if known to the dealer to which I of course adhere. Certain N.Y.C. auctions such as Orton's especially and often Fox's are loaded with undescribed reperfs that can be told from the auction photos by the experienced observer. I'm rather sure Orton has it done himself as I've seen items he bought in ~~another~~ ^{another N.Y.C.} sale show up reperfed in his next sale, centering now Superb where it was Fine to V.F. before. Fox may just be negligent in accepting material for auction from people he should have enough sense to suspect of such actions or not have sufficient knowledge to tell the difference.

I hope that I have not bored you with the foregoing, but value your friendship and counsel very highly so wanted there to be no misunderstanding as to my policy and action in accord therewith.

Enclosed is a 5¢ 1847 valentine cover which I have some reason to wonder if it was originally used on this cover due to the crease in the stamp and the apparent different shade of ink in the stamp cancel and the part showing on the cover. Your comments will be greatly appreciated.

I still hope to have Stan, Jr. up here for a weekend, but have either been out of town myself or tied up with golf tournaments each one since I learned he was at Newport. How much longer will he be there?

With kind regards,

* The reason I always mention it.

Sept. 20, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

On our return yesterday from a ten days trip down to see Stan Jr. I found your letter and enclosures of the 16th. It was very kind of you to send me a check for \$5.00 for the examination of the 90¢ 1861 cover. Thanks very much.

Further regarding that item. In your letter you mentioned a 90¢ cover in the Kelleher sale of March 21, 1952, same being Lot #47. It was odd that you mentioned this cover because in a way it has a connection with the Harmer Rooke cover.

Regarding the former, I am wondering if you noticed the address and that the Delano was the maternal grandfather of F.D.R. and the person reputed to be the opium exporter. I remember this cover when it came up in the F.D.R. sale and my friend Emmerson Krug purchased it. Later on he placed it in my hands for sale but I was not able to get him out without a loss as none of my friends wanted anything that had any connection with F.D.R. I believe it is stated that this was the item that first started him to collect stamps.

Regarding the rate on this cover, it went by French mail under the U.S. - French Treaty and the rate was 30¢ per quarter ounce. This was in comparison to 15¢ per quarter ounce had the letter been addressed to France. As the letter did not weigh over one-quarter ounce it was therefore a triple rate, our share of which was only three cents per quarter ounce, as the letter was forwarded by a British Cunard mail ship from Boston. At left on this cover in red pencil was 81 over 3. In other words, our credit to the French Post Office Department of three times 27¢. France settled with Britian for carrying the letter to England and thence to Calais. I suppose the letter was put aboard a British mail ship at Marseilles and if so France paid Britian for carriage to Hong Kong. I suppose that all France got out of the 81¢ was 18¢, or three times 6¢ per quarter ounce.

The relationship between this cover and the Harmer Rooke cover is that the killer on the 90¢ stamp is an imitation of the one on the Delano cover. I am wondering if you noticed this. In the Blake book on Boston markings are tracings of genuine types of this killer, none of which are of the exact size and shape as the fake on the Harmer Rooke cover.

In your letter you referred to a cover in the Harmer Rooke sale of Sept. 22, which is next Tuesday, same being one of several covers in Lot 105.

#2.

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - Sept. 20, 1953.

I doubt if I have ever seen the actual cover but I am familiar with the rate and the credit. This rate was used extensively in the late fifties and early sixties, and applied to letters of over one-quarter ounce but not over one-half ounce, which went to England, thence to France and overland Via Marseilles. In other words, British mail overland Via Marseilles. Such mail was carried from this country to England by an American packet or a British packet, and the credit to Britain depended on which transmission. For example, a credit of 36¢ meant that the letter went from New York by American packet to England and under the U.S. - British Treaty we were entitled to 5¢ inland and 46¢ sea per half ounce. Thus out of 57¢ we retained 21¢. Britain paid France at the rate of 6¢ per quarter ounce for carriage to Marseilles, where the letter was put aboard a British mail ship enroute to the Far East Via Suez. The total rate of 57¢ was made up as follows: U.S. share 21¢ as above - British share one shilling or 24¢ - French share 6¢ per quarter ounce or 12¢ - total 57¢. You can thus appreciate that rates and credits depended entirely upon the way mail was transported.

I am returning herewith the cover with the 5¢ 1847. I have given this cover a very careful examination and my opinion is as follows - I feel quite sure that the 5¢ '47 was not used originally on this cover. The vertical crease which you noticed indicates that a damaged stamp was used to fake this cover. This type of New York postmark did not come into use until July 1851, hence this use had to be Feb. 1852 or later. The postmark was for unpaid first-class mail. Regarding the Carrier stamp, I examined this very closely and while it might have been used on this cover, I doubt very much that it was. The "D" of "PAID" is out of line and the red ink on the cover is different from that on the stamp.

The postmark is dated Feb. 14, and the party addressed is Mrs. One wonders if the little valentine was actually enclosed in this envelope but no doubt it was, and perhaps from a husband or a son and sent with the post unpaid. No doubt you noticed other red markings on the stamp which show no on the cover.

Whoever made this cover attempted to turn out a very clever job and I suppose he had an explanation for the item as follows - That the carrier stamp paid the fee to the New York Post Office - that the 5¢ '47 stamp was intended to pay the postage to New Hampshire, but that the New York Post Office refused in Feb. 1852 to recognize the old stamp and rated the letter as entirely unpaid with postage due of 5¢. Such an explanation would make an exceedingly nice and rare cover. However, New York did not use a red grid such as this in 1852 or 1853, etc.

To sum up, it is my opinion that neither of the two stamps were originally used on this cover, but in all probability the valentine was enclosed. Because I wanted to give this item a very thorough examination I will have to charge you a fee of \$5.00 on account of the time consumed with it. I am wondering if you would have any objection if I gave the item a write-up in a Service Issue. One more word regarding the 5¢ stamp. This is a very early shade and impression, No doubt from the first batch of printings, and it would be most unusual to find such an early print used as late as 1852.

I have carefully noted your remarks regarding the re-perforation of the 90¢ stamp, and perhaps all I can add this, and I believe you will find the advice most excellent. You are a young man and have much ability. You will find that in the end that it pays never to do anything in this business that will cause talk or arouse suspicion. A reputation for honesty in every department is more valuable than all the money in the world. Always strive to keep the page clean.

SEP 24 1953

\$5.00 on this

PAID

#3.

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - Sept. 20, 1953.

Regarding the cleaning of covers. I believe that covers can be improved by removing dirt or refolding a cover and anything else that would not smack in any way of monkey-business or faking. I firmly believe that putting fraudulent perforations on a stamp would come under the head of faking, because such perforations are without question fraudulent. I have many times in the past removed dirt and grime from folded letters and have made new folds where the original ones were ragged and torn. I have also removed oxidized copies of the 5¢ '47 and the 3¢ 1851 from covers, put them in peroxide to restore the shade and then carefully replaced them on cover. I do not consider this as faking in any way but in the same category where rare paintings have been restored by experts. However, I might add this, no bungler should fool with a cover or with a stamp and any improvement that might be attempted should be done by one with long experience and by one who was perfectly conscious of the difference between what should be done and what should not be done.

We had a pleasant visit with Stan Jr. last week-end, after which we drove up to spend a few days with Dr. Chase. I avoided Boston but some of my good friends there drove up to Amherst and spent the day with us. Stan Jr. will graduate on Nov. 13th. I believe he planned to spend this week-end in Boston. No doubt he made an effort to get in touch with you.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

William O. Bilden

Philatelic Broker

MEMBER
WESTERN COVER SOCIETY
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
SOCIETY PHILATELIC AMERICANS
TRANS-MISSISSIPPI PHILATELIC SOCIETY
NORTHWEST STAMP DEALERS' ASSOCIATION

200 KASOTA BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.

Sept. 8, 1953

Dear Stan,

I just finished talking to Charlie Shierson on the phone tonight and in the course of conversation he told me that he had just received a letter from you. That reminded me that I should write to you. I have intended to send you the enclosed cover for several months, but I keep forgetting to do so. Therefore, I am following Harry Lindquist's saying "Do it now".

I am also enclosing some 1¢ 51's for your classification. I will swap you the cover for your information on the 3 enclosed stamps. Fair enough?

I do not believe that I have written you since Harold Stark's death. It was a great shock to all of us up here. He was a fine man and philately lost a great student.

As you know, Les has been hard at work on the new catalogue all summer. I believe that he regrets that he ever undertook the job, because it has been a thankless one. Evidently the publishers do not agree with his method of listing the stamps. They want to run all of the issues in together as the European catalogues do. That would mean that postage dues, officials, airmails, etc. would all be jumbled in with the regular issues in the order that they were issued. I do not believe that anyone in their right mind would agree that this is a sensible system. I think that it is utterly stupid and ridiculous.

In a couple of weeks I and my family will be taking off for the A.P.S. in Houston. I do not go to many conventions, but I thought that this would afford a little vacation for my wife, since she has never been in the South.

I hope that everything is well with you.

Sincerely,



Sept. 20th, 1953.

Mr. William O. Bilden,
200 Kasota Bldg.,
Minneapolis 1, Minn.

Dear Bill:

On my return from a little vacation down East I found your letter of the 8th enclosing the three copies of the 1¢ 1851 and the 6¢ 1869 cover. No doubt you wondered why you had not heard from me.

Regarding the three stamps herewith, all are from Plate 4 and the reliefs are as follows: (See my volume one, page 232)

Copy #1 Relief B, Type IIIA
Copy #2 Relief C, Type IIIA
Copy #3 Relief B, Type ?

Regarding the above, stamp #1 comes from the second row of the plate - The top line is nicely broken, but the bottom line is intact, although it is a bit faint. This may be due to a late impression where the line has worn, or it may be due to some monkey-business.

Copy #2 comes from either the third or seventh horizontal rows of the plate. The bottom line on this stamp is also a bit faint.

Copy #3 comes from either the fourth or eighth horizontal rows of the plate, because the bottom part of the stamp is missing it is impossible to distinguish the type, however, if necessary it could be identified by plating.

Thanks very much for your kindness in presenting the fake cover to me. I will mark it in indelible ink as a fake and also that it was presented to me with your compliments. I like very much to add such items to my reference collection.

No doubt as these lines are written you are on your way to Houston. I do trust that your family and you have a most enjoyable time. It was indeed nice to hear from you and I trust that whenever I can help you out a bit in any way that you will not hesitate to command me.

With best wishes - Cordially yours,

RAYNOR HUBBELL
SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



COLONEL C. S. A.
MEMBER: A. S. D. A.
A. P. S.
S. P. A.

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

Sept 9/1953

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

Box 31

For Thomas Wentworth

Dear Stanley: - I take the
enclosed to be a genuine Confabrie
Essay. I would like to
know whether I am correct
in judging such to be the
case.

I go to Houston for
our A.P. & C.P. on Sept 22.
Will you be there?

Send me some nice
stamps before I go
Yours
Raynell

Sept. 20, 1953.

Mr. Raynor Subbell,
Box 573,
Griffin, Ga.

Dear Raynor:

On my return home yesterday I found yours of the 9th. We were gone a little longer than originally expected and I regret to state that I will not have time to send any items to you before you leave for Houston.

I return the Confederate item herewith. I believe that Dietz regarded this as an Essay produced by lithograph by H & L. Whether that is true or not, I do not know, because I have never paid very much attention to such items. My advice would be to send this to the Expert Committee of the C.S.A. If it is actually an Essay rather than some of the fake stuff turned out years ago, I would think that it would have real value and would have a place in most any fine Confederate collection. Perhaps Dietz or some other Confederate student have facts to prove its real status.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

1850 Baltimore Md.
Washington 9 D.C.
Sept. 11, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas Ky.

Dear Sir:-

I am enclosing my check for
three Dollars. And Two Covers.

On the Twenty four cent to England
What is the cover. I have not seen
any thing just like it and wonder if this
is the (August?) color or just what.

On the circular is the pen mark
the French 3 deimes due. Is it a 2 in the
New Orleans Postmark. Was the
Circular rate less than the Newspaper
rate which seems to be 4 cents to Austria.
Are the stamp from plate 2.

Very truly
Robert Ash

200
Okay

Sept. 20, 1953.

Mr. R. A. Peck,
1850 Biltmore St. N.W.,
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Mr. Peck:

I have been away on a little vacation of ten days and on my return yesterday I found your registered letter of the 11th with enclosures.

Regarding the two covers which I am returning herewith, I regret to state that the 24¢ 1861 is not the violet color but rather a dark shade of the #70, the red lilac. In other words, this stamp is the dark red lilac, S.U.S. #70, and I have endorsed the cover as such on the reverse side. This was a single rate of 24¢ to England in April 1862, and the letter from Albany, New York left New York City by British mail steamship on Wednesday, April 9, 1862. The red "19" shows our credit to Britain of 19¢.

Regarding the 1¢ cover, the pair comes from Plate 2 and of course both stamps are Type II. The rate of 2¢ was merely the U.S. postage on newspapers or printed circulars sent abroad by British or American mail steamships under the terms of the U.S. - British Postal Treaty. This 2¢ had to be prepaid in the U.S. Postage from the U.S. frontier was collected from the addressee and settlements were made with Britain and France by bulk weight. In all probability the manuscript due marking was Austrian applied. This circular crossed the Atlantic to England in a British ship, thence into France at Calais and was sent on to destination by French mail.

I believe that I illustrated in my One Cent Book, Vol. 2, a similar 2¢ rate, with a pair of the 1¢ 1857. Also in the tables of rates of postage will be found such 2¢ rates to Austria and other continental destinations.

May I thank you very kindly for your check of \$3.00.

Sincerely yours,

GUARANTY STAMP CO.

116 NASSAU STREET

ROOM 912

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

38

September 17th, 1953.

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

Dear Sir,

The enclosed US stamp 90c 15 perf.1857 was submitted to me and I would feel greatly obliged if you would examine the stamp. Please let me have a certificate together with your bill for the expertising fee.

Thanking you, I remain,

sincerely yours,

E. Bissegger
E. Bissegger

encl.

SPEEDED TO YOU

VIA AIR MAIL

REPLY BY AIR MAIL



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

REGISTERED

300087

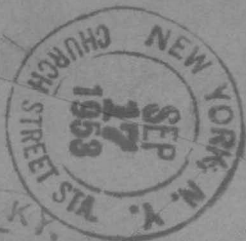
AIR MAIL

E. Bissegger

116 NASSAU STREET

ROOM 912

NEW YORK 38, N. Y.



Sept. 20, 1953.

Mr. E. Bissegger,
Guaranty Stamp Co.,
116 Nassau St., Room 912,
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Upon my return from a short vacation, I
found yours of the 17th, enclosing the 90¢ 1860
stamp. I will give this my attention within the
next few days.

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 22, 1953.

Mr. E. Bissegger,
% Guaranty Stamp Co.,
116 Nassau St.,
Room 912,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bissegger:

Herewith I am returning the U. S. 90¢ 1860
S.U.S. #39 as contained in yours of the 17th. It is
my opinion, that the New Orleans cancelation on this
copy is fraudulent, and was probably some of the work
of the French faker, Zareski. I advise you to sub-
mit the copy to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic
Foundation of New York City, address 22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y. I feel sure that they can furnish you
with a dependable opinion.

I am not charging you any fee for the above,
but you can reimburse me the return registration.

Very truly yours,

Copy To
Henry Good Kind

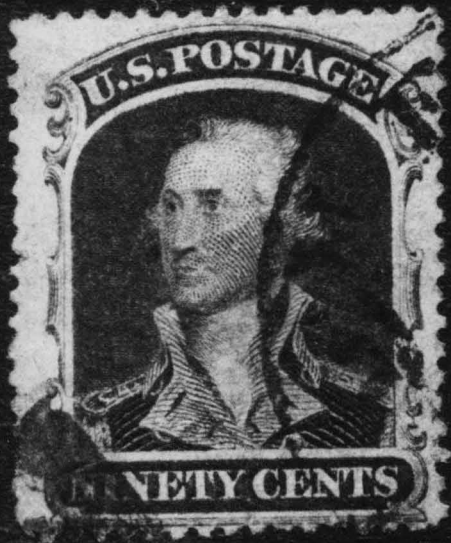
3

(21)

BY KRUG

BY BISSEGER SEE 28-40

BLACK CANCEL



BLACK CANCEL

SEE 28-40

BY QUARTS LAMP AT 14 FEB-15 SEC

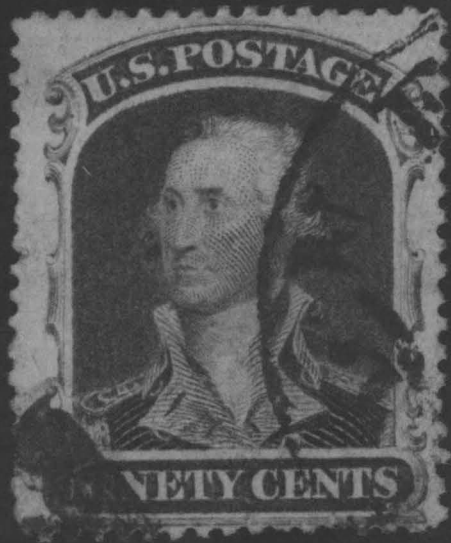
13368

8368

(3)

40

FOR DESCRIPTION THE TWO SEE B 368



B
368

B
368

B
368

①

AT 14 F64 C4 2 MIN

Sept. 26, 1953.

