

|     | Scrapbook No. 22 October 1951 – March 1952               |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | James A. Duncan Re: Prepaid Ship fee into Portland Maine |
| 2.  | Wulfekeher Re: Fincastle, Va                             |
| 3.  | Frank W. Campbell Re: Canadian-U.S. combination covers   |
| 4.  | Y. Souren Re: 90¢ 1861 cover                             |
| 5.  | Daniel F. Kelleher Re: 30¢ 1860 on cover                 |
| 6.  | Philip Ward Re: Premieres                                |
| 7.  | J.G. Fleckstein  |
| 8.  | Carl E. Pelander Re: encircled grid, NY to France        |
| 9.  | Marcel Levy Re: Way                                      |
| 10. | Sherman E. Rogers Re: 30¢ 1861 Fake                      |
| 11. | E.J. Huber Re: 5¢ August                                 |
| 12. | Jack Molesworth Re: 1861 10¢ Type I earliest             |
| 13. | Morris Fortgang Re: Covers 1857 and 1861                 |
| 14. | Dr. Carroll Chase Re: Zareski Fake                       |
| 15. | Jack Molesworth Re: 25¢ rate S.F. to England             |
| 16. | Harold W. Stark Re: "Too Late" to France                 |
| 17. | Dr. Carroll Chase Re: 2¢ 1869 bisect                     |
| 18. | The Philatelic Foundation Re: Knapp Shift                |
| 19. | H.E. Harris & Co. Re: Confederate Frame line strip       |
| 20. | Jack Molesworth  |
| 21. | E.J. Huber re: 90¢ Premier Gravure                       |
| 22. | Henry Heyburn  |
| 23. | Harold Duckworth, Chase Re: Sitka Alaska                 |
| 24. | Morris Fortgang Re: 1¢ 1851 strip of 3                   |
| 25. | G.L. Habbert Re: cover to California from Vienna         |
| 26. | Murl Kimmel Re: Covers                                   |
| 27. | W.L.L. Peltz Re: Unpaid covers                           |
| 28. | Van Dyk Mac Bride Re: Prison Hospital                    |
| 29. | C.M. Phillips Jr. Re: Syracuse "PAID"                    |
| 30. | Maurice C. Blake Re: U.S.-British Postal treaty          |
| 31. | John A. Fox Re: 90¢ 1860 red grid, repaired              |
| 32. | Paul Rohloff, six covers                                 |
| 33. | Jack M. Schwartz   |
| 34. | Van Dyk Mac Bride Re: Charleston S.C. Large "2"          |
| 35. | Dr. W. Scott Polland Re: 36¢ to England                  |
| 36. | Phillip Ward Re: Painted pair 85L4 – 86L4                |
| 37. | Dr. W. Scott Polland: 85¢ cover to Switzerland           |
| 38. | Harmer Rooke Re: 30¢ 1869 fake cover                     |
| 39. | Francis E. Stern Re: 1¢ 1857                             |
| 40. | John A. Fox Re: 2 covers                                 |
| 41. | J.G. Fleckstein Re: 5 covers                             |
| 42. | Arthur J. Reed   |
| 43. | Jack Molesworth  |
| 44. | Ezra Cole Re: 5¢ 1847 orange pair                        |

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| 45. | The Philatelic Foundation Re: 30¢ 1869 cover to England |
| 46. | Maurice Jamet Re: 30¢ 1869 cover                        |
| 47. | Ezra Cole   |
| 48. | Jack Molesworth   |
| 49. | Ezra Cole Re: 3¢ Green combination cover                |
| 50. | Frank Campbell Re: 3¢ 1857 cover from Victoria VI       |
| 51. | The Philatelic Foundation                               |
| 52. | Mortimer Neinken  |
| 53. | L.L. Shenfield Re: Confederate Express Mail             |
| 54. | J. David Baker Re: 3¢ rate via Overland Mail            |
| 55. | Harold W. Stark   |
| 56. | Harold W. Stark   |
| 57. | Ezra Cole Re: 5¢ 1847 orange                            |
| 58. | Nelson P. LaGanke Re: 3¢ 1861 pink cover                |
|     |   |



October 20, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
35 N. Fort Thomas Ave.  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Col. Ashbrook:

The other day, when I spotted the enclosed cover in a dealer stock, I thought that I had something. At the first chance I found in my file of clippings of many of your articles in Stamps one under date of July 19, 1941 that deals with the Carrier Rate. Imagine my dissapointment when I saw that neither Portland, Me. or Chester, Pa. listed as places having this carrier service.

I am taking the liberty of sending this cover on to you, nevertheless, in the hope that since 1941 something has turned up that will shed some light on this cover.

Could it be a double Carrier item, that is, one cent for taking to the Post Office at Portland, and the other cent for making delivery to the U. S. Army Hospital?

The date is not clear as you can see, but under a glass the last figure seems to be a 3. If this is right the date Jan. 20, 1863 makes the cover come within the Carrier Period!

I sincerely hope that you are not too busy to give this cover the once over. Am enclosing a stamped, self addressed envelope for your convenience.

Sincerely,

*James A. Duncan*  
James A. Duncan  
323 West Ostrander Ave.  
Syracuse, New York

Oct. 24, 1951.

Mr. James A. Duncan,  
323 W. Ostrander Ave.,  
Syracuse, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Duncan:

Herewith the 1861 cover as per yours of the 20th.

This is quite a nice cover - a prepaid Ship Letter into Portland, Maine, that is, a letter that originated at some undisclosed origin - was brought into Portland by a private ship (non-contract mail), which entitled the captain to a "Ship" fee of 2¢. The addressor prepaid this fee so that it would not be collected from the addressee. I believe this is the first such cover into Portland that I have seen.

Sincerely yours,

Black



Miss Susan J. Newhall,  
U. S. Army Hospital,  
Chester,

Black  
Grid

By  
Jas. A. Duncan

Penn.

RARE  
PREPAID  
2¢  
SHIP FEE

(17

COPY

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

May 11th, 1949.

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

Dear Larry:

When Gene Costales bought the Needham Confederate collection this Fincastle, Va. Postmaster's Provisional envelope was in it. Gene tells me that he took up the matter of getting it listed in the Scott Catalog with Gordon Harmer, who suggested that it first be submitted for an opinion to Stanley Ashbrook, you, and ~~me~~. He then turned the envelope, and the accompanying items over to me, and asked me to take it up with you and Stanley. I am now sending the material to you for that purpose.

You will note that it includes not only the discovery cover, which originally came from the Ferrary collection, but five other covers having some collateral reference value. Also enclosed is a clipping from the "New Southern Philatelist" of March 1941 with an article by August Dietz describing the cover, and quoting some affidavits which apparently accompanied the cover at that time. Where the original affidavits are now, I do not know.

These affidavits seem to quite definitely establish the genuineness of the cover, as one of them is by the person to whom the cover was addressed, a Reverend, and his wife, while the other is by the man who was the Confederate postmaster at Fincastle, Va. These affidavits were dated some 35 years after the end of the War, and I do note that the contents of the one by the postmaster are somewhat confusing.

I think the five additional covers enclosed are particularly interesting. Four of them bear Confederate stamps and carry the same Fincastle, Va. postmark as appears on the Provisional envelope. One of the latter, and also the fifth cover which bears a U.S. 3¢ 1861 issue stamp used from Indianapolis, Ind., are addressed to the same person in the same handwriting as on the Provisional envelope.



All this is perhaps better evidence as to genuineness than we usually have to work with in endeavoring to establish the authenticity of a Postmaster's Provisional item. One point which occurs to me would be to establish whether the Fincastle - 10 - Paid "stamp" is under the Fincastle, Va. postmark on the Provisional cover. If it can be determined that it is, - I would then be in favor of recommending that it be listed in the Scott Catalogs.

Will you please examine all the enclosed, and then give me your opinion on it in a letter? Please then send it all on to Stanley Ashbrook, together with a copy of your letter, for his examination. I hope that Stanley will consider the copy of this letter which I am sending him today, as a request to write me his comments, with a copy to you, and to then return the covers to me. I will then return everything to Gene Costales, with the various comments, and he will then be in a position to take it up further with Gordon Harmer.

Sincerely,



MacB/HK

✓ c.c.: Stanley B. Ashbrook.



COPY

Van Dyke MacBride  
744 Broad Street  
Newark 2, N. J.

May 17th, 1949.

Mr. Eugene N. Costales,  
99 Nassau Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Gene:

I submitted these Fincastle covers to Shenfield, together with a letter dated May 11th, of which I now enclose a copy. I also sent a copy of this letter to Stanley Ashbrook, but because of a telephone talk I subsequently had with Shenfield about the matter, I am returning the covers to you rather than sending them to Ashbrook at the present time.

Shenfield agrees with me that probably the most important point to establish, is whether the Fincastle, Va. postmark on the cover bearing the impression of the Provisional "stamp", is definitely over, - or on top of, - the "stamp". If it is, it would thus indicate that the "stamp" was printed on the envelope before usage, and this fact would of course be substantial indication that the envelope was provisionally prepared and sold prior to use.

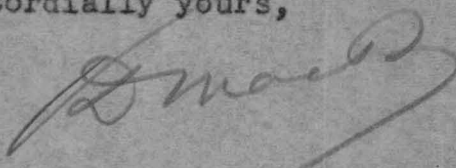
It was Shenfield's thought, - in which I concur, - that you submit this cover along with the other supporting items, to the Philatelic Foundation, for examination on this point. If this is done, and the photographs and other examination determines that the "stamp" is under the postmark, then I should personally feel that the Fincastle marking qualifies for listing as a Postmaster's Provisional, - especially in view of the other covers, the reported affidavits, etc. The fact will however still remain, that this is the only known copy, - and there is a definite amount of reluctance to list anything of which only a single copy is known to be in existence.

I suggest, however, that you do submit it to the Philatelic Foundation, and if you care to let me know the results of their examination I will be glad to discuss what further might then be done with it.

Cordially yours,

MacB/HK

c.c.: S.B. Ashbrook  
L.L. Shenfield



6/11 - 1949

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

In the C J Phillips Articles in "Stamps" Schenck is listed as having a pair of Spartenburg on cover.

As the strip of 24 hours is from the Needham Collection. Its pretty ragged.

You know I would not buy an item such as Fin castle without your O.K. Its enclosed together with photographs - I thought you would be interested. I would appreciate your keeping the fact I sent it to you in confidence though.

Return registration enclosed.

Sincerely

Gene W. Huffer



Re  
FINCASTLE COVER

June 15, 1950.

Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr.,  
P. O. Box 5401,  
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Gene:

Herewith the Fincastle cover and I must confess that this seems to be genuine. I do not place much confidence in opinions regarding one ink over another, so I was not influenced by the Kershner report or photographs. Perhaps the best advice that I can give you is this - Should you decide to purchase it - do so only on the condition that it be accompanied by a certificate of genuineness of the Philatelic Foundation. This, for your protection and not because I would be influenced one bit whether that bunch of "Experts" declared it good or bad. Of course, I am not including Caspary but even he is not always right any more than I am.

If this is genuine I wonder why it is not listed in the S.U.S.? Perhaps old-timers know the history of this cover but the fact it belonged to Needham is offset by the fact it went to him from Ferrary. However, there is not a question of a doubt that covers were manufactured to sell to Ferrary.

What impressed me to considerable extent is the similarity of the postmark on the cover and the strikes on the cheap covers, but I am not unmindful that a very clever faker could make imitations of cheap covers as well as fakes of a rare cover with the purpose of using the former to authenticate the latter.

Please don't take my opinion as final on this cover. It may be as good as gold and it may be a very clever fake.

As far as the postmark over the stamp is concerned, there is a slight indication that the outer ~~right~~ of the postmark may have been retouched with black ink to give that "over all" appearance. That little trick is rather common and a real artist can do a wonderful bit of artistic faking along that line.

An opinion by Gus Dietz on this cover wouldn't mean a darn thing to me, neither would one by Costales or MacBride. I would listen to one by Larry Shenfield because I have great respect for his knowledge and ability.

I will not disclose to anyone that you sent any of the enclosed to me. Incidentally the envelope arrived in damaged condition as you will note. Is anything missing?

Since writing the above I located two copies of letters

#2. Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr., June 15, 1950.

sent to me by MacBride in May 1949.

It seems that Costales submitted the cover and other evidence to MacBride for an opinion. Mac, sent the material (May 11, 1949) to Shenfield and in his letter requested him to send the material to me. It seems that the two of them discussed the matter over the phone and decided not to bother me. Larry returned the items to Mac and under date of May 17th, 1949, Mac returned them to Costales, and in his letter he advised Costales to submit the cover to the P.F. and to try and determine whether the postmark was over the "Provisional." From these two letters I judge that Larry and Mac were not disposed to question the cover, but I think there might have been a slight suspicion on their part, that all was not exactly right.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Finecastle

June 15, 1950.

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

Dear Larry:

Yours of the 7th received.

It is possible that you mislaid the Britannica report and that it may turn up. If so, just send it to me. There would not be any expense attached to obtaining a duplicate but I won't bother to do so.

A year ago last month Mac sent me copies of two of his letters re - the Finecastle Va - P.M.P. - which Costales had for sale. Noting those two copies today, I see that Mac advised Costales to submit the cover to the P.F. I am wondering if Gene did so? Do you know? Surely he would not attempt to sell such an item without a certificate. Was he afraid to submit it? If so, I can hardly blame him. I am wondering if Caspary ever saw the cover? If so, why didn't he buy it? Mac evidently thought the cover was genuine. Did you? Was any effort ever made to have it listed in the S.U.S.? If not, I wonder why? Gus Dietz okayed it as genuine. Do you know anything that is not generally known?

Regards -

Yours etc.,

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

As per your recent letter I am enclosing my "Fincastle"  
As usual you have my permission to send it to  
anyone you feel responsible, including the Philatelic  
Foundation. I will be glad to reimburse you for any  
expenses you incur up to \$60<sup>00</sup> beyond that  
please drop me a line for my cash assets are not too  
strong at present.

The cover was purchased from Gene Costello June  
1950 for \$500<sup>00</sup>. He stated at the time it would  
be listed in Scotts. However, thus far it has  
not been. I sent it to you at the time and you  
stated it "looked O.K." but as usual on this  
type of item you did not state it to be  
genuine beyond a shadow of doubt.

My father & mother took my wife and she went to  
New Orleans for the past week. Visited Bornstein  
& Weill (Roger) Raymond was in the west on a  
buying trip but there was nothing for sale. They  
said Howard Lehman was there so he probably  
grabbed up everything of interest, if any.

I am also enclosing a Consecutive first day use -  
Please photograph for me - Mrs Edith Fisher asked  
me to write a brief on it for "Cover" magazine. I  
obtained this from Larry Sheffield on a trade about  
2 years ago so am certain it is absolutely O.K. I am  
enclosing \$2<sup>50</sup> for this, plus 50¢ registration, etc. and  
if I owe you any additional please inform me when  
you send me a bill for the work on the Fincastle.  
I did not mean to ask you to compare my exhibit  
at Apex with regards to who should have won



what & why, I only wanted to know how  
you felt my collection compared with  
others as to condition and if you saw anything  
that should be removed from the exhibit.

As to my own collection of Earls & Larup  
collections I would say Earl has the better  
now that he made such a haul of the  
Brooks collection - Down deep in my heart  
I know Larry's collection is better than mine  
and for all I know Miss Heathcotes may  
be too - Mac commented on her collection  
very favorably also. I do feel that I have the  
edge on Larry as to Postmaster Privileges. I do  
have a great deal of respect for Mr Hall and  
his judgment - I know he is one of the real  
Consecutive students because you have told me  
he was. I probably have told you this before  
but at the Needham sale (Harner - Roche 3/1949)  
he walked up to me and introduced himself.  
Believe me I was so overwhelmed I almost  
tripped over my shadow and I know he  
must think I am a dumb oaf (if he  
even remembers it) It certainly made a lasting  
and pleasant memory for me, and just  
proves that in Philately the lowly are  
friends of the mighty.

Just heard of the tragic passing of our dear friend  
Raydon Meyer. May his soul rest in peace. We will all  
miss him and his humor. Sincerely  
Gene W. Wierzbicki

Oct. 26, 1951.

Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr.,  
P. O. Box 5401,  
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Gene:

Thanks for your check for \$3.00. I made photographs of the Fincastle and the Mobile and I will send prints to you later.

I believe that I wrote you that at Toronto John Hall and I discussed your Fincastle cover and I told him that I would have you send it to me and I would make a photograph of it. I would like to send him a print and a copy of the letter herewith regarding it. As you know John is a member of the P.F. Expert Committee and he is well aware of the fact that I greatly deplore some of the serious blunders that the Committee has made, probably none have been worse than their certificate authenticating a stampless cover used at Portsmouth, Ohio as a "genuine P.M. Provisional."

If you have any objection to the above request please let me know and I will abide by your wishes in the matter.

Your Mobile cover is as good as gold. Prints will be forwarded later.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,



Oct. 26, 1951.

Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr.,  
P. O. Box 5401,  
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Gene:

Yours of the 25th received.

Herewith I am returning your Fincastle, Va. and the Mobile June 1, 1861. I suggest that you send the Fincastle to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation. You did not request my comment on this but I am going to give you a bit of advice. Before you purchased this I think you should have played safe and informed Costales that you would buy it provided the Philatelic Foundation would authenticate it. You are in the real estate business in Daytona Beach. I am wondering if you would buy a piece of property without having the title examined? Would you purchase a track of land without any assurance that the title was clear?

I don't know anything about this Fincastle item and I don't think anyone else does, but I do know a little bit about fakers and a little bit about covers. I also have an idea as to what really constitutes a Postmaster Provisional and what constitutes a handstamped "PAID." Things like this Fincastle were manufactured to sell to Ferrary, who incidentally was a noted fall-guy for such stuff. He was no doubt more insane than sane, a sort of wealthy moron. I am not stating this cover is a fake but I'll be darned if I believe that this is anything more than a "handstamped Paid." To go on the theory that a postmaster in a small village like Fincastle, went to the trouble of making homemade envelopes, printing the PAID in upper right and then selling these homemade things to the public is too farfetched for me to believe. The fact is that I wouldn't believe such rot even if the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation would issue a certificate stating that this cover, was in their opinion, a "genuine Postmaster Provisional." However, if you had such a certificate, it might afford you some excuse for having this thing in your collection. I, therefore, advise you to make the attempt.

You didn't ask for the above, but I am giving it to you without any charge, so take it for what it is worth.

Wus Dietz has this Fincastle listed in his catalogue as a "Postmaster Provisional" and he lists it as "10¢ black on orange" - Where is the orange?

I do not believe that the Editor of the S.U.S., Mr. Gordon Harmer, would be foolish enough to list a thing like this. There is no question but what many Dietz listings are incorrect.

A "handstamped PAID" used from Portsmouth, Ohio, in the late eighteen forties was submitted to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation by George Linn of Sidney, Ohio. This Portsmouth thing is nothing in the world but a stampless cover ~~was~~ marked Paid with a fancy design in the upper right corner. The P.F. Committee issued a certificate stating the item was a "genuine Postmaster Provisional." In spite of this ridiculous certificate,

#2 - Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr., Oct. 26, 1951.

Mr. Harner has, so far, not seen fit to list this Portsmouth thing in the S.U.S. and let us hope that he will never do so.

Further referring to the Fincastle in the Dietz catalogue, under Virginia "Handstamped Pairs" - page 70, is listed a Fincastle "PAID 5" but no "PAID 10." Why? Under "Postmaster's Provisionals on page 94 is listed this 10¢, but no 5¢ value - Why? This leads to but one conclusion - Dietz must have gone on the theory that all mail requiring a 5¢ rate was hand-stamped as "Paid," whereas for all mail requiring a 10¢ rate, special Postmaster Provisionals were prepared and sold to the public.

Why make fish of one and fowl of the other? Does a fancy design marking make a cover a "Postmaster Provisional?"

Sincerely yours,



Jan. 13, 1952.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,

7. Scott Publications, Inc.,

1 West 47th St.,

New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

Re - Confederate listing of a cover of

FINCANTLE, VA.

I am enclosing a copy herewith of a letter that I wrote to Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr. of Daytona Beach, Fla. on Oct. 26, 1951. Mr. Wulfekuhler informed me that he purchased this cover from Eugene Costales several years ago on the assurance that it would be listed in the S.U.S.

I feel the same way about this cover that I do about the Portsmouth, Ohio stampless cover which is owned by George Linn of Sidney, Ohio, and in my opinion, it would be ill advised to list either one in the S.U.S.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

10/29

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Yours of the 26th recd together with the Fincastle R & mobile 6/1/61 which I recently sent you.

You most certainly have my permission to send a copy of the letter to Mr Hall, in fact you can always send copies of letters to me to others, we never have anything to hide.

You know I always send unusual items to you for examination, some I think are of interest to you - and you know my regard for your opinion and integrity and everything you stand for which is clean philately.

This Fincastle was no exception - I sent it to you very shortly after I acquired it from Gene Costello along with some cheap covers with Fincastle cancels, also the enclosed photos which Kershner took for Gene C. and the article in the New S.P. 3/1931. Your reply was, (I can't put my finger on this letter at the moment but it's in my file somewhere) (I believe it was June 1950) "I must confess the darned thing looks O.K." The balance of the letter I can't quote exactly but it was to the effect - I don't have much confidence in cheap covers as supporting evidence, the faker can easily fake a few cheap covers at the same time, also covers were manufactured for Jerry anyway the letter was good enough to suit me that the cover was, in your opinion, O.K. and this together with Kershner's photos and Mac Bides



opinion that the cover was O. K. (to Costales) plus the fact C. J. Phillips thought it was O. K. for it is listed in his articles in "Stamps" magazine, and apparently Mr Dietz thought it O. K. - well the only advice thing about it was that it was not listed by Scott, and Costales told me at the time that it would be listed by them but I never bothered to follow it up. This is the only reason I did not ask your opinion on it (line 3 Paragraph 1 in your letter to me), because I had already written you about it previously.

Now for this being a P. M. P. or a handstamp Paid - I am certain this is typewritten & Press Printed and if so it meets the requirements of a P. M. P. does it not? And as far as the town being too small for a P. M. to make a "provisional", how about Austin, Miss, Bridgerille, Ala. Greenwood Depot, Grove Hill, New Smyrna (I am told there were 50-100 living there in 1861) Rheatown, Jellies Plains - all these places were jerk-water and some of them have attractive adhesives.

Mr Dietz apparently considers the cover "orange-buff." (Paragraph 3 - N. S. P. article) hence the orange in the catalogue. I would say the cover is buff. I know Mr Dietz has made mistakes in his catalogue but it is a very nice book and certainly valuable to any Confederate collector.

I know I would hate to part with mine.

As to a Paid 10 handstamp paid not being listed or a Paid 5 Press Printed not being listed does not mean that a Pd 10 handstamp does not exist - Handstamp Pairs are turning up all the time now that collectors are collecting them more all the time, or at least they must be judging from the advance in price. I can remember 1944-1945 when I first started collecting Confederate Hspds could be had, in fine condition, unusual towns - \$2.00 - Now they are \$4-\$6 for similar ones. I will write Carver and see if one turned up in his survey - just out of curiosity.

Now please don't think I am trying to be smart on this but you know I always like to know "why" on things - and I am a bit stubborn - Remember the 109rd Daville? I still have them but you no doubt noticed they were not in my exhibit at CAPEX simply because I did not want to take a chance on being penalized - And if I included this and it is a phony believe me I am dreadfully sorry, though I know I was not penalized for it because I finished higher than I probably should have, and couldn't touch weatherly at the top end, and never will until his collection is dismantled, for I just don't have that kind of money. Livingston, Victoria, 20 Macon, # frame-lines - Those are just things for me to look at and admire, but believe me



I don't have a jealous bone in my body so I do not envy them.

I am enclosing an unused 10¢ frame - would you please plate this and also notice if any of the lines have been painted on - The top line doesn't look exactly right to me. I am enclosing \$5.00 for this, plus return Registration.

Also enclosing Kershers Photos & the NSP article. You may send these to Mr. Hall if you wish, but I would like to have them returned. I will probably end up sending this to the P. F. I sent that Gonzalez that Jack Malenroth to them but have not heard as yet their opinion.

I presume you heard about the Confederate Trophy mix up, and I have it here in my den - I am proud to win it but hated to get it under such peculiar circumstances.

I know you also felt deeply about Hayden Myers tragic passing. We will all miss him - He was at our table at Cipex in NYC and it's hard to believe a big healthy man looking man would go so young.

My best to you  
JRM.

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

Nov. 1, 1951.

Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr.,  
P. O. Box 5401,  
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Gene:

Further referring to the Confed "Fincastle" cover. I have a copy of the letter that I wrote you under date of June 15, 1950. In that letter I stated: "I must confess that this seems to be genuine" - also - "I do not place much confidence in opinions regarding one ink over another, so I was not influenced by the Kershner report." I also stated: "Perhaps the best advice that I can give you is this - Should you decide to purchase it, do so only on the condition that it be accompanied by a certificate of genuineness of the Philatelic Foundation." This was your protection and not because I would be influenced one bit whether that bunch of "Experts" declared it good or bad. Of course, I am not including Caspary but even he is not always right any more than I am." (end)

You surely have this letter. Look it up for the balance of my remarks.

In my letter of Oct. 26th last, I stated: "I don't know anything about this Fincastle item and I don't think anyone else does, etc." I must have held the same opinion when I wrote you on June 15, 1950.

I also have other correspondence regarding this cover. For example, a copy of a letter dated May 11, 1949 from MacBride to Shenfield. In that letter Mac stated, quote: "Gene (Costales) that he took up the matter of getting it listed in the Scott Catalogue with Gordon Harmer, who suggested that it first be submitted to Stanley Ashbrook, you and me. He then turned the envelope, and the accompanying items over to me, and asked me to take it up with you and Stanley. I am now sending the material to you for that purpose." (end)

You will note that this letter was dated May 11, 1949. I have no record that Shenfield submitted the cover to me, but evidently he returned it to MacBride. No doubt he was of the opinion that I was not especially interested and did not care to be bothered.

Under date of May 17th, 1949, MacBride wrote Costales - I quote in part as follows: "I submitted these Fincastle covers to Shenfield, together with a letter dated May 11th, of which I now enclose a copy. I also sent a copy of this letter to Stanley Ashbrook, but because of a telephone talk I subsequently had with Shenfield about this matter, I am returning the covers to you rather than sending them to Ashbrook at the present time."

In this letter MacBride also stated, quote: "It was Shenfield's thought, in which I concur, that you submit this cover along with the other supporting items to the Philatelic Foundation, etc."



#2. Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr., Nov. 1, 1951.

Under date of June 15th, 1950, I wrote Shenfield as follows. This was the same date I wrote you, quote: "A year ago last month Mac sent me copies of two letters re - the Fincastle, Va. - P.M.P. - which Costales had for sale. Noting these two copies today, I see that Mac advised Costales to submit the cover to the P.F. - I am wondering if Gene did so? Do you know? Surely he would not attempt to sell such an item without a certificate. Was he afraid to submit it? If so I can hardly blame him. I am wondering if Caspary ever saw the cover? If so, why didn't he buy it? Mac evidently thought the cover was genuine. Did you? Was any effort ever made to have it listed in the S.U.S.? If not, I wonder why? Gus Dietz okayed it as genuine. Do you know anything that is not generally known?" (end)

I have no reply in my Fincastle file to the above letter.

\*\*\*\*\*

I return herewith the article by Dietz in the New Southern Philatelist. I don't think the affidavits prove a thing that is worth while. I also return Kershner's photo-prints. Regarding the latter. These photographs are trick photography - Last July at Philadelphia I had a long talk with Kershner and I asked him to explain to me how he made such prints, and he did. I can tell you this - I will never resort to trick photography to prove that one ink was applied over another. By the method he uses it is my opinion that trick photos could be made to show either one is over the other. Any thick ink will appear to be over a thinner ink regardless of which one was applied first.

Kershner made similar photos of the Linn Portsmouth thing and I have a suspicion that his trick prints influenced the Committee in issuing their certificate. If they issued one on the Portsmouth I can't imagine why they would refuse to issue one on your Fincastle.

I will give further thought to sending a copy of the letter that I wrote you under recent date, to John Hall. I don't want to do anything that would destroy the value of your investment, but I would go out of my way to do anything I could to prevent this Fincastle from being listed in the S.U.S. The reason is obvious. I do not believe that this is a genuine Postmaster Provisional.

With regards.

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 1, 1951.

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

Dear Larry:

At the "Capex" I noted the "Fincastle" in the Wulfekuhler exhibit and I discussed it casually with John Hall while the two of us were looking at this particular exhibit. Upon my return I requested Wulfekuhler to send it to me so that I could examine and photograph it, which he did.

I have in my Fincastle file copies of the MacBride letters of May 1949. Perhaps you will recall that Mac stated that Costales had advised Mac that the matter of listing this thing in the S.U.S. had been taken up with Gordon Harner and that Gordon suggested it be submitted to Shenfield, MacBride and Ashbrook for opinions. It seems that Mac submitted it to you and that you returned it to Mac. I wrote you a year later - viz - in June 1950 making inquiry regarding your opinion, etc. I don't seem to have any reply to that letter.

From Mac's letter of May 1949 I assume he was of the opinion that the cover was a genuine Confed P.M.P. I don't know what your opinion was or is at present, but last week, I advised Wulfekuhler that it was my opinion that this cover was not and never was a Postmaster Provisional. I don't know whether the thing is genuine or not, perhaps the latter and made to sell that nutty moron the Count Von Ferrary. At any rate, if it was actually used in March 1862, or later, then in my opinion, it is nothing more than a handstamped "Paid." I believe it would be an extremely bad policy to list this unique item in the S.U.S. and I would oppose such action in any way that I could. I gather from a letter that Mac wrote Costales in late May 1949 that both you and Mac were of the opinion that the cover be submitted to the P.F. before being offered for sale.

Re - the Karshner photographs. Any expert photographer will confirm my statement that these are trick photographs and don't mean a thing. If one stops and uses a little common sense they will realize that it would be impossible to photograph two rather thin inks such as these and be able to show one ink over the other. Trick photographs can be made to show that either one is over the other.

Unless the legitimacy of an item is clearly proved, a questionable thing should not be listed in a catalogue. It is criminal to do so. Years ago it was possible to get all sorts of sucker stuff listed, but once such stuff gets "in" a catalogue it is virtually impossible to get it out. The so-called "Premieres Gravures" is a glaring example. The British Gibbons catalogue removed these labels from their catalogue in 1949 but they still occupy a prominent place in the Scott, providing a pitfall for a collector with plenty of money but no philatelic knowledge.

Sincerely yours,

Copy to  
Van Dyk MacBride  
Eugene Costales  
E. Wulfekuhler, Jr.  
John Hall



EUGENE N. COSTALES

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

99 NASSAU STREET

NEW YORK 38 N. Y.

November 14, 1951

MEMBER

AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY  
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
AMERICAN STAMP DEALERS ASSN.  
ASSOC. STAMP EXHIBITIONS  
SOC. PHILATELIC AMERICANS  
BROOKLYN STAMP SOCIETY  
BUREAU ISSUES ASSN.  
COLLECTORS CLUB, N. Y.  
N. Y. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

Dear Stan:

Several days ago I received a copy of a letter you sent to Larry Shenfield on November 1, 1951 in regard to the "Fincastle" I sold to Gene Wulfekuhler.


As I am not an expert photographer, I wrote immediately to Mr. Kershner, who made the photographs for me in 1949, and enclose a copy of that letter for your attention.

Also enclosed is a copy of the reply from Mr. Kershner, dated November 10, 1951. He goes to great length to support his contention that the cancellation is over the indicia. In the next to the last paragraph he states: "I would like to have this philatelist have one of his expert photographers, by using the bas-relief process, show opposite results than I have given you."

I think that is a fair challenge in view of your statement that "trick photographs can be made to show that either one is over the other." As stated above, I am not an expert in the art of photography, so I am always anxious to learn, and therefore await the "trick photos" you claim can be made.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,



EUGENE N. COSTALES

ENC:fk  
encls.

Nov. 19, 1951.

Mr. Eugene N. Costales,  
99 Nassau St.,  
New York 7, N.Y.

Dear Gene:

I have yours of the 14th together with the correspondence with our mutual friend Ray Kershner which I return herewith. He has been of great assistance to me in the past few years and I have great respect for his knowledge of photography and I regard him as quite a good friend. However, I deem it my privilege to disagree with him, with you or with anyone else with whom I cannot see eye to eye.

George Linn has a handstamped Paid cover of Portsmouth, Ohio. He sent this thing to the Expert Committee of the P.F. - They sent it to Kershner and he made one of his photographs and gave them a report that one ink was over another, etc. It is my understanding that on the strength of his report and his photographs that the "Experts" issued a certificate stating that the thing was a "genuine Postmaster Provisional," which, in my opinion is perfectly absurd. That kind of expertizing makes a regular joke out of serious philatelic research work.

In my opinion, the Pinecastle thing is in the same class - "a hand-stamped paid," not a P.M. Provisional and I think it is equally absurd to claim that it is and equally absurd to claim that the black ink of the postmark is over the black ink of the rate. If perchance this is actually the case (which I doubt) then the thing is, in my opinion, a rank fake and was made to order to sell that half-insane nut who called himself the Count Ferrary.

In your letter you stated that you would await the trick photographs that I claimed could be made. Thanks Gene, but I am not sufficiently interested to follow the matter further nor to take time out to make trick photographs. Personally, I do not think that the Pinecastle should have been sold to Wulfekuhler without a certificate from some "Expert Committee" or some recognized authority on Confederate Provisionals. My only interest in the matter is to do whatever that I can to prevent such highly questionable items from being listed in stamp catalogues, and I believe that every honest and honorable dealer and collector should take the same attitude.

Sincerely yours,

Copy Sent Shenfield  
" " Wulfekuhler  
" " MacBride

C  
O  
P  
Y

November 9, 1951.

Mr. Raymond D. Kershner  
1311 St. Vincent St.  
Philadelphia 11, Pa.

Dear Raymond:

On May 29th of last year I sent you a Confederate Local; namely, a 5c Fincastle, and asked you at that time to let me know whether or not the cancellation was impressed on top of the printed indicia.

You answered me on June 3rd, 1950 as follows:

"Examination by means of the stereoscopic microscope reveals that the cancellation is ON TOP OF THE PRINTED DESIGN. This is confirmed by the enlarged photograph of the cancellation and printed design portion of the cover and by the photo-micrograph of the small portion where the cancellation touches the design. The third-dimension micrograph gives definite visual proof of the fact that the cancellation is on top of the printed design."

I agreed with your findings as I have always considered the Fincastle to be a genuine Confederate Local, but within the past week an eminent philatelist has questioned the use of a stereoscopic microscope photo to reveal the relative positions of the indicia and the cancellation.

I quote a section of his letter:

"Re - the Kershner photographs. Any expert photographer will confirm my statement that these are trick photographs and don't mean a thing. If one stops and uses a little common sense they will realize that it would be impossible to photograph two rather thin inks such as these and be able to show one ink over the other. Trick photographs can be made to show that either one is over the other."

You will see, therefore, that some question has been raised as to the accuracy of the method. I do not wish you to believe that I do not heartily concur with your findings, but I wish you would be kind enough to write me stating the scientific and positive results of your findings.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

EUGENE N. COSTALES

ENC:fk



C  
O  
P  
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RAYMOND D. KERSHNER

1311 St. Vincent Street - Philadelphia 11, Pa.

November 10th, 1951

Eugene N. Costales, Esq.,  
99 Nassau Street  
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear Eugene:

Your letter November 9th regarding my examination of the 3c Fincastle and the remark by an eminent philatelist that "any expert photographer will confirm my statement that these are trick photographs and don't mean a thing."

I have never used "trick" photograph or "retouching in any of my photographic examination, whether they were of a philatelic nature or otherwise. This is easy to understand when you realize that the findings I made, one way or the other, mean nothing whatever to me personally as my fees are based on the amount of work involved and I receive my payment whether such findings are beneficial to my client or not. Unlike some lawyers I get paid whether my client wins or loses his point ... therefore, I am entirely neutral in the matter. Furthermore, there are very many expert photographers who could quickly discover any trickery of a photographic nature.

Regarding the third-dimension photographs; what they are, how they are made, and the effect one gets from them. This type of photograph is not something new - it has been used almost from the beginning of photography but is not widely understood because it is done by photographers who have complete mastery of darkroom technique as well as the taking of pictures with a camera. Such pictures are usually used in a pictorial sense or for advertising and was discovered by some unknown distant photographer who played around in the darkroom, experimenting in an effort to get away from the humdrum effect of the flat, non-steroscopic picture. The method in photographic parlance is called "bas-relief" and the effect is obtained by taking a negative and from it making a positive and film positive ~~is then~~ on film (a photograph is a positive made on paper). The negative and film positive is then placed together so that they are very slightly out of register and the photograph is made from negative and positive rather than from just a negative as is a normal photograph. The out of register effect causes "shadow" lines in the finished photograph which give the appearance of depth or third-dimension.

For example - take two small strips of paper say about 1/4 inch by 1/2 inch long and place one on top of the other to form a cross. Now place a piece of glass on top of the cross to press them tightly together. Carefully illuminate the cross so that the lighting is perfectly even from all four sides. If you will look directly down on the ~~evenly~~ evenly illuminated cross it will be most difficult to tell which piece of paper is on top of the other. Now extinguish the lights on one side and the lights from the other side will immediately cause a shadow from the uppermost paper to fall on the bottom piece, thus enabling you to tell at once which piece is on top of the other. Naturally, ink strokes do not have the thickness of a piece of paper but slight as it is when two ink lines cross there is a difference in height or thickness at this point and the bas-relief technique will artificially exaggerate this thickness to enable one to tell which of two lines is uppermost.

As your eminent philatelist states, "Trick photographs can be made to show that either one is over the other." I would like to have this philatelist have one of his expert photographers, by using the bas-relief process show opposite results than I have given you. This technique, because it is made from the original negative can not show other than what is pictured. In other words, one cannot by this method show in the finished picture an opposite effect; one cannot show a line that is actually on top as

appearing to be underneath. The process is a "trick" one only to the uninitiated in that it shows depth whereas the ordinary photograph is on a flat plane. One might just as well term as a trick the use of a binocular microscope as compared to the ordinary single eyepiece microscope because the binocular microscope shows depth which is not the case when viewing through the single eyepiece microscope as it permits viewing only on a flat plane. Quite some time ago one of the members of the Expert Committee of the Foundation questioned me if it was possible through the use of these third-dimension photographs to actually show an opposite effect and I informed him at that time, as I now state, that such pictures only show a reproduction of the original and that I cannot by twisting and turning and changing the register between the negative and positive, make it appear otherwise.

While the above explanation of the third-dimension photograph has been somewhat long-winded I want to make it as clear to you as I can and I trust it will clarify the matter to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

Cordially,

/s/ Kershner

RDK-k



c c m Ashbrook

November twenty-seventh

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Dear Gene:

Thank you so much for sending me copy of letter to Stan Ashbrook on the Fincastle. I now have copy of Stan's reply sent by him. What we have got to guard against, Gene, is the assumption that because a cancel hits over a marking that establishes it as a Provisional. For example, the wood cut handstamp paid markings of Forsythe, Ga. which are known not to be Provisionals would not change their status if perchance the town marking happened to appear over them.

As a matter of fact, the accredited press printed Provisional of Canton, Miss. known as a Provisional never had the cancel covering the marking. No one realizes more than I how difficult these things are to establish. Many of them belong in the area of constant confusion and I have grave misgivings that even some of the Postmaster Provisionals included in the catalog are not valid.

Do you think it could be a good idea to have Welfahrer submit the item to the Philadelpia Foundation?

Sincerely,

Carry

Mr. Eugene Costales  
99 Nassau Street  
New York City



From the desk of

**MR. VAN DYK MAC BRIDE**

---

**To S.B.Ashbrook**

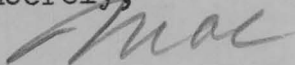
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This is briefly on the matter of the Fincastle cover about which you wrote under date of Nov. 1st.

A fairly careful search of my files fails to turn up my correspondence on the subject, much to my surprise. Also I appear to have no photograph of the cover. I did locate a letter of yours to me of May 23, 1949, in which you acknowledged receipt of copies of letters regarding the Fincastle and Pine Level covers, and you say that you placed it all in your scrapbook. I just don't recall now the subject matter of this correspondence with Shenfield and others, but I would be glad to review it if you want to loan me your file and a print of the photograph of Wulfekuhler's cover.

I wholly agree that the legitimacy of an item should be clearly established before listing it in the catalogs.

Sincerely,



Nov. 5, 1951

c.c.:L.L.Shenfield

Duplicate



Copy sent to  
Gordon Harmer

JAN 14 1952



Oct. 26, 1951.

Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr.,  
P. O. Box 5401,  
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Gene:

Yours of the 25th received.

Herewith I am returning your Fincastle, Va. and the Mobile June 1, 1861. I suggest that you send the Fincastle to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation. You did not request my comment on this but I am going to give you a bit of advice. Before you purchased this I think you should have played safe and informed Costales that you would buy it provided the Philatelic Foundation would authenticate it. You are in the real estate business in Daytona Beach. I am wondering if you would buy a piece of property without having the title examined? Would you purchase a track of land without any assurance that the title was clear?

I don't know anything about this Fincastle item and I don't think anyone else does, but I do know a little bit about fakers and a little bit about covers. I also have an idea as to what really constitutes a Postmaster Provisional and what constitutes a handstamped "PAID." Things like this Fincastle were manufactured to sell to Ferrary, who incidentally was a noted fall-guy for such stuff. He was no doubt more insane than sane, a sort of wealthy moron. I am not stating this cover is a fake but I'll be darned if I believe that this is anything more than a "handstamped Paid." To go on the theory that a postmaster in a small village like Fincastle, went to the trouble of making homemade envelopes, printing the PAID in upper right and then selling these homemade things to the public is too farfetched for me to believe. The fact is that I wouldn't believe such rot even if the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation would issue a certificate stating that this cover, was in their opinion, a "genuine Postmaster Provisional." However, if you had such a certificate, it might afford you some excuse for having this thing in your collection. I, therefore, advise you to make the attempt.

You didn't ask for the above, but I am giving it to you without any charge, so take it for what it is worth.

Eus Dietz has this Fincastle listed in his catalogue as a "Postmaster Provisional" and he lists it as "10¢ black on orange" - Where is the orange?

I do not believe that the Editor of the S.U.S., Mr. Gordon Harmer, would be foolish enough to list a thing like this. There is no question but what many Dietz listings are incorrect.

A "handstamped PAID" used from Portsmouth, Ohio, in the late eighteen forties was submitted to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation by George Linn of Sidney, Ohio. This Portsmouth thing is nothing in the world but a stampless cover ~~was~~ marked Paid with a fancy design in the upper right corner. The P.F. Committee issued a certificate stating the item was a "genuine Postmaster Provisional." In spite of this ridiculous certificate,

#2 - Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr., Oct. 26, 1951.

Mr. Hammer has, so far, not seen fit to list this Portsmouth thing in the S.U.S. and let us hope that he will never do so.

Further referring to the Fincastle in the Dietz catalogue, under Virginia "Handstamped Pairs" - page 70, is listed a Fincastle "PAID 5" but no "PAID 10." Why? Under "Postmaster's Provisionals on page 94 is listed this 10¢, but no 5¢ value - Why? This leads to but one conclusion - Dietz must have gone on the theory that all mail requiring a 5¢ rate was hand-stamped as "Paid," whereas for all mail requiring a 10¢ rate, special Postmaster Provisionals were prepared and sold to the public.

Why make fish of one and fowl of the other? Does a fancy design marking make a cover a "Postmaster Provisional?"

Sincerely yours,



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P. O. Box 5401,  
Daytona Beach, Fla.

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Why make fish of one and fowl of the other? Does a fancy design marking make a cover a "Postmaster Provisional?"

Sincerely yours,

C  
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P  
Y

November 9, 1951.

Mr. Raymond D. Kershner  
1311 St. Vincent St.  
Philadelphia 11, Pa.

Dear Raymond:

On May 29th of last year I sent you a Confederate Local; namely, a 5c Fincastle, and asked you at that time to let me know whether or not the cancellation was impressed on top of the printed indicia.

You answered me on June 3rd, 1950 as follows:

"Examination by means of the stereoscopic microscope reveals that the cancellation is ON TOP OF THE PRINTED DESIGN. This is confirmed by the enlarged photograph of the cancellation and printed design portion of the cover and by the photo-micrograph of the small portion where the cancellation touches the design. The third-dimension micrograph gives definite visual proof of the fact that the cancellation is on top of the printed design."

I agreed with your findings as I have always considered the Fincastle to be a genuine Confederate Local, but within the past week an eminent philatelist has questioned the use of a stereoscopic microscope photo to reveal the relative positions of the indicia and the cancellation.

I quote a section of his letter:

"Re - the Kershner photographs. Any expert photographer will confirm my statement that these are trick photographs and don't mean a thing. If one stops and uses a little common sense they will realize that it would be impossible to photograph two rather thin inks such as these and be able to show one ink over the other. Trick photographs can be made to show that either one is over the other."

You will see, therefore, that some question has been raised as to the accuracy of the method. I do not wish you to believe that I do not heartily concur with your findings, but I wish you would be kind enough to write me stating the scientific and positive results of your findings.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

EUGENE N. COSTALES

ENC:fk



C  
O  
P  
Y

RAYMOND D. KERSHNER

1311 St. Vincent Street - Philadelphia 11, Pa.

November 10th, 1951

Eugene N. Costales, Esq.,  
99 Nassau Street  
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear Eugene:

Your letter November 9th regarding my examination of the 3c Fincastle and the remark by an eminent philatelist that "any expert photographer will confirm my statement that these are trick photographs and don't mean a thing."

I have never used "trick" photograph or "retouching in any of my photographic examination, whether they were of a philatelic nature or otherwise. This is easy to understand when you realize that the findings I made, one way or the other, mean nothing whatever to me personally as my fees are based on the amount of work involved and I receive my payment whether such findings are beneficial to my client or not. Unlike some lawyers I get paid whether my client wins or loses his point ... therefore, I am entirely neutral in the matter. Furthermore, there are very many expert photographers who could quickly discover any trickery of a photographic nature.

Regarding the third-dimension photographs; what they are, how they are made, and the effect one gets from them. This type of photograph is not something new - it has been used almost from the beginning of photography but is not widely understood because it is done by photographers who have complete mastery of darkroom technique as well as the taking of pictures with a camera. Such pictures are usually used in a pictorial sense or for advertising and was discovered by some unknown distant photographer who played around in the darkroom, experimenting in an effort to get away from the humdrum effect of the flat, non-steroscopic picture. The method in photographic parlance is called "bas-relief" and the effect is obtained by taking a negative and from it making a positive and film positive ~~xxxxxx~~ on film (a photograph is a positive made on paper). The negative and film positive is then placed together so that they are very slightly out of register and the photograph is made from negative and positive rather than from just a negative as is a normal photograph. The out of register effect causes "shadow" lines in the finished photograph which give the appearance of depth or third-dimension.

For example - take two small strips of paper say about 1/4 inch by 1/2 inch long and place one on top of the other to form a cross. Now place a piece of glass on top of the cross to press them tightly together. Carefully illuminate the cross so that the lighting is perfectly even from all four sides. If you will look directly down on the ~~xxx~~ evenly illuminated cross it will be most difficult to tell which piece of paper is on top of the other. Now extinguish the lights on one side and the lights from the other side will immediately cause a shadow from the uppermost paper to fall on the bottom piece, thus enabling you to tell at once which piece is on top of the other. Naturally, ink strokes do not have the thickness of a piece of paper but slight as it is when two ink lines cross there is a difference in height or thickness at this point and the bas-relief technique will artificially exaggerate this thickness to enable one to tell which of two lines is uppermost.

As your eminent philatelist states, "Trick photographs can be made to show that either one is over the other." I would like to have this philatelist have one of his expert photographers, by using the bas-relief process show opposite results than I have given you. This technique, because it is made from the original negative can not show other than what is pictured. In other words, one cannot by this method show in the finished picture an opposite effect; one cannot show a line that is actually on top as



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While the above explanation of the third-dimension photograph has been somewhat long-winded I want to make it as clear to you as I can and I trust it will clarify the matter to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

Cordially,

/s/ Kershner

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Y

November 9, 1951.

Mr. Raymond D. Kershner  
1311 St. Vincent St.  
Philadelphia 11, Pa.

Dear Raymond:

On May 29th of last year I sent you a Confederate Local; namely, a 5c Fincastle, and asked you at that time to let me know whether or not the cancellation was impressed on top of the printed indicia.

You answered me on June 3rd, 1950 as follows:

"Examination by means of the stereoscopic microscope reveals that the cancellation is ON TOP OF THE PRINTED DESIGN. This is confirmed by the enlarged photograph of the cancellation and printed design portion of the cover and by the photo-micrograph of the small portion where the cancellation touches the design. The third-dimension micrograph gives definite visual proof of the fact that the cancellation is on top of the printed design."

I agreed with your findings as I have always considered the Fincastle to be a genuine Confederate Local, but within the past week an eminent philatelist has questioned the use of a stereoscopic microscope photo to reveal the relative positions of the indicia and the cancellation.

I quote a section of his letter:

"Re - the Kershner photographs. Any expert photographer will confirm my statement that these are trick photographs and don't mean a thing. If one stops and uses a little common sense they will realize that it would be impossible to photograph two rather thin inks such as these and be able to show one ink over the other. Trick photographs can be made to show that either one is over the other."

You will see, therefore, that some question has been raised as to the accuracy of the method. I do not wish you to believe that I do not heartily concur with your findings, but I wish you would be kind enough to write me stating the scientific and positive results of your findings.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

EUGENE N. COSTALES

ENC:fk



C  
O  
P  
Y

RAYMOND D. KERSHNER

1311 St. Vincent Street - Philadelphia 11, Pa.

November 10th, 1951

Eugene N. Costales, Esq.,  
99 Nassau Street  
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear Eugene:

Your letter November 9th regarding my examination of the 3c Fincastle and the remark by an eminent philatelist that "any expert photographer will confirm my statement that these are trick photographs and don't mean a thing."

I have never used "trick" photograph or "retouching in any of my photographic examination, whether they were of a philatelic nature or otherwise. This is easy to understand when you realize that the findings I made, one way or the other, mean nothing whatever to me personally as my fees are based on the amount of work involved and I receive my payment whether such findings are beneficial to my client or not. Unlike some lawyers I get paid whether my client wins or loses his point ... therefore, I am entirely neutral in the matter. Furthermore, there are very many expert photographers who could quickly discover any trickery of a photographic nature.

Regarding the third-dimension photographs; what they are, how they are made, and the effect one gets from them. This type of photograph is not something new - it has been used almost from the beginning of photography but is not widely understood because it is done by photographers who have complete mastery of darkroom technique as well as the taking of pictures with a camera. Such pictures are usually used in a pictorial sense or for advertising and was discovered by some unknown distant photographer who played around in the darkroom, experimenting in an effort to get away from the humdrum effect of the flat, non-steroscopic picture. The method in photographic parlance is called "bas-relief" and the effect is obtained by taking a negative and from it making a positive and film positive ~~xxxxxx~~ on film (a photograph is a positive made on paper). The negative and film positive is then placed together so that they are very slightly out of register and the photograph is made from negative and positive rather than from just a negative as is a normal photograph. The out of register effect causes "shadow" lines in the finished photograph which give the appearance of depth or third-dimension.

For example - take two small strips of paper say about 1/4 inch by 1/2 inch long and place one on top of the other to form a cross. Now place a piece of glass on top of the cross to press them tightly together. Carefully illuminate the cross so that the lighting is perfectly even from all four sides. If you will look directly down on the ~~xxx~~ evenly illuminated cross it will be most difficult to tell which piece of paper is on top of the other. Now extinguish the lights on one side and the lights from the other side will immediately cause a shadow from the uppermost paper to fall on the bottom piece, thus enabling you to tell at once which piece is on top of the other. Naturally, ink strokes do not have the thickness of a piece of paper but slight as it is when two ink lines cross there is a difference in height or thickness at this point and the bas-relief technique will artificially exaggerate this thickness to enable one to tell which of two lines is uppermost.

As your eminent philatelist states, "Trick photographs can be made to show that either one is over the other." I would like to have this philatelist have one of his expert photographers, by using the bas-relief process show opposite results than I have given you. This technique, because it is made from the original negative can not show other than what is pictured. In other words, one cannot by this method show in the finished picture an opposite effect; one cannot show a line that is actually on top as



appearing to be underneath. The process is a "trick" one only to the uninitiated in that it shows depth whereas the ordinary photograph is on a flat plane. One might just as well term as a trick the use of a binocular microscope as compared to the ordinary single eyepiece microscope because the binocular microscope shows depth which is not the case when viewing through the single eyepiece microscope as it permits viewing only on a flat plane. Quite some time ago one of the members of the Expert Committee of the Foundation questioned me if it was possible through the use of these third-dimension photographs to actually show an opposite effect and I informed him at that time, as I now state, that such pictures only show a reproduction of the original and that I cannot by twisting and turning and changing the register between the negative and positive, make it appear otherwise.

While the above explanation of the third-dimension photograph has been somewhat long-winded I want to make it as clear to you as I can and I trust it will clarify the matter to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

Cordially,

/s/ Kershner

RIK-k

# SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUES  
ALBUMS AND BOOKS



*Five Eighty Fifth Avenue  
New York 19, N. Y.*

PLAZA 7-4883-4-5

GORDON R. HARMER, *President & Treasurer*

January 17, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

Many thanks for your kind  
letter of the 13th of January.

