Scrap Book June 20 1952 Feb 16-52 No. 24

1 Jack E Molesworth 5¢ Butt 10¢ 61
2 Floyd Risvold 90¢ 61
3 E.R. Guilford Cover From GB
4 N.C. Peterman 2¢-6¢ To GB
5 J.E. Molesworth 52¢ To Shanghai
6 E.D. Cole 12¢ 51 Bisect + ▥ 1¢ 51
7 J.G. Fleckenstein Stolow Sale
8 T. Gore – ⊟ 3¢ 61 Pink
9 Dr W.S. Polland Vancouver Cover
10 D.N. McInroy 2 covers
11 Jas R Paul 2¢ 1869 Bisect
12 Fred Spielman 5¢ 47 Cover
13 W.S. Boggs Re-5¢ 57 Brick-Hollowb.
14 Jefferson Jones 3¢ 69 Cover
15 Jack E Molesworth 10¢ 1855 Arthur Black
16 Walter G Strait Conted P.O.W. Columbia SC
17 John Gemmill 5¢ Butt on Cover
18 Jack E Molesworth 7R1E Cover Ex Eck
19 E.C. Krug Stolow Sale
20 Morris Fortgang Re Jetterys And Zareski
21 Dr C.S. Hitchins Re 2 Covers From Peru
22 Less Brookman Cover With 6 3¢ 61 + 2¢ B.J.
23 F.E. Risvold (A) From Peru (B) From Vancouver
24 Wm H. Bond 5¢ 1856
25 H.W. Stark Re-Registered Mail From G.B.
26 Morris Fortgang Re - 24¢ Pay To Bavaria
27 H.W. Stark Charleston S.C. Steamboat "2"
28 Jack Molesworth 6¢ Rate LABUAN
29 Wm H. Maisel 1¢ 51 Pl 3-OFF
30 Willard C Jackson Fake State
31 Marcel Levy Fake Cover 10¢ 57 To Nantes-Steamship
32 J.F. Burke N.Y. Ocean Mail
33 Neal Grabert Mickliffe Ky
34 John Mertke Conted Cover
35 Jack E Molesworth 15¢ Cover Swiss
36 Henry Meyer 27¢ To France Louisville & Cint Mail
37 J.G. Fleckenstein 24¢ Bank Note
38 E.C. KRUG 90¢ 1860 off "Va" at Bottom
39 C.M. Putnam Jr Pan & San 10¢ 47 ▥
40 Roger Weill 5¢ N.Y. Block of 10
41 Neal J Grabert (WAY) S.F.
42 M.C. Blake Covers
43 Phil. Foundation 3¢ 46-47-48-49
44 Corwith Wagner 60¢ Via P.C.M From Sante
45 Marvin Preston 2¢ B.J. Double Tr 1¢ 51 - ▥ A
46 E.D. Cole 5¢ O.B. Cover Error By P.F.
47 H.W. Stark "Quarterly Paid" N.Y.
48 Edgar Jessup Re. WF&Co Pony Express "CHIPS"
49 L.L. Shenfield Richmond P.M.
50 Mort Neinken 1¢ 57 Cover Charleston S.C.
51 L.V. Huber Earliest Packet Mobile
52 H.W. Stark – 12¢ 57 - Pl 3. ⊞
53 Dr R.A. Shafer Various
54 Jack Molesworth Re Grill #140 With Perry Letter
55 L.G. Brookman - 1¢ 1902 Coil
56 Dr Scott Polland 24¢ 61 Steel Blue
57 E.B. Jessup Re Gibson Covers Also ▦ 1¢ 51 - Pl 1
58 Jack O King ⊟ 1¢ 57 - Pl 4
59 Phil Foundation 5¢ N.Y. On Cover And Others
60
61
62
63

A. S. D. A.
A.P.S. No. 19844 C.S.A. No. 483 S.P.A. No. 12627

Jack E. Molesworth
Philatelic Broker
102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

June 20, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Thanks for your prompt return of the 1¢ 1851 cover. I understand all right.

I could use the 10¢ Athens Prov. for $500 and would treatly appreciate your getting it for me if possible.

Enclosed is a cover with #67 and #68 used from S.F. to Canada, but not tied. Would greatly appreciate your examining and signing the back if you feel that they were properly used on this cover. Is this 15¢ rate correct? Advise your fee and I shall remit as usual.

A

As Gene Wulfekuhler has probably written you, after arriving in N.Y.C. he called me on the phone and I was able to make a satisfactory arrangement with him for its disposal on a commission basis similar to that which you had in mind. I am naturally happy to have it, but am sorry for you that your backer did not come thru as pledged. I might mention that should anything of this nature come up in the future, I would appreciate hearing from you. It is probable that I could advance whatever cash is needed in return for the privilege of selling a part of the lot or sharing in the profit from the sale if you would prefer to handle the disposal completely yourself. The money is usually available on short notice. Gene had his $7,500 advance in N.Y.C. within an hour from the time he called me. I would always prefer outright purchase to commission sales due to the longer profit and lack of pressure in selling, but would enter either type of arrangement.

With best wishes,

Jack

June 22, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks for yours of the 20th. I have not heard a word from Wulfekuhler since he left here for New York so I didn't know what became of the collection. I was pleased to learn that he had placed it in your hands and I wish you all success possible in the handling of it. I also wish to thank you for your offer of co-operation in the future and I will bear same in mind.

Herewith is the Athens cover, price $500.00, and I am pleased that it is yours because this cover is certainly a great bargain at the price. I hope that you hold it and get a big price for it. The stamp off cover is certainly worth a damn sight more than 50% of catalogue.

Also herewith is your 5¢ Buff cover which is as good as gold and I have signed it on the back and am not charging you any fee.

I haven't heard from my friend Huber in recent weeks but I think that John Fox has him in tow.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS

WHOLESALE

INFANTS WEAR - NOTIONS

6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 19, MINN.
... Phone: Hiawatha 2039...

June 19,1952

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I recieved yours of the 18th June this AM. The samples of your "Special Service" arrived yesterday AM. Your story of my cover was wonderfull and I will use it when I mount & write it up. Iam enclosing my check to cover same.

Also many thanks for your kind invetation to join your service, which I probably will do soon.

Iam also enclosing the 90cent 1861 cover for your examination. I only hope and pray that you will find in in order and not a fake. A similar cover from the same corrspondence was auctioned off by Harmer,Rooke on April 24/26 1951 and was lot #214 in that sale. Lots # 151 & 152 were also from the same corrspondence, both covers being a 30¢ and a 3¢ 1857. Iam enclosing the photo page from the cat. in case you donot have a copy handy (Please return).

Lot #214 was described: "90¢,12¢(defective) and 3¢ (2,1 damaged & removed to back of cover). Tied by red grid on cover to Shanghai.Rare."

Please advise your examination fee when you return the cover.

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS
WHOLESALE
INFANTS WEAR - NOTIONS
6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 19, MINN.
... Phone: Hiawatha 2039...

I have a 90¢ 1857,off cover, with a black grid & a magenta pen cancel. Lester Brookman thought that it might be the pen cancel of the Shanghai Station and that you might be able to prove it. If it is possible for you to do so, please advise & I will send it along for your examination.

Iam enclosing stamps for the return of the cover. Please insure for $200.00 as that was my purchase price.

Sincerely yours,

O.E.Risvold

O.E.Risvold

June 22, 1952.

Mr. Floyd E. Risvold,
6417 Lyndale Ave. So.,
Minneapolis 19, Minn.

Dear Mr. Risvold:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 19th with check for $5.00. I was pleased that the data that I furnished on your cover was of interest. I think that it is the story behind the cover that makes the cover of special interest.

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me your 90¢ 1861 cover and I am pleased to report that this cover is genuine in every respect and I have signed it as such on the back. Because I made a request to see it, there is no fee for the examination. I had to remove it from its covering so as to get the dates of the markings on the back, and I did not replace it as I was sure you wanted to see what I had stated.

The reason that I asked to see this cover was because I had a record of it in my files. Here is the story and I request that you treat same as strictly confidential because I would not care to cause any hard feelings. This cover came up in a sale in London in October 1950 by H. R. Harmer. A friend of mine over there wanted to buy it but he made an examination of it and was convinced it was a fake, so he passed it up. Later I learned that it had passed into the hands of a dealer in Minneapolis by the name of Bilden. Upon further investigation I learned that Bilden had sold it to a local collector. When it was intimated to Bilden that the cover might not be good and that he should submit it to the Philatelic Foundation or to Ashbrook he was quite indignant. Please don't mention this. I wrote Brookman and gave him the facts in the case and asked him if he could find out who bought the cover and to advise him to submit it to me. You see at that time I was of the opinion that my British friend was right and that the cover was bad. It is my recollection that Brookman never made any reply to my request so I forgot all about the cover until your letter came, stating you had a 90¢ 1861 cover showing a rate of $1.08. What I suspected was that the rate had originally been 45¢ and that some faker had removed a 30¢ 1861 and substituted a 90¢.

Thanks for the pages from the Harmer Rooke catalogue. I have a copy and note the description of Lot 214 states that there was another 3¢ stamp on the back. The markings on cover #214 are the same as on yours. Both covers went by "Amer Pkt" to England, but had either one gone by a Cunard British Mail liner that "66" would have been "98." I have a friend who purchased Lots 208-209 and 210 in this sale, but I have no record, as to who bought #214. He also bought Lot 151.

#2. Mr. Floyd E. Risvold - June 22, 1952.

Incidentally mail going "Via Marseilles" was despatched from London twice a month, on the 10th and 26th, so this letter laid over in London from 4th to the 10th (July 1862).

Regarding your 90¢ 1860 off cover copy. It is extremely difficult to determine the genuineness of cancelations on off cover copies of this stamp and when I am not reasonably sure I refuse to express an opinion. However, send me your copy if you so desire and I will see if I can arrive at any conclusion.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

June 22, 1952.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
Regency House,
London, W.1, England.

Dear Doctor:

Well, here is one for the book. Under date of Nov. 8, 1950, you wrote me about a 90¢ 1861 cover that had been sold in a H. R. Harmer sale in London on the previous Oct. 3 and 4 - This a cover showing a rate of $1.08 to Shanghai. It evidentally got into the hands of Bilden of Minneapolis who wrote you that he had sold it to one of the "biggest cover collector in America" and that it was genuine and that he knew as much about covers as Ashbrook (Incidentally I would like to bet him 100 to one that he is a million miles wrong on that statement). Yesterday that cover came in to me for my opinion from the Minneapolis collector who purchased it from your friend Bilden. I had forgotten all about your letter until I ran across a reference to it in my file on 90¢ 1861 covers. Well, to make a long story short, the cover is as good as gold and just by chance Mr. Bilden was right in this case but it is an absolute cinch that he could not explain the rate much less the markings on the cover. This use was 1862 and the rate to Shanghai "Via Varseilles" at that time was -

½ oz	½ to ¾ oz.	¾ to 1 oz.
51¢	57¢	1.08

This letter had a crossed out "72" (an error) and the credit was "66" - It went by Amer. Pkt - hence the U. S. share was only 42¢ (2 X 21) - The British credit of66 was as follows -

British 2 X 24 - 48
French 2 X 9 - 18
.66

Now,of course, Bilden wouldn't know anything about why $1.08 was charged because he wouldn't know anything about a rate of over ½ oz. and not over ¾ oz. If he had no knowledge of why $1.08 was charged, then, of course, he would not be able to explain the "66" credit. He judged the cover was good because it looked good but M. Zareski aims to make them that way. Ashbrook don't give an opinion on "looks," so you see Mr. Bilden's statement was a bit of an exaggeration.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Jun 21 1862 - Via Amer Pkt - Rate $1.08 - Credit 66d U.S. Share
42 - (2x21 To British Frontier - Original 72 Crossed Out
By F.E. RISVOLD 6/21 - 1952 - Cover Good As Gold.

B162

E. R. Guilford, Stamps
2515 13th Street, N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I am enclosing a cover that I felt you might like to see. My deductions are written up on the glassine envelope - However, with my limited knowledge I realize that I am liable to leap to erroneous conclusions. I would therefore appreciate your opinion.

If my theory is correct as far as it goes, there is a question I would like to ask. Were the British Postal authorities correct in destroying the stamps and charging 48¢ (double rate as postage due?) or was a letter from an American Consulate to this country legally forwarded with U. S. stamps and at U. S. Rate of 6¢ for a double letter rate (over ½ oz.)?

I am afraid that I may be straining facts to fit a preconceived theory - Therefore any knowledge or opinion of yours would be most gratefully received.

Let me congratulate you on your election to Honorary Membership in the 3¢ unit - I can think of no one, with the exception of Mr Chase perhaps, who deserves this honor as you do. The work of such students as you two make stamp collecting a worthwhile hobby rather than a childs pastime.

Sincerely Yours
E. Robert Guilford

June 23, 1952.

Mr. E. R. Guilford,
2515 - 13th St. N.W.,
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Mr. Guilford:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 21st.

I believe you will find the following analysis of this item as follows, the evidence being as follows:

(A) On the back is the impression of the U.S.A. Consulate at Southampton England, and on the face is a black "48" which is a well known rating stamp of the foreign division of the New York Post Office and was used for unpaid double rate letters from Great Britain (2 x 24¢).

(B) There is no evidence that the letter was deposited in a British Post Office, therefore, it is my conclusion that this letter originated at Southampton, England, and a member of the U. S. Consulate there, having U. S. stamps applied the two 3¢, he gave the letter to some person traveling to the U. S. with the intention of having him mail it upon arrival at New York, thus saving the sum of 42¢ in postage. However, it was contrary to U. S. Law to transport a letter in this manner - "Outside of the mail" as all mail carried into a port was required to be turned over to an agent of the P.O.D., before the vessel was allowed to "break bulk." I suppose the person carrying the letter was asked if he carried any mail, answer in the affirmative and turned the letter over to the Agent - whereupon it was rated as entirely unpaid with 48¢ due. The New York postmark is the same that would have been applied had the letter been deposited in a British P.O. as an unpaid letter. As part payments were not permitted, the two 3¢ stamps were canceled by the New York Office and were forfeited. The New York postmark reads, "Am Pkt" showing that the letter was transmitted across the Atlantic at the expense of the U.S. P.O.D. Incidentally that is what "Am Pkt" actually means rather than that the carriage was by a ship of U. S. register.

Thanks very much for your complimentary remarks. I think that we all appreciate a slap on the back once in awhile and, of course, I am no exception. It is indeed nice to know that modest efforts are appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

153 Westville Ave.,
Caldwell, N.J.,
June 24, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

I appreciated your kind letter of June 13th and thank you very much for the Depreciated Currency cover.

Reverting again to the Express Mail cover from Greensburg, Ky., I believe that I did not make clear that the reference to the postmark "GREENSBURGH"was intended to indicate,by underlining the H,that this was the spelling on the circular postmark.

I am enclosing the cover, referred to in previous letters, which may be a prepaid ship fee cover. I note that the cancel on the 2 cent stamp differs from that on the 6 cent stamp and that the handstamp of L.F. Berje is dated Oct. 31, the same date as the New Orleans postmark. This cover may be a fake but as I obtained it some years ago, as an ordinary cover franked with the 1870-71 stamps, for less than a dollar I was not "taken in". It appealed to me as an odd rate, the reason for which i did not know.

Many thanks for the copy of your latest Service Issue. I found it very interesting and can see where such a service would be invaluable to anyone who is investing in rare and expensive covers. In my case, I have picked up covers, over a period of years, which I am gradually assembling as examples of first class domestic rates, the various domestic postal services, and ship letters to and from the United States. I have not attempted to cover thoroughly any one phase of postal history with covers but to show some examples of each phase. These covers were obtained when I did not have the time to study them and were laid aside in anticipation that they would afford a source of pleasure after I retired on pension. That time is now here and I am finding more time for such study.

In reference to the prepaid ship fee covers which you offered to send to me for my perusal, I certainly appreciate the offer but, under the circumstances, I do not feel that I should permit you to send them. I would, however, be interested in knowing their origin, port of entry and date.

Thanking you again for your kind assistance,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

W. C. Peterman

W.C. Peterman

June 28, 1952.

Mr. William C. Peterman,

153 Westville Ave.,

Caldwell, N.J.

Dear Mr. Peterman:

Herewith the Bank Note cover as per yours of the 24th. In my opinion, this cover is not a prepaid Ship letter but an item that someone fixed up. I do not believe that the 2¢ was used on this cover and whether or not the 6¢ was is not evidenced though it might have been as the rate was 6¢ and this is a National print.

Most of the prepaid Ship letters that I have were into the Port of New York and were letters carried in by private ships from ports up and down the Atlantic.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

153 Westville Ave.,
Caldwell, N.J.,
July 2, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

Thank you for your kind letter of the 28th.

I am very glad to have your opinion on the Bank Note cover even though it was not favorable to the cover. As I said in a previous letter I had picked it up for the Bank Note stamps and was intrigued by the odd rate. At the time, I did not suspect that it could purport to be a prepaid Ship Letter as I did not know of such use. However, when I read your article in Postal History I thought that it might be such in spite of its suspicious appearance.

I am convinced that your opinion is correct and have removed the stamps from the cover so that no one else will be confused by it.

Thanking you again, I am,

Sincerely yours,

W.C. Peterman

W.C. Peterman

850.00 June 28, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 26th received.

Thanks for the check for the Athens cover. I do hope you make some nice money on it.

Herewith the cover to Shanghai and Harold Stark is right - the rate was 53¢ per ½ ounce and when sent by American Packet our share of the rate was only 21¢ - (5¢ internal plus 16¢ sea to England). Thus the credit of "32" to Britain. I have known this cover for some years back as you will note my memo on the back that I photographed it on 3/3 - 1944 and again on 12/1 - 1944. I made quite an examination at the time and came to the conclusion that though it was underpaid by one cent that the New York P.O. let it go thru as fully paid. I could not find any evidence that there had been another 1¢ or that a damaged 3¢ had been removed and this 2¢ substituted. Write Stark and inform him that you sent the cover to me and quote from this letter if you care to do so. Stark is a very close friend and we keep in touch on anything unusual in foreign rates. I am sure that he will agree with my analysis. You see, had they held the letter up because of 1¢, they would have had to rate it as entirely unpaid and the payment of 52¢ would have been null and void. I have endorsed the cover on the back as genuine and it is a desirable cover because of the feature of a short pay of 1¢ being permitted to go through.

That pencil #70 and $60.00 looks like my writing but I can't find any record of it. I have an idea that I mounted this cover for someone and this might have been his cost. The small pencil memo looks like the handwriting of Wm. West.

I am writing Huber that it would be advisable if he let me see what he purchased in the Close Sale. Souren sold all that material to Close and Y.S. had a habit of overlooking defects on items he sold.

Thanks Jack, for suggesting Mr. Rust for my "Service." I can assure you that I will not offer any material to him and not abuse your kindness in giving me his name.

I am enclosing a very rare block of the One Cent 1857. It has a crease but it is unused, original gum and the combination of types makes it most attractive. I can allow you 20% in case you can place it.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Enclosed:
Irregular block - 1¢ 1857 -
37L4 - 46L4 - 47L4 - and 56L4 -
three types - III - IIIA and IC
Price $850.00

A. S. D. A.
A.P.S. No. 19844 C.S.A. No. 483 S.P.A. No. 12627

Jack E. Molesworth
Philatelic Broker
102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

July 1, 1952

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

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your comments, endorsement of the 52¢ rate cover and the additional photo prints which arrived today. I am sending the cover and the two prints along to Stark, and believe that they should satisfy him.

I appreciate very much your sending along the irregular block of 1¢ 1857's, but at present do not have anyone who would go for this heavy item unless in very fine condition. If I should think of anyone who might go for it later I'll write you.

I would be very interested in your comments concerning the material which Huber picked in the Close sale.

Incidently, I have a good client for anything rare and very fine in the 1851-7 issues, mint, used, multiples, or covers. Such things as a nice 7R1E on or off cover would be right up his alley. Please let me know if you run into anything that might be of interest.

With best wishes,

Jack

JEM/mb

P.S. Can you give me any idea of rarity + value of enclosed express cover. I don't know what to charge for it. Please let me know you fee as I want to pay for such information.

June 28, 1952.

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth,

102 Beacon St.,

Boston 16, Mass.

Dear Jack:

Here are two photo prints of 53¢ rates to Shanghai by American Packet with 32¢ credits. However, one is a 1¢ overpay. These match with your cover I returned this morning.

Sincerely yours,

June 28, 1952.

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

Dear Ezra:

I wrote Emmerson this morning that I didn't have anything to do with the sale of that split 12¢ '51 (plus H.S. of four 1¢) and that I didn't have the slightest idea who owned it at present. Then I got to thinking about the cover and something seemed to click that maybe I did place it so I took valuable time out and made a search of all my records. I ran across a memo to the effect that in 1948 the cover was owned by Harold Stark so did I sell it to him or did you? My memo does not state that I sold it. You know there must be something screwy about this cover and my records seem to indidate that there maybe two such covers, both identical and both postmarked New York on the same day - "Aug 21" (1851) - but this could be explained by the fact that both were written at Havana, Cuba on different dates - perhaps several days apart, but both reached New York by the same ship for mailing there on the same date, viz., "Aug. 21." I found a record of such a cover way back to the sale of the Hunter collection by the Scott Co. on Jan. 10, 1900. Lot 189 - Sale price $18.50. I have a catalogue of that sale but it was not stated whether the split was the lower or upper half. In a sale by Morgenthau on Jan. 10, 1911 a cover was sold with an identical description as the Brandebury cover but the split is described as the upper right half whereas the Brandebury was the lower left half - So you see there were two identical covers each with identical postal markings (neither one mailed in Cuba). I never knew this before. The Morgenthau sale was described as the "Spiegelberg collection." In a sale by the Nassau Stamp Co. on Apr. 2, 1914 - this same cover was sold in a sale of the Barry collection and it was described as from the "F. Spiegelberg Collection."