Mr. Earl Oakley,
200 Continental Building,
408 S. Spring Street,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Oakley:

Herewith the Patriotic cover with the 24¢ 1861 from New York to Scotland on October 5, 1861. I am pleased to report that this cover is genuine in every respect and I have endorsed it on the back as follows:

"In my opinion, this cover is genuine in every respect - The 24¢ stamp is what I call a 'Steel Gray' - a natural color changeling of the 24¢ 1861 Violet.

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Sept. 26, 1953."

As stated above, the stamp is a natural color changeling of the 24¢ 1861 Violet, S.U.S. #60. This is what I call the "Steel Gray" changeling, as it has very little of the blue, such as we find in the Steel Blue changeling of the same 24¢ Violet. I believe that these blue and gray changelings originated from different batches of violet ink. The earliest that I have seen of the "Steel Gray" was a single off cover copy postmarked Sept. 21, 1861. I published an article some years ago in the A.P. on the 24¢ 1861 "Steel Blue" and if you have never seen a copy, I will be glad to loan one to you.

This letter was despatched from New York on Oct. 5, 1861, by the S.S. City of New York, an American mail-ship of the Inman Line. The red New York postmark reads: "New York Am. Pkt." The large "3" is the U. S. credit to Great Britain for their share of the 24¢ rate, amounting to 3¢. In other words, the U. S. share was 5¢ internal and 16¢ for the Atlantic crossing.

The earliest record that I have of a 24¢ 1861 "Steel Blue" was a cover that was sold in the Waterhouse sale back in 1924. It bore a postmark of Oct. 4, 1861, and was addressed to Switzerland. In all probability it was despatched by the same mail-ship that carried this cover. For my authentication and facts regarding the cover, I am charging you a fee of \$5.00. If you would like to have a photographic print - front and back - I will be glad to send one to you.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

41

B371
Sep 26-53

By S.S. City of New York
of The INMAN LINE



24¢ Changeling
"Steel Gray"



Black
Grid



Red



Red Oct 5 1861

Rev. L. Campbell M. D. Via
Lochlane near Crieff Am.
Scotland. PKT

Paid

By E.D.

White Envelope

N. B.

B371

GREEN 9 SEC

9-26-53

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

This confederate was recently offered to me for sale, but it looks like an obvious fake, although I may be wrong. What do you think about it?

Had a nice session with Edgar last night. Traded him out of a beautiful vintage Panama ship corner card; also a number of lesser items. He is getting his various books in shape and they are really out of this world. He started to work on his 3¢ 615 and I have never seen so many finds in my life.

I enjoyed your report on the 90¢ cover.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,
W. Scott Beland

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

78

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

50

BLACK Markings -
Postmark 30MM



Mrs. Lillian Ball
Care of Dr. Richard Pollard
Mylands Depot
Brunswick Co.
Va.

1863

#212

PSD on Cover

FAKE COVER By Dr Pollard -
Sep 30 1953 - Dark Brown
Envelope - Note The spelling
of "CHAPAL" See S.B. 28 - P. 43

Sept. 30, 1953.

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

Dear Doctor:

Herewith the Confederate cover as per yours of the 26th. This certainly looks like a fake to me and I wouldn't want any part of it. I can't believe that the post office at that point spelled Chapel with an "a". This postmark looks very queer and so does the ink. I suppose the date might have been intended for Dec. 10, which of course would have to mean 1864. About the only genuine looking thing about the item is the handwriting. I have an 1859 list of U. S. Post Offices and Chapel is spelled with an "e". In the Dietz book on page 324 is a tracing of a Chapel Hill postmark and the Chapel is spelled with an "e."

I am wondering if the faker who made this fake postmark possessed a rubber stamp alphabet and put each letter in one at a time. Note the spacing of the letters to the circle and how N.C. is out of line. I have seen other postmarks which I had occasion to believe were faked in this manner. The 20¢ stamp looks awfully fresh and like it came from an unused lot.

I note that you had quite a session one night recently with Edgar. I can imagine nothing more enjoyable than to sit in on one of these get-togethers. Edgar owes me several letters and I am looking forward to hearing from him.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

BLACK Markings -
Postmark 30 MM

Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield, Inc.

ADVERTISING

350 FIFTH AVENUE • Empire State Building • NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

October 6, 1953

Dear Stan:

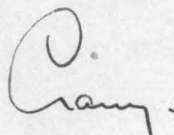
So glad to get yours of the 5th. I am glad of your promise to keep the contents of my letter absolutely confidential. If you heard anything from Frank Hart he certainly must have heard it from Fox because I haven't seen nor heard from Frank in months. As to the settlement from John, it was by check and right on the nose. Personally, I have never heard any gossip about that end of his business. He seems to have great resources at his command and has purchased an enormous amount of stamps in the last year and a half.

Now I do not want you to feel sad because there will be any interruption in our relations over the years. Although I will be out of my collection I am still maintaining my place on the Expert Committees, will still carry on some research and all in all my interest in Confederates will not diminish. If I need material for research I certainly know where to find it and I would like you to feel that when you are stuck you will call on me just as you did in the old days.

About the Chapal Hill fake, I have never seen one although I am familiar with fake postmarks made with rubber stamps one letter at a time. You are right, these things are coming from Europe.

So please, Stan, let's keep things on the same basis philatelically, just as though I still had my collection.

With warm regards -



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

Oct. 10, 1953.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
350 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

I was pleased to receive yours of the 6th and to note that the transaction involving your collection was perfectly satisfactory in every way. I was also pleased that you are going to continue your interest in Confederates. In the next few days I will send you a photograph of the "Chapel Hill" fake, after which you can send it to Mac for a look.

From now on do you want me to address you at Bronxville or your old address?

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--I note that they have made me a General, which certainly places me in a most embarrassing position



Mrs. Lillie Ball

Care of Dr. Richard P. Jones

Kylands' Depot

Brunswick Co.

Va.



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

October 2, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

I finally got hold of Stan Junior last night on the phone hoping that he could make it up this weekend, but he had the Duty Sunday so could not make it. However, we hope to get together next weekend.

I am enclosing a 1¢ - 1851 with plate crack that is supposed to be unused and would appreciate your checking it as I suspicion it may have been cleaned. Enclosed also is a quite interesting cover which I would appreciate your checking and signing if you feel it is okay. Advise your fee and I will remit promptly as usual.

If you should have any bids for yourself or your clients in the coming Fox sale of the MacBride collection I would be pleased to take care of them and believe I could probably save you some money as I follow the policy of offsetting bids and thereby not bidding one client up with the lower bid of another. This often results in my buying a lot for the top bidder below the bid of the second high bidder, but all of my clients understand this and trust me implicitly in this regard.

With best wishes,

Jack E. Molesworth

*P.S. Harmer, Rooke refused to make
refund on the #72 cover as expected.
seriously doubt they would have
done so even if not reported without
considerable pressure.*

Jack E. Molexnorth

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts



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

VIA AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

275601

R REGISTERED



FAKE COVER By Dr Pollard -
Sep 30 1953 - Dark Brown
Envelope - Note The Spelling
of "CHAPAL" See S.B. 28 - P 43

Oct. 4, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

In my rush to get that cover back to you yesterday I failed to sign it on the back. However, I located a photograph that I made of it back in 1944 and I am enclosing it herewith signed on the back. According to my memorandum this cover was offered to Jessup at \$25.00. I am also including two other prints with memos on the back.

I note that you finally got Stan on the phone but he was not able to leave the base this week-end. No doubt he will be able to see you very shortly.

Regarding the MacBride sale, I doubt if I will have any bids but if so I will be glad to get in touch with you. I note that Harmer Rooke refused a refund on the 90¢ cover, but they no doubt felt that they had a good excuse.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Oct. 6, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
3397 Mt. Thomas Ave.,
Mt. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I wonder if you can tell me any thing
about the enclosed cover.

I also would like to know what you have
for sale in the express mail period of 36 to 39
Do you have any to or from St Louis or on that
run also covers with rates under 75¢

Thank you so much for your kindness
most sincerely,

Richard G. Meyer
3990 Profect Rd.,
Peoria 4, Illinois

S.P.A. Life 69.

Oct. 11, 1953.

Mr. Richard K. Meyer,
3990 Prospect Road,
Peoria 4, Ill.

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Herewith I am returning the cover as per yours of the 6th. I note that Mort Sampson states that it originated in Jonesborough, Ill. and he is probably correct. There were nine such post offices in the U.S. If you will refer to Volume Two of my book on the U. S. 1¢ 1851-57, you will find on page 344 a table of foreign rates with Prussia quoted as follows: By Prussian Closed Mail 30¢ per half ounce -

" Bremen or Hamburg Mail 15¢ per half ounce.

Evidently the Postmaster intended for the letter to go by the Bremen Mail and rated same at 15¢ per half ounce. I suppose that when the letter reached New York it was too late for the Bremen steamer and was sent by Prussian Closed Mail at an unpaid rate of 30¢. This meant the equivalent of 30¢ in U. S. currency was due from the addressee. The New York postmark is "23" - was the U.S. debit of 23¢ to the Prussian P.O.D. Mail by this route was sent from New York in closed bags and traveled Via England and Ostend, Belgium, entering Prussia ~~at~~ ^{at} Schenep, at which point the bags were opened and the mail sorted and rated, and sent on to destination.

I haven't the slightest idea as to the meaning of the small sticker attached to the envelope and with the word PAID. It would appear that if this is genuine that the word PAID would indicate that it was applied in this country, however, if this was any indication that 15¢ was paid at origin any such a payment was disregarded because this letter surely went by Prussian Closed Mail. Full postage or none had to be paid on foreign mail. No part payments were recognized.

As Henry Meyer is very much interested in anything pertaining to postal markings and history, the chances are that he will welcome another look at this cover and my letter.

Very truly yours,

an die Micro Heuckendorf in
Postfach in der
Königlichen
Leichenhalle
Schwarze
Kochstraße

Rostock



15



See S.B.
28. p 45



EARL ANTRIM
319 HOLLY
BOX 749
NAMPA, IDAHO

Sept. 25

Dear Stan, you have probably
seen the enclosed before, I can't
quite figure it out. Can you help
me? Did it get there? If not
why wasn't there some markings on it
sending it back? If it is a fly
of some color I want it but if
it never was received in the confederacy
I am not interested.

I was very happy that they are making
you a General in the Confederate Alliance
this should have been done long ago.

They made me a Kentucky Col. at
Houston of which I am very proud. I
understand you also are a Ky. Col.

1/6 of the total show at Houston was
Confederates.

Sincerely
Earl

Oct. 1, 1953.

Mr. Earl Antrim,
319 Holly Street,
Box 749,
Nampa, Idaho.

Dear Earl:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 29th. This cover and one similar to it came up in a Harmer Rooke & Co. sale last spring. Both were described as flag of truce covers. I sent for them at the time and photographed them and entered a strong protest against the catalogue description, which I stated was a mis-statement of fact, explaining that these items were not Flag of Truce covers, hence such a description was misleading. I suggested that they be withdrawn, but my advice was not followed. This firm is very careless at times about their descriptions and in many cases are not very anxious to make any corrections or refunds. Of course, this cover was never sent thru the lines. It was simply addressed to Fortress Monroe, Va. In all probability it might have contained the letter with the request that it be forwarded thru the lines to the South by F. of T. However, as it is, it is nothing but a cover from Germany to the United States.

It was news to me that the C.S.A. had any idea of making me or rather raising me from the rank of colonel to

See
A218

a general. If any such action is taken it will prove rather embarrassing because I have been very much opposed to the use of military titles for members of a philatelic society. Dietz originated this bit of foolishness and I have always thought it beneath the dignity of mature men. I have on numerous occasions protested to various members of the Alliance, including MacBride and Shenfield and had hoped that the practice would be discontinued. I have long frowned on the silly practice of Kentucky governors conferring the title of colonel on a lot of damn politicians, movie people and what-not. I believe the better class of people of this state have no patience with such damn foolishness. So you see Earl, if the C.S.A. confers the honor of general upon me, I can see no way out but to decline to accept it with an explanation such as the above.

The following is very confidential. I heard a rumor to the effect that Shenfield has sold his entire Confederate collection to the H.R. Harmer firm. I don't know whether there is any truth in this or not so please do not repeat it. I have written Larry inquiring if it was true.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

EARL ANTRIM
319 HOLLY
BOX 749
NAMPA, IDAHO

Oct. 3

Dear Stan, Thanks for your
comments on the Flag of True con-
I agree with you on the idea of
Generals in the Confederate Alliance.
I'd like being a colonel but
think it should have stopped there.
They made me a General in Wash. in 1950
I don't know why as I have done
nothing to deserve it as you have.
I protested to Miss Brink's others about
commissioning Generals but they are
still at it. Now all retiring Presidents
automatically become Generals. I guess
nothing can be done about it.
But since we do have this condition
I hope you will accept it as an appreciation
of all you have done for our Alliance. It
was given with that honor in mind.

Sincerely
Earl

Oct. 11, 1953.

Mr. Earl Antrim,
319 Holly Street,
P. O. Box 749,
Nampa, Idaho.

Dear Earl:

I was pleased to receive yours of the 3rd and to note that you agree with me on the matter of military titles. Now that I am in that class perhaps I can persuade my fellow generals to give up the title and to accept some other honor instead. This could be in the form of a certificate or some other acknowledgment. Have you any suggestion?

I am enclosing herewith an enlarged photograph of a cover that was recently submitted to me for an opinion. Note the spelling of CHAPAL. I have an idea that this fake was made in Europe and could account for the misspelling. Evidently each letter was inserted separately and a very poor job. I am wondering if you have ever run across anything similar.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

2000
JOHN DAVID BAKER
3909 NORTH DELAWARE STREET
INDIANAPOLIS 5, INDIANA

July 25, 1953.

Dear Stanley:

Enclosed is a check for \$20 to start the new year of the Ashbrook Special Service.

Remember the Hollandale, Texas cover you photographed for me? Is there any doubt that the stamp ~~xxxx~~ on this cover was actually used on this cover? If the date of use of this cover were May 1861 (I think it is May, 1860) could it have been carried by the San Antonio - San Diego route and sent to Sonoma by some other route in California?

What can you tell me about the Putts Overland Envelope. Who was their originator - How many different kinds (I have two) Both are dated 1864. One is postmarked Sacramento and the other (exMeroni) Greenwood, Cal.

Can you tell me who published the San Francisco News letter? I have the copy from the Meroni Sale. I nowhere gives the publishers name, but says that it can be obtained from any Wells Fargo office. Did Wells Fargo have anything to do with its publishing?

Where I can I find something about the postal history of the Santa Fe trail? I have a stampless postmarked 18 Santa Fe. The letter was written to the paymaster General of the Army. It is dated 1851. A 10 is struck on the face and scratched out in ink and free written. In the corner is also written Official Business. How was this letter carried? by a contract mail carrier or by army courier? This was also a Meroni item.

Are you going to the SPA and or APS shows this year? I have just received my entry blank back from SPA saying, too late! I haven't heard from APS yet. I have entered 5 frames of westerns showing the various mail routes to California. I have had a lot of fun putting them together. I hope I at least get the opportunity to show them!

Van Dyk MacBride is trying to make a Confederate collect or out of me. I bought at a Fuller auction an American Letter Express through the Lines cover. He wanted to see the information label on the back for possible information for the new Dietz catalogue. I probably have four items of the confederacy in my collection at the present time. So far my western interests outstrip my Confederate interests.

To mention that I am hoping to get down to see you is almost too trite to write anymore. I really want to do it, but when seems to be the question.

Sincerely,

Hane

July 31, 1953.

Mr. J. David Baker,
3909 North Delaware Street,
Indianapolis 5, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Thanks very much for yours of the 25th with check for \$20.00 which I have duly credited.

You put some questions up to me that I cannot answer offhand but will have to look up my references. I recall the Hollandale cover but cannot remember the circumstances surrounding it. I will have to look up the photograph and the correspondence that we had at the time.

Regarding the Butts Overland envelopes, I doubt if I have very much information on the subject. Perhaps we could obtain the data that you wish from Edgar Jessup. I am wondering if you have ever had any correspondence with him. I regard him as the number one student on Westerns at the present time. You probably met him at the Meroni sale. He is a very thorough student of California history and was born and reared at Monterey.

Regarding the San Francisco News Letter, I doubt very much if Wells Fargo & Co. had anything to do with it. I will see if I can obtain some information for you.