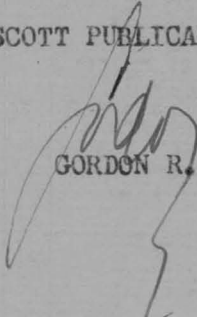
Note what you say as to the  
Fincastle, Va. Confederate cover and while  
Gene Costales is a good friend of mine whose  
opinion I value, he is not in a position to  
say what will or will not be listed by us  
in the Catalogue.

We do not intend to list this  
item and appreciate your writing us on the  
matter.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours sincerely,

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

  
GORDON R. HARMER

GRH:JK

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Thank you for your letter. I had planned to write you the middle of last week when I heard from the Foundation but I wrote eleven other letters I owed at that time. We had the family in for the Christmas season, five from Ottumwa, Iowa, (Aunt & Uncle, Cousin & wife & baby) my sister & her husband from Atchison Kansas, another cousin & wife from Fort Worth Texas and the last cousin, her husband & baby from Miami - They started coming in on 12/18 & did not leave until various dates up to 1/7, then in the meantime I was in New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl game, (I took my brother back to school, he is Pre-Med student at Tulane) The following week two of my friends from Ottumwa dropped in for 3 days, even while they were here one day another couple came in and stayed 3 days so you can see we have really been up to our ears though we enjoy company so much the time really flew by.

The foundation would give no opinion but at least they did not say it was



Counterfeit. I think this is the opinion they should have rendered on the red 10 of Danville for frankly I don't think they know it is a counterfeit.

Larry Shenfield wrote me he was now being consulted by the P. F. and if making the P. F. 100% better, for I also have the greatest confidence in Mr Hall and with both of them they have real students of the Confederacy on the board.

I certainly would not expect Mr Kamei to list it in the Catalogue, in fact I would never submit anything for listing that you did not feel 100% authentic regardless of what other students thought about it for I have that much respect for your judgement.

As I have said before, I purchased this mainly on an ~~misinterpreted~~ opinion you gave which I misinterpreted and for that reason I am perfectly willing to forget the whole thing. If it had been genuine and recognized as such it would have been a bargain, now it is not. Let's just say I paid \$900 for the Austen, it would have been a

bargain at that price. As a matter of fact  
it should be catalogued at not less than  
\$1,000; it is not for sale at any price.

Always enjoy hearing from you, even  
when it "costs" me.

Yours for a healthy new year.

Genev.



March 17, 1952.

Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr.,

P. O. Box 5401,

Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Gene:

In my letter of Jan. 19th, I enclosed a letter which I requested you to return. I never received the letter and if you failed to send it to me, will you please do so.

Sincerely yours,



Jan. 19, 1952.

Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr.,

P. O. Box 5401,

Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Gene:

Please note the enclosed and return to me at your convenience.

One thing is absolutely sure - Without any authentication, Costales had no right to charge you \$500 for that cover and he certainly had no right to state it would be listed unless he had been assured that it would be by Gordon Harmer.

This incident has certainly shaken my confidence to the bone in Costales. In this game there is no half-way stuff - a thing is either right or it is wrong.

Sincerely yours,

MAR 15 1952

Wrote asking for  
Return of above

Jan. 23, 1952.

Mr. Gordon R. Harmer,  
% Scott Publications, Inc.,  
580 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

Thanks very much for yours of the 17th, re - the Confederate  
"Fincastle, Va."

I received a letter from the owner today stating that he submitted the cover to the Expert Committee of the P.F. and that they returned it to him without giving any opinion. That certainly is a policy that they should pursue instead of doing a lot of guess-work and issuing silly certificates signed by a lot of NITWITS.

With regards -

Cordially yours,



David H. Plaine

Bonsacks,

Roanoke Co.,

Virginia



A85



David H. Plaine

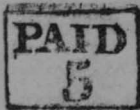
Bensacks

Roanoke Co.

Virginia

A85





Both  
Black

Dr. W. H. Hopt Kins

Marion  
Miss

FACE  
only  
(white)

E. W. Jr  
10/26  
51

A85

Photograph No. 29. Here we have a very **unusual** cover - one that probably originated in Canada - was transmitted thru the United States to London, England. There is a red postmark which ties the Canadian and U. S. stamps but it is not legible other than apparently having an "APR" date in the center thus "APR 1?". Whether this is Canadian or U. S. is not evidenced. The solution of this cover seems to be that the two 3¢ Canadian stamps paid the postage to the U. S. and the pair of 3¢ 1869 paid the U. S. rate of 6¢ to London. The Canadian stamps are the "DULL RED" of 1870, Scott's #36.

Memo By

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

Last month, at Toronto, I showed this cover to Mr. Gerald E. Wellburn, recognized authority on the stamps and postal history of British North America. Mr. Wellburn stated that he was familiar with such a ~~one~~ and that the origin was probably from some town in Western Canada. Whatever the correct explanation, the cover is an exceedingly nice U. S. - Canadian combination and quite an unusual postal history item.



Nov. 4, 1951

Dear Mr. Ashbrook :

Enclosed circle postmark is not Canadian, I am 99% certain.

No marking with a true circle so far is 25mm. unless it is from some of the little known Maritime provinces who had odd things. After 1867 every postmark ordered was 22mm or less if a true circle.

Month dating in 3 letters is uncommon in Canada except a few 1842 30mm wide (NS) design and about 1895 in a few 22 Or 21 mm. full circles.

Red markings from Canada about 1870 era are not common, but can be.

If the original is available it would be interesting (but not conclusive) to see if the circle is under the "cork."

It was no doubt, though, mailed in Canada. I have seen several such usages from Manitoba before the Canada PO took it over--before 1870.

You may have seen frame 244 at CAPEX with the early Manitoba covers, 1853-65 era. Well, I had all that correspondence here two years ago, and several letters had Canada and USA stamps on, mailed at Pembina or St. Paul. Odd that I could tell just where to expect the Canada marking each year, as they were carried to the end of the railway as it approached Windsor, Ont. in 1854.

As to printing from steel or copper plates--I have carefully thought over several theories on this as seen in print, and can't accept any way as being usable.

I have no facilities, but believe in trying "rays" of different kinds to see if copper from the wiping that wears copper so fast might appear in the ink. It might appear just at the edge of the wider lines. In early days, before aniline dyes, prussian blue, black and vermillion were the cheapest inks and most early issues were confined to them or their mixtures, and copper could be recognized -- POSSIBLY -- from the wiping. Steel less tellable, of course.

I find a broad knowledge of postmark designs increasingly valuable, as in Canada they can be separated almost to a year by different groupings. I have found a few fakes, markings used too early. Such are evidently wood cut replicas, supposedly from Europe on Maritime province remainders.

I think etching, or part etching, of early ~~ph~~ dies was more commonly done, than is realized. The Canada 1897 Jubilees were very strongly etched, is my opinion, but I have never tried to prove it by looking up records.

Again--the photo. That is first year the small cents used, and they are rare mint, so the cover is not made-to-order.

Yours sincerely

FRANK W. CAMPBELL FWC  
1132 Pinehurst  
Royal Oak, Michigan

*Frank W. Campbell*

*You may remember Don the dog who wrote on  
Registers and first by remembrance. He is a  
He is a case neighbor and he, wife and his  
mother were helped by the woman in care to*

Oct. 29, 1951.

Mr. Gerald E. Wellburn,  
Deerholme  
Duncan  
British Columbia, Canada.

Dear Mr. Wellburn:

I am enclosing herewith some photo-prints of several covers that I showed to you last month at Toronto.

Regarding the cover with the pair of the Canada 3¢ 1870 and the U.S. pair 3¢ 1869. You will perhaps recall that we were puzzled a bit regarding the small red circular marking. Upon close examination, I found that this was a faint strike of a postmark with a date in the center of "APR 1 ?" - measurement being 24 MM. It is my opinion that this was applied at New York. I believe the explanation of this cover is that it originated in Western Canada - no doubt in British Columbia - was not deposited in any Canadian Post Office but was carried by an Express messenger all the way to New York where it first entered the mail - the black cork cancels being applied there as well as the faint red New York postmark.

I enclose a print of a similar cover - a use in March 1873 - the red New York postmark with a cross at bottom, also measures 24 MM. "Via Olympia" indicates that this originated in British Columbia and was carried "outside of the mail" by a Wells Fargo messenger all the way to New York - possibly "Via Panama" - It is my guess that the rather indistinct marking "For Great Britain and Ireland" was applied by the Express Co.

I will appreciate your comment on the above.

Sincerely yours,



Oct. 29, 1951.

Mr. W. E. D. Halliday,  
420 Lisgar Road,  
Rockcliffe Park,  
Near Ottawa, Ont.  
Canada.

Dear Mr. Halliday:

I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of a letter  
I have today addressed to Mr. Wellburn and with it I am enclosing  
two photo-prints which you are at liberty to retain if you wish.

I assure you that it was a pleasure to meet you personally  
at Toronto.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,



Oct. 29, 1951.

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

Dear Les:

Re - that Canadian/U.S. combination cover - note the enclosed photograph. In the center is a New York foreign postmark - the type used on mail to Great Britain. It measures 24 MM. In both cases, the 6¢ Canadian paid the postage to the U. S. and the 6¢ U. S. paid the rate to England. I suppose the marking at left "For Great Britain etc." was applied by the Express Company. At any rate the two covers make an extremely nice pair, as both are undoubtedly in the same class.

Note the "Via Olympia" on the enclosed. Keep this print - put it with the other one.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

**Brookman Stamp Company***Stamps and Philatelic Supplies*

MEMBER OF:

C. C. N. Y.

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S. P. A.

A. P. S.

121 LOEB ARCADE

FIFTH ST. AND HENNEPIN AVE.

MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINN.

Oct. 30, 1951

Dear Stan:

I had expected to write you about my conclusions regarding the Canadian/U.S. combination cover before this but have been so extremely busy that I could not get my ideas down on paper. Now your letter of the 29th comes along with almost exactly my own conclusions being stated by you.

In the first place, it is certain that the cover originated in Canada for while the 6 cents U.S. would carry the cover to England from the U.S., the 6 cents Canadian would not carry the cover from Canada to England.

The fact that one of the Canadian stamps is not cancelled in any manner makes it almost certain that the cover was carried out of the mails from Canada to the U.S. for the pair almost certainly would have been hit by the Canadian Postal Clerk. The fact that the circular cancel hit the single Canadian and the U.S. stamp was entirely accidental for of course it was not intended as a cancel but as a postal marking--the cancel being the cork killer.

I presume that there is no possible way to tell where the cover originated--it could have been from any place in Canada. The only possible tip on this would be the elapsed time IF the circular marking was applied in Canada which it almost certainly was not. The cover must have been carried across the lines by the sender, or, as is more likely, by Express messenger as you have stated in your letter. This last is actually the only explanation known to me (that makes any sense), which seems to apply. I presume the 6¢ Canadian postage was necessary, from a legal point of view, if the letter was carried by an Express Messenger, just as it was <sup>made</sup> necessary for the Express companies to carry letters mailed by stamped stationery in this country.

The postal rates applying in Canada at the time this letter was mailed made it possible for a Canadian to use this combination postage deal at a savings over his regular rate if he wanted the letter to go by N.Y. Packet. It was almost a cinch that if the letter got into the U.S. that it would go by N.Y. Packet at a total cost of 12¢ against a 15¢ Canadian rate if it was mailed in Canada and routed "Via N.Y. Packet". So maybe these ~~letters~~ combination deals were all mailed by Scotchmen!

Sincere regards,



Many thanks for photo which I'll look with the letter.

Oct. 29, 1951.

Mr. W. S. Boggs,

% The Philatelic Foundation,

22 East 35th St.,

New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

I am enclosing copy of a letter that I have today  
written to Gerald Wellburn - also two photo-prints. Keep these  
if you wish.

Also - a memo re - the abolition of the 15¢ rate.

Any comment?

Yours etc.,



# THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

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

November 9, 1951

Dear Stan:

Thank you for your letter of October 29th enclosing a copy of your letter to Mr. Wellburn. I think you are perfectly correct in your solution of the pair of 3¢ 1869s and the 3¢ dull red, Canadas. The only other thought I had in back of my mind was that some letters came down on the Northwest Territories—now Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba by way of Pembina, North Dakota, and I was thinking of that possible explanation when you showed me the cover.

I would be very pleased to keep the two photo prints for my file and also, I presume, I may keep the extracts from some mimeographed sheets which you sent me.

I did not know that the 15¢ rate was discontinued as early as 1864 and, of course, I am glad to see the official announcement concerning it. You can understand, of course, that when writing the Canada book I had to go to press some time and I put in it what facts I could. There is no doubt that in another few years a revised edition would be desirable but it would be a colossal task.

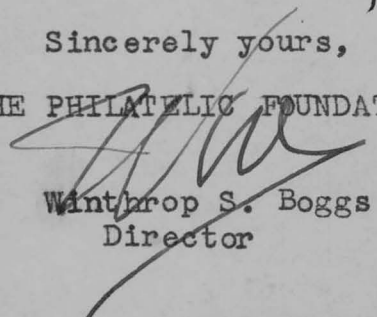
I was very glad to see you again in Toronto and regret that we had so little time to talk things over. The Exhibition was wonderful but the attendance deplorable.

You may recall while talking to you at Toronto that I mentioned that the Knapp Shift had been placed before the Committee for an opinion. Have you any comments you wish to make concerning it now?

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

  
Winthrop S. Boggs  
Director

wsb/1  
encl.

ret. to  
p. k. a.  
Lopez

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

Oct. 29, 1951.

Mr. Gerald E. Wellburn,  
Deerholme  
Duncan  
British Columbia, Canada.

Dear Mr. Wellburn:

I am enclosing herewith some photo-prints of several covers that I showed to you last month at Toronto.

Regarding the cover with the pair of the Canada 3¢ 1870 and the U.S. pair 3¢ 1869. You will perhaps recall that we were puzzled a bit regarding the small red circular marking. Upon close examination, I found that this was a faint strike of a postmark with a date in the center of "APR 1 ?" - measurement being 24 MM. It is my opinion that this was applied at New York. I believe the explanation of this cover is that it originated in Western Canada - no doubt in British Columbia - was not deposited in any Canadian Post Office but was carried by an Express messenger all the way to New York where it first entered the mail - the black cork cancels being applied there as well as the faint red New York postmark.

I enclose a print of a similar cover - a use in March 1873 - the red New York postmark with a cross at bottom, also measures 24 MM. "Via Olympia" indicates that this originated in British Columbia and was carried "outside of the mail" by a Wells Fargo messenger all the way to New York - possibly "Via Panama" - It is my guess that the rather indistinct marking "For Great Britain and Ireland" was applied by the Express Co.

I will appreciate your comment on the above.

Sincerely yours,

*Stanley B. Ashbrook*

Nov. 19, 1951.

Mr. Frank W. Campbell,  
1132 Pinehurst,  
Royal Oak, Mich.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Please pardon the delay in acknowledging receipt of your interesting and welcome letter of the 4th.

Don MacGregor and his wife Leona were very close friends of Mrs. Ashbrook and me and their tragic passing was quite a blow. My good friend Harold Stark, sent me a telegram about the sad affair. What a terrible thing to happen to their daughter Louise - to have both parents taken and in addition a grandmother. Don and I kept in close touch on all subjects relating to our Registration System and sad to relate I received a letter from him the Monday morning of his funeral. It bore a Detroit postmark of the previous Friday of 5 P.M., showing that he mailed it only a few hours before the tragic event. I will miss Don very much. He was a fine chap in every way. Incidentally we saw quite a bit of them at Toronto. The terrible toll on our highways at present almost makes one hesitate to go any place by automobile. The story is the same in this territory as in other sections of the country.

Regarding the photograph that I sent you and which I return in case you wish to retain it. I have ~~no~~ identification the red postmark on the two stamps as that of New York. It is a type that was used on mail to Great Britain in the early eighteen seventies. In my opinion, this cover originated in Western Canada and was transmitted by private carrier - possibly an express messenger - to New York City where it entered the mail for the first time. The Canadian 6¢ paid the rate to the U. S. and the pair of 3¢ 1869 paid the rate to England. Thus in paying the Canadian rate the express company complied with the law to a certain extent, by which I mean that letters carried "outside of the mail" were required to be enclosed in Government stamped envelopes. Did Canada have a similar law? I never investigated such a possibility.

I certainly appreciate your interesting remarks on copper versus steel impressions. Many thanks.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,



6¢ Canada To U.S.  
6¢ U.S. To LONDON

Black  
Cork



White  
Envelope  
Nothing  
on Back



Mr. Achille Vogue  
18 Middleton Square  
London, E. C.  
England.

Red

APR  
1?

Town  
Not  
Legible

29

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



64 Red

*Via Olympia*

*Recd. 31/3/73*

*Messrs. Lindsay & Durham & Biddle  
31 Great Saint Helens*

*Bishopsgate Street  
London  
England*

Black  
Circle  
Cancel

Note  
"VIA OLYMPIA"

↑  
Blue

"FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND ? (IRELAND?)

White  
Envelope  
Nothing On Back



A85

Copy

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

Oct. 25, 1951.

Mr. Bernard D. Harmer,  
1/2 H. R. Harmer & Co., Inc.,  
32 East 57th St.,  
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Harmer:

I am enclosing the 90¢ 1861 cover herewith as per yours of the 22nd. I have no recollection whatsoever that I ever questioned this cover, in fact, I do not note a thing about the cover that is questionable. Yes, this cover was in the Knapp First Sale, and was Lot 2873. I sent for the cover at that time and photographed it and there is no memo in my files that I questioned it in the slightest degree. I am aware that it was withdrawn from the Knapp sale but I am sure that I had nothing to do with that action by Souren.

The following is an exchange of correspondence that I had with Y. Souren in 1943:

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

While I was going through some old things the other day, I ran across the enclosed cover with a 90¢ 1861 which was Lot #2873 in the first Knapp sale. When Mr. Behr returned from showing the lots at that time, he had made the notation that you suggested that the cover should be withdrawn from the sale as it was not what it should be. I recall that he gave me some notations made at the time you saw the cover, but I can't find them, and I'd appreciate it, if you would look over the cover again and write me why you condemned it. Take your time about it, I am in no hurry. I enclose a stamped envelope for its return, when you have the time.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Y. Souren"

My reply to the above was as follows:

#2.

Mr. Bernard D. Harmer, Oct. 25, 1951.

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

July 19, 1943.

Dear Mr. Souren:

Yours of the 16th received. I am returning herewith the 90¢ cover to China. I have no recollection of finding any fault with the enclosed cover when Teddy was here with the Knapp sale in April 1941, nor have I any memo in my catalogue that I had any doubt about the cover at that time. After examining the cover carefully, I fail to see where I might have found something suspicious. However, I am not doubting Teddy's word in the least and if he says that I didn't like the cover, then it is quite possible he is right.

I note the cover was withdrawn from the sale but I can hardly imagine that it was withdrawn simply because I might have expressed some suspicion of it.

While the postmark is not legible I judge it is the red foreign mail marking of Philadelphia. The grids confirm this.

The use was May 1863 and the rate to Shanghai at this time, by British Mail, Via Southampton, was 45¢ per half ounce. The large penciled '2' in lower right shows the letter was over  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce, hence a double rate of 90¢. It was carried to England Via American Packet, (doubtless by 'The City of Manchester' of the Inman Line - from N.Y. on May 9, 1863). On such a letter the U.S. P.O.D. would be entitled to 2 x 21¢ (16¢ sea plus 5¢ internal) and the British 2 x 24¢, total 90¢.

The latter credit of 48¢ to the British is in red ink above the double rate credit '2.' Thus everything seems to be in order so far as I can see and I can't imagine why I would have found any fault with the cover back in 1941.

My present opinion is that the cover is perfectly genuine. If you disagree I will welcome your comment.

If Teddy's statement is correct perhaps he can recall why I questioned the cover.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,"

Signed STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

Inasmuch as I have no copy of any reply to the above letter it is possible that the matter was dropped.

I believe that this cover is perfectly genuine and I have signed it on the back as such. My fee for the above is \$5.00 plus return postage.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

Copy to  
Ezra D. Cole.





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

---

Dear Stan:

10/29/51

I would appreciate your opinion of the enclosed 30<sup>th</sup> 1860 corr. which I just bought at the Paddy sale for \$47.00. It appears repaired to me at the bottom and there is a red "O" on the lower left corner of the stamp which I can't associate with the other red prints.

Best regards      Sincerely

P.S. Have you any use for a bunch of 1847 Photos? Dan.

Oct. 31, 1951.

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

Dear Dan:

Nice to hear from you and I trust that you are okay in every way and that everything is fine.

I had a nice little session at Toronto - several cocktails with Leland Powers and I requested him to give you my best regards. Quite a fine chap in my opinion, especially around a table in a bar after the sun has gone down.

Herewith the 30¢ 1860 cover. I examined it carefully under my binocular microscope and I failed to detect any repair work at the bottom - In fact, I think the stamp was used originally on this cover and the cover is perfectly okay - There might have been a crease thru the upper right portion of the stamp and someone probably ironed it out. The top right corner of the stamp is a bit damaged due to the crease and a perf is missing. This is fairly good evidence that the stamp was used as we see it. The rate is correct and the New York postmark with the "24" credit is correct. This shows that the letter was over  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce but not over  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce and that it was carried across the Atlantic to England by a Cunard Mail Ship. Confirmation of this is by the French postmark which has the "Serv Br" - In other words, "From the U.S. to England by British Packet" - also by the "Per Steamer Canada." Further, sailings by the Cunard ships in 1860 were on alternate Wednesdays from Boston and New York. The records show that the Canada sailed from Boston with the mail on Wednesday, Sept. 19, 1860. This letter was posted at New York the day before and was sent to Boston to catch the sailing of the Canada the next day. One more point - New York used a ringless grid on foreign mail at this particular period, though the one on this cover seems unusually large - Everything considered, I think the cover is okay.

Yes Dan, I would love to have anything in the way of photographs of the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847, and I would love to be able to photograph all the positions on the 10¢ plate. Is there no way that you could persuade Sweet to let me do this?

My best of wishes to you.

Cordially yours,

per Kramer Co



Mlle Thérèse  
au Comte de Mep. Van den Broek  
Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin 60  
France 65 Paris



By D.F. Kelleher for Opinion - 10/31-1951 - FROM POLLITZ Sale - Boston  
10/27-1951 - Lot 21 - Sold @ \$47<sup>00</sup> - See Jorvat Book 22 p. 5.

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.  
1616 Walnut Street  
PHILADELPHIA 3, PA.

August 27, 1951

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.  
391 Strand  
London, W.C.2., England.

Gentlemen,

May I take this opportunity of calling your attention to Scott's new Volume I catalogue published by Gordon Harmer, which has just been distributed. I especially would like to have you note the listing of stamps #55 - #62 which, unfortunately, you omitted from recent copies of your publication. These stamps were issued by the Government at the outbreak of the War between the States and I produced documents from Washington to show that they were prepared and most of them were distributed to the foreign Governments to show them the type of stamps that would be acceptable in payment of U. S. postage. These stamps have even a better standing than many of the early British Colonial perf. 12 1/2 varieties which you have listed and which never left London. Dozens of other stamps could be pointed out in your catalogues of a similar type. This 1861 first design is worthy of listing as a separate issue and I sincerely trust that your new publication when it appears a year or two hence will show this change. Students of these stamps have accepted them for years and Clark only made the change because he was not friendly with a certain dealer who had sold them and was greatly influenced by a dealer in proofs and a student of other issues who knew little about the 1861 series.

Mr. Harmer has only made this change after due consideration of all facts. Will you be so good as to look into the matter seriously and give it further consideration? I believe your own Sir Nicholas Waterhouse, possibly the greatest student of our issues among the English collectors, will feel somewhat the same way.

Sincerely yours

(signed) PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

P.S. Have sent copy to Sir Nicholas.

Copy sent to Cole

" Krug (returned)

" Jessup



PHILIP H. WARD, JR.  
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PHILADELPHIA 3, PA.

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Sincerely yours

(signed) PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

P.S. Have sent copy to Sir Nicholas.



Oct. 31, 1951.

Mr. Harry L. Lindquist,  
153 Waverly Place,  
New York 14, N.Y.

Dear Harry:

This is very confidential. Phil Ward has been moving heaven and earth to get Phillips of Gibbons to again list the Premieres in the Gibbons catalogue. Here is a copy of a letter that he wrote to Phillips last August. This was sent to me from a London man and Phil is unaware that I am being kept informed regarding his "crusade." He has addressed letters to a number of London dealers (so I am informed) urging them to use their influence in having Phillips re-instate the Premieres in the Gibbons catalogue - He has written several letters to Waterhouse, but I am informed that Sir Nicholas does not agree that the labels should be listed. I also understand that he is in hearty agreement with my published articles on the bits of paper. However, this is not first-hand and I should not quote him in any way.

There is no doubt in my mind that Phil was responsible for the action taken by Gordon Harmer in re-pricing the Premieres in the 1952 catalogue. I intend to wait until the 1952 S;U.S. is published then I intend to publish an article deploring the effort being made to re-establish these "sample labels" and the mistake that Gordon made in the 1925 catalogues.

Please note Phil's reference to Hugh Clark - to Colson - to Brazer and also to me - the "student" who has little knowledge of the 1861 issue. Well perhaps he is right but I doubt it. I keep on friendly terms with Phil but I have his number. I doubt if he would hesitate to double-cross anyone not even his own flesh and blood - if there was a few dollars involved.

Gordon should be told that he is very foolish to permit Ward and Colson to make a sucker out of him.

Regards.

Yours etc.,



*H. L. LINDQUIST*  
**PUBLICATIONS**

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

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

November 2, 1951

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

Dear Stan:

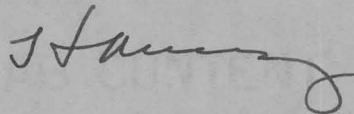
The effort that Ward is making to have the 1861 August issues reinstated in Gibbons, is indeed interesting.

You are fortunate in having friends who keep you informed of this crusade, but I can't see how it would be effective, for aside from the merits of the case, it doesn't seem to me that a controversial issue of this kind has any place in any catalog issued in England.

I don't see Gordon very often these days, but some time when we get together I'll bring the matter up and see if he has any comments to make on what influence was brought to bear. He has never been too close to Ward, but of course, he is also influenced by the financial end of the business, and may have been sold a bill of goods.

If I get any information I'll pass it right on to you.

Sincerely yours,



HLL/G

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

November 26, 1951

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

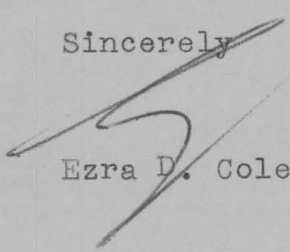
Dear Stan:

Thanks for sending me the copy of Ward's letter, which I am returning, and I think it is a good letter. Even though he may not like it, this is all you can do and you certainly are serving him fair warning and not going into personalities, even in this letter, which is of course private. If, as you say, he continues to dig at you in print, your only recourse is to do likewise.

Did you send him the photograph of the little cover of the 1847 re-issues I sent you? That might disturb him a little bit.

Don't forget to write me about anything in the Kelleher sale. I expect prices will be high enough.

Sincerely



Ezra D. Cole

EDC:hk

Enc.

C  
O  
P  
Y

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.  
1616 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia 3

November 20, 1951

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

Dear Stan:

I have your letter of the 18th and note that you are going on a further campaign in regards to the August issue. Of course, this is your privilege but I cannot possibly see what you are driving at. You have had your say the way the rest of us had and people know the way you think. What is the object of a rehash of the old story? I read your notes in this month's "Service" and you are telling us nothing but what you have told us months before. I think you are unfair in not reproducing the letter of Montgomery Blair in which he ordered "stamps" and not proofs or essays. You know you were wrong on the steel plates of 1847 and you can be wrong in this case. I hate to see you publish a further article in a stamp journal or booklet for if you do I will simply have to come out and call attention to when you had been wrong before and that you are wrong again. You will find something published within the next year that is going to surprise you.

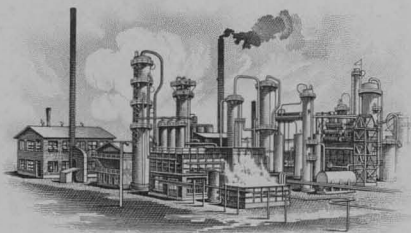
If you come out with a nasty dig and mention my name I am coming out in the same manner, which I certainly dislike to do. The issue was definitely ordered by the Postmaster General and were distributed. You say they were not used for postage. How about the ~~ix~~ reissues of 1847 and 1851 which were definitely not used for postage? In fact, it was distinctly stated at the time that they were not good for postage. There are dozens of British Colonies that have been listed for years and they never left Great Britain although they are recognized by specialists throughout. You certainly seem to be going out of your way and don't let the August issue affect you the way the Needham collection affected Perry and the Grinnell stamps affected John Klemann.

I note your remarks that we can go through with this difference of opinion without marring our friendship in the slightest degree. I sincerely trust this is so but if you come out in print and lambaste me and I come out and answer your letter and lambaste you, I cannot see how this is going to make either of us enthusiastic. I had thought you were through and g regret to find this is not the case.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) PHILIP H. WARD, JR.





PHONE 125  
**CRYSTAL** Refining Company OF CARSON CITY  
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

~~CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN~~

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

Ionia, Michigan.  
October 29, 1951.

Dear Stan:

Thanks for yours of the 17th and pardon delay in replying - Rene and I have been hunting and she is still up in the northern part of the state. I have to be in Chicago the latter half of this week and first of next at the annual API (American Petroleum Institute) Convention and I note the Philatelic Congress is also in session the last of this week so will drop in on it too.

Re the vertical strip of three I sent you - I have in mind sending this on to Mort Neinken for his opinion - he is awfully good on plating, you know. What I can't figure out is WHY what you and I think is position 211LE (the top stamp in strip) has position dot in a different place than the same dot is located on 211LL? Can you figure this out, Stan? Maybe Mort can help.

Have your note about my extra set of the One cent Vol's I and II which I bought from the Newbury Estate at \$20.00 when Lindquist offered them for sale. What I would prefer to do is to send you my old original set at say \$15.00 and keep the new set for my own use. My Vol I is sort of used looking but Vol II is almost like new and in the DeLuxe edition. Would this be OK, Stan? Let me know which you prefer and will send them along, but would prefer to keep the new set myself.

Molesworth sent me a batch of covers which arrived today. Am enclosing five that I am primarily interested in. Please look them over and tell me which of these I ought to keep, and those I ought to pass up. Please mention especially the "Payen" cover with the vertical pair of the 30¢ 1860 - is this a good item to acquire or has it been monkeyed with too much? The cover with the hor pair of the 10¢ green Type II and the single 1¢ Type II imperf intrigues me - I am "almost" sure this 1¢ is from Plate Three - what do you think? Note the series of dots in upper right corner - the scratches plainly showing in the "ON" of "ONE". I know you will want to look this over and perhaps you can plate it - seems to be a "B" Relief and has tiny scratches across whole bottom of stamp. Should I take this item? It sort of appeals to me provided it is a Plate Three stamp and can be plated. If so and you agree on it being Plate Three, please sign it for me as such and will reimburse you for same, Stan.

Regards. (In case you get to Chicago, I will be at Stevens Hotel from Thursday night on of this week and through till Monday).

Sincerely,

JGF/k  
Enc:REG:

J. G. Fleckenstein.

Oct. 31, 1951.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the five (5) covers as per yours of the 29th. Here are some comments:

30¢ 1860 - Vertical pair on cover - A vertical on cover of this stamp is a very rare item. This is a center line pair from the left pane and it has been reperfed, but I feel certain it originated on this cover. At a price of \$100 I think this cover is a good purchase.

24¢ 1860 - to Dublin - stamp has been reperfed. I would rather pay more - say \$85 to \$100 for a fine cover with this stamp.

Two 12¢ 1857 - to England - These stamps are from Plate 3 and they are fine examples of stamps from that plate. Stamp to left is a nice double line variety. I think this cover is worth the price of \$30.00.

21¢ rate to France - in 1856 - The pair of 10¢ is a little close at left but this is a nice cover - probably worth \$45.00.

6¢ 1869 cover - The Stevens marking is not scarce - the 6¢ stamp is not fine - cover, therefore, is overpriced @ \$17.50.

I regret to state that I will not be able to get up to Chicago this week-end for the Congress and this in spite of the fact I have a paper on the 90¢ 1860.

Yes Jack, why not send the Plate One Early vertical to Mort - Don't tell him that I saw it or that we suspect it to be 21LLE. Don't give Mort any information, not even that you think it is a Plate One Early - Let him struggle with it and see what he can do. While in Chicago why not look up Mike - Ask him to loan you any multiples that he has with 21LLE - Tell him you want to borrow any he has and have me photograph - Go right after him and insist he grant this favor to you. No reason why he shouldn't - Tell him you will go down to the safe deposit box - Also tell him you would like to borrow his Plate One Early and have me photograph each position. See what you can do.

Okay Jack - send me your old set of my One Cent book and keep the new. I will be glad to pay you \$15 for them. It will help me.

Again re - the Molesworth 21¢ rate to France - The 1¢ 1851 single is 29R2 - not a Plate 3 stamp. In my volume 2 I wrote quite a bit of data on the 21¢ rate to France - Look it up in foreign rates. Harold will tell you a nice cover like this is not common.



#2. Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein - Oct. 31, 1951.

I am sending a copy of this letter to you in care of the  
Stevens - Chicago.

Best of regards.

Cordially yours,



apn<sup>4</sup>



The Royal Park of Ireland  
Dublin  
Ireland



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A 88



Per Steam Ship

34-85 R+



Ans

MAI 1888  
A. SAINT-PIERRE

LA  
Comptroller  
34-35 R.I.

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Département du gers



Plate 2 - 2982  
Shift

57146



A 88

P13  
Double  
Frame  
Line →



Black  
Grid

Mary E Pleasant  
care of Mrs. Peacock  
Burlington Quay  
25  
England

Red

1861

By Jack Molesworth @ 30.00  
To Fleckenstein 10/31 51

A88



*Seamless Paper*



Black  
Grid

Center Line  
PAIR - Reported

*M. Laisien & Cie*  
*Petite rue de Semblan*  
*Lyon*

Red

Red

By Molesworth  
To Fleckenstein  
Price \$100.00  
10/31-51



1861

*France*

A 68

Oct. 17, 1951.

Mr. Carl Pelander,  
545 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Carl:

Re - your sale of Nov. 2nd-3rd next, I would like to see  
the following lots:

Nos. 5, 14, 46, 86, 276 and 277.

I will return without any delay.

My kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Received Lots 5

14

46

276

277

OCT 24 1951

Returned

OCT 24 1951



Carl E. Pelander

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

U. S. AND SCANDINAVIA OUR SPECIALTY

545 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 17  
TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 2-2545

October 19, 1951

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

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 17.

I am sorry to inform you that Lots 5, 14, 46, 276 and 277  
are out on inspection at the present time.

I am enclosing lot #86 for your inspection. The insurance  
value is \$35.00.

If the time element warrants it, we will be glad to send  
the remaining lots to you on their return.

Thank you for this opportunity of serving you.

Very truly yours,

THIS SHIPMENT IS INSURED BY  
ST. PAUL FIRE & MARINE INS. CO.

CARL E. PELANDER

By B. E. Libera

Postage & ~~Fee~~ .09

Oct. 20, 1951.

Mr. Carl E. Pelander,  
545 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Carl:

Herewith Lot 86 in your sale of Nov. 2-3 next. Thanks very much.

I am very suspicious of this cover and perhaps it would be best to offer it as is. I am not aware that New York ever used a grid such as is on the revenue stamp, but I have seen covers that I am sure are fraudulent with this same type of encircled grid.

Examine the black ink of the New York postmark with that of the grid - Do they seem the same to you? I am asking - not suggesting as I had little time to examine this cover carefully.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Oct. 29, 1951.

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

Dear Edgar:

Note this photo-print and copy of letter to Maurice  
C. Blake.

Again we run into the faked encircled grid and this  
time the fake is very, very clever. Any comment?

Yours etc.,



Nov. 6, 1951.

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

Dear Edgar:

Re - yours of the 4th and the cover to France with the encircled grid. I really don't know what actually happened but I feel sure that the cover is a fake. No, I would not state that the grid was painted but rather that it was handstamped. I have no example of this particular New York postmark, so I don't know whether it is good or bad - nothing for comparison - but it looks bad to me.

I wrote Pelander before the sale that I had my suspicion of this cover but he never even acknowledged receipt of my letter. The majority of dealers do not want to be told that items in their sales are bad, preferring to shut their eyes and let the buyers get gyped. Damn little honesty among the shole bunch.

I think the grid is a fake stamper used by some French faker and I can imagine no better candidate than M. Zareski. Yes, the one on Bill's cover was in red and a fake - no doubt about that. I think this strike came from the same one used on Bill's cover. The New York and the grid are both in black as they should be if the rate was "short paid." My lamp failed to disclose any pen removed marks on the 10¢.

Yes, the S.F. and Oakland are genuine beyond any question of a doubt but in my opinion some faker copied the S.F.

It is strange that I cannot locate a 10¢ rate from the west coast to Canada in 1864 - 1865 - 1866 or 1867. I may be wrong but my impression is that B.N.A. "experts" know their stamps but very little about their postal history - rates and covers.

Re - the 1861 Premieres. Our friend Phil Ward has been carrying on quite a campaign for several years past to get the Premieres re-established in the catalogues. You have probably noticed that he persuaded Gordon to price them in the 1952 Scott. Last year he had Gordon delete a part of the note that heads the listing. For months he has been writing Phillips, the Editor of Gibbons trying to persuade him to again list them in the Gibbons U.S. catalogue. I am enclosing a copy of a letter that he wrote Phillips - Please keep this strictly confidential. What do you think of it?

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Oct. 29, 1951.

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

Dear Maurice;

Here is a cover in Pelander's sale for next Nov. 2, Lot 86.

In my opinion, the revenue stamp did not originate but the 10¢ was used by itself. The faker applied the revenue stamp and the fake encircled grid. The New York postmark is in black, hence the "12" was a debit on a short-paid (10¢) letter.

I will value your comment.

Sincerely yours,



11 Mason Street  
Brookline 46, Mass.

November 2, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

33 N. Fort Thomas Avenue

Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

The Pelander Sale 11/2/1951 Lot 86 is a puzzler so far as your photo (herewith returned) reveals.

The 11-bar grid in black suggests the grid in red on 1869 stamps with Boston postmark of 1860-1865 in Costales Sale. Is it the same grid stamper ?

Debit 12 would seem to imply an unpaid (taken as such) letter of  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1oz. via Br. Pkt. to France. Front of cover in photo shows no decimes. Were they erased or did Britain take care of the U.S. debit ? Lack of any trans-channel marking on face suggests the letter went direct, but if so, how and why debit 12 ?

What postal markings appear on reverse ?

Sincerely yours,

*Wm. C. Blake*



Nov. 9, 1951.

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

Dear Maurice:

Re - the cover, Pelander sale, with 5¢ revenue stamp and the fake encircled grid. Yes, this grid seemed to be from the same stamper that made the 1869 Boston cover and the former West cover with the 5¢ 1861 buff and 10¢ 1861. I really don't know what happened to the Pelander cover but I suspect that both markings are fraudulent. I have no record of a New York marking with "12" at the top like this strike, so find it impossible to make a comparison.

If this cover was genuine and of the 10¢ 1861 period, it would have been transmitted in the regular channels and would have been rated accordingly. Such a N.Y. marking as this, and applied in black would have meant a rate of not over  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce - 15¢ U.S. Due - (8 Decimes), by American Packet direct to France with a debit of 12¢. Thus, if this revenue stamp originated on the cover and was not recognized at New York, then the letter could have been rated as entirely unpaid with 15¢ or "8" decimes due in France. But there is no "8" decimes due marking, nor any transit markings. Further, New York should have marked it, "SHORT PAID."

The whole thing looks to me like something that Zareski might have made - He is an expert in artistic work and in many cases he(?) endeavors to imitate an original.

Note my tracing of the New York postmark and the position of the "12." It is not in the top center, but to the right. I do not recall any such a "queer" looking marking as this.

There is no denying the fact that if the 5¢ stamp was intended to make up a 15¢ rate and it was not recognized, and if the letter went by direct steamer, (American Packet) to France - our share of the rate would have been 12¢.

I return the prints. Keep them if you wish.

With regards.

Sincerely yours,

BLACK

18 MM



ON 5d  
Revenue  
Inland Exchge



31mm

Black



ROUX & SIMIAN

MARSEILLE

*Monsieur Honoré Court de Payer*



*Marseille*



B47

Paris, October 30th. 1951.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

These two puzzling letters, photoprints enclosed.

a) from Philadelphia to Germany - (belonging to a good friend of mine). I understand this letter as follow: the sender wanted to forward this letter by American Packet via England, as wited a top, cost 21 cts. (overpaid of 3 cts) - The New York P.O. did not see the stamps at back and charged the letter as unpaid by the other way the Prussian closed Mail - 30 cts manuscript and 23 cts. credit in the marking. When in Aachen, the german P.O. was seeing the stamps and probably charged the letter as unpaid - 13 manuscript. But what means 83 at the back?

b) way 6 on 3 cts 1851. - o.B first shade. (just secured from Dr. Pollard).

1) I believe the 6 way marking was used only by P.O. clerks? In this case by the Lynchburg, Va - P.O. But why use this marking? It is only a killer without any meaning or a 5 cts + 1 ct. carrier due to pay? Way 6 is in blue. I think the 3 cts stamp was regular rate, and if a carrier fee was to pay, it was only of one cent and not of six.

2). the letter was carried out of the mail, probably by a Steamboat mail line on the James River. I do not believe the carrier was the same Canal Boat Eagle, as wited on the bill of lading? I never know anything about canal boats with slow horses used as Mail Boats? But if the 27 Oct. 1851 marking on the front of the cover is the arrival date, the journey of six days was really very slow and perhaps the Eagle canal boat was also mail carrier? What do you think? This Way 6 cancelling a 1851's stamp seems very rare, I did not find any literature about this use.

Faithfully yours.

Marcel Levy

Nov. 3, 1951.

Mr. Marcel Levy,

8 rue Lagarde,

Paris, France.

Dear Mr. Levy:

I am in receipt of yours of the 30th with the four photo-prints, which I will hold pending further discussion of these two items. The cover to Germany was prepaid 24¢ and apparently no other payment was made, hence the letter was "SHORT PAID" and consequently was rated as entirely unpaid. "Per Steamer via England" meant "Via Prussian Closed Mail," and the rate on such mail in the 1850's was 30¢. The New York postmark with "23" is in black, hence is a debit to the Prussian Post Office Department rather than a credit. Debits were black, credits were red. The "BLOODS" stamp and marking indicates the letter was dropped in one of Blood's letter-boxes in Philadelphia to be carried to the Post Office for mailing. If you have my "Service Report" No. 6, dated Sept. 20th, please note photo-print No. 22. This shows a short-paid letter of 3¢ and rated as entirely unpaid. No part payments were permitted under the Treaty - It was a case of all or none. The "13" is a German marking. Re - the "83" on the back. I do not know the meaning of this but I doubt if it had any postal significance.

Regarding the 3¢ 1851 cover. I have a memo of this identical cover in my files and a description of it. It was submitted to me by a dealer in 1944 at a price of \$25.00. I have this marking listed in my files as being applied at Richmond, Va. It was used back in the 1845-1851 period on stampless mail - also in the 1851-1855 period on unpaid stampless mail. Examples are known both on and off cover and applied in both blue (as on your cover), and black. There is no evidence that the 3¢ stamp on your cover was used originally on the cover but I believe that it was, and the "Way 6" had no significance other than a cancelation. Your analysis was quite correct, viz., "only a killer without any meaning." There was a similar cover in the West Sale, (Apr. 26, 1943) - Lot 569 - Sale price \$34.00 - this a 3¢ '51 orange brown on a bill of lading addressed to Richmond. One can take their choice as to where the marking was applied - at Richmond? At Lynchburg? Or by a Route Agent? I doubt if any postal student knows the correct answer. It is my recollection that I had never seen an example of this marking when my One Cent Book was published in 1938.

The "James River Canal" extended from Richmond to Lynchburg, VA. - a distance of 147 miles and it appears that this cover, which was a Bill of Lading did accompany the shipment of goods. It seems doubtful that it passed through the Post Offices of Richmond or Lynchburg, hence it seems possible that the stamp might have been canceled by an Agent of the Post Office. I intend to make further investigation and will advise you.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Nov. 5, 1951.

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

Dear Doctor:

My good friend over in Paris, Marcel Levy, sent me the photos of a 3¢ 1851 O.B. cover that you sold him recently - This was a B/L from Richmond to Lynchburg, Va. and the stamp was canceled with a blue encircled "WAY 6". I recognized the cover as one that a dealer submitted to me in 1944. I had this marking listed as applied at Richmond but the B/L indicates that it was probably applied at Lynchburg. I suppose this item was carried outside the mail and by canal boat - In fact, was never in a U. S. P.O. or in the U.S. Mail. I suppose the "Way" 6" was applied by a P.O. Agent at Lynchburg. Would that be your guess? I never knew there was a canal between Richmond and Lynchburg but I found that there was one between the two cities and its length was 116 miles. I was under the impression that letters or B/L relating to cargo were not subject to postage. I have a record of a similar item - a 3¢ 1851.

Lot 569 in the West sale was a 3¢ '51 O.B. with this same marking in black but it was also not tied - This was a B/L to Richmond.

It seems odd that the stamps were not tied on the two covers. Back in the Chase Sale in 1925 there was a single O.B. with this same marking in black.

What bothers me is that letters relating to cargo did not require payments of postage when carried out of the mail and second, the stamps on both covers were not tied. I am not suggesting anything but I couldn't help but wonder.

If you have any comment it will be most welcome.

With Best Wishes

Cordially yours,

Nov. 10, 1951.

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

Dear Doctor:

Thanks for the photo-prints of the Canal Boat cover.

I agree that the date on face is no doubt the arrival date and indicated that the Canal Boat Eagle was approximately 6 days enroute, which would be about 19 miles a day. That seems awfully slow progress to me but perhaps they only traveled in daylight.

No, I don't think this B/L was sent by a special agent but rather that it accompanied the shipment and that the Master of the Boat had to comply with P.O. Regulations. Doubtless the same regulations applied to canal boats as to any other water vessels - viz - that any mail carried by the vessel had to be handed over to an agent of the P.O. Dept. before the vessel was permitted to "break bulk." Please note the following:

P.O. Regulations - 1852 Edition - P.L. & R. - Page 40 - Sec. 159 -  
"All letters conveyed by steamboats, packets, or other vessels, relating to the cargo, must be left unsealed; and if sealed, must be delivered into the post office and charged with postage; but if upon being opened in the presence of the postmaster, and found to relate to the cargo, the postage may be remitted. The law relating to this subject is often violated. Postmasters will use diligence to correct the evil, and prosecute for the penalty, in every case where they can obtain testimony." (end)

I believe that quite a bit of comment on canal boat mail has appeared in the past in print but the material was never of much interest to me. I suppose mail was carried by canal boats for short distances or in remote sections but their progress was so much slower than a mail coach that I doubted if any but some local mail was carried by the boats which were after all, intended for slow freight.

I may use this cover as a subject in my next Service issue. If you have any objection please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M. D.  
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M. D.  
HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M. D.  
ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M. D.  
GRACE DICKSON KLEISER, M. D.

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE SAN RAFAEL 6120

11-7-51

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

I have your good letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> concerning the May 6 on B/L from Richmond to Lynchburg. It is interesting that I wrote Mr Lury last night in which I stated that I thought the marking was applied either by a special agent of the Richmond P.O. or Lynchburg P.O., probably the latter, and that there was nothing on this item to indicate that it ever entered a postoffice.

This stamp is tied by the manuscript 27 Oct. 1851 which is part of a notation concerning date of arrival etc. If this item was faked, I doubt if the faker would use the crude manuscript notation to tie the stamp. Bill Hicks owned this item and he considered it a real show piece, but it did not fit into his collection; so he was willing to sell it. I showed it to Jessup and I think he would have bought it, if I had offered it to him. Is there any chance that a B/L would be sent by a special agent



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

in advance of the very slow canal boat, and  
that in that case it would require regular  
postage.

I must confess that I had a very good  
impression of the stem, and I am enclosing  
photographs for your records, if you do  
not already have them. I knew about  
the West cover. Moody lot #196 shows this  
same state in an O.B. off cover, but it does  
not tell the color. Any further information  
you obtain would be greatly appreciated by me.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,  
W. Scott Polland.



27 Feb 1859  
M. Daniel Lee  
Seynchburg

face of the letter  
sheet





## REGULAR LINE LEAVING TWICE A WEEK.

A. S. LEE, Agent and Proprietor.

ALFRED S. LEE,

Grocer and Commission Merchant,  
RICHMOND, VA.

Received, Richmond, 21 Oct 1851

of Alfred S. Lee, in good order and well con-  
firmed, on board the Canal Boat Eagle

Cute Keweenaw

✓ 8 Boxes 913

1 Box 501 55

5 Boxes 1336

4 Bags Coffee

2045

Charges \$19 64

1000 Lard

✓ 1 Bales 944

✓ 1 B. L. B. 33

✓ 1 Hvy 145

✓ 14 Boxes 2310

✓ 14 Bags Coffee 2410

10442

Charges \$42 83

Sam Doty 125

✓ 2 B. L. Molasses

1024

## CHARGES.

Freight and Wharfage.

Drayage.

Postage.

Commission.

Tolls.

marked as per margin, which I bind myself to deliver  
in like good order, with all possible dispatch to

M. L. Lee

in Lynchburg, Va. paying freight on the same  
at 10¢ per 100 lbs.

Sign of Wilkinson

Charges above 1964  
4288Charges 11 M. L. Lee  
249

43

back of the letter  
sheet

black  
↓



red  
↓



88

blue  
↑





Blue ink

black ink

per steamer via England

30

Blue →



Monsieur H. Förster

Castianstraße

Berlin



Black

nicht an den Brief

Germany

Blood's 15L13



# REGULAR LINE LEAVING TWICE A WEEK

A. S. LEE, Agent and Proprietor.

ALFRED. S. LEE,

Grocer and Commission Merchant,

RICHMOND, VA.

Received, Richmond, 21 Oct 185

of Alfred S. Lee, in good order and well con  
ditioned, on board the Canal Boat Eagle

Cute Hecouch

✓ 8 Boxes 913  
1 Pkg 115  
5 Hags 1136  
11 B 114

Oct. 11 1854

62





M. Daniel Lee  
Seynchburg

27 Oct 1857

62

# TOP

BOLSEY PORTABLE MICROFILMER



## REGULAR LINE LEAVING TWICE A WEEK.

A. S. LEE, Agent and Proprietor.

ALFRED S. LEE,

Grocer and Commission Merchant,  
RICHMOND, VA.

Received, Richmond, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, 1881

of Alfred S. Lee, in good order, and well warranted, on board the Canal Boat Eagle,

Ante Receipt

8 Days 913

1<sup>st</sup> 1/2 doz 55

5 Days 1136

Charges \$19 1/4

11 Days Coffee

2065

1000 Pines

6 Dated 944

1 Bbl. B. B. 33

11 Days 1145

Charges \$42

83 1/2 1/2 doz 2310

11 Days Coffee 2410

6042

Pam. B. B. 188

2 Bbl. Molasses

1026

### CHARGES.

Freight and Wharfage.

Drayage.

Boatage.

Commission.

Duties.

Charges above 1964

1288

Charges to M. S. Lee 249

marked as per margin, which I lend myself to deliver

in the good order, with all possible dispatch to

M. S. Lee

in Lynchburg, Virginia, paying freight on the same

2 1/2 per 100 lbs.

Wm. S. Lee

62



Photo Prints By Dr Pollard Sent S.B.A. By M. Levy OF PARIS France  
Nov 2 1951 . See Scrap Book 22 - P. 9. Also See File  
WAY - LYNCH BURR Va.

**SHERMAN E. ROGERS**

*Classic Stamps and Covers*

511 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 7-8968

November 13, 1951

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

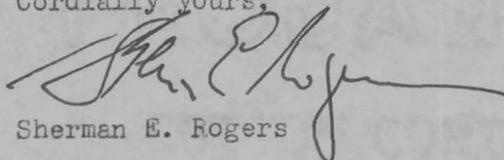
Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

I understand that you have been recording items of Zareski manufacture. The enclosed looks like one of his products and I thought you might like to see it just for the record.

It was purchased from a "reputable" auction house here in New York to whom it will be returned after you have completed your examination.

Jack Fleckenstein, by the way, a great friend of mine, thinks very highly of you.

Cordially yours,



Sherman E. Rogers

SER:KR

Nov. 15, 1951

Mr. Sherman E. Rogers,  
511 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending the enclosed cover to me. I thoroughly agree that this does look like the work attributed to Zareski, because there is no question but what he does turn out some very clever work. This cover, while it contradicts itself, is rather clever. What do you think really happened? What was the item originally? I would like to see if our ideas agree. I did not examine the stamp under my lamp but it appears to have been cleaned.

Thanks also for your reference to Jack Fleckenstein. Jack is a great chap and I count him as one of my closest of friends.

Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Here is a photograph of a cover sent to me by a N. Y. dealer. You may have seen it, and I suggested that the dealer send it to you. I think it is a fake. All markings are in black. Originally the cover was stampless and there may have been a faint (30) where the present (30) and stamp are now placed. The 30¢ '61 has been washed and originally was pen cancelled. The (30) which ties the stamp is a brilliant black and different than any other ink on the cover.

Do you know anything about the large (PAID) on the Nevada City cover. Where was it applied? Could it be an Express Co frank. Jerry and I have discussed it, but have no satisfactory answer.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,  
 Albert Blum



Re  
S.F.

(30)

Nov. 19th, 1951.

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

Dear Doctor:

Yours of the 14th received.

The S.F. cover with the 30¢ 1861 was sent to me by Sherman Rogers of New York. He stated it was from a New York auction, that he suspected it was a Zareski and thought I would like to see it. I wrote him that the cover was a fake and thanked him. It would be difficult to guess just what did actually happen as there are several possibilities. If one could remove the 30¢ stamp one could get some idea as to whether this was a stampless or had a stamp of lower value - 10¢ for example - hence a "Short Paid" - My guess is that it was a stampless and the encircled "30" was on the cover. San Francisco used an encircled "30" but the lower part of the "3" was different from the one on this 30¢ stamp. I noticed how the stamp had been rubbed and had a washed out appearance but I thought so little of the cover that I didn't examine the stamp under my lamp.

Re - the Nevada City cover. It is my guess that the oval "PAID" was applied by an express company - The carrier who carried the letter from its origin into Nevada City and mailed it there as a "Paid" letter. The postmark shows # PAID and corrected to "10." Jessup should know what express companies ran into Nevada City in May 1855. I judge that was the date of use.

I return the prints herewith, and thank you for the look. I believe that I made a photograph of the "30" cover.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

SHERMAN E. ROGERS

*Classic Stamps and Covers*

511 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 7-8968

November 19, 1951

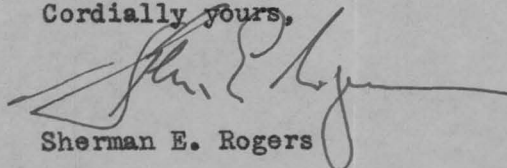
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
33 N. Fort Thomas Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

My guess is that it was a stampless cover to which the cleaned stamp was added and the postmark "30" painted in. The only date which is contradictory is that of the French marking on the front of the cover which shows July as opposed to the one on the reverse which shows an August arrival. However, the receiving mark on the face may have just been an accident, the clerk having forgotten to change the month from July to August.

Thanks so much for your courtesy.

Cordially yours,



Sherman E. Rogers

SER:KR

Nov. 25, 1951.

Mr. Sherman E. Rogers,  
511 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thanks for yours of the 19th.

I am enclosing herewith a photograph of the cover. I agree that this was probably a stampless cover, and if it was, it was surely "rated". Therefore, the stamp must be over the lower part of the encircled "30" marking. The July date in the French postmark was undoubtedly an error, and incidentally the kind of an error that I have very seldom noted on covers to France. This is the sort of work that one would attribute to the French faker, Zareski.

Several months ago I sent him a photograph of a fake 1847 cover that I suspected that he had "fixed" and inquired if he had done the "fixing." In reply he emphatically denied and was insulted at my letter. Can you imagine such nerve. The reason I made the inquiry was because the Philatelic Foundation issued a certificate stating the fake cover was genuine in all respects.

Sincerely yours,



*via Panama*



Black  
July 1  
1865

7 Jul 65



Red



Black  
Jul  
3  
1865



*Consular Laurent Hopfmeister*  
*N. Rue Breton*

Black  
Jul 26

Black



Black

*Francis*

*Paris*

308  
Cleaned  
Copy

By  
S.E.R.  
See 22-10



# JOLIET HEATING CORP. TRUST

TELEPHONE 7800 • JOLIET, ILLINOIS

Nov.12,1951.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your letters of the 10th and your reference to the stamps still on my want list.

Somewhere along the line I failed to add the #6 to my list and if you have any leads on this ask that you add it to the 21-99R2 for consideration.

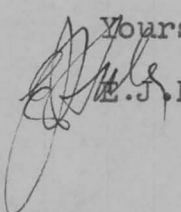
According to you booklet "The Premieres Gravures of 1861" I have in my possession numbers 55--56--58--60 and 61. The enclosed 57 is offered me as a cancelled item.

Your booklet states that this stamp was never issued to the public and was never used for postage,however is passed by the Philatelic Foundation under the opinion of being genuine.

Will appreciate your comments on this particular stamp before I add it to my collection and will gladly pay for your time in this endeavor.

Incidently, the items in paragraph three are at the Philatelic Foundation for opinions.

Yours truly,

  
E.J. Huber

Nov. 15, 1951.

Mr. E. J. Huber,  
P. O. Box 905,  
Joliet, Ill.

Dear Mr. Huber:

Herewith I am returning the 5¢ Premiere Gravure of 1861, together with certificate No. 3039 of the Philatelic Foundation. It is my opinion that the cancelation on this copy has no postal significance for the simply reason that this 5¢ Essay, or as I call it "a printers' sample" was not issued to the public for postal use.

If perchance a collector desired to add one or more of these "Essays" to his collection, it is my belief that he should obtain an unused copy with full original gum.

In my files I have no record of a "canceled copy" of the 5¢ value, though several copies of other values exist with questionable markings.

It seems to me that the Expert Committee of the P.F. should have been required to answer two queries, viz: First - Is this a genuine copy of the 5¢ 1861 Essay? Second - Is the cancelation on this stamp a genuine postal marking of the period?

I have in my reference collection a cover with a 3¢ 1861 cardboard proof which actually passed thru the mail and is tied to the cover with a genuine postmark. This, I regard as a "freak" because no one would suggest that the U.S. P.O.D. issued to the public 3¢ 1861 cardboard proofs for postal use.

Under separate cover, I am today forwarding to you a sample copy of my latest "Service Issue" which goes at intervals to a small circle of advanced collectors. It so happens that this "Issue", dated today, contains a further discussion of the "Premieres."

There is no fee for the above.

Sincerely yours,

No. 3039

May 7 1951

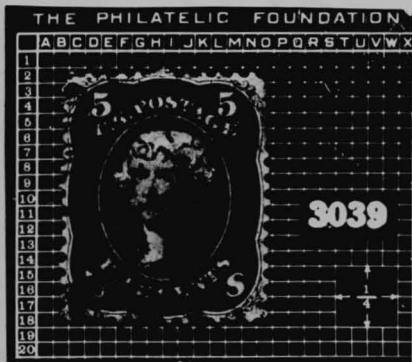
THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION  
22 EAST 35<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed United States  
1861, 5¢, brown, #57, cancelled -----

submitted by --Mr. Robert A. Siegel -----  
of which a photograph is attached below -----  
and are of the opinion that it is genuine -----

*Thomas Hanning*  
For The Expert Committee  
Chairman



NEG

B

102

B/02

B102



13-F64-GVARTZ-PAN-23M.1



C25

C25

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

Insured To Destination  
By Boston Insurance Co.

November 12, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Box 31  
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan,

I am enclosing a cover with a #58, #67, and a pair of #71 which I purchased in a recent H. R. Harmer auction. It was described "AS IS" since apparently there was some doubt about it, though I am not sure in what regard.

I would greatly appreciate your opinion on it and your signature on the back should you feel that it is o.k. Advise your fee and I shall remit promptly as usual.

With best wishes,

  
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/ecf  
Encl.

Nov. 15, 1951.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the Payen cover with the 75¢ rate to France. I don't know why anyone would question it. This cover is well known to me as it shows the earliest known use of a 10¢ Type I - See the date in the S.U.S. which I gave to Editor Clark years ago.

This is really a nice cover. There is also another cover known with a use of this 10¢ Type I on the same day - Sep. 17, 1861 from Rochester, N.Y.

This was mailed from New York on Tuesday, Sep. 17, 1861, to catch the sailing of the Cunard Mail S.S. "Arabia" from Boston on Wednesday the 18th.

I have endorsed the cover on the back.

My fee is \$5.00.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--I would like to buy this cover if you will sell it to me but don't feel obligated to do so.



**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 28, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Box 31  
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky.

*Insured To Destination  
By Boston Insurance Co.*

Dear Stan,

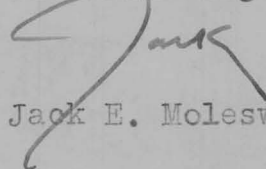
I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the 10¢ August cover is such a nice item. Though I have several men in mind, I have not obligated or mentioned the cover to anyone else so I am glad to give you first crack. I have frankly had a very difficult time deciding on a fair price and waited until I could check with Dan Kelleher to see what he might have to say. I saw him yesterday and he suggested a retail price of \$300.00 to \$350.00. Since Dan is customarily a bit on the high side and since I picked it up for a song, I am setting a price of \$250.00.

I hope that you will consider this a fair figure and that it will give you enough room to make at least \$100.00. However, if you feel it is not fair, I shall greatly appreciate your comments and shall give them serious consideration as I do not claim to have sufficient knowledge to back up any prices that might be set on the cover.

I am also enclosing #38 pair on cover which I would appreciate your checking and endorsing if you feel it is all right as I am sure it is. Fleckenstein had this cover and apparently showed it to Stark who was interested but questioned it in view of the tiny red dot on the tip of one of the perfs of the lower stamp. It is priced at \$100.00 if you have any interest in it.

Please deduct what I owe you on the past two lots plus your fee on this from any remittance you may make to me, or I shall send you a check if we do not get together on the #58 cover.

With kind regards,



Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/ecf  
Encl.

Nov. 30, 1951.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 28th.

I really don't know what the Payen cover with the 10¢ August is worth but after it sold so cheap in a recent sale I simply couldn't offer it to a friend @ \$250.00 plus. No doubt it is worth that figure but any profit that I might be able to make would probably cost me the friendship of a good friend. Perhaps you are in a different position and wouldn't be criticised. Sometimes a good friend and a good buyer is more valuable than a profit on a single cover. I thoroughly appreciate the fact that you invested your money in this cover and have a perfect right to charge any price you choose but unfortunately the other fellow don't take that into consideration. I am sure you understand. Go ahead and try to get all you can for the cover and in the event you fail to place it, you can send it to me and I will buy it if the price is in line with what I can ask for it. Naturally the date of use is what makes the value.

Re - the other cover. I think that it is good beyond any question of a doubt and it seems to me that the dot you mention is orange not red, but whether this is part of the stamp below I do not know. At any rate, the postage that was paid on this letter was 60¢ - as the markings prove and I see no reason to suppose this was a paid stampless. If I endorsed it on the back I would charge you a fee for my name and inasmuch as the cover is perfectly good I see no reason to put you to that expense.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,


**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts


March 5, 1953



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

Dear Stan,

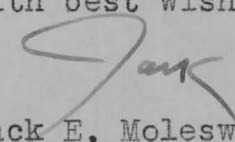
My thanks for your two letters of March 2nd and especially your reference on the 2¢ - 1869 cover. I did not recall this section in your special service until you called it to my attention. Apparently the cover is a rather rare and valuable one! Do you think I would be unreasonable in asking \$50 for it?



I agree that Ezra Cole was probably misquoted by the Foundation, but do believe his question: "Is the gum original when it has been disturbed?" a rather ridiculous one. If he does not call it regummed and still doesn't consider it original I am wondering what he would call it but do not wish to discuss the matter with him as I fear he would take any comments I would make to be in an argumentative vein rather than a request for enlightenment and further information as to the basis for his comments.

Please enlighten me as to the other "September 17th 1861" cover with a 10¢ type 1 that you believe I once owned as I have no recollection of it. The United Stamp Company is run by a man named Vincent, ~~and~~ an European refugee of Hebrew vintage who I gather is a rather large talker with little ability to back it up. Lot #34 in the sale brought \$230. I had bid \$160 on it myself. What was your opinion on it?

With best wishes,

  
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

\* my impression - I could be wrong!

*Seamless Certia*  
C. PAYEN & CO.  
NEW-YORK



Black  
Grid

Center Line  
PAIR - Reported

*Monsieur Louis*  
*Petit rue de Semblan*  
*Payen & Cie*  
*Lyon*  
PAID  
JUL 17  
48  
1861  
France

By Niles worth  
To Fleckenstein  
Price \$100.00  
10/31-51



A 88

Mr. Morris Fortgang  
114 East 84th Street  
NEW YORK (28) N.Y.

114 East 84th St.,  
New York- Nov.12, 1951.

Dear Stan: -

Your letter of Nov. 3 is a collector's item and I shall place it among my "Collected Works of Stanley B. Ashbrook". I am determined to read and, if possible, to acquire everything available that you have written. There may have been (?) greater philatelists than SBA, but none has ever made his subject as interesting and presented his thoughts as clearly and lucidly. When in doubt about a theory, SBA never tried to confound the reader by employing sesquipedalian words. And, in my humble opinion, your "War Rate Covers of 1815-1816" in the current issue of Stamps ranks with the best that anyone has come up with this year.

Until the opportunity comes to purchase a set of the Collectors Club Philatelist, I have asked Mort to sponsor me as a member of the Collectors Club and so have access to their library.

I am glad you liked that 3RIL-4RIL item; but I was keenly disappointed to lose in the Souren sale that gorgeous block of 12 of lc '57, 42-44 to 72-74 L 12. This block, unusually well centered, could be plated merely by the listing of the types, and contained, of course, 62L and a nice DT and 63L the big DT of the left pane. Estimated at \$300. by the auctioneers, I placed a bid with them of \$400. and it went for \$425. Had I been able to attend the sale, I probably would not have lost this beautiful block.

Yes Stan, I would be delighted to meet Mr. Emerson Krug. Mrs. Fortgang and I would like to have him and Mrs. Krug, if she comes to New York with him, to a Yankee dinner at our home. And now that we have broached the subject, would it be possible to wring a promise from Mr. & Mrs. Ashbrook to come to dinner the next time they come to New York?

Regarding John Luff; I am glad to note that you called him a "ringleader". This confirmed a notion I entertained for a long time--- that Luff would deviate from the truth if he thought such deviation would be beneficial to his purse, or to his fame (at the time), or would help out a cataloguer who happened to have on hand certain dubious or spurious items. I would take Bartel's word against his anytime. Regarding the 30c imperf. cover, I believe Luff was cornered and had no choice but "to change his mind". Still, he was one of the most capable students of his time and his early days were lived in a period of rugged individualism when medicine could cure a canker, the ague or what have you, and such ~~surroundings~~ <sup>surroundings</sup> may have influenced his ethics.

I have never met Frank Hallowbush of Allenhurst, N.J. He must have a fabulous collection, for I have noticed time after time references to items in his collection, in various philatelic articles.

I bought that collection of Issue Combination covers, 1857s used with '61s. I paid \$475. for the twelve items and I don't think I overpaid. Such items may not be new to you, but in the brief period I have been collecting the lc stamps, I have never seen anywhere the '57-'61 combinations.

The University of New York cover was, apparently, in a Voorhees sale about 1929. The Suffield cover bears the Hartford postmark of Aug. 22, 1861, probably the earliest known use on cover of the lc '61. The Boston to

Providence cover may have been in the Chase sale in 1925. The Philadelphia combination, not tied, seems genuine and an early use of the 3c '61. And then there is that Parma cover, which, according to notation on back was in a Morgenthau sale in 1924. The 24c rate cover to Liverpool is from Ashley Falls, Mass. I have started to read your Ten Cent work and from the little time I have devoted to it, I have plated the first 10c stamp from the E E imprint as 60 R2, and the second stamp as 59 R2. The Parsippany cover is postmarked 1863; either the clerk was lax or the P.O. Dept. wasn't strict anymore.

The Walden cover bears the New York postmark and grid. (Did this combination postmark and grid go out of use at about this time?) The illuminated double rate school cover to Chicago bears the Chicago receiving marking on back and apparently came from the Sprague collection. The New York to New London double rate cover bears the New York marking previously used on carrier covers. Is this possibly an overpaid carrier cover? Candor, N.Y. still used stamps of the old style, while Varna already had the new issue stamps on this forwarded cover. These two towns must have been situated close by, since both postmarks are dated Oct. 1. And, finally, Haverhill, Mass. still had the old style stamps on Aug. 19, 1861, while these stamps were already demonetized at Portland, Me. at the early date of Aug. 20, 1861. And that's that! I hope you like this collection.

Have you noticed how collecting one stamp inevitably leads to another? For the present, at least, I shall stick to the One Cent stamp exclusively and shall only purchase such other denominations of this issue or other issues as can be used as collateral material. These twelve items, however, are a collection in themselves.

And now, just one more thought and I shall be through with this long-winded epistle. In your letter you say: "If I had to write the One Cent Book over again, I am positive I could do a far better job". This gives me an opportunity to express a thought I had for a long time. When the present Special Service is completed, why not inaugurate a new Service, in which you would give all the new discoveries, etc., that have been made since the Work was published. This Service would be a supplement to the One Cent Work and would be gobbled up alive by the incorrigible One Centers. What do you think?

With kindest regards from all the Fortgangs to all the  
Ashbrooks,

Sincerely yours,

*Morris*



Nov. 16, 1951.

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

Dear Morris:

Herewith the interesting lot of covers as per yours of the 12th. I enjoyed looking these over, I can assure you. Such items have always been of much interest to me. Here are some comments:

University of New York. This appears to be okay but I doubt if the use was Nov. 18, 1861. My guess is that the actual use was Nov. 18, 1862. I doubt if this type of postmark was used as early as Nov. 1861. Further, in 1861 they were on the lookout for "old stamps" but a year later they were a bit lax. I judge the 1¢ "got by." Had the clerk noticed this use and adhered to "Regulations" - he would have had to advise the addressee they were holding a letter and if 1¢ was sent, they would forward the letter. My guess is that the clerk thought - "What's the use" - then shut his eyes and let it go thru.

Hartford, Conn - Aug. 22, 1861 - This is a rather early use of the 1¢ 1861. The earliest known is a use at Baltimore on Aug. 17, 1861 - See S.U.S. #63. (This listing from my records). Aug. 17 was a Saturday in 1861. The 22nd was the following Thursday. I have several records of uses on the 21st and several on the 22nd. Both the old and new were legal at Hartford at that time.

Boston & Providence. The red Boston is so faint it is very hard to read but the use may have been Aug. 16 or 18 - 1862 as noted by "W.B.S." whom I assume was Wm. B. Sprague. I never knew him but he was a close friend to Chase along about 1912-1913. Quite a keen student of those days. I have a scrap book which Sprague started in 1910 and it has a lot of valuable data. He died in 1942. Mrs. Sprague gave the book to Van Dyk MacBride and Mac passed it on to me. I note that this cover was Lot 699 in the Chase sale of May 1925 - It sold @ \$10.25 and E. Perry was the buyer. The use was listed by Chase as Aug. 16, 1862.

Philadelphia Aug. 20, 1861. Yes, very nice - I enclose photo-print - The Phila. Office used various killers on the stamps at that period - also several different types of postmarks.

54¢ to Parma. Morris, just a word of advice. Please be a bit careful of this class of covers as the French fakers turn out some very clever faked covers. This has been "monkeyed" with but it is okay. The single  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. rate to Parma "By French Mail" at that time in Sep., Oct., 1861 was 27¢ - this was over  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. but not over  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., hence required 2 x 27¢. Our share of a 27¢ rate was 9¢ and the French share was 18¢, thus the pen "36" our credit to France (2 x 18¢) - leaving us 2 x 18¢. This cover was carried to England by an American Packet - thence by British Mail to France and French Mail to Italy. The "old stamps" were still good at the New York P.O. on Sep. 21, 1861. In fact, the new stamps were placed on sale there on Sep. 15, 1861 and the public was given 6 days to exchange the old for the new, but, the advertisement was again run on Sep. 23rd with 6 days to exchange.

Ashley Falls, Ms. This is indeed odd - Surely the old stamps were not legal at that office as late as Nov. 12, 1861, so my guess is that this is one of those things that "got by." It went out of the New York Office (Foreign Division) by an



Mr. Morris Fortgang - Nov. 16, 1951.

American Packet and inasmuch as the P.O. of origin had recognized the two 10¢ stamps as legal, I suppose New York had no right to refuse recognition. This is a very unusual cover. Your plating of the two stamps shows a very keen eye.

3¢ '57 plus 1¢ '61. New York - 1863(?). The year does appear to be 1863. My guess is that the clerk let it go "as is." This is certainly a very unusual item and scarce.

3¢ 1857 plus 1¢ '61 - New York Sep. 20 - It is my guess that this use was undoubtedly 1861. The grid was attached to the postmark. I really do not know when this type was discontinued but I doubt if it was in 1861. This is quite a nice cover.

Aurora, N.Y. The use looks like Oct. 2 (1861 ?) It is too bad the strike is not legible.

New York Oct. 3, 1861 - It is possible that the 3¢ '57 was used first, but the letter was returned and the 3¢ '61 put on. Perhaps the New York Office knew the firm that mailed the letter. This is rather a farfetched theory but better(?) perhaps than the suggestion that this was a double rate. I have no evidence that the "old stamp" was legal at the New York office as late as Oct. 3, 1861. It could be one of those things that "got by."

Candor - Varna - N.Y. - I suppose that the old stamps were still good at Candor as late as Oct. 1st. It was not possible to supply all the small offices with the new stamps and many small offices were advised to use up the supplies they had on hand.

Haverhill - Portland - Yes, quite a nice cover - the former using the old - the latter using the new. The 20th was Tuesday. I believe that E. Perry reported this cover to me in 1936.

So much for the covers - now for your letter.

Thanks Morris for your kind words on my articles. Your remarks reminded me of the trouble I had years ago trying to figure out the articles written by Stevenson on the 1¢ '51 and the 10¢ '55. The more I read, the more perplexed I was and I made up my mind if I ever got to the point of writing articles on stamps I would make a desperate effort to convey my message in ABC simple language even if I had to consume twice the space and repeat over and over the message. I was greatly pleased that you liked my article in "Stamps" on War Rate covers.

I believe that you will find the C.C. Library will be very helpful to you. I am sorry that you failed to land the 1¢ '57 - (Pl. 12) block in the Souren sale. It is quite a nice piece. I suppose I have a record of it somewhere but offhand I do not recall it.

I certainly will convey your message to Mr. Krug and I know that he will appreciate it. I doubt if the Ashbrooks will get down to New York any time soon but we do thank you for your kind invitation and of course we will be delighted to accept whenever possible.

Yes, Mr. Luff was a great philatelic student but he lived in an age that was different. I believe that John was thoroughly honest but he simply couldn't bear to be accused of making an error. I believe that he realized his error on the "Premieres" many years before his death but he didn't dare admit his mistake because of the fear of law-suits against both the Scott Co. and himself, but people

#3.

Mr. Morris Fortgang - Nov. 16, 1951.

who had purchased the things on the guarantee that they were regular postage stamps. In other words, as the saying goes, they had a bear by the tail and couldn't let go. Now it appears that Gordon Harmer is attempting to re-instate these bits of paper in the Catalogue. See my latest Service Issue. One wonders if there is such a thing as "honesty" in philately?

In my very humble opinion, an Editor of a Catalogue should not list or include in a catalogue any items that are questionable. If he does, then he must have some ulterior motive. A thing is either right or it is wrong - and there is no half-way. To be quite frank, the only reason that the "Premieres" are kept in the Catalogue is to enable certain dealers to sell them to unsuspecting suckers.

Thanks for the suggestion regarding new material for the One Cent Book. There are so many angles I doubt if I could discuss the subject in a letter. Someday, perhaps, we can discuss the matter.

With kindest regards from Mrs. Ashbrook and me to Mrs. Fortgang and you,  
I am

Cordially yours,



Sep 20  
1861.

Mrs Herman C. Kidd

Walden

By M.F.

Orange County,  
N. Y.

22-K3-F12B-PAN-4 Sec

B101







Black  
Targets



To LIVERPOOL  
England  
From  
ASHLEY FALLS  
MS  
Nov 12  
By M.F.



Red



Black Targets on  
Stamps

Hartford  
CT - AUG 22  
1861

Town Treasurer  
Suffield  
Conn

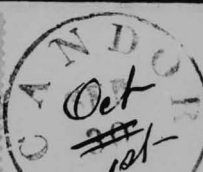
By M.F.



Blue  
VARN



Blue  
Grid

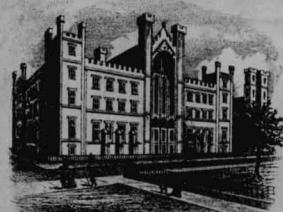


Black  
CANDOR NY



Miss Emily A. Scott  
Varna Temp. Co.  
N.Y.

By M.F.



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.



Black



Nov 18

By M.F.

Miss Marjette Piggles  
Carrick Place  
Nov 18, 1861



Hasen M. Chas. Corp.

AUG 20 1861

HAVERHILL  
MS ?

Putland. Mass.

Navy Yard Aug 19  
1861

Kittery  
Me.

By M.F.



Henry P. Allen Esq  
New Madison  
Conn.

By M.F.

DR. CARROLL CHASE  
R. F. D. 1, MILFORD,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nov 14 1951

Dear Stan :-

Here is a Zanesville  
plate & thought you might like to  
note. It was bought directly  
from him. My friend in France  
sent it to me on inspection so  
please return at your convenience.  
As a painting in job it's pretty crude,  
don't you think so?

Best

Carroll

C.C.

Am mailing it for \$25.00

C24

*Le First Steamer*

J. H. EIMER & CO.

*Monium*

*A. Garnier*



1858

*Cartes*



Red Brown

*France*

TYPE IV

*Scott 8 and 12.5*

FAKE TYPE IV

*S.O.A. 116-51*

C24



**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon  
Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 14, 1951

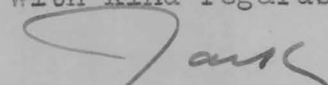
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Box 31  
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan,

I am enclosing two covers and would appreciate your opinion as to whether or not the stamps are actually the ones originally used on these covers. I believe the 5¢ '47 pair is o.k. and would appreciate your comments on the back of the cover. I do not like the Patriotic at all.

Advise your fee and I shall remit promptly as usual.

With kind regards,



Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/ecf  
Encl.

P.S: My thank for your prompt remittance of the 1¢ 1851 Valentine.

P.S.S. Also #68 pr. + #75.  
Don't like Rem myself  
25¢ rate?

Nov. 16, 1951.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the three covers as per yours of the 14th.

Patriotic - In my opinion, this is a fake, that is, the stamp did not originate - This was an unused envelope (plenty exist) to which someone attached a used 3¢ '61 and put an address on the envelope.

5¢ 1847 to Canada. I see no reason to doubt this. It was from New York and stamps were used as there is no handstamping to indicate otherwise. The use was late - Sept. 1850 - and the shade and impression of the pair is okay for a late use. In addition, the pair has the N.Y. square grid common to that period. The U.S. rate required was 10¢ - to the Line at Lewiston, N.Y. opposite Queenston, Ont. I suppose the Canadian pen due is "4," or 4 pence sterling which was the equivalent to 4½ pence currency. That was the rate in 1850 for a distance of 60 miles or less. Oakville is less than 60 miles from Queenston. (On Lake Ontario between Hamilton and Toronto). I have endorsed the cover on the back.

25¢ cover to England. I wouldn't care to pass on this cover. It might be good and it might be bad. I suppose it could be a 1¢ overpay - the rate was 24¢ in 1865 - 29¢ up to June 30, 1863 inc. There is a crease at the bottom that fails to show in the 10¢ pair and the "cog" on the 5¢ appears to be a different type than the cog on the 10¢ pair. In all probability someone removed a poor 24¢ 1861 and substituted this pair and single. Whoever did it was aware that S.F. used a "cog" but it is possible they were not aware that there were several different types of the cog stampers. I believe that a 24¢ may have been tied by a target killer rather than a cog.

My fee for the above is \$3.50.

Sincerely yours,

Via Panama



See 22-15  
By Molesworth  
11/16-51

Light Brown

Mr H. H. Hurd  
London  
England



C 23



H. W. STARK & CO.

18652 BIRCHCREST DRIVE

DETROIT 21, MICH.

Nov. 12, 1951.

Dear Stan,

Have not done much for the last three weeks. Got the Flu bug again and that kept me confined for over a week. Then I get a mean head cold and damm near cough my head off all the time. Am getting back on my feet now. Still have the head cold and coughing spells. Going to Mac funeral, especially at the cemetary, where you uncover your head, did not do me any good. Anyway I am still alive and kicking.

A It certainly was a shock to me to hear of Mac's passing. Dont seem right yet, especially to take the Mrs. and his mother also, and in addition, even their dog. Here is how I have finally pieced the tragedy out----Mac had left the shop and gone home for supper. They must have finally decided to go to their cottage in Canada that evening, since they had a dinner date in Canada the following day. Mac evidently pulled over a little to see if there was anyone coming, he was behind another car. As he did he must have seen this car just in front of him in its proper lane. He must have jerked the wheel sharply to get back into line and it would have to be the first snow and ice of the season. Anyway the car skidded sideways right in front of the oncoming car. The oncoming car was not at fault. Just another of these very tragic accidents.

I am enclosing a cover that I believe to be very interesting. I have never seen the "TOO LATE" marking in 1855. Letter out of New Orleans to Bordeaux, France, via New York and steamer direct to Harve, France. Pair 10¢ type III (Very fine) paying all charges to Harve. Must have missed the boat and the P.O. clerk let it go via Am. Pkt. Calais (should have been 21¢ with 1¢ due) figuring the sender had paid the proper amount-- (note the blue "20"). 8 decimes due in France on delivery. I kind of like this cover as it shows quite of bit of history and how the P.O. operated.

Perhaps you are right on the Charlestown Retailitory cover. Lets think it over a bit more.

Hutch wants to join the members getting your report. I have talked to him and convinced him he needs it. Maybe it would like to hear from you direct. Send him your comments and I am sure he will subscribe.

Jack was here the other night and believe it or not I feel he in weakening and will become a general cover collector. Especially on cover of postal history.

End of page. Better close.

More letters when I feel better. Best of wishes.  
H. W. Stark

Nov. 17, 1951.

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

Dear Harold:

Yours of the 12th received, and I was sorry to learn that you have been under the weather with a bad cold but trust that you have fully recovered by this time.

Thanks for the account of Don's passing. It certainly was terrible. I am wondering if they were all killed instantly and were spared from suffering from injuries. With whom will Louise make her home? I cannot realize that Don is gone and I will miss him greatly. And I know that you will.

Yes, your 10¢ 1855 cover is very interesting. It was prepaid to go by the Havre Line but got to New York too late so was evidently sent by the Collins Line with a short payment of 1¢. Inasmuch as the U.S. P.O.D. was the only loser I suppose it was permitted to go that way. This cover is a nice companion to one that I have and enclose herewith. This was routed by the "Collins Line" but reached New York "Too Late," and was sent by a Cunard steamer. In this case, a 5¢ pay would have been sufficient, hence an overpay of 16¢. There is no credit to G.B. for the sea, so the addressee had to pay carriage from the U. S. frontier to French destination. This cover has a 12¢ with a piece out of the corner and evidently the piece was missing when the stamp was originally put on. See my Vol. 2 - pages 337 - 341 on French rates and covers. This cover is for sale @ \$15.00.

I am enclosing two very rare U. S. Canadian covers herewith. The small one is the one that I wrote up in my Oct. 20th Service Issue. I showed this to Shierson at Toronto and told him I wanted to offer it to you as it would doubtless fit nicely with your 5¢ '47 - Beaver combination.

In my next Issue I will write up the second cover and furnish photographs. Both of these covers originated in Western Canada and were carried into the U. S. by Express. Neither one in my opinion were ever in a Canadian Post Office. On the Wells Fargo cover is the familiar red New York foreign mail postmark and this same marking is on the small cover with only the date legible. Incidentally the pair of Canadian stamps are the rare 1870 issue. I showed this cover to various B.N.A. specialists at Toronto and they were all quite enthusiastic over it. I want \$100 for the 1870 cover and \$75 for the 1873 (Wells Fargo). If not interested will you please return as soon as possible. However, if you think that Charlie Shierson or Hutch might be interested, hold them over and show them to each.

I wrote Hutch yesterday about the "Service." I would like to have him as a subscriber.

I note your remarks about Jack and hope that he sees the light and

#2. Mr. Harold W. Stark, Nov. 17, 1951.

starts to collect covers. However, Jack simply can't get around to making up his mind.

Do hope you are feeling better.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours

Enclosed:

Your cover with pair 10¢ 1855 - "Too Late"

|     |                                     |          |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| (A) | cover with 12¢ '51 - 3¢ '51 - Price | \$15.00  |
| (B) | U.S./Canadian 1870                  | " 100.00 |
| (C) | " " 1873                            | 75.00    |



Steamship  
via New York & Havre

---



Red N.O.

Black  
Fr



Black

Too Late Red

Monsieur Bonnet  
Jordeaux  
France

By H.W.S.  
Soe 22-11

Red N.Y.  
Oct 31  
1855



Service



Black



Black

*Steamship  
via New York & Havre*



Red



Black

Red Too LATE

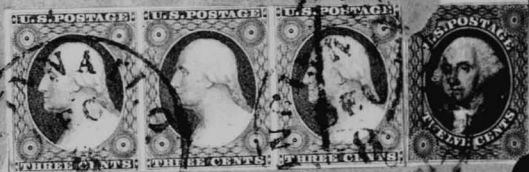
*Monsieur Bonnet  
Bordeaux  
France*

By H.W.S.

Red  
New York  
Oct 31

B104

from Collins Steamer from New York 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1853



Too Late  
Dr. John A. Thompson  
Rue des Filles du Calvaire No. 6  
Paris, France.

Recd December 29 1853



# STAMP AUCTION SERVICE

127 N. Dearborn Street

Chicago, 2

1947

Mr.

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

Herewith lots purchased for you at our \_\_\_\_\_ Auction Sale for which payment is to be made immediately in accordance with terms of Sale. Lots on which you bid not billed here, were sold above your bid.

Lot No.

Amount

Lot No.

Amount

Lot No.

Amount

Dear Stan:

Can you give me any information about the enclosed cover? Have you got any record of a target cane. of Colorado City, ab. 7? Enclosed \$5.00 for your trouble, if good, have you any prospect for same?

Regards

Henry D. Miller

Nov. 17, 1951.

Mr. Henry Kuhlman,  
Suite 331-336,  
127 N. Dearborn St.,  
Chicago 2, Ill.

Dear Henry:

Herewith the 2¢ 1869 cover as per yours of the 15th. I regret to state that I cannot give you any definite opinion on this cover because the evidence is too meager. The cover might be good and it might be bad and in my opinion a cover such as this should be sold only "as is." I have urged the Philatelic Foundation Expert Committee to pursue the same course and not to authenticate an item as genuine or condemn one unless they are reasonably sure. It is far better to refuse an opinion than to do a lot of silly guessing. The French fakers turn out some extremely clever work and for them to make an item like the enclosed cover would be a perfect cinch.

I don't seem to have any record of a Colorado City postmark or what they used as a killer.

Regarding the postmark. You will note this is a territorial marking - "COLORADO CITY C.T." - Colorado became a state on Feb. 28, 1861. I doubt if they were still using this postmark as late as 1869 or later.

I note that Mort Sampson sent me this cover within the past twelve months but unfortunately I cannot lay hands on the letter that I wrote him about it, all I seem to have is a photograph that I made at the time.

If you want my unofficial and personal opinion I would, <sup>now</sup> value the cover beyond the price of a single off cover and damaged 2¢ 1869.

There is no fee on the above but I will charge you on any items you send me in cases where the data I furnish will be worth while.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

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

Nov. 18, 1951.

Mr. H. P. Johnson,

% The United States Bank

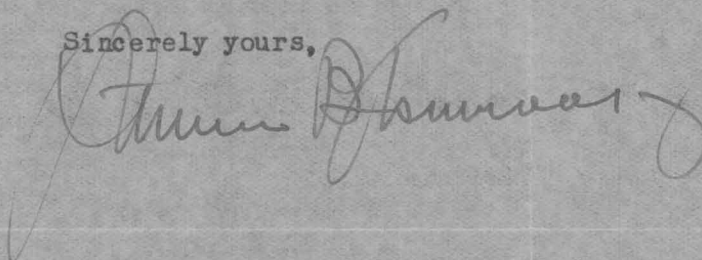
Grand Junction, Colo.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am enclosing herewith a photograph of a cover that has been submitted to me twice in the past year. You will note the territorial postmark of Colorado City. By any chance do you think that this postmark could have been used as late as 1869 or later? I refused to give an opinion on this cover but personally I think it is a fake. Do you know if Colorado City used a target killer in 1869 or later?

I enclose stamped envelope for return.

Sincerely yours,



12-9-51

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

I have compared the marking and cancellation with my cover with this marking and find that it compares correctly. The 4 of Sept is reversed however. The target cancel is similar. From the photo, the cover appears genuine. My cover with target is earlier and not certain about its usage in 1868.

Delay in answering was due to my being away.



Was in San Francisco and spent an evening with Edgar Jessup  
and went over his macrochous collection. He really has the collection  
and is a fine host besides. We spoke of you a number of times. Held a  
meeting of the S.F. group of the Western Cover Society. Lots of good  
things in S.F. and a group of true philatelists.

My Pikes Peak collection won the Merion postal history  
award in Chicago and the Grand Award at Cornex in Bloomington.  
I'm trying to work up Alaska in about the same way I did Colo.

I have got the covers but not the collateral material.

Best wishes for the Christmas season and may your  
good work benefit philately another year.

Cordially

Parker

Your photo shows no period after the T of C.T. - neither does mine  
so it conforms in this respect.



Dec. 18, 1951.

Mr. H. Parker Johnson,  
% The United States Bank  
Grand Junction, Colo.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I hate to bother you again about that 2¢ 1869 Bisect cover but you will recall that the postmark has "C.T" - Could it be possible that Colorado City used the territorial postmark as late as 1869?

Edgar Jessup wrote me that you had paid a visit to San Francisco. I am glad you managed to see a part of his collection.

The illustration of the "C.T" postmark in the Chase book does not show a dot after the T, but the two uses listed are 1864 or earlier.

Congratulations on your recent awards.

With the Compliments of the Season -

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 18, 1951.

Dr. Carroll Chase,  
R.F.D. 1,  
Milford, N.Y.

Dear Doc:

Here is a letter from Harry re - the proposed book. I think if we can assure Harry of a lot of advance orders that he will be in favor of getting the book up in grand shape. I would like to see this book something they would talk about for a long time to come. I believe that Harry could ballyhoo it in such a manner as to insure a big advance sale. Return his letter at your convenience.

Thanks for your comment on the Alaska cover. Later I will send you a photo.

Last month I had a cover submitted to me with a 2¢ 1869 plus a diagonal half tied by a target killer. The postmark was Colorado City C.T. (no period after T ), and as per your tracing on page 103 -#39 - your book ( Territorials) Do you think it possible that this old Territorial stamper was used as late as 1869?

Best of regards.

Yours etc.,

DR. CARROLL CHASE  
R. F. D. 1, MILFORD,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dec 22 '57

Dear Stan:-

Just a line.

Sudquist's letter asked & returned

herewith. all o.k.

I didn't know there were separate "internal rates" on  
foreign mail. Very interesting.

I don't see why Colorado City C.T. shouldn't have been  
used in 1869. Give us record of any other peak from this town  
or Colorado didn't become a state until 1876.

Wait a bit about the Noroua & Hinman articles.

Stan is held up in Paris by a plague strike! Should  
be back for Xmas though.

Best wishes &c

Happy 1958 for you all.

C.C.

We just had to put in a new oil burner & furnace - doggone it.  
The old one (a converted coal burner) was just 700°!



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

Dec. 18, 1951.

Mr. H. Parker Johnson,  
% The United States Bank  
Grand Junction, Colo.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I hate to bother you again about that 2¢ 1869 Bisect cover but you will recall that the postmark has "C.T" - Could it be possible that Colorado City used the territorial postmark as late as 1869?

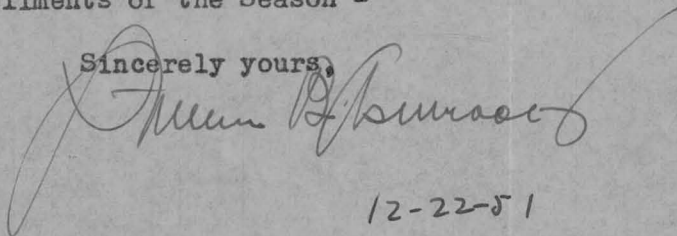
Edgar Jessup wrote me that you had paid a visit to San Francisco. I am glad you managed to see a part of his collection.

The illustration of the "C.T" postmark in the Chase book does not show a dot after the T, but the two uses listed are 1864 or earlier.

Congratulations on your recent awards.

With the Compliments of the Season -

Sincerely yours,



12-22-51

Dear Mr. Ashbrook -

The only marking of Colorado City I have seen is of this same type under discussion. Haven't seen any of the 69/76 period so can't verify it that way. Maybe Dan Stone, the Denver dealer can help you as there are several collectors in Denver that might have Colorado City of the later period and he would doubtless make inquiry. Think it quite likely that they used C.T right on thro to 1876 but that's only a guess.

Glad to hear from you anytime for you have been of great help to me in this part. And may your splendid research work continue on thru 1952 and many years to come.

Cordially, Parker J



Black



Burns Peter  
New Providence  
Term

By  
ENSAMPTON



Black  
25 1/2 MM

Nov. 1951.

Mr. W. S. Boggs,  
1/ The Philatelic Foundation,  
22 East 35th St.,  
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Yours of the 9th received. I appreciate the fact that no book is always the last word on a subject and this certainly applies to articles on each subject to which I have devoted attention. Your two-volume study of B.N.A. is outstanding in my opinion, and a most valuable contribution to serious philately. If I have been able to add a bit of data to the study I can assure you that it has been a pleasure.

I note that the P.F. Expert Committee has the "Knapp Shift" under consideration. I believe that I know more about that stamp than anyone else but I refuse to be drawn into any further discussion of it. H.R. Harmer examined it for ten minutes and pronounced it a painting. E. Perry, Esq. examined it for hours and stated it was not a "shift" but an error of printing - positively not a fake, positively not a paint job - Years ago I stated the 10¢ 1847 was printed from a copper plate - Brazer poohoed the suggestion and stated positively the plate was steel. Souren made an examination in his laboratory and stated the copy was genuine. You will still find experts who are sure it is a fake and other experts who will swear it is genuine. There you are.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

# EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

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*Commissions . Appraisals*

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TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

November 8, 1951

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

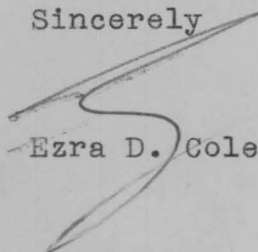
Dear Stan:

Crazy sale up in Boston. The more I go to auctions the less sure I am about prices. Some of these are queer. I think my agent paid too much for some of them and probably too little for others.

I will try and get you the list of the prices realized on the other lots you were interested in, as well as all of the prices realized.

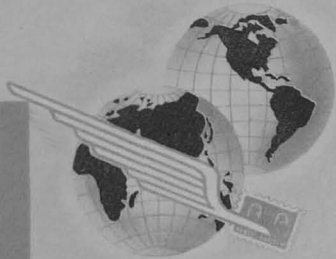
Latest re Knapp shift: Three or four of those jerks down there still think that stamp is genuine, including Clarence Brazer, and Eugene Costales. However, several of us are of the opposite opinion quite decidedly, and by asking some questions and doing some explaining I have finally convinced a couple of them that I know what I am talking about, and the stamp can't possibly be good. I will keep you posted, but boy, is this a battle.

Sincerely



Ezra D. Cole

EDC:hk



POSTAGE STAMPS AND  
PHILATELIC SUPPLIES

*H. E. Harris & Co.*

108 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE • BOSTON 17, MASS. U. S. A.

July 25, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Fort Thomas  
Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

We have had offered to us recently a vertical strip of 5, uncanceled, of the 10¢ "Frame Line" variety of Confederate States.

Some years ago we recall that you were plating this variety and it is our understanding that the reconstruction was not quite complete. Would you like to examine this strip, which unfortunately has many defects, to either confirm or add to your studies of the variety? If so, we will be glad to send it along for your examination on receiving your request.

We look forward to your reply and a stamped return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

H. E. HARRIS & CO.

*G. Tarallo*

Appraisal Department

G. Tarallo/ns  
Enclosure  
Airmail



July 27, 1951.

Mr. Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr.,

P. O. Box 5401,

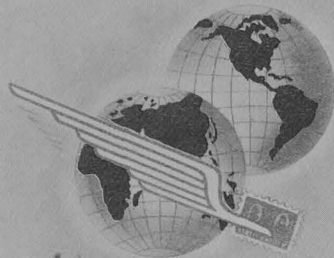
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Gene:

I have just been advised of a new find - a vertical strip of five of the Confed. Frame Line - unused- condition? I have been offered a loan for plating purposes - This seems incredible - but of course such a thing is possible. Please keep this confidential, as I have not told anyone about it.

More later.

Sincerely yours,



POSTAGE STAMPS AND  
PHILATELIC SUPPLIES

*H. E. Harris & Co.*

108 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE • BOSTON 17, MASS. U. S. A.

August 28, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Fort Thomas  
Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

We have not heard from you in reply to our letter of July 25, regarding the vertical strip of five, uncanceled, of the 10¢ "Frame Line" variety of the Confederate States.

We felt at the time that you might be interested in examining this piece in connection with your efforts at reconstruction of the plate positions.

An early reply will be appreciated because the property is not our own. A stamped return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

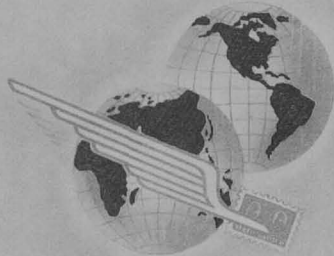
Sincerely yours,

H. E. HARRIS & CO.

*G. Tarallo*

Appraisal Department

G. Tarallo/ns  
Enclosure



POSTAGE STAMPS AND  
PHILATELIC SUPPLIES

*H. E. Harris & Co.*

108 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE • BOSTON 17, MASS. U. S. A.

August 31, 1951

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your prompt reply to my letter of August 28. It is unfortunate that your earlier letter went astray in the mails.

The vertical strip of 5 of the Confederate Frame Line stamp is enclosed for your examination. We sincerely hope that it will be of assistance to you in your studies of this variety.

We do not own this piece and, therefore, cannot give you a price on it. If you wish to submit an offer for the strip we will be glad to contact the owner to see if she is willing to sell. Her correspondence does not give any indication of what she may expect but you may be interested in her comments, and we quote, "You have my full permission to show them to anyone you wish. I am not in any haste to dispose of them, nor particular about selling them as I am not financially in need but I will be glad to entertain an offer for something may happen to them. They were lost for many years and only recently I found them!"

We will be glad to have your comments and opinion after inspecting the item.

Sincerely yours,

H. E. HARRIS & CO.

*G. Tarallo*

Appraisal Department

G. Tarallo/ns  
Enclosure



Sept. 6, 1951.

Mr. G. Tarallo,

% H.E.Harris & Co.,

108 Massachusetts Ave.,

Boston 17, Mass.

Dear Mr. Tarallo:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 31st enclosing the V.S. of five (5) of the Confederate Frame Line, which I am returning herewith.

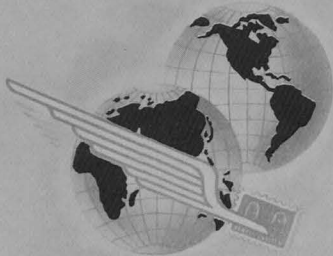
When I was in in the early stages of reconstructing the plate, I experienced a lot of trouble determining the horizontal rows due to the extreme scarcity of vertical multiples. This strip failed to tie in any of my three problem positions but it did confirm my plating of each of the positions in the strip.

I would like very much to acquire this item but I make it a rule not to make offers on other people's property.

My sincere thanks to you for your kindness in giving me the opportunity to inspect this strip and if I can return the favor at any time I trust you will call upon me.

Sincerely yours,





POSTAGE STAMPS AND  
PHILATELIC SUPPLIES

*H. E. Harris & Co.*

108 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE • BOSTON 17, MASS. U. S. A.

September 14, 1951

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for the return of the piece of the Confederate Frame Line variety. We are sorry that it did not help to further your plating knowledge of this issue other than confirm what you already knew.

If we can come to some price understanding with the owner we will be glad to let you know at what price it can be offered. However, if we cannot get the owner to commit herself, quite likely we will have to return the item to her.

Sincerely yours,

H. E. HARRIS & CO.

*G. Tarallo*

Appraisal Department

G. Tarallo/ns

Nov. 29, 1951.

Mr. G. Tarallo,

1/2 H. E. Harris & Co.,

108 Massachusetts Ave.,

Boston 17, Mass.

Dear Mr. Tarallo:

I thought that you might be interested to know that I recently purchased the vertical strip of five of the Confederate Frame Line from an Eastern dealer. I assume that the owner must have sold the item thru that firm rather than have given you the opportunity to acquire it.

Sincerely yours,



POSTAGE STAMPS AND  
PHILATELIC SUPPLIES

*H. E. Harris & Co.*

108 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE • BOSTON 17, MASS. U. S. A.

December 7, 1951

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your letter of November 29, regarding the Confederate Frame Line strip. We are pleased that you have been able to acquire it.

The client for whom we had previously handled the item requested its return and for this reason we were not able to quote you a price at the time of our earlier correspondence.

Your interest in writing is appreciated and should we later have anything that we feel might be of interest to you, we will gladly let you know.

Sincerely yours,

H. E. HARRIS & CO.

*G. Tarallo*

G. Tarallo/ns





# JOLIET HEATING CORP. TRUST

TELEPHONE 7800 • JOLIET, ILLINOIS

Nov. 29, 1951.

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

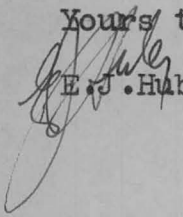
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have taken up the matter of stapling with the local Post Office and they state they never use stapling but attach the Return Cards with a rubber band and passed it off as having happened at the other end or in transit. At least it was brought to their attention.

I am enclosing a #108 and #62 and will appreciate separate letters of authentication on these and ask that you submit a bill for same as I do not want you doing this for nothing.

Thanking you for your attention to these and your comments.

Yours truly,

  
E.J. Huber

Dec. 1, 1951.

Mr. E. J. Huber,  
P.O.Box 905,  
Joliet, Ill.

Dear Mr. Huber:

Herewith the two stamps as per yours of the 29th.  
You will find a separate letter on the 90¢ 1861 "August."

Regarding the 15¢ Lincoln. Frankly I am not an authority on the "Re-issues," hence would not care to express an opinion on this particular copy. It is a rather common practice I believe for uninformed dealers to sell copies of the regular issues as the "Re-issues." Therefore when such items are offered to you I think it would be advisable to demand that a certificate of the Philatelic Foundation accompany the stamp.

I am charging you a fee of \$5.00 on the 90¢ 1861, but of course no fee on the 15¢. Also the return postage of \$1.03 or a total of \$6.03.

Thanks for calling the attention of your local post office to the envelope with the stamps.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 1, 1951.

Mr. E. J. Huber,  
P. O. Box 905,  
Joliet, Ill.

Dear Mr. Huber:

Herewith the 90¢ 1861 as per yours of the 29th. This stamp is the Scott No. 62, listed under the heading of First Designs and known as the

"90¢ Premiere Gravure"

I examined this copy very carefully under my binocular microscope and noted a small circular spot in the "N" of Ninety, also several line depressions thru the "TY" of ninety. What the nature of these two are I was not able to determine but thought best to call them to your attention.

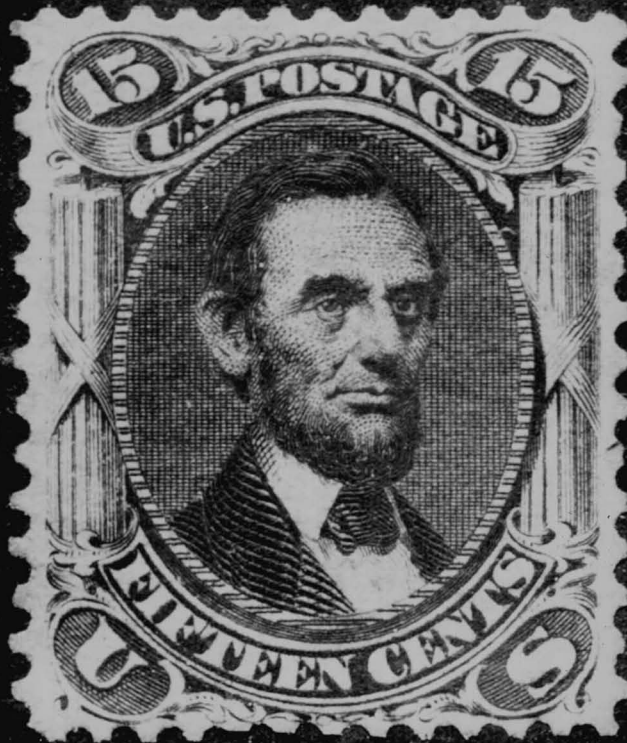
May I also call your attention to the fact that this copy is without original gum. Perhaps the following might also be of interest to you. In a sale by Fifield held in April 1946 a copy very similar to this sold at \$200. It was described, "a fine copy without gum."