In the Hind sale the cover you acquired years later was Lot 145 and it went to Brandebury at $185.00. No description as to upper or lower diagonal half of the 12¢. From the catalogue descriptions I judge that the split on the "Spiegelberg" cover was tied very tight with the New York postmark. The Hind split was not tied very good. Now note the Emerson Sale of Oct. 19, 1937 - Lot 78 - was surely the Spiegelberg cover. It was sold to Ward at $400.00 and the split was described as the "upper right diagonal half." You bought the Brandebury cover for $120.00 (Sale by Doane - Dec. 1943). I believe that Hind bought this cover from Colson in 1921, but I have no record as to what Hind paid the redhead, alias the Crimson Rambler. Ward advertised his cover in STAMPS March 9, 1940 for sale @ $600.00 - so he still owned it three years after the Emerson Sale. Maybe Stark owns the Ward cover?

I will try and find out.

Did you know before this that there were two such covers?

I sure would like to have a photo of the Emerson cover - Ex-Hunter.

I hope that Phil can give me some information.

With regards.

Cordially yours,

Copy To
KRWG
Jessup
WARD

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
A.P.S. 2497
33 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.
FT. THOMAS, KY

July 5, 1952.

Mr. W. S. Boggs,

℅ The Philatelic Foundation,

22 E. 35th St.,

New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Will you please do me a favor? Look up the following for me - C.C.Library -

Scott Stamp & Coin Co. Sale of the Hunter collection

Lot 190 - Please look up the sale price of this lot and advise me - Jan 10, 1900 - Diag. 1/2 of 12c - with Strip of 4-1c - Sold for $9.00

Also Morgenthau Sale - Jan. 10, 1911 - Lot 15 - Let me know the sale price. Please.

Spiegelberg Coll.

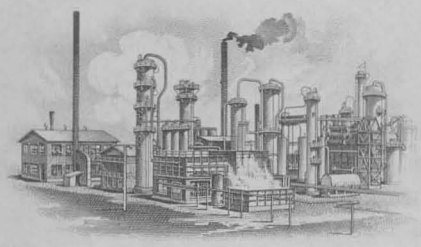
Sincerely yours,

Stanley

Diag 1/2 of 12c with 3-1c on cover to Canada. Sold for 43.00

Dear Stan: - Hope this is what you want - pardon pencil - will write later - Win

E. G. GUY, PRESIDENT & GENERAL MGR.
J. G. FLECKENSTEIN, VICE PRES. IN CHARGE OF SALES
M. A. HAGERMAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER
M. B. CLARK, ASST. TREAS. & TRAFFIC MGR.



PHONE 125

CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.
June 28, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

In line with our phone conversation of last night, I am enclosing the lots sent me on one day inspection by J & H Stolow, 50 West 46th Street, New York, 19, NY, together with copy of letter I have written Stolow this date telling them I am returning these lots via Ashbrook and that you will put them in the mail to New York Monday after going over the lots.

Stan - in order to save your time in checking these lots "on inspection" I will refer below to only those of the thirteen lots that I am interested in.

Lot #82 - probably Plate Two but 'might' be Plate Three. Mottled all over.

Lot #84 - Plate One Early, "A" Relief, stamp at left has definite plating mark as indicated on sketch I have attached to it. You should be able to plate it instantly from this mark. Personally I think it must be one of following positions: from right pane 15-17; 35-37; 55-57; 75-77; surely not bottom row "A" reliefs. Anyway, I need any one of the above positions so tell me if you can quickly what it is, Stan, and if you can't tell it instantly, I'll bid high enough on it to get it anyway. Looks like two of the stamps are III-A anyhow.

Lot #89 - might be Plate Three?

Lot #106 Most interesting. Is it OK? What bid suggested?

Lot #108 Nice piece. What bid do you suggest, Stan?

Lot #169 This really intrigues me, Stan. Small Boston PAID on lovely pair of the 12¢. Are other markings OK? Give me your ideas on what to bid.

Lot #183 Nice 35¢ rate to Switzerland. Anything else unusual about this?

Lot #269 I NEED A TRUE "AUGUST". Is this a REAL August? One you would sign?

Lot #365 Used by U.S.Consulate from Shanghai to Yokohama Japan in 1869. Grilled Scott's #89. Unusual. Is it OK? What value?

Lot #380 Never heard of such a 20¢ rate. Did you?

Lot #483 Supposed to be the re-issue OG Scott's #132. Looks regummed to me. Also might be a doctored proof. Comments?

Stan, to save time, why not just make penciled notations on this letter and send it back to me. Yours of June 26th just arrived with the "GYPSEY" cover that I asked you to sign on back and return to me and I would send check. You must have forgotten to sign it so am sending it back again.

I would like to get Lot #120 in this Stolow sale if as described. Can you get

- over -

a look at this lot and let me know what it ought to bring and if it is superb as they describe it. Personally I have no confidence at all in this Stolow outfit. Regards and explain to Mort and Morris that the heat of this past week simply got me down and I'm about pooped out. Mort has promised to stop off in Michigan on his way back East next month and Rene and I will be expecting them. If Morris Fortgang could drop up this way before returning to New York, would enjoy having them. If Morris is going to attend this Stolow sale, you might get him to handle my bids for me same as Mort has done for me a number of times in the past. On the other hand, you might prefer to say nothing about this - I leave this to your good judgment.

Sincerely,

Jock.

J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/k
Enc REG:

June 30, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - the Stolow auction lots -

Lot 82 - I didn't have time to try and plate this but my guess is that it comes from the right pane ofPlate 2.

Lot 83 - This has some peculiar straight line scratches - If you are not going to bid on this I would like to, but don't lay off on my account.

Lot 84 - I have nothing to go by so I can't plate it. Stamp to left has a broken top line - I feel sure this is not from the second row of the right pane. I think you should buy it. Maybe Mort can help on the plating.

Lot 89 - This is surely Plate 3, so don't let it get away. If you get it, send it down and I will see if I can plate it. Perhaps I can.

Lot 106 - A most unusual cover - I suggest you go up as high as $28.00, so as not to miss it. The circular rate to Switzerland was 4¢ - see tables in my 1¢ book - 1852 Rates. This is very pretty - note 1852 color of 1¢.

Lot 108 - Nothing less than $62.50 - a marvelous block.

Lot 169 - As I told you, I never saw this Paid on a 12¢ - The Boston boys will give you strong competition so go up to $77.50. I doubt if you will get it at that. This was paid only to England and is good as gold.

Lot 183 - Okay in every respect - I suggest you go up to $40.00. The 12¢ are Plate 3 and this is a fine pair - pairs of this stamp are very scarce on cover - note the grid - a rare cover. You may be able to steal it.

Lot 269 - Don't bid on this - It is more of a Red Lilac than a Violet. I would not sign this as a No. 60.

Lot 365 - This is okay and a nice cover - It went by a U. S. Mail steamship from Shanghai to Japan, thus a U. S. stamp used outside of the U.S. I suggest a bid of not over $8.50 - The postmark is not real plain.

Lot 380 - A use Oct. 1, 1868 - The rate was 15¢ per ½ oz. Perhaps this was a double and another 10¢ is missing. Don't bid.

Lot 483 - This gum may be okay but I don't like it. My advice - don't buy any of the expensive 1875 re-issues without a certificate by a recognized authority. I am not in that class on these stamps.

Jack, I am charging you a fee of $10.00 for the above examination, and I will

sign any that you get if you wish.

My apology for failure to sign the enclosed packet cover. I was terribly busy last week and it was an oversight.

I got the Stolow letter in the mail by 1 P.M.

The Neinkens and Fortgangs spent yesterday with us and it was a blistering hot day - warmest this year - up to 98 out here - 80 in my stamp room - the girls were most uncomfortable all day - stifling humidity - The Fortgangs stayed over - Mort and Anna left at midnight for Chicago. He plans to return thru Canada and will probably stop off at Detroit, and meet you there.

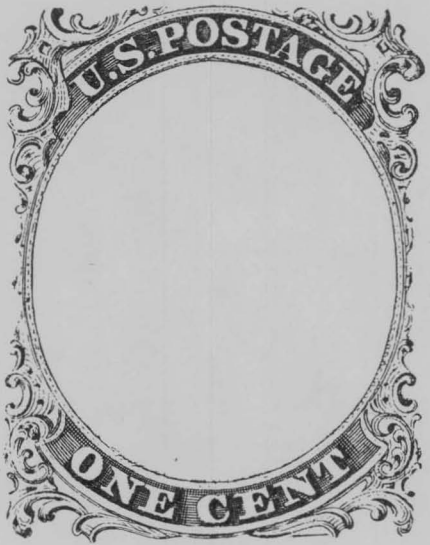
Re - having Fortgang bid for you at auctions - He told me yesterday that he does not attend the N.Y. auctions but has his wife attend and buy for him. Use your own judgement, I will not mention it to him. It is possible he is not going to bid at the sale. He is coming over this afternoon and I'll ask him.

I sent the Stolow "Special Delivery."

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Lot 84



Stan: Note Plating mark above - JZD.
Must be one of following positions:
Which is it?
15-16-17 - R. 1 E
35-36-37
55-56-57 " or 75-76-77

THEODORE GORE
400 BROWN BUILDING
WICHITA, KANSAS

June 26, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a pair of stamps and a letter from Ezra, which is self-explanatory. I have checked the enclosed stamps against some of mine that you were kind enough to classify for me. Actually, their color does not look as good as some that you classify as "early-bird rose-pinks" for me.

I am in no immediate hurry for you to complete the work on the 24¢ stamps. If it will serve your convenience, I would prefer that you take several months additional time for this.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Gore

Theodore Gore

TG/co
encs.

200

June 30, 1952.

Mr. Theodore Gore,

400 Brown Bldg.,

Wichita, Kans.

Dear Mr. Gore:

Herewith the pair of the 3¢ 1861. While this is not a "Pigeon" it is quite a fine "S.U.S. Pink" - and in my opinion quite a scarce item. In fact, I think a vertical pair of the 3¢ Pink is rare. I doubt if I have seen one for many years.

Your 24¢ collection is going to you today via Express.

My fee for the work is $200.00 and I hope my classification meets with your approval.

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

6-23-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Many thanks for the return and comments on the 44 rate to Paris.

Also enjoyed very much your last Special Service. I am glad that you are calling attention to fakes and poor descriptions in current auctions. There is no excuse for this, because these fellows are qualified to do better than they try.

I had a long trading session with Edgar about a week ago and ended up with some suspicious 1908 cpls. I think Ed gave was taken on these. If I can find one good one in the lot, I will be lucky. I got them for my friend Hindes, but they will probably end up in my collection of fakes. Edgar said they were O.K., but I think he

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

was pulling a fast one.

Enclosed is a cover which arrived today. It may have been fooled with, but the rate is right and the combination very rare. I wonder if you can help me with it. Originally I suspect that where the Cariboo stamp is placed, there may have been a pair of 5¢ & 6¢s, each tied by the cog. There may have been replaced by the Cariboo stamp and the 10¢ cog pasted over it. However, there is a bare chance that the item is OK. There is also the possibility that originally there were 2-3¢ ~~to~~ 1¢ 6¢s where the Cariboo stamps, 10¢ & 6¢ and 2 British Columbia stamps are placed, and that the SF cancellation has been painted on to the British Columbia stamps. If the faker was that good, I don't see why he didn't scratch out those 4 dots which suggest the presence of another stamp at one time. What do you think?

Sincerely,
Wilbur Poland

July 1, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

Please pardon the delay in returning the enclosed cover. I was tied up all last week on an urgent piece of work and had to let everything else slide.

Regarding the cover - The use was surely 1865 and of course the rate from S.F. at that time was 10¢ to Canada from S.F. - Therefore, I think this 10¢ stamp was used. I don't think there is anything wrong with the part of the S.F. postmark on the Vancouver stamp. I believe that the 10¢ stamp was originally farther to the left and the arms of the cog matched the four dots to left. In other words, what I have been trying to state is, that all that is wrong is, that the 10¢ stamp was moved farther to the right. One wonders why?

I note that you had a long trading session recently with Edgar. I sure would enjoy being an innocent and silent bystander at one of those sessions.

Mort Neinken of New York spent Sunday with me and is now on his way to the Coast. No doubt Edgar will have you meet him. Mort is quite a student of the 1¢ 1851-57 and the 10¢ 1855-57.

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 GLENWOOD 4-2451

7-5-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your opinion on the Vancouver, San Francisco combination etc. Your explanation is a good one. The stamp was moved over to show the sticker better, I think.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely.

W Scott Polland

Seattle, Wash.
June 28, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Received the statement of June 1 and your letter of June 15. Also the first number in the second series of the "Service."

It is good to hear that you are feeling better. From your remarks I judge you are plagued with some variety of stomach ulcer. I quite agree that a correct diet faithfully adhered to is more likely to effect a complete cure than a surgeons knife. Peace of mind with complete freedom from nervous tensions is also very important in such cases

I'm taking the liberty of sending three items for your inspection.

① A pair of 1¢-1857 on cover. This looks to me like a letter rather than a printed circular indicated by the two cent rate.

② 3¢-1857. A copy with most unusual margins. The largest I've seen. Looks like the work of a collector.

③ 3¢-1857 on cover. This color is quite different from any others I have. Would you mind telling me how you would classify the colors of ② & ③?

The enclosed check is to apply on the "Service". I haven't forgotten this obligation and hope to take up the slack before long.

I note you have been having a spell of hot weather in the middle and eastern States. It is fortunate that you are in the hills away from town where the heat doesn't bother so much. Our weather has been decidedly on the cool side. Next week I'm going back to Moses Lake for another session and no doubt it will be much warmer there.

All kindest regards.

Cordially yours
D. H. McIlroy.

July 1, 1952.

Mr. D. N. McInroy,
16003 - 15th Ave., S.W.,
Seattle 66, Wash.

Dear Mr. McInroy:

Thanks very much for yours of the 28th with check for $25.00, which I have credited to your account on your 1951-1952 subscription to my Special Service.

Herewith I am returning the single copy of the 3¢ 1851 and the two covers. Here are some remarks:

(1) Pair of 1¢ 1851 on cover - Stamps are Type IV. This is, in my opinion, quite a nice cover and I have an idea it is the cover mentioned in my One Cent book, Vol. 2, page 169, third paragraph from the bottom. Such a cover was in the Jefferys collection. Would you have any objection to telling me when and where you obtained this cover? It was a New Orleans Local delivery letter, 1¢ for the Local Rate (referred to as Drop) and 1¢ to prepay City Delivery Post Rate of 1¢. See description on pages 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172 and 173. The red marking is a New Orleans postmark. There is no evidence that this was actually delivered by the Penny Post. In fact, it is quite questionable that it was, because there is no such evidence in the way of one of their markings. This cover should go into a specialized collection of Carrier covers. I wonder if you would sell it to me? I have made quite a study of the Carrier system and collect such material.

3¢ 1851. This is indeed a most unusual item and it would be pure speculation to attempt to account for the portions of adjoining stamps on the three sides. The color is the 1852 - "Dull Rose Claret.

Re - the color of the pair of 1¢ - This is a bit of a changeling - that is, the color is a bit washed out and faded, probably due to Climatic conditions at New Orleans over a long period. I took the cover out of the tight covering and put it into another. I believe it is a bad policy to cover up a cover, or stamp, (especially an o.g. copy) in such a way as to exclude air. I think this was a use about 1854 - Dec. 1854.

3¢ 1857 - Type II - I judge this use was either March 1860 or March 1861 - I don't think there is anything unusual about this color though I do think it is a bit oxidized.

I had an attack of gall bladder trouble in April and was in the hospital for four days for a check-up. I am on a strict diet and have not had any discomfort from it since the middle of May. I am hoping I can this avoid an operation.

Yes, we have been having some very torrid weather with high humidity - Last Sunday was almost unbearable. A high of 97 was reported but out in the sun it felt like an oven. A great many deaths have been caused by the extreme heat.

The red raspberry season is with us and it only lasts a few weeks. We have a man who raises them and we take all he can supply. I was saying to Mrs. Ashbrook the other day that I wished I could express some to Mrs. McInroy and you but it would be useless to try as they spoil soon after being picked unless kept very cold.

With every good wish - Sincerely yours,

Please send by Penny post

DEC

Master Leacock

Corner Pleasville and Rampart St

Red
N.O.

No
Year

Black

See Vol 2
p 169
3rd paragraph
From Bottom

S.B. 24 p. 10

N. O.

C541

C54

Thank you very much Mr. Ashbrook.
I am still searching for 1869 material
especially a block of the 10¢

J. Paul

due 3.33 PAID JUL - 1 1952

June 26, 1952.

Mr. James R. Paul,

Box 1210,

Ashland, Ky.

Dear Mr. Paul:

Herewith the 2¢ 1869 cover which I have endorsed on the back. As I stated, there is little evidence to prove that this is genuine but it is, in my opinion. A faker would hardly use an unused pair by cutting off half a stamp, and it certainly don't appear that a genuinely used pair was cut to put on this cover. In addition, had this been made, I believe a faker would have tried to make it more convincing.

I am only charging you $3.00 plus registration or $3.33.

Sincerely yours,

c/o Ky. & W. Va. Power Co.
Box 1210 Ashland, Ky.
June 24, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Inclosed is cover about which I recently wrote to you.

Will you please examine it and let me have your opinion. Please bill me for charges.

Yours truly,

James R. Paul

James R. Paul

c/o Ky. & W. Va. Power Co.
Box 1210 Ashland, Ky.
June 21, 1952

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

Dear Sir:

I recently acquired a cover at auction which may or may not be an example of a bisected 2 cent 1869.

I wondered if you would expertize this cover for me and if so what your charge would be. I would be glad to give you any information that I have on the cover but I am afraid that it is very little.

Yours truly

James R. Paul

James R. Paul
A. P. S. # 769-28718

June 23, 1952.

Mr. James R. Paul,

Box 1210,

Ashland, Ky.

Dear Mr. Paul:

Replying to yours of the 21st. It frequently happens that there is insufficient evidence as to the genuineness of a cover to warrant a definite opinion. In such case I decline to give an opinion, and, of course, there is no fee other than the return registered postage. If I can find evidence that the cover is genuine my fee would be $5.00, but if it is not, the fee would be $3.50.

Sincerely yours,

July 1, 1952.

Mr. Fred A. Spielman,
P. O. Box 377,
Fairfield, Iowa.

Dear Fred:

Yours of the 30th received.

Whether the 5¢ 1847 cover would be worth as high a price as $150.00 would depend entirely on the condition. If it is satisfactory I will be glad to buy the cover, otherwise no. I suggest you send it over to me because one cannot tell much about the color of a stamp by a photostat.

Regarding a visit to Iowa in October. At present it would be impossible for me to make any engagements in advance. I had an attack of gall stones this spring and the doctors wanted to operate right away but I decided to see what a strict diet would accomplish. At present I am okay but I know what I will do if I have a return attack. Because of this situation I am not making any plans for the summer or fall. Your invitation sounds most attractive and I assure you it would be a pleasure to accept.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Spielman and you, I am

Cordially yours,

A. P. S. T. M. P. S. C. P. S.

FRED A. SPIELMAN
P. O. BOX 377
FAIRFIELD, IOWA
DEALER IN U. S. STAMPS

6/30/52

Dear Stan.

My type writer just developed a "hot box" so I'll try my pen. between the heat and salotics. its a tough summer. will be glad when both are over. I have been away on two trips. and I notice in your last letter you were interested in the Mich Cent R.R. Cover I sent you photostat of. and as several parties have been wanting to buy it. I wanted to give you the preference

If you want it, a dealer in
N.Y. offered me $125.00 for it, and
a Collector of B.R. Cancels is very
anxious to have me price it, and
I decided to sell it for $150. Which
seems to me very reasonable as
it is very unusual, and a wonderful
strike. I sold Sol Newberry one
not a B.R. but brantford strike in red
for $150.00, and this B.R. should sell
considerable more. We have a
lot of visitors this summer driving
through. Herman Hunt, Mr & Mrs Blake
Battles were here a few days ago.
and many others, all are very
Enjoyable, as the Conventions are all too
far away. Will be glad to hear from you then.
Best wishes. Ruth

A. P. S. T. M. P. S. C. P. S.

FRED A. SPIELMAN
P. O. BOX 377
FAIRFIELD, IOWA
DEALER IN U. S. STAMPS

4/5/52

Dear Stan.

I have a cover I thought might be of interest, and will enclose a photostat picture of it. I never saw as early a date R. R. cover. Must have been in the 40's. The stamp is a splendid copy, fine color, and beautifully hit on the nose. What is your opinion of it.

Hope the cyclones in the South has missed you. It has been a tough winter, and the Mrs has been poorly. Hope Spring & Sunshine will be a good tonic for her.

With Best Wishes, Fred.

April 9, 1952.

Mr. F. A. Spielman,

502 East Burlington St.,

Fairfield, Iowa.

Dear Fred:

Thanks for a look at the enclosed photo-print. This is an extremely nice cover and I sure wish that you would sell it to me. If you can and will, please forward.

We had some high winds here but no bad damage and though the winter has been of long duration, it could have been worse. Not a great deal of snow and ice.

Was sorry to learn that Mrs. Spielman has not been well. Perhaps with Spring and warmer weather just around the corner she will show much improvement. Give her our kindest regards and tell her that we trust she is all okay by now.

Cordially yours,

F. A. SPIELMAN
502 EAST BURLINGTON STREET
FAIRFIELD, IOWA

AIR VIA MAIL

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

July 16, 1952.