Regarding the Santa Fe Trail, I have two books on the subject, but they are not philatelic. Perhaps you can obtain copies through your local book dealer - One is entitled, "THE OLD SANTA FE TRAIL" by Col. Henry Inman. It was published by the MacMillan Co. New York, 1897. The other is titled, "THE SANTA FE TRAIL" by R.L. Duffus, published by The Tudor Publishing Co., New York, 1934. One of the finest books published on the Overland Mail was by Hafen. This is a very rare book and I imagine it brings from \$25 to \$50 at the present time. I have quite an extensive library on Western history and sometime when you run down I will give you a list of books that might be helpful. There is a monthly paper published in California by the name of the "Pony Express," which is devoted mainly to early Western history. I am wondering if you ever heard of it.

I regret to state that I will not attend either of the conventions this year.

#2. Mr. J. David Baker - July 31, 1953.

Westerns and Confederates are top items to accumulate because of the historical associations of both. I keep in rather close touch with collectors thruout the country in both.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Sept. 21, 1953.

Mr. Eugene Jaeger,
34 Sumner Avenue,
Norwood (Elmwood 7), R.I.

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

I am enclosing herewith seven covers which I borrowed from Dr. Carroll Chase in order to make a photographic record. I asked his permission to send these to you, knowing that you would be interested in seeing them. The covers are numbered from one to seven inclusive and the following are some remarks:

No. 1 - Rated at Mobile as a double but New York considered it a single and so did France. I doubt believe that I ever ran across this black Mobile "30" before.

No. 2 - The same as above.

No. 3 - Charleston rated this as a single but New York considered it over a quarter of an ounce and hence debited France for two rates, or else this postmark was applied thru error. France rated it as a single.

No. 4 - This originated at Havana and there is a faint New York postmark on the back. The black "32" debit is also a New York marking. The French due shows that this was evidently rated as a triple from the U. S. The red French postmark shows American packet, hence on a triple our debit should have been three times 9¢. I can't figure out why this letter shows a "32". It was evidently sent under separate cover from Havana to a New York correspondent and there entered the mail for the first time. I am wondering if you can offer any suggestions.

No. 5 - I made a record of this because I have never seen this Philadelphia "PAID 30" before. This marking and the Philadelphia foreign exchange postmark must be very early uses, as the Treaty had only been in effect a little over six months.

No. 6 - Nothing unusual except that it is a single by the New York Supplementary Mail, which required postage of 30¢. I believe that N.Y.S.M. covers to France are rather scarce.

No. 7 - This was a use in May 1875 from France to New York, and a rather interesting cover. The Treaty of 1874 required a rate of 50 centimes per ten grammes or fraction, whereas the U. S. rate was 9¢ per 15 grammes. I haven't read over the Treaty for some time but I don't understand why this cover required a rate of one franc, 20 centimes. Also I don't understand the London marking and the red penciled "2". I am wondering if you can offer any explanation.

I am enclosing stamped envelope herewith for return.
With kindest regards - Sincerely yours,

September 26, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for yours of the 21st and 7 covers from Dr. Chase. Generally speaking there must have been many letters which tipped the scales at just about the 1/4 oz. mark. Therefore covers showing differences of opinion in rating between point of origin and the Exchanges must be expected. The latter had, of course, the last word with the exception of unpaid letters which France rated by grammes and collected accordingly.

Covers #1 and 2 No, I have never seen this Mobile 30. Isn't it odd that N. Y. did not correct this and marked 15 instead. Evidently rigid checking was done on the unpaid mail. I still think it is possible that somewhere along the line France did protest against paying that extra rate Debit out of her own pocket since they could not, in good faith, collect it from addressee. The 30 itself should be checked against other related markings of the period by a specialist in Mobile postmarks.

Cover #3 The reverse of #1 & 2. Possibly an error or it really may have been a double rate as per N. Y. but France still called it a single.

Cover #4 This cover from Havana had no connection with the U.S.-French Treaty. The U.S. charged no Inland Postage for this but 2x16¢ representing the U.S. Transatlantic Packet Service was charged against Britain. I enclose a similar cover you have seen before (your letter of 4/11/50). Accordingly the 10¢ in circle represents only the 10¢ due from Havana to New Orleans and was also charged against Britain. As to the French Dues the 12 looks to me like a single 7½ gr. rate and the 24 a double just over 1/2 oz. but less than 15 grammes. You could make the 24 a 3x8 proposition but it doesn't make sense as compared to the 12 dec. unless the 12 included some extra charge for the 10¢ from Havana to N.O. I wouldn't worry too much about the French Dues in this case. Evidently the U. S. took care of such mail to France by turning them over into British custody either in N. Y. or at an english port charging Britain only for U.S. Transatlantic Packet Service at 16¢ per 1/2 oz. under the U.S.-British Treaty plus any Postage from Cuba to U. S. I am sure both covers went through England but it's odd that there are no British markings.

Cover #5 The Phila. Paid 30 is a nice one and I don't recall having seen it before. It could have been in use on the Prussian Closed Mail and the Paid and 12 Credit in circle fits in with the Bremen Mail. Both nice markings for the Philadelphia specialist.

Cover #6 I agree that the N.Y.S.M. to France is rare. First one I have seen. Instead of a rate N. Y. just marked it "Paid All"

Cover #7 I enclose a similar one used in 1873. These have nothing to do with the complicated U.S.-French arrangement but belong, I believe, in one of the British Mail categories. They are quite common with this 2 or sometimes 2 cents Credit to the U. S. I have a cover from Egypt by British Service with this 2¢.

Though I have given this 1870-75 period some casual study I am sure Mr. Blake of Boston is a better authority on the subject.

I am returning the 7 covers enclosed. Thanks for letting me see them and I hope I have been of some help. No hurry returning my 2 covers. Please keep them as long as you wish and return them ordinary mail, when ready.

I see Dr. Hennan has solved the Art.13 mystery. I am waiting for a copy of the APS book to study the details.

Sincerely yours

Eugene Jaeger

September 26, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for yours of the 21st and 7 covers from Dr. Chase.

Generally speaking there must have been many letters which tipped the scales at just about the 1/4 oz. mark. Therefore covers showing differences of opinion in rating between point of origin and the Exchanges must be expected. The latter had, of course, the last word with the exception of unpaid letters which France rated by grammes and collected accordingly.

Covers #1 and 2 No. I have never seen this Mobile 30. Isn't it odd that H. Y. did not correct this and marked 15 instead. Evidently rigid checking was done on the unpaid mail. I still think it is possible that somewhere along the line France did protest against paying that extra rate Debt out of her own pocket since they could not, in good faith, collect it from addressee. The 30 itself should be checked against other related markings of the period by a specialist in Mobile postmarks.

Cover #3 The reverse of #1 & 2. Possibly an error or it really may have been a double rate as per H. Y. but France still called it a single.

Cover #4 This cover from Havana had no connection with the U.S.-French Treaty. The U.S. charged no Inland Postage for this but 2x16¢ representing the U.S. Transatlantic Packet Service was charged against Britain. I enclose a similar cover you have seen before (your letter of 4/11/50). Accordingly the 10¢ in circle represents only the 10¢ due from Havana to New Orleans and was also charged against Britain. As to the French Dues the 12 looks to me like a single 7½ gr. rate and the 24 a double just over 1/2 oz. but less than 15 grammes. You could make the 24 a 3x8 proposition but it doesn't make sense as compared to the 12 dec. unless the 12 included some extra charge for the 10¢ from Havana to H.O. I wouldn't worry too much about the French Dues in this case. Evidently the U. S. took care of such mail to France by turning that over into British custody either in H. Y. or at an English port charging Britain only for U.S. Transatlantic Packet Service at 16¢ per 1/2 oz. under the U.S.-British Treaty plus any Postage from Cuba to U. S. I am sure both covers went through England but it's odd that there are no British markings.

Cover #5 The Phila. Paid 30 is a nice one and I don't recall having seen it before. It could have been in use on the Prussian Closed Mail and the Paid and 12 Credit in circle fits in with the Bremen Mail. Both nice markings for the Philadelphia specialist.

Cover #6 I agree that the H.Y.S.M. to France is rare. First one I have seen. Instead of a rate H. Y. just marked it "Paid All".

Cover #7 I enclose a similar one used in 1873. These have nothing to do with the complicated U.S.-French arrangement but belong, I believe, in one of the British Mail categories. They are quite common with this 2 or sometimes 2 cents Credit to the U. S. I have a cover from Egypt by British Service with this 2¢.

Though I have given this 1870-75 period some casual study I am sure Mr. Blake of Boston is a better authority on the subject.

I am returning the 7 covers enclosed. Thanks for letting me see them and I hope I have been of some help. No hurry returning my 2 covers. Please keep them as long as you wish and return them ordinary mail, when ready.

I see Dr. Hennen has solved the Art.13 mystery. I am waiting for a copy of the APG book to study the details.

Sincerely yours

Wesley Rogers

Via Angl terre.



113

Mr. John Nelson
Care of S. H. Nelson
Philadelphia
United States of America

Via de los C. Unidos
Mr. H. P. Hughes
43 Rue de Metz
Paris

By E. Jaeger - This
Refers To The Chase
Cover No. 4. in E. J's
Letter of 9/26 -
All Markings Black

Sept. 30, 1953.

Mr. Eugene Jaeger,
34 Sumner Ave.,
Norwood 7, Rhode Island.

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Thanks very much for yours of the 26th. I am today returning these covers to Dr. Chase and suggested that he put a price on them and submit them to you. I informed him that I would take any of them that you did not care for. I made photographs of all seven and will be glad to send you prints of any that you desire. Just mention the number.

Regarding the "30" on the two Mobile covers, I really don't know any qualified student of the postal markings of that office, unless it would be Konwiser and I have no use for that fellow.

Regarding the cover from Havana, I think that your analysis is quite correct and that this was a letter that weighed over 1/2 ounce and that the "32" was our debit to Britain, the same as our 10¢ debit to Britain on your cover, which I am returning herewith. I believe the French due of "24" decimes would be okay for a letter of over 15 grammes.

I also return your French cover of 1873. The red "2" was Britain's credit to the U.S. The U.S.-British rate at this time was 6¢ and was made up as follows:

2¢ inland for each country
2¢ Sea.

Therefore, on a cover such as this Britain credited us 2¢ for our inland. No doubt you have seen covers of the early seventies from the U.S. to France with 4¢ in postage. This rate meant 2¢ U.S. inland and 2¢ sea. In other words, the U.S. postage was paid to the British frontier and after that the letter went to France as an unpaid letter from Britain.

No doubt by this time you have read the Hennen article in the A.P. I read this over carefully and wrote Chase a long letter regarding it, because he is quite a student of French postal history. However, in reply, he stated that he was unable to give me the information I desired. I feel that there might be some flaws in the Hennen article and I sent Hennen a copy of my letter to Chase. If you would like to see a copy I will be glad to forward it. I inquired of Chase if any of his French friends might be able to comment intelligently on my letter. You will recall that I had some correspondence with Captain Jewell of London whom Hennen quoted in his article and I believe I sent you an article by Jewell on this subject that appeared in a Robson Lowe publication.

With kindest regards - Sincerely yours,

October 5, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Dr. Chase sent me the 7 covers priced, I must say, very reasonably and I have already paid him for the entire lot. He marked the N.Y.S.M. at \$2.00 all others \$1.00 each.

I appreciate getting first choice and have kept 3 covers which fit in very nicely with my other controversial ratings. I figure these at \$4.00 the lot. I am sending you herewith the 4 remaining covers amounting to \$4.00 and hope this division meets with your approval.

If satisfactory, I would appreciate photos of the N.Y.S.M., Philad. 30 and the 30 Mobile you now have.

As to Dr. Hennen's Article, the 2 paragraphs on Art.12 & Art.13 explain the reason for these markings in unmistakable terms. They are strictly a British-French affair and the appearance of the Art.13 marking on mail from the U. S. had no bearing at all on U. S. Postage and I doubt if it made any difference on the French Dues because I have a direct U. S.-Havre cover that also shows 15 dec. French postage.

It's too bad Dr. Hennen did not give us the termination date of the Art.13 marking as far as U. S. Mail is concerned. I believe it was discontinued about the end of 1851 coinciding with the French Memos as found in your Paris information. At any rate it's a relief we won't have to worry any more about why the marking was there.

In regard to the 1Fr.60c etc. markings, offhand I can find one error in Jewell's article that should be corrected. I don't think the 40c is applicable to Caribbean Mail as he states. It may have appeared on such mail but really it is the rate from England to France. The bulk rate on letters from Haiti, the U. S. and probably a few other places was 1Fr.60c by British Overseas service. On letters by American Packet paid to England the 40c bulk rate was applicable.

Again, I do not wish to cause the impression of ^{detracting} detracting from the Jewell or Hennen articles. They are important contributions.

Sincerely yours,

Engene Jaeger

Oct. 5, 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Sorry I slipped in my English in
today's letter. Please change distracting to
detracting which is the word I meant to use.

Thanks

E. J.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

P. O. Box 31

Fort Thomas, Kentucky



October 6, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

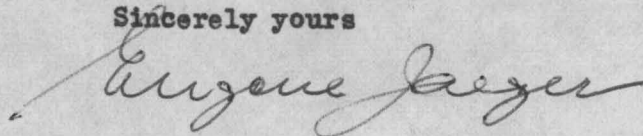
Sorry I have to bother you again and revert to my letter of yesterday. It must have been one of my bad days.

End of par.4 "-----because I have a direct U.S.-Havre cover that also shows 15 dec. French postage" is, of course, absolutely wrong. Please cross it out. My mind must have been a blank when I wrote it because French postage on direct mail by U. S. Packet was only 6 dec.

What I wanted to say was this: I have a cover from Paris to U. S. showing 15 dec.(ms) paid in France marked P.D. and backstamped "Ligne de Calais No.2" through England (Tombstone Paid) and 5¢ due in the U. S. As there was no marking or reference to Art.13 on this letter I reason that Ligne 2 must have been a regular contract cross channel Mail Line and therefore the French postage of 15 dec. during this period (Before Nov.1851) was the same with or without Art.13.

I thought it best to correct myself and keep the record straight.

Sincerely yours



RISEING BOND

RAG CONTENT

U.S.A.

Oct. 9, 1953.

Mr. Eugene Jaeger,
34 Sumner Ave.,
Norwood 7, R.I.

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 5th, enclosing the four Chase covers. I assure you that I am delighted to receive these and beg to hand you herewith my check for \$4.00. Just as soon as I can make some prints I will send you photographs of these as well as prints of your covers.

In a reply to a letter that I wrote Dr. Hennen, he informed me that he was ill and in a hospital and was really not in shape to discuss in detail the matter to which I referred. In the past, as you will probably recall, I have had some correspondence with Captain Jewell and later on I may write him.

This will acknowledge receipt of your card of the 5th and letter of the 6th, which I have carefully noted. If I write Captain Jewell, I am going to inquire if he knows when the "Art.13" marking was discontinued on mail from the U.S. thru Britain to France. I am in agreement that it was not used after 1851.

I am wondering if you have seen a color illustration of a 30¢ 1869 cover that is being broadcast thruout this country by a French dealer. You will find an illustration of this cover in the October issue of the A.P. on page 13. I am wondering what you thought of this item.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

8
25

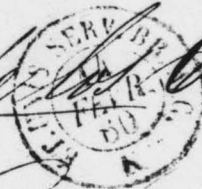
4 5 - 01

Via Angl. time.



Mr. John Welsh
Care of S. & M. Welsh
Philadelphia
United States of America

Via S. & M. Welsh



Mr. P. Rüchler
43 Rue de Valenciennes

Paris

By E. Jaeger - This
Refers To The Chase
Cover No. 4. in E. J's
Letter of 9/26 -
All Markings Black

September 26, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for yours of the 21st and 7 covers from Dr. Chase. Generally speaking there must have been many letters which tipped the scales at just about the 1/4 oz. mark. Therefore covers showing differences of opinion in rating between point of origin and the Exchanges must be expected. The latter had, of course, the last word with the exception of unpaid letters which France rated by gramme and collected accordingly.

Covers #1 and 2 No, I have never seen this Mobile 30. Isn't it odd that N. Y. did not correct this and marked 15 instead. Evidently rigid checking was done on the unpaid mail. I still think it is possible that somewhere along the line France did protest against paying that extra rate Debit out of her own pocket since they could not, in good faith, collect it from addressee. The 30 itself should be checked against other related markings of the period by a specialist in Mobile postmarks.

Cover #3 The reverse of #1 & 2. Possibly an error or it really may have been a double rate as per N. Y. but France still called it a single.