The enclosed stamp came from the collection of Col. E.H.R. Green and was Lot 169 in the Green sale by Harmer, Rooke & Co. on May 26-27-28th, 1943. The sale price was \$410.00 and the catalogue price at that time was listed in the auction catalogue as \$1500. The stamp was described: "90¢ dull blue, fine well centered copy. Signed by Luff. A rare stamp." It was illustrated on page #169 of the sale catalogue.

I note the pencil memo on the back of the stamp and in my very humble opinion, this is not a pencil notation by the late John L. Luff.

Sincerely yours,





SEESB 22  
P 21

13-F64-QUARTZ-PAN-23 Min

B103



## PETER, HEYBURN &amp; MARSHALL

714-723 KENTUCKY HOME LIFE BLDG.

LOUISVILLE 2, KY.

CARY TABB (1918-1934)

ARTHUR PETER  
JOHN G. HEYBURN  
JOHN MARSHALL, JR.  
WM. H. CRUTCHER, JR.  
GAVIN H. COCHRAN  
SAMUEL R. WELLS  
HENRY R. HEYBURN

November 19, 1951.

PAID

DEC - 5 1951

350  
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
P.O. 31,  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

At the suggestion of Colonel Hayman here in Louisville and several other members of the Philatelic Club of Louisville, I am enclosing for your inspection a Louisville to France 10¢ 1869 Pictorial Cover. You will note that this was mailed from Louisville August 5, 1869, received the New York Paid marking August 7th, and the French Packet marking the same day. It also shows Paris arrival marking August 18th, and Paris to Lyon Railway marking of the same date, and an arrival marking of St. Nazaire-en-Royans of August 19th.

I would very much appreciate your opinion as to the authenticity of this cover. The comment I have from some members of the Club, including Colonel Hayman, is that there is only 10¢ postage paid, that the New York marking shows 12¢ paid, and that the actual rate to France at that time was 15¢. If the 10¢ stamp has been affixed to the cover, or if the cover has been manufactured, it is certainly a very clever job. Of course, I hope you will have some very good explanation for the apparent discrepancy in the rates displayed. Could you suggest any good articles on U.S.-Europe rates of this period?

I enclose stamps to cover return registry fee, and will be glad to pay any fee which you may charge for your inspection. I will certainly appreciate your attention in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

*Henry R. Heyburn*

HRH:AST

3918 LELAND ROAD  
ST. MATTHEWS, KENTUCKY

Dear Mr. Asbrook,

I don't believe I  
enclosed return postage  
and registration fee in  
a recent letter I sent  
you in which I asked  
your opinion as to the  
authenticity of a certain  
10¢ '69 coin.

I am therefore  
enclosing 38¢ in this

cent stamps, and as  
I stated in my letter,  
will be glad to pay  
any expertizing fee you  
may wish to charge.

I look forward to  
hearing from you.

Very sincerely yours,

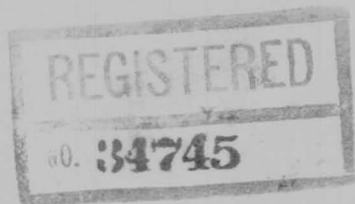
Henry R. Hyman.

Wednesday

PETER, HEYBURN & MARSHALL

714-723 KENTUCKY HOME LIFE BLDG.

LOUISVILLE, KY.



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







Nov. 26, 1951.

Mr. Henry R. Heyburn,  
712-723 Kentucky Home Life Bldg.,  
Louisville 2, Ky.

Dear Mr. Heyburn:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 19th. In my opinion the 10¢ 1869 stamp was not used on this cover originally. The combination of the various postal markings show that the letter was a single rate of not over  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce and that the postage was paid by a stamp. I, therefore, assume that the stamp that was originally on this cover was a 15¢ black Lincoln of 1866. It is possible that it might have been a 15¢ 1867 grill and possibly a damaged copy, hence the faker may have removed it and substituted this 10¢ 1869. The New York postmark of "Aug 7" and the French marking of the same date is perfectly regular because this letter was carried to France by a French Packet, hence this marking was applied on board the French ship in the New York harbor by the mail agent. The date represents the date the mail ship sailed. The "12" in the New York postmark is not the rate of postage, but on the contrary is the U. S. credit of 12¢ to the French Post Office Dept. The 15¢ single rate per  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce was made up as follows:

3¢ U. S. Domestic  
9¢ Atlantic Sea Carriage  
3¢ French Domestic.

Thus you will note that out of the 15¢ paid originally, the U. S. share was 3¢ and the French was 12¢.

I regret to state that there is no book that I know of which is devoted to U. S. foreign rates and markings. I suppose there is more data on the subject in Volume 2 of my book, entitled - "The One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857." This two-volume study was published in 1938 and has long been out of print. I really do not know where you could obtain a copy. Perhaps Colonel Heyman has a copy and could show it to you.

The study of foreign rates and markings is, in my opinion, one of the most fascinating branches of advanced philately but it is rather complicated because the rates were constantly changing in the early days - new postal conventions were being entered into from time to time and the old ones revised.

I furnish a "Special Service" to advanced collectors for a rather stiff annual fee. This "Service" is largely devoted to a study of foreign rate covers and the clever faked items which are made in Europe for sale to U. S. collectors. Very fine photographs are furnished to subscribers. My fee for the analysis of your cover is \$3.50.

#2.

Mr. Henry R. Heyburn - Nov. 26, 1951.

I note that John Marshall Jr. is a member of your law firm. In 1913 the Kentucky golf championship was held at the Fort Mitchell Country Club. I believe that at that time I was a member of the Board of the Club and Chairman of the grounds and hence had charge of the Championship Tournament. As I recall, it was John Marshall, Jr. of Louisville Vs Bradford Eldridge in the finals and the match was a tie on the 36th with Eldridge winning the 37th.

Sincerely yours,

PETER, HEYBURN & MARSHALL

714-723 KENTUCKY HOME LIFE BLDG.

LOUISVILLE 2, KY.

CARY TABB (1918-1934)

ARTHUR PETER  
JOHN G. HEYBURN  
JOHN MARSHALL, JR.  
WM. H. CRUTCHER, JR.  
GAVIN H. COCHRAN  
SAMUEL R. WELLS  
HENRY R. HEYBURN

December 3, 1951

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your opinion with regard to the 1869 10¢ cover which I submitted to you. Naturally I was disappointed at your conclusion but was very much interested in your reason therefor. I enclose my check for \$3.50 in payment of your fee.

The John Marshall whom you recall as being in the finals of the State Golf Tournament at Fort Thomas is indeed the same one who is a partner in this firm. I might add that he is still a very enthusiastic golfer and active in the State Golf Association.

With many thanks for your kind services,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

*Henry R. Heyburn*

HRH:HH

Enc.



HAROLD G. DUCKWORTH  
368 LONG HILL STREET  
SPRINGFIELD 8, MASSACHUSETTS

Dec 6/51.

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Will you kindly comment  
on the Sitka cover which I  
purchased at auction for \$80.  
It seems a little peculiar  
to me.

Sincerely yours,

HG Duckworth.

P.S. Please return promptly as I  
leave Dec 16<sup>th</sup> for Florida. Hgd.

Dec. 8, 1951.

Mr. Harold G. Duckworth,  
368 Long Hill St.,  
Springfield 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Duckworth:

Herewith the Alaska cover with the 3¢ 1867 as per yours of the 6th. I note there is a pencil memo on the back, "Nov. 1867." If this is correct, then this is indeed a very early use. I note that Chase lists June 13, 1870 as the earliest use that he has been of this marking. I doubt if anyone could authenticdate this cover because the same postmark was used during the seventies and eighties, and, of course, someone could have removed a 3¢ Bank Note or some other stamp and substituted this 3¢ 1861. I suppose such monkey-business would have added value to the cover.

I note that Chase stated that a post office was established at Sitka in July 1867, but if this stamper was new in July 1867 I doubt if it would produce a strike like this several months later. However, that is merely my opinion.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 8, 1951.

Dr. Carroll Chase,

R.F.D. 1,

Milford, N.H.

Dear Doc:

Harold Duckworth sent me a cover for my opinion this week. A cover with a 3¢ '61 - not tied - but with a black target - postmarked "SITKA - NOV 6 - ALASKA T." - (black). He stated that he paid \$80.00 in a recent auction - It is addressed to Boston - On back is a pencil "Nov. 186<sup>7</sup>." I remember seeing the illustration of such a cover in some sale but I haven't been able to locate the catalogue. Do you know anything about this cover? Aside from the pencil "Nov. 1867" there is no actual indication of year use, and, of course, someone might have removed a 3¢ green and substituted the 3¢ '61. If you would like a photo-print I will send one to you.

Yours etc.,



E. L. BACON, PRESIDENT

LEROY BACON, VICE-PRESIDENT  
W. D. ELA, VICE-PRESIDENT & CASHIER  
C. E. POISTER, VICE-PRESIDENT  
H. P. JOHNSON, ASS'T VICE-PRESIDENT



H. T. STEFFENS, ASS'T VICE-PRESIDENT  
J. E. BROWN, ASS'T CASHIER  
J. K. MORRIS, ASS'T CASHIER  
R. D. TONGISH, ASS'T CASHIER

# UNITED STATES BANK OF GRAND JUNCTION

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

1-17-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook

Many thanks for sending me the photo of the  
Lithia cover. I am negotiating its purchase from the Ly Colby  
sale. Colby thinks we should get a Foundation City and I think  
he is right so am awaiting the outcome of that.

Am trying to get the proper collateral material to  
accompany my old Alaska covers and when I obtain what I  
after I think my Alaska collection will be better than my  
Pikes Peak.

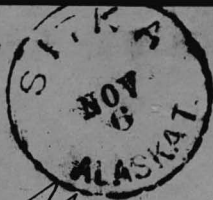
Thanks again -

With regards.

Parker J



Black



BLACK  
TARGET

Mr Chas S Gill  
Messrs Gill & Looitz  
No 27 Central Wharf  
Boston, Mass

Pencil

Nov 1867

on  
BACK

201A-F128-K3-PAN-45cc

C28

BY HAROLD DUCKWORTH

DR. CARROLL CHASE  
R. F. D. 1, MILFORD,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dec 14 '51

Dear Stan:-

Just from the 8<sup>th</sup> at hand. I don't  
know anything about the Silka cover you mention.  
and that I can now see are listed in the Survival  
Book.

I have always felt that a pencil  
notation such as you mention should not be  
accepted without further proof. It could be correct  
but is it?

Best as ever

CC.

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

AMHERST

DEC 14

4 PM

1951

N. H.



Mr. Stanley B. Adelsworth

P.O. Box 31

Fort Thomas

Kentucky

114 East 84th St.  
New York 28, N.Y. Dec. 4, 1951.

Dear Stanley:

To receive a letter from you is like getting a lesson in philately, every paragraph chuck-full of interesting information available nowhere else, material that strikes a responsive chord and makes one appreciate and love his hobby all the more. No wonder Mort affectionately refers to you as "The Professor". I think the appellation extremely apt, altho it may be possible that you don't relish the titleification.

I refer, for example, to the Troy item. You give me the history of this stamp back to the twenties and such information adds to my appreciation of this item, makes it a more personal possession. One statement, however, puzzles me; you write "I have forgotten.....by whom was the marking applied." I thought you answered this on page 233. "Mail carried to Troy by non contract mail steamboats was placed in the regular mail at Troy and was handstamped AT THE OFFICE 'Troy and New York Steamboat' together with the rate marking."

Referring to the 1¢ 1857 cover with red grid, I had that cover for inspection and returned it. I am making up a page, off cover, showing the four types produced by the F relief 'IA', 'IC', 'IIIA' and 'III'; also a couple of pages on cover, showing these same types. While I have several nice examples of 'B' and 'C' reliefs of type III, I have found it a not too easy assignment to track down an on-cover 'F' relief with a suitable break on the bottom line.

Re the 10¢ type on cover to France. No, I hadn't overlooked the marking on that stamp. As a matter of fact, it was this item and a 10¢ pair on cover (31L1-32L1) that impelled me to read your Ten Cent Stamp of 1855-57. This semi-circular marking under the C intrigued me. I didn't know whether it was a shift, a reentry, an accidental damage to the bottom line on the relief, a recut made while the workman had been imbibing, or whether his tool had slipped. Being a bottom corner stamp, the printers desired quite naturally to make this stamp appear as perfect as possible and so reentered it.

Re the 31L1 also illustrated on page 32; I removed the 1¢ stamp which overlapped this D.T. in the hope of finding the imprint (the margin appeared quite large) but 3mm and more is quite a long stretch to go and this may be one of the reasons for the scarcity of imprint copies. At a Colby sale the other day I bought a cover at \$1.50 which bore three single 1¢ '57s. The end stamp overlapped the middle one, which appeared to have unusually wide margins. I removed the stamps from the cover and my hunch proved correct -- there was the 6OR7 imprint and beneath it 'O 7 P'. I am trying to reconstruct the imprint positions of the various 1¢ plates and this item went directly to its proper place. Of course, this would have been a more desirable item, had it come from the left pane, but then what do you expect to find for a dollar and a half?

Mr problem, Mr. Ashbrook, is to replace the 1¢ stamp. Should it be hinged back in place, would mucilage eventually harm the paper, or what method do you employ?

Re plate 4. I am aware that your book contains the only published plating material. For that reason, I thought it might be an idea for you to inaugurate a new Service wherein you can show us, for example, the curl on shoulder varieties as it appears on 11R4 and 81R4, etc. Cuts



are expensive to produce and take time, but perhaps other methods can be devised.

I believe the Souren estate still owns the perforated left pane and that it will eventually come up in a Harmer, Rooke sale. Souren was one of the greatest showmen of all time. P.T. Barnum was a sucker compared to Souren. His confiding to Brookman that he had information regarding certain Banknotes (which he hadn't) was typical of him.

Re photograph of 'A' relief with guide line at left. The photograph you sent me (thanks) seems to be that of the stamp I have in mind. I was not a little surprised at your notation that "the stamp probably is from the mysterious Plate 5". Inasmuch as ornaments O, P, Q, R are complete, I assumed it definitely came from Plate 6. The color and impression also seemed typical of Plate 6. However, you may be able to shed more light on this stamp in about ten days when I shall send you a pair of stamps composed of this item (I'm sure) and the adjoining stamp at the right. The second stamp also has the same ornaments complete; that is, to the best of my recollection. Have you completed the reconstruction of the top row of both panes of Plate 6?

I am enclosing a Mississippi cover bearing a strip of three 1¢ '51 tied by the Canton Oddfellows marking. Your good friend and mine, Jack Molesworth, outbid me for this item at a recent Sam Paige sale. In order to improve the appearance of this strip, Jack removed a rather neat, unobtrusive pen cancellation and used an oxidizing fluid that speaks well for the manufacturer, for he not only removed the pen marking but the ink from the stamp as well. For this effort, Jack added about 50% on to his purchase price and submitted this cover to me. Regardless of the price, I am not interested in the cover in its present condition, but I am interested in plating the strip. It is, of course, a T relief and appears to come from Plate 3. A diagonal line appears in about the middle of the S of Postage in the third stamp and this identical marking is repeated in exactly the same place in the middle stamp, but the impression is fainter. I await, Sir, your pleasure.

PERF. In the Jefferys sale Lot #334 was a cover bearing a very poor copy of 4R1L (very poor, despite fact that it was described as "fine") and two type IV stamps, perforated, (also very poor). This cover sold for \$77.50. In the Kelleher sale of Nov. 30, I obtained a very fine copy of 4R1L Perf. at \$26. This stamp is on a Boston drop letter and is neatly tied by the Boston 'Paid'. Other beautiful covers I obtained include a "U.S. Dispatch Phila", a "Charleston S.C. Way", a "Prov. & Stonington RR", a "U.S. Express Mail, N. York", an "Indianola, Iowa", etc.

I had intended to say a word or two about Van Dyke MacBride's sensational talk at the Collectors Club on his Confederate Collection and how I had never spent two and a half hours more enjoyably, and what he said about the present triumvirate of Confederate Postal History students that consisted of Ashbrook, Shenfield and MacBride, but we will postpone this for the present, otherwise this letter will develop into a volume.

And so, with kindest regards,

Sincerely,

*Morris*

Dec. 10, 1951.

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

Dear Morris:

Yours of the 10th received and I was very much amused at the title conferred upon me by Mort. I have been called a lot of names - some very nice, some not so good, but Mort is the first to refer to me as "The Professor." That really is good.

Regarding the "Troy & N.Y. Steamboat" mail. I did a lot of research on this specialty back in the early nineteen thirties but little if any since I wrote the chapter in my book. No wonder my statement puzzled you.

Plate 4 - "F" Relief - 6th Row. I am enclosing an imperf pair of 53L4 - 54L4 and a single Perf of 54L, so you can see what I think is a good 6th row Type III - I refer to the 54L4. The single is rather nice but of course the pair is just a plating item. On my chart of the Plate 4 types you will note that most of the 6th row consisted of Type IIIA.

The 10¢ 1855 cover - Herewith the cover with the pair of 31LL-32LL plus the 1¢ - Type IV - which I replaced on the cover for you. Such replacement requires a bit of skill and someday when I see you I will have to show you the correct method. - never use mucilage.

Re - the reconstruction of Plate 4. I doubt if positions could be illustrated by half-tone cuts or by diagrams. Next to the stamps themselves would be fine photographs, and I do not possess my original negatives of much of my plating data. Many negatives were made over 30 years ago and many have been broken or lost and I only have one original print. One more point - one photograph of a position is not sufficient for a very accurate record. The identifying plating marks might be covered up with a heavy cancel, hence duplicate prints of a given position are required for accuracy.

Yes, I suppose the Souren Estate still owns the left pane of Pl.4. I doubt if he ever sold it. I never trusted Souren and I was afraid to have very much to do with him. I never believed a word he said. I believe that the only occasions on which he played the game on the square was when it was to his advantage to do so. I firmly believe that the man had some hypnotic power. No one was ever able to figure him out and he is as much of a mystery today as he was when he was going big in New York years ago.

Re - 1¢ 1857 - Top Row - Possible Plate 5. I note that you may send me a pair with the stamp with line down the left side. If your pair has a postmark of New Orleans JUL 28 or 23 don't bother to send it as I have a photo of it. I have known this pair for many years. I have a reconstruction of six positions which includes this pair and I have long had a



#2. Mr. Morris Fortgang, Dec. 10, 1951.

suspicion that this reconstruction came from Plate 5, however, there is quite a possibility that it is from the left pane of Plate 6. At present, just pure guess-work - no evidence either way. The stamp to right is cut by the perfs down the right side - I have a record of duplicates of both positions and the stamp to right is not quite as complete as the stamp to left. If this reconstruction is Plate 6 - then I have a reconstruction of six positions from the left pane of that plate. I have plate seven positions in the top row of the right pane of Plate 6 - viz - 1 - 23 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10R6.

1¢ 1851 cover - Canton, Miss. Herewith I am returning this cover. I was shocked to learn that Molesworth removed the pencancel marks from this cover. That is a most unethical thing to do and I would like to have your permission to write him regarding it. If Jack is doing tricks like this I want no contact with him in any way. He is young and probably don't realize how such monkey-business is frowned upon by honest collectors. I will not mention it to him without your permission but I do think he should be warned.

Please treat the following as strictly confidential and do not mention it to Jack or anyone else - You are quite right - this is a strip from Plate 3 and I think that I know the positions. You are right about the plating marks.

Congratulations on the lots that you purchased in the Kelleher Sale. The 4RLL item was a great bargain. I also note the other items.

So you attended the MacBride talk at the C.C. and I am glad you enjoyed it. Mac is a very gifted speaker in my opinion and quite a competent and thorough student of Confederates. I keep in very close touch with Shenfield and Mac.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Enclosed:

1¢ 1851 - H.Pair - 53L4 - 54L4 - cut - \$17.50

1¢ 1857 - single - Type III 40.00

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

---

*Commissions . Appraisals*

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TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

December 13, 1951

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

Dear Stan:

Yours of December 11th.

Re Jack Molesworth. This is in confidence and for your own information and guidance. He is a young, ambitious stamp dealer and you will remember that he was the man who Gerber referred to in those editorials. Molesworth sued Gerber and collected. Now I don't want to defend Gerber, for I think he is a first class louse and certainly should not have written the things he did about anybody in print, but he did have something on Molesworth.

Molesworth is careless, to give him every benefit of doubt, and in some cases I think he is over the borderline. The reason dealers do business with him is because he pays his bills. I don't think that Dan thinks too highly of him, but of course he buys in Dan's sales, which after all are public auctions.

Recently he paid some fantastic prices for some covers that were in Dan's sales that could not have been for stock, unless he had some prize saps. Besides all the other errors, he doesn't know anything about stamps and of course poses as an expert. He does do some travelling and contacts members of the C.S.A., etc., and in brief, I don't trust him, although I guess he would pay me if he owed me any money, but he certainly will sell anything that anyone would buy.

Keep the Kelleher catalog. I don't need it now.

Re the photograph from your window. I don't have an enlargement as big as this, but in some camera book there was a chapter on enlargements, and there was some rule that this German scientist worked out as to how big an enlargement could be made from any negative, and I have forgotten whether it was eight times or sixteen times. I believe it was based on some mechanical trouble rather than any technique, though the grain of the film and the grain of the paper also had to be considered. In my judgement a negative enlargement as big as the one you sent is probably big enough for any kind of a stamp job. Don't you think so?



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

-2-

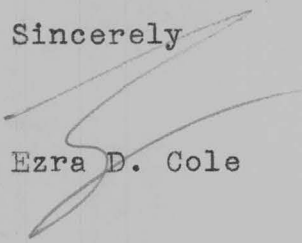
December 13, 1951

Re 32. I am returning the photograph. Now I know the cover.

With reference to the photograph No. 33. I can't figure this one out either. For some reason or other a 1¢ postage due was collected on this. I note there is no street address given in Albany. Why it was struck with two "Albany Received" postmarks, one on the stamp and one on the lower left corner?

Re steel blue. I am not particularly interested in getting in an argument with you, but I was trying to reconcile my views with your opinions. I don't think there was a violent disagreement. It was just to find out what the whole thing was all about.

Sincerely



Ezra D. Cole

EDC:hk  
Enc.

B101

SEE S.B. # 22-P24



*J. Lander Brown*  
*Sharon Mississ*

PL 3-Positions - 4L3-5L3-6L3-This Was Lot 507 in PAIGE Sale of Nov 2-3-1951 - Sold To Jack Molesworth @ \$26.<sup>00</sup> Described "Also M53 Cancel. Molesworth Submitted It To M. FORTGANG @ 45. In Nov 1951 - With Notation "PEN MARKS CLEANED off stamps" CANCEL IS IN GRAY BLACIC

A95

2018-QVART2-F64-23 Min.



PL 3 - Positions - 4L3 - 5L3 - 6L3 - This Was Lot 507 In PAIGE Sale Of Nov 2-3-1951 - Sold  
To Jack Molesworth @ \$26<sup>00</sup> Described "Also MSS Cancel. Molesworth Submitted  
It To M. FORTGANG @ 45. In NOV 1951 - With Notation "PEN MARKS CLEANED  
Off Stamps" CANCEL IS IN GRAY BLACIC



36 State St Albany.  
N. Y.

Dec 7/51

Mr Stanley Ashbrook  
Mt. Thomas Ky.

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

I have just finished reading your very interesting folder, of descriptions and photostats of unusual corals, which you are furnishing to my very good friend W. L. D. Peck of Albany, and which he kindly loaned me.

I also understood from Mr Chase that he has turned over to you a coral from one of my recent finds.

Continued from Page 4

Sordaspedo, the leading book dealer of Boston and N.Y. produce one.

If it would be useful to you for research, I'll be glad to let you take it for a few days.

I have a two volume collection of ship coats, including possibly some that might help in your research work.

With best regards,

Very sincerely  
S. L. Hackett.

forwarded by a N.Y. Postmaster in  
1820 in which he refers to  
"One Penny Post man says etc".  
No one I showed it to could  
figure this out. Elliott Perry  
suggests that this coin completely  
throws out the earliest data  
that such a post existed in  
N.Y. ~~at~~ in 1820.

If you find out anything  
about it, I shall be interested.  
I am sending two coins for  
your inspection, which puzzle  
me - though you may be able  
to enlighten me.

Re. the British coin - rate was 10h.  
why the 2d - 1d additional - N.S. rate  
when forwarded to Cal of 5<sup>d</sup> instead -  
B109 PAIP

I have seen seven different  
Woodstock Stamps of the 40-50  
period, all different from the  
one herewith.

Note - it is a circular - but sent  
sealed to another town - uses  
an entirely different town mark  
with "Paid" 3 - used after prepayment  
necessary. Could it be a sort  
of provisional (no stamps available)?  
I own a copy of what I think  
is quite a rare book J. H. Cottons  
Post Office Directory of 1856, containing  
rules & regulations & laws etc and  
names of P. M. and amount of business  
done. returns to P. O. Dept etc for the  
entire country. A two year search has  
not produced another copy. Nor Conn (page)



Dec. 11, 1951.

Mr. G. L. Habbert,  
36 State St.,  
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Habbert:

Regarding your cover with the British stamps and addressed to "LLOYD MINTURN." The following are my comments:

This is a folded letter of blue paper, inside the date line is "VIENNA 13 OCT 1849." The letter contains British stamps of one shilling green, twopence blue, and one penny red - total 15 pence or approximately 30¢ U. S. currency. On the back is a Liverpool postmark of Oct. 20, 1849 - (LIVERPOOL - OC 20 - 1849 - J) in black. On the face of the cover is an offset impression (in reverse) from the same marking on another letter.

I assume that this cover was sent under separate cover from Vienna to someone in England who probably attached the stamps and placed the letter in the British Mail at Liverpool - routing it Via "Cunard Steamer." The postage was not paid to California and was evidently overpaid by threepence to New York. I know of no explanation to account for the overpayment of threepence, as the Treaty rate to the eastern part of the U. S. was a shilling or 24¢. The stamps are tied to the cover by the Liverpool numeral cancel of "466" (black) which was the number assigned to that office. (See Hendy Book - p.159). On the face is the British marking in red "5 CENTS." This was the credit of the British P.O.D. to the U.S. P.O.D. for the U.S. share of the shilling (24¢) rate. (British share 3¢ domestic plus 16¢ sea).

This letter was evidently delivered at New York to the Wall Street firm of Manturn & Co., who crossed out their name and address and placed the letter in the mail for California. On the back in red is the New York postmark of "Nov 6" and on the face is the curved "PAID" in red of the New York P.O. I assume that the postage to California was either paid in cash by the firm of Minturn & Co. or was charged to their account at the N.Y. P.O. - The sum that was paid on the letter for the postage to California is not in evidence on the letter.

The single rate at that time was 40¢, hence I assume that 40¢ was paid. The original Treaty between G.B. and the U. S. (Dec. 15, 1848) did not fix a rate between G.B. and California and Oregon, but the "amended articles" to the Treaty of May 1849 fixed the rate at 59¢, viz:

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| British Domestic       | .03        |
| Atlantic Sea           | .16        |
| U.S. California-Oregon | .40        |
|                        | <u>.59</u> |

#2. Mr. G. L. Habbert - Dec. 11, 1951.

If a British ship conveyed the letter across the Atlantic the British share was 19¢ of the total, but if an American Packet conveyed the letter across the Atlantic the U. S. share was 56¢. I assume that the total postage paid on this letter was equivalent to 70¢, whereas 59¢ or 2 shillings 5½ pence would have been sufficient had the letter been addressed direct to California instead of "care of" the New York Wall Street firm.

I believe that the above analysis is correct and if so, it leaves us at a loss to account for the extra payment of the 3 pence British. This is quite an interesting cover.

Regarding the New York postmark on the back with date of "Nov 6". I assume that this was the date that the letter was re-mailed by Minturn & Co. There was no U. S. Mail forwarded from New York to California on that date according to my records. The next mail was sent on November 13th, 1849.

In the issue of the N.Y.Herald for Oct. 17, 1849, the U. S. Mail S. S. Co. advertised the departure of their Mail Steamship the "Ohio" on Nov. 13, 1849, at 1 P.M. It was stated the ship would stop at the Bar at Charleston and Savannah to land and receive mails and passengers, and quote: "The Ohio will carry the Government mails for the Pacific, etc. to go by the December 1st steamer from Panama (City). Passengers will go by the 'S.S.Falcon' from Havana, reaching Chagres in time for the California steamer of December 1st. The voyage is made in eleven days. Rates to Chagres are much reduced." (end)  
This was at the height of the gold rush.

I have gone into some detail in the analysis of this cover which I would like to use in my "Special Service" provided you have no objection. I will be pleased to mention that the cover belongs to you.

Sincerely yours,

36

"Cum gratia Memor

1851

Lloyd Minturn

San Francisco

California

care of

~~Wm. H. Burdett~~

~~148 Wall Street~~

~~New York~~



LIVERPOOL  
OCT 24  
1849

BACK OF  
SERVICE  
NEGATIVE

208-F128-PAN-GREEN-8 seconds

COVER FROM  
VIENNA VIA  
LONDON TO S.F.

C27





## Kimmel's Chevrolet Company, Inc.

GARAGE AND SERVICE STATION  
HARDWARE AND IMPLEMENTS

PHONE 52

SALES AND SERVICE

ROBINSON, KANSAS

June 19, 1952

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

Dear "Stan",

It will be perfectly alright for you to call me anything you like; no doubt you already have but there is absolutely no excuse for my being the world's greatest procrastinator, time just simply gets away from me. But I hope you will accept my apologies in good grace and I will try and not let it happen again. I want you to know that I sincerely appreciated your diagnosis and dissertation on my eight covers which I sent for your inspection last December. It gave me the information I have sorely needed for so long but am just too stupid to learn it for myself. Now, if and when I ever get around to mounting these covers, I can give them an intelligent write-up; I have many others which someday I would like to have you look at and tell me the facts regarding them.

You mentioned in your letter that you might like to feature some of my covers in one of your service issues. Please rest assured I have no objection and do so at anytime you wish. I am only too glad to help philately any way that I can. Did you by any chance photograph my covers. I would love to have the pictures and if permissible, would like to purchase them. For a long time it has been my ambition to have the high-lites of my collection photographed, have always thought it would make a fine record and inventory. Would you undertake the job and would it be permissible, the photographic work which you do is the best I have ever seen, maybe the cost would be too exorbitant. I have no idea what it might be. Would appreciate knowing your thoughts on the idea.

I bought a great many Confederate covers in the Finney sale and quite a few out of the last Fox sale but all fine covers, especially Confederates, are becoming so darn high I am wondering if there can't be an end to it. I think it means one of two things, either people are running for cover with their money or there is greater interest then there has ever been in the history of Philately. But I know one thing for certain, I am going to have to drop by the way-side as the pressure of high prices forces me out, I just don't have unlimited income and business just ain't what it used to be".

100<sup>00</sup>  
20<sup>00</sup>

DEAN KIMMEL

MURL KIMMEL



## Kimmel's Chevrolet Company, Inc.

GARAGE AND SERVICE STATION  
HARDWARE AND IMPLEMENTS



PHONE 52

SALES AND SERVICE

ROBINSON, KANSAS

The flood here this spring was the most terrible in the history of this country. Suppose you read some about it in the papers, while I was not in the direct path of it, I am only a few miles away from where it happened and it really affected business. Just this week we have had the first train service into my little town since the floods in April, also the highway going east into St. Joseph was opened for the first time last week. The Missouri River changed its course and also changed the face of the whole country side. In places around here it looks like the Grand Canyon and part of Kansas is over in Missouri and part of Missouri is over in Kansas. But this is a farm country and generally, farmers got off to a good start this spring but now we are afflicted with extreme heat and hot winds which is doing a great deal of damage to the crops. Think we don't have troubles???? I'll listen to yours someday if you care to expound on them.

Inclosed is my check for \$100.00 covering your Special Services for the coming year. They are most interesting and I get a great deal of good from them. I appreciate being on your list of recipients. The other \$20.00 check is a little extra for extra efforts put forth in my behalf.

Kindest regards to Mildred, yourself and your son.

Sincerely yours,

A. Murl Kimmel

By *A. Murl Kimmel*

Dec. 14, 1951.

Mr. A. Murl Kimmel,  
Robinson, Kans.

Dear Murl:

Herewith your eight covers and the following are some comments.  
I have numbered the lot from #1 to #8 inclusive.

No. 1 - This is a wonderful cover and a very scarce use - from Honolulu Via San Francisco - New York to Prussia and on to Denmark. I dare say that very few collections can show a cover to Denmark from Hawaii. In my Service Issue No. 6, page #30, and the following pages, I discussed mail "Via Prussian Closed Mail" - This cover was routed from New York by that route - that is - in sealed bags via England, Belgium to Aachen. (See blue marking on your cover) - To Prussia and by Prussian mail to "Kobenhavn." The through rate was 33¢ per half ounce unpaid and 31¢ Paid. The encircled "10" was applied at New York and represented a credit of 10¢ to the Prussian P.O.D. - viz., 7¢ for Prussia (as per my "article") plus 3¢ for transmission to Denmark. This total of 31¢ represented the U. S. postage only from San Francisco. The sender paid 5¢ Hawaii postage plus a 2¢ ship fee for sea carriage to San Francisco. The pencil (faint) 1866 in lower left is no doubt the correct year of use.

Cover #2 - Yes, I recognized this at once as a former Knapp cover, but this is a philatelic gem that has been known to philately for over half a century. Way back in the nineties there was a very prominent student of Hawaiian postal issues by the name of Brewster C. Kenyon - He lived in Long Branch, Calif. In 1895 he published a handbook entitled, "History of the Postal Issues of Hawaii." In this book he devoted a full page to an illustration of this remarkable cover. I note the Knapp catalogue stated that this was Ex-Ackerman. The latter may have acquired it from Kenyon. In the Knapp sale it went to Tows. This was a triple rate (per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.) letter as follows:

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 3 x 5¢ Hawaii (internal)       | 15¢ |
| Ship fee into Portland, Oregon | 2¢  |
| U. S. postage 3 x 3¢           | 9¢  |

Thus 11¢ in U. S.

(A use in Sept - Oct 1866).

Cover No. 3 - This is certainly a wonderful cover - and in my opinion the use was in 1876. I made a tracing in red to show the wording of the poorly struck Honolulu postmark. This was used exclusively on foreign mail in 1876 - 1877 - perhaps much later. The letter was not "Registered" at Honolulu but rather at San Francisco. The 6¢ Green Hawaii stamp merely paid the postage from Hawaii to the U.S. - The 15¢ U. S. orange - (Continental Print) - paid the 5¢ rate to England plus the 10¢ U. S. registration fee. The 10¢ fee became effective on Oct. 1, 1875. The red Registered was applied at San Francisco and that office should have postmarked this letter. In all probability both stamps were put on at Honolulu - the 6¢ canceled at that office and the 15¢ canceled at San Francisco.



#2. Mr. A. Murl Kimmel - Dec. 14, 1951.

Cover No. 4 - Double rate. From Honolulu to Massachusetts. 10¢ was paid at Honolulu - cash - 2¢ is the Ship Fee into San Francisco and 20¢ the double 10¢ rate from S.F. to the East - This letter went by the Ocean Mail via Panama. Re - California rate to the East. It was 10¢ from April 1, 1855 to June 30, 1863 inclusive. Subsequently it was 3¢.

Covers #5 and #6. These make an exceedingly nice pair. Both originated at Syracuse, N.Y. and are addressed to the same address in China - Both show 53¢ paid in postage. Both show the pen routing "Via Marseilles" - One was mailed May 16, 1865, the other Nov. 6, 1865. The May cover shows "32" and the November letter shows "40". I imagine the "40" on the latter cover would prove rather puzzling to the average student of foreign rate markings. Mail at this period was forwarded to China by British, German and French mails but the most important was the British. The British rates were as follows:

By British Mail "Via Marseilles" - 53¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

By British Mail "Via Southampton" - 45¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

If the New York office - Foreign Division Department sent the letter to England by an American Packet (from N.Y. to England) the U. S. credit to the British P.O. was 32¢ as per the May letter. This letter was routed "Via Marseilles" and it was sent by that route. This routing meant from New York to England - thence across the Channel in sealed bags to Calais - then by rail via Paris to Marseilles, France - There it was put aboard a British Mail Packet enroute to the Far East via Suez. In order to be dispatched from London in time to reach Marseilles in time for the British Mail Ship the letter had to leave London on the 10th or 26th of each month. On your May cover (No. 5) the New York date is May 20 (1865) - The London date looks like "JU 1" but it was actually JUN 10 65 - this being the date it was despatched to France to catch the British Mail Ship at Marseilles. Thus this cover is correct in all respects.

Now for cover No. 6 - with the November date. This shows that the letter was despatched from London on Nov 20 1865 showing that it did not arrive in time to be forwarded from London on the 10th for the Marseilles Mail Ship, hence was routed "Via Southampton." Mail by this route to China and the Far East was despatched from London on the 4th and 20th of each month. "Via Southampton" meant that mail was sent from Southampton, England down the Atlantic past Gibraltar and via Suez to the East. Thus this letter, though routed and paid to go "Via Marseilles," was despatched from England "Via Southampton" the rate by this route being 45¢. The letter was thus overpaid by 8¢. The New York postmark reads "N.York Br. Pkt" showing that the letter was sent by a British Packet - (Cunard Line) from New York to England. All that we were entitled to was 5¢, hence out of the proper rate of 45¢, the U.S. P.O.D. credited Britain with "40" - thus the "40" on this cover. The reason that the rate was higher "Via Marseilles" was because France was paid for transit across France, but time was saved by the route. As stated above - these two covers make quite an interesting pair as they are quite an intricate study in Routes and Markings of the period of 1865.

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#3. Mr. A. Murl Kimmel - Dec. 14, 1951.

Cover No. 8 - To England - 24¢ rate in July 1861. The "19" in red is the U. S. credit of 19¢ on this letter to the British P.O.D. - because the letter was conveyed from New York to England by a British Packet - The credit being 16¢ sea plus British 3¢ internal. From Moravia N.Y. July 29 (1861) to Liverpool - Patriotic envelope.

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I will be glad to follow some of the good suggestions in your letter and again I thank you for the mention.

If any of my comments on your covers are not perfectly clear, please advise me and I will be glad to explain any point.

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

Dec. 14, 1951.

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Robinson, Kans.

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With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,



A. Murl Kimmel  
Robinson, Kansas.



Mr. A. MURL KIMMEL  
ROBINSON, KANSAS

## AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

OFFICE OF REGIONAL GOVERNOR

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Sunday 12/9/51

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

Dear "Stan"

I am in receipt of Issue #9 of your "Special Service" and your short letter. I have read every issue with a great deal of interest and have probably learned more regarding our Postal History from your service than I ever have in all the years I've been at it from my own efforts, first,--my own stupidity stands in my way, and second,--lack of time to do the research necessary to learn what I want to know. That combination creates a void in my Philatelic life which is perfectly filled by your service, and I'll bet I speak for many others who have to spend most of their time "kicking the wolf off the doorstep". I appreciate having access to your service more than I have words to tell. And you can "Cut another notch in your pistol" for the great work you are doing, for the good of the cause.

You asked for a few suggestions and I'll tell you what I'd like to see. I've noticed much of your work delves into the more complicated phases of our Postal History,--why not do a few short paragraphs now & then on the simpler things, such as--Carriers, when city free delivery was started,--Way Letters, such as the pick ups along our rivers in the early days,--etc, etc. No doubt endless words have been written regarding these and others but I still think a specific item, shortly written with a picture would be well done. As the old Chinese proverb says, "one picture is worth ten thousand words." It would be good for the amateurs and the people who can't sit down and read endless words trying to get some little point of information and believe me I come in both categories. That's what I like about your service,--short, concise and compact. Perhaps the minor things are not worth the time and effort it takes, especially pictures. But many people cannot afford the high powered items. My suggestions are only that and if they have no worth, skip 'em.

I am inclosing to you eight of my gems. Look them over and if you consider them worthy I would be glad, and would appreciate having them photographed and discussed. Perhaps you might think enough has been said about the one ex-Knapp in his catalog. But it is a beauty, don't you think? I am inclosing enough postage for their return when you have finished with them.

Thought I'd get to Fort Thomas this winter but looks like I won't make it as of now. I have many fine things that I need your help and guidance on, but not when a hundred other guys are on your neck at the same time. Our little gal came down with a sudden illness and our world nearly crashed around us, she is much better now but I don't care to get too far from home for a while.

Was nice being with you at Capex and I hope we can all be together again before too long. Kindest regards to you all.

Sincerely Yours

*Murl*

Dec. 12, 1951.

Mr. A. Murl Kimmel,  
Robinson, Kansas.

Dear Murl:

Just a line to acknowledge the safe receipt of yours with the covers and to express to you my sincere appreciation of your kind words regarding my "Service." I also want to thank you for the helpful suggestions in your letter and I will certainly carry them out. I try to explain philatelic puzzles in ABC language and to give the reader a clear conception of what I am driving at. I do appreciate the fact that at times I probably forget that the other fellow may not be sufficiently posted to grasp it all.

You sent me a nice lot of covers and I know you prize them highly. Perhaps after I give them a little discussion you will like them even better. You know Murl, I think every cover has its own story to tell but so few of us can interpret the language they use to tell their story to us. When we can understand their language, then they are really a pleasure. Sounds a bit silly but it really is a fact.

More later, but in the meantime, Mildred and I send you and yours best wishes for a very Happy Holiday Season. We do trust the little lady has fully recovered.

Cordially yours,



June 28, 1952.

Mr. A. Murl Kimmel,  
Robinson, Kans.

Dear Murl:

It was nice to receive such a nice newsy letter from you and I can assure you that it was appreciated. Thanks very much for the renewal of your subscription to my Special Service and your check for \$100 for same, also the extra check for \$20 which I will try and give you value received in the future. You certainly did not owe this to me.

May I apologize for the delay in acknowledging your letter? I had to make the enclosed photo prints because I didn't have any duplicates made up. I should have sent you a set last December but I suppose the Christmas Holidays came on soon after and it slipped my mind. By referring to our correspondence of that time I note that you sent me eight (8) covers which I numbered in my letter. I find I did not photograph covers #7 and #8 - These were two 24¢ covers to England. Please accept these six prints with my compliments - They are a partial appreciation for that extra check you enclosed. I fully intend to use some of your covers in one of my Service Issues in the near future. Thanks for the permission.

Regarding photographs of covers in your collection. I furnish Edgar Jessup with quite a few prints of his covers and have been doing this for years. He pays me \$1.00 per print and while I don't solicit such work I will be glad to make you the same price. I charge others who only want a photograph occasionally, \$2.00 a print. I also photograph whole collections by pages but such work is done on microfilms and of course is not near as fine as regular size as per the enclosed. The enclosed are photographed on panchromatic plates thru color filters and frequently I make extra plates to bring out certain features of a cover that should be shown.

Murl I was greatly pleased that you liked the analysis that I made of your eight covers.

Yes, we read a great deal about the flood last spring of the Missouri River and saw scenes of it on television and we realized what a disaster it really was. This old Ohio breaks out ever so often and goes on a big rampage and so we are a bit familiar with floods. We had a record breaker in January 1937 that people who went thru it will not forget very soon. The previous record was in 1884 when the Ohio hit 71 feet at Cincinnati. In 1937 it went 9 feet higher to 80 feet. Just imagine. No one thought such a stage possible. They have built a big flood wall around Newport and are building one around Covington.

Re - the Finney Sale of Confederates. It is true that some items sold at fantastic prices - much too high in my estimation - but a lot of items sold too cheap. Confederates have lagged in the past twenty years and have been long overdue for better prices. Finney had some nice things that a lot of Confed collectors wanted, hence keen competition and high prices. I don't think that one can go wrong by investing heavily in such historical U. S. material.

Again thanks for such a welcome letter. Mildred and Stan Jr. join me in best wishes to Mrs. Kimmel and you and trust you will both pay us another visit in the near future.

Cordially yours,

July 2, 1952.

Mr. Murl Kimmel,

Robinson, Kans.

Dear Murl:

I am wondering if you would be interested in a Pony Express cover that went from San Francisco to New York in July - August of 1861? This is a Wells Fargo frank on the scarce 10¢ Green Star Die envelope with a dollar red Wells Fargo stamp. The price is \$600 subject to prior sale.

I also have a C.O.C. & P.P. Express cover from Denver City K.T. on April 18, 1860 thru St. Joseph, Mo. Apr 25 to Illinois with two 3¢ 1857 - Price \$150.00, subject to prior sale.

If interested in either one I will be pleased to submit.

Sincerely yours,



DEAN KIMMEL



PHONE 52

MURL KIMMEL

# Kimmel's Chevrolet Company, Inc.

GARAGE AND SERVICE STATION  
HARDWARE AND IMPLEMENTS



SALES AND SERVICE

ROBINSON, KANSAS

July 9, 1952

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

Dear "Stan",

Thanks for thinking of me and offering to me your Pony Express cover and Pikes Peak Express cover in your letter of July 2nd but, - while I am very much interested, I just am not financially able to have these covers at the moment.

I have quite a few of these covers but am always interested in one more which might be a little different than what I have but they are all getting so darn high that I am just about priced out of the market.

Thanks again for your offering and try me again sometime.

I appreciated your letter of June 28th no end. Thanks a million for the six prints of my covers which you sent along. They are really fine. Just exactly what I want to do with the other high-lites of my collection and I am going to take advantage of your offer to photograph them just as soon as I can find the time to again work with my stamps which will probably not be until sometime this winter.

Unless conditions around here change, doesn't look like I'll make a stamp meeting this entire year but I'm still hoping, business conditions are not good and I want to keep my thumbs on everything as closely as possible. Thanks for everything and kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

A. Murl Kimmel

By Murl

↓ THIS COVER WAS LOST IN TOWNS SALE BY PELANDER OCT 7 1948  
↓ SOLD TO JOHN FORT AT \$115.00

31 in Red  
Pencil Under  
Stamps  
(By E. S. K.)

Ex Knapp

*Cumst.*

Black Coy



*W. C.*

*Knoboyade.*

*Copenhagen*

*Denmark*

By M. K.

*1866*

↑ 1866

①

A96

Steamer from S.F.

Year on Back  
1866



Miss Carrie A. Parker  
Care Rev. L. S. Parker  
Derry New Hampshire



Recd

Black

Black

By M. K.  
12/12-51

Town Sale Lot 106



②

B107



Black

5244

- Blue



Recd

REGISTERED. Red

Mr. Thoms. W. Rawlins Jr.

Care of Thoms W. Rawlins

96 New Street

Deptford Kent  
England

Tows Sale  
Lot 141

By M.C.  
12/12/51

Recd

3

A97

22

Red

Black  
JUL 16  
1860

Red

Mr. Samuel Sutton

Northfield  
Massachusetts

Ex Emerson

By M.K.

LLS. A

↑ THIS COVER WAS LOT 50 IN TOWNS SALE &  
PELANDER OCT 7 1948 AND SOLD AT \$200.15  
TO JOHN FOX

A96



④

Ag6

8



SYRACUSE  
N.Y. MAY 16 (65)

Cornell's Robert T. Courisend

War Steamer d. W. Russell.

VIA AM PKT  
VIA MARI

Via  
Marseilles

Macao

China

By M.K.  
12/12-31



1865 - JUNE

On Baic  
HONG KONG 7/23-65

⑤

A 97

Place

Nov 6  
1865



Comdr Robert Townsend U. S. N.

U S Steamer Wachusett

RR. PKT  
Via Southampton

Via  
Marseilles

Meaco

China

on Bagle Hong Kong JAN 15 - 66.



Red

Red

Red - LONDON  
20 Nov 65

By M. K.  
12/12 - 51



⑥

A97

Dec. 13, 1951.

Mr. W. L. L. Peltz,  
82 State St.,  
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Peltz:

Yours of the 12th received and I note that you do not think there is any chance that the mysterious 1¢ Due post card has any canal boat connection. No doubt you are right but I thought it would be well to consider the possibility inasmuch as canal boats did travel, in those days, from the vicinity of Troy to Albany. What about carriage down the Hudson by a non-contract steamboat - the card handed to the captain at Troy and when he got to Albany he demanded a steamboat (or WAY?) fee of 1¢ - no doubt he was entitled to it and, of course, this would have been charged to the addressee. I really wonder if this couldn't be the proper solution.

I will certainly do whatever I can regarding the two MacGregor covers from Albany and, further, you shall have photo-prints.

Re - the stampless from Albany to Paris in 1862. Yes, prepayment of postage was required on domestic mail under the Act of March 3, 1855 and Congress left it up to the P.M.G. as to whether he would require prepayment by stamps or government envelopes. He ruled that on and after Jan. 1, 1856, domestic postage had to be paid in that manner. In other words, if a person laid down a letter with 3¢ in cash, the P.M. was not permitted to merely hand-stamp the letter as PAID. He had to put the 3¢ in the cash drawer, take out a 3¢ stamp and put it on the letter. Please excuse this detailed explanation. However, this regulation applied to domestic mail, not to foreign mail. A sender could prepay mail to foreign countries with cash and the mailing office was not required to put stamps on such mail.

Under the terms of the British, French and German postal treaties as well as certain others, prepayment of postage was optional. Consider the enclosed cover. The U.S.-French Treaty went into effect on April 1, 1857, and it remained in effect thru Dec. 31, 1869. The single rate was  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce - not  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. (With G.B. it was  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.) - The single rate was 15¢ U. S. or "8" decimes French. Each country was entitled to a share of the 15¢ and the division was as follows:

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| U.S. internal   | 3¢ (per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.) |
| French "        | 3¢ " " "                   |
| Atlantic Sea    | 6¢                         |
| English Channel | 3¢                         |
|                 | 15¢                        |

Most of the mail went via England and was carried there by either British or American packets. For example, suppose a letter originated at Albany and was addressed to Paris. When it got to New York it was put aboard a British Packet -

#2. Mr. W. L. L. Peltz - Dec. 13, 1951.

sent to England and thence to France across the Channel to Calais. Suppose 15¢ was paid at Albany - The U. S. share was 3¢  
The French " " 12¢

On such a letter the U. S. P.O.D. credited the French P.O. with 12¢ and out of that 12¢ France paid England for transmission from New York to England (6¢) and across Channel to Calais (3¢) or a total of 9¢. Thus the 15¢ collected at Albany was distributed - U. S. 3¢  
France 3¢  
Great B. 9¢

Quite complicated and can you imagine all the bookkeeping that was required - a separate accounting on each piece of first-class mail.

Consider your cover - This did not weigh over  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce - it was not prepaid - unpaid mail markings were in black - prepaid in red - or debits were in black - credits in red. The Albany office rated the letter as 15¢ due - black 15 - when the letter arrived at New York it was sent by a British Packet and New York debited France with 6¢. Strange to relate, this was an error as the debit should have been "3" - When the letter reached France the "8" was applied - meaning 8 decimes due - or approximately 15¢ U.S. - A decime was a tenth of a franc and a franc was rated at approximately 19¢ U.S. This "6" debit would have applied if the letter weighed over  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. The above is the simple explanation of the apparent error but it is entirely possible that Albany rated it as not over  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce, but New York found it was over  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce - and charged France with two debits of 3¢ each - However, when it got to France it is possible that the French found it was not over  $7\frac{1}{2}$  grammes, hence rated it as a single. In other words, New York rated by ounces - France by grammes. (See postscript). All very complicated but I wanted to give you all the facts.

Incidentally international postal settlements had to be made in gold - so when gold went to high premiums during the Civil War, the Post Office faced quite a loss on settlements. Collecting on unpaid mail from abroad in U. S. currency and settling in gold. In 1864 gold reached 256 in U. S. Notes. I suppose you have seen such covers - the sum due - expressed in gold or U. S. Notes. In my next Service Issue I will discuss such mail. I call such covers "Depreciated Currency" covers.

I trust that you will pardon the length of this letter.

Mr. Habbert sent me an interesting cover - one from Vienna in late 1849 via England and New York to San Francisco. You might ask him to show it to you together with my analysis of it.

Cordially yours,

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| P.S.-- .25 ounce equals | 7.09 grammes |
| .265 " "                | 7.50 "       |
| .27 " "                 | 7.65 "       |

If New York found the letter weighed a slight fraction over a quarter ounce (.25) - or .265, France could still rate it as a  $7\frac{1}{2}$  grammes, hence charge as due, only the single rate.



Dec. 13, 1951.

Mr. Eugene Jaeger,  
34 Sumner St.,  
Norwood, R.I. (Formerly Edgewood 5 - R.I.)

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

I have before me a cover to Paris, France - sent unpaid from Albany, N.Y. Dec. 17, 1861 - and rated with "15" as a single. The New York black of Dec. 18 has a "6" debit. The French receiving shows Br Serv Calais Jan. 62. No corrections at all. I assume that Albany rated it as a single not over  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce, but New York found it was over  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce, hence rated it as a double with a 2 x 3 debit. However, Paris considered it not over  $7\frac{1}{2}$  grammes and rated it as a single with "8" decimes due. Thus the French P.O. was the loser by 3%. This is quite an excellent example of your discovery and later I will send you a photo-print.

Sincerely yours,



December 28-1951

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letters of the 13th  
and 19th received.

The cover from Albany to France is  
interesting. It differs from our previous  
material in that Albany & N.Y. could not  
agree on the single or double U.S. rate. It  
probably was exactly on the  $1/402$  line. France,  
of course, found it less than  $7\frac{1}{2}$  grammes and  
as you say, elected to lose the 3¢, rather than  
collect 16 dec. from the recipient.