Mr. F. A. Spielman,

502 East Burlington St.,

Fairfield, Iowa.

Dear Fred:

Yours of the 4th received with the 5¢ 1847 cover for which I am enclosing check herewith for $150.00. Whenever you get anything nice (or fine) in 19th Century U. S. covers I will appreciate the favor if you submit same to me. I am in close touch with the principal buyers of such material and the chances are I could use anything unusual.

I was pleased to have such a good report from you on the two gall bladder cases. I am sticking to my diet and I have not had any return of the trouble. The truth is, I am feeling fine at present.

Good luck to you Fred and best of wishes to Mrs. Spielman and you.

Cordially yours,

A. P. S. T. M. P. S. C. P. S.

FRED A. SPIELMAN
P. O. BOX 377
FAIRFIELD, IOWA
DEALER IN U. S. STAMPS

7/4/52.

Dear Stan.

I have your letter and sorry to learn of your gall stone trouble, and hope you can whip it with out an operation, and it has been done many times, One winter when we were in California Mrs S, had an attack that took her to the hospital and through the Clinic, and they said her trouble was gaul bladder trouble and might need surgery, but we put it off and she never had serious trouble after, my Mother was taken seriously ill and we had 3 Drs here in consultation, and they informed me she could not get well, but she lived 12 years after that which indicates that nature does not always agree with the medical men,

I will enclose the cover on approval as requested, and it is a wonderful strike. Herman Hurst when here wanted to put it in his auction, and he said pairs with R.R.czncel were more common than singles. at least I never saw one before.

I sincerely hope your are as good as new very soon, and that come Oct you can make the trip out here as I am sure you will enjoy every minute of it, the weather at that time is delightful the frost is on the pumpkin and the corn is in the shock. and you will enjoy a new experiance in Hospitality. this will be so different from A.P.S.and S.P.A. shows, and no August heat,

With Best Wishes. Sincerly.

Fred

B170

WHITE ENVELOPE

B170

B170 BY FRED SPIELMAN 7/1-52 PRICE $150

1851

Paid 5

Rev Hiram Elmer
Jackson
Mich

A132 PHOTO PRINT BY FRED SPEILMAN APR 9 1952

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31

June 28, 1952.

Mr. W. S. Boggs,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Pardon the delay in replying to yours of the 23rd.

First - regarding the cover with the Brick Red. I have known this cover and all about it way back to 1936 when it was sent to me by a London dealer. I made a thorough examination of it at the time, and to verify my opinion that it was a rank fake I sent it to Carroll Chase who confirmed my opinion. I then sent it to Hugh Clark and warned him against being led to list it as an early use of the Brick. Hugh showed it to Knapp and several others and they all agreed that it was a fake. I believe it was made by Zareski. A year or so later the present owner was in London and the dealer who sent it to me sold it as a genuine cover. The owner showed it to George Sloane, and he pronounced it genuine and wrote an article about it in STAMPS as the "earliest known use" of the 5¢ Brick Red. I wrote Sloane he was badly mistaken, and again advised the owner it was bad.

This cover shows a 5¢ 1857 Brick Red with a use on April 6, 1859 - As you are aware, Chase and I have been searching for over 35 years for "earliest dates" of use. For years we were never able to find a use earlier than 1859, then I gradually pushed the date back to early October 1858 and there it has remained since 1935. To anyone who has made such an intensive search for early dates as I have it is absolutely unthinkable that a Brick could have been used in April 1859. Of course, such research work would mean nothing to an Expert of the Sloane caliber. There is no use in me going into all the minute details about why this cover is a fake but the Committee can rest assured that it is bad. You will note this date is not recorded in the S.U.S. In fact, no date is given, because I have protested against such a listing after Harmer took over as Editor.

This cover went to France and of course there was no 35¢ rate at any time to that country. In my search for facts I dug up other covers from this same correspondence and they showed that the firm in New Orleans who sent this letter knew the proper rate and did not pay 35¢ on a ½ ounce letter to this same address.

Last summer I again borrowed the cover and sent it to a friend down East who has quite a fine laboratory. I will not mention his name or quote him but after a thorough examination he gave me no cause to infer that my analysis of the cover was at fault in any particular. I even wrote Zareski and sent him a photograph and accused him of faking this cover and requesting him to verify my suspicion. I thought perhaps the lousy crook might do one good deed and confess that he made this thing but the bum was very much insulted at my letter. I informed him that some "Experts" on this side thought this was quite a clever piece of work but that I thought it was quite a botch and must have been made by an amateur plumber with plumber tools.

I hope the Committee don't make another Knapp cover error. That mistake was

too damn silly for words.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Em
Please note
and return

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

June 28, 1952.

Mr. W. S. Boggs,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

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This cover shows a 5¢ 1857 Brick Red with a use on April 6, 1858 - As you are aware, Chase and I have been searching for over 35 years for "earliest dates" of use. For years we were never able to find a use earlier than 1859, then I gradually pushed the date back to early October 1858 and there it has remained since 1935. To anyone who has made such an intensive search for early dates as I have it is absolutely unthinkable that a Brick could have been used in April 1858. Of course, such research work would mean nothing to an Expert of the Sloane caliber. There is no use in me going into all the minute details about why this cover is a fake but the Committee can rest assured that it is bad. You will note this date is not recorded in the S.U.S. In fact, no date is given, because I have protested against such a listing after Harmer took over as Editor.

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With regards -

Sincerely yours,
STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.
MURRAY HILL 3-5667
WINTHROP S. BOGGS, DIRECTOR

June 23, 1952

Dear Stan:-

My good secretary having gone on her vacation, I hope you will forgive the handwriting.

Needless to say I am pleased indeed to hear that the diet appears to be helpful and that you feel much better. Let's hope this keeps up.

In view of my having to stay at a hotel I think I had better go to the Terrace Plaza, and phone you when I have settled there. Also as soon as I have looked over my schedule I will try to arrange the date which will be in the middle of the week.

In regard to a cover as you describe, the Committee still has it before them, and I enclose a photo of it, and I presume it is the one you have in mind. If you desire I can send the actual cover to you - but if you know the history of it - perhaps this photo will be sufficient. You may rest

2. Ashbrooks 6/23/52

assured that the committee would not render an opinion on this cover without having what information you could supply before them.

I am looking forward to visiting you and I think that you and I can have a heart to heart talk — for we are both keenly interested in philately — you perhaps for a longer time than I, and there is still a lot to be done —

Regards

Wais.

June 28, 1952.

Mr. W. S. Boggs,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Pardon the delay in replying to yours of the 23rd.

First - regarding the cover with the Brick Red. I have known this cover and all about it way back to 1936 when it was sent to me by a London dealer. I made a thorough examination of it at the time, and to verify my opinion that it was a rank fake I sent it to Carroll Chase who confirmed my opinion. I then sent it to Hugh Clark and warned him against being led to list it as an early use of the Brick. Hugh showed it to Knapp and several others and they all agreed that it was a fake. I believe it was made by Zareski. A year or so later the present owner was in London and the dealer who sent it to me sold it as a genuine cover. The owner showed it to George Sloane, and he pronounced it genuine and wrote an article about it in STAMPS as the "earliest known use" of the 5¢ Brick Red. I wrote Sloane he was badly mistaken, and again advised the owner it was bad.

This cover shows a 5¢ 1857 Brick Red with a use on April 6, 1858 - As you are aware, Chase and I have been searching for over 35 years for "earliest dates" of use. For years we were never able to find a use earlier than 1859, then I gradually pushed the date back to early October 1858 and there it has remained since 1935. To anyone who has made such an intensive search for early dates as I have it is absolutely unthinkable that a Brick could have been used in April 1858. Of course, such research work would mean nothing to an Expert of the Sloane caliber. There is no use in me going into all the minute details about why this cover is a fake but the Committee can rest assured that it is bad. You will note this date is not recorded in the S.U.S. In fact, no date is given, because I have protested against such a listing after Harmer took over as Editor.

This cover went to France and of course there was no 35¢ rate at any time to that country. In my search for facts I dug up other covers from this same correspondence and they showed that the firm in New Orleans who sent this letter knew the proper rate and did not pay 35¢ on a ½ ounce letter to this same address.

Last summer I again borrowed the cover and sent it to a friend down East who has quite a fine laboratory. I will not mention his name or quote him but after a thorough examination he gave me no cause to infer that my analysis of the cover was at fault in any particular. I even wrote Zareski and sent him a photograph and accused him of faking this cover and requesting him to verify my suspicion. I thought perhaps the lousy crook might do one good deed and confess that he made this thing but the bum was very much insulted at my letter. I informed him that some "Experts" on this side thought this was quite a clever piece of work but that I thought it was quite a botch and must have been made by an amateur plumber with plumber tools.

I hope the Committee don't make another Knapp cover error. That mistake was

too damn silly for words.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE
☆ ☆ ☆ PUBLISHERS: JEFFERSON JONES — M. C. JONES ☆ ☆ ☆
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

June 20,1952.

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

Dear Mr.Ashbrook:

I inclose check for $100 in payment for your special service reports for another year. While I do not have the time now for things philatelic I do enjoy reading your comments.

I inclose a cover that intrigues me. The paper of this 3-cent '69 looks different than normal copies but maybe it being "imperf" is stirring my imagination. I inclose a stamped envelope for its return.

We have excellent hunting and fishing here in the Rockies but damned if I can get a good philatelic picture taken. I recall Les Brookman stating years ago that you might do some work for me on that score. I have a few covers that I would like to have photographed and I thought if I could buy such service from you I would shoot one or two along every now and then.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jones

June 23, 1952.

Mr. Jefferson Jones,
Box 506,
Bozeman, Montana.

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thanks very much for yours of the 20th with check for $100 for the 1952-1953 subscription to my Special Service.

Regarding the 3¢ 1869 cover which I am returning herewith. It is rather difficult to determine whether a use such as this is genuine or not because the boys who rack their brains to fake covers really do turn out some very clever work and I imagine a cover like the enclosed would be very easy for them to turn out. I have noted items where they removed a perforated stamp, cut off the perfs, sand papered the surface where the stamp had been and then replaced it and painted the cancel to make a perfect tie.

However, this cover appears to have gone thru the mail as we see it, but by 1869, the number of "stamp collectors" ran into the thousands and a great many were turning out freak items, such as bisects of the 2¢ Black Jack and the 2¢ 1869 and later, of the 2¢ Bank Note.

Personally I have little use for "freaks". For instance, I do not believe that the P.O. Dept. ever issued any 3¢ 1869 stamps in imperforate condition to the public. If they did, then even a legitimate single wouldn't mean any more than a trimmed single - but a pair would be different. Therefore, if a person feels inclined to collect "imperforates" I think they should be collected only in pairs. Do you not agree?

Regarding the paper of the enclosed copy, it looks like the normal variety to me and so does the grill.

If you want photographs of any of your covers I will be only too glad to make them for you. I charge $2.00 per cover but if you would want any quantity I could make a reduction. They would be on a par with those which are supplied with my Service. These are made on Panchromatic plates and photographed thru color filters to bring out all the markings. Where just a record of a lot of covers is desired I make exposures on microfilms and furnish enlargements of any size desired. However, these do not bring out all of the colored postal markings.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

July 3, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 1st received with return of the 1¢ 1857 - irregular block from Plate 4. Thanks.

Re - the enclosed cover - This is a Denver cover and is from the collection of Arthur Black of Charlotte, N.C. I don't think this cover has any special value and I informed him to that effect last winter. He has an idea the W.F. & Co. marking is on the stamp but I don't. I think the stamp is over the blue oval. I don't see anything unusual about this cover - This W.F. & Co. - S.F. marking is very common and its use on this cover don't mean anything - The cover was carried to S.F. by W.F. & Co. and a small oval Paid shows payment of their fee, and postage to the East - The letter was carried to New York by a W.F. & Co. messenger and mailed there - nothing unusual about this. I don't think the cover has any value over and above a 10¢ Type II on cover. I couldn't charge you for the above.

I haven't heard from Huber so I have no advice as to what he bought in the Costales Sale. If I hear I will let you know.

Could you use a mint block of the 10¢ 1857 - Type V - 2H x 3V or a vert. pair used of the 90¢ 1867 grill?

Regards.

Yours etc.,

LEEDY--WFL
LUDWIG & LUDWIG
BUESCHER--ELKHART
MARTIN--OLDS
SELMER--LEBLANC--BUFFET
PEDLER--LINTON
LYONS--MONARCH
PENZEL--MUELLER

STRING INSTRUMENTS
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REPAIRING

PHONE
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0257-8-9

Lyons
BAND INSTRUMENT CO. INC.

Complete Band and Orchestra Equipment

223 W. LAKE STREET
CHICAGO 6, ILL.

May 31, 1952.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook,
Box 31,
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear friend Mr. Ashbrook:

I have been working down in Georgia, Florida, and North & South Carolina for the past 4 years and have become very deeply interested in Confederate postal history to the extent that I now have a four volume collection of Confederate covers, including such items as a 2¢ Mobile, Baton Rouge 5¢ green & carmen, 2 Nashville, Tenn., one the violet brown and the other carmen, the Petersburg, Va., several Mobile and Memphis postmasters' provisionals, as well as a nice collection of wall paper Patriotics. etc -

I am going to try to get this material all lettered up for exhibition in the Fall, having already written it up in pencil, preparatory to lettering it in ink.

When I was in Columbia, S. C., I talked to Dr. George Coffin Taylor and he told me that you had been doing some research work on the Sorghum Creek Prison of Columbia and that he thought you had already published the article. I have a Prisoner of War cover sent out from Columbia, S. C., to Dennysville, Maine, which has a 10¢ type one Confederate stamp with a circular due six marking and cancelled Old Point Comfort Jan. 18th. In the upper left-hand corner, shows the letter as being from "Lt. J. P. Sheahan, Prisoner of War, Columbia, S. C." and is one of the few covers that came through from the South to the North.

Do you have your Sorghum Creek Prison article available that you could send me a copy of, and also in your research did you come across the name of J. P. Sheahan, as being among those interned at that place? If you do have it, please forward it along and let me know how much I owe you for it.

If you have a list of some of your personal Confederate covers that you might be interested in disposing of, you might send along a list of it too, for consideration.
Regards.

Walter G. Strait

(Box 140, Fox River Grove, Ill.)

June 12, 1952.

Mr. Walter G. Strait,
Box 140,
Fox River Grove, Ill.

Dear Walter:

After a long silence I can assure you that I was pleased to receive yours of the 31st. Also glad to learn that you are interested in Confederates and I will send you up some items in the near future. Please note the enclosed card. Have you a copy? Also do you belong to the Confederate Society - called the "C.S.A.? - the Confederate State Alliance? "Gossip" from time to time carries some fine articles on Confeds. Do you subscribe? In February they published a special number.

Dr. George C. Taylor of Columbia, S.C. is an old and valued friend, a very fine gentleman.

I never published an article on the Richland Prison at Columbia or the "Sorghum Creek Prison" but I did seek some information from Dr. Taylor on the Richland.

I sold a cover to R. M. Wilkinson of Shelby, Ohio and he wrote an article about it for "STAMPS." I cannot tell you offhand in what Issue it appeared but his address is "Box 129" in case you care to write him.

I rather imagine your cover is from the Richland Prison rather than the Sorgham Creek. If you care to do so I suggest you send it to me and perhaps I can give you some data regarding it.

Confeds are a wonderful specialty and there is no safer or sounder philatelic investment. They say one can't eat his cake and still have it but they can do that very thing if they collect Confederates in a sane and serious manner.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

See S. B. 24 - p. 16.

Fox River Grove, Ill.
June 2, 1952

Dear friend Stan:

Many thanks for your nice letter - Was indeed a pleasure to hear from you.

Have written Mr. Wilkinson of Shelby Ohio regarding his Richland Prison cover which was the subject of an article by him in Stamps - Thanks for the information.

Enclosed you well find the Columbia Prisoner of War cover I have in my own collection. Will appreciate any information you can give me on it.

I am a member of the C.S.A and have been for about 4 or 5 years: Have all source material on the Confederacy I can find, including the booklet shown on your card enclosure.

Will probably be seeing Dr Taylor at Columbia sometime after Sept when I go back down to Georgia to work. Will give him your regards.

Am looking forward to receiving the material you mentioned you would be sending in the near future. Do you have a 2¢ green on cover?

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Walter G. Strait
Box 140
Fox River Grove, Ill

July 10, 1952.

Mr. Walter G. Strait,
Box 140,
Fox River Grove,
Ill.

Dear Walter:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the Columbia, S.C. P of W cover which I am returning herewith. I consider this quite a scarce and desirable item and the condition is all that could be desired. I suppose you are aware that the memo on the back is in the handwriting of Carroll Chase and I judge it was made many years ago. I think at one time Carroll collected Confederates, but that was indeed many years in the dim and distant past. I feel quite certain that the officer who wrote this letter was confined at Richland Prison (Richland Jail) at Columbia, S.C. In all probability the Jan. 18, date was 1864. All evidence points to that I think.

This letter was doubtless sent under separate cover (with a batch of others) to Richmond, and placed in the hands of the Exchange officer and later sent by Exchange with the Federals - thence to Old Point Comfort where it entered the U. S. Mail. On unpaid U. S. mail, double postage was charged, hence the "Due 6." This seems unjust to me. Here was a Federal officer - a P of W in a Confederate prison writing home and his people were charged double postage on a letter from him.

I find that this cover was Lot 334 in a sal by Billig & Rich on Feb. 7, 1950.

I believe I sold Wilkinson a cover very similar to this and he wrote an article about it for STAMPS. That cover had the original letter dated inside - "Richland Prison Dec 13 1863" - The Old Point postmark was "Jan. 21" but there was no evidence of payment of Confed postage - It was also U. S. "Due 6." The writer was also an officer. Wilkinson is a fine chap and is very good on research work.

I have been so busy I haven't had a chance to look up some Confed material for you but will get around to it in time.

I had some correspondence with Dr. Taylor re - Richland Prison but he was not able to supply much information. I imagine he is well along in years. Columbia is a very interesting town.

Cordially yours,

H. G. P. Sheahen
Prisoner of War
Columbia S.C.

Exam
Chapman

JAN 18
VA.

DUE
6

Black

Black

POSTAGE
10 CENTS

John Sheahen Esq
Dennysville
Washington Co
Maine

Care of R. Ould.
Richmond Va

W.G.S.

See S.B. 24 - p. 16.

Yorktown Heights, N.Y.
10 July 1952

Stanley R. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas
Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

In the 28 June issue of Stamps is an announcement stating that you would like to see covers with #76 affixed. I believe the enclosed cover is franked with #76 although I might be wrong in my identification. According to the enclosed letter the date is 22 January 1863 and probably the cancellation date is 23 January. Why a five cent stamp I don't know unless it was the only one at hand. The cancellation is one which was used on the 3¢ 1851 issue and the postmark is one which was in use at White Plains about this time. The older ones usually had a hyphen between White and Plains.

I hope the enclosed covers will be of value to you in your research. Enclose a stamped addressed envelope for its return.

Very truly yours,

John Lemmill

July 12, 1952.

Mr. John Gemmill,
R.F.D. #2,
Yorktown Heights, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gemmill:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the enclosed cover which I am returning herewith. This copy is so dirty and faded that it is a bit difficult to decide just what color it was originally but I doubt if there is much question but what it was the 5¢ Buff, S.U.S. #67 - probably the "67A" - "BROWN YELLOW" - but what I would term - a "Brownish Buff" - (if there is such a term).

I believe this stamp was originally used as we see it and two questions might well be asked, viz: (1) Why a rate of 5¢ when only 3¢ was required, and (2) Why such a dirty and faded stamp. I believe that the answer to the first is contained in an explanation of the second - viz - When the war broke out in earnest in the fall of 1861, specie was hoarded and small coins became very scarce. One of the substitutes was the then current unused postage stamps, and, of course, the 5¢ stamp was much in demand. I believe that this 5¢ stamp was used in that manner and as a result accumulated all the dirt and faded to quite an extent. Being in such deplorable condition it was used as we see it.

While your cover is not very attractive it is in my opinion a scarce cover - much rarer as a cover than one with a superb copy of #67, and the reason is, that years ago, collectors did not save a stamp as disreputable as this copy, or retain a cover with such a copy.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--I enclose postage to reimburse you.

(24-17)

A. S. D. A.
A.P.S. No. 19844 C.S.A. No. 483 S.P.A. No. 12627

Jack E. Molesworth
Philatelic Broker
102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

July 11, 1952.

Dear Stan,

I'm enclosing a cover that you have signed at one time before which I have on consignment. I have a client who wants it, but suspicions that the 7R1E may have a tiny skinned spot on the cheek of Franklin. I'm undecided myself but am tending to agree with him, though I do not have a strong enough glass to be sure. Since you have seen the cover before and my client wants your opinion on this point I'm sending it along. Also, enclosed is a #118 on cover. Do you believe it was originally used on this cover? Advise your fee for both of these opinions and I shall remit promptly.

The P.F. has stubbed its toe again. A #85B and #143 grills that I sold Stone for Huber have been turned down a second time in spite of a written opinion by Brookman on both that they are as good as gold. Who the hell issues opinions for them on grills? It makes me mad enough to sue them if I could find some legal grounds for such an action. It is high time we had an expertising organization in this country that includes the leading experts like yourself and Brookman rather than second rate ones or collectors who have more money than brains or experience.

I'm sure Ed Stern is dealing with Huber, but he denied that Huber was his customer when I saw him at the Costales sale and advised that he not buy for him in the sale since he was bidding himself.

With best wishes,

Jack

July 12, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Your Air Registered Special with the two covers did not arrive until 2:30 P.M. Saturday afternoon - (today) - too late to return Registered - so I will have to hold it over until Monday.