Cover #4 This cover from Havana had no connection with the U.S.-French Treaty. The U.S. charged no Inland Postage for this but 2x16¢ representing the U.S. Transatlantic Packet Service was charged against Britain. I enclose a similar cover you have seen before (your letter of 4/11/50). Accordingly the 10¢ in circle represents only the 10¢ due from Havana to New Orleans and was also charged against Britain. As to the French Dues the 12 looks to me like a single 7½ gr. rate and the 2¢ a double just over 1/2 oz. but less than 15 grammes. You could make the 2¢ a 3rd proposition but it doesn't make sense as compared to the 12 den. unless the 12 included some extra charge for the 10¢ from Havana to N.O. I wouldn't worry too much about the French Dues in this case. Evidently the U. S. took care of such mail to France by turning them over into British custody either in N. Y. or at an English port charging Britain only for U.S. Transatlantic Packet Service at 16¢ per 1/2 oz. under the U.S.-British Treaty plus any Postage from Cuba to U. S. I am sure both covers went through England but it's odd that there are no British markings.

Cover #5 The Phila. Paid 30 is a nice one and I don't recall having seen it before. It could have been in use on the Prussian Closed Mail and the Paid and 12 Credit in circle fits in with the Bremen Mail. Both nice markings for the Philadelphia specialist.

Cover #6 I agree that the N.Y.S.M. to France is rare. First one I have seen. Instead of a rate N. Y. just marked it "Paid All"

Cover #7 I enclose a similar one used in 1873. These have nothing to do with the complicated U.S.-French arrangement but belong, I believe, in one of the British Mail categories. They are quite common with this 2 or sometimes 2 cents Credit to the U. S. I have a cover from Egypt by British Service with this 2¢.

Though I have given this 1870-75 period some casual study I am sure Mr. Blake of Boston is a better authority on the subject.

I am returning the 7 covers enclosed. Thanks for letting me see them and I hope I have been of some help. No hurry returning my 2 covers. Please keep them as long as you wish and return them ordinary mail, when ready.

I see Dr. Hannon has solved the Art.13 mystery. I am waiting for a copy of the APS book to study the details.

Sincerely yours

Eugene Jaeger

September 26, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for yours of the 21st and 7 covers from Dr. Chase. Generally speaking there must have been many letters which tipped the scales at just about the 1/4 oz. mark. Therefore covers showing differences of opinion in rating between point of origin and the Exchanges must be expected. The latter had, of course, the last word with the exception of unpaid letters which France rated by grammes and collected accordingly.

Covers #1 and 2 No, I have never seen this Mobile 30. Isn't it odd that N. Y. did not correct this and marked 15 instead. Evidently rigid checking was done on the unpaid mail. I still think it is possible that somewhere along the line France did protest against paying that extra rate Debit out of her own pocket since they could not, in good faith, collect it from addressees. The 30 itself should be checked against other related markings of the period by a specialist in Mobile postmarks.

Cover #3 The reverse of #1 & 2. Possibly an error or it really may have been a double rate as per N. Y. but France still called it a single.

Cover #4 This cover from Havana had no connection with the U.S.-French Treaty. The U.S. charged no Inland Postage for this but 2x16¢ representing the U.S. Transatlantic Packet Service was charged against Britain. I enclose a similar cover you have seen before (your letter of 4/11/50). Accordingly the 10¢ in circle represents only the 10¢ due from Havana to New Orleans and was also charged against Britain. As to the French Dues the 12 looks to me like a single 7½ gr. rate and the 24 a double just over 1/2 oz. but less than 15 grammes. You could make the 24 a 3x8 proposition but it doesn't make sense as compared to the 12 dec. unless the 12 included some extra charge for the 10¢ from Havana to N.O. I wouldn't worry too much about the French Dues in this case. Evidently the U. S. took care of such mail to France by turning this over into British custody either in N. Y. or at an english port charging Britain only for U.S. Transatlantic Packet Service at 16¢ per 1/2 oz. under the U.S.-British Treaty plus any Postage from Cuba to U. S. I am sure both covers went through England but it's odd that there are no British markings.

Cover #5 The Phila. Paid 30 is a nice one and I don't recall having seen it before. It could have been in use on the Prussian Closed Mail and the Paid and 12 Credit in circle fits in with the Bremen Mail. Both nice markings for the Philadelphia specialist.

Cover #6 I agree that the N.Y.S.M. to France is rare. First one I have seen. Instead of a rate N. Y. just marked it "Paid All"

Cover #7 I enclose a similar one used in 1873. These have nothing to do with the complicated U.S.-French arrangement but belong, I believe, in one of the British Mail categories. They are quite common with this 2 or sometimes 2 cents Credit to the U. S. I have a cover from Egypt by British Service with this 2¢.

Though I have given this 1870-75 period some casual study I am sure Mr. Blake of Boston is a better authority on the subject.

I am returning the 7 covers enclosed. Thanks for letting me see them and I hope I have been of some help. No hurry returning my 2 covers. Please keep them as long as you wish and return them ordinary mail, when ready.

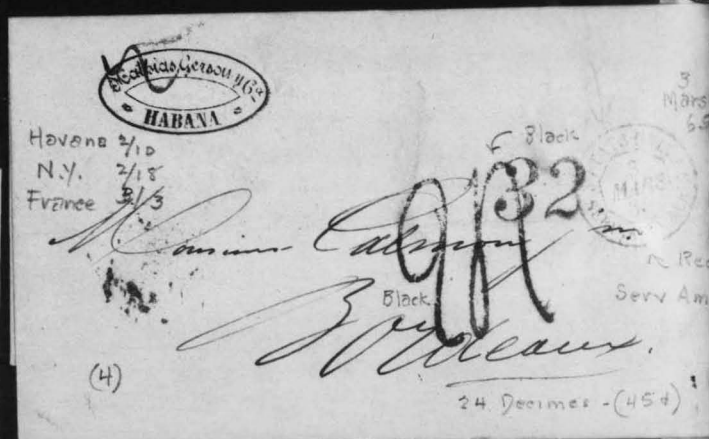
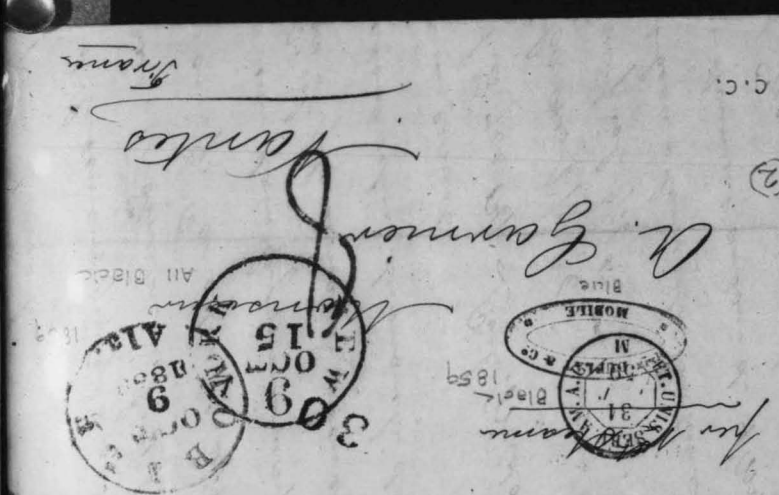
I see Dr. Hennen has solved the Art.13 mystery. I am waiting for a copy of the APS book to study the details.

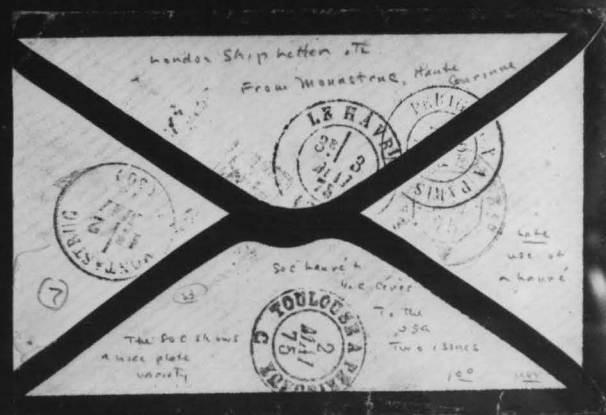
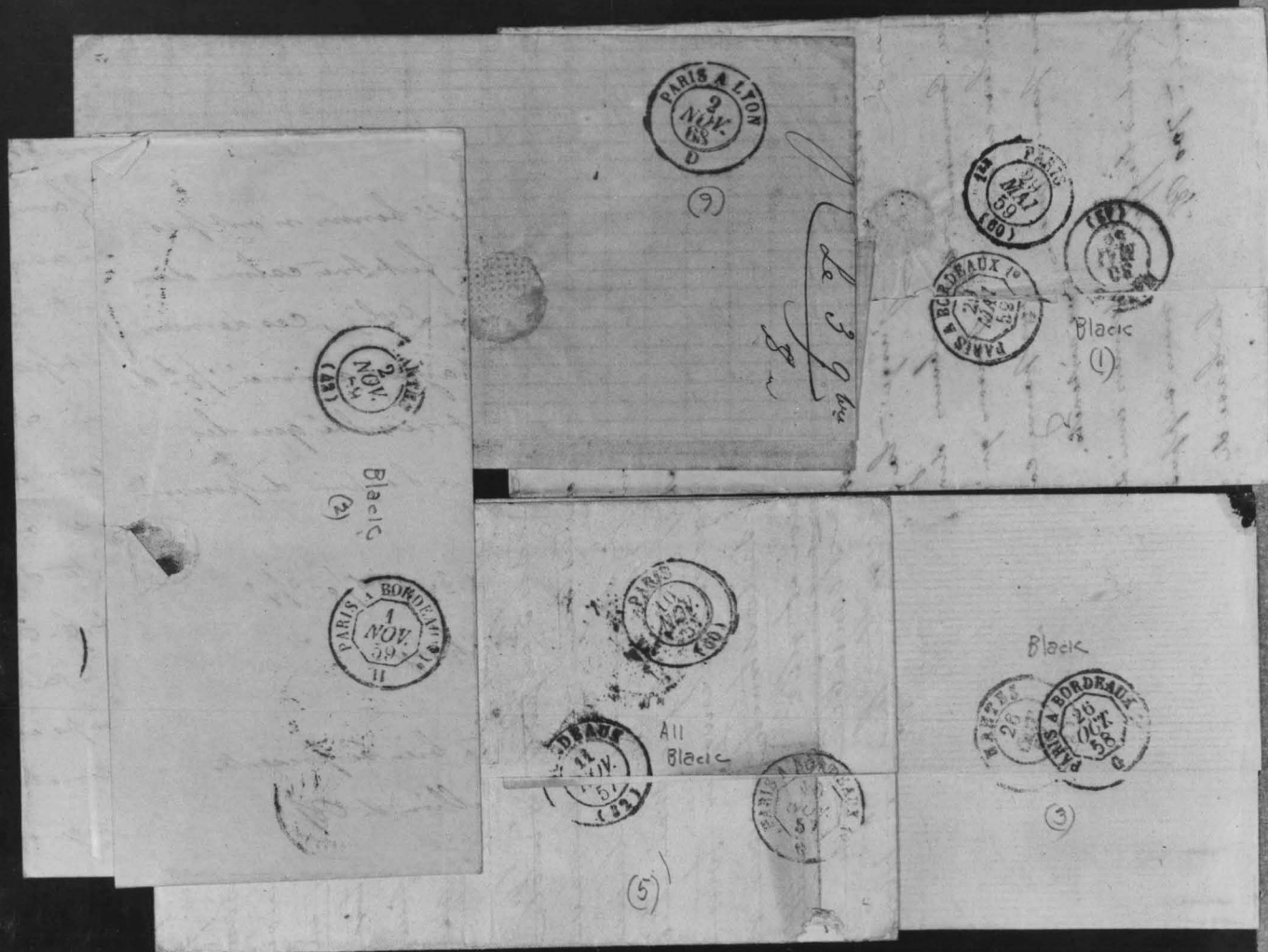
Sincerely yours

Eugene Jaeger

3

87





46



Strabia
All Black



Monsieur. Garmier,

OCT 13 1858 Was
Wednesday

Nantes,
France.

(3)

C.C.

Steamer

30



All
Black

Comptroller

Black

1859

Garmier

Nantes



Black

(1)



Black

C.C.



Havana 2/10
N.Y. 2/18
France 3/13

(4)

Garmier
Comptroller
Steamer

Black

Black

Red
Serv. Am.



3
Mars
65

24 Decimes - (454)

A312

3 COVERS
BY
CHASE
SEP 14
1953
WHITE
ON VISIT
TO
AMHERST

A312

November 1 - 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for yours of Oct. 27 with analysis of Miro cover which I think was excellent. I learned a little more about Pacific Mail such as a U.S. Mail contract ship being U.S. Territory & making San Francisco point of origin for such way? letters.

There seems to be so much to be learned about Foreign rates. I think the Bremen (Hamburg) rates are rather bewildering, what with part pays, different credits & debits, the changes from the 24-29-34 to 20 to 15. - I have a stampless in 1852 with a U. 7. 27 in circle total collect rate from Württemberg. In case you wish to see it please let me know.

If I am not mistaken there were only three 27¢ rates in all. The above to certain German States - one to Italy (Roman States) under the French Treaty and a British Closed Mail around 1860 to Belgium (probably nearby Countries).

Again thanks and kind regards

Eugene Jaeger

November 7, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for yours of the 2nd enclosing 3 prints. I was glad to get a look at these, especially the 2 N. Y. 2cts. which presented quite a puzzle.

They are not return letters but originated in Antibes Southern France and were addressed to Paris then forwarded by Greene & Co. to N. Y. With no backstamps to help and no carrier markings all I can say for the present is that they look like bootleg letters dropped in the N. Y. P. O. despite the fact that Greene & Co. may have paid 8 dec. for some kind of French Service.

British Service would have required 15 dec. French prepay with 5¢ due in N. Y. American Service would show a 21¢ due in N. Y. and the 8 dec. prepay would fit in with that but there isn't a single clue to indicate either usage.

My theory is that a Collins liner got hold of these letters and in the absence of specific postal instructions or regulations which, for French Mail, were at this time probably in the process of being formed by conventions, they just dumped them in the N. Y. Post Office. As for this being irregular I might mention that at this particular period Transatlantic bootlegging was flourishing.

I have four such letters, three of which you have seen, and I believe the Collins Line was the main offender. There is a story there for this early period. You will find that this bootlegging practice stopped soon thereafter.

Sincerely yours

Eugene Jaeger

48

FROM CHASE TO JAEGER

Free Steamer

All
Boats



C. Garnier

Nantes

France



By E.J.
10/16-53

B381

48

First Steamer for Europe

Supplementary Mail
Single With 30¢ PAID
6d Credit As A Single

By Am. Pkt

Letter N.Y. 20 Oct 68
TUESDAY

Monsieur

← Red
N.Y.S.M.



Black



Thurs

Blue

Paris

Red

Red



← Red

Bette

(6) N.Y.S.M.
C.C.

(France)

Blue F.L.

148

C160



ED Red

Conservatoire National Black

Sandford Black

Jackson

(1875)

OF NEW YORK

par la poste

Statue of Lincoln

Before U.P.U

BY C.C.



Red
LONDON

(7)
400
800
120

TUNKHANNOCK, PENN'A

OCTOBER 12, 1953

MR STANLEY B. ASHBROOK,
33 NORTH FORT THOMAS AVE
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY

DEAR MR ASHBROOK ;

POSSIBLY YOU MAY HAVE NOTED A RECENT NOTE ON " REFUNDED POSTAGE," AS WELL AS ONE ON THE SAME SUBJECT IN THE AUG 30, 1952 ISSUE. I HAVE BEEN QUITE KEENLY INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT, BECAUSE OF THE CRITICISM THAT I HAVE RECIEVED THRO THE MAILS, ALL THE WAY FROM " NO SUCH THING EVER EXISTED," TO " IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF BOOKKEEPING," THIS NATURALLY INCREASED MY INTEREST RATHER THAN LESSENING IT.

ONE COLLECTOR SUGGESTED THAT 95% OF THE MAIL IN THE DAYS OF THE 30'S WENT COLLECT, WHICH I COULD NOT AGREE TO BECAUSE ALL POST OFFICE REPORTS THAT I HAVE SELDOM RUN OVER 50% AND FREQUENTLY LESS THAN THAT.

I NOTE THAT KONWISER ON PAGE 5 THE 7TH LINE UNDER THE PAGE NUMBER LISTS " UNDERCHARGED (OR OVERCHARGED) IN THE 1820 PERIOD, BUT I HAVE NEVER FOUND ANY EARLIER THAN IN THE 30'S.

I AM ENCLOSING TWO COVERS THAT I RECENTLY ACQUIRED SHOWING REFUNDS ON THE POSTAGE CHARGED, AND A THIRD LETTER WHERE THE POSTMASTER SEEMS QUITE CONCERNED BECAUSE HE HAPPENED TO FORWARD A LETTER COLLECT WHEN IT HAD BEEN PAID AND TRIES TO CORRECT HIS ERROR.

I HAVE THOUGHT THAT THIS " REFUNDED POSTAGE" WAS ONE OF THE SCANDLES OF ITS DAY, BECAUSE WHEN A P.M. REFUNDS 84.78 AND ONLY COLLECTS 15.19 ON UNDERPAID POSTAGE, IT DONT LOOK RIGHT TO ME.