I shall be looking forward to your  
photo print.

My very best wishes for the coming Year

Sincerely yours  
Eugene Jaeger

Jan. 9, 1952.

Mr. Eugene Jaeger,

34 Sumner St.,

Norwood, R.I. (formerly Edgewood - R.I.).

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Herewith a photo-print of the cover mentioned in my letter of Dec. 13th (with my compliments). Your comment will be appreciated. This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 28th.

Re - "depreciated currency covers." I have turned up some interesting data and will be glad to send same to you if you would be interested.

I have searched thru all my files but have not been able to find any article on this class of covers in the philatelic press. By any chance, do you have any record of an article, or mention of such covers?

Sincerely yours,

→  
BY  
PELTZ  
SEE  
SB 22  
P 27

A96

By  
W.L.L.P.

62

ALBANY  
DEC 17 - 1862

Black

15

Black

Recl →

This Reads  
ETATS UNIS  
3-JANV-62  
SERV-BRIT-CALAIS

Paris  
France



Black



December 11th, 1951.

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

Dear Stan:

Here are two nice covers which I recently acquired for my own collection. Entirely through coincidence, as they came from two different collectors with each of whom I made exchanges! I thought you would like to have photos of them both for your records, and I would like to have prints. Incidentally, please don't make notations which will show in the prints you send me, as I shall probably want to use them in articles later.

This is only the third "River Defense" cover which has turned up, - peculiar that the three should have been discovered in the last few months while unknown throughout all the preceding years! This is the only one of the three showing Confederate postal usage, but as the "Gun Boat" line is filled in with "Paid 10" instead of the name of a boat, this cover may have been used in ordinary correspondence rather than in the River Defense service, as were the other two. You have photos of both of those, which you will also recall I wrote up in STAMPS of November 10th last.

The other is a very scarce PoW cover, being sent from the prison-hospital camp on David's Island in Long Island Sound, via Pelham, N.Y. David's Island, which later became Fort Slocum, was where a considerable number of wounded Confederate soldiers captured at Gettysburg were held, - and few collectors know anything about it, or ever heard of it! I have a lot of data on it now, and some fine photographs, and plan to write it up soon.

Thanks for giving these your prompt attention and return, along with a memo of what I will owe you.

My best season's wishes to you!

As Ever

MacB/HK



Dec. 15, 1951.

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

Dear Mac:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 11th. I made negatives and prints will follow later. It is odd that three (3) of the "River Defense" covers came to light in a short space of less than six months. Yes Mac, I read your article in "Stamps" of Nov. 10th and I intended to write you at the time, what an interesting story you built up around the two covers. You are one hundred percent right, in what other specialty in philately can be found quite as many interesting subjects as the covers of the "Lost Cause." All of your article was new to me.

Evidently this new Demopolis cover was used Oct. 30, 1861 - How do you explain this use? Do you suppose the Confederacy had any River Defense steamboats on the Tombigbee or Black Warrior Rivers in Alabama? The cover in which you enclosed these two covers looks rather ragged and much abused. Why not send it to Johnny Fox and ask him to retire it from Service and send you a nice new clean one.

The P.O.W. cover is very interesting and entirely new to me. I never heard of any prison - hospital camp such as you describe but your account is most interesting. My compliments to you for the fine research work that you are doing on Confederates. It is outstanding.

With Holiday Greetings -

Sincerely yours,



BLACK

Mr. Hardencopland  
Dobson.. po  
surry county



BLACK

Dark  
Brown  
Envel.

N. C.

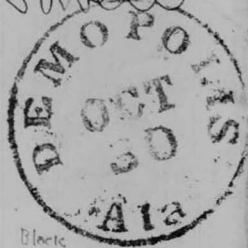
A 100

C. S. River Defence Service.

Gun-Boat *Parade* is  
large Hospital boat -

Wm. Lucien M<sup>c</sup> Donnell  
Inscalvosa  
ala -

Light  
Buff  
Envelope



Black



A100

Dec. 17, 1951.

Mr. Harry A. Dunsmoor,

835 Onondaga Bank Bldg.,

Syracuse 2, N.Y.

Dear Harry:

Thanks so much for your kind letter of the 13th.

That is a very odd cover indeed and I was pleased to obtain a correct solution of it. I really had doubts that the Paid had actually been applied at the Syracuse Post Office. And it seemed so odd that it was not rated.

I am returning the three War Rate covers as they wouldn't help my collection. Thanks just the same.

With Holiday Greetings -

Cordially yours,

Dec. 16, 1951.

Mr. C. M. Phillips, Jr.,  
Route #1 - Box 78,  
Winter Haven, Fla.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Herewith your Syracuse cover, also the letter from  
my good friend Harry A. Dunsmoor of Syracuse. Please return same  
but make a copy if you wish.

Very cold here today - six (6) below zero at 8 A.M.  
today - plenty of snow and ice. Not very nice. I'll bet it isn't  
exactly hot down your way today.

Regards -

Sincerely yours,

LAW OFFICES  
HARRY A. DUNSMOOR  
835 - 841 ONONDAGA BANK BLDG.  
SYRACUSE 2, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE 2-1173

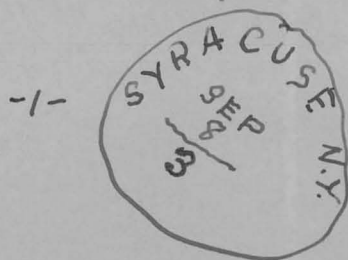
Dec. 13, 1951

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

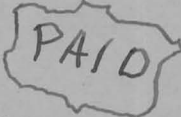
Dear Stanley:

I am returning herin the Syracuse cover with fancy "Paid" marking. This marking was used 1851-1854 at Syracuse. The question about the absence of a rate marking had not occurred to me prior to your letter.

After examining the question from that angle, I find a possible explanation. During 1851-2 & 3, I find this same Paid marking in blue in conjunction with

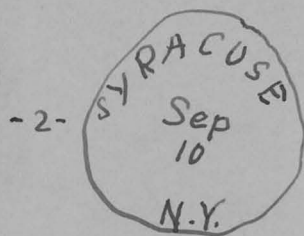


During 1852 & 3 the rate marking of "3" grows poor and all of my 1854 Syracuse prepaid markings have

this  in black and in conjunction with a different style town marking (like yours)



LAW OFFICES  
HARRY A. DUNSMOOR  
835 - 841 ONONDAGA BANK BLDG.  
SYRACUSE 2, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE 2-1173



which is plainly a resurrection of a Syracuse handstamp commonly in use in the late 1840 period up to the 1851 use of -1-

So your cover seems to be standard for prepaid stampless out of Syracuse in 1854 and 1854 seems to be the latest Syracuse stampless covers in my collection.

Recently, I noted an article by you on "war of 1812" increased rates. I enclose 3 covers for your inspection & information. If you should desire to own them, the prices are marked on the backs.

Regards  
Harry A. Dunsmoor

B 100

206-F128-K3-PAN-4-5cc



30 mm  
Blue Black

18 mm



32 mm

Jonathan Brown Esqr  
Corning  
Stuber Co  
N York

By C.M.P. Jr

B100

U.S.-BRITISH Postal Treaty of Dec 15 1848  
The Following  
Data By  
Maurice C Blake (Dec 8 1951)

Official Draft of Treaty Came By Cunard  
EUROPA from Liverpool Dec 16 1848  
to New York Dec 21<sup>st</sup>.

Retaliatory Rate Rescinded By U.S.P.M.G. on  
Jan 3 1849

Ratification of Treaty By U.S. Senate Jan 5 1849  
With Signature By The President Jan 6 1849.

Publication on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 1849 of the  
Treaty with comments by negotiator  
George Bancroft - together with a  
Notice to the Public and Instructions to  
Postmasters by Cave Johnson P.M.G. dated  
Jan 8 1849. including the optional  
unpaid or prepaid 24¢ single -  
double 48¢ and triple 72¢

Rates legalized by Act of Congress  
Mar 3 1849.



11 Mason Street  
Brookline 46, Mass.  
December 8, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

Instead of photostatic copy of sources mentioned in my letter of yesterday, I will summarize data from my notes which seem pertinent to your PAID 24 Charleston, S.C. cover of Feb. 3, 1849 by "Steamer to New York" and "p Steamer CANADA from New York - 7 Feb 1849" via Liverpool Feb. 19 to Greenock.

Although the FALCON left N.Y. Feb.1, 1849 and Charleston Feb. 5 for Chagres, no steamer of this line came into Charleston north-bound for N.Y. early in February 1849. However, the sister steamers NORTHERNER and SOUTHERNER are listed as carrying the U.S. Mails between New York and Charleston. The Steamer SOUTHERNER left N.Y. Pier 4, N.R. at 3 P.M., Sat., Jan. 27, 1849, arrived Charleston Wed., Jan. 31st, and left Charleston on Sat., Feb. 3rd, arriving in N.Y. on Tues., Feb. 6th, hence in time for your letter to leave N. Y. by the British Mail Steamer CANADA, Judkins, which sailed from Jersey City at noon on Wed., Feb. 7th.

If the letter had been rated under the Act of Mar. 3, 1845 to go by the CANADA from New York, the correct postage would have been 10¢ single to ½oz. prepaid, whether sent by inland mail (Sec. 1) or as in this case by coastwise Steamer (Sec. 13) from Charleston to N.Y. However, in case the SOUTHERNER reached N.Y. too late for the CANADA, as the records show might have happened, then 10¢ prepaid would have meant delay as the next regular sailing of a British Mail Steamer from N.Y. was the EUROPA on Mar. 7, 1849, whereas "The U.S. Mail Steamer HERMANN, Crabtree, having been reebellished will depart for Southampton and Bremen on Tues., Feb. 20th." From your quotation of the Act of March 3, 1845, Sec. 3 (in your letter of Dec. 3rd, 1951) -- "between any of the ports of the United States and the ports of England and France --- twenty-four cents, with the inland postage of the United States added..." Could this be interpreted to mean only inland postage added, but without any such addition when a letter left a U.S. port, in this case Charleston, by a U.S. Mail Steamer, the SOUTHERNER, and then went on from New York by a U.S. Mail Steamer, the HERMANN, to Southampton, i.e. PAID 24 instead of 34 ?

In case the foregoing conveyance by two U.S. Mail Steamers from Charleston to Southampton for 24¢ prepaid was not legal or not contemplated as insurance against delay, then there remains only anticipatory use of the new U.S.-British Treaty rate to account for the PAID 24. I find that official draft of the Treaty came by the EUROPA from Liverpool, Dec. 16, 1848 to N.Y. Dec. 31st; rescinding of the Retaliatory Rate by the U.S. P.M.G. Jan. 3, 1849; Ratification of Treaty by U.S. Senate Jan. 5, 1849 with signature by the President Jan. 6th; and publication on January 10 of the Treaty with comments by our negotiator, George Bancroft, together with a NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AND INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS by Cave Johnson, Postmaster General, dated Jan. 8th, 1849, including the optional unpaid or prepaid 24¢ single to ½oz. rate and incidentally that in the U.S. rating was fixed per ½oz., double 48¢, triple 72¢ (1-1½oz.), even though the British system of two rates per ounce over 1oz. or 96¢ for 1-2oz. would be used in England, which latter was adopted by the U.S. when the rates were legalized by the Act of Congress of March 3, 1849. As the P.M.G. Notice stated that details as to accounting would be sent later to the Post Offices at Boston and New York, the Charleston Postmaster might well have assumed that the

Dec. 8, 1951

U. S. P. O. would get none of the postage if he allowed the letter to go wholly unpaid, but that the U.S. would be adequately reimbursed by PAID 24 whether the letter sent by the SOUTHERNER to New York was conveyed across the Atlantic by the CANADA on Feb. 7th or in case of being too late for the CANADA by the U.S. HERMANN from New York Feb. 20th to Southampton.

Your comments on the foregoing will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*Maurice Blake*

# JOHN A. FOX

116 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

BEEKMAN 3-5443

STAMPS  
COVERS  
ACCESSORIES

RETAIL  
WHOLESALE  
AUCTIONS

December 17, 1951

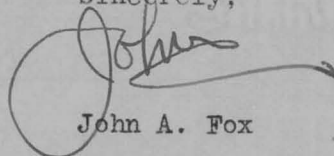
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
33 North Fort Thomas Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan:

I have quite a nice auction sale coming up in January, among which is the enclosed stamp. Mr. Gore from Wichita, Kansas is interested in some of the stamps including this. He asked me to send it to you prior to the sale for your opinion on the cancellation. I, too, am interested, and would like you to look at it. However, I would like you to send me a bill. I heartily dislike taking advantage of your knowledge and not paying for it. Here we go again!

I trust that Mildred and yourself are enjoying good health, and that all is well with you. With kind personal regards from Virginia and myself.

Sincerely,



John A. Fox

JAF: fwd



Dec. 21, 1951.

Mr. John A. Fox,  
116 Nassau St.,  
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear John:

Herewith the 90¢ 1860 as per yours of the 17th, which did not arrive until this morning due to the congested state of the mail.

This is a repaired copy, that is, the whole left side has been added - fake perfs and painted extension of cancelation. I don't know why anyone would add a whole side, such as this, to an unused stamp, so it is barely possible that the cancelation on the genuine part of the stamp is okay - the color of the stamp don't look like one of the remainders and if that red grid across Washington's face and neck is "bad" then some faker certainly knew how to match a red of those days. Further, the canceling ink don't show on the back thru the stamp. This is quite a poor job in my estimation. Some of those "chinese" artists are really clever when it comes to work of this kind, but this crook must have been a paper hanger as it looks like he used his brush and a bucket of paste.

Don't kid me about charging you a fee on a thing like this and if you ever hesitate to send items to me for fear of imposing upon me, I'll quit speaking to you.

Mildred joins me in best wishes to Virginia and you for a Very Merry Xmas.

Cordially yours,

P.S.--The beautiful diary came safe to hand and I thank you very much. I now have a nice set.



Dec. 21, 1951.

Mr. Theodore Gore,  
400 Brown Bldg.,  
Wichita, Kans.

Dear Mr. Gore:

Just a line to advise - 90¢ 1860 - off cover - Future  
Fox sale - red grid. John sent the copy to me for examination.  
It is a repaired copy. The whole left side added, hence fake perfs  
down left side and grid extension on this part is a paint job.  
While I could not be certain, it is perhaps possible that the cancela-  
tion on the genuine part of the stamp is good.

Christmas Greetings -

Cordially yours,

TOP SIDE ADDED

13-F64-QUARTY-PAN-73 M.C.



C31

BY JOHN FOX

E

# H·R AND ASSOCIATES

22 west monroe street . chicago 3 illinois . telephone central 6.5556

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

December 18, 1951

Dear Stan:

I have been so damned busy I haven't been able to answer any mail, this has been a hectic year.

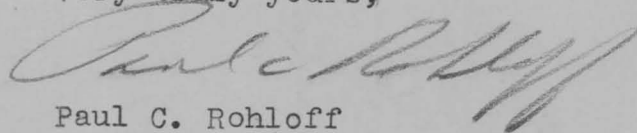
In regards to your service I think it is the best thing that has been done in Chicago lately. It certainly has been well handled and you can be exceedingly proud of your project. I certainly am glad to be one of its members.

Stan, in regards to your 1861 3 cent color file, I would like to have you send it down but not until after the 5th or 6th of January if it does not hamper your work.

Enclosed you will find six covers that seemed of interest to me.

1. Spanish flat
2. 5 cent Brown used to N.S.
3. 5 cent Buff to N.S.  
Why the difference in the Canadian rate, both were carried Via Boston?
4. Pair 3 cent 1861 addressed to Western Gulf Blockade
5. 3 cent 1869 (2) 3 cent entire to Columbia
6. 3 cent 1869 this cover shows the far East Bristol and the long marking from Columbia.

Very truly yours,



Paul C. Rohloff

PCR/fd

Dec. 22, 1951.

Mr. Paul C. Rohloff,  
Room 1603 - 22 West Monroe St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Paul:

The mails are all terribly congested and your registered of last Tuesday, the 18th, did not reach me until this morning - Saturday. This won't reach you until after Christmas, so we will send you New Year's Greetings. May 1952 be awfully good to the Rohloff family - Our best wishes to Mildred, the boys and you.

Now for the six covers which you sent me and which I return herewith. I was pleased to see each one and I made a photograph of each one - Here are a few remarks:

No. 1 - This is a very pretty cover and it is quite a study. It is addressed to Switzerland in June 1861 but there was no such a rate as 30¢ to that country in June 1861. The rate by Prussian Closed Mail was 35¢ - By Bremen mail it was 19¢. Two things are possible, viz: (1) The writer intended it to go by Prussian Closed Mail and paid a rate of 35¢ - which would mean there is a 5¢ 1857 stamp missing from the cover - When the letter reached New York it was too late for the P.C.M. sailing so it was sent by the Bremen steamer. (2) The writer only paid 30¢, being misinformed on the P.C.M. rate, hence when the letter reached New York, being short-paid, it was sent by the Bremen steamer - the correct rate being 19¢. Hence while this letter was short-paid 5¢ by P.C.Mail, it was overpaid 11¢ by Bremen mail. The markings show it went by Bremen mail and the "16" credit shows it was a single rate letter. I think No. 2 is the correct solution. The "Paid 10" on the 10¢ Type V is a very rare cancel.

No. 2 - No. 3 - Both show the 5¢ U. S. internal (not our domestic) - This internal under the U. S - British Treaty is often referred to as the U.S. shore-to-ship. The "9" on No. 2 and the "8" on No. 3 are the postage due in Nova Scotia. No. 3 was mailed from New York on Jan. 21, 1862 in order to catch the Cunard (Br Pkt) ship, sailing from Boston the next day on Jan. 22, 1862, (Wednesday).

No. 4 - The address is the sole feature of this cover. Very nice.

No. 5 - This was paid as a double but was marked Due 3 and returned to sender who added another 3¢ stamp - then re-mailed - original Newark postmark May 4 - second (to right) is May 6.

No. 6 - In my opinion, the 3¢ stamp at left did not originate on this cover. I believe that there was originally a 6¢ Canada stamp - See my Service photograph No. 30. The back marking shows origin at Victoria B.C., hence payment of 6¢ Canadian, to the U.S. was required. The 3¢ '69 don't make sense.

\*\*\*\*\*

I will appreciate questions or comments on the above.

Re - my 3¢ 1861 color page. Advise me when you want me to send it and I'll be glad to do so. Thanks Paul for your kind words on my Service.

Cordially yours,



Dec. 22, 1951.

Mr. Paul C. Rohloff,  
Room 1603 - 22 West Monroe St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Paul:

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Now for the six covers which you sent me and which I return herewith. I was pleased to see each one and I made a photograph of each one - Here are a few remarks:

No. 1 - This is a very pretty cover and it is quite a study. It is addressed to Switzerland in June 1861 but there was no such a rate as 30¢ to that country in June 1861. The rate by Prussian Closed Mail was 35¢ - By Bremen mail it was 19¢. Two things are possible, viz: (1) The writer intended it to go by Prussian Closed Mail and paid a rate of 35¢ - which would mean there is a 5¢ 1857 stamp missing from the cover - When the letter reached New York it was too late for the P.C.M. sailing so it was sent by the Bremen steamer. (2) The writer only paid 30¢, being misinformed on the P.C.M. rate, hence when the letter reached New York, being short-paid, it was sent by the Bremen steamer - the correct rate being 19¢. Hence while this letter was short-paid 5¢ by P.C.M., it was overpaid 11¢ by Bremen mail. The markings show it went by Bremen mail and the "16" credit shows it was a single rate letter. I think No. 2 is the correct solution. The "Paid 10" on the 10¢ Type V is a very rare cancel.

No. 2 - No. 3 - Both show the 5¢ U. S. internal (not our domestic) - This internal under the U. S. - British Treaty is often referred to as the U.S. shore-to-ship. The "9" on No. 2 and the "8" on No. 3 are the postage due in Nova Scotia. No. 3 was mailed from New York on Jan. 21, 1862 in order to catch the Cunard (Br Pkt) ship, sailing from Boston the next day on Jan. 22, 1862, (Wednesday).

No. 4 - The address is the sole feature of this cover. Very nice.

No. 5 - This was paid as a double but was marked Due 3 and returned to sender who added another 3¢ stamp - then re-mailed - original Newark postmark May 4 - second (to right) is May 6.

No. 6 - In my opinion, the 3¢ stamp at left did not originate on this cover. I believe that there was originally a 6¢ Canada stamp - See my Service photograph No. 30. The back marking shows origin at Victoria B.C., hence payment of 6¢ Canadian, to the U.S. was required. The 3¢ '69 don't make sense.

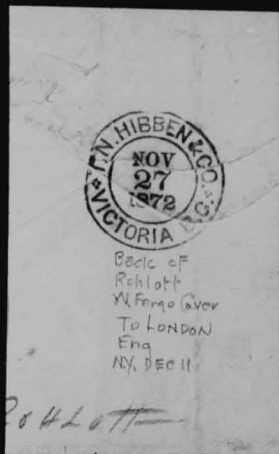
\*\*\*\*\*

I will appreciate questions or comments on the above.

Re - my 3¢ 1861 color page. Advise me when you want me to send it and I'll be glad to do so. Thanks Paul for your kind words on my Service.

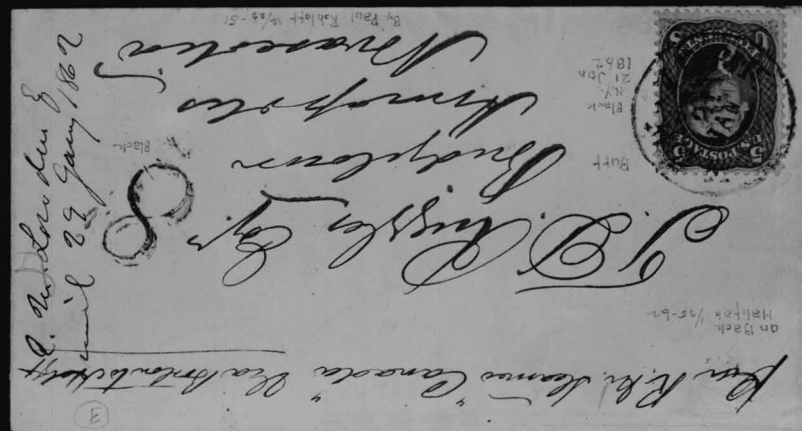
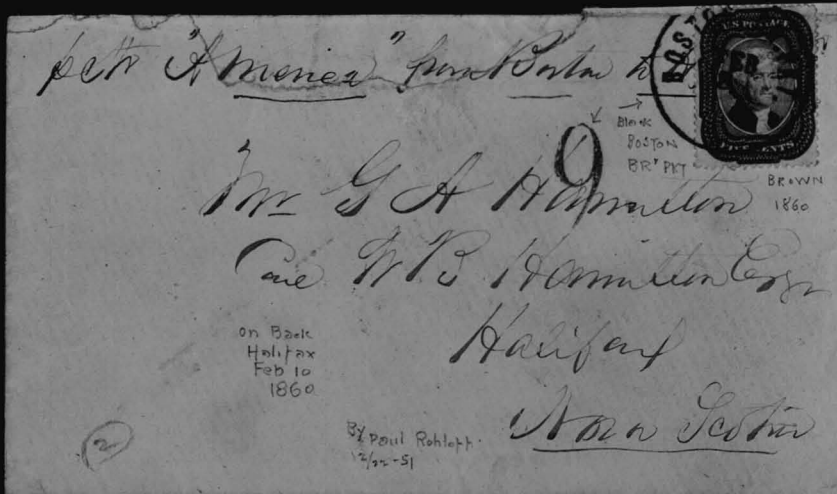
Cordially yours,

AT 227-F128-PAN-KJ-H Sec



B108

BACKS OF COVERS BY PAUL ROHLF  
DEC 22-51





# NORTHWEST TESTING LABORATORIES

3828 N. MISSISSIPPI AVENUE  
PORTLAND 12, OREGON

MATERIALS INSPECTION  
PHYSICAL TESTING  
CHEMICAL ANALYSES  
FEEDS & FERTILIZERS

ASSOCIATIONS  
EASTERN U. S. AND  
FOREIGN COUNTRIES  
ESTABLISHED 1890

Dec. 6, 1951

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

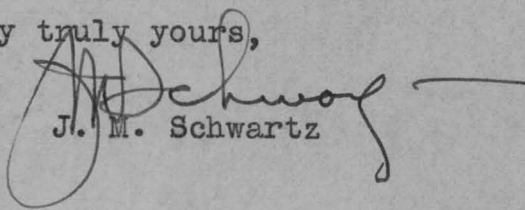
Some time ago I acquired, from a non-philatelic source, a rather rare Oregon cover. I showed it to my friend, Lynn Langdon, of Buhl, Idaho, who took the two enclosed photos, or rather, had them taken.

He says he has told you about the cover and that you expressed some interest in seeing a photo. I enclose the two I have and if either of them is of interest to you, please retain one and return the other. The year, I believe, is 1856.

Also enclosed is a photo of a handstamp used at Fort Leland Oregon. I believe it is exact size, but do not have the cover with me at the moment for comparison. You may keep this photo if you wish. It is a territorial item and if you have not seen one before or have no data on it, I shall be glad to let you see the cover. This also applies to the Eugene City cover, of coarse.

I have in my collection, an "overland mail" cover. I have watched the auction catalogs carefully but have never seen a similar "corner card". Unfortunately, someone removed the stamp by tearing a corner from the envelope. The S.F. year date cancel shows that it must have been a 10¢ imperf. What I would like to do someday is to acquire a stamp, so cancelled, as to permit some sort of restoration of the cover. Would you consider looking at the cover and also your stock of imperf ten cent 1855's to see if you have anything that might match up.

Very truly yours,

  
J. M. Schwartz

JMS;

3 encl.



Dec. 12, 1951.

Mr. J. M. Schwartz,  
3828 N. Mississippi Ave.,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 6th together with the photo-prints. Your cover with the three One Cent 1851 appears to be quite an interesting cover and if you care to send it to me I will be glad to make a very fine photograph of it. The pair at the top appear to be the rare Type II from the top row of Plate 4 and the lower stamp is probably a Type IIIA. The use of the One Cent 1857 from towns in Oregon is most unusual. I judge the use must have been 1857 or it could have been 1858. Plate 4 was not made until the spring of 1857.

Thanks very much for the Fort Leland photo-print. If you care to send this cover I will be glad to make a regular size photograph and also if you will include the Overland Mail cover I will see if I can offer any suggestions, but I would not advise adding any stamp that did not originate on the cover.

Sincerely yours,

# NORTHWEST TESTING LABORATORIES

3828 N. MISSISSIPPI AVENUE  
PORTLAND 12, OREGON

MATERIALS INSPECTION  
PHYSICAL TESTING  
CHEMICAL ANALYSES  
FEEDS & FERTILIZERS

ASSOCIATIONS  
EASTERN U. S. AND  
FOREIGN COUNTRIES  
ESTABLISHED 1890

Dec. 15, 1951

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing the three covers that were discussed in our last letters.

I am sure the stamps on the Eugene City cover are 3, 4 and 13 RLE. My plate of type 4 stamps are on loan so I do not have them to check with at the moment, but I plated these by the relative position of the guide dots only so I could be wrong - it wouldn't be the first time.

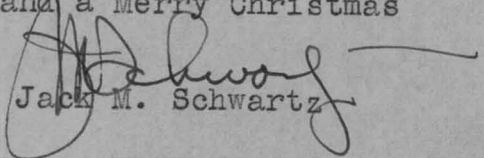
The Overland mail cover speaks for itself. I would like to restore its appearance - and for the sake of its appearance only.

The Fort Leland cover, alas, is also sans its stamp, having been lost through dampness. A diligent search at the time this cover was "discovered" failed to produce the missing stamp. Many of the covers in this small find showed this Fort Leland mark, one being on the face which is now owned by Ed Payne of Salem, Oregon.

Enclosed is also a photostat (The only one I have) of a cover now in Portland, Ore. I have seen this cover and am trying to gain possession of it although my chances of doing so are extremely slim. It is now held by a descendant and that is bad, if you know what I mean. Do you know anything about a Clippinger's Express. The marking, I am sure, is in black. The cover is dated 1853 inside.

I guess that about covers everything.

Best wishes and a Merry Christmas

  
Jack M. Schwartz



Dec. 21, 1951.

Mr. Jack M. Schwartz,

3828 N. Mississippi Ave.,

Portland 12, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Your registered letter of Saturday, the 15th, did not reach me until today, Friday, the 21st. I will give it my prompt attention.

You are quite right, your 1<sup>st</sup> block of three, is 3R1E - 4R1E - 13R1E, and a beautiful and rare cover.

Thought it best to advise you of safe receipt. More. later.

Christmas Greetings

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 22, 1951.

Mr. Jack M. Schwartz,  
3828 N. Mississippi Ave.,  
Portland 12, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Herewith the three covers and the photostat as per yours of the 15th - I am also returning the photo-print of the Fort Leland postmark which you enclosed in yours of the 6th. I made new photographs and will send prints to you in the near future.

Your 1¢ 1851 cover is certainly a lovely item and in case you would ever consent to part with it I would like to acquire it. This is certainly a very late use of Plate One Early stamps and one wonders how they ever got out to Eugene City. They surely were not on sale there at the time this letter was mailed.

Regarding the two covers with the missing stamps. My advice is to leave them just as they are. Any cover that has been fixed or changed, detracts rather than adds, and in case I owned these covers I would add slips as I have done. I suppose a 3¢ 1857 is missing from the Overland Mail cover because such a rate applied in 1859 by Overland Mail between San Francisco and St. Louis (distance was less than 3000 miles - via Panama it was over 3000 miles).

Re - the corner card on this cover. This "cut" is well known but with various routings. For example, "per Overland Mail Stage, Via Placerville in hope of the" - "Published by E.B. Davidson, 4th St., Sacramento" (Knapp - First Sale - Lot 1524). Several publishers used the cut, but I do not recall that I have ever seen one exactly like yours. Whether or not it is rare, I must confess, I do not know.

Re - the photostat of the Clippinger's Express. I am not a student of Western Express covers, hence cannot give you any information on this at present. If I can locate any data in my files, I will advise you later.

I am enclosing stamps to refund your forwarding postage.

Again my thanks and Best Wishes for the NEW YEAR.

Sincerely yours,





101A

PHOTO PRINT



101A



3815 44 5 1700 100  
1000 1000 1000  
Mrs. J. B. Devore  
Steilacoom  
Wash. Ter.

20'8-QVART2-F64-23 Min.

C32

EUGENE OREGON

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

C32✓



3R1E 4R1E (Type IB)  
17R1E (Type IIIA)

5  
Mrs. J. B. Devore  
Steilacoom  
Wash. Ter.

2018-F12B-K3-PAN-4sec

C29

EUGENE ORE.



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

C 29

Dec. 23, 1951.

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

Dear Mac:

Re - yours of the 17th - and the photo-print of Larry's cover with the Charleston "2." You inquire if I couldn't make another and let you have the one I sent you. I could, if I could locate the negative but unfortunately I don't index negatives, hence when I want to make a duplicate print I have to go down in the basement and search for hours. I have thousands and thousands and in this case I would much prefer to borrow the cover from Larry and make a new exposure. If you will phone him and ask him to send the cover to me I'll be glad to make a new negative.

Regarding the cover. Regardless of the Savannah corner card it is my interpretation that the letter did not originate at Savannah but rather at some other place and was brought into Savannah by a private ship, steamboat, or some mode of private carrier, and 2¢ was paid said carrier, this was a charge against the addressee. You will appreciate Mac that there couldn't have been any sort of a rate of 2¢ between Savannah and Charleston either by land or sea. A Ship Fee was added at the port of entry. Now there is one other explanation, viz., this could have been a letter which originated at Savannah and the "2" could be an advertised fee - There is no evidence one way or the other, so one has to take their choice. If you believe the letter actually originated at Savannah then the "2" is not a Ship Fee and the only other explanation is that it was an "Advertised" letter. (X) XXX

I regret that I have no memo regarding the stamp, i.e., whether green or blue - nor do I find that I have the date of the Savannah postmark.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Larry.

WITH NEW YEAR GREETINGS -

Cordially yours,

⊗ Note -  
This Analysis Is Wrong Because The "2"  
Was Applied At Charleston, Not  
Savannah -

XXX - This Must Be The proper  
Explanation - "Advertised 2"

Dec. 23, 1951.

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

Dear Larry:

Please note copy of letter to Mac. This refers to a cover you own - and which you loaned me years ago. It has a 5¢ Litho Confed tied by a Savannah postmark - addressed to Charleston, S.C. and has the large Charleston "2." The address is -

Mr. C. J. Black  
Shipping Master  
Charleston, S.C.

I loaned Mac a photograph because of the "2" and he asked to retain it. My letter to him was in reply. I inquired of Mac how he would explain the "2" on this cover. Here was his analysis:

"In this case I guess the '2' does represent an additional ship rate, - perhaps charged for bringing the letter from Savannah to Charleston by steamer. I note that it apparently originated in Savannah where the stamp was canceled, as the cover bears the embossed corner card of a ship chandler in Savannah. Incidentally, is that the 5¢ green or the 5¢ blue lithographed stamp?"

If Mac wishes me to make a new photograph I will be glad to do so if you will loan the cover to me.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Cordially yours,

P.S.--You also have a cover with a 3¢ 1851 tied by a Charleston postmark - with this large "2" and the S.L. "STEAMBOAT" - the cover addressed to "Marion Village, S.C." - of course this was a Ship Fee "2" - or as called "Steamboat."

*Doherty, Clifford & Shenfield, Inc.*

ADVERTISING

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

December 28, 1951

Dear Stan:

I have the correspondence on the Charleston "Two" item. One thing I am curious about, Stan, is that although I know private ship rates usually indicate origination outside the first port at which the postmark is impressed, since this big "Two" was applied at Charleston, how did Savannah keep count of it if the envelope went from Savannah to Charleston and then Charleston knew to apply the "Two". I have often wondered about this sort of thing.

The stamp is a blue stamp - not green - and I will send you date on the Savannah postmark.

Thank you so much for the Trans-Miss. photographs which were very helpful. Right after New Year's I will send covers to you for photographing for the article.

With all good wishes for a wonderful and healthful New Year.

Sincerely,

*Carry*

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



Dec. 13, 1951.

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

Dear Mac:

No doubt you are familiar with Larry's cover as per  
photo which please return.

"2."



Would you care to comment on the use of our familiar

Regards.

Yours etc.,



December 28th, 1951.

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

Dear Stan:

Here is the photo of the Shenfield cover. I talked to Larry about it and I don't think it necessary for you to make one for me. Incidentally, that's a copy of the 5¢ blue lithograph on it, and Larry says he has a note of the date of the Savannah postmark.

As in the case of the other "Charleston 2" covers we have been discussing, you probably are entirely right in your analysis of this one. I do have some other theories, - but none of us could prove any of them!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'MacBride', with a long, sweeping underline that extends towards the bottom right of the page.

MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L.Shenfield

Dec. 31, 1951.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,  
% Doherty, Clifford & Shenfield,  
Empire State Bldg.,  
350 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Yours of the 28th received.

I must have been wrong on your Savannah to Charleston cover with the big "2." After a reconsideration I believe that my second analysis is correct, viz., that the "2" was an "advertised fee" rather than a ship fee. The corner card does indicate that the letter originated at Savannah and of course the "2" indicates that "2¢" was due at Charleston. Therefore, this "2" must have been the "advertised" fee. You are quite right and I was wrong. Had the "2" been a ship fee, it would have been applied at Savannah and of course we know this big "2" was a Charleston marking. Thanks for putting me back on the right track.

I note the stamp is the 5¢ blue.



I am sending copy to Mac.

If you both agree with the above then this is good evidence that my analysis of the advertised and forwarded cover was correct.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--See my booklet on Confed Postal Legislation or Dietz Book,

page 22.





January 3rd, 1952.

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

Dear Stanley:

I now have copy of your letter to Larry Shenfield of December 31st. Chiefly because you say that if we both agree with your opinion on the "2" on that Savannah-Charleston cover, that you will consider it good evidence that your analysis of the earlier forwarded cover was correct, - I am writing to again repeat that while of course you may be right, that I still do not think that the "2" on either of them represented an "advertised" fee! There just isn't any way for any of us to prove anything as to those "2" markings, and, bearing that in mind, I still offer it as my theory that they were "due" charges, added at Charleston, for some manner of local drop, boat, or delivery fee.

I didn't see Larry's letter to you but I am glad to note that you now both agree with me on one point. And, that is that as the "2" was obviously put on at Charleston, that it did not represent a ship fee, and that the letter probably did originate at Savannah. However, as we can't settle what the "2" represents definitely, it just isn't worth a lot more thought, time, and correspondence, - so let's leave it in the class of minor Confederate mysteries at least for the present, - and go on from there!

I am looking forward to receiving the prints of those last two photos you made for me, particularly the one of the Davids Island cover, as I am now actively engaged in writing an article on that subject.

My best to you as always.

As Ever,

MacB/HK

c.c.:L.L.Shenfield



Re -  
Charleston "2"

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

Wrote

Jan 8 1952

Thank you for yours on the large "2"  
Charleston cancel and I am inclined to think it is still a private  
ship marking and not an advertising mark. Since even in Civil War  
days there was an inland waterway from Savannah to Charleston why  
could not this "2" apply ~~at~~ Charleston been for private ship carriage  
from Savannah to Charleston?

Charleston "2"

Jan. 10, 1952.

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

Dear Larry:

Herewith the three Express Mail covers. I made good negatives and prints will follow.

Re - the photo-prints that I sent you in my letter of Dec. 13th. If you will look up my letter I stated that if you wanted any of the prints the charge would be \$1.00 per print. I also sent you an illustration of the Richey cover which I requested you to return to me. I am wondering if you know where this cover is today.

Re - the Charleston "2" - In Mac's last letter he stated that he did not agree with me that the large "2" was an Advertising fee and suggested that we drop the subject until some new and more definite evidence turned up. Not a bad suggestion inasmuch as there is such a wide difference in opinion. I note your suggestion Larry but it would be contrary - very contrary to Post Office customs - and here is a good point to remember - when a piece of mail was deposited in any P.O. it was despatched to its destination thru regular channels - that is - via a "Contract Route" - The P.O. Dept. did not entrust mail to private carriers for transmission. What you suggest would be that the Charleston P.O. entrusted Government mail to a private ship to convey from Savannah to Charleston. Think it over and I think you will agree that such a theory does not fit this cover. To be perfectly candid I fail to see why Mac and you disagree that just because there is no hand stamped "Advertised" before the "22" that the "2" was not an "advertised" fee on both of the covers we have had under discussion.

I note your remarks on the stone positions of some of the lithographs. Larry I never did any plating of the lithos and have absolutely no knowledge of the stones, positions, "plate" varieties, etc. What you mentioned in your letter is almost Greek to me, but of course I have a vague idea as to what you referred to.

Mrs. S. and you surely must be enjoying having your son and little granddaughter with you.

Best wishes.

Cordially yours,

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

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE 6120

12-17-57

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

I got this cover from  
Cole recently and I can't figure the rate.  
Why the extra 12¢? Can you help me out?

kindest regards, and the best of seasons  
Greetings to you and Mrs Ashbrook. My  
wife and two youngest are ill with mumps  
or the flu, so no pictures this year.

Sincerely,  
W Scott Polland.

Dec. 24, 1951.

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

Dear Doctor:

Under separate cover I am sending to you an enlargement that I made of a microfilm of page 3 of the January 5th, 1849 issue of the "NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER" - (Washington) - With a reading glass I think you may be able to read this without a great deal of trouble.

I think that the article on the "California" is rather interesting. Also note the "letter" concerning California.

Regarding the 3¢ 1857 cover to England contained in yours of the 17th - (Mailed the 18th and received today, the 24th) - and which I return herewith. I cannot imagine why there was an extra payment of 12¢ on this letter. It was mailed from Philadelphia on Jan. 17, 1860 (Tuesday) to catch the sailing from New York on Wednesday, Jan. 18th, 1860 of the Cunard ship - "Arabia" (British Packet). The credit of "19" shows the letter was a single rate - (not over  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.) - hence 24¢ would have been sufficient. In other words, all that the U.S. P.O.D. did was to convey this letter from Philadelphia to New York and put it aboard a British mail ship. For this service under the U.S.-British Treaty we were entitled to 5¢, therefore, why did the Department receive 17¢ or 12¢ too much? There is no explanation that I know of. Apparently the two vertical pairs on the face were actually used as we see them, but there is a bare possibility that someone might have added them. I wonder if they were "added?" It is odd that they are in a position to miss the crease?

I suppose the real solution is that none of these stamps originated on this cover - that this was a prepaid stampless and someone added unused 3¢ and applied fake cancels, etc. The cover would be worth more than the unused 3¢ '57 - That encircled "Paid" indicates a stampless. Under the top pair on face is some red ink which I suspect is the same as the Philadelphia postmark - If so, then the stamps were added after the postmark. And one more point - I do not recall that Philadelphia used such a killer in 1860.

We were so sorry to learn that Mrs P. and two of the children are ill with the mumps. Here is hoping for a very speedy recovery with no ill effects.

With BEST WISHES for the NEW YEAR -

Cordially yours,



B 112

Bu "Arabia"

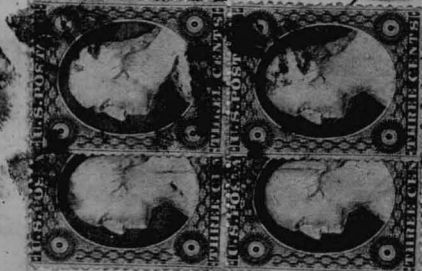
1860 Phila - Jan 17 (Tues)



Red

Mess. J. & Sons

Red



Ly mouth  
Eng -

Black

Black



In My  
Opinion  
None of These  
Stamps Were Used  
Originally on This  
Cover

B 112

B 112

Dec. 31, 1951.

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

Dear Phil:

Yours of the 27th with the One Cent items received. Thanks. Herewith I am returning the two pairs. One I have marked as follows: Stamp to left - a poor Type III - stamp to right - a Type III - neither stamp is a good example of Type III due to the fact that the bottom lines in both stamps are not distinctly broken. It is possible that someone may have "monkeyed" with these lines but I did not plate the pair in order to be sure. The other pair is a paint job - i.e. - ornaments at bottom "painted." This pair was submitted to me by Eddie Stern on June 19, 1922 at a price of \$300. I informed Ed at the time that this was a paint job. Both stamps were IIIA before the faker used his brush - The pair is 85L4 - 86L4 - See my Volume No. 1, page 234, for confirmation of types.

Re - the Canadian cover - Service Photo No. 31. Please read my remarks regarding this cover very carefully. Mixed franking was only legal for several months in the spring of 1851. I went into detail in explanation in the series of articles in Stamps several years ago.

In my Service remarks I stated, "hence this letter was contrary to the Treaty Rate" - by which I meant that the sending should have used two beavers or "6 pence" - and I further remarked that the Toronto Office rated it as entirely unpaid with "6" (pence) or 10¢ due at New York. The letter shows no evidence that New York collected 10¢ - I think that the S.L. "CANADA 10CTS" was applied in Canada at the Exchange Office and in my opinion this was disregarded by New York. See Boggs Vol. 1, page 70 - Cover 20 - pencanceled pair of 5¢ '47. Also page 72 - cover 25 - also page 73 - cover 27. I believe that if New York had rated this as "unpaid" - the encircled "10" would have been used as per Boggs cover 42 on page 82. I think this Service cover #31 is similar to Boggs cover #46 on page 84 - also note cover 47 on page 85.

A I admit that it is possible that my analysis of the cover may be wrong, but I do not think that the pen cancelations prove that New York rated it as unpaid. I admit that the Canadian clerk may have intended the pencancels to mean that the stamps were not to be recognized. I stated that Toronto rated it as "entirely unpaid."

The 3¢ Beaver certainly paid the Canadian postage and the 3¢ '51 certainly paid the U. S. and I believe that such combinations were purposely permitted to go through in spite of the fact such a combination was contrary to the Treaty. However, the Treaty did not specify such combinations but referred to unpaid and part payments. So far as this cover is concerned I suppose it all hinges on the question as to whether the New York P.O. collected 10¢ or did not collect 10¢. If the former then the stamps did not pay the rate, but if the latter, then they did. Is that fair?

Sincerely yours,

Address until April c/o Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.



1531 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia 2, Pa.

# THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

HONORING A GREAT NAME

TELEPHONE  
WALNUT 2-8600

CHESTNUT STREET AT NINTH · PHILADELPHIA 5

BELL TELETYPE SYSTEM  
TWX PH 645

JOSEPH E. MEARS Vice-President and General Manager  
J. BRUCE ROGERS Resident Manager

12-31-51.

Dear Stan:

Just finished work on my 1951 income  
tax and have come up for a few minutes for an "West  
West on 1-9-52."

First. I thought I had given my winter address to you last  
October. Here it is:

c/o Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

1531 Walnut St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.

They will hold mail but not forward it while we are in  
Hawaii, etc.

Should you care to write (and it is always good to  
hear from you) use one a couple of our largest frames:

Hotel Moana, Honolulu, Hawaii, 1-21-52-2-25-52

Hotel De Soto, Savannah, Ga, 3-10-52-3-18-52.

And now re the enclosed stamped addressed envelope.

I have been working on a Canadian collection (principally covers)  
for many years and am anxious to learn more re rates, markings, etc.

Regarding cover 5 photo (you no #31) what additional postal marking  
would have appeared on the cover, had 10 cents postage due been  
collected at New York?

you do not mention the second hand stamp on this cover, "Canada  
10 cts. - why?"



What does it mean and isn't it a U.S. marking?

Bert Llewellyn, who is considered one of Philadelphia's leading B.N.A. Specialists, around here, and recently was invited to talk on Canada at the collectors club. Consider it a U.S. "Postage due" Marking (at <sup>that</sup> period)

Both Bert and I will greatly appreciate your answers <sup>to the above</sup> questions. The mixed franking ceased 6-30-57 except for outside the mail letters. So the N.Y. Post office had allowed 2 years to learn that the rate was 10 cents.

It may interest you to learn that Don Steele has borrowed my 4-6-58 15¢ high red cover. He too has given the pink microscopic study and states flatly the ink on all 3 is identical. He expects shortly to do some advanced photography with infra film & <sup>or</sup> learn (?)

Our best wishes for a very happy New Year to Mildred and yourself.

Sincerely,

Frank

P.S. Thanks in advance for the above requested information.  
~~Shirley~~ F.



Jan. 3, 1952.

Mr. Frank A. Hollowbush,  
% The Benjamin Franklin Hotel,  
Philadelphia 5, Pa.

Dear Frank:

Yours of the 31st received.

First regarding the Canadian cover. Phil Ward wrote me about this same cover and under date of the 31st I wrote him as follows, quote:

"Re - the Canadian cover - Service Photo No. 31. Please read my remarks regarding this cover very carefully. Mixed franking was only legal for several months in the spring of 1851. I went into detail in explanation in the series of articles in Stamps several years ago.

In my Service remarks I stated, 'hence this letter was contrary to the Treaty Rate' - by which I meant that the sending should have used two beavers or 6 pence - and I further remarked that the Toronto Office rated it as entirely unpaid with '6' (pence) or 10¢ due at New York. The letter shows no evidence that New York collected 10¢ - I think that the S.L. 'CANADA 10 CTS' was applied in Canada at the Exchange Office and in my opinion this was disregarded by New York. See Boggs Vol. 1, page 70 - Cover 20 - pencanceled pair 5¢ '47. Also page 72 - cover 25 - also page 73 - cover 27. I believe that if New York had rated this as 'unpaid' the encircled '10' would have been used as per Boggs cover 42 on page 82. I think this Service cover #31 is similar to Boggs cover #46 on page 84 - also note cover 47 on page 85.

I admit that it is possible that my analysis of the cover may be wrong, but I do not think that the pencancellations prove that New York rated it as unpaid. I admit that the Canadian clerk may have intended the pencancels to mean that the stamps were not to be recognized. I stated that Toronto rated it as 'entirely unpaid.'

The 3¢ Beaver certainly paid the Canadian postage and the 3¢ '51 certainly paid the U. S. and I believe that such combinations were purposely permitted to go through in spite of the fact such a combination was contrary to the Treaty. However, the Treaty did not specify such combinations but referred to unpaid and part payments. So far as this cover is concerned I suppose it all hinges on the question as to whether the New York P.O. collected 10¢ or did not collect 10¢. If the former then the stamps did not pay the rate, but if the latter, then they did. Is that fair?" (end)

In addition to the above I refer you to a series of articles that I published in "Stamps" on this subject several years ago.

The U.S.-Canadian Postal Agreement was signed in the spring of 1851. At that time the Canadian rate was 3 pence to the border - which was the equivalent to 5¢ in U. S. currency. The U.S. rate was 5¢ up to 300 miles, hence a total of the equivalent of 10¢ for the two countries. Thus the mixed franking (3p. Beaver plus 5¢ '47) was okay up until July 1, 1851. There is no question but what the original intention of the "Agreement" was to make the sender in each country prepay the total postage of the two countries. On July 1, 1851 our domestic was reduced to 3¢, hence a payment of a Beaver (5) and a 3¢ '51 made a total of only 8¢, whereas the Treaty

#2. Mr. Frank A. Hollowbush - Jan. 3, 1952.

fixed the rate at 10¢.

Re - the cover under discussion, there is no question but what Canada rated it as entirely unpaid, but there is no evidence that the U. S. or the New York P.O. treated it as such. The S.L. marking according to my records was not applied in the U. S. but rather in Canada. If I happen to be wrong on this point I will welcome correction.

If you do not possess copies of my articles that ran in "Stamps" you should read them because they contain data that fully explains many points that proved confusing in the past. I will give you the dates they appeared in "Stamps" if you wish.

Re - your 5¢ Brick cover. I do not consider Don Steele is qualified to pass an opinion on this cover, hence any expression from him would carry little weight with me. Probably not as much as an opinion by George Sloane.

I have listed your Hawaii and Savannah addresses and I will forward my "Service Reports" while you are away to Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. - Philadelphia unless instructed otherwise.

Mildred joins me in every good wish to Gertrude and you and may you both have a most enjoyable and restful vacation in Hawaii.

Cordially yours,



Jan. 4, 1952.

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

Dear Phil:

Further referring to my Service cover #31. The "Canada 10 CTS" is in black on this cover and as per data to follow, it was in my opinion applied on the Canadian side at the Exchange Office. Being applied in black indicated unpaid. Why the large 6 and the concentric circle? I believe this "6" was applied at Toronto but it was canceled out at the Exchange Office and the straight-line marking applied. I think Toronto applied it to notify the Exchange Office the letter had been rated as unpaid. So as not to confuse the U.S. P.O. as indicating 6¢ was due it was stamped out. Please note the following:

Regarding mail between Canada and the U.S., the following is from a Canadian

"Department Order (No. 1)

Letters etc. between Canada and the United States

Post Office Department

Toronto 2nd April 1861

No. 9 - "The offices designated for despatch and receipt of Canadian Mails on the side of the United States will stamp "U. STATES" upon all letters sent into Canada for delivery: and the offices designated for the despatch and receipt of United States mails on the side of Canada with stamp "Canada" upon all letters sent into the United States for delivery."

Further regarding mail from Canada. See U.S. P.L. & R. - Regulations - page 80. Paid letters were to be marked in red - unpaid in black.

Note - Sec. 343 - page 80 -

"Under these arrangements xxxx the respective United States Exchange Offices are required xxxxxxxx to mark all paid letters received xxxx with the word "PAID," and the full amount of the United States and provincial postage paid thereon, both in red ink, and to mark all the unpaid letters from said Provinces in black ink with the full amount of the United States and provincial postages due thereon."

\*\*\*\*\*

I am sending a copy of this letter to Frank Hollowbush.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--Where was the S.L. "CANADA 10 CTS" applied? See the Jarrett book - pages 452-453. Also see - American Philatelist Dec. 1929 - Vol. 43 - no. 3 - 103 - Fig. 4. designated as - Mail from Toronto to New York. Incidentally Toronto exchanged mail direct with New York in "through bags."





B 110

Dec. 31, 1951.

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

Dear Doctor:

Your two letters of the 24th and 26th received. Thanks for the photographs.

I must confess that I can't figure out the cover to Switzerland with postage of 85¢. There was no single 85¢ rate and 85 is not a multiple of 2, 3 - or 4 and this couldn't have been 5 x 17. The year was 1864 and the letter went "P.C.M." - (Prussian Closed Mail) - The rate was 33¢ paid 35¢ unpaid. On such a prepaid single rate the credit was 12¢ to Prussia. There is a "24" on face which might indicate this was a double requiring only 66¢. Do you suppose this was meant for a town in Italy via Locarno? There was a rate of 40¢ paid - 42¢ unpaid (per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.) to certain of the Italian states in the summer of 1864. Any suggestions? The way he addressed it appears to be:

"SWITZERLAND  
CANTON-TIENCO  
LOCARNO per  
PEDEMONTE  
CASIGLIANO per steamer

perhaps to "LOCARNO" thence across Lake per steamer to Casiglino.

Thanks for the photo of the 10¢ 1879 strip. I have met Bilden but know him very slightly. I think that Les Brookman has quite a high opinion of him.

I was pleased to learn that the case against you was thrown out of court. That is fine and my congratulations are yours.