I sold this cover to Emmerson Krug on commission for Ernie Jacobs along about 1938 - I doubt if it was later. The price was $1500.00. Krug sold the cover to the Weills of New Orleans along about 1947 or 1948 and I think he figured he got $1750.00 for it. Later I think it was offered @ $2000.00. This is for your own information, though if you wish to impart it to your client as confidential, I have no special objection.

When I sold the cover to Mr. Krug I advised him to remove the strip from the cover because the cover is not very pretty and the stamp to left (6R1E) has a tear (thru "N" of "One.") I stated this would give a fine off cover pair of 7R1E - 8R1E - a 7 or 8 with such a wide sheet at top is most unusual and this fact far offsets, in my opinion, the slight (very slight) "defect" on the cheek on 7R1E. I have an enlarged photograph that I mdde of the strip years ago and it shows this defect to be most minor and in my opinion of no consequence. The 8R1E is apparently uncanceled but if you will examine it carefully you will detect signs of some faded pen lines. I don't think these were pen lines removed but rather pen lines (quill) that have faded. I know the history of this cover, that Jacobs and Brookman obtained it from an original "find" - from a woman in Pittsburgh and I am positive neither one would remove any pen lines from a stamp. As I recall, Brookman made the find and sold the cover to Jacobs, who in turn placed it in my hands for sale. I will make a photograph by ultra-violet to see if any pen lines show up on 8R1E.

Jack, as you are aware, the 7R1E is a scarce stamp and copies are quite hard to find. I don't think a person can go wrong if he buys this cover at a right price. What that is I will leave to your good judgement.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

July 12, 1952.

Mr. Jack Molesworth,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 15¢ 1869 cover - You will note I have endorsed same on the back. The markings show that this was originally a 15¢ rate by American Packet to England, thence to France. The date of July 3, 1869 is correct as an American Packet sailed on that date - a Saturday - with the U.S.Mail.

Jack, there is no fee on these two covers. I appreciate the favor of the Rust subscription and this is a small measure of my appreciation.

I note your remarks re - the P.F. and Huber. I don't know what can be done nor have I any idea who passes on grills for them, but I intend to find out. I don't think it is E. Perry but it might be. Outside of Perry and Brookman I wouldn't give a damn for anyone else's opinion. I think it is foolish for anyone to put much money in grills because I think it would not be difficult to make imitation punches in paper. As for me, I want no part. I am content to leave the expertizing of grills to those Experts who think they can tell the good from the bad. Sometimes I wonder?

I haven't heard from Huber recently so I don't know what he is doing. There are some circumstances surrounding his activities which are a bit suspicious - in my humble opinion - Be careful.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

(24-18)

B173

THE KRUG STRIP BY QUARTZ

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Sat. P.M. 7/12/52.

Dear Stan,

Since writing you this morning the lots came from Stolow or rather Colby. I only got a very few, mostly off cover. But I did get the 12¢ 1851 pair I wanted so badly. In fact if it was not for that one I would have passed up the sale. But Sy wrote to be very careful about any lots and to return any that looked fishy. I am alright on five of the ten, they being 20th century and the sixth one is the above 12¢ pair. But these four I would a little rather have you pass on whether they are O.K. You may not have time to rush them back but just let me know whether they are O.K. so I can pay Stolow.

Do Top Perfs look OKAY? 281- 5¢ Buff- (San Fran Cog ?) 37.00 Not S.F. Cog

311- 24¢ 1861 Pair. (These are the ones supposed to be Brown-Lilac Are they?) 57.50
Dark Red Lilac Not Brown Lilac

321- 30¢ 1861- Is this the French Ship Caneel they claim? — Yes 56.00

ok ✓ 441- 15¢ 1869 on cover. Is it Good? Yes 57.50 To Swiss July 1870 —

ok ✓ Then I am returning as long as it is to be registered anyway the Chicago for your signature. 68.25 Signed —

Will you drop me a line if they are O.K.

Did I go too strong on the 12¢ 1851 pair?

Sincerely,

Register For $276.25

P.S. How did you like the candidate?

114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N.Y.
July 5, 1952.

Dear Stanley:

I am enclosing herewith the article on the 1¢ 1857 by Harry Jefferys which appeared in the Collectors Club Philatelist, October, 1945.

This philatelic "masterpiece" which we discussed the other day, is the only thing, fortunately, that I have ever read from the pen of Mr.Jefferys. His object in writing this story was to show that he knew nothing about the 1¢ '57s. Furthermore, he succeeded in proving that he couldn't write a grammatical sentence. He is incoherent, ambiguous and utterly confusing, and if the reader ever entertained any thoughts about collecting this issue, he was discouraged by the time he had reached the third paragraph.

Let us select at random a sample of this "master's" research. Quote: "There is a big shift at the bottom of position 52 R 9. It has the appearance of a dropped relief and quite probably was. It is under the "C" of CENT." Unquote. What the hell is this poor fellow raving about? Isn't it clearly evident that he "has lost his marbles" as they say in the jargon of the street?

Nor is this an isolated example. You will note, Stanley, in paragraph after paragraph that his remarks would be humorous if they weren't so pitiful. It seems that Jefferys wanted to be known as a great philatelist and spared neither his pen nor your money toward this end.

His mounted pages must have been quite a mess. This is indicated by the fact that the Franklin Institute assigned Don Steele to remount the collection so that it may be suitable for exhibition.

Is it true, as far as you know, that Jefferys completed the reconstruction of Plates I E, L and II ?

Re Mr. Zereski: Did you read the article in the 3¢ 51-57 Chronicle, Issue No.14, page 8, on Zereski's book, "Fancy Cancellations On 19th Century U.S. Postage Stamps" ? If you didn't Stanley, please do. This is the only adverse criticism of this book that I have seen in print. Do you suppose these comments will give pause to the publishers of our philatelic periodicals who for the past year have been foisting this book on their unsuspecting readers? In my opinion, selling a Zereski book is tantamount to selling a Zareski stamp.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Morris.

By Dr C.S. Hitchings – See S.B. 24 – P. 21
This Is A Dark Blue Envelope
20'8 – GREEN. F128 – 15 Sec

By Dr C.J. Hitchings - See SB 24 - p. 21
This is A White Envelope -
20'8 - GREEN - F128 - 12 Sec

49

1/5

350.00

B176

C. S. HITCHINS, M. D.
59 TRUMBULL STREET
NEW HAVEN 10, CONN.

July 3, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have two very interesting 5¢ Taylor covers the postal markings on which I am unable to explain. Mr. Harry B. Keffer has suggested that I write you to ask if you would be kind enough to look at them and give me an explanation for the various marks.

If you would examine them and explain these markings, it would be greatly appreciated. I enclose a stamped envelope for your reply.

Sincerely yours,

C. S. Hitchins.

July 8, 1952.

Dr. C. S. Hitchins,

59 Trumbull St.,

New Haven 10, Conn.

Dear Doctor:

Replying to your kind note of the 3rd, I will be pleased to examine the two covers for you and if I am able, I will give you an explanation of the postal markings.

Inasmuch as I have a great many requests of this nature I am compelled to charge a fee, which in this case will be $5.00.

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
A.P.S. 2497
33 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.
FT. THOMAS, KY

July 8, 1952.

Dr. C. S. Hitchins,

59 Trumbull St.,

New Haven 10, Conn.

Dear Doctor:

Replying to your kind note of the 3rd, I will be pleased to examine the two covers for you and if I am able, I will give you an explanation of the postal markings.

Inasmuch as I have a great many requests of this nature I am compelled to charge a fee, which in this case will be $5.00.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley B. Ashbrook

PAID
JUL 18 1952

C. S. HITCHINS, M. D.
59 TRUMBULL STREET
NEW HAVEN 10, CONN.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook —

When, where + by whom were the various stamps + postal markings applied? What were the different rates involved and by whom were they paid?

Thanks.

C. Hitchins

M.D.

REG. NO. 2755

REGISTERED

REGISTERED

1153

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 N. Fort Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY

NEW HAVEN
JUL
15
1952

NEWPORT KY.
JUL 17 1952

NEW HAVEN
JUL 15 1952
CONN.

NEWPORT, KY.
FORT THOMAS BR.
JUL 18 1952

July 18, 1952.

Dr. C. S. Hitchins,
59 Trumbull St.,
New Haven 10, Conn.

Dear Doctor:

Yours of the 15th received with check for $5.00, for which kindly accept my thanks, also the two covers which I am returning herewith.

Both of these covers were from Callao, Peru, the principal seaport of that country, and were transmitted to Panama City by a British Mail steamer, and there turned over to the U. S. Mail agency and forwarded from Aspinwall by a U. S. Mail steamer to New York City. At that time, the U.S. did not have a postal treaty with Peru and mail from either country to the other could not be prepaid to destination. (Peru became a member of the U.P.U. on Oct. 1, 1878).

Our rate to Peru in 1876 and 1877 was 17¢ and was arrived at as follows:

To Panama ..... 5¢ - By U.S.Mail steamer
From Panama, by British Packet to the Peruvian
frontier 6 pence or U.S. .....12¢
17¢

Prepayment of this rate was compulsory because, in the absence of a postal treaty a total rate could not be collected from the addressee. A letter to an address in Peru was turned over to the Peruvian P.O.D. by the British and internal postage was collected from the addressee.

Referring to your two covers -

(A) Cover with U. S. 5¢ Taylor plus 10 centavos Peru. The postmark on the back of "Callao" of dec 14 75 was applied by the British Postal Agency and the Peru stamp was intended to pay the Peruvian internal rate and the 5¢ Taylor, the U. S. rate from Panama, to New York. No provision was made to pay the British rate of 6 pence to Panama. Thus we find a large British marking of "12" in black - or a debit from the British to our P.O.D. of 12¢, which is reflected in the U. S. Due of 14¢ from the addressee. If the whole rate was 17¢ and 5¢ was paid by the 5¢ Taylor, one is apt to wonder why 14¢ was due instead of 12¢. The answer lies in the fact that international settlements had to be made in gold or its equivalent, that is, specie, and you will doubtless recall that "specie payments" were not resumed in this country after the Civil War until January 1st, 1879, and gold was stil at a premium in 1875 and 1876. The P.O.D. assumed that the 12¢ gold which was due on this letter would not be paid in gold (or specie) but in paper or currency, hence 14¢ in the latter was equivalent to 12¢ in specie. No doubt if the addressee had tendered 12¢ in gold or silver the Department could not have refused such pay.

(B) The second cover shows the British Transit marking of Mar 18 1876 and in this case I assume that this letter was mailed direct with the British ship and probably not thru the British Mail Agency Office in Callao.

I note that this cover sold at $80.00 in the recent Keffer sale and that the other cover sold @ $26.00, no doubt the former, because of the glamor of the cancelation, however, in my opinion, I think the prices should have been the other way around. I certainly consider the combination cover the more desirable of the two. However this is just my own personal opinion and may be entirely wrong.

I trust that my analysis of the two covers has been of interest to you and that you consider the $5.00 to have been well invested. If by any chance it is ever proved that there was any error on my part I can assure you that I will gladly refund the fee.

Sincerely yours,

(24-21)

B176

Due .14

PANAMA
18 MR 1876
TRANSIT

Geo. D. Tomlinson Esq.
21 Eld. St.
New Haven. Ct.
U. S. A.

By Dr C. J. Hitchings - See SB 24 - p. 21
This is A White Envelope -
20¢ - GREEN - F128 - 12 Sec

B177

By Dr C.S. Hitchings – See S.B. 24 – P. 21
This Is A Dark Blue Envelope
20'8 – GREEN. F128 – 15 Sec

Dear Stan:

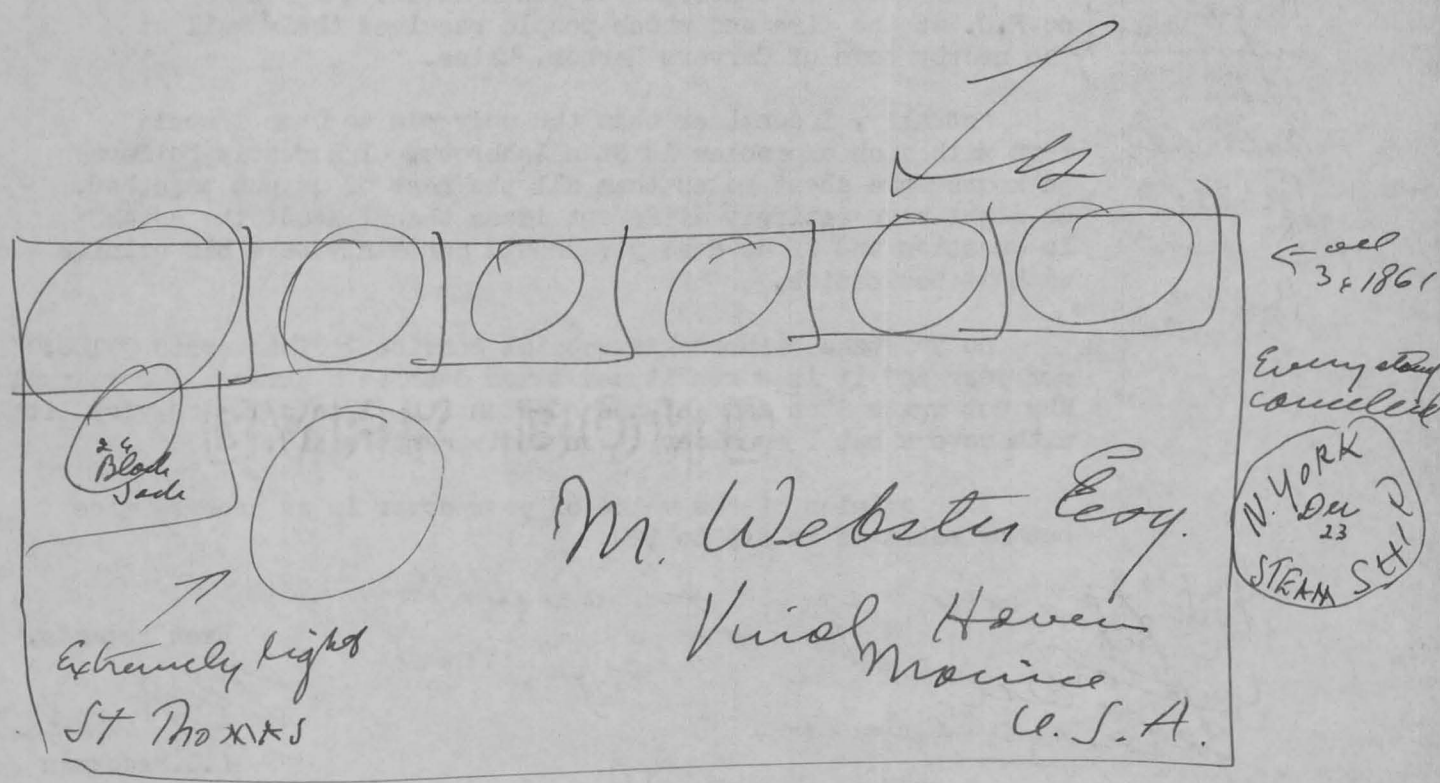
Here is a rough drawing of the cover in question. I wonder if my opinion on it is correct?

The air is as heavy as lead this morning and I imagine that we will have a storm before night. We have been having a great deal of rain this summer. I think I told you that I have bought a new house--must be in it by September 15th and am trying to swing things so I can get in by August 15th. I really have a fine home now--hope you and Mildred can get up here some time to see it.

Stamp biz as good as can be expected for this time of the year.

Hope you are feeling better every day.

Sincere regards,



No other markings. Small (normal) size cover.

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

L. G. BROOKMAN

121 LOEB ARCADE
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINN.

July 18, 1952

Arthur I. Abelson,
824 Loew Bldg.,
Syracuse 2, N.Y.

Dear Arthur:

Your cover is interesting and I can see two possible solutions to the rate although I want you to understand that I do not in any way consider that I am any authority on rates.

Your cover probably represents the DOUBLE rate from St. Thomas where it apparantly originated. If it is a single weight cover then it probably represents a "Reconveyed" cover which means that after it reached New York it was placed on a ship not ordinarily carrying mail and sent to its destination. I very much doubt if this is a reconveyed cover although I suppose this would be possible.

This information from Ashbrook's Special Service Bulletin.

Your cover is addressed to Vinal Haven, Maine which had no P.O. at the time and ~~whose~~ people received their mail at the nearby town of Carvers Harbor, Maine.

Actually, I consider that the only man to whom I would turn with such a problem is Stan Ashbrook. I honestly believe he knows more about rates than all the rest of us put together. He might have entirely different ideas than I about the cover in question and if he does you should certainly take his opinion without hesitation.

Do you take "Ashbrook's Special Service"? This costs ~~#~~$100.00 per year and it is worth it may times over to a person like yourself. Why not write Stan and get the dope on it. I actually do very little with covers but I consider it an indispensible aid.

Your opinion of the value of your cover is as good as mine but my estimate is $15 to $20.

P.S. If I were you I'd send it to Ashbrook with a $2.00 fee and get a real opinion.

See other side.

Best regards,

L.G.Brookman

L.G.Brookman

UNITED STATES ISSUES
A. P. S. 13903
S. P. A 9566
A. S. D. A.

U. S. COVERS

GENERAL FOREIGN

Telephone 2-9946

ARTHUR I. ABELSON

Stamps for Collectors

ESTABLISHED 1936

824 LOEW BLDG. — SYRACUSE, 2, N. Y.

No need to return

July 12, 1952.

Dear Les:-

Some time ago, I received from you a sample price list of U.S. and B.N.A. stamps, with your letter regarding orders for these.

I have delayed replying, as I was not quite sure whether I could use them. I have decided against using them, as I am gradually getting out of the general stamp business; and concentrating on 19th century U.S. covers, and fancy cancellations. My mail business is entirely in that field, and I am keeping only a small stock of general U.S. stamps for office use; gradually liquidating the balance.

For this reason, I do not believe your list would be of value to me, as I do not attempt to carry a near-complete stock of stamps of the general issues.

However, I appreciate your sending the sample, and want to compliment you on it. It is a very fine job, and appears to be excellent for dealers who can use it.

Les, as long as I was writing, am enclosing a cover for your opinion. Why was the 20¢ rate used? I have figured it out to be a 6 time 3¢ rate for an 18¢ overweight rate, plus the 2¢ Black Jack as the 2¢ Fee for the ship's captain. But, am not sure if this 2¢ Ship Captain's fee was still in use at that time. Also, the envelope does not appear to have been large enough for a heavy 18¢ rate.

What is your opinion? Thanks very much. Am enclosing return stamped envelope. At least, you will agree it is an unusual cover.

By theway, if you ever have a good lot of covers for sale, would appreciate details. Am interested in buying - not necessarily rarities. I want mainly covers to retail from $1.00 to $5.00; before 1890, and mainly before 1870 - fancy cancels, illustrations, Patriotics, Territorials, odd postal markings, etc. Thanks for keeping me in mind.

Appreciating your trouble, and with best regards,

Sincerely, Arthur -

What is your opinion of retail value of this cover?

July 19, 1952.

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

Dear Les:

Re - the Abelson cover - It is the U. S. Steamship rate of 10¢ - double. Mail from Cuba, Panama, St. Thomas and other points touched by U. S. Mail steamships, with mail contracts, brought mail into New York and the rate was 10¢. Naturally there was no ship fee on letters brought in by Lines with mail contracts - 2¢ ship fees applied to mail brought in by non-contract ships. One more point - this rate was fixed by Act of March 3, 1851 - see Luff - Appendix - top paragraph - page 390. This steamship rate of 10¢ and 20¢ was in force for many years. Inasmuch as St. Thomas was not over 2500 miles the single rate was 10¢ I am assuming the cover was earlier than July 1864, however, if later then the Act of July 1, 1864 - Sec. 8 would apply - see Luff - Appendix - page 395.

Yes Les, you wrote me about your new home and we sure would like to see it. Congratulations and best wishes and we know you all will enjoy it.

I understand that Henry Hill and Bilden were invited to attend the opening fall meeting of the D.P.S. tobe given by Shierson and Stark at Adrian, Mich. on Sept. 27. I suggested to Shierson that an invitation be extended to you. You met Shierson at Toronto. He is a great friend of mine. I wrote Harry Lindquist inquiring if he would be receptive to an invitation if one was extended. These meetings are at each member's expense so they cannot afford to pay guest's expenses. I thought you would like to accompany Henry and Bilden. It seems that Hill is an old acquaintance of Shierson.

Mildred joins me in best wishes to all the family and to you.

Cordially yours,

(24-22)

UNITED STATES ISSUES
A. P. S. 13903
S. P. A 9566
A. S. D. A.

U. S. COVERS

GENERAL FOREIGN

Telephone 2-9946

ARTHUR I. ABELSON

Stamps for Collectors

ESTABLISHED 1936

824 LOEW BLDG. — SYRACUSE, 2, N. Y.

July 21,1952.

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

Dear Mr.Ashbrook:-

I understand you are willing to give your valued opinion regarding the rates of usage on covers, for a fee of $2.00. I am therefore enclosing a cover, with $2.00 for the fee, and stamped return envelope.

This is a cover which I recently purchased, among a lot of early U.S. items; and this has me puzzled.

Why is it a 20¢ rate, when the envelope does not appear to have been that much overweight? Also, if it were 6 times single rate, then the 2¢ Black Jack is extra, possibly connected with the steamship markings. I am not sure whether the ship's captain collected an extra fee as late as this.

I would appreciate your opinion regarding the reason for this rate. If the point of origin were clear it might help. I am unable to make it out.

Also, if you care to give your opinion regarding the approximate retail value of this cover, it will be helpful.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness and cooperation,

Sincerely Yours,

Arthur I. Abelson.