AT YOUR CONVENIENCE, I WISH THAT YOU WOULD GIVE ME YOUR OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT, BECAUSE IF I AM WRONG, I WANT TO SHUT UP, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME IF IT WAS SO PREVELENT, WE WOULD FIND MORE OF THE COVERS.

THANKING YOU SINCERELY IF I MAY IMPOSE ON YOUR KINDNESS,

A.P.S. - L.M. 758

Gilbert M. Burr
GILBERT M. BURR

Oct. 14, 1953.

Mr. Gilbert M. Burr,
Tunkhannock, Pa. (Route 1)

Dear Mr. Burr:

I am in receipt of yours of the 12th with the three stampless covers which I am returning herewith. I have some recollection of reading an article on this subject but I don't exactly recall the publication. You mentioned an article in the "August 30, 1952" issue. If you will be kind enough to give me the name of the publication, I will look it up.

I regret very much to state that I have practically no information on this subject. In looking through a batch of stampless covers, in fact quite a large batch, I failed to find a single item.

Inasmuch as you are far better posted than I am, it would be impossible for me to assist you at this time. However, I will look forward to your further advice.

Sincerely yours,

Post Office.

Postage on a Single Letter composed of One Piece of Paper.

For any distance not exceeding	30 miles,	6 cents.
Over 30, and not exceeding	80 "	10 "
Over 80, and not exceeding	150 "	12½ "
Over 150, and not exceeding	400 "	18½ "
Over 400 miles		25 "

A Letter composed of 2 pieces of paper, is charged with *double* these rates; 3 pieces, *triple*; 4 pieces, *quadruple*; one or more pieces of paper, mailed as a letter, and weighing 1 ounce, is charged *quadruple*; and at the same rate, should the weight be greater.

Letters overcharged, must be opened in presence of the Post Master, or an Assistant, or else the overcharge cannot be refunded.

Newspaper Postage.

For each Newspaper, not carried out of the State in which it is published, or if carried out of the State, not over 100 miles, 1 cent. Over 100 miles, and out of the State in which it is published, 1½ cts.

Magazines and Pamphlets.

If published periodically, distance not exceeding 100 miles, 1½ cents per sheet. If published periodically, distance over 100 miles, 2½ cents per sheet. If not published periodically, distance not exceeding 100 miles, 4 cents per sheet. If not published periodi-

Oct. 29, 1953.

Mr. Gilbert M. Burr,
Tunkhannock, Pa.

Dear Mr. Burr:

I have yours of the 17th and have carefully read your article in STAMPS, issue of August 30th, 1952. I must confess that I noted no cause for criticism of any statements that you made. I had never given this matter any attention, but I can assure you that it is quite interesting and such covers are surely nice bits of philatelic Americana.

I have a copy of the 1843 P.L. & R. wherein special instructions are given to postmasters on this subject. This is Chapter 26 of the "regulations" and entitled, "Abating and Refunding Postage."

Probably someone called your attention to a minor misstatement in your article. The Act of March 3, 1845, effective July 1, 1845, changed the rating of first-class mail to weight and distance, that is, 5¢ per 1/2 ounce up to 300 miles, 10¢ per 1/2 ounce over 300 miles. Prepayment of postage became compulsory on April 1, 1855, and prepayment by stamps on domestic mail as of January 1st, 1856.

Sincerely yours,

TUNKHANNOCK, PENN^A

OCTOBER 17, 1953

MR STANLEY B ASHBROOK
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY

DEAR MR ASHBROOK;

THE ARTICLE TO WHICH I REFERRED WAS ONE PREPARED BY MYSELF AND WAS PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST 30, 1952 ISSUE OF STAMPS. THIS BROUGHT SOME LETTERS FROM SOME OF THE PROMINENT STUDENTS OF PHILATELY, THAT " THERE WAS NO SUCH THING, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF BOOK KEEPING," ETC. TO WHICH I COULD NOT AGREE.

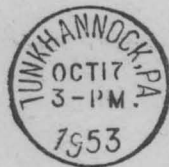
I ENCLOSE A PHOTO THAT I MADE FROM A PAGE OF THE BOSTON ALMANAC FOR 1837, THAT CLEARLY MENTIONS IT, AND I ALSO HAVE A LETTER SENT OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT, DEPLORING THE HEAVY LOSS OF POSTAGE IN THIS MANNER. IN VIEW OF THE GREAT SCARCEITY OF THESE COVERS, I THINK THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST RACKETS OF THE EARLY DAYS.

WHEN THESE PAYMENTS IN CERTAIN OFFICES EXCEDED BY AS MUCH AS 600% THE MONEY THAT WAS COLLECTED ON UNDERPAID MAIL, SOMETHING LOOKS WRONG.

YOU NEED NOT RETURN THE PRINT AS I MAKE THEM MYSELF.

SINCERELY,

GILBERT M. BURR



MR STANLEY B ASHBROOK

33 NORTH FT. THOMAS AVE

FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY



A. P. S. 5615
COLLECTORS CLUB

GILBERT M. BURR
R. F. D. 1
TUNKHANNOCK, PA.

NOVEMBER 1, 1953

MR STANLEY B ASHBROOK
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY.

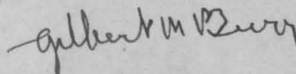
DEAR MR ASHBROOK:

I DONT WANT TO BURDON YOU WITH THIS CORROSPONDENCE, BUT I DO WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS ABOUT IT, AND ALSO THE FACT THAT YOU FOUND REFERENCE TO IT IN THE 1843 P.L.&.R AS I HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE IT IN THERE, BUT OF COURSE ALL THAT I HAVE IS LUFF'S COPIES OF THE VARIOUS YEARS LAWS IN HIS BOOKS. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THERE WOULD BE EARLIER YEARS MENTION OF IT, AS I AM SURE THAT IT WAS PERMITTED IN THE EARLY 20S AS I HAVE COVERS BACK THERE.

I ALSO THANK YOU FOR CALLING MY ATTENTION TO THE ERROR I MADE AS TO WHEN THE WEIGHT OF A LETTER WAS PERMITTED. I REALIZED MY MISTAKE AS SOON AS I READ YOUR LETTER, BUT NO ONE ELSE EVER CALLED MY ATTENTION TO IT.

I RECEIVED NOTICE YESTERDAY FROM COLBY THAT I HAD BEEN THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER ON THE TWO VOLUMES YOU PREPARED THAT WERE IN KONWISERS LIBRARY, HAVE TRIED BEFORE UNSUCCESLY A NUMBER OF TIMES.

SINCERELY


GILBERT M. BURR

Nov. 7, 1953.

Mr. Gilbert M. Burr,
R.F.D. 1,
Tunkhannock, Pa.

Dear Mr. Burr:

I am in receipt of yours of the 1st.

In my former letter, I intended to mention that if you care to have a photograph of the Regulation in the 1843 P.L. & R. that I would make one for you with my compliments. I have earlier editions and I will look them up and see if any reference is made.

I note that you were the successful bidder at the Colby sale for my One Cent Book. It is too bad that not enough copies were printed to prevent them selling at such high prices.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

F 8

134



Red

overcharge 30
10
20

E. S. Clark Esq
Clerk Just Court
Dover

By G. M. Burr
See 28-49

1844

Piscataquis Co Me

Blade



FREE

FREE

Red

Post paid for P. M.

R. B. Lloyd Esq
~~New Milford~~ Green P. M.

By G. M. Burr
See 28-49

1848

Post
Kingston N.Y.

STOUGHTON
MS.

12 1/2



over charge 2 1/2

Mr Joseph Swallow

By G. M. Burr
See 28-49

1835

Dunstable,

N. H.

POSTAL INSURANCE

CERTIFICATE



40414-F

In consideration of the premium and other conditions stipulated in the policy under which the book from which this certificate has been detached, has been issued, does insure the party named therein, against loss or damage in accordance with the terms of said policy, on property while in transit by Registered, Unregistered or Parcel Post Mail. This certificate to be enclosed in the package containing the property or with the invoice describing said property.

Wm. B. Bannard

President.

W. H. KIEFABER
634 So. 15th St.
DAYTON 9, OHIO

POSTAL INSURANCE

CERTIFICATE



40414-F

In consideration of the premium and other conditions stipulated in the policy under which the book from which this certificate has been detached, has been issued, does insure the party named therein, against loss or damage in accordance with the terms of said policy, on property while in transit by Registered, Unregistered or Parcel Post Mail. This certificate to be enclosed in the package containing the property or with the invoice describing said property.

President.

W. H. KIEFABE
634 W. 38th Road
DAYTON 9, OHIO

POSTAL INSURANCE

CERTIFICATE



40414-F

In consideration of the premium and other conditions stipulated in the policy under which the book from which this certificate has been detached, has been issued, does insure the party named therein, against loss or damage in accordance with the terms of said policy, on property while in transit by Registered, Unregistered or Parcel Post Mail. This certificate to be enclosed in the package containing the property or with the invoice describing said property.

President.

W. H. KIEFABER
634 Woods Road
DAYTON 9, OHIO

POSTAL INSURANCE

CERTIFICATE



40414-F

In consideration of the premium and other conditions stipulated in the policy under which the book from which this certificate has been detached, has been issued, does insure the party named therein, against loss or damage in accordance with the terms of said policy, on property while in transit by Registered, Unregistered or Parcel Post Mail. This certificate to be enclosed in the package containing the property or with the invoice describing said property.

President.

W. H. H. BTR
624 W. 5th St
DAYTON 9, OHIO

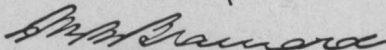
POSTAL INSURANCE

CERTIFICATE



40414-F

In consideration of the premium and other conditions stipulated in the policy under which the book from which this certificate has been detached, has been issued, does insure the party named therein, against loss or damage in accordance with the terms of said policy, on property while in transit by Registered, Unregistered or Parcel Post Mail. This certificate to be enclosed in the package containing the property or with the invoice describing said property.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. M. Bamora".

President.

W. L. ...
634 ...
DAYTON 9 OHIO

W. H. KIEFABER

634 WOODS ROAD

DAYTON 9, OHIO

October 13, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

In the rush to get to Canada after I returned from Europe, I failed to tell you very much about my visit with Dr. Bacher in London. I spent several hours with him talking U. S. issues, and looking through his stock. I was surprised at the scarcity of U. S. high grade material in his stock, as well as a few other dealers stocks in London. The prices are also higher than here even on the ordinary items.

I am sending herewith one cover that may be of interest, with a block of eight 24¢ lilac Scott #78. Dr. Bacher writing in May 1950 issue of The Stamp Magazine states: Originating in Philadelphia, Pa., its weight must have been between 3 and 4 oz., thus necessitating eight copies of the 24¢ 1863 lilac to prepay the full postage at the rate of 24¢ for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and allowing for the regulation that two rates of 24¢ were charged for every oz. or fractional part. The registration fee to Britain was 20¢ in 1865. It had to be paid in cash over the counter and not in stamps, hence the straight forward postage of eight times 24¢ or \$1.92. This is the largest block of this 24¢ I have seen, except that he had another cover with twelve in two blocks of six.

I am also including a pair of the 10¢ 1861 Scott #58 which I picked up from him. I wish you would verify for me. It appears to me to be the #58 although the color seems to me to be a trifle off. It certainly is a choice pair.

He had very little else that interested me but I did pick up some of the 1869 issue, and one of the 90¢ used very well centered, and several of the 30¢.

Are you going to the Congress meeting in Newark the last of the month? I am hoping to be able to go. I am putting my collection of Newspaper proofs in the show. I understand it will be a good show.

I have been busy since I returned from Canada, but hope to get down to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Warner H. Kiefaber

Oct. 16, 1953.

Mr. W. H. Kiefaber,
634 Woods Road,
Dayton 9, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Kiefaber:

Yours of the 13th received, enclosing the lovely pair of the 10¢ 1861, S. U. S. #58, and also the 24¢ Registered cover, both of which I am returning herewith.

Regarding the former, you will note that I have removed this from the black mounting, so that the proper color can be better appreciated. I do not believe in mounting stamps on black backgrounds as it changes to some extent, the shade of the stamp. This is, of course, the #58 and what I call the Type I. In the past it has been referred to as the "August" although no use of this stamp is known in August of 1861. This stamp always comes in a very dark green such as this pair, and the shade is referred to as the "August" shade, because the Type II stamp which incidentally was issued in August of 1861 is found in this same dark green color. As you are probably aware, this pair was used from San Francisco, as it is canceled with the well-known cog of that office.

Referring to the Registered cover, I believe that I recall that Doctor Bacher sent me a full description of this cover several years ago and I gave him some facts regarding it. I judge that the article that he published was based on the data that I gave him. This was an eight times 24¢ rate, requiring a postage of \$1.92. In addition, there was a Registered Fee of 20¢, making a total postage of \$2.12. According to the U.S. - British Treaty, registration fees were divided equally between the two countries. Inasmuch as this piece of mail crossed the Atlantic in a British Mail Ship, England was entitled to 16¢ sea plus 3¢ internal or 19¢ for each rate. Thus a total of \$1.52 plus 10¢ Registration or a total of \$1.62. The U. S. share was eight times 5¢ plus 10¢ Registration. I note that there is a pencil marking of \$1.92, but Britain's share of \$1.62 is not shown on the cover. The block of the 24¢ Lilac canceled by the blue Registered is indeed a most unusual item. I consider the cover quite a rarity and I congratulate you upon its acquisition.

Since writing the above I find that Doctor Bacher sent me a photograph of this Registered cover in Nov. 1948 and he loaned me his piece of a cover with the two blocks of six of the 24¢ back in 1945, and I wrote an article about the latter which was published in the American Philatelist.

Regarding the Congress Meeting scheduled to be held in Newark the latter part of this month, I regret very much that I will not be able to attend. I understand, however, that my good friend Carroll Chase is going to deliver an address at the banquet. I drove East last month and had a most enjoyable visit with him at his home in New Hampshire.

I will look forward to that promised visit of yours to Fort Thomas in the near future and trust that you will bring Mrs. Kiefaber with you, as I am sure that she and Mrs. Ashbrook will find plenty to discuss while we are busy with matters philatelic.

My very kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

50

M Royal Mail Steamship "Africa"
from Boston Nov 8th

Blue "REGISTERED"



13784

11 Bonds \$1000 each

REGISTERED

Blue

↑ Brown

Mr J. S. Cohen

↑ Brown



Black

*No 9 Magdalen Row
Great Prescott St
E. London.. England*



Red
1865

246
Lilac



Red

Herbert J. Bloch

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 3-6481

90 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 41 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1.
AND 26 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

AUCTIONEERS OF THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" COLLECTION

New York, Oct. 15, 1935

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

*I am sending to you post. herewith a 1c 1851,
which I ran across doing some work on U.S.
stamps for a New York firm (other than
H. R. Harmer). It seems to have an unusually
large crack, which I cannot find ^{a picture} listed in
I thought you might be interested in
looking at it. If it should be of
sufficient interest you can make photos
of it, or write about it. I only have to*

ALL STAMPS ON OUR PREMISES INSURED AGAINST ALL RISKS EMPLOYEES BONDED

(over)

H. R. HARMER, INC.
INTERNATIONAL STAMP AUCTIONEERS

LEADING AUCTIONEERS OF
STAMPS

to ship at a week or so.

With his personal notes

Sincerely

Herbert J. Bloch

Oct. 17, 1953.

Mr. Herbert J. Bloch,
H. R. Harmer, Inc.,
32 East 57th St.,
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bloch:

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 as per yours of the 15th.
I regret to inform you that this is not a plate variety,
but rather a paint job. Someone has evidently tried to
make a new crack plate variety.

Sincerely yours,

Paul P. Christopher



42 Yale Avenue
Wakefield, Mass.

Oct 21, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P.O. Box 31
33 No Ft Thomas Ave
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I enclose a cover bearing a strip (?) of 3 of 1¢ 1851 stamps which appear to be positions 71, 81 & 91 Pl 1 early, the "three inverts".

I would greatly appreciate your examining this cover and signing it if the above mentioned plate positions are correct.

I shall be pleased to remit your usual fee.

A week or two ago, Mrs Christopher and I had the pleasure of meeting Stan Jr and several of his friends at Jack's apartment in Boston. He is a real gentleman and we all had an enjoyable time.

As Stan Jr will probably tell you, I work for Jack during the days and sort of dabble in stamps on my own in the evenings. (Can't keep away from them!)

With kind regards,

Paul P. Christopher
Paul P. Christopher

HARMER, ROOKE

& CO., INC.

GORDON HARMER
PRESIDENT

—
AUCTIONS
APPRAISALS

PHILATELIC
AUCTIONEERS

560 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

October 23, 1953

CABLE ADDRESS
PHILATORS, NEW YORK

—
TELEPHONE
LUXEMBURG 2-0164

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

Dear Stan:

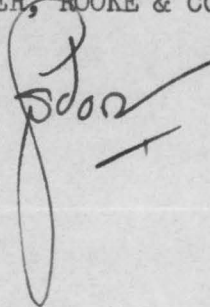
I am enclosing an interesting cover which I thought you might like to see. It will eventually be offered in one of our auctions, but knowing your interest in this material I thought you might like to have a preview.