I have not had any recent word from Jessup. Never had any advice from him regarding the operation. If Pearce is the husband of Ed's youngest daughter, Beverly (Philadelphia) - the answer is - we met him last July but only for a very short time. He is attending medical college, I believe. Edgar seemed more than pleased with him and had presented him with a 35 MM camera. Beverly has always been Edgar's favorite daughter.

I note your remarks re - Abt - Perry and the P.F. Expert Committee. Do you receive Perry's Pats? If so, do you have a copy of his latest No. 56?

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

This is confidential. I sent your photo-print of the BILDEN 10¢ '79 strip up to my good friend Les Brookman and requested him not to mention it to anyone. I met Bilden thru Brookman, so I inquired what he thought of this item. Les replied as follows:

"I'm returning the photo. I feel confident that Bilden had nothing to do with any regumming or joining together of this item. I assume that it is a real strip (or was) and that if it has been put together it was a replacement of the stamp in its original position. This is of course a rare item but it should be sold for what it is-- not what it was! I still think Bilden is O.K. but he may slip up on a few things that he could find with more careful checking." (end)

Herewith I am returning your cover to Switzerland showing the 85¢ rate. I find that I cannot add a thing to my previous letter. I believe that the "24" credit on face indicates a double rate, or 2 x 33¢, per Prussian Closed Mail in 1864. I know of no one who might give us a correct analysis of this cover. However, I made a photograph of it and I will send a print to my friend Harold Stark and see if he can suggest anything. On the 33¢ rate, the U. S. share was 21¢ and the Prussian 12¢. Here, we credited 24¢ and retained 61¢, whereas our share should have been 42¢. The question arises - for what service was the U. S. entitled to retain the extra 19¢? If the letter went beyond Switzerland how did the U. S. pay such carriage out of the 19¢ when our total credit was 24¢. It seems to me that the sender wasted 19¢.

Yesterday I received a long letter from Edgar in which he enclosed a cover with a 5¢ 1857 - Type II - Brown, which he stated had been pronounced a #30 - the orange brown. He did not state that this had been in the hands of the P.F. Expert Committee or that they had issued a certificate to the effect that the 5¢ was the orange brown. Evidently this is the cover mentioned in your recent letters. The P.F. Expert Committee sent me this cover last July with the query: "Is the cover genuine." I have no recollection that they inquired if the 5¢ was an orange brown. I enclose photo that I made at that time. You will note I noted the 5¢ as the Brown. I wrote Edgar that you had mentioned a 5¢ 1857 Orange Brown cover in a recent letter and stated it had a P.F. certificate. I sent him a print like the one enclosed. I am also sending you four other prints for your files - I sent the same prints to Edgar. The 1¢ 1851 cover is indeed remarkable.

Re - Edgar's Son-in-law - Pearce. Perhaps he is the one who married Virginia. We never met her and I do not recall her married name. I believe she is the eldest daughter.

I handle very, very little in the way of unused 19th Century. Personally I believe that a collector makes a mistake to purchase such material in this day and age of all sorts of cleaning and repair, mounting, painting - reperfed - fake gum - etc. etc. The crooks on the Continent spend a lifetime in perfecting their "artistic" work and



#2. Dr. W. Scott Pollard - Jan. 8, 1952.

in many cases their work is so clever it requires scientific means to detect it. I sometimes wonder if a collector realizes how dangerous it really is, to depend on his judgement? Assuming that the item is genuine because it came from this dealer, or that one, is a great mistake. Dealers regard philatelic material as merchandise - good or bad - and the buyer should know what he is buying. They will explain they are not experts and haven't the time to spend hours and hours examining every item they handle.

Yours of the 2nd received together with the mimeograph copy of the California documents. All of this is new to me but it is extremely interesting. I am wondering if it would be possible to obtain a copy? I am wondering if Jessup has a copy? I will return yours in the next few days. I appreciate this loan very much.

Again re - the 5¢ 1857 cover. I wrote Edgar that I would like to see the P.F. certificate and photograph it. Will you do what ever you can to get me the loan?

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



## Marin Judge Throws Suit Out of Court

A \$200,000 damage suit was thrown out of court yesterday by Superior Judge Jordan Martinelli of San Rafael because the defendant's attorney failed to appear.

Charles G. Handerkin, 60, of 877 Fourth street, San Rafael, filed the suit April 19 against Dr. W. Scott Polland, a San Rafael physician. He charged Polland had "carelessly and negligently" operated on his left foot and that his leg had to be amputated above the knee when infection set in.

Polland denied the charges.

When the case was called yesterday, Leonard A. Thomas, San Rafael attorney, said that he had been asked by Attorney Van H. Pinney of San Francisco to request a continuance.

The motion was denied.

"I am not impressed at all with the attitude accorded this Court by counsel on the other side," Judge Martinelli said. "The calendar of this Court is in a deplorable condition . . . the usual relaxations must be tightened up."

Pinney said he had been prepared when the case was to be tried last month but that it had been continued until yesterday because Polland's lawyer was sick. Pinney said he informed the Court last week that he could not be present but he received a special delivery letter yesterday informing him a continuance would not be granted.

Pinney said he would ask Martinelli to set aside the dismissal and try the case.

*Attempted legal blackmail  
which back fired.*

*Partner of  
Belle*

*The notorious attorney Belle  
of San Francisco was after me,  
but on this day was out of the  
state. His wife was after him*

61



906



LACHEN 1 11  
FRANCO

FRANCO  
SEP 21  
CAL

Al. Sign Primo Selva  
Svizzera Canton Ticino  
Locarno per Piedemonte Casigliano  
A Skamer

06

# Morrison Cafeterias

General Offices . . . . . Mobile, Alabama

Birmingham, Alabama.  
Friday A.M. 11/23/51.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,  
33 No. Ft. Thomas Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

In reference to a sale of Harmer Rooke & Co. of Dec. 10-14 I have had several lots sent me. From them I am sending you two which I want your advice about, lots 85 and 232 enclosed herewith. Will you, in case you get this tomorrow, Saturday, ship it on back to them after giving it your "look-see". I have compared the orange brown with my Grand Canary cover which has an excellent O.B. on it, if you recall. This seems an even better color. What is your opinion?

For your information I had also lot 229 here. It is no doubt O.K. being a large Court House cover from N.Y. to Memphis. But it is worn and dirty and not fit for my albums at least. Just thought you might wonder since it is not illustrated. Also lot 62, the Fort Bridger is hardly readable.

Sincerely,

*Em*

Enclosed from Harmer Rooke sale 12/10/51

|        |                      |
|--------|----------------------|
| Lot 85 | \$50.00              |
| " 232  | \$300.00             |
|        | <del>\$</del> 350.00 |

Very Fine  
O.B.

Baltimore Blue  
(cancel - (P.M.)  
of  
AUG 1861

Genuine

MOBILE, ALABAMA

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

SHREVEPORT, LA.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

TAMPA, FLORIDA



CLEARWATER, FLA.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Nov. 24, 1951.

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

Dear Ezra:

Just received Harmer Rooke catalogue sale Dec. 10-14 next. Note the fake 30¢ 1869 cover, Lot 232. This fake was Lot 275 in their sale of Oct. 25th, 1949. It was evidently questioned and returned to them and now they re-enter it and describe it as "very fine."

What is the matter with Gordon and that crowd? It appears that they are just about as crooked as the worst in New York.

In the 1949 sale I sent for this cover and examined it carefully but at the moment I do not recall whether I advised them it was a fake.

Yours etc.,



Nov. 26, 1951.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,  
7 Morrison's Cafeteria,  
119-121 W. Adams St.,  
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Em:

Your air special registered was not delivered until 10 A.M. by messenger this morning. I am writing the Newport Postmaster as per copy herewith. This should have been delivered last Saturday. Please advise me when you received this letter which I will mail at noon Monday - Also advise me when you received the Fifield catalogue which I mailed early this morning sending it by first-class mail to Jacksonville - same address as above.

I forwarded the two lots to Harmer Rooke & Co. by air special as per copy of letter herewith.

Lot 85 is sure a beauty, very fine color and in my opinion, the Baltimore postmark is genuine. This copy should bring quite a price.

Yours etc.,

Nov. 26, 1951.

Harmer, Rooke & Co.,

560 Fifth Ave.,

New York 19, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

At the request of Mr. Emmerson C. Krug of Birmingham, Ala.,

I am enclosing herewith lots

85 and 232

from your sale scheduled for Dec. 10- 14, 1951.

Sincerely yours,

# HARMER, ROOKE

## & CO., INC.

GORDON HARMER  
PRESIDENT

—  
AUCTIONS  
APPRAISALS

PHILATELIC  
AUCTIONEERS

*560 Fifth Avenue*  
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS  
PHILATORS, NEW YORK

—  
TELEPHONE  
LUXEMBURG 2-0164

December 3, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Box 31,  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Ezra Cole has told me that lot 232 in our December 10th sale is a fake. Inasmuch as you saw this cover recently, I would greatly appreciate knowing your opinion. You made no comment at the time you returned it to us and we had no reason to doubt it. If you do not believe it is genuine we would very much like to know and will immediately withdraw it from the sale.

This same cover was also in our sale of October 25, 1949 and a check of our correspondence does not show any comment on this cover by you at the time.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you before the sale date, next Monday, and of course if there is any charge we will be very glad to pay it.

Sincerely yours,  
HARMER, ROOKE & CO., INC.

BY:

*Allan M. Thatcher,*

AT;t



Dec. 6, 1951.

Harmer, Rooke & Co.,  
560 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 19, N.Y.

Attention: Mr. A. M. Thatcher

Dear Mr. Thatcher:

Referring to your letter of the 3rd and the 30¢ 1869 cover - Lot 232 - in your sale of Dec. 10th-14th next. When this cover was offered in your sale of Oct. 25, 1949 - Lot 275 - it is my recollection without referring to my files, that I sent for it at the request of one of your friends and I made an examination of it for him. I suppose I returned it to you without comment as I try to make it a rule not to express an opinion on a stamp or a cover unless such is requested.

In my opinion, the 30¢ stamp did not originate on this cover as the markings plainly show, and further, I believe that this cover originally had a payment of only 4¢. I enclose photographs of three covers with payments of 4¢ showing the same markings.

If you have any doubts that my opinion might not be correct, I will be glad to explain all the markings and why a Chicago firm of bankers would not have paid 26¢ too much postage. The French due of but 5 decimes shows that the letter was not over-weight.

Kindly return the photos.

There is no fee.

Sincerely yours,



# HARMER, ROOKE

& CO., INC.

GORDON HARMER  
PRESIDENT

—  
AUCTIONS  
APPRAISALS

PHILATELIC  
AUCTIONEERS

*560 Fifth Avenue*  
NEW YORK 19, N.Y.

CABLE ADDRESS  
PHILATORS, NEW YORK

—  
TELEPHONE  
LUXEMBURG 2-0164

December 7, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
33 No. Ft. Thomas Ave.  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 6th in which you state your belief that the 30¢ 1869 in our December 10th sale is a fake. I have withdrawn the cover from the sale and have marked it on the back for what it is.

I was very glad to have an opportunity to see the photos which you enclosed and I am returning them herewith.

Thank you again for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

HARMER, ROOKE & CO., INC.

BY:

*Allan W. Thatcher.*

AT:rf

If not called for in TEN DAYS. Postmaster will  
please return to

**HENRY GREENEBAUM & CO.,**

*Bankers,*

**CHICAGO, - ILLINOIS.**

*via Southampton  
per Cambria*



*Monsieur Emmanuel Loch*

Harmer  
Rooke  
Sale  
Dec 10-94  
1951  
Lot 252



*Harbour  
France*

20'g-QVART2-F64- 23 Min.

B105

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

If not called for in TEN DAYS. Postmaster will  
please return to

**HENRY GREENEBAUM & CO.,**

*Bankers,*

**CHICAGO, - ILLINOIS.**

*via Southampton  
per Cambria*



*Monsieur Emmanuel Lock*

Harmer Reolce 80.  
Sala 10/25-Hg  
Lot 275



*Recd*



*DIRECT*

*Strasbourg  
France*



FRANCIS E. STERN  
210 CHAPEL STREET  
HARTFORD, CONN.

November 27, 1951

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
33 No. Fort Thomas Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

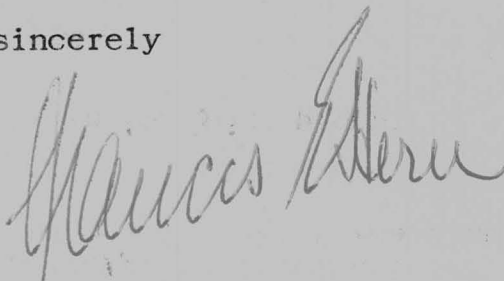
I am enclosing herewith a stamp for your opinion.

On the enclosed slip of paper which I have sealed, I am giving you my opinion as to what I believe the stamp to be. I am sure that one glance at it from you will tell me exactly what it is, and then would you look at my opinion and tell me if I am right or wrong.

Will you please also advise me your charges for this service when you return my stamp, so that I may send you my check immediately. I believe you will find previous correspondence in your files from me.

With kindest regards and thanks for your prompt attention, I am

Most sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Francis E. Stern". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Francis E. Stern".

FEStern:w

Nov. 30, 1951.

Mr. Francis E. Stern,  
210 Chapel St.,  
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Mr. Stern:

Herewith the One Cent stamp as per yours of the 27th.

In my opinion, the perforations are not genuine and the gum on the back is definitely not the gum that was used by Toppan, Carpenter & Co. I assume that this originally was a pencanceled copy of the One Cent 1851 imperforate, that some faker removed the pencancels, applied fake perfs and gum. Under the ultra violet I thought I could detect traces of the pen removed marks but I was not absolutely sure, therefore, I made a photograph by the rays to determine if the negative would show definite signs. I will report on this later after I have had time to develop the plate.

I note from your memo that you thought this was a "privately perf. #9." In the S.U.S. #9 is a Type IIIA. I am wondering if you meant a "privately perf. #10" the Type IV - surely you did not suspect that this was the listed "perf 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  unofficial" which, of course, refers to what is known as the "Chicago Perf." The perfs on your stamp show a gauge of 15. Incidentally, the paper of this copy appears very thick but this may be due in part to the fake gum. If you will lay this copy face down in the palm of your hand for a few seconds you will note how the edges curl up. I doubt if a genuine mint copy of #23 would react in such a manner.

After I can give you more definite information I will advise you of my fee which I can assure you will be modest.

Sincerely yours,

31¢ Postage

281

Jan. 13, 1952.

Mr. Francis E. Stern,  
210 Chapel St.,  
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Mr. Stern:

Referring to my letter of Nov. 30th last, I am enclosing a photo-print of your 1¢ 1857, photographed between two genuine copies of the 1¢ 1857, Type IV, in order to show a comparison of perforations. This photograph was made by Ultra-Violet light but the photograph does not disclose any evidence of a former cancelation. This is not unusual as the Ultra-Violet frequently fails when the ink of the pen marks is of a character to leave no trace.

My fee for the examination is \$2.50 plus 31¢ return postage.

Sincerely yours,

*Stern & Company, Inc.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

210 CHAPEL STREET  
HARTFORD 1, CONNECTICUT

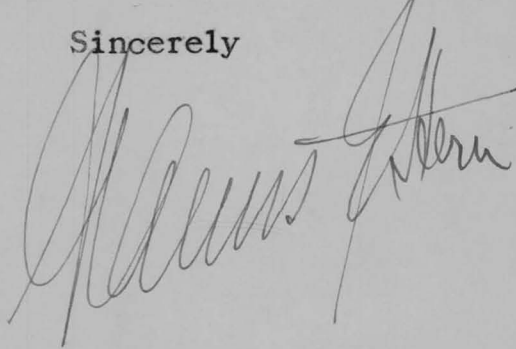
January 16, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you so much for sending me the enlarged photo of the 1¢ 1857 stamp I sent for examination last November. Enclosed is my check covering your expenses in this connection.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Morris Stern", written over the word "Sincerely". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

FEStern:w





B106

# JOHN A. FOX

116 NASSAU STREET

NEW YORK 38, N. Y.

BEEKMAN 3-5443

January 16, 1952

STAMPS  
COVERS  
ACCESSORIES

RETAIL  
WHOLESALE  
AUCTIONS

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

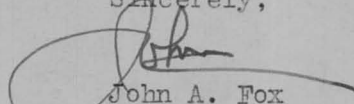
Dear Stan:

Thank you for your letter of January 7th. Please excuse the delay, but I have just returned from out of town. Incidentally, I was out in Kansas and saw Murl Kimmel, and he was very pleased with your description of the covers he submitted. Sure was pleased with your special service on the "Depreciated Currency Covers". It still continues to amaze me, how one individual can cover so many fields and know so much about so many things. In addition to being able to explain them with clarity, this indeed, is a remarkable gift.

As to Les Brookman's opinion on the grill, would say that it is right. I know Les knows his grills, but the thing that I was trying to bring out was the fact that if there is a #82 in the catalogue, that stamp is definitely it. However, being able to prove it would be another thing. You'd have to convince a guy who is not easily convinced, and does not talk to small people. Only God can get the catalogue changed I guess.

With kind personal regards from Virginia and myself to Mildred and you.

Sincerely,



John A. Fox

P.S: Would appreciate your comments on the enclosed cover. Do you think the stamp grew on this cover.

JAF:fwd

# JOHN A. FOX

116 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK 38, N. Y.

BEEKMAN 3-5443

January 17, 1952

RETAIL  
WHOLESALE  
AUCTIONS

STAMPS  
COVERS  
ACCESSORIES

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

Dear Stan:

What is the story on the enclosed cover. Are the stamps missing, or were there no stamps on it and it was prepaid. Let me know. I would appreciate any information you can give me on this, but please, with all the time and work that you put in on covers for me, I hesitate to send them because you do not send a bill for your services. We always have this squabble. I make money on things that I send you, and have the protection of not selling something that is not what it should be. For this I should definitely pay a service fee. 'Nough said!

With kind personal regards to Mildred and yourself.

Sincerely,

  
John A. Fox

JAF:fwd



Jan. 19, 1952.

Mr. John A. Fox,  
116 Nassau St.,  
New York 28, N.Y.

Dear John:

Herewith the two covers as per your two letters of the 16th and 17th, both of which came today.

First regarding the Lincoln cover. There is no year date on this but I am fairly certain the use from New York was August 12, 1865, first, because this is a Lincoln mourning cover, hence subsequent to April 1865 and second because the Bremen Steamer sailed on Aug. 12, 1865. The rate to Austria at that time by Bremen or Hamburg steamer was 15¢, of which our share was 3¢. Note the red "12" (credit to Bremen) in the N.Y. postmark. The stamps that were removed from this cover were to the right and below the Lincoln head - The removal shows up very plain under the lamp but even the naked eye shows pieces of the perf's opposite and to the right of Lincoln's chin. A 12¢ plus a 3¢ '61 could have been removed or a 10¢ plus a 5¢. The European crooks do a lot of work on these Bremen covers. I enclose a photograph of a cover that was in a Laurence Sale several years ago. I suppose this cover originally had a 15¢ 1866, some crook removed it and substituted a 90¢ 1861. He didn't know(?) that the New York postmark was evidence sufficient to prove that the original rate was only 15¢. Kindly return this photo as it is from my files.

Re - the 24¢ cover to London. First - In 1861, the 10th of Dec. was Tuesday, so the actual use from New York was surely on that date. It was mailed from New York on the 10th to catch the sailing of the British Packet from Boston on Wednesday, the 11th of December 1861. (The New York p.m. shows "Br.Pkt." I don't know whether this stamp originated on this cover or not but I have an idea that it did though the use of this black grid on mail to England from New York in December 1861 seems most unusual, because according to my recollection and records a red grid of a different type than this was generally used. If this stamp did actually originate on this cover, then, in my opinion, the stamp is a natural changeling of color of the reddish violet or possibly a changeling of color of the red lilac though I have no record that the 24¢ red lilac was issued as early as Dec. 10th, 1861. (My earliest record of a red lilac is Jan. 7, 1862). My lamp did not disclose anything suspicious about the cover. I suppose that some of the "Experts" would call this stamp the S.U.S. 78 - or 78A or 78B, but #78 is listed as August 1863, whereas the 70B is known on covers used in October 1861. I fear this is about as far as I can go with this cover. To sum up -

- (A) A genuine cover of Dec. 10th, 1861.
- (B) The 24¢ rate was prepaid by a stamp.
- (C) Three colors are known to have been used in 1861:
  - (1) Blue Violet - August, September and October 1861.
  - (2) "Steel Blue" - a natural color changeling of the blue violet.
  - (3) Reddish Violet
  - (4) Steel Blue - a natural color changeling of the reddish violet.

#2. Jan. 19, 1952  
Mr. John A. Fox.

I am returning these two covers to you by Air Mail - Special Delivery - as I believe that Special Delivery is just about as safe as registered mail. I am doing this so as to avoid holding the covers over until Monday. Please mail the card back to me so that I will know this reached you.

I don't think these covers have enough value to justify a fee and even if they have you are still overpaid in my book, so there certainly is no charge and remember this - I never want you to hesitate to send any covers to me for examination, because ever odd item I see helps just so much in my education. Who can tell - You might send me a cover that I would be willing to pay a liberal fee just to see it. There are a lot of people who think I should pay them to see covers in their collections - no joke.

Thanks very much for the kind remarks in yours of the 16th. I was pleased that Murl and you were interested in my story on the "Depreciated Currency" covers.

I have carefully noted your remarks on the #82 grill, but John when it comes to punches in paper, I have to pass. I leave all my problems on such items to Les.

Mildred joins me in best wishes to Virginia and you. Perhaps sometime in the not real distant future we can have a get-together.

Cordially yours,

OTTO M. A. BACHER, D.PH.  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

MEMBER B.P.A., P.T.S., A.P.S.,  
COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK

# THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS



REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, LONDON, W.1.

TELEPHONE: GERRARD 4900

OB/B

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.,  
Fort Thomas.

Nov. 7, 1952.

VIA BPA CONTROL.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

May I trespass again on your courtesy?

I would very much like to know whether you agree or disagree with the enclosed opinion of the Philatelic Foundation that the 24 ¢ steelblue on enclosed cover was not used on it.

Mr. Fox bought the item of me a year ago and is now, of course, upset by the certificate. So am I. I suggested to ask you for your opinion and he replied on Nov. 4 that "he will stand by Mr. Ashbrook's opinion at all times" and fully agrees to my submitting the cover to you. Needless to emphasize that I, too, stand by your opinion at all times, otherwise I would not have suggested you as final arbiter. My arrangement with Fox is that, should you agree with the Foundation, I will take the cover back. Should you not, the transaction stands as it is.

Personally I cannot see why the stamp was not used on that cover. Everything rings true to me, although the tie has been -perhaps- improved by painting. This is my opinion for what it is worth. Under the Quartz Lamp I cannot discern any irregularities. It seems to be just the type of cover which we here, at the receiving end, used to find so very often in years back.

Very many thanks in anticipation for your kind help. Please return via BPA.

Best wishes

cordially yours

*P.S. Wrote to you  
today separately on  
your of Oct. 24.*

*OB.*





# THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO. LTD.

DIRECTORS: O. BACHER, D. PHIL., B.P.A., P.T.S., A.P.S. - S. BACHER.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET,

PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON, W.1 TELEPHONE: GERRARD 4900

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Nov. 7, 1952.

Officially through BPA sent you today a cover, accompanied by letter where I did not enclose the 75 ¢ for return air postage and regist. (herewith). Incidentally, the cover was in Sir N.W.'s collection and sold by him, with many others, via Harmer, Rooke's, London, on March 5, 1943. It came back to me 9 years later in a collection. N.W. has no doubts about its authenticity. It is addressed to people who formerly were not far from his firm's present headquarters.

I also have asked Sir N. to help us in your query as per yours of Oct. 24 and have myself undertaken the unusual step to write to my local M.P. who is now Assistant Postmaster General in Mr. Churchill's Government. Please treat this confidential. I wonder what answer I will get - one day! To a politician my problem may appear utterly unimportant.

That our British philatelists cannot help does not surprise me. With regard to scientific detail I am frequently under the impression that I, far removed from the American shores, know more ~~than they in their own field~~ ~~very own field~~ US than they, sitting at the source, on their own stamps.

Best wishes

cordially yours



## METHOD OF RETURNING STAMPS TO US.

While correspondence and remittances can be sent direct to our address, every consignment containing Postage Stamps **MUST** be addressed to us c/o **THE BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION LTD., 3, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1**, who control imports and exports of Postage Stamps in this country, a measure which has not yet been abolished. Insurance is covered by us both ways.

**THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO.,**  
**LONDON (England).**

This space is reserved  
for Official  
Registration Label.



**BY AIR MAIL**  
PAR AVION

# REGISTERED LETTER.

THIS LETTER  
TO AN OFFICE  
OFFICE AGAIN.



TO **STANLEY B. ASHBROOK**

**P.O. BOX 31**

**33 N. FORT THOMAS AVENUE**

**FORT THOMAS, K.Y.**  
**U.S.A.**



ration

Fee.....d. paid.  
(See note on back)

Name and Address of Sender

FROM.....

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO. LTD.,  
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET,  
LONDON, W.1. (off Regent Street)

## Compensation

Subject to the limitations and conditions notified in the Post Office Guide, the registration fee of 6d. covers compensation up to £5 for loss or damage of an Inland Registered Letter, and up to £2 18s. for the entire loss of a Registered Letter sent to a

place abroad. To cover higher amounts extra fees must be paid as indicated in the Guide. When a higher registration fee than 6d. is paid on an Inland Registered Letter the amount should be inserted in the space provided on the front of this envelope.

Nov. 17, 1952.

Dr. O. Bacher,  
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,  
London, W.1, England.

Dear Dr. Backer:

Upon my return today from New York I found your two letters of the 7th. I was down there all of last week attending the Meroni sale by John Fox. I am returning the 24¢ 1861 cover to you today care of the B.P.A. by air registered together with the P.F. certificate, also my complete analysis of the cover which I am pleased to inform you is, in my opinion, genuine in every respect. I am forwarding a copy of my analysis to John Fox and I am also forwarding a copy to the Expert Committee with the request that they communicate with John Fox and request him to return the certificate to them so that it can be canceled and a new one issued instead.

My fee for this examination is \$5.00.

If not too much trouble will you kindly show my analysis to Sir Nicholas.

I do appreciate your assistance and also that of Sir Nicholas in obtaining the data that I requested as to the exact date in the first quarter of 1870 when The British cut their packet rate from Panama to the West Coast of South America from a shilling to six pence. With such assistance I am confident that I will obtain the information that I so earnestly desire.

I agree one hundred percent that your knowledge of our stamps and our postal history is far in excess of many of our authorities in this country. I find that it is much more difficult to convince a person who has little philatelic knowledge that he is wrong, than it is to convince one who possesses a great deal. One can successfully argue with the latter but not with the former, especially if he is a member of a Philatelic Expert Committee.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,



Nov. 17, 1952.

Dr. O. Bacher,

Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,

London, W.1, England.

VIA BPA CONTROL

Dear Doctor:

Herewith I am returning to you the 24¢ 1861 cover as per your letter of Nov. 7, 1952, together with the certificate of the Philatelic Foundation of New York City, dated Sep. 8, 1952, and numbered 3866, and also my analysis of this cover.

Sincerely yours,

Regarding cover submitted by Dr. O. Backer - November 17, 1952.

24¢ 1861 - Steel Blue natural changeling of color of the VIOLET. From New York Dec. 10, 1861 - to London. London P.M. of Dec. 23, 1861 (DE-23-61) in red. Nothing on back. 24¢ stamp tied by a black grid. Manuscript memo at top reads: "NEW YORK TUESDAY DEC 10th 1861."

In 1861, the 10th of Dec. fell on Tuesday.

The New York p.m. in red reads: "N. YORK BR. PKT - DEC 10 - PAID 19."

This letter was mailed from New York to go to Boston to catch the sailing on Wednesday Dec. 11, 1861 of a Cunard Mail Ship for Liverpool. The use of this cover was unquestionably 1861, and the letter was of course sent prepaid. There is no evidence whatsoever that the use was any other year than 1861. The certificate of the Philatelic Foundation No. 3866, dated Sept. 8, 1952 states:

"We have examined the attached item a United States 1861, 24¢, steel blue, on cover, of which a photograph is affixed on the reverse, submitted by Mr. John A. Fox and are of the opinion the stamp was not used on this cover - Theodore Steinway - for the Committee." (unquote)

I must admit that I am at a loss to understand how the Expert Committee arrived at the above decision. As stated above, the use of this letter was unquestionably Dec. 10, 1861. I am positive that the "61" in the London postmark is genuine and that no change has been made in it. No one has tampered with the "61."

This letter was sent prepaid and the New York postmark is proof of this. A Cunard mail ship sailed from Boston on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1861, as the records prove. The "19" in the New York postmark shows that the letter went across the Atlantic by a British mail ship, and, of course, this is confirmed by the "BR. PKT."

The two stamps that could have been used in Dec. 1861 to prepay this letter were:

- (A) 24¢ 1861 Blue Violet
- (B) 24¢ 1861 Reddish Violet.

Of the above the latter would have been the one used more than the former, in other words, the 24¢ stamp that would have been exactly right for this period would be a "changeling in color" of the 24¢ 1861 Reddish Violet.

Reference to my writings and articles on the 24¢ 1861 will confirm this opinion. The stamp on this cover is, in my opinion, a changeling in color (natural) of the 24¢ 1861 Reddish Violet.

There is no evidence by ultra violet that some other stamp might have been used in the upper right corner, hence in my opinion, if the present 24¢ stamp was not used on this cover then this was a stampless cover with the postage paid in cash. While prepayment by postage stamps was required on domestic mail, such prepayment was not required on foreign mail. Thus there is the possibility that this was a stampless cover - prepaid - to which some faker may have added this 24¢ stamp.

At this period it was customary to cancel stamps on mail going to England with grids in red, but I know of no reason why black might not have been used at times. The grid on this stamp has a peculiar shape and it very closely matches a similar grid in red on a cover that I have (to England) with a use from New York on Nov. 20, 1861. Both have eight bars and the strikes are so very much alike that I am of the opinion that the strike on this



#2.

cover of Dec. 10, 1861 is genuine, therefore, after a very careful study of this cover, I am convinced that the certificate issued by the Philatelic Foundation of New York City, numbered 3866, and dated September 8, 1952, is in error and should be recalled and canceled. In my opinion this cover is genuine in every respect.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Stanley B. Ashbrook

Fort Thomas, Ky.  
Nov. 17, 1952

(see 22 - 40)

( B114 )

Nov. 17, 1952.

Mr. John A. Fox,  
116 Nassau St.,  
New York 7, N.Y.

Dear John:

Bacher sent me the 24¢ 1861 "Steel Blue" cover together with the P.F. Expert Committee certificate. This is the same cover that you sent me last January and about which I wrote you under date of Jan. 19, 1952.

I have made a more thorough examination of the cover and incidentally found that I had a cover with a grid (in red) that matches the grid on this cover. A copy of the report that I am sending to Dr. Bacher is enclosed herewith.

I am also sending a copy of this analysis to Henry Goodkind and requesting that the Committee request you to return the certificate that they issued to you and issue a new one that will be correct.

We got home safe and sound Sunday afternoon.

Our best to Virginia and you.

Cordially yours,



Nov. 17, 1952.

Mr. Henry Goodkind,  
22 East 35th St.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Henry:

If not too much trouble, will you keep me advised from time to time regarding Win's condition. I sure feel sorry for him and if there is anything that I can do, please let me know. If you find it expedient to raise a little fund to assist him financially, I would consider it a favor to participate.

On my return home I found a U. S. 24¢ 1861 cover from Dr. Bacher of London, which had been submitted to the Expert Committee. I enclose a copy of my analysis of this cover. I am very confident that this cover is perfectly good and I think that the Committee should get in touch with John Fox and request him to return the P.F. certificate so that it can be canceled and a new one issued.

This cover was in the collection of Sir Nicholas Waterhouse and as far as I am aware he never questioned it. I feel very confident that it is genuine as I explained in my analysis.

Again may I thank you for a very pleasant lunch.

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 28, 1952.

Mr. Theodore Gore,  
400 Brown Bldg.,  
Wichita, Kans.

Dear Mr. Gore:

Just a line to acknowledge yours of the 25th with return of the 24¢ photo and memo. I have taken this up with the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation and I am hopeful that they will reconsider their decision, recall their certificate and issue one that is correct.

Too bad I didn't know you were in Washington while I was in New York as I might have had the pleasure of meeting you personally.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

**THEODORE GORE**

**400 BROWN BUILDING**

**WICHITA, KANSAS**

November 25, 1952

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

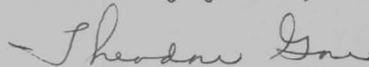
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am returning the photograph of the 24¢ cover, together with your analysis of it. I was very interested in reading it. It is difficult to comprehend why a certificate was refused. I assume it was done only because of the color of the stamp.

I was in New York for three days and saw Ezra. He told me that you had been there the week previous. I was in Washington at that time. Had I known that you were there then, I would have tried to have come up for a day. My plans are rather indefinite as we are awaiting word from the FCC as to when our application for a TV station will go in hearing.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



Theodore Gore

TG/cn  
enc.



Regarding cover submitted by Dr. O. Backer - November 17, 1952.

24¢ 1861 - Steel Blue natural changeling of color of the VIOLET. From New York Dec. 10, 1861 - to London. London P.M. of Dec. 23, 1861 (DE-23-61) in red. Nothing on back. 24¢ stamp tied by a black grid. Manuscript memo at top reads: "NEW YORK TUESDAY DEC 10th 1861."

In 1861, the 10th of Dec. fell on Tuesday.

The New York p.m. in red reads: "N. YORK BR. PKT - DEC 10 - PAID 19."

This letter was mailed from New York to go to Boston to catch the sailing on Wednesday Dec. 11, 1861 of a Cunard Mail Ship for Liverpool. The use of this cover was unquestionably 1861, and the letter was of course sent prepaid. There is no evidence whatsoever that the use was any other year than 1861. The certificate of the Philatelic Foundation No. 3866, dated Sept. 8, 1952 states:

"We have examined the attached item a United States 1861, 24¢, steel blue, on cover, of which a photograph is affixed on the reverse, submitted by Mr. John A. Fox and are of the opinion the stamp was not used on this cover - Theodore Steinway - for the Committee." (unquote)

I must admit that I am at a loss to understand how the Expert Committee arrived at the above decision. As stated above, the use of this letter was unquestionably Dec. 10, 1861. I am positive that the "61" in the London postmark is genuine and that no change has been made in it. No one has tampered with the "61."

This letter was sent prepaid and the New York postmark is proof of this. A Cunard mail ship sailed from Boston on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1861, as the records prove. The "19" in the New York postmark shows that the letter went across the Atlantic by a British mail ship, and, of course, this is confirmed by the "BR. PKT."

The two stamps that could have been used in Dec. 1861 to prepay this letter were:

- (A) 24¢ 1861 Blue Violet
- (B) 24¢ 1861 Reddish Violet.

Of the above the latter would have been the one used more than the former, in other words, the 24¢ stamp that would have been exactly right for this period would be a "changeling in color" of the 24¢ 1861 Reddish Violet.

Reference to my writings and articles on the 24¢ 1861 will confirm this opinion. The stamp on this cover is, in my opinion, a changeling in color (natural) of the 24¢ 1861 Reddish Violet.

There is no evidence by ultra violet that some other stamp might have been used in the upper right corner, hence in my opinion, if the present 24¢ stamp was not used on this cover then this was a stampless cover with the postage paid in cash. While prepayment by postage stamps was required on domestic mail, such prepayment was not required on foreign mail. Thus there is the possibility that this was a stampless cover - prepaid - to which some faker may have added this 24¢ stamp.

At this period it was customary to cancel stamps on mail going to England with grids in red, but I know of no reason why black might not have been used at times. The grid on this stamp has a peculiar shape and it very closely matches a similar grid in red on a cover that I have (to England) with a use from New York on Nov. 20, 1861. Both have eight bars and the strikes are so very much alike that I am of the opinion that the strike on this



#2.

cover of Dec. 10, 1861 is genuine, therefore, after a very careful study of this cover, I am convinced that the certificate issued by the Philatelic Foundation of New York City, numbered 3866, and dated September 8, 1952, is in error and should be recalled and canceled. In my opinion this cover is genuine in every respect.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Stanley B. Ashbrook

Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 17, 1952

(see 22 - 40)

( B114 )

# JOHN A. FOX

116 NASSAU STREET

NEW YORK 38, N. Y.

BEEKMAN 3-5443

STAMPS  
COVERS  
ACCESSORIES

RETAIL  
WHOLESALE  
AUCTIONS

November 20, 1952

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

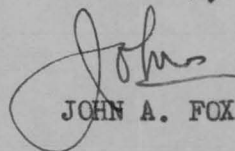
Dear Stan:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 17th. I will abide by your decision on the cover and accept it back from Dr. Bacher. We will see what happens relative to your request to the expert committee. I will keep you informed.

Glad that you get home safe and sound and I am only sorry that you weren't able to join us any evening for dinner but such is fame.

With kind personal regards from Murl Kimmel, Virginia and myself,

Sincerely,



JOHN A. FOX

JAF:ew



**BY AIR MAIL**  
PAR AVION



Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.

33 N. Fort Thomas Avenue.

Fort Thomas.

Ky.

USA.

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.,

*The U.S.A. Specialists,*  
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET,  
PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON, W.1.

## THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35th STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

## EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States  
1861, 24¢, steel blue, on cover, of which a  
photograph is affixed on the reverse -----

submitted by --- Mr. John A. Fox -----

and are of the opinion that ~~xxx~~ the stamp was not used  
on this cover -----

*Thurman Tennyson*  
 For The Expert Committee



In My Opinion  
 This Certificate  
 Is In Error

By DR. GACKER  
 See 22-40

11-23-52

C74





*Via Bremen by Steamer*  
AMERICA  
FEB BREMEN  
FRANCO

*John Andrew Pich*  
*Ober Ingenieur*

*von K. pr. gal. Carl Ludw. von*  
*Lemberg, Galizien (Austria)*

This Photograph  
Was Made By  
ULTRA - VIOLET  
RAY

By Stanley B. Ashbrook

JAN 20 1952 - Cover Used Aug 12 1865  
By John Fox - Stamps Removed  
From Left  
See S. B. 22. p. 40

2018-F64-PAN-23 Sec

956

COLO R CHANGE



SEE QUARTZ PHOTO  
STAMPS  
BRITAIN

New York. Tuesday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 1861.

LETS



24d  
GRAY



Red

Black  
Grid

Samuel Potter Esq:  
36 King Street  
London  
England

Red

Prepaid

Nothing  
on Back

JB 22-40



Black

See S.B.

#22

PHO

Via Bremen by Steamer

AMERICA  
FEBER BREMEN  
FRANCO

Blue

Juan Antonio Poch  
Ober Ingenieur



Red

No year

By  
John Fox  
1/19-52

Carl Ludw Bahr  
Lemberg, Galizien (Austria)

SEE S.1300K  
22 PAGE 40

22-K3-F12B-PAN-4-5cc

TWO COVERS FOR  
OPINION BY JOHN FOX  
JAN 19 1952

B14

This Photograph  
Was Made By  
ULTRA - VIOLET  
RAY

By Stanley B. Ashbrook

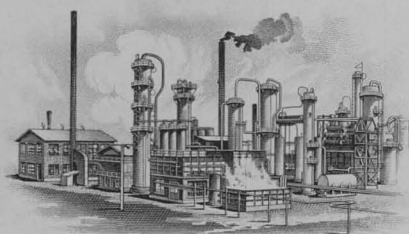
JAN 20 1952 - Cover Used Aug 12 1865  
By John Fox - Stamps Removed

From Left

See S.B. 22. p. 40

20'8 - FG4 - PAN - 23 sec

PHONE 125



# CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

~~CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN~~

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

Ionia, Michigan.  
January 16, 1952.

Dear Stan:

Your short note of January 7th asked why you had'nt heard from us recently. Only reason, Stan, was the Xmas holidays and the kids home etc, plus the fact that always at this time of the year, I have to file an ammended income tax return by January 15th, and it sure is a headache. Makes me sick to think about it - fortunately it is behind me now.

Rene has had a terrible cold for past ten days - first in years - but is better now. I escaped it by taking quantities of anti-histamine pills which have an effect perhaps as bad as the cold.

I enjoyed immensely the last issue of the "Special Service" dated January 7th, both the first part about the inflation covers, and the latter part on "Registry Fee Payable in Stamps." This causes me to send you five covers I recently acquired from an old fossil in Detroit - sort of a vest pocket dealer. Prices I paid him are noted on face of covers in pencil. He has hundreds more covers like these and I have an understanding with him that I can return for credit any of these covers I do not like for any reason, so will appreciate it if you would look them over and tell me which ones if any I ought to return, also noting anything interesting about them that I may have passed up.

I probably would never have bothered you with these covers, Stan, were it not for your article on "Registry Fee Paid by Stamps." Please note the cover with the San Francisco cog wheel cancel and dated "MAR 2 1863" or is it 1868? Addressed to Lenawee County, Michigan (this is county Charlie Shiersen lives in). WHY THE 16¢ rate? Is this a registry? Or have stamps been added to this cover that were not there originally?

Another sort of interesting cover is the one addressed to Windsor, Canada, (just across the river from Detroit) with 11¢ postage, two 5¢ singles and a 1¢. Apparently originated in New York as "RK" shows on one of the 5¢. Cover damaged but Clarence Wilson offered to make it look more presentable by making it smaller. Is this worth the \$7.00 price, Stan? You might also comment on the other three covers if you care to, but the two mentioned above seem the most interesting.

Had a letter from Mort and he mentions he may come over to Cincinnati to spend a few days with you in near future. I might arrange to be there at same time if agreeable with you and Mort - let me know.

Regards and hope you and Mildred have completely recovered from the colds you mention.

JGF/ Enc:REG:

Sincerely,   
J. G. FLECKENSTEIN.



Jan. 20, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 16th redeived with the five covers which I am returning herewith with some remarks to follow.

Yes Jack, this income tax stuff is a headache to everyone and I'll be damned if I see much difference in living in this country and Russia. We have given up most of our liberties to a strong centralized Government in Washington. The South in the Civil War fought for States Rights more than for slavery and upon that principle the Southern people were certainly right. There is no longer such a thing as States Rights - the States are mere vassals of Washington. This nation was never founded on such. Next November we will know whether there is enough common sense left in this nation for a people to govern themselves. We are sure in a pretty mess in Korea and God only knows how we are ever going to get out of it. However, enough of all this so I will switch to other topics.

What we call a "cold" surely must be some germ that takes hold and is hard to shake short of two weeks. All three of us had attacks but mine was much worse than those suffered by Mildred and Stan. However, they are now behind us. Rene must have had one like I had.

I had a lot of favorable comments on my last Service issue, especially on the "Depreciated Currency" data. I am glad that the issue was of interest to you. I miss Don MacGregor and it is too bad that he passed away before I uncovered my new data on Registered covers. Don loved to get facts and he was a very keen student. Too bad he had to go. I think we will all miss him a great deal. He was one who played the game on the up and up - square as a die.

Yes, Mort plans to make a visit early in February and it would be fine if you could arrange to join us. I know that this would please Mort. I will keep you advised. I wrote Mort to bring Anna if she cared to make the trip and, of course, this applies to Rene.

This is confidential - strictly - Don't let Clarence work on any of your covers. I think he does more harm than good. Such work should only be done by an experienced hand.

I have numbered the covers from 1 to 5 and here are some comments:

No. 1 - I think this cover is okay and shows the 10¢ rate to Canada plus a 1¢ Carrier fee at New York. The use was 1863 and as such, had to be prior to July 1, 1863. No month is legible. The lamp shows a removal of a big stain at right and a retouch of the small red oval Exchange marking. A cover showing a rate to Canada plus the 1¢ N.Y. Carrier fee is most unusual. I have seen very few. I doubt if Harold has such an item in his collection. The condition is pretty bad but I think the cover is worth more than you paid.

#2. Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein - Jan. 20, 1952.

No. 2 - This S.F. postmark is surely 1863 at which time - March - the single rate to Michigan was 10¢ double 20¢ etc. The Registry fee was 5¢ at that time but it was payable only in cash. There is no evidence whatsoever that this was a registered cover - no number - etc. I know of no explanation for the 16¢ and I feel sure that Harold would tell you the same. Some might suggest that the sender wanted to pay 10¢ postage and 5¢ registered and overpaid same by 1¢ (no 2¢ Black Jacks in March 1863), but absence of any evidence of registration discounts such a theory. I would hand this cover back to the seller and inform him that you will take it if he can explain the 16¢ payment, that you don't want any questionable covers in your collection at any price.

No. 3 - Stamp is damaged but the cover - as a cover - is worth \$5.00. The 5¢ pay is the U. S. Internal by British Packet to Halifax - that is - to the frontier only - The Nova Scotia internal was due on delivery - namely "10¢ Canadian." If you keep this cover erase the notation on back as it is in error. These 5¢ rates are not unusual. Last week I sent Chuck Meroni an article on this class of covers to be published in the initial issue of the new U. S. Postal History Bulletin. Are you a member of the new Society? If not, write Chuck that you wish to join (Dues \$5.00). Watch for my article.

No. 4 - No evidence of year use, but the cover shows the 10¢ rate from California to Eastern Canada. See my "Service" pages 41 and 42. I doubt if this was much of a bargain at \$10.00, still these 10¢ rates are not exactly common.

No. 5 - This shows the 15¢ rate via Prussian Closed Mail which went into effect on Jan. 1, 1868. Prior to that time the rate had been Unpaid 30¢ - prepaid 28¢ - per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.

Mildred joins me in best to Rene and you.

Cordially yours,



CRYSTAL *Refining Company* OF CARSON CITY  
INCORPORATED

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

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

Ionia, Michigan.  
January 29, 1952.

Dear Stan:

Thanks, Stan, for your letters of January 20th and 26th, and hasten to reply.

I would indeed be happy to make it a point to be with you and Mort when he comes to Cincinnati, if you think it would be agreeable with both you and Mort. Maybe he would rather spend his time with you alone. If you think it would meet with his approval, let me know when the time is set, and I will be there. Rene might make it but someone ought to stay here and look after business - perhaps tho I could talk her into it.

Regarding the five covers sent you in my letter of January 16th. I showed them to Harold Stark and he said you were indeed correct in stating he had no cover with a rate to Canada plus the 1¢ N.Y. Carrier fee, and said he would like this very much so I let him have it at price I paid - he said it was worth more. It fits into his collection a lot better than in mine and he has been very considerate in letting me have items I wanted.

Now regarding cover you numbered as #2 - addressed to Michigan from San Francisco with the 16¢ rate. Harold was intrigued with this cover and asked that I let him take it home and examine it under the binocular mike, and this AM, he returned it to me, so I am enclosing it along with his letter. He says it is 4 times circular rate and says he would like to have it if I don't want it but I like these covers with stamp combinations. Do you agree it is a 4 x circular rate? If so, would you explain how this rate came to be. I never heard of a 4¢ circular rate - did you? Maybe this is - as Harold indicates - a most interesting cover. I bought it from Frank Kirster, an old fellow in Detroit who would be glad to refund on anything he sells - sort of vest pocket dealer - certainly could not fake anything himself - and I thought this was OK because he had half a dozen covers all addressed the same party - same correspondence - the others tho with common or damaged stamps.

I am also enclosing another cover I got from Kirster - with three 1¢ imperf Type IV singles and "STEAM BOAT" and Detroit cancel. Fred Schmalzreidt said this was worth a lot more than the \$15.00 Kirster charged me for it. Thought you might like to look at it. This too is one Kirster said he would be glad to refund purchase price on. He has a lot more covers - some in poor condition tho and pretty well picked over. Let me have your comments on this Detroit cover, Stan. Fred says it was put in the mail between Pt Huron and Detroit and came down river on a boat.

Now re Plate Six. I think it would indeed be worth while writing up an article on these combination Type V and V-A stamps from Plate Six. I am strong for this. Perhaps in the American Philatelist. Am sure it would be intensely interesting and something every owner of your Vol. I would like to have. Fortgand is wrong about my having a block showing these combinations - all I have is the strip you have seen. Wish I had more tho.

I got some nice items in the Jefferys sale, *thanks to Mort.* Some covers with strips of positions I need to help complete my Plate One Early reconstruction - also got Lot #138 the pen canc single position 1 R 3 showing centerline at left which is illustrated on page 216 of your Vol I, a most desirable item - cost me only \$38.00. Also got Lot #146, the vertical strip of three, positions 74-84-94 R 3 which cost me only \$14.00 - a steal I think. Regards.

Sincerely, *Jack*  
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/

Jan. 30, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 29th received and I return herewith:

- (1) The S.F. 16¢ rate cover
- (2) The 1¢ 1851 Detroit Steamboat cover, and
- (3) Harold's letter.

I believe Harold is entirely wrong on his theory and I will write him to that effect. In the first place, there was no such a rate as he suggests, and second, this was evidently a "first class" letter sent sealed.

Regarding the (1) - The act of Feb. 27, 1861 established the following rate for unsealed circulars for any place to any place in the U.S. - "Not over 3 oz. shall be 1¢ and 1¢ for every additional ounce." I do not know whether all these stamps originated on this cover or not and if they did, why the sender put 16¢ on his letter when only 10¢ was required? Harold seems to think the cover is rare, but I wouldn't put it in that class unless there was some explanation for such a payment.

I am sending photo-prints to Jessup and Dr. Pollard of San Rafael and inquiring if they can imagine any reason for a payment of 16¢. If one wanted to speculate I suppose this could have been a 2 x 10¢ with a 3¢ and 1¢ 1861 in bottom left. That is more plausible than Harold's theory.

The Detroit cover is very unusual and I agree with Fred on the probable value.

I haven't heard from Mort as to when he can fly out but I will advise you as soon as I do. I am sure that Mort would be delighted to have you join us - We have no secrets to discuss and whatever we do discuss about the 1¢, I am sure that both of us will welcome your participation.

My Service Issue No. 11 was mailed to you this morning and in it, I discussed the type combination of Plate Six. At present I think it would be a bit premature to publish anything in the public press. I have a lot of photographs of Plate 6 material that I have not had time to attempt to plate, but with which I hope to make further progress on the left pane.

I was pleased to learn that you obtained some nice items in the Jefferys sale, especially the 1 R3. It is a real rarity. Yes, Lot #146 was a steal.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



12-K3-F118-PAN-4-5cc



A106

Mechanic Falls Maine  
January 18. 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed is the cover for  
typing and appraisal, which I recently  
wrote to you about.

The only reason I have the cellophane  
over it, is because the stamps were loose.

Perhaps you would like to check the  
date on the inside of folder, and you  
may remove cellophane.

Am enclosing money order for  
appraisal, and return registration fee.

Thanking you, I remain

Sincerely yours  
Arthur J. Reed  
Jewiston Street  
Mechanic Falls  
Maine

34  
Stamp  
enclosed

Mechanic Falls Maine

January 3, 1852

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Dear Sir:

I have been reading  
your book on The United States One Cent Stamp  
of 1851-1857.

I have a family letter dated October 1851  
with three separate stamps on it, each  
stamp with the cancellation PAID on them.  
To the best of my ability I have classified  
them as type IIIA (PLATE 1E) but this could  
be easily incorrect.

Would you let me know, if you will  
classify them, and tell me their value,  
as I am desirous of disposing of them  
if I can receive a fair price, also your  
fee for doing same.

Thank you, I remain

yours truly

Arthur J Reed  
Sewiston Street  
Mechanic Falls Maine



Jan. 8, 1951.

Mr. Arthur J. Reed,  
Lewiston St.,  
Mechanic Falls  
Maine.

Dear Mr. Reed:

Replying to yours of the 3rd. I will be pleased to examine the cover mentioned in yours of the 3rd and to advise you regarding its value, etc.

The fee will be \$3.00 plus return registration postage (43¢ at present).

Sincerely yours,

Jan. 21, 1952.

Mr. Arthur J. Reed,  
Lewiston St.,  
Mechanic Falls, Maine.

Dear Mr. Reed:

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 cover as per yours of the 18th.

Thanks very much for the Postal Money Order for \$3.60.

The stamps on your cover are as follows:

Single in upper right - Type IIIA  
Plate One Early - S.U.S. No. 8A (Pl. 1E)

Single in upper left - Type II  
S.U.S. No. 7

Single in lower left - Type IIIA  
Plate One Early - S.U.S. No. 8A - (Pl. 1E).

The date of use was Oct. 10, 1851. At that time there was only one 1¢ plate being used and we know it by the name of "Plate One - Early Condition"- or "Pl. 1E."

On the face of the cover I marked the type of each stamp and on the back I typed and authenticated the cover. I also housed the cover in a new covering.

Sincerely yours,

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

January 8, 1952

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 2nd. Enclosed is my check for \$4.00 to cover your fee on the two stamps. I am also enclosing a 1¢ 1851 which could be a type 3A and a #120 on cover for your opinion. Please sign the back of the latter if it is all right as I trust it will be.

You gave me your opinion on the unused offcover #67 in your letter of October 5th. You mentioned at that time that you had made a long time exposure under the ultra violet lamp and would report later on the results. I presume this would indicate more definitely whether or not the stamp had been cleaned. Its appearance was <sup>not</sup> in order as you noted, but I too was unable to find any trace of a cancellation that might have been cleaned when I checked it under my lamp.