ARTHUR I.ABELSON.

July 23, 1952.

Mr. Arthur I. Abelson,
824 Loew Bldg.,
Syracuse 2, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Abelson:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 2dst. This cover has a horizonatl strip of six of the 3¢ 1861 together with a single 2¢ black of 1863, a payment of 20¢ tied by five strikes of the "N. York Steamship" marking of "Dec. 23." (1867) (Black). A faint circular marking in black shows "ST. THOMAS 16 - 12 1867." I regret that I cannot decipher the colorless impression on the back. This cover represents a double rate into the U. S. by a contract U. S. Mail steamship. This rate was at the rate of 10 cents per half ounce and was provided for under the Act of Congress, of July 1, 1864 - Section 8 - quote:

"The rates of postage on letters and other mailable matter addressed to or received from foreign countries and carried by vessels regularly employed in transportation of the mails shall be as follows: Ten cents for one half ounce or under, on letters; xxxxxx xx to be prepaid on matter sent, and collected on matter received; subject to rates established or to be established by international postal convention." (unquote)

Covers from Danish West Indies with the 10¢ 1861 and D.W.I. - 3¢ Rose, the former canceled by the "N.York Steamship" marking are quite well known and several good articles have appeared in the philatelic press on mail from the West Indies "Via St. Thomas" to the U.S. by contract U. S. Mail ships.

I regret to state that I am not an authority on philatelic values, hence beg to be excused from any opinion on that subject.

May I thank you very kindly for your enclosure of $2.00. I might mention, however, that I do not have any fixed fees for the examination and analysis of covers.

Sincerely yours,

MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES STAMPS 19TH CENTURY U. S. COVERS

ARTHUR I. ABELSON

Stamps for Collectors

TELEPHONE 2-9946

824 LOEW BLDG. SYRACUSE 2. N. Y.

July 28,1952.

Dear Mr.Ashbrook:-

Thanks very much for your detailed and valued explanation, regarding the cover submitted, and which you returned. It will enable me to explain it clearly when offering the cover for sale; and is very helpful. I sincerely appreciate the time and trouble you have taken.

This is the first cover I have had with this marking, as called for by the contract U.S. Mail steamship rate; and it had me puzzled.

Thanks again, and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Arthur I. Abelson

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS

WHOLESALE

INFANTS WEAR - NOTIONS

6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 19, MINN.
... Phone: Hiawatha 2039...

July 18,1952

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.,

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

Thanks for your return and opinion on the 90¢ 1860 stamp. Thats about what I figured and only sent it because Brookman thought I should.

Iam enclosing 2 covers for your examination.

On the Wells Fargo cover I have included part of the album page the item was formerly mounted on. You will note that the Wells Fargo cancel on reverse of cover does not show a clear strike of the "Month". IN the reproduction they show the date as "Sept. 1 (1869)" I think it should be "Feb.1,(1870). Iam told that this cover is from the Waterhouse collection in England.

In regards to the Peru Cover; I just recieved this item from England. Please give me your interpretation of the story this cover shows. Were the U.S. & Br. stamps placed on this cover in Peru or Panama? I note that the " C35 " is the Br. cancel at Panama.

Iam enclosing stamps to cover return plus 30¢ for your last letter. I forgot to include it last time.

All the information and opinions regarding these 2 items will be greatly appreciated. Please advise your examintation fee on return. Insure covers for $250.00.

Hope this finds you in the best of health and that I may have the pleasure of meeting you in person,

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS

WHOLESALE

INFANTS WEAR - NOTIONS

6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 19, MINN.
... Phone: Hiawatha 2039...

someday in the near future.

Sincerly yours,

Floyd E. Risvold.

July 20, 1952.

Mr. Floyd E. Risvold,
6417 Lyndale Ave. - So.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Mr. Risvold:

Referring to yours of the 18th with the 5¢ Taylor cover which I am returning herewith. This cover is genuine, in my opinion, and I have signed it as such on the back. Here is the explanation of this cover. It originated at Callao, Peru, the principal seaport of that country, evidently on Oct. 5, 1876. At that period the U. S. did not have a postal treaty with Peru, hence mail could not be prepaid from origins in either country to destinations in the other. This letter was carried by a British Mail steamer from Callao to Panama City and their rate for such transit was 6 pence per half an ounce - This letter was then transferred to the U. S. Mail Agency and transmitted from Aspinwall, Panama by an American Mail steamship to New York. The U. S. rate from Panama to U. S. destination was 5¢ per half ounce, thus the two 5¢ Taylor stamps denote a double rate or over 1/2 ounce, which also accounts for the two British 6 pence stamps. This letter shows no payment of Peruvian postage, which indicates that the letter was mailed direct with the mail agent aboard the British steamer. The Panama marking was applied at the British Mail Agency at Panama City as was the British cancelation "C35."

The U. S. Consulate at Callao acted as the U. S. Mail Agency and they undoubtedly had supplies of U. S. and British postage stamps. Therefore, the stamps were no doubt put on the envelope there.

The U. S. cancelation is the well-known "N.YORK STEAMSHIP" which meant that the letter had been carried to New York by a mail ship of a line holding a mail contract with the U. S. P.O.D.

In my opinion this is quite a nice "combination cover."

Sincerely yours,

Sincerely yours,

July 20, 1952.

Mr. Floyd E. Risvold,
6417 Lyndale Ave., So.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Mr. Risvold:

Referring to yours of the 18th with the cover to London, England from Victoria - British Columbia, which I am returning herewith. You are quite correct the blue oval on the back was dated "Feb 1" (1870) and not "Sep 1" (1869). It looks as though someone might have made an attempt to change this. For various reasons I am suspicious of this cover and, therefore, I am unable to authenticate it.

This cover was evidently carried to San Francisco and thence to New York by a Wells Fargo messenger as no San Francisco postmark is in evidence.

In Feb. 1870 the U. S. rate to Vancouver was 10¢ and our rate to England was 6¢. I am at a loss to explain why there is 22¢ in U. S. postage on this cover, though it is possible that the sender was not aware that the U. S. rate to England had been reduced from 12¢ to 6¢ as of January 1st, 1870. If such was the case then the cover could be explained as follows:

5¢ British Columbia for internal rate
10¢ U. S. - British Columbia to the U.S.
12¢ U.S. to England.

The Wells Fargo frank represented payment to the Express Company for their carriage.

I regret I cannot give you a definite opinion on this cover, but whenever there is a question in my mind about a cover I refuse a positive opinion. My advice is to submit the cover to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation, New York City and they will issue a certificate.

Sincerely yours,

Aug. 4, 1952.

Mr. F. E. Risvold,

6417 Lyndale Ave. South,

Minneapolis 19, Minn.

Dear Mr. Risvold:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 1st.

At present I am quite busy on some special work but later I will go further into the matter of your Wells Fargo cover and advise you.

Sincerely yours,

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS
WHOLESALE
INFANTS WEAR - NOTIONS
6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 19, MINN.
...Phone: GIBSON 2039...

Aug.1,1952

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas,Ky.,

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

Thanks for the prompt return of the two covers and the excellent explanation of the transmission of the Peru cover. Iam glad to note that you liked this item as I feel the same way about it. Iam enclosing my check as per your statement;

Now in regards to the Wells Fargo cover, I still think that it is good and would like to state my thoughts to you.

In the Costales sale of the Lichtenstein material of April 26th & 27th,1952, there was a cover similar to mine and was lot #651 and pictured in that sale. This was only a front but was similar to mine except it was minus the 10 cent stamps. The address had been crossed out but part of it was readable and I think it is from the same source as mine. This cover was used in 1870.

Last nite I examined my cover under a black lite & it looked genuine to me. Iam not an expert but I would like any further explanation of your doubts on this item. Feb. 1st is only one month after the postal rates were changed and at that time it would be possible for anyone not to have been informed of the change.

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS
WHOLESALE
INFANTS WEAR - NOTIONS
6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 19, MINN.
...Phone: GIBSON 2039...

I want to thank you again for the wonderful information you have so kindly given me. I wish I could really repay you.

Sincerly yours

F.E.Risvold

Aug. 11, 1952.

Mr. F. E. Risvold,
6417 Lyndale Ave. So.,
Minneapolis 19, Minn.

Dear Mr. Risvold:

Further replying to yours of the 1st. You referred to the Costales Sale of Apr. 26-27, 1952, but on checking I note that the sale was 1950 not 1952. I also note Lot #651 in that sale and agree that both covers are from the same correspondence. Yours has a memo indicating it was received on March 2, 1870, which I suppose is correct. On cover 651 the New York date seems to be "DEC" so I am wondering if the use of that cover was Dec ~~1860?~~ 1869 At that time the U.S. rate to G.B. was 12¢.

Perhaps the explanation of your cover is that the 10¢ stamp did not originate and was added and that the writer was not aware that the U.S.-British rate had been cut from 12¢ to 6¢ as per Jan. 1st, 1870.

The U. S. rate to Vancouver in Dec. 1869 and Feb. 1870 was 10¢ Both covers show Vancouver postage of 5¢. I am still at a loss to account for the postage to this country.

I will make a further investigation and advise you.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

(24-23)

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS

WHOLESALE

INFANTS WEAR - NOTIONS

6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 19, MINN.
...Phone: GIBSON 2039...

Aug.16,1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

In reply to yours of Aug.11th, Iwant to correct myself on two things. First, I didnot mean 1952, but did mean 1950 in reference to the Costales sale. Second, I was wrong in saying that the cover in that sale was used in 1870. If the London postmark was not covered up by another cover, pherhaps we could see the year date. You say it might be 1860. I think you meant 1869? Correct me if Iam wrong.

In the KNAPP sale there was a similar cover to the one in the Costales sale and that had a manuscript date of 1870. It was lot #1836 and was pictured. I wonder if Wells Fargo had a batch of these covers already stamped with the 1869 postage rate and that is the reason we see them used in 1870 with the 12¢ rate instead of the 6¢ rate?

When I looked at my cover under a black lite, I couldnot detect any difference in the ink of the cancels which tie both U.S. adhesive stamps. Also,when I partly lifted the stamps under the lite, they show a distinct clean pattern to the exact shape of the stamps, including the straight edge and two long perfs on the 10¢ stamp.

I cant imagine anyone adding the 10¢ stamp unless it was the sender of the letter. The item is scarce and desirable without it.

I agree that the presents of the 10¢ stamp is a bad point but if it was originally on the cover it should have a clear bill of health. Even today letters go through with overpayment because someone wanted to be sure there was enough postage.

I will send this cover to the foundation, but I want to check it with you as I feel that you know more about this than anyone else. You have been wonderfull in your cooperation and Iam looking forward to your further comments on this cover.

Please accept the check Iam enclosing as I think you have more than earned it on this matter. With kindest regards Iam

Sincerly yours,

F. E. Risvold

Floyd E. Risvold.

Aug. 22, 1952.

Mr. Floyd E. Risvold,
6417 Lyndale So.,
Minneapolis 19, Minn.

Dear Mr. Risvold:

Yours of the 16th received and it certainly was very kind of you to enclose the check for $10.00. Please accept my thanks.

You are quite correct. In my letter of the 11th, in referring to the Costales cover (Lot 651 in his sale of Apr. 26-27, 1950), the date should have read "Dec. 1869," instead of "Dec. 1860." The Knapp cover (Lot 1836) is indeed very similar to the Costales cover and if the Knapp use was May 1870, then this letter may have been over 1/2 oz. and required a 2 x 6¢ rate from the U. S. to London. This raises the question - How was the double rate from Vancouver to the U. S. paid?

I am making some inquiries on the cover from several good friends in Canada - perhaps they can give me a few bits of information that will help. In the meantime I suggest you delay the sending to the Philatelic Foundation.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

(24-23)

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

Aug. 11, 1952.

Mr. W. E. D. Halliday,
420 Lisgar Rd.,
Rockcliffe Pk., Ottawa,
Canada.

My dear Mr. Halliday:

I am enclosing herewith a photograph of a cover that apparently originated at Victoria on Feb. 1, 1870, was carried all the way to New York by a Wells Fargo Messenger and mailed there to London on Feb. 19, 1870. The London p.m. is "2 Mr 70" and this is confirmed by the manuscript receipt of Mar 2-70. The 10¢ U. S. adhesive looks as though it might have originated on this cover but it is possible someone added it. Of course, one cannot tell much about this feature from the photo-print.

The U. S. rate to England at this time was 6¢ - reduced as of Jan. 1, 1870. Perhaps the writer was not aware of the reduction and paid the former rate of 12¢. This, on the supposition that the 10¢ adhesive was not used originally on this cover.

It is my understanding that the rate from Vancouver to the U.S. at that period was 10¢. If Wells Fargo picked up this letter at Victoria V.I. don't you think a payment of 10¢ was required to carry it over the line into the U.S.? Or was only the payment of a local rate required? In other words, what rate did the 5¢ B.C. stamp pay?

If you can enlighten me regarding this cover I will greatly appreciate the favor.

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

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

420 Lisgar Rd.
Rockcliffe Park
nr. Ottawa, Ont.
Canada.

Aug. 26th. 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Nice to hear from you again. It seems to have taken a long time to answer your letter (August 11th.). Time certainly flies. It has been a busy summer with no let-up in the office and for relaxation week-ends have been painting the house and verandhas.

You certainly seem to pick up interesting pieces. I cannot help you with the U.S. adhesives and what rates they covered but the surcharged B.C. adhesive of 1868-71 obviously paid the B.C. internal ratein effect from 1858. This requirement is clearly explained in part of a letter from A.T. Bushby, Acting Postmaster-General (who assumed control of the P.O.Dept. of B.C. on Ap. 25, 1866, serving without remuneration as being already Registrar of Deeds) written to the U.K.Colonial Secretary on Nov.20, 1867. Bushby said:

"xx.

"Letters from British Columbia to Great Britain, in fact all correspondence between this Colony and other countries, is sent to San Francisco in a vessel subsidized by the Colony, and is there treated as American mail matter, not being received (with a few exceptions) unless the full United States postage be prepaid, which causes the Post Office Department here to keep on hand a large supply of United States postage stamps, which are of course paid for in cash in advance, or to send down coin with the mail. The Postal Department of the Colony is thus in the position of a messenger entrusted with the Colony's correspondence to be posted in San Francisco.

Under these circumstances, in order to raise a revenue, there is a charge on all letters and papers either received in, or despatched from the Colony- which in Vancouver Island or the lower Fraser is 5¢ per half ounce on letters xxxx. The colonists pay these charges, not only upon letters mailed, but on those received also. The whole of the postage, other than the above purely Colonial charge, being divided between Great Britain and the United States.

"xxx. "

Actually, in the particular case of your envelope, the whole postage to the U.K. could have been paid by Colonial stamps as an interpretation of the Postal Convention of June 1867 between Great Britain and the U.S. made this possible. Incidentally, the letter of Bushby above was written in the nature of comments on this Convention.

For further details of the many varied postal practices in Van.Is. and B.C. you should consult Stanley Deaville's "The Colonial Postal System and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1849-1871, Archives of B.C. Memoir No.VIII, Victoria, B.C. 1928.

By the way, did Wells Fargo & CO. charge extra for their services and was this paid by stamps? I have never been sure on this matter.

Also, did you notice that the address has been written over as if it was wrongly addressed at first and then corrected. I can't make out the old part but it seems in the same writing as "London England"

Hope this will be of some help. Would be interested to hear what you finally decide about the rates. Perhaps somebody wanted to get rid of a poor copy at an adhanced price

Best wishes,

Yrs. v. sincerely

W.E.D. Halliday

P.S. Have been asked by the Toronto Stamp Collectors Club to speak to them on any aspect of postal history I want to sometime in November.! Growing interest?

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

COPY

Sept. 3, 1952.

Mr. W. E. D. Halliday,
420 Lisgar Road,
Rockcliffe Park new Ottawa,
Ontario, Canada.

Dear Mr. Halliday:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 26th and for the quote from the letter of 1867.

I trust that you will pardon me if I give you some information which you already possess. The Wells Fargo imprint on the 10¢ U. S. envelope was a "frank" which entitled the holder to have the Express Company transmit a letter. I believe that Wells Fargo made a charge of 35¢ each for such envelopes. No doubt you are aware that it was illegal for private carriers to transmit mail matter "outside of the U.S. Mail" unless such communications were enclosed in Government stamped envelopes. I seem to recall that you had a similar law in Canada. Wells Fargo purchased Government envelopes, had their "frank" printed on them and sold them @ cost plus their fee of 25¢.

Thanks very much for your reference to the Deaville Book, but I am wondering where I could purchase or borrow a copy?

Regarding the fact that the address was written over. It was my impression that someone had done this to disguise the original addressee.

There exists the possibility that someone added the extra 10¢ U. S. adhesive in order to add some value but on close examination it does appear that this stamp did actually originate on the cover.

I believe that I neglected to mention that on the back of the cover is a Wells Fargo marking of Victoria. I suppose that there is little doubt that Wells Fargo picked up this letter at Victoria and carried it all the way to New York before placing it in the U. S. Mail for England. However, the cancelation on the B.C. stamp shows that it had been deposited in the Victoria P.O. Incidentally, am I correct in assuming that "35" identified that office?

Since my letter of August 11th I noted a similar cover in a sale by Costales of some Lichtenstein material held on April 26-27, 1950. It was Lot 651 and was from the same correspondence, but had the address crossed out with heavy ink lines. Same 10¢ U. S. - Wells Fargo envelope - same B.C. 5¢ stamp - canceled "35" and a U. S. 2¢ 1867 grill - but no extra 10¢ adhesive. Also postmarked New York "Dec ?." I assume the New York date was December 1869 and that this cover was regular, i.e., the B.C. adhesive paid the local postage, the Wells Fargo frank (charge of 25¢) paid their carriage from Victoria to New York and the 12¢ U. S. the rate to London. This leaves no apparent payment for transit across the border and perhaps raises an interesting question. Was any charge made in cases like this? Further the above seems to indicate that the cover of Feb. 1870 did not need the 10¢ adhesive, nor was 12¢ required to pay the 6¢ rate then in force between the U. S. and G.B.

#2. Mr. W. E. D. Halliday, Sept. 3, 1952.

I note that you are scheduled to deliver a talk before the Toronto Society in November, which reminds me that it has been almost a year since the Toronto Exhibition. How time does fly.

Again my thanks and kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 21

(24-23)

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS

WHOLESALE

INFANTS WEAR - NOTIONS

6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 19, MINN.
...Phone: GIBSON 2039...

Sept.10,1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

In reply to yours of Sept.3,1952, Iwant to thank you for the fine cooperation you have given me in this matter. I have made duplicate copies (for my records) of the correspondence you had with Mr.W.E.D.Halliday and Iam returning your copies as per your request. If this is not O.K. with you, please let me know and I will destroy them.

I only wish I could sit down and discuss this cover with you as Iam not too good at putting my thoughts into a letter. Anyway, here goes.

Since I last wrote you I have come across an interesting bit of information in Dr.Berthold's handbook "WELLS FARGO & CO'S HANDSTAMPS & FRANKS." I refer to page No.42, 7th & 8th paragraphs,quote--"Wells Fargo & Co. established its office at Victoria,V.I.,in 1858, and from there handled most of the mail for all parts of the U.S. and the outside World until about 1867.---- Until about 1861 no adhesive stamps existed either in Br.Columbia or Vancouver Island. Prior to the receipt of stamps, the customary procedure,by the Express Companies was to send their own covers,usually bearing their franks, to the Post Office. Of course these covers were sent in quanity, The officials at the Victoria Post Office would then frank each cover by impressing on it the official Post Office handstamp. Thereupon the Express Companies would pay in bulk for all covers so stamped at the domestic rate of postage within the Province, that is 2½d per cover." end quote. If the above quote it correct, then all letters handled by Wells Fargo required only 1 Br.Col. stamp even if the letter was overweight.

Further refering to the above handbook,see page No. 46, quote--"Later and after receipt of adhesive stamps at both the Vancouver Island and Br. Columbia Post Offices, a similar procedure was followed,that is,the franked covers were sent to the Post Office,the adhesives of the Province attached,cancelled,paid for in cash by the Express Company, then returned to the office of such Company or Companies,and there sold at face value plus the express charges and additional U.S. postage if for dispatch through the United States. United States stamps were usually carried in stock at the Wells Fargo offices in the two Provinces, but occasionally mail came through in large packages by special messenger,the U.S. stamps being affixed at San Francisco." end quote.

The above could indicate that my cover was not deposited in the Victoria Post Office, but was handed over to Wells Fargo by the sender for transmission.

O. E. Risvold and Sons

WHOLESALE

DRY GOODS AND NOTIONS

4921 OAKLAND AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS 7, MINN.
...Phone: REgent 2461...

Mr.Stanley B. AShbrook,Sept.10,1952

I think the sender of this cover probably bought several of these prestamped envelopes sometime in 1869, and that the 2¢ U.S. adhesive had been placed on the cover at that time or beforhand. Thus this cover could have been held over and not used until 1870, but still bearing the 1869 rate. The cover could have been overweight and the sender added the 10¢ adhesive he might have had on hand for such matters. This,of course,meant he didnot have an additional 2¢ stamp and intended to buy one at the Express Office. At arrival at said office, he found that he had more than enough postage and let it go as was.

The above may seem to be a poor explanation, but it could have happened just that way. What do you think? People do things like this,even today. This may not be the true story,but if the 10¢ stamp was originally on the cover, it appears that no other explanation would be much better.

I have never seen a Wells Fargo franked envelope, with or without U.S. adhesive stamps, which had more than one 5¢ Br.Col. stamp. This would bear out the quotes from Bertholds handbook and the quotes from that hand book,and the Bushby letter, would indicate that no extra postage was required for transmission over the lines into the U.S.