Best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

HARMER, ROOKE & CO., INC.

BY:



GH/lr

Oct. 27, 1953.

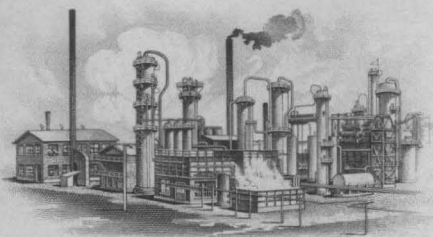
Mr. Gordon Harmer,
% Harmer Rooke & Co.,
560 Fifth Ave.,
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the 1847 cover which I am returning herewith. I certainly appreciate this favor, as I am always glad to see and record anything new in covers of this nature.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,



OFFICE OF
VICE PRESIDENT

PHONE 125

CRYSTAL *Refining Company* OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.
October 24, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

I feel ashamed of myself for not writing you before but we have had a hectic busy time at our house of late, and with the hunting season starting October 1st, have been busy and spent little time with stamps, altho this is usual in the summer weather. Losing Harold Stark too has sort of dampened my enthusiasm - we used to get together so often and I miss him greatly.

I sent in some bids at Harmer Rooke's sale of October 20-22nd and got the enclosed lots - all covers - and am sending you all but Lot #67 which was an off cover item and have mounted it in my album. Wish you would check over these covers and sign all that are OK and tell me which have been misdescribed and should be returned to Harmer Rooke if any fall into that category. Seems some of these went pretty cheap and I don't understand what has happened to the market on such covers.

Lot #82 Described as fine. Stamp badly off center and not tied. Is this OK and do you think this stamp originated on this cover? Shall I keep it or send it back? Would you sign it as OK?

Lots #83 and 84 look OK to me. If you agree, will you please sign same.

Lot #188 - all #78 and look OK. Any comments? Why such a low price?

Lot #191 - seem OK but why such a low price, Stan? Please sign if you agree they are all right.

Lot #238 - Described as "fine." Cover is torn and stamp cut badly at bottom by perfs. Would I better keep this or return it? If you think I ought to keep it and it is OK, please sign it on back.

Lot #263 - this is the only real lousy lot in the bunch. Only decent cover is the small yellow envelope to Bavaria but I wonder if this stamp originated on this cover - it sure is not tied and looks like it would have been if originated on this cover. What does the red "6/" mean? Other covers are lousy and cut into and the one that is tied by black cork cancel is badly creased in two places at lower left. Shall I return these? Only cost \$8.00 however for lot but hardly worth anything in my opinion. Do you agree?

If you want any of these covers, Stan, you are welcome to them as you know. Have you run into anything of interest of late? When can we get together for a visit? Would sure like to see you and Mildred. Rene joins me in best wishes.

Sincerely,

Jack
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/

Enc:REG:

Be sure to return Harmer's invoice

Oct. 26, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 24th with the auction lots. I will go over these carefully and return them to you tomorrow or Wednesday.

Mildred and I were talking about Rene and you yesterday and wondering why we had not heard from you in recent weeks, so we were pleased to know everything was okay.

Our best to you both.

Cordially yours,

Oct. 27, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the lots from the Harmer Rooke sale of Oct. 20th. After a careful examination of these it is a question whether their descriptions of fine referred to the stamp or stamps, or to the cover. It appears that when the stamp is poor and the cover is not exactly bad their description of fine refers to the cover rather than to the stamp. The following are some comments:

Lot 82 - The stamp is certainly not fine and neither is the cover. The stamp is not tied and the postmark is very indistinct. The cover is certainly not attractive in any way. It looks like nobody wanted it so that is the reason you got it for \$24.00. I have signed it as genuine on the back but if you return it please erase this.

Lot 83 - I note this is also described as fine. Perhaps they referred to the cover rather than the stamp, as the latter is cut into at the top. In all probability this stamp was used originally on this cover but this black grid is most unusual, in fact, I do not recall having seen a cover used in September 1861 from New York with a small black grid like this. It is possible that this was a prepaid stampless cover which some European faker added a 24¢ stamp unused and tied it with a fake grid. You will note that I have signed it on the back as genuine because I doubt if this was originally a stampless cover.

Lot 84 - This is perfectly good and I have signed it on the back.

Lot 188 - These are all perfectly good and you obtained them at a bargain price. They are good reference material and I don't think you would have any excuse to return them. I note that one of these has the Detroit foreign exchange marking and this is by no means common. Another one in this lot apparently originated at Lima, Peru and was sent under separate cover to New York and mailed from there. The New York marking on this cover is a scarce type. I didn't sign any of these because I didn't think it was necessary.

Lot 191 - These are all genuine and I think you obtained them at a very low price. There were a lot of 24¢ covers in this sale, in fact, too many and in my opinion that is why some of these lots sold so cheap. I have signed each one of these on the back as requested.

Lot 238 - The stamp is not fine but the cover is not bad and it is genuine. I don't believe you paid too much for this cover.

Lot 263 - Of course, these covers are not at all attractive. I note the description is mostly fine. Surely this could not apply to the covers, so probably they considered that the stamps are mostly fine.

#2. Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein - Oct. 27, 1953.

Bidding at auctions is a hazzardest game. The only items that one gets are those that nobody else seems to want. The only way to beat the game is to attend the sales in person, or have someone represent you whom you can trust implicitly.

Yes, I expect all of us miss Harold Stark a great deal. Shierson must miss him greatly and I know that both you and I do. I never hear from Ruth though I would like to hear from the family once in awhile.

I haven't had any worth while material placed in my hands for sale for some time. Nothing at all in which either Shierson or you would care much about. People seem to think that they can get higher prices at auction than by private sale.

Mildred and I have been awfully busy since our return in September from the East and now we are trying to get caught up as Stan Jr. will graduate on the 13th of Nov. and then will be home for a leave of 10 days. We are planning to do various things during that time.

Our best regards to Rene and you.

Cordially yours,

B379



B379 - BY P.F. 4461 - 14 - F64 - QUARTZ - 10M117

B379

F8

7

#4461

In My Opinion The
Pair Is Genuine -
A Well Known And
Recognized PRECANCEL
On The U.S. 1¢ 1851
Type IV - Since My
One Cent Book Was
Written In 1935-36-37
Other Singles And Pairs
Of The Type IV Have
Been Listed In My
Records

John B. Hoover
Oct 2 1953

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.
JOHN H. CARR, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

Dear Mr Ashbrook: 10-20-53

Thanks for that remarkable photograph of the Confedento cover. It certainly shows the letters of the postmark were inserted separately.

I am sure the Pony cover of the Lot Sale entered the U.S. Mail at Atchinson, Kans, because the R.R. had gone that far. As I remember this cover it had a date of Oct. 1861. I am a little puzzled as to where the Pony Stamp was put on, and what night did Tracy have to cancel the Pony stamp. It seems to me that the stamp must have been put on in some small town outside of Portland, and then it was carried to Portland by Tracy.

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.
JOHN H. CARR, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

who struck it with Tracy & Co, Portland
and turned it over to W & Co in
Portland. I don't believe Tracy
carried it from Portland to
Sacramento where it went into
the Pony Mail, but think W & Co
must have performed this service,
What do you think? Certainly a
most remarkable cover.

Could I see your reference copies
of the 1861 "Carmine Lake and Indian
Red" I have recently been looking
for unusual shades of this stamp
and think I have the "Carmine Lake"

I am sure you are right about that
1869 cover. In fact I wrote our friend
Levy and asked him for an opinion
as to whether or not it was a
Zamboni job. I also told Edgar I

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.
JOHN H. CARR, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

thought it was a 45¢ note and
that originally there was a single
15¢ stamp where there now is a
pair. The colored photograph
is certainly a beauty.

I bid on the Viking Carrier,
but did not get it. I should
have bid a little bit more.

Kindest regards and thanks,

Sincerely
Wm. B. Brown.

P.S. Just obtained a new untested
and type of straight line Sonora, Cal.
of 1882. Edgar is quite excited about
it.

Oct. 28, 1953.

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

Dear Dictor:

Yours of the 20th received.

I sent for the Pony cover in the Fox sale that is taking place in New York today and made photographs of it. One I am enclosing herewith and another one will follow as soon as I can make the print. The latter to show the blue Tracy marking.

I have no theory to account for the cancelation of the W.F. stamp by Tracy. My impression was that the sender put the W.F. stamp on the envelope and turned the letter over to Tracy to transmit to W.F. & Co. so that they could send it from Sac City eastward by Pony. The date is quite late and shows it entered the U. S. mail at Atchison Ks. No doubt this cover will bring a big price. John Fox will see to that and I predict that it will go to Murl Kimmel, who is said to be the financial backer of Fox. I intend to write Kimmel and inquire if he purchased it. He goes very strong for Pony covers. I wonder what Edgar thought of it? Did you discuss it with him? He did not mention it to me. He seldom mentions any cover that is to come up at auction, but I guess he is just too busy.

I note you missed the Sac City Noisy cover. Too bad.

No doubt by this time you have my November "Service Issue." I sure muffed that 1869 Miro cover, that is, one most important point on which I was entirely wrong. Our mutual friend in Paris, Marcel Levy, noted the point I muffed - very silly in me, and very clever in him. I am sure that you will not overlook it. Levy advised that Miro is as bad a crook as Zareski.

Congratulations on a new Sonora S.L. Do you mean that it is one that is new to Edgar?

I have a friend who wants to purchase anything fine in 10¢ '55-'57 in multiples. Have you any suggestions?

I am enclosing my reference copies of the 3¢ 1861 "Indian Red" and "Dark Brownish Carmine Lake." I believe that you will agree that these are surely wonderful!!!

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,



PAID
Wells, Fargo & Co.
THROUGH OUR CALIFORNIA AND ATLANTIC EXPRESS.

Red



Red

Blue



Blue

Black

Yellow Env

Don Andy Johnson
Senator from Tennessee
Washington City
D.C.
late President of the U.S.

For Sale
10/28-53 - Lot 498

A375

Re - These Two Singles
- They Are A Rejoined
Pair - ?

Impossible To Plate
Them - But They
Are Surely From
The Right Pane

New Hope, Pa.,
Oct. 20, 1953.

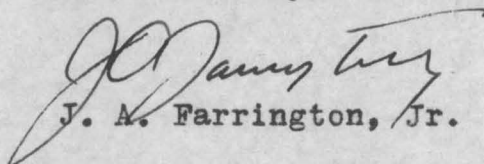
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P.O. Box 31,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I take the liberty of enclosing a few items, two, or three of which you may want to add to the record, and two or three on which I presume to ask your help:

1. A plate 6 copy with what is apparently a flaw below the S of postage. I do not believe that this is noted in your book.
2. A copy showing the imprint, apparently 40R6. You note these as very rare and I thought that if this is 40R6 you might wish to add its existence to your records. My collection of the one cent will never be important enough to benefit greatly from a plate six imprint, if this is one, so if you or an advanced collector of your acquaintance wants it I'd be glad to trade for other one cent material.
3. A type V with a combination of carrier cancels which I do not believe is listed.
4. Two type IIIs with a couple of questions noted on the card.
5. A turned cover used in each instance for a circular. Are you recording these?
6. A 10c type V used in Canada. Will you help here? This is not mine but a friend's and I want to give him fair value for it. Is this usage rare, and can you appraise for me?

Yours sincerely


J. A. Farrington, Jr.

P.S. I'm a member of the 3c '51 unit, and recently spent a pleasant day with Dr. Chase, a few days following your visit.

JAF

Oct. 23, 1953.

Mr. J. A. Farrington,
New Hope, Pa.

Dear Mr. Farrington:

I am in receipt of yours of the 20th with the various enclosures. I will be very glad to give you all the information you desire, but I will have to charge you a fee of \$10 for same. Philately is no longer a mere hobby with me but a livelihood and I am compelled to make a charge for the time occupied in examining material. I note that you recently had a very pleasant visit with my good friend Carroll Chase.

I will hold your material pending reply.

Sincerely yours,

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
THE JAMES FORRESTAL RESEARCH CENTER

New Hope, Pa.

Oct. 27, 1953.

Dear Mr. Ashbrenn:

Thanks for your note
of the 23rd. If memory serves the larger
number of items were sent you as being
of possible interest to you for the record
and I asked for help on only two - the
10c '57 dental cone and the 1d '57 type IIIs.
I'm afraid that on a University salary
I can't afford a fee of \$10 - for information
on only two items. Please believe me
that I understand that in consultation
one pays for knowledge, not time, and
I completely sympathize with your
position. It's simply a question of what
I can and can not afford! So will
you please return my stamps.

Sincerely yours,

JA Janington.

Oct. 29, 1953.

Mr. J. A. Farrington,
New Hope, Pa.

Dear Mr. Farrington:

I am in receipt of yours of the 27th and I appreciate your explanation. I have no desire to charge a fee for information unless one is fully able to afford same.

The following, I believe, will answer your queries:

Item No. 1 - "A Plate 6 copy" - The small dot below the "S" is not a consistent plate variety but rather a small bit of foreign matter that go in between the plate and the paper - no doubt a small particle that was in the ink. This stamp is plate position 14 R 6 and this position had no such flaw.

Item No. 2 - "Imprint" - You are correct, this is Plate 6 imprint position 40 R 6, while I have seen four or five stamps from 40 R 6, this is only the second one that I have ever run across that showed any part of the imprint.

Item No. 3 - Two New York "Carrier" markings. Quite correct, and most unusual. The black Station "C" was applied first at that branch post office and later the red was applied at the main office. If I have ever seen a similar item I do not recall it.

Item No. 4 - Two stamps from Plate 4. Both stamps are "C" reliefs and perhaps were a pair originally as I have rejoined them. I regret that I cannot prove this as I was unable to plate either stamp. These two stamps do not come from the left pane of Plate 4, but from the right pane and possibly from the third horizontal row. I have been unfortunate in not being able to locate sufficient material from this row of the plate to reconstruct this particular row. Both stamps are Type III.

Item No. 5 - While such items are interesting and far from common, I have never made any attempt to make any record. Confederate "turned covers" are a different proposition because such uses are examples of the scarcity of envelopes in the rebel states, thus a part of postal history. I note the Oxford side is marked "Pl. 6". I doubt if this is from that plate, that is, 1 R 6.

Item No. 6 - From Montreal to Walpole, N.H. While covers are known from Canada with the 10¢ 1857, Type V, and I happen to own one, there is no actual evidence that this stamp was used originally on this cover. It probably did but this could be an item that would have been quite easy for a faker to make.

Incidentally, the use in Canada of U. S. postage stamps to pay the full postage to the U. S. was contrary to Canadian Postal Regulations. This could have been an unpaid stampless letter, which the Canadian office marked as "10" due. Some fixer could have in later years added the 10¢ stamp and crossed out the manuscript "10." If

#2.

Mr. J. A. Farrington - Oct. 29, 1953.

the cover was unquestionably genuine, I would appraise it @ \$10.00, but as it is, the value would be only whatever a buyer cared to pay.

If you wish, you can reimburse me for the return postage.

Sincerely yours,

New Hope, Pa.

November 3 1953.

Mr. Stanley B. Colburn.

Fort Thomas Ky.

Dear Mr. Colburn:

How do I thank

you — and how do I receive from

my enhancement at your kindness?

Quite frankly, I could not afford a

\$10- fee for information on a

few steps, but I most certainly

do not want you to devote

as much time as you quite

abundantly did without some

compensation. Dr. Chase has a
unit fee for plating and
a lower fee for engraving
the plating of 3c 51's. Have
you any such system worked out
relative to 14 numbers? I'd like
to feel free to send you material
on occasion but can not, of
course, do it on a 'no charge'
basis.

By the way, do you ever have
any 1c 51-57 material for sale,
particularly type I?

With thanks

J A Jimmy

Nov. 7, 1953.

Mr. J. Farrington,
New Hope, Pa.

Dear Mr. Farrington:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 3rd with enclosure, for which kindly accept my thanks.

I regret to state that I do not have any fixed fee for plating 1¢ 1851-1857. I suppose that my good friend Carroll Chase can plate most any copy of the 3¢ 1851 and of course many of the 3¢ 1857. However, I do not believe that there is any living person who can do the same with the 1¢. As far as I am aware, there is no one who owns a complete reconstruction of Plate One Early, that is, all of the two hundred positions, and as far as I am aware, there are only three partial reconstructions in existence. I have a fairly good photographic record of the plate but I disposed of my reconstruction to Mr. Newbury some years ago. This is an explanation as to why I no longer make any attempt to plate stamps from Plate One Early. I have complete reconstructions of Plate One Late and Plate Two, and I can plate most single copies from both plates. However, in many cases, A relief singles can only be plated by a process of ~~elimination~~, and it might take three or four hours to definitely plate some copies. Therefore, you can appreciate the fact that one could hardly do such work at a price of a price that was not in line with the time consumed. I could go on and discuss the plating of subsequent plates but no doubt the above will give you a pretty good idea.