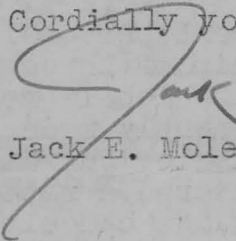
I consider it a great personal favor for you to mention the fact of the 1¢ strip of three tied on by the fancy Canton, Mississippi cancel which I presume was submitted <sup>by</sup> Morris Fortgang. He apparently made a very low bid on the cover in a recent Paige sale, but did not get it since I bought it at what I considered a rather low price. It had a very heavy black pen smudge cancel across the face, in addition to the black fancy one, which ruined its appearance. I attempted to improve the appearance by removing this smudge, and then happened to send it along to him not knowing that he had bid on it. It was definitely described to him as having had the pen smudge cleaned off and I hope that he implied no deception in this respect. It may be that my action was ill advised, especially since I do not believe the appearance was improved significantly. I believe it apropos to outline my code of conduct on matters such as this. Though I can definitely see strong ground for opposing viewpoints, I personally adhere to the belief that it is ethical to improve the appearance of a stamp or cover.



by repairing, taking out stains, pressing, reperfining, etc., as long as these improvements are pointed out in detail to the prospective purchaser. The latter is to me the important thing and it is not too important whether the improvement took place while in my hands or before the item was purchased. I do recognize that other less ethical persons to whom such material may be sold may reoffer it and not point out these improvements and therefore do recognize a definite need for a uniform and accepted method of indelibly marking such things on the item. Though I do not believe it is possible or necessarily desirable to suppress repairing, cleaning (stains), and reperfining, I do strongly feel that there should be some way that the ethical dealer and collector could <sup>mark</sup>~~show~~ such items that go through his hand so that they cannot be reoffered elsewhere with a false description.

I would not condone cleaning a stamp which had only a pen cancellation thereby giving it a definite unused appearance,\* but do feel that there is a difference between this and improving the appearance of a stamp having both a pen marking and a regular hand stamped cancellation which leaves no question about it being a used copy. I may be wrong in this latter regard and may in time change my feeling on it. I would appreciate very much your further advice and comments in this respect if you care to make any. Please do not feel any obligation as I know your time is limited and valuable, but I do value very highly your opinions and wish to do nothing which I feel would tend to adversely affect my own reputation.

Cordially yours,

  
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/ecf  
Encl.

\* Agreeing that there is strong possibility such is against the law.

P.S. Also enclosing another U.S. + France combination cover. Believe it is O.K. and would appreciate your opinion with signature on back if O.K. my price on it is \$75.00 to you if you can use it.



646  
Jan. 13, 1952.

PAID

JAN 21 1952

JAN 21 1952

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two covers and the single 1¢ 1851. Both covers are okay, in my opinion, and I have signed them on the back.

Re - the single - while this stamp is from Plate One Early, it is not a IIIA and in my opinion never was, but rather a faded out Type II. A Plate One Early Type IIIA, has to be a very fine example with a distinct break in the top line.

The fee for signing the two (2) covers is \$3.00 each plus return registration fee of 46¢.

As you are aware, a vertical pair of the 24¢ 1860 on cover is most unusual. Unfortunately this cover is not attractive.

Regarding the 5¢ Buff. I found the letter that I wrote you on Oct. 5th last, but I have not been able to find any trace of a photograph of a 5¢ Buff made by Ultra-Violet. I have a faint recollection that several negatives in a batch were spoiled sometime last fall and I had no record what the subjects were. In all probability one was of your Buff.

Jack, I have carefully noted your remarks about cleaning the 1¢ strip. In this game there is a terrific amount of gossip going on all the time. Personally I think it is bad practice to monkey with any stamp or cover in any way. Eventually some innocent buyer might purchase a "fixed" item and get stung. I wouldn't think of removing any part of a cancelation, and in my opinion, it is criminal to refer a stamp. Take my advice and never monkey with a stamp or cover in any way that would be deceptive. I think it is okay to refold a cover and to remove dirt but such work should be done by one with experience so as not to give a valuable cover the appearance that it had been thru a laundry.

Sincerely yours,

Fee \$6 plus 46¢ - \$6.46.

1/22/52

Dear Stan -

Ez Cole said you  
wanted to see  
this -

Sincerely  
John

John A. Fox

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

FORT THOMAS, KY.

Jan. 25, 1952.

Mr. John A. Fox,  
116 Nassau St.,  
New York 7, N.Y.

Dear John:


Herewith by return mail the 5¢ 1847 - pair - Lot 102 in your sale of Jan. 29th next. Ezra Cole requested you to send this to me and I judge that Ezra has a client who wants to buy this item provided I will pass it as the Orange. In my opinion this is not the Orange, but rather the Brownish Orange. This color is too brown, and the orange has more yellow - resembling to some extent an orange peel. If you compare the color of this pair in a good light to the peel of an orange I believe you would call it Brown.

Back in the early days Chase set the standard for the colors of the 1847 - 5¢ stamps. His eyesight at that time was very keen and he was a very fine judge of colors. In addition, he was the authority on the 1847 - 5¢ and 10¢, and he had many fine collections of that day at his disposal for study. He classified the colors of the 5¢ according to Ridgway and today, a student with a copy of that book, can determine exactly the different colors that Chase attributed to the 5¢ stamp.

Your pair is an 1850 printing - We determine that by the color as well as the impression. The pair is a poor impression and years ago we attributed such to a worn plate. However, in my opinion, the plate was dirty, not worn.

Chase listed as an 1850 color "Brownish Orange" - and gave the Ridgway reading as "Dark Cinnamon - rufous - 11' J - (Pl. XIV - Ridgeway). In my opinion, this pair is a bit darker than the above and I would classify it as "Brownish Orange" - Ridgway's "HAZEL - 11' K."

I am giving you this as my personal opinion, so take it for what it is worth to you. If this pair was submitted to me for an opinion, I would express the above.



I am sending a copy of this letter to Ezra.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Ezra Cole

Advised

Jan 29 1952

That The Pair

Sold As An Orange To

Order For \$400<sup>00</sup>—



# THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

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January 21, 1952

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

Re: Items #3467 & #3483

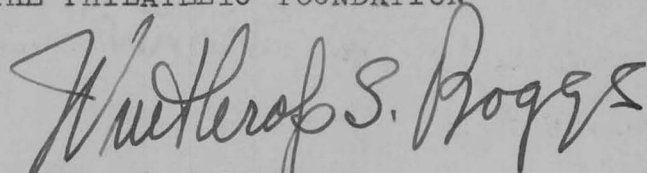
Dear Stan:

The enclosed material has come in to the Expert Committee and we should appreciate having your opinion on these two items.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION



Winthrop S. Boggs  
Director

1  
encls.

N<sup>o</sup> 3467 - Sitka Alaska Cover

N<sup>o</sup> 3483 - 30¢ 1869 Power To  
Divraeli

Jan. 26, 1952.

The Philatelic Foundation,

22 East 35th St.,

New York 16, M. Y.

Dear Win:

Herewith -

Items #3467 and #3483,

as per yours of the 21st.

Further regarding the 5¢ 1857 cover - certificate  
in error. I believe that this will be returned to you before long.  
It is being held by certain people in San Francisco.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

April 14, 1952.

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

Dear Ez:

1952

Re - Cross sale next May 2-3 - Lot 8. This was sent to me by the P.F. and my memo reads as follows:

"By P.F. 1/21-1952 - Ctf No. 3483 - S U S 121 - Is it genuine used on cover - S.B.A. opinion was - A large envelope with enclosures could have required five times the single 6¢ rate to England in 1870. The cancelation and black ink appear to be of the period and in my opinion it is possible that the cover is genuine use."

The use was July 1870. Evidently the P.F. issued a certificate that the cover is genuine.

By P.F. 1/21-1952 - Ctf N: 3483- SUS 121 - " IS IT GENUINE USED ON COVER. - S.B.A  
OPINION WAS - " A Large Envelope With Enclosures Could Have  
Required Five Times The Single 6d Rate To England In 1870. The Cancellation  
And Black Ink Appear To Be Of The Period And In My Opinion It Is  
Possible That The Cover Is A Genuine Use



1860.



Mr. B. Disraeli M.P.,  
 Grosvenor Gate  
 London  
 England



By P.F. 1/21-1952-CHf N° 3483-505 121-" IS IT GENUINE USED ON COVER. - S.B.A  
OPINION WAS - " A Large Envelope With Enclosures Could Have  
Required Five Times The Single 6d Rate To England In 1870. The Cancellation  
And Black Ink Appear To Be Of The Period And In My Opinion It Is  
Possible That The Cover Is A Genuine Use

C 34

In my opinion the  
postmark is genuine but  
I doubt if any one could  
express a worth while  
opinion that this 3¢  
stamp was originally used  
on this cover. This  
postmark was used

in the 1870's and 1880's  
and hence a 3¢ green  
could have been on  
this cover originally. There  
is a pencil 1887 on the  
back but I do not  
believe this was a  
use earlier than some

time in the 1870's

This Cover Was Sent To Me By M. JAMET of Paris France Feb 6 1952 For Account of Jack Molesworth of Boston. From JAMET Sale of 12/19 1951 Lot 433. Billed To Molesworth At France 37660. Or Approx. \$108<sup>00</sup>. The Cover is A Rank Fake - The Stamp Did Not Originate - The Use Was Not 1869 But Probably 1860 or Earlier - "16 Oct" would indicate 185~~4~~ or Earlier Which would be in line with The Red N.Y. Marking - Year Dates show Repair Post of S.F. P.M. PAINTED - Dark Butt Envelope

See S.B. 22. p. 46.

Henry B. Ashmoo — 3/6 - 1952



MAURICE JAMET

timbres anciens

10, Rue d'Alger  
PARIS 1<sup>er</sup>

Opéra 99-46

R.C. SEINE 819 181

January 30, 1952

Mr. Stanley ASHBROOK  
P.O. BOX 31  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue  
FORT THOMAS, KY.

Dear Sir,

I am sending you under separate cover, a 30 cents of 1869 on cover, for which I should be grateful if you would make an authenticity certificate, in case the item is genuine, of which I feel almost sure, owing to the source of buying.

This item, was offered in my auction sale of December, for which I sent you a catalogue, was sold to Mr. Jack E. Molesworth of 102 Beacon, Boston 16, Mass.

According with the conditions of my sale, Mr. Molesworth asks me to have this item expertized in the States. If the item is genuine, I should be obliged if you would establish the certificate in Mr. Molesworth's name, and send it to him as well as the item, and your invoice.

Will you please do not consider the bill that I put in the cover, for I must do this to avoid long formalities.

As references, I am able to give the names of Dr. Carroll Chase and Mr. Philip Ward Jr.

I thank you very much in advance, and am,

Yours faithfully,

*Maurice Jamet*

Feb. 6, 1952.

Mr. Maurice Janet,  
10 rue D'Alger  
Paris 1, France.

Dear Mr. Janet:

I had occasion in December last to inquire of my good friend Dr. Carroll Chase regarding you and he assured me that you were thoroughly reliable, hence I am pleased to accommodate you whenever the occasion should arise.

Your air letter of 30th, arrived several days ago and today your registered letter came with the 30¢ 1869 on cover. I regret to inform you that this stamp was not used originally on this envelope, and the use of this envelope was not in 1869 or within even the 1860's but probably in the middle fifties - probably 1854 or 1853. The year dates have been changed and painted and portions of the San Francisco postmark have been painted as is quite evident. I have seen a lot of fake covers which were evidently the work of M. Zareski of your city. Perhaps if you showed this bit of faking to him he would be pleased to admit it is a bit of his handiwork. I am a bit surprised that you considered this cover genuine because the French "8" shows that the letter was not over  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce and that the 8 was "8" decimes due.

I can assure you that San Francisco never used this old stamper as late as 1869 and the same applies to the red New York, and also to the red British on the back. I marvel at the fact that you failed to note the faking of the Bordeaux marking on the back. I know little if anything about French postmarks but do you think Bordeaux used this type as late as "Nov. 24, 69?"

I am today forwarding the cover to Mr. Jack Molesworth of Boston and am charging him a fee of \$5.00 plus postage of 43¢ (\$5.43).

Sincerely yours,



Feb. 6, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

At the request of Maurice Jamet of Paris, France, I am sending you the enclosed cover, and am reporting to him today via Air Mail that the cover is fraudulent. This 30¢ stamp did not originate on this cover. There has been quite a bit of painting - year dates changed - the tie of the S.F. postmark on the stamp is a very poor job of paint work. New York never used this type of postmark as late as the late sixties and further the French due of "8" decimes shows the letter was not over  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce and would not have required 30¢. I have an idea the use of this cover was as early as 1854 or perhaps 1853.

My fee for this opinion is \$5.00 plus postage or \$5.43, and I am notifying Jamet of this charge.

I made photographs and if you wish prints, for which there would be a charge, you can advise me.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

DR. CARROLL CHASE  
R. F. D. 1, MILFORD,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

22-46

Feb 27 1953

Dear Stan :-

May I bother you to  
give me little information about the  
enclosed cover. a friend of  
mine in France bought it from  
Zareski & he wants to see if he  
can't make trouble for the old faker.

It is obvious that the year  
dates have been monkeyed with  
but what I'd like to know is this.

- 1) was it originally a stampless cover?
- 2) If not what stamp was likely removed  
or suffixed?
- 3) are all of the postmarks genuine except  
for the faking of the year dates?
- 4) what might have been the real year  
of usage?

I have a notion they are closing  
in on this bird. He has seemingly  
already been kicked out the Paris  
dealers society.

(over)



I hate to bother you, Stan, as I  
know how busy you are. All the  
same it may be for the good of the cause.

Stamps for return registry enclosed.

How are you & what is the good  
word? Don't forget we  
are counting on your visit this  
summer - or spring.

Best to you both

as ever

C.D.

March 2, 1953.

Dr. Carroll Chase,  
R. F. D. 1,  
Milford, N.H.

Dear Doc:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 27th. This is as rank a fake as one can possibly imagine and while it might be the work of Zareski, I doubt it, because he is much too smart a crook to turn out such a ridiculous job as this. Just imagine taking a stampless cover that was used in 1854 or earlier and adding to it a 30¢ 1869. I doubt if Zareski would pull such a trick, still he might have made this years ago.

This cover was in a sale by M. Jamet of Paris Dec. 19, 1951. It was Lot 433 and was purchased by Jack Molesworth for 37660 Francs. Jack sent it to me and I informed him it was a fake. He returned it to Jamet and evidently Jamet was not satisfied that it was bad so Jamet sent it to me in February 1952, a little over a year ago.

At first glance, the "8" and the New York postmark show a pre-treaty use - that is a use prior to the U.S.-French Treaty which went into effect on April 1, 1857. On second glance - the S.F. postmark shows that the use could not have been as early even as 1855, so the use was Oct. 1854 or 1853 - I doubt if it was as early as 1852, but it could.

In August 1855, the two monthly sailings of the mail from S.F. were changed from the 1st and 16th of each month to the 5th and 20th. So this could not have been as early as 1855 but could have been 1854 or earlier.

I understood that this cover had been destroyed. I have a faint recollection that I wrote you at the time and inquired if you knew Jamet and what sort of a chap was he. Did he have a good reputation, etc. I had a letter from him recently. I judge someone put this cover in his sale and when informed it was bad he returned it to the owner. What is the translation of memo on the back in the lower left corner? The way the year was changed in the Bordeaux marking on the back was quite a bum job.

Doc imagine if you can, an elapsed time in Oct. of 1869 of 26 days from S.F. to New York. It was less than a week and all mail went by rail in October 1869.

Doc I was thinking about you yesterday and wondering why I had not heard from you recently. I had in mind that I would write you this week.

Stan Jr. graduates in June at the University of Cincinnati, - five years course in engineering. He has made application for an officers training course in

#2. Dr. Carroll Chase - March 2, 1953.

the Navy - four months at Newport, R.I. He has passed all exams. with high grades, etc., so he should be accepted. I mention all this because if he goes to Newport it would mean a trip East for us in the car, and of course a little visit with Jean and you. This we are looking forward to. I will keep you advised.

Never hesitate to send any cover to me that you think I might know something about. I can assure you it could never be a bother but on the contrary a pleasure.

Glad to report that we three escaped the flu but that cold I caught in New York in November lasted for weeks and was hard to throw off.

We haven't had a bad winter - in fact, very little snow or ice until last night when a regular blizzard blew in from the N.E., howling winds and four inches of snow. This on the first day of March.

Our best to you both.

Yours etc.,

BACK OF  
JANET  
3041564  
FAKE  
SE  
POST

RED



for Brown  
- Boulder 378



D11

2018-QVARTZ-F64-Z3Min.



BACK OF  
JAMET  
304 1869  
FAKE  
SF 16 OCT

RED



Expertise for Brun  
3.3.33 - Bordereau 378

310-

CNN.NNN

This Cover Was Sent To Me By M. JAMET of Paris France Feb 6 1952 For Account of Jack Molesworth of Boston. From JAMET Sale of 12/19 1951 Lot 433. Billed To Molesworth At France 37660. Or Approx. \$108.00. The Cover Is A Rank Fake - The Stamp Did Not Originate - The Dsc Was Not 1869 But Probably 1860 or Earlier - "16 Oct" Would Indicate 1854 or Earlier Which Would Be In Line With The Red N.Y. Marking - Year Dates show Repair Part of S.F. P.M. PAINTED - Dark Butt Envelope

See S.B.22. p.46.

20'8-F128-PAN-GREEN 9 2/6-1952

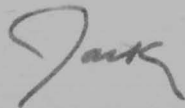
C37

February 8, 1952

Dear Stan,

Just received your letter of the 6th enclosing the 30¢ 1869 cover. I am not surprised at your report since I refused to accept and pay for the cover until you had personally verified its authenticity. I had not seen the cover, merely a photo of a portion of it. I had understood that the cover was to be sent to me only if genuine, but I shall see that it is duly returned to Mr. Jamet anyway. I presume that he will take care of the \$5.43 fee since such is his cost, but upon advice from him, will remit it to you myself and will deduct it from stamps which he intends to send me.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jack", written in a cursive style.

JACK E. MOLESWORTH

102 Beacon  
BOSTON 16, MASS.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



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



This Cover Was Sent To Me By M. JAMET of Paris France Feb 6 1952 For Account of Jack Molesworth of Boston. From JAMET Sale of 12/19 1951 Lot 433. Pilled To Molesworth At France 37660. or Approx. \$108. The Cover Is A Rank Fake - The Stamp Did Not Originate - The Use Was Not 1869 But Probably 1860 or Earlier - 16 Oct would indicate 1854 or Earlier Which Would Be In Line With The Red NY Marking - Year Dates show Repair Part of S.F. P.M. PAINTED - Dark Buff Envelope - See S.B. 22. p. 46.

Philip B. Aronson 2/6-1952



B122

## EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK • NEW YORK

---

*Commissions • Appraisals*

---

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

February 4, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

Yours of February 2nd.

I can't quite understand how Steve Rich would even know about that 10¢ 1847 cover, and furthermore, he would not be inclined to express an opinion on it even if he did know about it. It is a little too devious. He does some funny things, but I do think in this case your suspicions are in the wrong direction. If it was me, and I have no proof either, I would think that it was somebody on the Expert Committee of The Philatelic Foundation who felt they had their toes stepped on by what you have written about that cover.

I don't know who told John Fox that that pair was orange, but I know that several people told him that it was not.

From the credit report I got from Huber, it would seem to me that what you write in your letter is probably correct, so he is not quite 100% and therefore it is impossible to feel quite so sorry for him. I do think that dealers in New York are probably getting material from Ward to sell to him.

I am enclosing some odds and ends I bought in John Fox's sale, and I will comment on them briefly.

Again, any of these that you want to use in any way in your service bulletin are to use this way if you want to. You don't have to bother asking permission, for they are all mine.

Furthermore, if there are any that you think you can sell, with a couple of exceptions which I want to keep, then try and do it.

First, the little cover from New York with the "Due 2". Apparently this 1¢ stamp was not recognized, so the post office charged the receiver 2¢.

The cover from Chicago has 11¢ on it. Could this possibly be a carrier rate in Chicago. 1

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook .

-2-

February 4, 1952

I don't quite understand the 9¢ rate from Saco, Maine to California.

Also enclosing two covers with pairs of Black Jacks from San Francisco, one to Massachusetts and the other to Stockton. Is this just 1¢ over-payment?

The "Drop 1" from Binghamton, New York, is interesting.

I <sup>26</sup>would like the 11¢ cover to New York from California. This is for my own collection. I might also add that any covers with carrier rates or carrier uses I want, including the Chicago covers.

Also note the Latham franks and these are very nice. Some of the letters are interesting. Note the one signed by Nicolay.

Lot 1177. I paid too much for this probably, but I thought that it might be a Trans-Mississippi cover. What do you think about it.

<sup>1236</sup>Lot 1136, though, is much too cheap and is a nice item.

Lot 1219. This is a nice little stamp. I am going to get together a collection of used Confederates off cover one of these days. This is the rare yellow green shade and I think the cancellation is genuine.

Sincerely



Ezra D. Cole

EDC:hk

Feb. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the covers as per yours of the 4th. Here are some comments:

Newark N.J. - to S.F. Due 2 - You were right - This is an "Old Stamps Not Recognized" cover and one that is quite interesting - (1) A very late use of a 1¢ 1857 - July 1864 - (2) Newark didn't cancel it - unusual - (3) Because of the late use, double postage was charged for the deficient payment - This as per the Act of March 3, 1863. (Sec. 26 - See Luff book, p. 393). You will note that I fixed the upper left corner of this cover in order to make a good photograph. If you do not care to keep this, maybe I can sell it.

Chicago with 11¢. This use was 1868. No carrier fee after June 30, 1863 - The rate by "Hamburg mail" was 10¢. So this was probably a 1¢ overpay. There is some evidence that the 2¢ was not used on this cover originally - could it be possible that some "fixer" removed a damaged(?) 1¢ and substituted this 2¢ B.J.? - I did not make a minute examination. What do you think?

Saco Maine - Probably a triple 3¢ rate - after July 1, 1863 - A heavy enclosure could have weighed over one ounce and justified a 3 x 3¢ rate. I doubt that this use was before July 1, 1863 and that a 10¢ rate "got by" for 9¢.

Two covers - pairs of B.J. I have seen a lot of these B.J. 4¢ rates and the only explanation that I know of is that they were 1¢ overpays. They have bothered me for years and I have inquired if various students of the B.J. but no one has so far come up with any explanation. Maurice Cole informed me that he had sixty 4¢ covers in his collection.

Drop 1ct - yes, very nice.  
10¢ - plus 1¢ - nice.

Batch of Latham covers. I have some Latham covers addressed to General Denver. Latham was quite a letter writer. The Nicolay letter is nice.

Fox Sale 1177 - Yes, I think this is a Confed Express Mail cover though it has no postal markings. However, the roof was caving in in August 1864 and as long as a letter got through, postal markings were not essential. No doubt Shenfield ran you up. I will send him a photo of the cover later and I will advise you of his opinion. One wonders to whom the 40¢ was paid? If paid at the P.O. at Shreveport, why no postmark? Perhaps it originated elsewhere - but even so - why no postmark?

Lot 1236 - too bad the stamps are so poor.

Lot 1219 - My guess is that this is genuine and is Greensborough, N.C. (Mar or Apr 1864?)

One Cent 1851 - Ocean Mail - Type IV - This is plate position 80L1L, an "A" Relief D.T. Quite a nice stamp.

Send any of the above back with suggested prices and I will see if I can place them. I may use the Due 2 in one of my Service Issues.



#2. - Mr. Ezra D. Cole - Feb. 8, 1952.

I am returning herewith the Huber report. I am not sure, but I have an idea he is having trouble with the Boston chap and the one in Muskegon. I surmise that both were sore as a boil because he submitted their copies to me. At present he gives me little information regarding them, no doubt because he is trying to obtain settlements. I have urged him to go after them and leave no stone unturned and he promised me he would. Up to this time he has not given me any details on the substitution of the 24¢ '69 Inverb.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--Just received a letter from Ward from which I quote as follows:

"As to my new client, he is a very well known man of excellent standing and has been known in the industrial world for years. I have been dealing with him direct and the man to whom you refer is no doubt someone else. I will await with interest further details as to the one you have in mind."

In a former letter he mentioned some of the rarities that he has sold a "new client" - maybe he did not refer to Huber.

Black



No. Cancel

*J. C. Johnson & Co*

*San Francisco*



OLD STAMP NOT RECOGNIZED

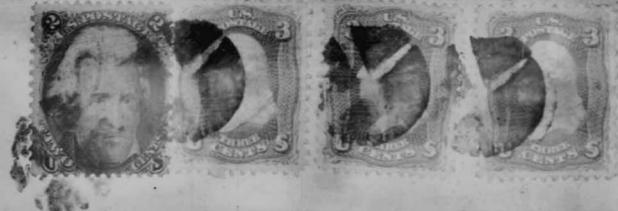
E.V.C.

*Cal. a*

VBT

A110

Black  
CHICAGO  
JUL 29  
ILL.



Black

HAMBURG  
1868  
PRANK

By Hamburg  
MAIL  
1st Rate  
Overpaid 1¢

Ernst  
Herrn Doctor Math. Layden.

Red  
Aug 18 1868

Ernst  
Herrn: Layden.  
König: Preußen.

Germany.

on Back  
AUSG-19-8

EDC



A 110

Overland



Recd.  
Aug 23  
1867

Black PAID

Mr. H. & W. Pierce.  
San Francisco,  
California

503

White Env  
E.D.C.

And

Via Confederate Government Mail  
Shrewsport, La. paid 40 cts

EXPRESS  
MAIL

No Postal  
Markings

1177

EDC

Long, J. C. Water  
19th La Regt

Army of Tennessee - Gibson's Brigade  
Stewart's Division  
Richmond Va

Aug 31 - 1864



B125

Feb. 4, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Please give me a confidential report on S. L. STONE, and Stanley Richman. Also do you know a dealer out in Muskegon, Mich. by the name of Lyle Clark?

Further, have you ever submitted any stamps or covers to me that were the property of any of the above three dealers? I have always taken it for granted that any items that you sent me were your own property. In the future, just to play safe, be ~~sure~~ and notify me in advance if any item you submit is not your property. I positively will not pass on any item for anyone unless they have a spotless reputation. I don't want any contact direct or indirect with any questionable character, collector or dealer.

I had a letter this A.M. from the Paris dealer, Maurice Jamet,<sup>2</sup> stating he was sending me a 30¢ 1869 cover with instruction to forward it to you.

Sincerely yours,

Feb. 9, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks very much for yours of the 6th which I have carefully noted.

I was very sorry to see this difference of opinion on the two grill stamps. Such cases are bad, very bad for philately. What is an uninformed person like Huber to think? I informed him months ago that Brookman was the best authority in the country on grills, and, of course, he thinks that the Expert Committee of the P. F. is the highest court in the country. He has put a lot of money in stamps in the past year but when a case like this occurs he could hardly be blamed if he got the idea that stamps were nothing but the rankest kind of a racket. However, when a person deals with a lot of people who have no knowledge of stamps he can hardly blame anyone but himself if he gets a bad deal. A sensible business man wouldn't think of buying a piece of real estate without having the title examined but there are a lot of Smart-Aleck collectors in this game who think they have sufficient knowledge to judge whether a stamp or cover is good or bad and they would not invest \$5.00 to get an okay by some responsible student.

As you are aware, I refuse to pass on grills, simply because I don't know anything about them and further I don't want to know anything about them. To me, punches in paper are of no interest whatsoever. Perhaps this 30¢ Bank Note is an example - I wouldn't question the opinion of my good friend Les, but I don't see how anyone could state positively that these few pin pricks are a genuine grill or otherwise. I simply am not smart enough, so I leave grills to those who have studied them, and who I believe are capable. If Brookman stated a grill was good or bad, his opinion would not be questioned by me and as you know, I cannot state the same for the EXPERTS of the P.F.

I recall that you wrote me that a Boston dealer who I suspected was Stone, told you that I had passed on a St. Louis Bear stamp and I replied that someone was lying, that I had not passed on any Bear stamps for Huber. Do you recall the incident? I am wondering who was the liar?

I have a suspicion that a lot of stamps will be returned to Stone and Lyle Clark and I am wondering if they will be able to make refunds to Huber. If not, the chances are that they will face a lot of trouble. I wish you would keep me fully posted on anything that develops.

Re - the 24¢ Air Mail Invert. I can hardly imagine that the damage occurred while the stamp was in Huber's possession, still one can never tell and a case like this should serve as a warning. I might add the following - I saw some of the trash that was sent to Huber and in my humble opinion whoever submitted such stuff should be in jail.



#2 - Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - Feb. 9, 1952.

I am returning the three stamps herewith - also the three P.F. certificates, and the letter from Les. I am wondering if Les is aware that the P. F. stated the two grills were bad? If not, don't you think you should inform him?

With regards -

Sincerely yours,



Feb. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Les:

This is absolutely and strictly confidential, but I have just learned that two grills that you passed on as 100 percent genuine have been declared to be fraudulent by the P.F. Committee. I am making photographs, etc., for the record but you must not mention this to anyone, at least for the present. Have you had any intimation of this? Advise by return mail.

Regards.

Cordially yours,

Feb. 13, 1952.

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

Dear Les:

Re - the two grills. I got the dope from a confidential source so cannot divulge details at this time. I suggested to my friend that he furnish you with the information. If he refuses, I will request permission to give you the whole story.

I wonder who the P.F. consults on grills? Could it be Perry? I wonder. Do they send many grills to you?

If the two that I have in mind were not sent to you or Perry, to whom would they send them? Surely none of the nitwits on the Committee know as much about grills as I do, and that amount is zero.

I think of all the 18K S.O.B.'s in this game there are none to be compared with Goodkind and Haverbeck.

Let me know if you get any information.

Yours etc.,

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

February 6, 1952

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

Dear Stan,

Your letter of the 4th received and I hasten to reply. I presume that your request for a confidential report on the three persons named stems from their dealings with the mid-western collector whom I mentioned once before.

S. L. Stone is a young dealer who has been in business locally for about five years, only this year opening a downtown office at 45 Bromfield. He is definitely reputable and trustworthy, but has in the past concentrated almost entirely on cheaper items such that he has little experience and knowledge of better U. S. material. I believe he secured this mid-western collector by an ad in the New York Times. When the customer requested items which he did not have in stock, he secured them on consignment from other dealers in Boston and New York, among them myself, and submitted them to this client who at least for several months snapped up everything that was submitted apparently regardless of price or condition. When I was first approached with respect to assisting him in supplying this customer with material, I did my best to influence him to send only sound stamps in well centered condition, especially since the customer was not the least bit price conscious. However, he did not accept my advice to a very great extent mostly due to the fact that his client made no mention as to condition and bought everything submitted regardless of it. Also, quite a few items were secured from New York dealers which were probably not what they were represented to be, only a few of which I saw before they were submitted to this customer. On some that I did see, I urged that they not be submitted since they appeared to be cleaned or otherwise tampered with. I believe that my advice was followed in most instances, but cannot be entirely sure. Mr. Stone did not make a large profit on anything sold but rather added a small profit to the price set on the item by the dealer from whom it was secured. In other words, if any gouging took place, it was really done by the dealer who submitted the material to Mr. Stone rather than Mr. Stone himself.



Since Mr. Stone had little if any knowledge concerning condition, genuineness, or a fair price for these items, many of which he had never seen before, he might be considered an accessory though this would of course not completely excuse his actions. However, may I reiterate the fact that I know he would not and has not intentionally misrepresented anything purposely, but may have unintentionally due to his ignorance.

Apparently, this client has sent everything sold him to the P.F., which organization has turned down quite a few items, many of which were not sold this client by Mr. Stone. ~~One~~ Those returned to Mr. Stone with certificates turning them down which came from me are namely an unused #85B and an unused #143.\* The Foundation condemned the grills on both of these stamps and in addition pointed out that the latter had been reperfed. The reperfering was included in my written description of the stamp when it was submitted to Stone and he claims to have so described it to the customer who purchased it. After receiving these two stamps back, I sent them to Lester Brookman who today wrote: "Sell these two stamps with confidence for the grills are absolutely genuine. I signed both of them for you." It appears the Foundation has erred again. What would you suggest I do in this case?

Mr. Stone also sold this man a straight edge 24¢ Air Mail Invert which was a nice appearing copy in 100% sound condition. However, the customer has since returned the stamp with a huge thin spot on the back and a big rip through the top which even a five-year old child or non-collector could see immediately. Some how the stamp has been damaged while in his possession, but he has returned it asking for a refund claiming that it was that way when sold to him. The stamp was sent to the Foundation right after it was purchased and presumably before the damage occurred, but this customer has failed to send along the certificate which Mr. Stone has twice requested. I believe this will prove at which point the damage occurred.

Stanley Richmond is a bright young part-time dealer with considerably more intelligence than tact. I believe he has picked up a few items from other dealers and in turn given them to Stone. Though I have at times had occasion to question his judgment, I am sure he would not purposely misrepresent anything that he might sell. He has considerably more knowledge than Mr. Stone, though possibly not quite as much knowledge as he would personally credit himself with.

Lyle Clark of Muskegon, Michigan is apparently the second dealer that has supplied the mid-western collector with about half the material that he has secured. I know nothing about this dealer's reputation or integrity, but about a month ago did receive a letter

\* \* # 70 See "P.S."



**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon  
Boston 16, Massachusetts

-3-

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

February 6, 1952

from him enclosing a want list of items which he needed for a special client, presumably the same mid-western collector. He asked for the stamps in any condition, even defective "as long as price is in line with condition." I had none of the items on his list since it was the same list which Mr. Stone had previously given me.

I hope that the above comments will be of assistance to you and would appreciate your outlining for me in detail the reason for your inquiry. I shall be pleased to send along any further information you may desire.

Awaiting your reply,

With best wishes,



Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/ecf

P.S: I forgot to mention that to the best of my recollection everything sent you in the past for opinion has been my own property and not that of anyone else including the above three individuals. I shall, of course, mention it should I ever send you anything which belongs to another. I am also enclosing a third stamp sold by me as an unused #70\* through Stone to the mid-western collector which the Foundation has turned down as a cleaned copy of #78. I sent it to Usticke who has just returned it with the statement that it is a genuine unused #70 and has not been cleaned. What do you think? *He'd certainly call it #70 and my lamp shows nothing.*

*Please return everything but this letter.*

\* Someone has marked this at UL with indelible ink after it left me making it look repaired in fluid which it is not. P.F. said only cleaned copy of #78.

Jack E. Molesworth

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts



SPECIAL DELIVERY  
VIA AIR MAIL

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

VIA AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY

VIA AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY



Dear Hon

2/23/54

P.F. certificates mean nothing  
to me when they concern quills.  
Molesworth sent me 2 more quills  
yesterday -- one good - one bad.

Theo. S. is getting very old as you  
must have noticed at Cape.

Much snow here, Extremely

Very

Sincere regards  
Les





THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

—FIGHT—  
INFANTILE PARALYSIS  
JOIN MARCH OF DIMES

Henry B. Ashbrook  
Ft. Thomas  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.



**Brookman Stamp Company** Stamps and Philatelic Supplies

• • • MEMBER OF: C. C. N. Y. • T. M. P. S. • T. C. P. S. • S. P. A. • A. P. S. • • •

121 LOEB ARCADE  
FIFTH ST. AND HENNEPIN AVE.  
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINN.

2/15/52

Dear Stan:

The enclosed card~~f~~ from Molesworth tells the story except we don't know who passes on the grills for the P.F. I am willing to back my own judgment on grills REGARDLESS of whoever their expert may be. In actual truth, grills are a hell of a mess and might well be given a secondary place in the catalog.

Maybe I should slip a good phoney over on the P.F. and use it to counteract any adverse decisions they have given on material I've passed!

The P.F. send no grills to me. They approached me on this some years ago and I told them I would do it--but I gave them particular Hell for not recognizing you and certain other dealers as being worthy of being on the P.F. I really did rip into them and I guess I really must have STUNG them for that ended any desire on their part to use my knowledge on the grills. Perhaps they have a long memory on this.

I actually don't give a damn what the P.F. thinks of my opinions--I call them just as I see them and let the chips fall where they may.

No need to return  
card.

Sincere regards,



Feb. 25, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks for advising Brookman re - those P.F. certificates on the two grills. Months ago I informed Huber that in my opinion Brookman was our highest authority on grills. Huber surely must wonder what kind of a racket this stamp business is. I am going on the conclusion that Huber is 100 percent on the square. The things that have happened to him are surely no indication that there is any honesty in philately, and that one man's "expert" opinion is a lot of bunk. I had a short note from Les and he seems to be too busy to follow up on the matter.

I am still pondering over your letter of the 15th and doubt if I can add anything at present. All my dealings with Huber have been 100 percent satisfactory, and I can hardly imagine that he is guilty of the things you mentioned. I have a copy of a letter that I wrote him re - some Providence and St. Louis stamps, wherein I informed him that I was no authority on P.M.P.'s and to submit such items to the Expert Committee of the P.F. I have no record that I informed Huber that a St. Louis stamp was not genuine.

Huber wrote me earlier this month that he would be away from Joliet from 2/19 to 3/22 and I have not had any further word. I suggest that you keep me fully posted of any new development and I will do the same with you.

Re - the 24¢ 1861. According to my recollection, the stamp was not #70 but a #78. If you wish a more definite opinion return it to me and I will give it another look. I was extremely busy at the time and did not give it more than a passing glance. I will not charge you a fee.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts  
February 27, 1952

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your letter of February 25th received today. I am reenclosing the 24¢ 1861 and would appreciate your examining it again to determine whether it is #70 or #78. It was purchased by me from Dr. Bacher of the Westminster Stamp Company, whom you know, as #70 and after that expertized as an unused #70 by Usticke. Though it is a dull shade, it is still one which I personally would consider as #70 rather than as #78. Since the photo which you so kindly sent me does show some slight indications of cleaning, whether it is #70 or #78 is of no great significance, but something that I would like to determine for sure.

Regarding Huber, the facts which I have would lead me to draw a different conclusion to his integrity than the conclusion which you have drawn. However, the situation has improved during the past week so that the relationship is more friendly, but the #C3A problem is still unsolved. Exactly what Mr. Stone will do in this regard, I am not sure, but I know Huber is not entitled to and will not get any refund on it.

With best wishes,

  
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/ecf  
Encl.





↑ 3rd Bank Note

24 B.J. ↑

2461- ↑

**Brookman Stamp Company** Stamps and Philatelic Supplies

\* \* \* MEMBER OF: C. C. N. Y. \* T. M. P. S. \* T. C. P. S. \* S. P. A. \* A. P. S. \* \* \*

121 LOEB ARCADE  
FIFTH ST. AND HENNEPIN AVE.  
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINN.

2/4/52

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

Dear Jack:

I am glad to be able to report that the grills on the 2 stamps you sent to me, the Blackjack bearing the "Z" grill, and the #143 30¢ with the "H" grill are absolutely O.K. as far as the grills are concerned. Of course, as you have noted, the 30¢ probably has been reperfed but it is still a very nice copy of a scarce item.

A lot of self-acknowledged "Experts" cry "FAKE" at any item they cannot understand in the same manner that a lot of collectors, and dealers, say "It's absolutely good" about every item they own!

Sell these two stamps with confidence for the grills are absolutely genuine. I've signed both of them for you.

Fee for checking these two stamps is \$4. Have to make a charge to everyone or I would be swamped. As a matter of fact I do turn down some work now but am always willing to check items for my friends.

Best regards,

P.S. If you have any Norway #1 I'd like to see them. Need 50 more positions for my plate. Will give you prompt action.

LG  
L. G. Brookman

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION  
22 EAST 35<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item, a United States  
1870, 30¢, black, unused, of which a photo-  
graph is affixed below -----

submitted by --Mr. E. J. Huber -----  
and are of the opinion that ~~the~~ the grill is fraudulent  
and it has been reperforated -----

*Thomas Steuway*  
For The Expert Committee  
*dh*



## THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35<sup>TH</sup> STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

## EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States  
 1861, 24¢, red lilac, of which a photograph  
 is affixed below -----

submitted by -- Mr. E. J. Huber -----  
 and are of the opinion that it is Not #70, but #78,  
 cleaned, not unused -----

*Thom S. Henneman*  
 For The Expert Committee  
 CHAIRMAN





No. 3375

January 7 1952

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35<sup>TH</sup> STREET

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item, a United States  
1867, 2¢, black, unused, of which a photograph  
is affixed below -----

submitted by --Mr. E. J. Huber -----

and are of the opinion that ~~xxx~~ the grill is fraudulent  
-----  
-----  
-----



*Thurman*  
For The Expert Committee *ch*

85B

Inside - E-F12B-A-See

C42

13-F64-QUARTZ-PAN-20MIN

C44



**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

December 21, 1951

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

Dear Stan:

First, I am enclosing two covers. What in the world is that mark on the 3¢ '61 cover? I can't figure it out.

I am also enclosing a British Columbia cover which shows that 6¢ rate through to England, plus the British Columbia stamp. Some jerk had it priced at \$175. I have to get \$50 and I have a customer, but I am sending it to you because you were working on those other Canadian covers. (IF YOU WANT TO BUY IT OK)

I agree with what you wrote Em. He should pay something anyway, for your trouble. At least you should not be out of pocket on it, and I feel the same way.

Mainly the covers I sent to you, you have been giving me free information, too, but the covers I do send to you are quite often items which are directly for sale and you have an opportunity of making the information valuable to you. If you feel that I have been taking advantage of this situation, we will go on a fee basis, too, for I don't want to use your knowledge and then cash in on it without profit to you. Lord knows you give Em enough free information.

With reference to the covers which you are returning. I will look them over. I have a man for cancellations and a Western man who might be interested, and I would be only too glad to let you keep any or all of them that you want, except that I did not want it to become burdensome to you and if you have exhausted all of your prospects, they become rather a dead issue. Don't Don't forget when I sell them you are in on the profits too.

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely

Ezra D. Cole

EDC:hk

Dec. 26, 1951.

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

Dear Ez:

Your registered letter of the 21st received today and honestly Ez, it sort of made me feel bad. It never dawned on me that you would ever get the idea that you were not more than welcome to any data or information that I had. Please never mention such a thing again. Ez, you are my friend, and you have been one of the best that I ever had. I couldn't think any more of you if you were my own brother. As far as I am concerned you can write your own ticket with me at any time and to do you a favor is a real privilege and a pleasure. I never want you to hesitate to seek any assistance that I can give you in any shape or form. The mere mention of yours, of putting you on a fee basis just sort of made me feel sick.

Re - Em. He wrote me quite a nice letter and sent me a check for \$10.00. I never sell him a thing any more and inasmuch as this is not a hobby with me but a living I really don't think he should expect me to be put to an expense in examining and advising him regarding auction lots and paying postage both ways, etc. I just don't see how he could expect me to do so. At any rate, he took my letter in good spirit and didn't get peeved.

I think that I can use the British Columbia cover and I will advise you later.

Re - the lot of covers that I returned to you. You certainly won't pay me any profit if you sell any of them. That would surely be an imposition on my part. As I wrote you previously I am trying to interest a new prospect in covers.

By the way Ez, please note the Brookman U. S. Vol. 1, page 127. How do you suppose Les ever got the idea that covers with single 5¢ 1856 were much scarcer than covers with strips of three or covers with pairs? My impression is that scarcity would rank as follows:

- (1) rarest - covers with pairs
- (2) next - " " strips of 3
- (3) next - " " singles.

Re - the 3¢ 1861 cover. This appears to be some sort of a marking of Beaufort, S.C. but I never saw it before. I believe that mail from the Federal Blockading Fleet was taken into Beaufort, S.C. and sent north (by sea) from there. That town was captured in November 1861 and remained in Federal hands thruout the war. I am returning the cover herewith. I suggest that you send it to MacBride as he has done some research work along this line.

Regards -

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours etc.,



Dec. 26, 1951.

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

Dear Harold:

Here is a wonderful combination and I am sure that you will like it. A cover to England with British Columbia plus 3¢ Bank Note plus 3¢ W.F. Frank plus "Union Pacific R.R." - I believe the same ties the 3¢ green and B.C. 5¢. This use was 1871 as per black British p.m. on back. Carried by Wells Fargo messenger and posted aboard U. P. going thru the Chicago Foreign Exchange Dept. Price \$75.00, but in my opinion is worth more. This will make a nice mate to your other pair.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

Jan. 7, 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,

P. O. Box 288,

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

I haven't heard from you for weeks and I am wondering if there is anything wrong?

I sent you a cover by registered mail priced at \$75.00.

Did you receive it?

Re - the enclosed "Service Issue," may I have your comment on the "Depreciated Currency covers?"

Perhaps you will recall that Don MacGregor and I both tried our best to get the facts regarding the date in 1867 when payment of the registry fee was permitted by stamps. Don passed away without that knowledge and it was only within the past few days that I discovered the information in the enclosed issue.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Telephone  
Ypsilanti, Michigan  
5065 -- 2287

## Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Jan. 13, 1952.

Dear Stan,

I certainly have neglected my correspondence, but I have been very busy. The Electro Arc is more or less booming and being a new location and set-up, has required most of my time. Then too, liquidating the United Frozen Foods and the income tax time has taken the rest of my time. I have not had too much time in the last month or so to enjoy the stamp hobby. Think things are now levelling off a bit and will give me time to again enjoy the hobby.

I am returning the combination cover. The 3¢ is badly torned. I showed this cover to a number of the D.P.S. members and they dont go for it at the price. One, I forgot who said this cover sold in the Fox sale for around \$28. Is this so?

Regarding MacGregor collection---Walter Guibord has appraised it for tax purposes and he told me it is not for sale at the present time. The daughter intends to keep it for a while, at least this is the last information I received on it last week.

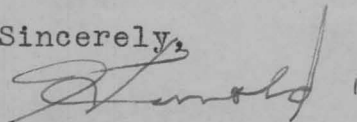
I think your article on the Depreciated Currency is wonderful. I say this without reservations. Talked to Hutch on this. He has quite a collection of these items. Is he a member? He wants to be. This pamphlet should be convincing.

Your registry information is very valuable and a worth while contribution. In fact, all your pamphlets are valuable. Talked with Shierson and he thinks they are fine.

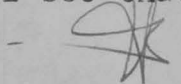
Getting back to the Retalitory cover. You have pretty well convinced me you have the right solution finally. It was merely a question of verifying your findings and original comments, otherwise the cover was in that border line category of being questionable.

Keep up the good work and if you dont hear from me too often, remember it is not that I dont want to, but the press of the temporary business conditions might be keeping me busy. Will be writing as time permits.

Sincerely,



P.S. Business being rushing, I guess I will have to forego the Florida trip this year. Will see that you get some oranges.





Jan. 16, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Re - the combination cover which you returned. It was sent to me by a New York dealer on a commission basis. I had no idea where it came from. If it was in a Fox sale I was not aware of the fact, and I have not had a chance today to look up the Fox catalogues to see if it was sold in any of his sales. I never get any of the prices realized at John's sales. Whether he sends out any priced slips, I do not know. The dealer who sent the cover to me is aware that I seek such items.

I very rarely buy anything in the New York auctions for the very simple reason that I do not possess the capital to tie up in a stock of covers - In addition, an outside buyer has little chance of acquiring worth while items at prices he can turn them over at a satisfactory profit. Any fish can come along on the floor and raise your limit 10% and depart with the item. Mail bidders at New York auctions are the biggest suckers in the world. The only way to beat the game is to attend the auctions in person - examine each lot before the sale - very carefully - and then don't let your right hand know what your left is doing. Anyone who sits in any one of the sales is surrounded by a lot of burglars, crooks, sharp-shooters and pure gyp artists.

As to prices - I suppose if one does pick up a "sleeper" once in awhile at one of the New York auctions he has a perfect right to place any value on it that he sees fit. I don't know if this cover was in a Fox sale or not or whether it sold @ \$28.00 - more or less, but I do know this - Whoever bought it at the sale was lucky to get it so cheap. It became his property and he had a perfect right to charge any price he considered it was worth. Just because an item sells at a certain price at auction is no indication that the sale price is the real value. I recall a cover that sold several months ago @ \$36.00 in a New York auction, because buyers were afraid of it. The buyer sent it to me and I charged him \$10.00 for my opinion. It happened to be a cover that I had known for years, and it had a very special feature which made it quite valuable. I pointed this out to the buyer and when I inquired if he would sell the cover to me he came back - "Yes @ \$350.00." Later he informed me he had sold the cover to the first collector to whom he offered it.

I wouldn't sell you a cover for \$50.00 or \$100.00 or \$200.00 unless I thought the cover justified such prices. What I paid for such items is no one's business, any more than if someone would ask you your cost price on one of your products. The trouble with this game is that there are too many busy-bodies floating around trying to pick up "sleepers," which literally means that they like to obtain



#2. Mr. Harold W. Stark - Jan. 16. 1952.

bargains, that is, obtain items far below what they know to be the real value. In other words, to gyp the seller.

As it is, it is hard enough for an honest person to make a decent living in this game without having some busy-body criticise one if he buys a cover for \$28.00 and puts a price on it of \$75.00. I have been in this game for many, many years and I do think I know the right and wrong of it.

I also think that I am a far better judge of values than some come-lately busy-body who possesses no real appreciation of value. I can recall many cases where a buyer thought he was smarter than me and turned down a cover because he thought my price was too high and that consequently I was trying to gyp him, only to regret later that he had not purchased the item when he had the chance to do so. Some covers come along only once.

I didn't offer that cover to you because of the condition of the 3¢ Bank Note - what's the difference whether its torn creased, off-center or what. I offered it to you because of the "use" and the "combination" - I never saw this same "combination" before - a British Columbia - a 3¢ Bank Note and a Wells Fargo frank. If this cover isn't worth \$75.00 then I will gladly admit that I am the world's worst judge of rarity and values and that I have wasted many years of my life in trying to learn something.

I think you should have purchased that cover and if you agree I'll be glad to return it to you.

I will reply to the balance of your letter later.

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 17, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Further replying to yours of the 13th, I have searched thru all my Fox catalogues for 1951 without finding any illustration of the British Columbia cover. I did not go thru the text of the catalogues but I judge that John would have illustrated this cover. If you can obtain more information from the D.P.S. member I will appreciate same.

I was sorry to learn that the ~~Frozen~~ Food Co. required liquidation and I trust the venture did not cost you too much of a loss.

I was pleased to learn that you liked the last Service Issue and I appreciate your complimentary remarks on my notes on the Depreciated Currency covers. I think they are a most interesting chapter in our postal history and the data that I included in my last issue is new material and has never appeared in any philatelic publication to my knowledge.

Regarding Hutch. Several months ago I again wrote him about the "Service" and invited him to join but he ignored my letter. I certainly will not write him again. I remember that he was interested in the "Depreciated" covers. Incidentally, I believe that a nice showing would include covers from all the different exchange offices - I imagine the Chicago - Portland and Detroit are scarce. I can hardly imagine a better philatelic investment. Someday this class of covers will bring big prices.

Re - my latest on Registration covers. Too bad Don had to go - He would have liked my latest discoveries. I have just discovered a Registered cover with fee paid by stamps of June 4, 1867 - three days after the new order went into effect. How Don would have liked this one.

Thanks also for your comment on that Charleston "Retaliatory Rate" (?) cover. There is a great deal of satisfaction in getting the actual facts on such an item.

I was indeed pleased to learn that the Electro-Arc is doing fine. More power to you.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Telephone  
Ypsilanti, Michigan  
5065 -- 2287

## Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Jan. 25, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Had a D.P.S. meeting Wednesday and I got the Fox dope on the Express cover you asked for. It was lot #20 in his recent sale of Dec. 20, 1951. I have the two you sold me and believe it advantageous to let someone else have this one. Spread them around a bit and thus keep interest up.

Jack showed me the 16¢ rater from Calif. to Mich. The date is 1863 all right. I examined the cover thoroughly and find nothing wrong. The rate is very odd and the only thing I could think of was a 4 times circular rate. Perhaps four circulars in one envelope. I am assuming a bit in the 4¢ circular rate from Cal. while the 10¢ rate was effective. Saw this someplace in conjunction with the circular rate from Panama. Just don't recollect where. Told Jack to contact you on this again. If my information is correct, it would be a very rare cover. He said I could purchase it from him and I wrote and told him I would like it.

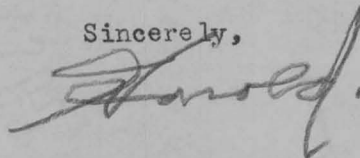
Hutch showed me a letter from you relative to the Express Mail Book. Thought this was cover<sup>ed</sup> by the New Orleans Fast Mail book.

We have been having too much snow and slippery weather. Don't get to go out very much. Haven't seen Charles Shierson in a couple of weeks. Talk a bit over the phone.

Several dealers have written some of the boys, regarding MacGregor's collection. At the present time, it is still not for sale in part or whole. Perhaps the daughter will keep it or perhaps later, when things settle down, it will be offered for sale. Will keep you advised.

Best of wishes to all. Hope your weather is better than ours.

Sincerely,





Jan. 30, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Yours of the 25th received.