It is also possible that the cover in the Knapp sale was not overweight and was also a holdover from 1869.

As I have said before, it appears that the U.S. 10¢ stamp did actually originate on my cover. I would like to remove any doubt about this, one way or the other. For good or bad.

I will be glad to have your comments and suggestions on the above and if you wish to examine the cover again, I will be only too glad to send it along.

Sincerly yours,

F. E. Risvold

Floyd E. Risvold.

Sept. 13, 1952.

Mr. Floyd E. Risvold,

6417 Lyndale Ave. So.,

Minneapolis, 19, Minn.

Dear Mr. Risvold:

Yours of the 10th received and carefully noted.

I have a copy of the Berthold book but it never occurred to me to refer to it. I agree with you that his story seems to hold the explanation to your cover. It seems quite certain that the Wells Fargo franked envelopes were sent in quantity to the Victoria Post Office, and, in the early days, were handstamped. Later adhesive stamps were added and Wells Fargo sent such mail to the Post Office for canceling and back stamping. I think your analysis is no doubt correct and holds the explanation of your cover.

I will advise you if I turn up any new data bearing on your cover.

Sincerely yours,

O. E. RISVOLD AND SONS
WHOLESALE
INFANTS WEAR - NOTIONS
6417 LYNDALE AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS 19, MINN.
...Phone: GIBSON 2039...

Oct.24,1952

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

Dear Mr.Ashbrook:

I had intended to answer yours of Sept.13 sooner than this, but several things have happened to delay this. First and most important, my wife gave birth to TWIN BOYS on Oct.6th and Iam happy to say that all three are doing fine. We have 2 girls, Diane 10 years and Kathleen 5 years. Now my family is about as complete as I want it to be.

Iam enclosing an auction catalog which contains the picture of another cover similar to mine. It is lot No.28 and you will note the error in the description of that lot. I believe it is from the same correspondence as mine and shows the double rate to England. This indicates that the sender carried on considerable correspondence and was familiar with the 1869 rates. You will note the address has been crossed out the same as mine and the Costales cover.

Please return the catalog when you ~~have looked~~ are through with it.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your 70th birthday and hope this finds you in the

O. E. Risvold and Sons
WHOLESALE
DRY GOODS AND NOTIONS
4921 OAKLAND AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS 7, MINN.
...Phone: REgent 2461...

best of health with many more happy years for you and yours.

Sincerly yours;

F.E.Risvold

Floyd E.Risvold.

By F.E. RISVOLD 7/19-52- 2¢ Grill plus - 10¢ Grill - Why so Much U.S. Postage - Did The 10¢ Grill Originate? Rate To England From S.F. Was 6¢ - On BACK VICTORIA - Wells Fargo & Co FEB 1 -

By F. E. RISVOLD - 7/19-52 - From Callao Peru - V.P. 5¢ Blue Taylor Tied By Black
N. YORK STEAMSHIP - Date Not Legible - British PANAMA OC 20-76
See S.B. 24 - P. 23 - [redacted] B178 - DOUBLE RATE

B178

This Was A Double Rate Letter, Requiring 2 x 6P. British Plus
2x5¢ U.S - In My Opinion This Cover Is Genuine

William B Sherwood
7/19
1952

547

Wells, Fargo & Co.

PAID OVER OUR
MEXICAN COAST AND CALIFORNIA EXPRESS—35 CTS.

557

PAID
Wells, Fargo & Co.

PAID OVER OUR
MEXICAN COAST AND CALIFORNIA EXPRESS—35 CTS.

562

635

PAID
Wells, Fargo & Co.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND.

646

PAID
Wells, Fargo & Co.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Mrs Arthur Gaisford

PAID
Wells, Fargo & Co.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND.

644

651

PAID
Wells, Fargo & Co.

Puget Sound

663

← Note This Cover In Costales Sale of Apr 26-27-1950 - Lot 651 - Same Correspondence As The Risvold Cover - See S.B. 24 - p. 23 - Date probably Dec 1869 - Shows 12¢ Rate To LONDON —

65

FROM [redacted] VIA LOS ANGELES.

662

Published by Hastings & Reynolds, San Francisco.

664

Joseph Bailey
Oregon Railroad
Cascades

647

PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION
HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

P. O. Box 929
Harlingen, Texas
July 21,1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

I purchased the enclosed 5¢ stamp of the 1851-57 issue while at the Texas Philatelic Convention last month. Since then several collectors , who I believe know a great deal more about early U. S. stamps than I do, have advised me that there is something wrong with the stamp. It was represented to me as a shade variety of U. S. #12 in very fine condition.

Before returning it to the dealer I thought it only fair to obtain expert advice as to the status of the stamp and I know your advice will not be questioned.

Please advise your charge for the examination.

Yours truly

Wm. H. Bond.

Wm. H. Bond.

2.00

July 23, 1952.

Mr. Wm. H. Bond,
Box 929,
Harlingen, Texas.

Dear Mr. Bond:

Herewith the 5¢ 1856 as per yours of the 21st. This is a genuine copy of the 5¢ 1856 imperforate, S.U.S. No. 12, but it is not a superb or fine copy, neither is it a shade variety, but on the contrary it is a faded copy of the red brown due to "oxidization." The ink of the printing was damaged by that process and parts of the original ink have disappeared.

I doubt if you would have cause to return the stamp unless it might be that the condition is not as was represented.

My fee for the above is $2.00.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--This copy was subjected to tests for thin spots, repair work, creases, etc., of which none was found.

(24-24)

Box 929
Harlingen, Texas
July 29, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;-

Thank you for your prompt attention in advising me regarding the copy of U. S. No. 12. My check for two dollars is enclosed to cover your fee.

I believe I have due cause to return the stamp as it was represented to me as a very fine copy and not having other copies to compare it with I purchased it in accordance to his claims. I believe that the dealer thought it was a fine copy himself for he has sold me over $500 worth of stamps in the past two years and I do not believe he would risk selling a good customer and a friend a damaged stamp without representing it as such.

What hurts with me is that I have not as yet paid the last half of the purchase price which is money that I now know I would just be throwing away for I now realize that the stamp is probably not worth the amount that I have already paid for it.

Yours truly

Wm. H. Bond, Jr

Wm. H. Bond, Jr

Due from

Mr. St Bond $2.00

Dec S.B. 24

P. 24

PAID

AUG - 4 1952

Aug. 4, 1952.

Mr. W. H. Bond,

Box 929,

Harlingen, Texas.

Dear Mr. Bond:

Thanks very much for yours of the 29th with check for $2.00.

If I can be of any assistance to you in the future do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely yours,

TRINITY 3-5745

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

5930 Commonwealth Avenue

Detroit 8, Michigan

July 22, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Just getting time to answer some of our letters. Raining a bit now and the temp. has dropped. Believe me, it has been too hot here to do anything.

Enclosed find check for $14.50 covering the one "T" cover at $3.50; the 1812 plus 50% Way cover at $3.50 and the book at $7.50. I think the War 1812 plus 50% is very nice.

I am enclosing a phamlet just received from Molesworth. I presume this is the collection you had mentioned. I am not familiar what to buy or what would fit into my collection. I only save Confed. that have U.S. stamps on them. Advise me if you think there is anything that I might be able to use.

I am enclosing a Registered from Dublin into the U.S. Can you figure this item out?.

Too damn stuff hot even after the rain.

Best of wishes,

Harold Stark

Harold Stqrk.

July 24, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Yours of the 22nd received. Thanks for the check for $14.50.

I don't know if the heat down here has been any different than you have had in Michigan but I imagine the humidity here in this Ohio Valley has been worse - I haven't suffered to the extent I might have had I not had the air conditioner in my room. With the temperature at 96 or 97 and a high humidity, my room has been not over 78 or 79 and dry. You should get one for your Den but don't get a cheap outfit - I think you will find that you never made a better investment. I have a second hand "York" from a local funeral home that originally cost $600. By sheer luck I got it very cheap. In Stan's room it must have been about 106 early this week, and it didn't cool off much all night.

Herewith the Registered cover from Britain. I do not have occasion to see many foreign covers to the U.S. so I don't know whether a cover like this is scarce or not - I have several books on the British Post Office but I have been unable to find any reference to the rate charged on Registered letters to the U.S. The fact is that whenever I have occasion to attempt to obtain a bit of information from any of these books, it seems that there is no mention or reference whatsoever.

Regarding your cover. Here is the way that I analyze it. The date of use was July 1857 - not long after the U.S.-British Treaty was amended to permit the registration of mail. (Articles signed March-April 1856) - These articles provided that each country had the right to fix their own reistration fees, but that the half of each fee should be credited to the other country. Your cover was a single rate of one shilling - prepaid at a shilling six pence, hence I assume that at this date in 1857, Britain charged a Registered fee of six pence and that payment of that fee was permitted by postage stamps - If this is true this is certainly something new to me - The fact is I didn't know - and don't know - what fee Britain charged and how it was payble - stamps or cash.

Further - The Boston postmark shows the letter was paid (red) that the rate was a single (24) and that it was brought into Boston by a Cunard ship. (no "American Packets" docked at Boston in 1857) - Granting all this is true then the British credit to the U.S. P.O. should have been in U.S. cents -

	5¢
plus half of 6 pence	6¢
Total ...	11¢

There is a red pen marking that looks like "1 shilling" but I am wondering if

this meant "11" or 11¢ cents? There is another red ink pen marking at top center but I don't know what this is unless it could be a "P" for "Paid." I note the killer number on the stamps is "112" and I find this was the number used at "CASTLECOMER" - and note the postmark of this office on the back, (a town in Ireland).

I will appreciate your comments on my analysis.

Nice cool day here yesterday and today.

I think of all the states in the Union Michigan has two of the biggest damn fools in the whole Nation - Your Governor and that S.O.B. "Senator Moody" - perhaps I am wrong - perhaps that louse Humphrey of Minnesota is worse. T.V. has shown the Nation that a disgusting force is the thing we call a National Convention.

Best of wishes -

Cordially yours,

(C58)

P.S.--Yes, the Confederate collection being offered by Molesworth is the Wulfekuhler collection that was offered me to be sold on commission. I will look over the list and advise you what covers are suitable for your collection. If you will let me send for the ones I select and have Jack send them to me perhaps I can obtain a small commission from him.

July 26, 1952.

Mr. Bernard Harmer,

% H. R. Harmer, Inc.,

New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Harmer:

I am seeking a bit of information, and I trust you can furnish same, viz:

(1) What was the fee in Britain in the eighteen fifties for registering a letter?

Ans. Inland 6 pence
To Prussia & Beyond 9P

(2) Was it permissible to pay the registration fee in stamps?

NO. - ONLY in CASH

(3) Amended articles to the U.S.-British Postal Treaty respecting the registration of mail was signed in March-April 1856. Each country was authorized to fix their own fee for registration. On registered letters to G.B. the U.S. fee was 5¢. I believe the British fee was fixed at sixpence and that this fee was permitted to be paid by stamps. It is interesting to note that the U.S. fee of 5¢ had to be paid in cash. Fees paid in each country were divided - one-half to each country.

British Fee Was 6P. It Was only To Port of Embarkaion Pay Could Be Made In Cash Or In Stamps

(4) I am seeking "REGISTERED" covers from G.B. to the U.S. of the period 1856 to 1862 inclusive. Is it your opinion that such items are scarce? Can you assist me in locating such items?

Thanking you in advance, I am

Cordially yours,

Pay In Provinces In Cash Only

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 3-6481

APPRAISALS FOR SALE,
PROBATE & INSURANCE

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

H·R·HARMER, INC.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP AUCTIONEERS

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

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

CABLES
HARMERSALE, NEW YORK

LEADING AUCTIONEERS OF
RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONEERS OF THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" COLLECTION

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

28th
July
1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your letter of July 26th.

I have sent over to my London office the four queries you have raised and will see what they have to say.

As concerns the scarcity of registered covers from Great Britain to the United States between 1856 and 1862, I think there is little doubt that these are extremely rare. I feel sure that I must have seen a cover or two although they have not registered in my mind. I imagine that Ezra Cole would probably give you some useful information on this part of your enquiry.

As concerns the balance of your enquiries, I'll let you know just as soon as I hear from the London office.

Finally my thanks for your renewal of your subscription for lists of prices realized.

Sincerely yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

Bernard D. Harmer

Director

BDH:E

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 3-6481

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LEADING AUCTIONEERS OF
RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONEERS OF THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" COLLECTION

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

6th
August
1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

With further reference to your letter of July 26th and my reply of July 28th, I have a report from London answering your four specific enquiries. This information was obtained from either Mr. E. C. Baker or Mr. Davenport of the GPO Public Information Department and either can be written to for further information c/o G.P.O., London, E. C. 1.

1. Registration inland 6p; "Letters to Prussia and beyond 9p".

2. No. Only in cash.

3. The British fee for registration was 6p but this registration covered only transit to the port of despatch.
   Payment in London could be made in cash or in stamps.
   Payment in the Provinces was in cash only.

4. The London office comments that registered covers from Great Britain to the United States are very rarely seen over there and also point out they would more likely turn up on this side of the Atlantic. The did consider the items to be very scarce in any event. They will keep an eye open should any turn up but they write that "the chance of locating a batch over here is slight".

Subsequently I have received a note from Mr. Edwards of the London office that he has found a registered cover, period 1854 from Great Britain to the United States with a shilling embossed and three 1841 2p. It bears a London "Paid" mark and superimposed the U.S.A. "Paid" mark. The owner believes that the three 2p stamps covered the registration fee but this cuts

across the information from the G.P.O. in answer to question two that registration fee was only payable in cash. This was presumably until the amended articles which were signed in March/April 1856.

The party requires 30sh, equalling $4.20 for the cover should you be interested.

Sincerely yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

Bernard D. Harmer

Director

BDH:E

Aug. 8, 1952.

Mr. Bernard Harmer,

% H. R. Harmer, Inc.,

32 East 57th St.,

New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Harmer:

I am indeed most grateful to you for the information regarding Registered mail from Britain to the U. S. in the eighteen fifties. It is data that I did not possess. Thanks very much.

I would like to have the 1854 cover mentioned in your letter and if in the future you can locate any registered covers to the U. S. from G.B. I would appreciate having same submitted.

Again many thanks.

Cordially yours,

(24-25)

Aug. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Re - that Registered cover from G.B. that you sent me. I wrote to Bernard Harmer for some information and he referred my query to their London Office and they got in touch with the G.P.O. Information Department, London E.C. #1.

Here is the gist of the data that he obtained - The Inland Registration Fee was sixpence (6P.) - On mail to Prussia and beyond it was 9P. On domestic mail this fee was payable only in cash. On mail to the U. S. the fee was 6P. and they stated it could be paid either in cash or stamps.

I would not count too much on the above as regards payments in cash or stamps as I think it depends on the period. Your cover indicates that at the time it was mailed that the fee could be paid in stamps but even before the Treaty, G.B. had for years had a registration system and letters to the U. S. could be registered, but registration "covered only transit to the port of despatch."

Harmer stated that his London Office reported that G.B. Registered covers to the U. S. in the fifties were very rare.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

12th August 1952

MEMORANDUM

H. R. HARMER, Inc.

From: NEW YORK OFFICE Mr. Bernard Harmer

To: LONDON OFFICE Mr. Edwards

SUBJECT:

I advised Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook of the registered cover you mentioned when replying to Mr. Ashbrook's enquiries.

He is interested in the cover and I would suggest therefore that you send it to him direct at 33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, U.S.A.

The price I believe was 30sh which I have advised Mr. Ashbrook equals $4.20.

Should you hear of any more covers Mr. Ashbrook is interested and I suggest you write him direct.

Dictated by but signed
in the absence of Mr. Harmer

CC: Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

Back of
C 58

TYRACCET
JUL 28 1851
PAID

CASTLEBOROUGH
JUL 1 1851

29

C 58


RED
Black
BOSTON
JUL
Red.
C 58
By H.W.S.
Red
Black
Registered
POSTAGE
SIX PENCE
POSTAGE
SIX PENCE
POSTAGE
SIX PENCE

C 58

C64 OCT 1952

S.B.A. COVER FROM H.R. HARMER LONDON

New York, July 29, 1952.
114 East 84th St.

Dear Stanley:

Thanks for your solution of the mystery that surrounded my Hong Kong cover. Now that I have the facts, I appreciate this cover to the utmost. It is evident that the foreign exchange clerk at New York knew his P.L.& R. and the ingenuity that he exercised certainly entitled his employers to the extra 6 cents. Ashbrook Service Issue #14 practically gave the answer in advance to the problem this cover presented. I was aware that the "over 1/4 oz" marking on the cover had some bearing on the matter, but I was ignorant of the fact that the Post Office Dept. had authority to reroute mail contrary to instructions of the sender. In mounting this cover on my album page, which I expect to show at Exspa, I shall present the problem as you did, and then give your answer. Conan Doyle never created a more clever situation and then surprised his bewildered readers with a solution that was so obvious.

And now, Stanley, here is another problem cover. I am enclosing herewith a cover from Curllsville, Pa. to Bavaria. This cover bears a vertical pair of the 10¢ 1857, showing combination of Types II and III, a 3¢ '57 Type II and a 1¢ '57 Type V.(43 R 8) (This position can be distinguished from 42, 82 and 83 R 8, among other things by a small curl that extends from the right side of ornament "C" through the colorless oval and into the background of the medalion.) You must be familiar with this cover, since it bears a notation, apparently in your handwriting, indicating that the New York marking is in "red". I have never seen a "17" marking before. What is the significance of the "17" on this cover? I suppose the date in the Hamburg postmark on back is Dec.1, 1858, rather than Jan.12,1858. For a moment I thought I had an early use of a Type V.

And since we have broached the subject of German covers, doesnt this Frankfort a/mein cover, herewith, "per first steamer via New York, Liverpool and Ostend", show a lot of interesting postal markings front and back? The cover shows a 5¢ Shore to Ship rate, bearing a pair of 1¢ 1851 (53-54 RIE ?) and a 3¢ O.B., and the blue and red Ms markings seem unusual. The Amerika /? essen marking seems to indicate the cover made the long trip down the Rhine River. The German back stamp apparently reads "England and Aachen Ocean Letters (or Mail), Feb.3," (1852).

Thanks for the turned cover showing both U.S. and Confederate use. I am enclosing my check in the amount of $57.50 - $7.50 for cover, and balance on account of postage charges.

Mort will arrive in New York on Aug.2.

Re Stolow Sale, I was responsible for at least a half dozen lots being withdrawn because they were incorrectly described. One lot they promised to withdraw but didn't was #80. This stamp showed a red N.Y. carrier marking and not a "red U.S.Express Mail". If Jack Molesworth thinks he got a bargain, he is doomed to disappointment. Lot #176 was a type VA and not a III. The two verticals in the upper margin should have been sufficient evidence to the so-called "catalouguer". Perhaps we should not be too severe with him, because this stamp plated as 5R6, showing double transfer and guide line, and the shade the richest,deepest blue. I tried to get this stamp via private treaty,but they refused to sell. If the Stolow cataloguer were to arrange the 24¢ 1860 stamp according to shades,he would probably see only one shade "vivid". I asked him what shade was "vivid" and he actually turned "livid".

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Morris

July 31st, 1952.

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

Dear Morris:

Yours of the 29th received with the two covers which I return herewith. First the cover to Bavaria with a payment of 24¢. I remember this cover quite well as it was sent to me by Dr. W. S. Polland in May 1951. I made a photograph at the time, a print of which is enclosed herewith, which please return to me. I have made an intensive search for the correspondence re - this cover that I had with Dr. Polland at that time but have been unable to locate it. It is missing from the page in my scrap book and I don't know where I have it filed.

The use was apparently Nov. 1858 and there was no rate of 24¢ to Bavaria at that time or any other time. See my One Cent, Vol. 2, page 342, which is the 1857 P.L. & R., and the 1859 edition shows the same, as well as earlier and later editions. The N.Y. postmark shows "HAMB. PKT" - and this cover surely went Via Hamburg Packet at a rate of 15¢ per 1/2 ounce. The credit figure at bottom appears to be a "17" but I never saw this type of marking with a "17," in fact, I am not familiar with any N.Y. marking with a "17" (red) credit. A 15¢ rate to Bavaria by "Hamburg Pkt" was entitled to a credit of 10¢. I thought perhaps a vertical pair of the 3¢ '57 was missing from upper right but there is no actual evidence of such a removal. Had this been a 30¢ rate the credit in the N.Y. marking would be "20" (2 x 10). The back marking shows "HAMBURG." This is indeed an odd looking cover but it does look genuine. The New York postmark reads, "N. YORK - PAID - HAMB. PKT - NOV 15 - 17(?)". If this is a "17" I know of no reason why the U. S. would have been entitled to 7¢ on a rate of 24¢ - or why the U. S. was entitled to 7¢ for simply putting this letter aboard a Hamburg Mail ship in New York Harbor. The date on the back in the Hamburg marking is "Dec. 1, 1858." I thought at first that this might have been a rate beyond Germany. For example to Switzerland or some other destination, but the absence of any such foreign back stamps eliminates such a theory. That "17" should have been a "10" or a "20" but it apparently does not show any monkey-business. I am writing Dr. Polland if he can dig out my letter without too much trouble.

Morris, if you own this cover will you please return it to me as I would like to show it to my friend Harold Stark of Ann Arbor, Mich.

Re - the 1¢ 1857 on this cover. Naturally the "dot in head" identifies it, but your ability to distinguish the small curl from ornament "C" is truly amazing. Your eyes are indeed very sharp. I also note you spotted my small "RED" which I failed to erase. Good work Morris, nothing seems to escape you. I like people who are thorough in everything they do. Darn few would note that the "17" in that postmark is rather extraordinary.