It might interest to you to know that I am still working on the reconstruction of Plate 6 and in the past several years I have made considerable progress. Years ago I doubted if the plate could ever be reconstructed, but now I believe that such is possible.

I do not believe that I have any Type V material that might be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

By J.A.F
10/24
53

Black
P. M.
Not
legible



~~Miss Louisa B. Hayward~~
~~Walpole.~~

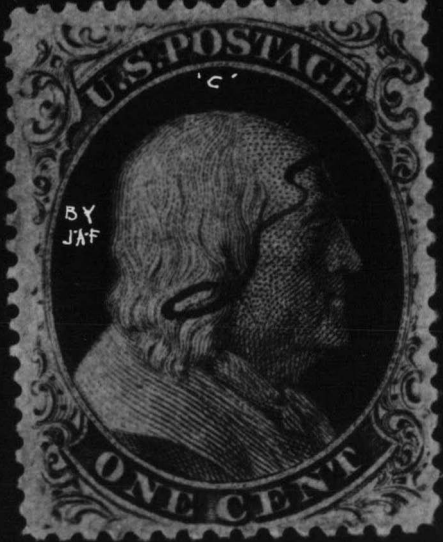
N.H.



Black

Blue Env.
Nothing On Back

A 375



3 SINGLES BY J. A. FARRINGTON

A375 OCT 24 1953

A 375

SEE V 28-53
AT 14-F128-RED-35 SEC



A 375

U.S. POSTAGE

"C"

BY
J.A.F



ONE CENT



C165-By J.A. Farrington 10/24/53
SEE 28-53

RALPH HOFFMAN

ASDA - SPA - APS - BIA

STAMPS AND ACCESSORIES



439 RACE STREET ~~413 RACE STREET~~ • CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

DUNBAR 5511
TELEPHONE ~~MA 1-195~~

October 28, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 No. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stanley:

The enclosed cover was shown me by a customer, who has owned it for some time.

I told him I did not believe the stamp belonged on the envelope and he asked if I could get an opinion on it from you. If it does not belong on the cover he would rather have it off, and know the reason why.

There is no rush on this, and BE SURE to include a bill for your service - he expects one and can well afford it.

I still have hopes of getting you up here some day soon, before I start breaking up the Tedesche accumulation, because no one believes what we actually have until he sees it, and even then it is incredible.

Our regards to Mrs. Ashbrook.

Sincerely,

Ralph

Nov. 1, 1953.

Mr. Ralph Hoffman,
439 Race St.,
Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

Dear Ralph:

I have yours with the 10¢ '47 cover but
to be sure I want to make an enlarged photograph of
the stamp by ultra-violet.

Baltimore did use a blue postmark and
canceled the 1847 stamps with a red "5" or a red "10."

Sincerely yours,

PAID

Nov. 4, 1953.

Mr. Ralph Hoffman,
439 Race Street,
Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

Dear Ralph:

Herewith the 10¢ 1847 cover which I have endorsed on the back. I also enclose a photograph of it and a large photograph of the stamp itself which I made by ultra-violet light. I believe this print speaks for itself and shows the vertical crease. As I wrote you last week the Baltimore office did use a blue postmark and was in the habit of canceling the stamps with rating stamps in red. My fee for the enclosed is \$3.50, which includes the return registered postage.

With best wishes -

Sincerely yours,

Blue



Red
10

Mary C. Deas
Care of Col. Deas
Mobile,

Ala.

White Env

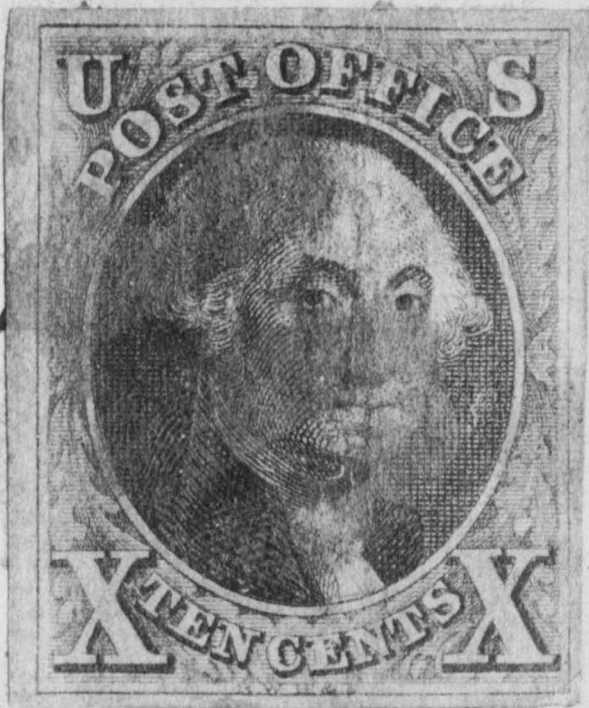
By Ralph Hottel
10/30-53

see 28-59

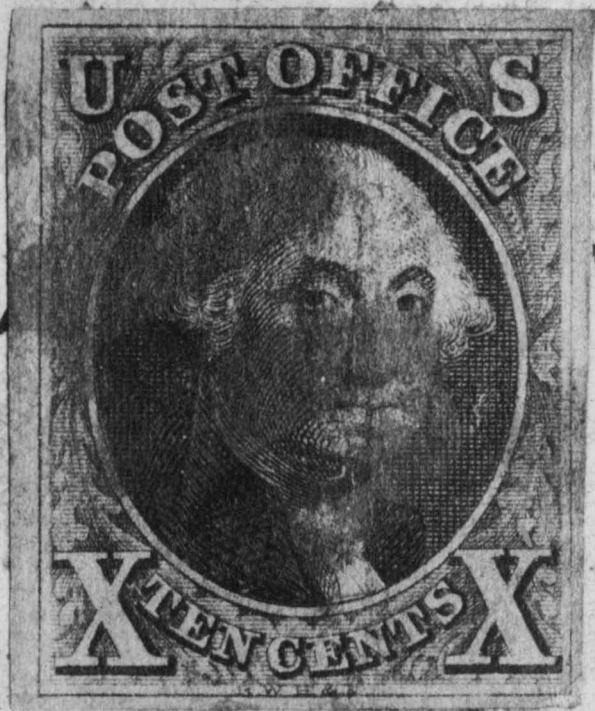
8392

B392

2



3



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

See S.B. 28
Nov 1 ^{Page} 60
1953



#4481 - 904 1860 -

I do not like the
appearance of this
"cancellation" but I
suppose that it could
be genuine. I doubt if
any one could give a
positive opinion one way
or the other. Because
there is practically no
evidence I believe that
the Committee would be
justified in declining to
give an opinion.
J. M. O'Sullivan
Nov 2 1953.

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

See S.B. 28
Page 60
Nov 1 1953



#4481 - 904 1860 -

I do not like the
appearance of this
"cancellation" but I
suppose that it could
be genuine. I doubt if
any one could give a
positive opinion one way
or the other. Because
there is practically no
evidence I believe that
the Committee would be
justified in declining to
give an opinion.
J. M. O'Sullivan
Nov 2 1953.

Willy Balasse

EXPERT EN PHILATELIE - PUBLICISTE - EDEUR

EVALUATIONS - EXPERTISES ACHAT - VENTE

TELEPHONE (2 lignes) } 11.49.89
12.68.46
Registre du Commerce Bruxelles 4141

ORGANISATEUR
DE VENTES AUX ENCHERES PUBLIQUES

Banque de Bruxelles (rue du Lombard)

Adresse télégraphique : « BALASPHILA »

EDEUR
DU « BALASSE MAGAZINE »
REVUE ILLUSTREE D'INFORMATION
ET D'ERUDITION

EDEUR
DU GRAND CATALOGUE « WILLY BALASSE »
ENCYCLOPEDIE ILLUSTREE DES TIMBRES DE
BELGIQUE ET DU CONGO BELGE

Edeur des albums de luxe : ALBERT-ISABELLE et CHARLES-QUINT

REGISTERED AIR MAIL.-

=====

BRUXELLES-BOURSE, LE November 2th, 1953
54, RUE DU MIDI

M. Stanley ASCHBROOK,
33 N. Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas - K.Y. (U.S.A.)

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I send you herewith, for examination, a very nice piece of U.S.A. n° 9xI a of Scott.-

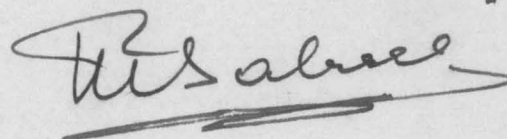
This stamp that I am considering as a big rarity comes from the famous Foster's collection which was sold in Boston some years ago; the piece is signed by Foster (F) and also by Colson who knows particularly well the first issues of the States.-

I reserve that piece to the collection of my friend consul Klep and I should like to have also your appreciation and attestation.- Tell me the amount of your examination and I shall send you for it a check on New-York.-

I just see that you don't receive my Magazine as subscriber and I send you by separate mail the two last numbers.-

I would like very much to have your reply about your examination, as soon as possible.-

Sincerely yours,



Nov. 5, 1953.

Mr. Willy Balasse,
54, Rue Du Midi, 54,
Bruxelles, Belgium.

Dear Mr. Balasse:

Herewith the U. S. 5¢ New York as per yours of the 2nd. According to your letter, you listed this as the Scott #9X1A, which is the rare blue paper. However, this stamp is not the blue paper but is the ordinary 9X1, or the bluish paper, which has faded out to quite some extent. The stamp is position #7 on the plate of 40 subjects, and this particular position is listed in the Scott Specialized as "Double Transfer at Top #7." This copy is damaged inasmuch as the entire top part of the design is cut away and hence does not show the variety of the double transfer at the top.

In all probability this is not an unused, unsigned copy, but rather a stamp from which the signature initials and the pen cancelation have been removed. I am making a photograph by ultra-violet and I will be pleased to send you a print later.

My fee for this opinion is \$3.50. Incidentally I am sending a copy of this letter to my friend Consul Klep.

I note that you are sending me copies of the last two numbers of your magazine and I would like to have you enter my subscription for same. I will remit any balance due.

Very truly yours,

Nov. 5, 1953.

Mr. N. Klep van Velthoven,
4 Avenue d'Hougoumont,
Brussels, Belgium,
Europe.

Dear Mr. Klep:

Herewith I am enclosing a copy of a letter that
I have today addressed to Mr. Willy Balasse.

I haven't heard from you for some time but I
trust that you have been perfectly well and everything goes
well with you.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,



SEE 28-61-

C170 BY WILLY BALASSE-QUARTZ LAMP

MICRODOL. DEVELOPER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIN NEG



SEE 28-61-

C170 BY WILLY BALASSE-QUARTZ LAMP

MICRODOT DEVELOPER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIN NEG

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

October 26th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Enclosing a lot of covers and I put ~~some~~ ^{A NOTE} in each one of the cases.

The Supplementary Mail covers. Just thought you would like to see these to check the markings. I think these are genuine. It might help you with this when it comes on a stamp.

Enclosing a lot of Carrier covers, in another case. All of these are from my own collection.

The 16¢ rate cover from New Orleans I don't understand.

The Boston British Packet on the front of the cover.

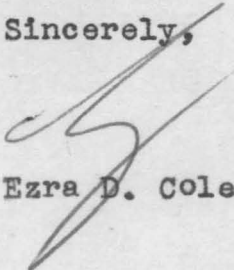
Two 25¢ rate covers to South America.

Also a 24¢, 3¢ and 1¢ cover. Could these be carrier rate covers or is the rate 28¢ right?

Of course you can use these any way you want to. The carrier covers of course, I want for my own collection. All but one of the other covers are mine, and that can be bought. These are what I saw that looked interesting in the last Harmer Rooke sale. Apparently it is cleaning up all of Needham's material.

No hurry on any of these.

Sincerely,


Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

October 29th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

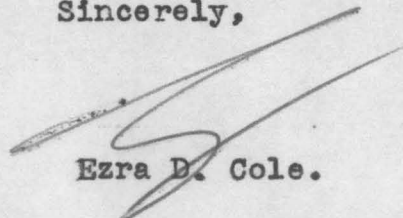
I am going to send the Way cover to Morris Everett and let him keep it. You can write up these stampless covers. It is a mark that is scarce ~~on~~ ~~this~~ any way and if this cover in the MacBride sale is worth \$50.00 our covers should be worth say \$35.00 a piece for it is the mark, rather than anything else, that makes the price.

Em may want the prices on the MacBride sale. He keeps a lot of them.

With reference to Molesworth. I have a slight difference of opinion with you but I don't want to get into an argument. I do note though that you got as mad as Hell about Zareski and the other fellows who tamper with covers and fix them up, and here is Molesworth doing the same thing, and perhaps worse, and you think he is alright. I'm damned if I can see the difference. In my book a thief or a crook is still a crook even if he is only a little one, and I am especially dubious when they say they "did not mean it" or "meant no harm." Furthermore that letter he wrote, which you can keep by the way, is really crooked. I would like to borrow the photograph you made of that cover of his afterwards. I can find the picture in the Harmer Rooke catalogue made before it was monkeyed with.

No other news. There are an awful lot of sales coming along. That Daniels sale looks like an awful bunch of junk. Ted Gore is in town and he bought a few odds and ends of stamps here and there. Nothing important.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

Nov. 4, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

Herewith I am returning the various covers as per yours of the 26th. This was a rather interesting lot and I was glad to see them. The following are some comments:

The Supplementary Mail covers show that one was a single and the other was a double, although of course double postage was paid on both of them. In my opinion, both are genuine.

Regarding the lot of Carrier covers, the two that were sent back from Paris have no carrier significance. Each was charged 2¢, the local rate of postage.

The little mourning cover to France shows a double rate plus a 1¢ carrier fee. Such items to France for some reason or other seem to be quite scarce. Did you note that the stamps are canceled with a small black grid? This small grid seems rather queer to me and I don't seem to recall seeing very many foreign rate covers from New York with a cancelation like this. Do you suppose this grid might have been applied at some branch station?

Regarding the cover with the pair of the 1¢ 1857, straight edge at left. Did you know that this was quite a nice pair from Plate 6 and is what I call, Type Va.?

The cover with the four 1¢ is quite nice, but it would have been much better had this been a block of four.

Regarding the circular from Baltimore. As you are aware, this marking has no carrier significance, but was a cancelation used on circular mail. This Price Current is a bit unusual because it is addressed to Halifax and routed by "Land Mail." This 1¢ payment simply paid the U. S. postage to the Canadian Line. The N.S. postage was extra but there don't seem to be any postage due marking.

The little F.L. of Jan. 28, has no carrier significance. It is simply a Drop Letter. I don't see anything out of the ordinary among the balance of the items in this group.

Regarding the cover to Hanover from Washington. This went by Russian Closed Mail and the rate at the time of this letter was 28¢ prepaid or 30¢ unpaid, thus this item has no carrier significance but is simply the 28¢ rate. Originally the rate was 30¢ either paid or unpaid, but early in the sixties a reduction of 2¢ was made on letters that were prepaid.

Regarding the two covers to the Argentine. You probably have seen quite a few covers from this correspondence. The rate at the time of this period was 25¢.

Regarding the triple rate to Paris from Newport, R.I. It is unusual to see this Boston marking on the front of the cover as it was generally back-stamped.

#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - Nov. 4, 1953.

The unusual cover is the one that has this Boston marking on the stamp and without any other cancel. Naturally such an item originated at Boston, and it is my opinion, that a great many off cover stamps with this particular marking have been faked.

Regarding the Bank Note cover to France from New Orleans. I enclose a photograph that I made of this cover together with an explanation of same. I have seen several or more covers that were similar.

Herewith I am also enclosing a new photograph of the Way cover that was in the MacBride sale.

Regarding yours of the 29th. I will write Emmerson and inform him that if he would like to borrow my price catalogue of the MacBride sale that I will be pleased to loan it to him.

I have carefully noted your reference to Molesworth and I must say that I agree with you 100%. So far I do not believe that he is an outright crook, but rather just a damn fool youngster that does and writes stuff that he shouldn't. He submitted that 90¢ 1861 cover to Jessup and he informed Edgar that the stamp was re-perforated though I am not sure he mentioned that he did the job himself. I have been watching him very carefully and I have been unable to convince myself that he is a forger and a cheat, but you can depend upon one thing - if and when I come to any such a conclusion I will cut him out completely. The chances are he is just too smart for his own good.

Further regarding that cover, I understand that Harmer Rooke have refused to take the cover back because Molesworth re-perforated the stamp, but this does not alter the fact that they sold a fake cover as one that was genuine. It seems to me that this cannot be overlooked. Everything about that cover shows that the stamp was not used on it originally. They sold the cover as one that was genuine, meaning, of course, that the 90¢ stamp originated on the cover. Under the circumstances, how do you feel about it? I suppose that Jack could cut off the fake perforations as there is still plenty of room and the stamp then would still have a straight edge at left.