Thanks for the facts on the Fox Sale cover. I overlooked the item completely. The cover itself has the B.C. stamp listed as Scott No. 14 which lists at \$75.00. This in red ink under the stamp, but I note that Fox listed it as #9 - which lists @ \$9.00. The #9 is perf 14 whereas the No. 14 is perf 12. Whoever got it for \$28.50 certainly got a bargain. I haven't the slightest idea who bought the cover at the sale and I have reason to believe that the dealer who sent it to me was not the buyer at the sale. However, it makes little difference. I noted the auction catalogue stated, "repaired tear." No doubt this referred to the 3¢ green and it may have affected the sale price. At any rate, I believe this cover is surely worth \$75.00. It is a much scarcer cover than Lot 19 which sold @ \$53.00 or #21 which sold @ \$135.00. I will advise you further regarding it as I am making an investigation.

Re - the cover that Jack had with a pay of 16¢ from S.F. No Harold, I feel confident that this was not any sort of a circular rate. The Act of Feb. 27, 1861 set the printed circular rate from one port of the U. S. to any other port at 1¢ per 3 ounces. It read, "not over 3 ounces shall be 1¢ and every additional ounce, 1¢." The circular rate from California was 1¢, clear back to the middle fifties. What about the "California News Letters" - They only required 1¢ each - See my Volume #2 - page 307 - Fig. 53K. You probably have the wording of the Act of Feb. 27, 1861.

Re - a proposed book on the U. S. Express Mail. What we have in mind is a book devoted exclusively to the U. S. Express Mail of 1836-1839. The New Orleans book has very little on the service. What I have in mind is to get ten or twenty people to underwrite the cost of publication - a guarantee - one could subscribe \$50.00 - \$100.00 or \$200.00. I don't think they would ever have to put up a cent. It would simply be a guarantee in case the book did not pay for the cost of publication.

Thanks Harold, for the latest on Don's collection. I have no interest whatsoever except the two 12¢ 1857 covers. My good friend Peltz of Albany would like very much to acquire them.

This A.M. I sent you Service Issue No. 11 and in it I mentioned a cover of June 4, 1867 as the earliest known use of the payment of the registered fee by stamps. Here is a photo-print.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Jan. 21, 1952.

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

PAID  
FEB 13 1952

Dear Edgar:

I enclose herewith what I think is an extremely rare combination cover. In fact, it is the only record that I have of such an item. It is somewhat similar to the cover No. 30 in my Service - Look it up.

I sent this cover to a good client of mine @ \$75.00 and he returned it with the statement that he had shown it at a meeting of his local Society and a fellow member stated the cover had sold in a Fox sale at \$28.00, and he inquired if the statement was true. I enclose a copy of a letter in reply which perhaps contains some food for thought. Do people to whom you sell Marchant machines refuse to buy them unless you divulge the cost to the Company? I have heard you growl about dealers buying items at custion and then reselling them at much higher prices to collectors and I never quite understood your position in such.

I will certainly welcome your comment on the letter I wrote to Mr. X and I also ask this question - Don't you think this cover is a great rarity and darn cheap at \$75.00? Have you such a combination in your collection?

I ask this question - Isn't this British Columbia stamp the catalogue No. 14? It is marked as such in red ink on the cover. In the Scott Catalogue #14 cats at \$70.00 used.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Feb. 9, 1952.

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup,

% MARCHANT

1475 Powell St.,

Oakland, Calif.

PAID

Dear Ed:

Re - the British-Columbia cover which I sent you on  
the 21st of January. This cover does not belong to me. If you are  
not interested in acquiring it will you please return it to me -  
PLEASE.

Yours etc.,



Feb. 13, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

It may interest you to know that I sold that 3¢ green - British Columbia-Union Pacific R. R. combination cover to Edgar Jessup @ \$75.00, but I informed him in advance that you had called my attention to the fact that it had sold @ \$27.00 in a Fox Sale. Edgar thanked me profusely and stated that it was a very rare cover and that he didn't give a damn what it had previously sold at in New York. If you wish I will send you his letter. I think in this case that some gossip person influenced you to pass up a very rare cover that you should have acquired as a fine mate to several in this class that you already own. I do not believe you own such a thing as a British Columbia - 3¢ green - Wells Fargo frank - Union Pacific combination and it may be a long time before you get another chance at one.

I don't know of anyone yet who has gone very far wrong in buying covers that I have recommended as good investments. In this case, I suspect Clarence Wilson or Fred Schmalzreidt and if I don't know more about philatelic values than either one, then I should retire from this avocation.

Do you not agree with all of the above one hundred percent?

My best wishes.

Cordially yours,

P.S.--Of all the buyers I doubt if anyone is considered any harder than Jessup.

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to



PAID  
Wells, Fargo & Co.  
OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES.



Miss Burne  
Rodmell

Black  
UNION  
PACIFIC  
R.R.



Tracings  
(on back) England

Blue

Green

30MM



B109


---

# H·R AND ASSOCIATES

22 west monroe street . chicago 3 illinois . telephone central 6.5556

Dear Stan:

That check for \$100 is to be applied on to the next subscription. I happened to be a little flushed right now so I sent it ahead figuring you could use it. In regards to De los Santos I will ask him or any others if they wish your services. This has really been a bad winter for colds, I guess we all had our share of them.

Stan I am enclosing a cover that I picked up did this  marking show that the cover originated in Victoria prepaid to San Francisco and the 3 cent stamp paid the local California rate. Can't find record of this marking

Yours Truly  
Paul R. Poloff

Feb. 8, 1952.

Mr. Paul C. Rohloff,  
Room 1603 - 22 West Monroe St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Paul:

Thanks for yours of the 7th. That certainly was nice -  
that \$100 advance payment and I certainly do appreciate your kindness.

The 3¢ '57 cover is certainly as interesting an item as I  
have seen in a long while and I want to send it out to my good friend  
Dr. Pollard for a look and some information regarding it. It is en-  
tirely new to me and what is best about it, it appears as good as gold.  
I rather imagine that it was taken to the Victoria P.O. - the Canadian  
postage paid and then handed to an Express Company to convey to the  
S.F. P.O. by private messenger. I think you are very wise in going  
after covers like this.

DeLoss Grant is one of the most capable of postal history  
students in the Chicago area in my opinion though there may be others  
just as good whom I do not know.

Paul, I never hear a word from Ernie Jacobs.

With best regards -

Cordially yours,

Feb. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

Here is a 3¢ 1857 cover which is new to me and I am wondering if you have seen this marking before or any covers like it. If not, will you ask Edgar or Simpson or Early Hamilton or anyone else who might have knowledge of it. Surely the cover is genuine in every way. I suppose it originated at Victoria, was taken to the P.O. and the V.I. postage paid in cash, then the owner handed it to an Express Company to transmit by messenger to S.F. - What is your analysis? I would like to use an illustration of the cover in my Special Service and, of course, I will give full credit to anyone who can give me any facts.

Yours of the 1st received. Please advise me what Jessup thought of your Plate 4 top row copy.

Thanks very much for your remarks on the 5¢ 1857. I was mistakenly informed that the grid was red but I think that point don't make a lot of difference. I think it is perfectly ridiculous for that bunch of nitwits to even attempt to pass on a grid, black or red, on or off cover stamp, especially if it is a 5¢ 1857 O.B. or a 90¢ 1860.

I forgot to mention that the enclosed cover belongs to a collector friend and that it is not for sale. I wish it was, because I would like to own it.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



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

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE 6120

2-12-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

A Thanks for yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> with that amazing Victoria cancellation on the 34 57. I have never seen it before, and I don't think Jessup has it in his collection. I will see him in the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup>, as we will both attend a small auction in Oakland which contains a few very rare Western items. I will discuss the cover with him at that time and return it to you that night. I would think the 34 57 may have been put on at the Victoria P.O., as we were supposed to have had a supply of stamps there at that time. Both the U.S. and Victoria postage could have been paid simultaneously. I don't think this letter was handled by an Express Co., as we would probably have some markings to indicate such a use. I think

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.

W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.

HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.

ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M.D.

AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE 6120

this letter was given to the Captain of a boat going to San Francisco and probably in a mail pouch. I doubt if the San Francisco P.O. would have accepted it in a cancelled condition, if it had been dropped into the S.F. P.O. by a passenger or Express agent. However, if in a mail bag it would probably have been accepted. This may be all guess work, and perhaps Jessup knows a better answer.

Jessup wanted that top row Plate IV stamp very much, but as it had been sent out here by Ezra Cole, to my friend Barrett Hudes, as a T.4 A, and at a ridiculously low price, because he had completely missed the significance of its huge size. Hudes of course is troubled no end with it.

Bill Waste has just given me several

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.

W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.

HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.

ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M.D.

AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE 6120

more copies of that mimeographed publication  
that I sent you some time ago, concerning  
"President Zachary Taylor's Report to Congress  
etc." You are certainly welcome to keep  
it, and any one else that you know  
who would appreciate getting one, I will  
be glad to send it to them.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

W. Scott Polland

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

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE 6120

2-16-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Edgar thinks about as  
I do on this cover. It was probably given  
to the captain of a non mail boat, possibly  
in a mail pouch, and he turned it over to  
the San Francisco P.O. He has never seen  
this postmark before. We both think the  
cover a nice item.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,  
W. Scott Polland

Victoria Cover  
Returned



Feb. 17, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

Just a line to advise you that I am still holding the mimeograph copy of the early California data. As yet I haven't got Leica copying outfit in working shape. I am waiting for a Leica exposure meter and in addition, I have been too busy to experiment with it. When I get it in order I hope to microfilm the California data.

I had a nice letter today from your neighbor Mr. Hindes enclosing a 1/4 1857 block from the left pane of Plate 10.

Later

Since writing the above, yours of the 12th arrived and my thanks are yours for permission to retain the mimeograph copy.

I was pleased to receive advice regarding the Victoria cover and note that you will show it to Edgar this afternoon. I am enclosing a photo-print herewith and I am also sending one to Ed. I like your solution better than the one that I suggested.

Hastily yours,

BERKSHIRE  
STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

A.P.S. 2497

33 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.

FT. THOMAS, KY.

Feb. 25, 1952.

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

Dear Win:

As per yours of the 20th, I am herewith returning items as follows:

#3352, 3480, 3481, 3488, 3494, 3533 and 3535.

Please give me some information on the following:

(1) A cover from England via New York in July 1815 to Montreal. The Canadian due is "2N5." If this was 2 shillings five pence why was it expressed thus? Why the "N?"

(2) A cover with a 3¢ 1857 addressed to San Francisco, the stamp tied by a San Francisco postmark of 1858, also tied by a circular marking reading, "VICTORIA - PAID - V.I." This is entirely new to me. I wonder if the latter was a post office or express company marking. I will send photo-prints of either or both of the above if you would like to see them.

Sincerely yours,

*Stanley B. Ashbrook* 2/27/52

Dear Stan: - Thanks for returning above items. The 5c strip puzzled me as the color was not quite what I thought it should be. I was wary that the fading was caused by manipulating the commoner shade. In regard to your questions -

1) This was the usual way of notation of Shillings & pence at that time - The "N" is for and - (over)

Shus - originally it was  
written

2 shillings and 5 pence  
then 2 sh and 5 p

then 2s and 5p

then 2 and 5

then 2 n 5

finally 2/5

The Victoria marking I suspect  
is an Express Co marking - could  
it be a Ditz & Nelson - If I  
saw ~~the~~ a photo of the marking  
I might be able to be more  
definite —

Pardon the pencil but  
am rushed as usual —

All the best

Wen



C  
O  
P  
Y

420 Lisgar Rd.,

Rockcliffe Park  
Ontario, Canada.

March 12, 1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I was so sorry that I haven't answered your letter of Feb. 17th, before, but, just after it came, my wife had to go into hospital for a major operation and things got confused about the house and we are just getting back to normal again.

It certainly looks as if your friend has something unique. I have never seen the Victoria postmark you illustrate and, after searching all the references I have, including the very full article by Welburn on the Handstruck Postage Stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, can report no identification. The mark looks as if it had been manufactured in the United States (similarity in pattern to many there) and, from the photostat, seems definitely to have been impressed on the stamp before the San Francisco one, which overlies it. It would look as if this was either the first or the second handstamp to used, depending on exact dating of the use of the Customs Seal in 1858.

Wellburn will be itching to get it! Let me know if you get any further information, please.

Yrs. V. Sincerely,

(signed) W.E.D. Halliday



March 6, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

I had a letter from Boggs today venturing the opinion that the circular Victoria marking might be one of an express company - and wondered if it might have been a Dietz & Nelson? I did not send him a photo print but I will do so.

I also inquired of Frank Campbell and Halliday of Ottawa but so far no word.

Re - Lot #1935 in the Brown Sale - I made a photo of this cover today. If you would like a print I will be glad to send one to you.

Still too busy to take time out to experiment with copy work with my Leica but I have just purchased a Leica exposure meter and I shouldn't have any trouble when I get a little spare time.

I will greatly appreciate your comment on my last Service Issue - the 3¢ Overland rate. Can you add any information?

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

March 14, 1952.

Mr. Paul C. Rohloff,  
Room 1603 - 22 West Monroe St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Paul:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter from my good friend W. E. D. Halliday of Ottawa, Canada. (Keep same if you wish.). This is in reference to your 3¢ 1857 cover with the Victoria marking. Halliday is a real student of B.N.A. and his remarks re - your cover are very interesting.

You will note his reference to Wellburn. He refers to Gerald Wellburn who received the Grand Award at Toronto last September. Wellburn signed the Roll with Les and me at the time.

I did not advise Wellburn of the cover because I don't care especially for him. I think the honors paid him have sort of gone to his head.

In the same mail I received a letter from Dr. Polland of San Rafael, Calif. (San Francisco area) and from it I quote as follows:

"I asked one of the Canadian experts in San Francisco about that cover, and he had never seen one like it. He did not think it was an Express Co. cancellation. I gave him a photograph of it to send to Gerald Wellburn, who is a friend of his. This same fellow some years ago obtained from under Jessup's nose, the two finest combination British Columbia Express covers known. They are show pieces in Wellburn's collection."

It appears that you have quite a cover in that Victoria item. I am continuing my investigation and will keep you advised.

Do you care if I write it up in one of my Service Issues?

With best regards -

Cordially yours,



420 Lisgar Rd.  
Rockcliffe Park  
Ontario. Canada.

March 12, 1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I am so sorry that I haven't answered your letter of Feb. 17th, before, but, just after it came, my wife had to go into hospital for a major operation and things got confused about the house and we are just getting back to normal again.

It certainly looks as if your friend has something unique. I have never seen the Victoria postmark you illustrate and, after searching all the references I have, including the <sup>VOM</sup> full article by Wellburn on the Handstruck Postage Stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, can report no identification. The mark looks as if it had been manufactured in the United States (similarity in pattern to many there) and, from the photostat, seems definitely to have been impressed on the stamp before the San Fransisco one, which overlies it. It would look as if this was either the first or the second handstamp to used, depending on exact dating of the use of the Customs Seal in 1858.

Wellburn will be itching to get it ! Let me know if you get any further information, please.

Yrs. v. sincerely,

*W. Wellburn*

(Bulletin, Postal  
History Society,  
Dec 1948, No 46,  
reprinted BNA  
Topics, Jan 1951)

March 17, 1952.

Mr. W. E. D. Halliday,  
420 Lisgar Road,  
Rockcliffe Park, Ontario - Canada.

Dear Mr. Halliday:

I was sorry to learn by yours of the 12th, that your wife had been ill and that an operation was necessary. I sincerely trust that the latter was entirely successful and that all in your household are enjoying good health.

I certainly appreciate your comments on the 3¢ 1857 cover with the Victoria, V.I. marking and I will keep you advised if I can develop anything further regarding it. I am always a bit dubious of establishing whether one ink is over another on a cover unless the fact is self-evident. However, in the case of this cover it did seem that the Victoria marking had been applied first.

I thought it rather odd that the Victoria marking was applied over the 3¢ stamp, rather than on the face of the cover and I was a bit dubious that the cover might be genuine. We have so many crooks working overtime to swindle collectors and, of course, it would not be difficult for one of them to manufacture an item such as this. I am sure it would be a very simple matter for M. Zareski of Paris, whose work I encounter quite often.

However, here is a cover with a U. S. 3¢ 1857, addressed to San Francisco and postmarked at that office. A local or drop letter would have required but 1¢. The San Francisco date was Dec. 8, 1858. I have no knowledge of how mail from Victoria to San Francisco was transported at that particular period, but if it was handed to some express company with prepayment for such carriage, and the 3¢ stamp paying the postage from the Line. It does seem a bit odd that the S.F. office would have recognized a U. S. canceled stamp, one that was canceled outside the U.S.

I sent a photo-print of the cover to my good friend, Dr. Pollard of San Rafael, Calif., and he showed it to a B.N.A. collector in the San Francisco area who happens to be a good friend of Wellburn's. The friend requested permission to send the print to Wellburn. I will advise you of the result.

Thanks very much for your mention of the Wellburn article in a Postal History Society Bulletin. I would like very much to obtain a copy. Do you suppose Major Hopkins could supply one? I am not a member of the Society but belong to Robbie Lowe's "Society of Postal Historians." Perhaps I should join.(?)

In the early days of our Civil War, mail in the Rebel States was permitted to be carried by express companies provided the full Confederate postage was prepaid. In the absence of postage stamps, letters handed direct to express companies were sent to post offices by such companies and with the postage paid were handstamped as "paid" and postmarked by the post office, then handed back to the express company for transmission. It occurred to me that this same system might have been in effect at Victoria in December 1858. If so, then possibly we could account for this cover. Your comment will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

With every good wish -

Copy  
To Paul Rohloff  
Dr. Pollard



Mar. 6, 1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook :

I have been sick, first time in 25 years, and just let your Feb. 16 letter get the lay-aside treatment. Am better now.

I never before saw, nor heard of, that VICTORIA V.I. circular mark. The circles cross each other, and it would be easy to see if the Victoria mark is on top of the US mark--which would make it a fake. But if under the US mark it is almost surely genuine.

Markings for a large office "can" be scarce as here are three cases: Kingston UC has a double circle in 1830 of which only one copy is known, one I saw in Toronto archives.

Amherstburg UC also has a Double circle 1839 of which only shot is known. It ought to be common, I saw the only one, in Burton archives here.

TRURO NS was second largest PO in NS at the 1825-35 period, and I just can't get a look at a postmark, although Jarret and Lowe have seen it.

So-----a comparatively large place of that period CAN have a scarce mark.

Odd how things happen. In a former letter I said Canada had no inch circle that I knew of and 3-line dating or 3-letter for month dating was scarce. Well, in TOPICS lately was illustrated a CATCOCK that had all three in one instrument, just to befuddle me.

San Francisco had a wood engraver then that made some BC markings of similar style for the Colonial government of the period.

Odd, about 1910 I hired what was probably the last San Francisco wood engraver, when in charge of a large office there. He was very old and could make small things much cheaper than local zinc etchers could. I learnt very much about wood engraving by engaging him in conversation about the old methods.

so, the whole thing depends on whether or not the Victoria mark is over or under the US mark, which can be told easily no doubt. I have checked precancels this way, as in Canada in two cases two cities appear on one stamp, and the last print is easy to tell by the ink junction lines.

I was very pleased to see this.

Yours sincerely

FWC

*Frank W. Campbell*  
FRANK W. CAMPBELL  
1132 Pinehurst  
Royal Oak, Michigan

EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

---

*Commissions . Appraisals*

---

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

April 11th, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

With reference to the Victoria frank. I now have two comments one of which is as follows:

" I have never seen this cancellation before and could not pass judgment without actually seeing the cover. If you would like to send the cover to me I will try and give an opinion. Is it for sale?"

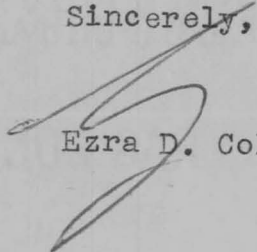
The second comment I have is:

"I have never seen this cover . Looks as if someone mailed the letter up in Victoria and had a U. S. stamp which while cancelled in Victoria actually prepaid the local rate in San Francisco, and that is all."

If you can get the cover and it is for sale, I think we could sell it.

Sincerely,

EDC:mkl



Ezra D. Cole.

U.S. POSTAGE

Black

Rev. J. E. Benton  
San Francisco

Cal.



208-F128-K3-PAN-45cc

B124

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

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE 6120

3-10-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Thanks very much for  
your good letter of the 6<sup>th</sup>. I asked  
one of the Canadian experts in San Francisco  
about that cover, and he had never seen  
one like it. He did not think it was  
an Express Co. cancellation. I gave him a  
photograph of it to send to Gerald  
Wellburn, who is a friend of his.  
This same fellow, some years ago obtained  
some under Jessup's work, the two finest  
cancellations. British Columbia Express  
covers them. These are show pieces  
in Wellburn's collection.



# THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

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February 20, 1952

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

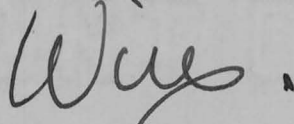
Dear Mr. Ashbrook: Items: #3352, 3480, 3481, 3488,  
3494, 3533, 3535

We enclose several items which have come in to the Expert Committee some of which we think you might be interested in seeing, even if a few of them are pretty awful.

Thank you for your opinions and with kindest regards, I am

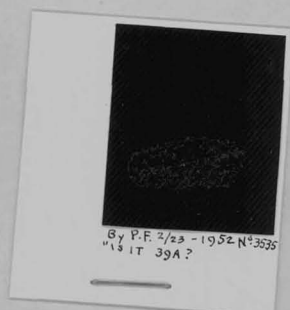
Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION



Winthrop S. Boggs  
Director

wsb/1  
encl.



Items by Philatelic Foundation, then  
letter Feb 20 1952

# 3352 - Penny - "Out of my line,  
not competent to pass an opinion"

# 3480 - This cover was submitted  
to me by the P.F. in Feb 1951 -  
my opinion at that time was

"In my opinion this 30¢ 1869,  
stamp did not originate on this  
cover - there is no evidence  
of any kind to indicate that it  
did."

# 3481 - 90¢ 1860 - on piece - "In  
my opinion the 90¢ was not  
used originally on this piece.  
The markings show that the  
actual rate was 30¢"

# 3488 - 1¢ 1851 - H.S. of 3. - "

"All three stamps are type II  
from Plate One 'Early' - The use  
was doubtless - Feb 23 (1852).

# 3494 - V.S. of 3. 5¢ 1857 Brick Red.

" In my opinion this cover is  
genuine - the strip is the  
5¢ 1857 - Type I - Brick red, -  
Color a bit faded "

# 3533 - 1¢ 1851 - 1A - " In my  
opinion this is unused O.G. -  
plate number 9124 "

# 3535 - No opinion —

Feb. 25, 1952.

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

Dear Win:

As per yours of the 20th, I am herewith returning items as follows:

#3352, 3480, 3481, 3488, 3494, 3533 and 3535.

Please give me some information on the following:

(1) A cover from England via New York in July 1815 to Montreal. The Canadian due is "2N5." If this was 2 shillings five pence why was it expressed thus? Why the "N?"

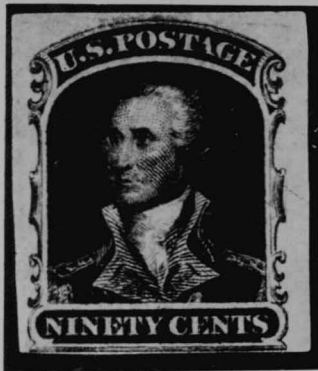
(2) A cover with a 3¢ 1857 addressed to San Francisco, the stamp tied by a San Francisco postmark of 1858, also tied by a circular marking reading, "VICTORIA - PAID - V.I." This is entirely new to me. I wonder if the latter was a post office or express company marking. I will send photo-prints of either or both of the above if you would like to see them.

Sincerely yours,

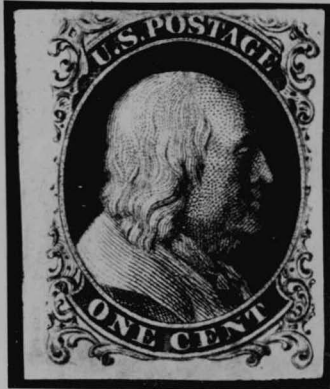


B-1 P.F. 2/23-52: N<sup>o</sup>. 3488





By P.F. 2/23 - 1952 N° 3535  
 "IS IT 39A?"



By P.F. 2/23 - 1952 - N° 3533  
 S. U. S. N° 6. Dark Blue  
 AS IT UNUSED WITH O.G.  
 914 -

A122

Miss. R. Samuels.



CARSON CITY



Eagle Hotel

Sacramento Cal.

By P.F. 2/23-52  
3352



By P.F.  
2/23-52  
No. 3481

Wendover  
Nevada  
Black



Algiers  
Constantine  
Black

By P.F. 2/23-52  
3480



By P.F.  
2/23-52  
No. 3494

Wendover  
Nevada  
Black

Wendover  
Nevada  
Black



Black No.  
Oct 27 -58

ALL BY P.F. 2/23-52

A122

208-PAN-K3-F128-3Sec

Feb. 23, 1952.

Mr. Mortimer L. Neinken,  
49 West 23rd St.,  
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Mort:

Your two letters of the 18th and 19th with enclosures received.  
Thanks very much.

The 1¢ 1857 left pane of Plate 8 came in okay. I will return it to you next week. My former photographs were so poor they were useless. I will send you new prints.

Jack advised that he will not fail to fly down and join us when you come out next month but he requested us to set a date in advance. Can you do that?

Vertical Strip of Three - I was delighted to see this strip and it certainly has me puzzled. I have no previous record of the two upper stamps - both show plating marks that are entirely unknown to me. No Mort, the "E" relief is not the same as either J14 or J16. This is a slight resemblance to J14 but different. Apparently this strip is from Plate 6 but the extreme scarcity indicates Plate 5. This raises the question - Did Plate 5 have stamps that were both V and Va? Re - the bottom stamp in the strip - the only record that I have of this is the enclosed photo of a stamp with trimmed perfs. Note the dash in the "A" of postage. This trimmed copy is a lot of help as it proves that your strip is from the 8th - 9th and 10th rows. It is a very early impression and the paper is thick - color is very much like what I call the Plate 5 color. Just imagine - of all the 1¢ 1857 stamps that I have seen in the course of almost 40 years I evidently have never seen duplicates of the two top stamps in this strip. The trimmed copy, as I recall, was in the same color as your strip. So you see Mort, we still have a lot to learn about Plates 5 and 6. The strip had some paper adhering to the middle stamp so I soaked the strip in warm water and pressed it - now it is flat and looks much better. I will make a photograph and return it to you next week. It affords a real kick to see a rarity such as this - a One Cent item that is doubtless much more rare than a 7R1E, and the question is - WHY?

Re - your strip 33L2 - 34L2 - 35L2 - If you wish to be sure, send the strip to me and I will confirm. An imperf 33L2 must be quite rare.

Regarding the two covers - One Cent 1857 - top row - Plate Eleven - Saint Joseph, Mo. This was surely Dec. 27, 1863 - The letter enclosed shows Dec. 26, 1863 so it was undoubtedly enclosed in this envelope - The letter mentions Monday Dec. 28, 1863 and in 1863, the 28th of Dec. fell on Monday. Further, I believe that this stamp was used on this cover. Saint Joseph used a target, so I don't think anyone substituted this "old stamp" for a 1¢ 1861. It does have a minor tear at bottom. I am making a photograph and will return next week.

Re - the 10¢ 1857 cover from Lafayette, Ind. to San Francisco. The clerk picked up the old postmark thru error. Its use has no significance whatsoever.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



POST CARD

FEB - 8 1952

POST CARD

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

Dear Larry

Re - Fox Sale Jan

29 - 30 - 31<sup>st</sup> Lot 1177 - did you see  
this? What was your opinion?  
No postal markings - add? - do  
you want a photo print.  
Yours

*Doherty, Clifford & Shenfield, Inc.*

ADVERTISING

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

February fourteenth  
19 52

*Ans  
2/26*

Dear Stan:

Yes, I did notice Lot 1177 in the Fox Sale but did not see it personally. As described, I can see that it could be valid based upon the fact that I have two covers Trans.-Miss. - one with a strip of 4 - #12 -- the other with a pair of the 20¢ - #13 -- both from the famous Wadley correspondence and both without any postmarks whatsoever.

A Yet on the reverse of each is the date of receipt and although the covers are fresh, they undoubtedly went into the mail. The only thing I have been able to figure out is that they might have been handed to a courier direct instead of being posted in a post office and then delivered direct because they are both addressed to an important general in the Trans.-Miss. Department. I believe also I remember another cover with strip of 4 #11's with no cancellation whatsoever.

It is my opinion that such letters were about to be mailed but somehow were delivered by courier direct after being transmitted across the Mississippi in the regular Trans-Miss. way. The fact that the postage was paid took care of the government rate in my opinion.

If you would like to photograph these two covers of mine I will be happy to send them. I have had them for a great many years and they are very pretty.

I haven't had much for authentication -- a few silly items that a schoolboy should know about and so I haven't bothered you with them.

With warm regards,

*Clifford*

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

Feb. 26, 1952.

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

Dear Larry:

Thanks very much for yours of the 14th re - the Fox Cover #1177 - E.M. stampless. I have the cover before me as I wrote. The darn thing "looks good" but it has no stamps - no postmark - and no evidence of actual date of use - outside of a penciled date, which don't mean a thing. It was a two-page folded letter but the page with the letter is missing. This cover sold @ \$27.00 in the sale.

Yes, I would like to see and photograph the two stampless covers that you mentioned. I would like to see if they would help me to arrive at some definite conclusion re - the Fox cover. Just for my own satisfaction.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

J. DAVID BAKER  
3902 NORTH DELAWARE STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS 5, INDIANA

February 23, 1952

Dear Stan:

When mounting some of my westerns, I ran across two covers which have raised questions, so here goes.

The first cover has a 10¢ '57 on it. The postmark is

Holla ---- then the mark hits the stamp and becomes

indistinct. Directly below the LA on the bottom of the single line circle is Tex. This cover has the Stage

coach corner card of J. E. Damon, Bookseller and

Stationer, 102 Com'al St. Can you tell me what

city in Texas this is and where it is located. I was

wondering if this cover may not have been carried on

the San Antonio Route to El Paso and from there on

the Butterfield Route to San Francisco. On the cover

is written Hollaway, Texas, but I am sure that there

are more letters than "way" on the stamp. I tried a

red and then a green filter to <sup>✓</sup>bing out the letters,

but they are still too indistinct to read.

The other cover is also a Per Overland Mail Via

Los Angeles item. This cover is postmarked San Francisco

May 23, 1859 and is addressed to Tuscaloosa, Ala. In your

Vol. II you quote from a letter of PM. Weller of San

Francisco in which he mentions that the rate to Chicago,

and Cincinnati Via Los Angeles Overland is 3¢. Since

Tuscaloosa is west of Cincinnati and almost directly

south of Chicago should not that rate be 3¢ too?. This

cover in question bears a 10¢ '57 stamp and is in addition marked "Due 10cts" in red pencil.



These are the two questions which I have this morning. I am not sending the covers because I am expecting a guest who wants to see them. However if it is necessary for you to see them to answer my questions I can forward them later.

Thanks for your help on these two items. I am sorry that you wouldn't venture an answer as to the relative scarcity of the railroads in my last letter. My reason for asking the question was to find out which two of the four railroads might be the best to show as examples of railroad covers in a coming exhibition.

Naturally I understand that there are questions which you may not feel qualified to answer and I have not the least quarrel with you.

I still have the urge to come to Ft. Thomas. Some time the urge and the time will coincide and I will be down to pay you a visit.

Sincerely,

Dave

Feb. 26, 1952.

Mr. J. David Baker,  
3902 North Delaware St.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Yours of the 23rd received.

I have before me an official list of Post Offices of 1857 and there was no P.O. in Texas or in the U. S. by the name of "HOLLAWAY" - In the Texas list the closest to "HOLLA" was "HOLLY SPRINGS" - an office in Wood County. I also note a "HALLETTSVILLE" in Lavaca Co., and a "HILLIARD" in Shelby Co. Outside of these three, there is no other offices that are anything like "HOLLA-----". Unless you could give me the date I would have no way of forming an opinion as to the route. I judge from your letter that the cover is addressed to San Francisco and being a stage coach cover rather indicates it traveled the Butterfield Route to California. As I recall, if a writer desired a letter to go overland rather than Via Panama they had to mark the letter "Via Overland Mail." The use of a stage coach envelope gave the same service. Letters not so routed were sent Via Panama. In the late fifties a letter from Texas, not routed, was sent to New Orleans, thence to Aspinwall - etc. etc.

Re - your cover from San Francisco to Tuscaloosa, Ala. in May 1859. It would seem to me that if 3¢ carried a letter to Cincinnati I fail to see why it would be any more to Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Note my map on page 277 of my Volume 2 - A letter to Alabama by the "O.M." should have gone from Fort Smith to Memphis - (in my opinion) - thence to Alabama and it seems to me the distance was shorter than to Cincinnati.

Note the cover on page 279 - This was from Gen'l Denver to his father-in-law at Wilmington, Ohio and Wilmington is only 40 miles N.E. of Cincinnati.

I think that the explanation is that when the contract was signed it was estimated that the distance between terminals of the "O.M." was less than the actual distance. As you will recall, the rate of 3¢ applied to distances less than 3000 miles. When the route was actually measured by an agent of the P.O.D. it was found to be 2794½ miles to St. Louis - See page 279 in my Vol. 2 - Also last paragraph on page 278. The report of this special agent was dated - Washington, Oct. 18, 1858. Also note last paragraph on page 280. The explanation is that the 3¢ rate applied to offices within 205½ miles of St. Louis. I really don't know what the distance was via Memphis to Tuscaloosa but I judge that it was ruled that it was in excess of 3000 miles, hence the 10¢ rate applied. I, therefore, assume your cover was a double rate, prepaid as a single.

I believe that covers to or from California in the very late fifties showing the 3¢ rate (under 3000 miles) are extremely rare. I have seen very, very few. Also bear in mind that the Act of Feb. 27, 1861 required the 10¢ rate to apply on all letters conveyed in the mail from any point in the U. S. east of the Rocky Mountains to any state or territory on the Pacific, and vice versa.

Again re - your former query on Railroad covers. Ask me the following

#2. Mr. J. David Baker - Feb. 26, 1952.

question - Which of the following R. R. covers would it be wise to exhibit -

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) \_\_\_\_\_

If I can't give you a satisfactory answer, I'll do my best to find a correct one for you.

Okay Dave, I will be glad to have you over for a visit but advise me in advance. I have three or four friends who are due next month and also a paper hanger booked. So don't run in on me when such a chap has me moving furniture.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--If you think I should look at the two covers send them over at any time.



March 6, 1952.

Mr. J. David Baker,  
3902 North Delaware St.,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Dave:

Thanks very much for yours of the 2nd with check for \$10.00, making payment in full on your Service subscription.

I also acknowledge receipt of the three covers which I return herewith.

Regarding the Texas cover. It is possible that this cover is a fake as the stamp appears to have been cleaned of a pen cancelation. However, I did not make a minute examination and it is possible a photograph by ultra-violet might disclose something.

Re - the cover to Tuscaloosa. You probably noticed my discussion of the 3¢ rate in my last Service Issue. I think this cover rated a distance of over 205 miles from Memphis and, of course, from St. Louis, so was charged the regular 10¢ rate as was apparently the case by May 1859 as set forth in my notes.

I will make a negative of the Langton's Express cover but the charge will be \$2.00 for one or two prints. You can advise me.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--I note the Langton cover was in the Brown Sale in 1939 and was purchased by Colson @ \$250.00. When Brown bought it in 1931 it cost him \$125.00.



March 14, 1952.

Mr. J. David Baker,  
3902 North Delaware St.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Herewith the Texas cover as per yours of the 11th. I made two negatives by ultra violet but haven't had time to make any prints. One of the negatives appears to confirm a pen removed line which ran from the lock of hair on right side of face through the lip down into the neckband under the chin. I will be able to be more positive after I have made the prints.

Thanks for the check - prints will follow.

The name of the post office was "HOLLANDALE" in Grimes County - I found it listed in an 1863 list of Post Offices. There was no such an office in the 1859 list, so evidently it became an office in 1860 or 1861 - probably this use was May 1861 which explains why the letter required 10¢.

I enclose a tracy that I made up.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

March 16, 1952.

Mr. J. David Baker,  
3902 North Delaware St.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Re - your Langton cover with the Humboldt stamp, I  
will have prints for you next week. Is it your understanding that  
this cover is ~~genuine?~~ **UNIQUE?** I am wondering if you would have any ob-  
jection if I mentioned the cover in one of my Service Issues and  
furnished a photo-print? I will not mention your name and will  
send you a copy of my remarks regarding it before use.

Sincerely yours,

J. DAVID BAKER  
3902 NORTH DELAWARE STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS 5, INDIANA

March 30, 1952.

Dear Stan:

Sorry I have taken so long to reply to the approval selection you sent me. I am taking both covers relating to General Denver. They will tell an interesting story.

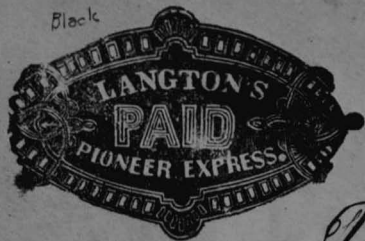
Thank you for forwarding the prints of the Langton and Hollandale covers. Hollandale is in Grimes county not too far from Huston. I have been trying to picture how this cover might have reached the route of the Overland Mail. It might have been taken up the River to Fort Belnap. Or it might have been taken across to San Antonio where a regular mail route would have taken it to El Paso where it would connect with the southern Overland.

I believe that this cover is posted in May 1860, because the southern route was discontinued in April 1861 to be moved to the Central Route.

Enclosed is the check for \$42.50 for the Denver covers.

Sincerely,

David



→  
Blue



↑  
Brown



↑  
Pink

J. S. Bendle Esq  
Care of  
Biddle's Bar  
Butte Co  
Cal

By J. D. B.



PER OVERLAND MAIL, VIA LOS ANGELES.



J. E. Damon, Bookseller and Stationer, 103 Com'al St.



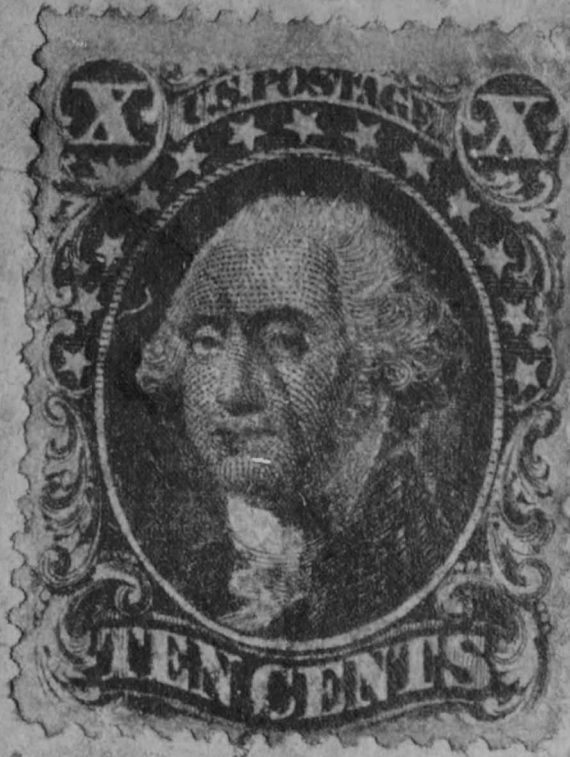
James S. Clough & Son  
San Francisco  
~~California~~  
California

Hallaway Tex

B134

F64 QUARTS 10 SEC

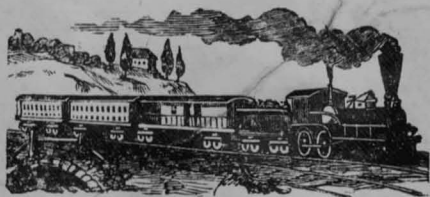
B134



46  
C46 13-QUARTZ. F64-PAN-20 Min

On Back "See A.P. Vol 62 - No 3  
Dec 1948 - Ex Wiltsee -  
\$1.50 <sup>10</sup>

PER OVERLAND MAIL,



VIA LOS ANGELES.



*Dr. J. W. Wiltsee*  
*Mr. Lucy Judge*  
*Can. Prof. Stafford*  
*Tuskaloosa*  
*Ala.*

PER OVERLAND MAIL, VIA LOS ANGELES.



J. E. Damon, Bookseller and Stationer, 102 Com'al St.



*James S. Clough*  
*San Francisco*  
~~*California*~~  
*California*

*Hollaway Tex.*  
HOLLANDALE TEX

While This P.M. Looks LIKE  
HOLLAWAY TEX  
There Was No Such  
P.O. listed In Tex - 1859

Telephone  
Ypsilanti, Michigan  
5065 -- 2287

## Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Feb. 22, 1952.

OK  
750  
Dear Stan,

Enclosed find check for \$7.50 covering the one Depreciated cover. I have several that practically duplicate the ones you sent. These are nice items. Jack was over to the house and said he took one you sent him. Havent seen Hutch, so dont know what he has done. Why not send Charles Shierson some. Might get him interested.

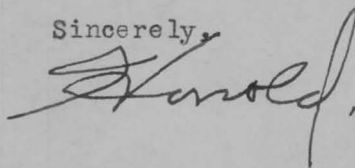
I bought that Calif. cover with 16¢ in stamps from Jack. Am still intrigued about it. Why all this money in stamps. Perhaps we have not arrived at the correct answer yet.

One of the main reasons I did not take that combination cover from Canada is the fact I have two of these covers bought from you and also the fact that as Ad. Harris told me, never try to corner a stamp item market, since it discourages others to obtain these items. I think a spreading of covers of this type is healthy. So dont be too harsh on me. I think you will agree that a diversification of important covers is justified. I had no animosity as to the original price and certainly no reflection on your judgement.

I am enclosing three covers that I thought might interest you. 1. --5¢ 1847 stamp used from Charlestown, S.C. and addressed to Covington, Geo. Note the 10 in the town marking. Did they have a "5" marking or could this be a double rate with 5¢ in cash? I have checked this cover carefully under the microscope and find no indication of another stamp. No. 2--- A 30¢ to Singapore with a red manuscript "20". Cover Br. pkt. Is this 10¢ charge by us for letters to countries we had no treaty with. Note the unusual (to me) per overland mail via "Galle" Ceylon. This appears to me unusual in the routing. What do you know about it. No. 3---33¢ rate via French to Italy. How come only 18¢ credit. Is this an overpaid cover. We could only collect 9¢ per 1/4oz. since the cover went Am. Pkt. Would appreciate any comments you might have on these covers.

Best of wishes to all.

Sincerely,





Feb. 27, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Thanks for yours of the 22nd with check for \$7.50 and return of the other two "D.P." covers.

Regarding the three covers that you enclosed and which I return herewith;  
No. 1 - 5¢ 1847, Charleston, S.C. to Covington, Ga. I am of the opinion that this was a single rate and that the "10" stamper was used thru error and merely as a cancellation. I do not believe that it was intended to indicate a 10¢ rate only half paid. I am enclosing six stampless covers with Charleston markings but none of these have a slanting "5" and line above similar to the familiar "10" type on your cover, but I think I have seen such examples. The six covers herewith are interesting and I thought you would like to see them. You can return them at your convenience.

No. 2 - 30¢ to Singapore. I never heard of the routing "Via Galle - Ceylon" and do not believe that it had anything to do with the rate. Galle is a seaport on the S.W. tip of the Island of Ceylon, south of Colombo. I imagine that British mail ships to India and Singapore made it a Port of Call. I think this was sent "Via Southampton" - the rate on which was 33¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce - New York should have marked it "SHORT PAID" and rated it as totally unpaid - Instead they permitted it to go thru and credited G.B. with 28¢. I believe the red pen credit is "28" rather than "20." There might have been a 3¢ stamp on front or back but I see no present trace of it. Among your covers you surely have a "28" credit which was penned like this. This letter left New York on the 7th of July by British Packet - The British marking is the 17th and the sailing by "Via Southampton" was the 20th. At least I suppose the monthly sailings at that time Via Southampton were the 4th and 20th.

In 1857 there was a rate of 30¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce by French mail, so it is possible that the writer intended it to go via that Route. Had this gone "Via Marseilles" or "Via French Mail" there would have been French transit markings - there was none. If my solution is correct, then this is a most unusual cover, viz., a short pay which was permitted to go thru as fully paid. (I am going on the theory there was no 3¢ stamp on front or back). There was no rate of 30¢ with a credit of 20¢ - My lamp fails to show any trace of a missing stamp.

No. 3 - Showing 33¢ to "ITALIA." Many of these darn Italian covers are a pain in the neck because it is sometimes hard to make out the destinations. The chap who addressed this one must have been very ignorant so it is possible paid too much postage. Suppose we go after it in this way - that French marking is very scarce and I have seen less than half a dozen - I doubt if you have one on any cover in your collection. It reads, "ET - UNIS - SERV - AM - A.C." This meant that the U. S. share of the rate was 9¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce. If we kept 9¢ and credited 18¢ then the actual rate must have been 27¢ and that is exactly what the rate was to a number of the Italian States in 1859. For example, "Roman or Papal States - 27¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. - 54¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. - "by French Mail" - and this letter surely went by French Mail. I thought at first that there must have been another stamp alongside the 3¢ but I think this was simply an overpaid 27¢ rate as above. Too bad the back stamps are all smeared up.

#2. Mr. Harold W. Stark - Feb. 27, 1952.

Re - that 16¢ California cover. I do not agree that there is anything significant about the rate.

One more word on the Italian cover - The 27¢ rate meant 12¢ more per  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. than a rate to France, hence France was entitled to 6¢ plus 12¢ or 18¢.

I made photos of covers "2" and "3" in case you wish to refer to them again.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



*Thomas Beatty Esq*

*Counsel for the U. States*

*per Boulan  
Mail via  
"Galle" Ceylon.*

*Singapore  
E. Indies -*

See S. B. 22. P. 55. These Two Covers By H.W. Stark 2/23-52

*all signore Francesco Salvi - SI*

*Delta rice*



*Cap. P. B. in Toscana*

*Una o più per Italia*



*British Mail South Sea*

*2, II*



Telephone  
Ypsilanti, Michigan  
5065 -- 2287

# Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Feb. 26, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Just ran across a couple of covers I thought might interest you.

Cover to Berlin with the Paid "30". The New York marking with the 7 credit appears to me to be the type used in the '60s. The Boston marking on the back has a error in that they used Feb. instead of March. If I am right on the usage in the 1860's ( I judge the 1865-1867) than this is one of those stampless covers that went out due to lack of stamps. What particularly interests me is the manuscript marking in the lower left corner--- "Franco. Pd. 65. Perhaps stretching a point---could this by any chance be a Depreciated currency cover going the opposite direction. I personally dont think so, but as usual I do not know enough about these matters as you do.

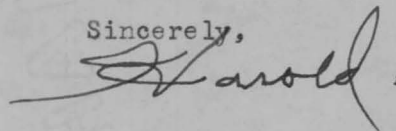
The other cover is an early Registered cover from Dresden, Germany into the U.S. If paid at source, why the red N.Y. "30" Am. Pkt. It went thru England and there evident picked up by our boat. The year date is 1855 in the Dresden marking. It appears to me the Prussian closed mail could keep the 5¢ registry fee plus 7¢ and that the New York marking should then be black "23". How do you figure this one out.

Business has eased off a bit so I have some time for covers again.

Jack was at the house last night and he sure is going into covers. Why dont you send him some, if you have any. Am sure he would be pleased.

Best of wishes.

Sincerely,





March 1, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 26th. You raised an interesting question, that is, Depreciated Currency covers going abroad. I never heard of that point being raised before and I doubt if the P.O.D. charged any premium. I have never run across any P.O.D. order to that effect. Surely the Government did not demand specie for postage stamps, nor was specie demanded in payment for postage currency fractional pieces - that is, so far as I know. I have no idea what the "PD65" refers to on the Plymouth cover. This cover went by Prussian Closed Mail - (P.C.M.) - and you will recall that the rate was 30¢ unpaid, or 28¢ paid, after September 1861. See page 33 of my Service. Therefore, I assume that your cover was used before Sept. 1861, otherwise the rate would have been 28¢ paid. There was no premium on gold in March 1861 (date of your cover). I am wondering if the "65" referred to a P.O.Box at Plymouth. In other words, "Charge to Box 65." This seems to be the logical solution. This is certainly a pretty little cover. The small "Aachen" on the back seems to indicate an early use - perhaps about 1854.

Regarding the other cover. I made a photo of this and with it I photoed a memo which I enclose.

Re - early registered to Prussia - Also see page 33 of my Service. This cover was earlier than the signing of the articles at Berlin. You will find the "Additional Articles on Registration" to the U.S.-Prussian Treaty in the 1855 P.M.G. Report. The large "Aachen" marking should have had "25" - the credit to the U.S. - I enclose a photo-print of a similar cover used in 1859. The New York marking meant that 30¢ had been paid at Dresden. This was customary. Where was the "Crown-Registered" marking applied? My guess is at "Aachen" - do you agree? I don't know the meaning of the foreign "CHARGE" - do you? (Must be German). Note the manuscript "N.Y. No. 456." I wonder if this refers to the total number of registered letters from Prussia since the new articles went into effect? Mail Via P.C.M. went to and from Aachen and New York in sealed bags. Remember - on paid in the U.S. we credited Prussia 7¢ - on paid in Prussia, they credited us 25¢ - See my Service Issue No. 6.

I am glad that Jack is going in for covers but it is a pain to offer him anything. He has to consult a dozen different people before he can make up his mind on what he should buy - not what he wants - but what he should acquire. If you can make accover collector out of him you will have accomplished a wonderful job. More power to you.

With all good wishes -      Cordially yours,

3128

Recd

Recomandirt.

For the

Recd



- Reel

7ed

— Brown

New York.

PP

C.F.  
franco.

Nothing on Back

2. *MM no 456* Red Black  
Purple 1855  
*United States of America*  
White Env. By H.V.S. 2/29-52

White Env

By H.V.S. 2/29-52

Black  
1855

FRANCO

PAID

Blue

30

✓car?

No Evidence

Hm W. Goodwin Stud. Phil.  
 Bei Rosenhagen  
 No 5 Barier Straße  
 Berlin, Prussia

Red

MOUTH  
MAR 10 1880  
Pa co  
Ad 10

Blue.

white. Ery

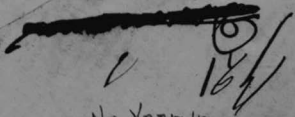
By H.W.S. 2/29-52



Black



Should  
be  
MAR 6



No Year in  
Evidence

Back of Cover  
P.C.M. To Berlin Bv  
H.W.S. 2/29-52

D13

March 2, 1952.

To whom it may concern:

Regarding cover, folded letter with a U. S. 5¢ 1847, single on a cover postmarked "Montgomery, Ala. - Jul 18" and addressed to John A. Graham, Esq. - Rockford, Coosa County, Ala. - Letter inside dated July 18, 1850 - Stamp canceled with a blue grid - seven bars.

On the back of this cover is a pencil notation

1850  
Worn Plate - Orange Shade

My opinion has been requested on the above.

The stamp is positively not the orange color and never was, but rather a badly faded copy of the reddish brown - The stamp is not from a worn plate but a print from the dirty condition of the plate. The pencil memorandum was evidently not made by anyone with any knowledge of the 5¢ 1847 as it is absurd to class this as an "Orange shade."

---



EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

February 29th, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

If possible please try to answer this letter promptly, for I am trying to do a favor for a friend of both yours and mine.

Please also write me anything you want to in the letter to me, but will you please write me a letter about this 5¢-1847 cover addressed to "To whom it may concern". so that I can send it along when I return the cover.

This 5¢ 1847 cover was sold to this man as orange. Of course it is not. I have advised him so myself.

Worse than this he was told that the writing on the back was Dr. Chase's and that he said it was orange.

I sent the cover and this opinion to Doc Chase and Doc, of course, wrote me that not only was it not orange but that the writing on the back was not his and this opinion I am going to forward to the owner.

Also with it I am sending my copy of the 5¢ orange. You advised me sometime ago that this copy was orange, at least the catalogue shade; it is not the color of the Slater copy, and I am going to send it to him so that he will know at least what he should look for in orange shades.

Thanks for the return of the four little covers. The trouble is with these perforation varieties I do not know what to charge for them. I think there is some study to be done on these straight edges, lines and perforations on these stamps, which would be worth while; although it is all carefully done in your book a separate study of it might be interesting.

With reference to Via Ostend cover. What should I charge for it? Do you want to send it to Harold Stark?

Columbus affair is this week end. Too late for me to even think of going there.

The Souren sale I think will be held the middle of May. There may be some things in this. I will keep you posted.

Sincerely,

EDC:mk1

*Nelson P. LaGanke's*  
**STAMP-ADE CO.**

CARNEGIE HALL - 1220 HURON ROAD

CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

MAin 1-0909

March 5, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The delay in answering your request for information about the Cleveland Cover has been the fact that it was in Ed Moore's hands for checking purposes. Here are his comments. The common Cleveland cancel back in 1858-62 contained 6 bars in a circle. Ed believes that this 12 bar cancel was first used in 1858 although he does not have an example of its use in that year. He states he does have an example of its use on a cover for the years 1859-60-61-62. He states that it was not too rare. He also states that sometimes you see this 12 bar cancel, which is apparently either closed or has a ring in the right side of the cancel, but it is his opinion that this is simply caused by wear of the cancelling device, rather than something of a different nature.

I hope this information is of use to you and answers your question.

Yours truly,

STAMP-ADE CO.

*Nelson P. LaGanke*  
Nelson P. LaGanke

L:e