Regarding the cover to Germany showing the so-called 5¢ shore-to-ship charge. You certainly have the faculty of "spotting" unusual covers, and unless I am badly mistaken this is a rare cover. It was a use in January 1852 and while we see a few

covers to Germany with the 5¢ 1847, I believe a cover with a pair of 1¢ and a 3¢ is very much more rare. Perhaps the reason is obvious - Our Postal Treaty with Prussianwent into effect in October 1852, so covers with this 5¢ payment in 1851 stamps would be found only of the period July 1851-Oct. 1852 inclusive. That a cover, such as this, is a great rarity, would be unknown to the great majority of Students of 19th Century U.S. covers. Whether the pair is 53-54 R1E or not I do not know as I have no actual reconstruction at hand for plating.

Re - the black straight line - do you not think that this reads as follows:

AMERIKA
PREUSSEN

Re - Mort. Thanks for mention that he will be back in New York next Saturday. I had a letter from Fleckenstein today stating he had not heard from Mort and didn't know whether he intended to make him a visit or not.

I was pleased to receive your comments on the Stolow sale and may I thank you very kindly for the check for $57.50. I will be well supplied with postage for some time to come.

Nice cool day and most welcome.

Our best wishes to Mrs. Fortgang and you.

Cordially yours,

(24-26)

July 31st, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

I haven't heard from you for some time and I am wondering if you have been ill or away on vacation.

No doubt you remember a cover that you sent me in May 1951. It was to Bavaria in 1858 - (New York "NOV 15" and showed a 24¢ rate - consisting of a vertical pair of the 10¢ 1857 - (Types II & III) - a 3¢ 1857 (II) and a 1¢ 1857 (Type V). It was from "CURLLSVILLE PA" to "DINGOLFING BAVARIA" - (Baiern). It had a red N.Y. Hamburg Packet marking with a "17" at the bottom. This cover is now in my hands, sent to me several days ago by Merris Fortgang of New York.

I have searched high and low for the correspondence that I had with you regarding this cover but it is missing from its proper file and I cannot locate it. Without too much trouble can you lay hands on the letter that I wrote you? If you cannot find it, don't bother. Do you remember what our conclusions were regarding it?

With best wishes -

Sincerely yours,

July 31st, 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,

P. O. Box 288,

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

By any chance do you own a cover to Germany showing a payment of 5¢ with a pair of 1¢ 1851 and a single 3¢ 1851? Such an item is far more rare than a cover with a 5¢ 1847 to Germany. The reason is obvious, viz., our Treaty with Prussia went into effect in October 1852 - no more 5¢ payments after that. I would be willing to wager that you do not have such a cover but if so may I see it?

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Aug. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Since writing the enclosed letter re - the cover to Bavaria, I dug out the enclosed cover to Baden - this shows a rate of 22¢ by "HAMB. PKT" with a credit of "10." This was a use on June 15, 1860 - Note the same HAMBURG marking on the back - This 22¢ rate to Baden is quoted in the 1859 P.L. & R. I wonder why we charged 22¢ and kept 12¢? I suppose the answer is that the U.S. P.O.D. paid the sea to Hamburg and the 10¢ credit was from Hamburg to Baden. Perhaps the Bavaria cover figured same way in this 22¢ rate class and was a 2¢ overpay - but even so that don't explain the "17" credit. I believe the enclosed Baden cover is quite unusual. I don't seem to have any record of a similar one. If you want it the price is $15.00.

I also enclose a cover to Germany by French mail with a rate of 21¢. This was 21¢ per 1/4 oz. and 42¢ per 1/2 oz. - the use is Aug. 1860. Where is the credit? I think this is also a scarce rate, don't you - The price on this is also $15.00.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Enclosed:
Cover to Baden from Chicago - Price $15.00
" " Germany ..... " 15.00

↑ Both belong to Cole

114 E.84th St., New York 28, N.Y.
August 3rd, 1952.

Dear Stanley:

Your letter of July 31st is highly appreciated. I am enclosing herewith the Bavaria cover. "Yours is but to command." Perhaps Harold Stark can ferret out additional information on this cover. I obtained this item from Dr. W.S.Polland on June of 1951. I have often wondered where Dr.Polland finds time to practice his profession. He seems to be a human dynamo comparable to Neinken, Jessup, Ashbrook, etc.

Thanks Stanley for your information regarding the 5¢ shore to ship cover to Germany. Before I sent it to you, it was just another cover in my collection; now it is one of the most outstanding items I possess and I shall show it at Exspa.

Thanks also for the Cole photo of 91L1L. The "flat" print and the X scratch showing in the left scroll indicate the stamp came from the latest impressions of the plate, most likely March,1857. Just as soon as I have "digested" my material and Exspa is out of the way, I shall start work on my "masterpiece" the "States of 91L".

You will probably have heard from Mort by the time this reaches you. He says he had a most pleasant trip. One of the highlights was a casual perusal of Jessup's "million dollar collection". Boy, would I love to see it.

Now a word about Wright's IA. In a 'phone conversation I had with him last Friday, after the usual preliminaries, I inquired about the stamp. From the tone of his voice and his indirect, evasive answers, I was convinced he was lying and that Ashbrook was a better judge of character than I am, and so on some pretext I did not invite him to dinner. I would feel ill at ease in his presence.

The following day, Saturday, I received the enclosed letter from Eddie Bauer. I entertain no qualms about forwarding this letter to you, since Mr.Bauer intimates it is confidential only as far as Wright is concerned. Wright lied to Bauer when he told him I offered $450.for the stamp. You were quite correct when you said Wright was holding out for the last dollar he could possibly get and that there was no "Avery".

Re strip of 3, 61-62-63 L4 (1¢ '57 on cover):
Bauer's plating is correct, although were it not for the blind perforations 61L would show practically nothing of the imprint. The perfs were clipped all around, the stamps pen-cancelled and the general condition of stamps and cover so miserable that it was strictly "for the birds". Of course, I returned this item to "The Stamp King". When he says "I dealt only one way, the right way", I wonder whether he didn't mean the "Wright" way.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Morris

Aug. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Here is a cover that I cannot explain. See if you can come up with any suggestions. It has a payment of 24¢ and bears an address to Bavaria (Baiern). The address is in German so I suppose there is little doubt that the destination was Bavaria. On the back there is a notation of "CURLLSVILLE PA TO DINGALFING, BAVARIA." The use was in November - December 1858, and there was a Pennsylvania post office by that name at that time.

The New York postmark shows "By Hamburg Packet" and an apparent "17," but I never saw any N.Y. "HAMB.PKT" marking with a "17" and I know of no rate of 24¢ or multiple. One could figure that the writer didn't know the real rate and may have overpaid but that don't explain the "17." The postmark don't look like it had been faked in any way. The 1/2 ounce rate to Bavaria by Hamburg Packet was 15¢ and the U. S. credit on such mail was 12¢. The back stamp shows it went thru Hamburg.

I am stumped and have no explanation. Maybe you can do better.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

(24-26)

This Cover Belongs
To Morris Fortgang

TRINITY 3-5745

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

5930 Commonwealth Avenue
Detroit 8, Michigan

Aug. 13, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Enclosed is the cover that is puzzling you and it also has me guessing. There is no 24¢ rate except England. There are several 25¢ rates via Bremen or Hamburg to parts of what is now known as Germany and also parts of Italy. The writing on the cover is very indistinct, but it appears to be Bavaria, which would take the 15¢ rate. This cover seems genuine. Guess we will have to keep this in mind and perhaps later we will arrive at a solution.

Check for $30 enclosed for the other two covers.

Am still looking thru my collection for a 5¢ rate to Germany with 3¢ and two 1¢. Seems to me I have one in my collection some place. Will let you know.

Best of wishes for the time being.

Am rushed.

Sincerely,

Harold

Aug. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Morris:

Thanks for yours of the 3rd with the 24¢ cover to Bavaria which I have sent up to my good friend Harold Stark to examine. I wrote Dr. Polland if he could send me the letter I wrote him about the cover. He complied but the one he sent was not the one I wanted, and which I cannot locate in my files. However, the one he sent was later than the first one and in it I did not have any explanation for the rate. I have no explanation for the "17" in that N.Y. postmark and I have no record of any such a marking. I have examined it very carefully and I failed to see anything that looked like it had been faked in any way. Maybe Stark might discover something that I overlooked. I sent him a cover showing a 22¢ rate to Baden in the summer of 1860. It has the N.Y. Hamburg Packet marking and a credit of "10." I wonder if the writer got confused over the correct rate and overpaid 2¢, but this sounds silly as he would not have put on the 1¢ stamp.

I mailed a copy of my current Service Issue to you on Thursday and you will note I gave a bit of space to your 5¢ rate to Germany. If anyone turns up with a similar item I will advise you.

Re - that fellow Wright. I wish you luck and do hope you can succeed in obtaining the IA stamp. I try to avoid having any contact with people like him.

I return the Bauer letter. I don't think I ever heard of this fellow and hope I never do. The chiselers in philately as a rule give me a wide berth - which is sure fine.

No word from Mort since he got back. If you talk with him over the phone you might tell him the following - In a Green Sale by Harmer Rooke & Co. Souren paid $3,750.00 for the full pane of the 1¢ 1857 Plate 4 (left). It seems he sold it to some wealthy collector, who later turned it over to a dealer to sell. It seems the dealer died suddenly and the sheet has disappeared. The owner is suing the Estate. Whether it was Souren who was entrusted with the re-sale, I do not know. Didn't I send you a photograph of that pane?

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

By W. S. Pollard

A55

May 1951

Put In 24-26

Telephone
Ypsilanti, Michigan
5065 -- 2287

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

July 26, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Just a line to show you the enclosed cover. I have never seen one like this before. The cover does not belong to me, but I might be able to have the person part with it. What do you think it is worth?

I have been wondering about the large "2". The cover is addressed to Charleston, S.C. and if that is the port of entry and the date of 1860 is alright there would be 3¢ due. (6¢ to port of entry). However, if it enter some other port the 2¢ due would be correct. Does the writing in the left upper part mean the port of entry (Capers?) or is it just a notation. If that is the town, then where is Capers?

Thought you might enjoy looking at this cover.

Sincerely,

Harold

P.S. Did Charlie send you check for Mich. Central cover. Believe he is going to purchase the other cover. He was supposed to write you on this matter.

July 31st, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

I am familiar with steamboat covers into Charleston with this large "2." I have a record of another with a 3¢ '57 and one with a 3¢ 1851 - Also two Confed covers - one of which showed the "2" due for an advertised letter. Of the first two mentioned one was addressed to Charleston, the other to a P.O. beyond Charleston, thus indicating that a "Steamboat" fee of 2¢ was charged on letters to and beyond Charleston. Offhand I don't recall any regular "Regulation" authorizing such a 2¢ fee so I judge some special ruling was made to apply to Charleston. I believe that a cover such as this is a rarity and my advice is to try and buy it. Don't let a few dollars prevent you from doing so. This is really superb because the "2" is partly on the stamp - all others, as I recall, had the "2" on the envelope. I note there was no P.O. by the name of "Capers" nor can I find any record of a town by that name in the middle of the last century.

I don't know a single collector in Charleston to whom I might write for some information.

It does seem possible that Charleston had three fees in the late fifties, viz:

(1) Ship 6
(2) Steamboat 2
(3) Way 1

Charlie paid me for the 5¢ 1847 cover and is still holding the Pan & San - It is a great rarity and he should buy it.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

(24-27)

1 Book [redacted]

Capers 7th May 1860

Mr Louis Manigault

Charleston

So Carolina

24-27

mail

A165

A. S. D. A.
A.P.S. No. 19844 C.S.A. No. 483 S.P.A. No. 12627

Jack E. Molesworth
Philatelic Broker
102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

July 29, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for the confidential information on the purchaser of the 24¢ Invert Block. I appreciate your sending this on as I sat with Mr. Rust the second day of the sale and discussed with him the possible realization on the block and whether or not it was a good investment. From our discussion I gathered that he would have little interest over $15,000, but apparently he changed his mind. The total amount spent on any one item or at any one time doesn't seem to bother him as long as it appears to be worth the price asked. Don't consider the Invert block much of a bargain at the price though.

I'm enclosing another cover that Stark seemed to doubt for some reason and suggested that I send on to you. Would appreciate your opinion and signature on the back if you feel it is o.k. Advise your fee and I shall remit promptly.

Orders for the Wulfekuhler stuff are coming in very well, but can't tell yet how much will sell on the first offering as a lot is out on approval.

With best wishes,

Jack

July 31st, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the cover to Labuan as per yours of the 29th. This is quite a nice little study and I think it would stump most any student of foreign rate covers. Here is the point - If the cover is bad then it has very little value outside of the stamps themselves - On the other hand, if it is genuine, then it has real value. Here we have a payment of 60¢ and a credit to the British of 32¢. Naturally the question arises - why did we keep 28¢ and give the British 28¢? That surely don't make sense, especially in view of the fact that all we were entitled to was 10¢.

I am pleased to advise you that the cover is genuine in all respects and here is the correct analysis. The use from Holmes Hole, Mass. was early in May 1869 and the letter went to New York and thence by British Packet to England. There was a rate at that time to Labuan "By French Mail" of 30¢ per 1/4 oz. and evidently the postmaster at Homes Hole advised the sender to rate it that way. Inasmuch as the letter was over 1/4 oz., two rates were charged. When the letter reached the New York Office it was found that the quickest routing was by "British Mail, Via Marseilles" at a rate of 42¢ per 1/2 ounce, of which our share was 10¢ and the British was 32¢, hence the 32 credit. In other words, the U.S. P.O. received an overpay of 18¢ due to a change in rating, the error being the bad advice given to the sender by the postmaster at Holmes Hole. I am assuming the postmark of that office is correct as per notation on the back.

The Cottle correspondence is well known and I have yet to run across any covers that exhibited any monkey-business. Naturally a cover showing a 60¢ payment by #71 and #100 is most unusual and may be unique. I think your price of $40.00 is very reasonable.

My fee for the above is $3.50.

Sincerely yours,

(24-28)

17 MAY 69

Captn James Coulie
Bark Kathleen.
Island of Labouan
China Sea.

32

24-28

A165

July 26, 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

The enclosed 1¢ 1851 was sent me as 9R3. I doubt it so would like your opinion.

Enclosed is $1, for your kindness and self addressed envelope for return of the stamp.

Thank you for past favors.

Sincerely,
Bill Maisel

July 31st, 1952.

Mr. William H. Maisel,

2826 N. Howard St.,

Baltimore 18, Md.

Dear Mr. Maisel:

Herewith the One Cent 1851 as per yours of the 26th. You are quite correct, this is not a top row stamp from Plate 3, neither is it the crack position 9R3. However, it is a "B" relief stamp from Plate 3 and shows a crack at left which is a bit similar to the one on 9R3, as you will note from the diagram enclosed.

May I thank you very kindly for the one dollar.

Very truly yours,

(24-29)

24-29

WILLARD C. JACKSON

STAMPS AND SUPPLIES FOR COLLECTORS

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES
FOR ALL COLLECTORS

A. P. S. 20832
T. P. A. 515

325 Bewley Building
FORT WORTH 2, TEXAS

July 28, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing herewith three (3) United States State Department high values mint which I just received from the Downtown Stamp Co. of Newark, New Jersey and for some reason I can't make up my mind on these particular copies and would like your opinion. I have a sale for these items but since I am not positive about them, I prefer to have a letter on them before finishing sale.

Please advise fee for services and I will remit promptly. Postage and registration for return enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Willard C. Jackson

Scott Nos. of enclosed stamps are 068, 069 and 071.

July 31st, 1952.

Mr. Willard C. Jackson,
325 Bewley Bldg.,
Fort Worth 2, Texas.

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Herewith the three high value States. I do not pass on revenues, envelopes, Departments, locals, etc., as all such material is out of my line. However, in this case it is my opinion that these three items are rank counterfeits and were made in Germany before World War I. Sometimes they have an overprint of "FACSIMILE"

In buying expensive stamps one should deal only with reputable dealers. If one deals with gyp-artists they deserve to be stung.

If there is any doubt that I might be wrong about these copies I suggest you return them to the dealer and inform him you will buy them, provided, they furnish you with a certificate of genuineness issued by the Philatelic Foundation of New York City.

No fee for the above.

With regards.

Sincerely yours,

(24-30)


DEPARTMENT OF
STATE
U.S.A.
U.S.A.
TWO DOLLARS.


DEPARTMENT OF
STATE
U.S.A.
U.S.A.
FIVE DOLLARS.


DEPARTMENT OF
STATE
U.S.A.
U.S.A.
TWENTY DOLL.S

SEE 24-30

Paris, July 22 nd. I952,

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

What do you think about this enclosed letter? I believe it is a fake. I think originally the letter sent from New-York had I5 cts. stamps, wich were removed.

After the fakerputted on a stamp with the New-Orleans Steamship, and painted the circular line on the letter. And also added in hands the inside manuscript notice Durege, Havane....

This item was bought more than twenty years ago in a London sale by the present owner. Many years before the Zareski's arrival. In fact, even to day no french crocker could have the idea to add such a mention as the inside Habana. Here nobody knows Steamship is only an arrival postmark .

Sincerely yours,

M. Levy

Aug. 4, 1952.

Mr. Marcel Levy,
8 Rue Lagarde,
Paris, France.

Dear Mr. Levy:

Regarding the cover contained in yours of July 22nd, which arrived by steamer mail. In my opinion, this was a stampless cover that was sent prepaid and it is quite possible that the letter originated in Havana and was sent under separate cover to New York City and there put into the U. S. Mail to France by the Forwarding Agent firm whose handstamp appears on the back. I cannot detect any faking of the French postal markings as to dates, etc., and this also applies to the red New York marking. The 10¢ stamp - Type V - did not originate on this cover and the "Steamship 10" marking is a fake. The 10¢ Type V stamp was not issued until May 1859.

I am wondering how you knew that this "Steamship 10" was an imitation of the New Orleans type. I would greatly appreciate advice on that point. I would like to hold this cover a few days so that I can show it to several close friends. By any chance, could you let me acquire this as I would like to add it to my fake reference collection. If you will advise the price I will gladly pay same.

Regarding three stamps that I am holding for you, viz:

1¢ 1851 - Type IV - 97LlL
10¢ 1860
5¢ 1857 - Henna

I regret that I have not been able to dispose of these for you at what I considered satisfactory prices. The 90¢ has fake gum, and the 5¢ 1857 is cut into at top by the perfs. If you wish I will send these three copies to Dr. Polland, (San Rafael, Calif.) or I will return them to you. Be so kind as to advise.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

(24-31)

This Belongs To

Mr. MARCEL LEVY
8 RUE LAGARDE
PARIS,
FRANCE

Aug. 4, 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,

P. O. Box 288,

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

This has just been sent to me for my opinion - so I should return it without any delay but I wanted you to see it, so please return it to me as soon as possible.

This is sure a HONEY and I am going to try and acquire it. See if you can dope it out correctly. Later I will send you photographs of it.

With regard -

Yours etc.,

TRINITY 3-5745

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

5930 Commonwealth Avenue
Detroit 8, Michigan

Aug. 6, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Enclosed is the cover you sent for comments. The cover is a double rate stampless to France in 1859. Amer. Pkt. and a credit to France of 2x6¢--12¢.

The 10¢ type has been added and faked with the Steamship 10. The 10¢ type was not issued in Jan. 1859. Clever faking.

The cover privately, probably came from Havanna and was put into the mail in New York by the forwarding company. If so their should have been a 30¢ stamp on the cover. I doubt whether the cover was sent to France with the amount paid in cash.

Dont forget Sept. 27th for party at my place.

Sincerely,

Harold

Aug. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Yours of the 6th received with return of the faked cover to France. I thought maybe I might trip you up on this cover as it has a very convincing look. Yesterday I mailed you a copy of my Service Issue No. 17 and you will note I included a photograph of the cover together with a write-up about it. This cover was sent to me by Marcel Levy of Paris. He frequently sends me items that he picks up from Paris dealers. You will recall that he sent me that S.L. "Registered" cover that you purchased.

Re - the "Steamship" cover, he wrote as follows, quote:

"This item was bought more than twenty years ago in a London Sale by the present owner. Many years before the Zareski's arrival. In fact, even today no French crocker could have the idea to add such a mention as the inside Habana. Here nobody knows Steamship is only an arrival postmark."

I have known Levy for ten or twelve years and never had occasion to be at all suspicious of any of his actions or transactions but one thing puzzled me about this cover and his letter. As you are aware, there were various types of this "Steamship 10" markings - used at New York, Mobile and New Orleans. Further, the great majority of mail from Havana to the U. S. at this period was brought to New York. I found that this fake marking was an imitation of the New Orleans type - 28MM. What I couldn't figure out was a paragraph in Levy's letter, quote:

"After the faker putted on a stamp with the New-Oreleans Steamship and painted the circular line on the letter."

How did he know this was the New Orleans type? I immediately wrote him and put that query to him.

I note that you were a bit skeptical about the 30¢ being paid in cash, but this cover was undoubtedly such. No stamps were removed, but the mail clerk neglected to rate the letter. It should have had a "30." You will recall that while postage on domestic mail was required by stamps that this did not apply to foreign mail.

Re - the D.P.S. meeting on Sept. 27th. Charlie mentioned on the phone that the party was being given by him and you, but I understood it was to be at Adrian. I probably got the wrong impression. He told me that he had invited Henry Hill and Bilden of Minnespolis and I suggested he invite Brookman. I am going to try and attend.