With best wishes -

Sincerely yours,

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Sunday, Nov. 1, 1953.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No Ft Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

I came home yesterday from Tampa and Orlando from the past week there. Your letter with the enclosures was here as well as the Nov. Service. Seems like to me you are pinning yourself down to a gruelling schedule in trying to get this out every month. I dont think you started out with any such an idea, did you? While we have paid a dividend rather regular each year since we got "well" on our common stock we have very carefully avoided setting up a date or an annual basis otherwise the stockholders would be figuring on it even when such a time as 1930 came again. I fear you are doing the same thing with your "monthly" schedule and I dont like to see you driven so hard.

I have not had a chance yet to study this new issue but have glanced over it and noted the very big and nice write-up on the 10¢ 1847 cover of mine. Dont you think when you write up covers of the various members of the Service that you should charge a fee for it? I am sure for one that I have had a greater desire for some of the covers that have been so expertized which has added to their value. I will report more and maybe ask some questions about my cover after I get a chance to carry it with me and study its contents.

I wonder if you noted the cover on the front of this current Gossip? Oct. 31st issue. The cover you may recall is mine which you saw some time last Spring. I had decided Harry Weiss was not going to publish it. I am not a subscriber buying my copy from Marvin Acton every Saturday for a long time now. I am glad he did not mention your name. (Note in Bruce Daniel's current auction catalog- Lot 329-either thru design or ignorance says "S.A." is (Ashbrook) when it most undoubtedly is Spencer Anderson.) I have known you for 16 years and never yet saw you use S.A. as a signature. Spence always used "S.A."

What do you think! I had a letter from Rozmin and the catalog sent last week from Chicago. I had written Tony quite a while back about it. He may have called him, but the letter apologized saying he had gotten mixed up with unrelated papers, etc. I note that he did not get my check so mixed up for it was cashed the next day, August 22nd. But I'll give the devil his dues and assume it was an error on his part. The catalog is in good shape. I will have it bound with the prices and photos and have it as a duplicate for some future need.

Shall I keep these photos of the 90¢ 1860s you sent or return them. Do you draw the conclusion that the cancel on mine of San Francisco is the same faker as the New Orleans one? I presume the answer is Yes. Sure looks so.

I was wondering who topped me on several covers and it must have been Jack. I thought it was Neinken. I'll bet I can name the lots and I refer to the Harmer Rooke sale of Oct. 20th. Lot 7- 8- 16- 21- 30- 63-108- Am I right? Here are the ones I got and about which I wrote you. Each has a comment.

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

on a card with them.

About our trip East. We cant get away until after the first of the year as things are shaping up. Dorsey would not go away just before Xmas on account of our grand-children. As I will be tied close here until then I have decided I can not get away and rest before then. So we will not be up your way until then. I sure wish you all could come down here and see us and maybe drive down to Florida this winter. I can find a good place to eat CHEAP at least, on the house, that is. How about it?

Sincerely,



Enclosed lots from Harmer Rooke Sale October 20th

109-	\$55.00
110-	21.00
229-	30.00
233-	13.00
276-	55.00
298-	31.00
	<hr/>
	205.00

Reason prices were very cheap was the McBride sale same day. Sale wound up with two bidders, Cole Nad Usticke.

Nov. 5, 1953.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of your registered with the auction covers. I will look these over and report later.

I was pleased to learn that you had heard from Roznim and after all that he is not a crook.

I intended for you to retain the photos of the 90¢ 1860. In all probability Zareski is the faker who makes fake U. S. postmarks, but of course I have no proof.

Regarding the Harmer Rooke sale of Oct. 20th, I doubt very much if it was Fleckenstein who topped any of your bids. Unless I am mistaken, Jack always bids very low because he has but a scant knowledge of covers. I doubt if he knows enough to bid more on a lot than you would.

By the way, Ezra sent me the prices on the MacBride sale and suggested that I send them to you, but inasmuch as you have no interest in Confederates, I returned the catalogue to him. Let me know if you would like to borrow the copy that I made. I will be glad to loan it to you.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Nov. 7, 1953.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

I am rushing to get these lots back to you as the Post Office closes at Noon. Herewith are my comments:

Lot 276 - In my opinion, this cover is a fake - i.e., this 90¢ stamp was not used originally on this cover, therefore, it is immaterial (?) whether it is a National or Continental. The cancelation is entirely different from the other four stamps. This cover has been "fixed" - no question about that - Why not return to Gordon and inform him that Ashbrook states the cover is a fake.

Lot 233 - I believe this cover is genuine but why 15¢ on a small letter from Indiana to Maine? The only explanation seems to be 5 x 3¢, but could this letter have been that heavy? The registration fee in 1873 was 15¢. I have no idea regarding the cancel, probably just a "killer" with no significance.

Lot 109 - Rare item - the "PAID" is an Express marking and no doubt Wells Fargo & Co. - showing this letter was conveyed to the S.F. P.O. by Wells Fargo. Most unusual and rare.

Lot 229 - Nice cover which shows an over-pay of 1¢. The French receiving is not unusual for 1872. The little S.F. "cross road" killer is well known.

Lot 110 - I cannot imagine why a rate of 8¢. It looks O.K. and as an "8¢ rate" is a freak so my advice is not to remove the buff.

Lot 298 - I suppose the 90¢ could have originated on this cover but the evidence is rather meager.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Lot 276 . In my opinion this cover is a fake - I.E., this 90¢ stamp was not used originally on this cover, therefore it is immaterial (?) whether it is a National or Continental. The cancellation is entirely different from the other same stamps. This cover has been "fixed" - no question about ~~it~~ that - Why not return to Gordon and ~~it~~ inform him that Ashbrook states the cover is a fake.

Lot 233 - I believe this cover is genuine but why 15¢ on a small letter from Indiana to Maine? The only explanation seems to be 5x3¢, but could this letter have been that heavy? The registration fee ~~was~~ ^{HEAVY} in 1873 was 15¢. I

have no idea ~~as to~~ regarding
the cancel - probably just a
"killed" with no significance.

Lot 109 - Rare item - the
"Paid" is an Express marking
and no doubt Wells Fargo Co
- showing this letter was
sent by the S.F. P.O. by
Wells Fargo. Most unusual
and rare.

Lot 229 - Nice cover which
shows an over pay of 1¢.
The French receiving is not
unusual for 1872. The little
S.F. "Cross Road" letter is
well known -

Lot 110 - I cannot imagine why
a rate of 8¢. It looks ok.

and as an "8¢ rate" is a
break so my advice is not to
remove the buff.

Lot 298. I suppose the 90¢ could
have originated on this cover
but the evidence is rather
meager

Regards
Yours etc

This is to certify that
 the above described
 property has been
 received from the Post
 Office at Brownsville
 Texas June 30. 1873
 and is now in the
 possession of the
 undersigned
 and is being
 taken care of
 in the course of
 mail.

To the Clerk of the Circuit Court
 of the United States
 at Carmine

Filed June 30. 1873

Lot 276
 Harmer
 Rogers Sale
 10/20-53
 Salveston,

Texas.

Drury
 Post Master
 Brownsville Texas



PRESIDENT
RAYNOR HUBBELL
BOX 573
GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

GENERAL VICE-PRESIDENT
VAN DYK MACBRIDE
744 BROAD STREET
NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

SOUTHERN VICE-PRESIDENT
GEORGE N. MALPASS
5401 — 9TH STREET NORTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FLA



HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT
AUGUST DIETZ, SR.
109 EAST CARY STREET
RICHMOND 19, VIRGINIA

TRANS-MISS. VICE-PRESIDENT
HARRIE S. MUELLER
1505 PARK PLACE
WICHITA 4, KANSAS

NORTHERN VICE-PRESIDENT
STANLEY ASHBROOK
33 NORTH FORT THOMAS AVE
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY

SECRETARY-TREASURER
T. W. CRIGLER, JR.
MACON, MISSISSIPPI

October 7th, 1953.

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

Dear Colonel Molesworth:

Mr. Shenfield requests that I reply to your letter of October 1st, in connection with the copy of the Confederate TEN #9, bearing a "cross roads" cancellation, on which you wish an opinion.

An illustration of a similar cancellation appeared as #13 in a list of unusual Confederate cancellations by Edward S. Knapp, which was published in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST of October, 1925. It is described therein as used in Mount Crawford, Va., in black, with a statement that only one example, used in 1862, on a cover with a pair of the 5¢ Typographed stamps, had been seen.

The cancellation on the stamp you submit is generally similar, but differs somewhat from the illustration referred to. Except for the example you now submit, the undersigned has never seen this cancellation on any Confederate stamp. Because of that, and because your copy is not on the original cover where the town and other details of use might be studied, it is not possible to supply a definite opinion in this instance.

The general appearance of the cancellation leads to the thought that it may be genuine, although there are some indications of the marking have been retouched. Because of the facts referred to above and the further fact that this stamp is more valuable in used rather than unused condition, the possibility remains that the cancellation may be fraudulent. It is to be regretted that a more conclusive opinion cannot be supplied.

Your attention is directed to the rules of the Authentication Committee which went into effect on October 1st last, whereby all items submitted for examination which catalog from \$50.01 to \$150., a fee of \$3. is charged. Kindly remit that amount to Secretary T.W. Crigler, at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

an O. W. MacBride
For the Authentication Committee.

MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L. Shenfield
T.W. Crigler, Jr.

78

20



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 10, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your letter of the 6th. I appreciate very much your comments on and signing of the cover with the 90¢ rate and appreciate your offer to do this without charge to me. However, I realize that payment for such work is your main source of income and expect to pay you for such services and would greatly appreciate your so charging me. I am enclosing my check for \$2.50 as I feel the value of the cover has been enhanced at least twice as much by having your signature on the reverse. Also enclosed is an interesting 1869 cover which I would appreciate your examining and signing if you feel it is O.K.

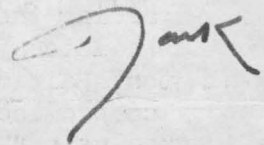
I appreciate your comments with regard to the two covers in the MacBride sale. I would not want to return them without having a definite and conclusive opinion condemning them so believe it best to send them along to Larry Shenfield for an official C.S.A. Expert Committee opinion. I would send it along to Michael Miller as you suggest but several times in the past it has taken him several weeks to reply and I am reluctant to tie the cover up that long in view of the circumstances surrounding its purchase, etc.

Regarding the Catalog Advisory Committee, I just received a call from Hubbell today and as a result of a trip which he took to Richmond, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York it appears a satisfactory compromise has been reached whereby the committee will be designated as a "Dealers' Catalog Advisory Committee" composed of Fox, Fuller, and Ward, and myself as chairman. I believe this should work fairly well as long as MacBride doesn't attempt to compete with it unofficially. It is rather ironic that he opposed the first committee because it was "dealer dominated" when you and I both know he is actually more a dealer than a collector himself. You did not make any comments regarding my personal problem with MacBride with respect to my auction "offsetting" policy and the carbon of my letter to him explaining it which I believe I enclosed with my last letter. Your confidential comments with regard to this will be greatly appreciated as I value your advice.

I appreciate very much your comments with regard to Rust and the plates. I can see now that the current mixup is primarily the result

of the conflicting requests and instructions that he has made to various people attempting to secure these plates for him. I can well understand his desire to have you check the plating if they should be purchased, though he still seems reluctant to designate one agent and write the rest to refrain from making entrees in his behalf which is what he should definitely do. I had a long talk with him in July about the matter and he suggested that I make a specific offer to Kelleher for the plates which involved my examining and appraising them. However, before this could be done, Kelleher had left for Maine from which he returned only a month ago. I have received no further instructions either regarding affirming or cancelling those previously received from him. Several weeks ago I wrote him mentioning the current mixup and asking him to designate one person to handle the deal. I also indicated that though I would like to handle it myself and thought it would be most appropriate in view of my location, I would be willing to step aside should he prefer to have anyone else handle it. He replied that he did not care to designate anyone special to handle the matter and did not elaborate further. Though Rust did talk with Kelleher recently, according to Kelleher they did not discuss the plates and no designation was made as to who should handle them. However, Kelleher is not always the easiest person from whom to secure the exact details of such a conversation. I believe the best thing to do is to wait until the next time I talk personally with Rust and iron it out then especially since it appears he no longer has the extreme interest which prevailed several months ago. I was interested in your advice not to buy the plates unless the material could be had at a reasonable price as such is exactly the same advice which I had given him myself.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be the name "Jack". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a trailing "K".

Nov. 12, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks for the check as per yours of the 10th.

I am returning herewith the 1869 cover which I have signed on the back as a fake, that is, the two stamps were not used originally on this letter. The rate, as you are aware, was 15¢ per 1/4 ounce - This shows a due in France of "8" decimes or 15¢ U.S., hence 15¢ could not have been paid in the U.S. This went by American Packet direct to Cherbourg, hence our debit to France in black of 12¢. This stunt of adding stamps to stampless is a favorite trick of the French crooks, especially in the use of 15¢ 1869. I wonder how much value the faker thought he would add to this cover?

I return herewith the copy of your letter to MacBride. I understand that someone had a photostat of the letter you sent out dated Sep. 29 and gave it quite a distribution, though my copy was not sent to me by MacBride nor has he ever mentioned the matter to me.

Whether your conduct at auctions is unethical, immoral, crooked, etc., etc., etc., is not a matter upon which I wish to express an opinion, much less to be quoted. At your age you certainly know right from wrong and your conscience should tell you whether your policy of handling bids at auction is not open to any criticism.

I could comment on your letter of Sept. 29th, but why should I?

My fee on the enclosed cover is \$3.00. In case I would like to use this in one of my Service issues may I inquire if you have any objection?

I will not use your name in any way.

Sincerely yours,

L. GRAND & CO.,
NEW ORLEANS.

New Orleans 1^{er} février 1869

Messieurs Thomas LaChambre & Co,

Cherrieux.

Vous nous confirmez, chers Messieurs,
notre lettre du 24 de l'écoulé, et avons depuis
lus reçu, les vôtres des 10 + 14 même mois.

La dernière renfermait
une lettre pour ref. of Grand ad. sujet de la traite
de

\$ 6,500. qui vous fut envoyée pour en effectuer
l'embarquement.

Vous voyez avec
plaisir qu'elle a été acceptée, ce dont vous nous
informez, et nous annonçant la vente des
410 Balles à 138. Mais le mot "accepté"
venant immédiatement après le prix du
"trés ordinaire", nous avions conclu que cela
signifiait que ce prix avait été accepté, l'objet
de la traite ne nous vint pas à l'esprit.



aa
Miss Thomas L. ...



Recd

Black
Blue
Black
D. ...

These Two Stamps Were Not Used
Originally On This Cover As It Was
A Single Rate With 8 décimes
Due In France (154), Thus It Was
Simply A "Stampless"

Chas. B. ...



aa

09

A Black



Black

Mess. Thomas Lat



Recl

J. B. Davis

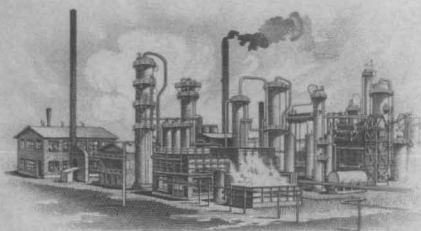
Blue

Black

Prance

These Two Stamps Were Not Used
Originally On This Cover As It Was
A Single Rate With 8 decimes
Due In France (154), Thus It Was
Surely A "Stampless"

Chas. B. Murray



PHONE 125

CRYSTAL *Refining Company* OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.
November 12, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

Got the enclosed two covers from Bruce Daniels recent sale in Boston and have not yet paid for them.

On the cover with 3¢ "pink" I specified on my bid sheet that my bid was contingent on this being a true pink, and not a "rose pink" or a "near pink" and he accepted bid on this basis so evidently he thinks it is the real pink. If you agree this is the real pink, please sign the cover on the back stating that it is the real pink - otherwise let me know and will return it.

The other cover was described per enclosed saying the pair of 15¢ are grilled. I can't see any grill on either but that would be nothing unusual for me. If they are genuine grilled, please sign as such, Stan.

Be sure and return the Daniels invoice, and also let me know what fee I owe you and will send check.

Regards and best wishes to all. Rene and I will go deer hunting next Sunday for the day only and she may hunt a little after that until December 1st when the hunting season ends. We might then get a chance to run down to Ft Thomas for a weekend.

JGF/k
Enc:REG:

Sincerely,

JGF
J. G. Fleckenstein.

Nov. 14, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two items from the Daniels sale. It is to be regretted that there is so much carelessness in auction descriptions. I could say more on this subject but nothing could be gained.

I believe that he will have no excuse to cancel these lots so in saving you some \$63.00 how about a \$5.00 fee?

Yesterday I had a friend return two 10¢ 1847 to a prominent Eastern dealer - the two cost him \$550.00 - I made ultra-violet photos showing pencancels.

The biggest sap in this game is the one who collects 19th Century "unused o.g."

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,