With regards - Yours etc.,

(24-31)

By Marcel Levy Paris - The Original Rate
Was 30¢ - As Per Amer Pkt To England - Credit
Is 2X6¢ - Fake Steamship - No 10¢ 57 - Y
In January - 1859 - STEAMSHIP 10 is mis-strike of N°30

B184

B184 - By Marcel Levy Paris - Back Stamps of FRANCE SHOW 59 - Also Havana - 23 Dec 58 IN Pen

SERVICE
PHOTO Nº 50

SERVICE
Nº 50

B184A

BY ULTRA VIOLET

B184A - By Marcel Levy Paris - The Original Rate Was 30¢ - As Per Amer Pkt To England - Credit Is 2X6¢ - Fake Steamship - No 10¢ 57 - Y In January - 1859 - STEAMSHIP 10 is imitation of N.O. type

169 East 74th St.,
New York 21, N.Y.,
July 30, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have recently acquired a cover with the "rare New York Ocean Mail marking" which I thought would interest you. It is the middle one on the enclosed photostat, the letter being from Canton via Marseilles to New York and Philadelphia. Another cover of the same correspondence with a different marking is shown at the bottom part of the photostat. These are arrival markings.

The cover at the top of the photostat is a dispatch marking. This, I presume, is the cover mentioned by you in Stamps, June 8, 1940, as in the Bingham collection. I acquired it a couple of years ago.

The photostat is for your files. Do you not think it of interest to find this marking on China mail?

Best regards,

J F Burke

J.F.Burke.

Aug. 4, 1952.

Mr. J. F. Burke,

169 East 74th St.,

New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Burke:

Thanks very much for your kind note of the 30th enclosing the three photostats. I can assure you that I am pleased to have these and to add them to my records.

Yes, the "May 21" cover was one that was loaned to me by Frank Bingham some years ago. I believe I mentioned in my article that the Mason cover of March 18, 1850 was the earliest I had recorded of this type and to this date I have never run across an earlier use. I don't suppose I have made much of an effort to search for the latest uses, but your June 26, 1852 appears to be later than any I have recorded.

Again, thanks for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

(24-32)

August 10 52.

Dear Sir.

In answer to your letter of Aug 4 52 I send you herewith. this Confederate cover, please advise me, how much you will pay for, if you can not use it. please, advise what this cover is, and how much it is worth.

yours truly

MERTKE Stamp + Coin Exch.
3500 N. JANSSEN
Chicago 13

(the owner is waiting for my answer.)

Aug. 13, 1952.

Mr. John Mertke,

3500 N. Janssen,

Chicago 13, Ill.

Dear Mr. Mertke:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 10th. I regret to inform you that the cover is fraudulent and naturally was never used in the Confederacy.

There is no fee for the above opinion.

Very truly yours,

(24-34)

B192

B192

SEE 24-34

Form 3817
Rev. 9-37

Post Office Department

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

NEWPORT, KY. AUG 14 1952

One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to Mr. Jack E. Molesworth
102 Beacon Street
BOSTON (16) Mass.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 5—10325

POSTMASTER.

Aug. 14, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 1869 cover to Switzerland (May 1870) as per yours of the 12th.

The rate was 15¢ at about this time - so there was a 3¢ '69 which is missing - too bad for the combination of 2 - 3 and 10 to pay this rate is nice and far from common. Incidentally at about this time the rate was cut to 10¢.

Re - the 7R1E. I made a photograph by Ultra-Violet and if you have any use for a print I will be glad to send one to you.

Weill must have sold the cover to some collector in Texas but I have no idea who he was.

I am sure that Hill didn't buy that Invert Block and I know that Krug didn't. There must have been two buyers who were willing to pay over $21,000 for it. That point is interesting.

You can rest assured that I will treat as strictly confidential all information re - Rust.

I was pleased to hear of your satisfactory dealings with Gene and also pleased to learn that you have been very successful with the sale of the collection. My hearty congratulations.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

HOBBY INTERESTS

PICTORIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
EARLY EVANSVILLE HISTORY
EARLY OHIO RIVER STEAMBOATS
STAMP COLLECTING
MEMBER: COLLECTORS CLUB, S.P.A., A.P.S., C.P.S.

Henry A. Meyer

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT · CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
RESIDENCE 516 READ STREET
TELEPHONE 5-6380
EVANSVILLE · 11 · INDIANA

PHILATELIC LINES

SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA POSTAL HISTORY
GERMAN POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY & NAPOLEONIC COVERS
STEAMBOAT COVERS
CAPE TRIANGLES
BRAZIL · HAWAII

Aug. 17, 1952

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your letter of Aug. 9. I will follow your suggestions about getting date coverages of STEAM/MANZANILLO and the rest of the series from Edgar, also from W. R. Parker and Earl Hamilton. I also have several other names out there on the coast who might know. But first I will wait and see what I get from Edgar, as he already has the request. He has promised help, but he hasn't promised when it will be.

A number of matters have accumulated which I want to write to you, none of them individually lengthy, so I'll try to make the aggregate short also.

Ecnlosed for your file are photographs of the three covers belonging to John S. Campbell with the STEUB. & INDA. R.R./O. postmark. The complete facts about them appeared in A.P. for April, 1950.

Are you acquainted with Miss Katharine Matthies' cover with pair of 12c and single 3c 1851 with postmark L.VILLE & CINTI MAIL LINE to Paris? I enclose a print for your file. I want to show it in my book, and I need some help to explain all the marks. So, on a separate sheet I will type some questions, with space opposite for you to write or check or type the answers. It will save you a little time.

Re STEAM/PANAMA, M. C. Nathan has it in 1865, so Robert S. Gordon's late date of 1867 does not sound unreasonable at all.

Re the big oval Way of San Francisco, 43 x 21½ mm., here is a bit of data: I have seen it myself from 1854 to 1857, always black. If you can extend the dates, I will be glad. It usually is accompanied by the hand-stamped rate mark 10; but in a few cases by the manuscript rate mark 11. I cannot figure out a reason. The regulations on way fees were not changed during the period 1854-57, nor for long before those years, nor until 1863, when the way fee was abolished. It was just the first of the year 1853 when the New Orleans post office received orders to stop charging the extra penny on prepaid letters; but 1853 does not seem to be involved with the S.F. case, and as far as I can remember, none of those letters with the big S.F. mark were prepaid, all were collect, so all should have been 11. Strange that most of them are 10, and a few are 11.

In my book (which is now nearing completion) I am making a lot of use of quotations from P.L.& R., and you have saved me the trouble of going back to original sources to get the sections, by printing them in your Vol. II. I will acknowledge the help you have thus given me, as well as help by means of correspondence about direct questions.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

Aug. 21, 1952.

Mr. Henry A. Meyer,
516 Read St.,
Evansville 11, Ind.

Dear Henry:

Yours of the 17th received with the four photographs. Thanks very much.

First regarding the cover with 27¢ to Paris in March 1853. There was no such a rate as 27¢ - The New York and French markings both show that it was transmitted by Amer. Pkt., the "Collins Line" and the rate was 21¢ per 1/2 ounce. We had no treaty with France at that time, hence mail went via England or direct to France. Re - the former - if by "British Packet" (Cunard) all that a person had to pay was 5¢ which was the U. S. share of the U. S. British Treaty rate. This is sometimes called the shore-to-ship rate, but I don't like that term as "shore" could have meant from St. Louis or New Orleans to New York, thence to the British mail ship or from New York to the ship. I think the sender of this letter misunderstood or perhaps he didn't know that all the postage required was 5¢ if he wanted it to go "Br. Pkt." or 21¢ if sent by the Collins Line. My guess is that it originated at some "Way" stop between Louisville and Cincinnati and was mailed direct with the Mail Agent, who canceled the stamps. March 1st, in 1853, was Tuesday and the Cunard ship was due to sail on Wednesday the 2nd, so of course it missed that sailing - rather than hold up until the next Cunard sailing of the 9th, the NewYork Foreign Dept. sent it by a Collins steamer which sailed on Saturday, the 5th. Perhaps when the sender addressed the letter he thought it could reach New York by the 2nd, but he later learned it was too late so put on a pair of 12¢ stamps, thus overpaying. I don't know why the extra 3¢ stamp is on the cover. Mail to England or France by the Collins Line had to be prepaid to England (24¢) - or to the British Frontier (21¢). I enclose a photo of cover showing the 21¢ rate by the Collins Line with 8 decimes due in France.

Steam - Manzanillo - I was sorry to learn that Jessup had not supplied you with the data you require. May I suggest that you write him and request him to please assist you as the data is most important to the work that you are doing. He is a very busy man but if you keep reminding him he will comply. How about Dr. Polland?

"STEUB & INDA. R. R. /O." Thanks for the three prints. I recall the article and I think it was very interesting. It displayed some fine research work on the part of John Campbell. I believe I had some correspondence with him on the subject.

Again the 27¢ cover. I negelected to mention that this cover was sent to me about seven or eight years ago by Don Malcolm of New York and I made a poor photo at that time. I have no record of what I wrote him regarding it at that time.

"Steam - Panama" - Knapp had a cover that he loaned me years ago showing a use in Jan. 1863 - no doubt it was in the First Knapp Sale.

#2. Mr. Henry A. Meyer - Aug. 21, 1952.

I enclose a photo showing a cover with a pencil "1861" but this year date is wrong as S.F. did not use this type of postmark until late in the sixties. I also find I have a photo of a cover with bank note stamps as follows: 6¢ - 3¢ - 1¢ - no year date but probably April 1871.

San Francisco WAY in double line oval. I enclose photo of a Jessup cover of Nov. 6, 1854 - this is the earliest I have recorded - Further, I don't seem to have any record later than 1857 but I am of the opinion it was used much later. All covers that I have been have a "10" due - none are rate "11" due.

Are you not a bit confused on the Way Fee? For example, it is my opinion that a letter like the enclosed of "Nov 6 1854" was brought to S.F. by a regular mail steamer, hence no "Way Fee." I would like to see a cover with 11¢ due, as surely it would mean that a Carrier had been paid 1¢ Way Fee.

You cited the New Orleans case. It was an isolated case - a special ruling that applied only to New Orleans. (As I understand that case).

I was pleased to learn that the P.L. & R. reproductions in my Vol. 2 have proved helpful to you. It is postal data that had never been published - that is, in any philatelic publication. When I first got hold of the P.L. & R. books I considered I had struck a gold mine.

My kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

(24-36)

HOBBY INTERESTS

PICTORIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
EARLY EVANSVILLE HISTORY
EARLY OHIO RIVER STEAMBOATS
STAMP COLLECTING
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Henry A. Meyer

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PHILATELIC LINES

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STEAMBOAT COVERS
CAPE TRIANGLES
BRAZIL • HAWAII

Aug. 26, 1952

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your letter of Aug. 21. Since it was a sort of discussion-letter, and since some of the matters were not settled by that which you wrote, but need further consideration, I'll continue them now.

Miss Matthies' letter: I'll append a new sheet with my revised analysis, with room for your comments. I agree that the name of the addressee is not philatelically important; but I sometimes like to dramatize a cover a little. A name helps in thus dramatizing it.

You think the cover was picked up at a way stop. I think it was mailed aboard the boat shortly before she cast off. We are both guessing. But I have at least two good reasons for my guess. Let me state them:

1. The letter is addressed to the said Monsieur Bossangs, but note that it is for M. I (or J.?) Spalding, bishop of Louisville. Isn't it a good deal more likely that a priest or important parishioner in Louisville (probably one of the priests of the cathedral) was writing to Bishop Spalding, than somebody at a way stop?

2. It was the original intention of the sender to have the postage charged to Box 307. (We don't need to discuss that system; we understand it.) What town between Louisville and Cincinnati was at all likely to have 307 post office boxes? Perhaps Madison; perhaps Rising Sun; perhaps Vevay; I doubt whether any of them did, but it's a possibility. But, none of them are in Bishop Spalding's bailiwick. Of course, somebody in one of them could be writing to him, but it is lots more likely that it was somebody in Louisville, observing both the addressee and the high-number box.

I believe, when we consider the places of origin of way mail, and always suggest a way stop, thet we are very prone to minimize the number of letters which very likely were brought to the train or the boat or the ship just before leaving-time. To the P.O.D., they were in exactly the same category as the letters picked up along the way; but let's not overlook them.

Since the writer had intended to send the letter, prepaid, with the postage charged to his quarterly account, but missed the mail at the post office because it had closed, he took the letter down to the boat. Did he have two 12c stamps with him? And also a 3c stamp? More likely he paid the route agent the money, and the route agent supplied the stamps. Then why the overpayment? Well, the tables of postage rates were not easy to interpret. If the route agent and the writer were debating over the provisions in column 3 of Fig. 56E, p. 323 of your Vol. II, and the captain was tapping the bell as a warning, probably the writer said, "I know it's 24 cents to England, so it must be at least as much to France. Let's put on 24 cents." That much would make sense, knowing that it had to be done in a hurry. But why 3 cents more? That is anybody's guess.

In Chuck Remele's last letter, he wrote: "Last week I received a letter from Tucson, Arizona, with a 6c airmail and a 3c commemorative, both nicely tied on. If some collector should find that letter in 2052, what fantastic theories might he not think up to account for that amount of postage?

Yesterday in one mail came an airmail card from John S. Campbell with the imprinted 2c stamp and a 3c adhesive, and an ordinary card from Jim Shaver announcing a change of address, with a 1c and a 1½c stamp on it. I'll put those with Chuck's cover, and let him cache them away somewhere to be found in 2052. But--when 24 cents is already too much, it is pretty hard to account for 3c more.

Steam/Manzanillo etc. Edgar has my list since the first week in January, and has several times assured me that he will take care of the matter, but no results are forthcoming. I will write him again, to reach him just after the A.P.S. convention, and tell him that I am holding space open in my illustrations and my check list for those which he is going to send, and that the entire manuscript is hanging in the balance until I get his data and photographs.

Steam/Panama: With the dates which you and I both have recorded, I think we are entirely safe in accpeting Robert S. Gordon's year-span of 1863-66, and I wouldn't be surprised if we could extend it to 1867 or 1868 some day by seeing covers either with dates or with cahracteristics known to us for those years. On the photograph you enclosed, you are right, San Francisco did not use that town mark until late in the 60's. Strange, we do not have it listed in the Hawaii book. Re the cover with bank note stamps 6c - 3c - 1c, I understand you to mean that the cover has the Steam/Panama mark. Do you think we can safely put down a late date of 1871 for the Steam/Panama mark?

Did you realize that the photo you sent me of Steam/Panama is my own cover? I have the cover and the photo side by side. I have been pondering over that cover a lot lately. Neal and I had it out for discussion the other day. It has obviously lost a stamp, and that lost stamp was not the cause of the due-mark "10." On page 344, I find that the rate to Panama was 10c if under 2500 miles, 20c if over 2500 miles. Presumably, then, the same would be charged from Panama; or am I wrong? Coming from Panama, but not in the mail from Panama, but on a non-contract steamer (that is what Steam means) what could the stamp have been, and why, to make a total charge of that stamp plus 10c plus 10c?

If, upon being put aboard a ship at Panama it became subject to the rate from the east coast to California, by that time that was 3 cents. It was after the 10c rate went out. Do we have anywhere, any specific directions for rating letters from a foreign country to the U.S., mailed at shipside on a U.S. non-mail ship, and already bearing some U.S. postage? I wonder if any postmaster really knew what to do in such a case. This letter could not have been very much overweight; perhaps 2 rates (but I doubt it), but certainly not 3. I will never feel quite right about this cover until I have it analyzed. Although the 1861 is written again on the back, I agree that it is wrong. Both the 1861 on the front and the one on the back were erased before I got the cover, but the one on the back still shows.

San Francisco Way: You say you have never seen one with 11 cents as the rate. I have seen two. One of them is on its way to you right now, from Neal; the other belongs to M. C. Nathan, 519 California St., San Fracncisco 4. Both are 1854. Mr. Nathan won't send you his cover, but he will send you a photo.

I believe that your record of a late date of 1857 will have to stand, until we find one later. I have seen about 6 copies, and 1857 is my latest, also.

Am I confused on the way fee? No, I am not confused in the least. I was never any clearer on anything. I only wish I were as clear on the steam fee as I am on the way fee.

"Way" means brought in by a carrier on his way between post offices, and the carrier might be a mounted post-rider, a stagecoach driver, the conductor of a train, or a captain of a steamboat. The essential things that make a way letter such, are (1) there is a mail contract between the P.O.D. and the boat, train, etc., bringing the letter, and (2) there is no route agent aboard. If there were a route agent aboard, the letter would be postmarked with his route agent's mark; since there was none, the letter entered the mail at San Francisco and received the "Way" mark there.

Way letters from at least 1802, and perhaps earlier, rated a 1 cent fee to the carrier, and this continued until 1863, when the way fee was abolished. On way letters in general, the 1 cent was charged to the addressee (except in those very few cases where it was prepaid.) On way letters brought by steamboat without a route agent, the 1 cent was charged to thr addressee until the end of the year 1852, then it was not charged any more.

The fact that some offices did not charge it before the end of 1852, and that some offices still charged it after the beginning of 1853 (if any did), are local idiosyncarcies and do not change the rules. Some postal clerks today do not rate letters and packages correctly, but that doesn't change the rules.

My contention is that all San Francisco way letters should have been rated 10, or else all should have been rated 11, as there was no change of law or of policy of the P.O.D. during the life-span of the mark. If the mark happened to straddle the change of years from 1852 to 1853, I could see a reason for "11" at first and "10" a little later; but during the years 1854-57 there was no change.

You say that the New Orleans case was an isolated case, applying to New Orleans only. I understand you to mean that the way fee was no longer to be charged charged at New Orleans, but was still to be charged at other post offices. But Col. Oakey makes out exactly the opposite case; he says that New Orleans and Mobile (he says "in the southwest") only were charging it; other offices were not. But that is not correct; I have covers from various river and seaboard post offices in 1852 and before, on which the way fee is not charged, and I have some on which it is charged. There is no pattern discernable.

Now let's look at Mr. Jacobs' letter. He does not say, "We have decided to make an exception for New Orleans." He says, "It iseevident from a reading of the law, that the fee is to be charged on letters brought in by a carrier on land routes, but not on steamboat routes." (I would like to see the words on which he based that interpretation; I find no such distinction stated in the law nor in P.L.& R.) "Steamboats" should mean steamboats anywhere, not only steamboats at New Orleans. True, in the last paragraph of his letter he superficially <u>appears</u> to say that; but if you read it again, he is not saying "steamboats arriving at New Orleans." He is saying, "You have been doing it wrong at New Orleans; we did not mean steamboats at all." Am I reading it correctly? If not, wherein am I reading wrong? My own interpretation is this, that Col. Oakey and Congressman Penn carried enough weight with the P.O.D. to get them to say, "Yes, we said that, but we didn't mean it." If Mr. Jacobs was sincere in his reply to Col. Oakey and his notification to Postmaster Musson, then in the next P.O.D. bulletin (whether that was weekly, or monthly, or annually) directions must have been included to all postmasters, not to charge the way fee on way letters brought by steamboats. Therefore, since we have not seen any San Francisco way letters earlier than 1854, they should all have been rated 10, never 11. If I am wrong, please show me where my mistake is. Yours sincerely,

Henry

Sept. 5, 1952.

Mr. Henry A. Meyer,
516 Read St.,
Evansville 11, Ind.

Dear Henry:

Yours of the 26th received.

Regarding the Matthies cover. It never occurred to me that Bishop Spalding was visiting in Paris and that the letter was intended for him but I agree that this is probably the solution. Sort of a crazy way to address a letter. In other words, it was addressed to _____?_____ Bossang in Paris, France, but it was intended for Bishop Spalding (of Louisville, Ky.). In this event I agree that the letter no doubt originated in Louisville and was mailed direct on the boat due to depart up stream for Cincinnati. It seems more than probable that the Box 307 was a P.O. box in Louisville. My guess that whoever mailed the letter in Louisville intended to put it in that Post Office, hence the "chge Box 307" but finding the mail closed rushed it to the boat and in some way put 6¢ too much postage on the letter. I doubt if we will ever be able to find a solution as to why this was done - at least why the extra 3¢ stamp. I am not sure that the "B" in "Box" was written by the same person who wrote the "B" in Bossang or the "B" in "Br" (packet). Note the difference. One thing is sure, this letter went by the Collins Line and that rate was 21¢. No more, no less.

"Steam-Panama" - The cover that I mentioned with the Bank Note stamps (1¢ - 3¢ - 6¢) is as good as gold and bore a San Francisco postmark of "Apr 28" - I doubt if this could be as early as "1870" so it must have been Apr. 28, 1871 or perhaps 1872. If you wish I will hunt up the negative and send you a print.

Regarding your Steam-Panama cover with S.F. date of "Jan 28." The date of use was in the late 1860's as indicated by the S.F. postmark. I have no record of this postmark earlier than August of 1867. The rate to or from Panama at that time was 10¢ from any port of the U. S. See Act of Congress of July 1, 1864 - Sec. 8 (Luff - page 395). Your cover was, therefore, a double or a triple.

I wrote Mr. Grabert about his "Way 11" cover and no doubt by this time he has advised you.

While I would like to have a record of the Nathan cover it will not be necessary for him to send me a photograph

I stand corrected on my suspicion that you were a bit confused on Way Fee Mail. I suppose there is no doubt but what the S.F. office was in error in rating those covers as "Way 11," for obvious reasons. According to the strict interpretation of the law the ship had no legal right to carry such mail unless same was enclosed in a Government stamped envelope and prepaid at the legal rate of postage. Such carriage was "outside of the mail" over a U. S. Post Route. According to the law "Way" mail was such mail as was entrusted to a U. S. Mail Carrier.

When L. V. Huber first discovered the Way fee data in the N.O. papers, he sent me photostat copies and these I had framed and they are hanging on the wall over my desk. I construed the order issued by Jacobs to apply directly to the Mobile and New Orleans

Post Offices but there is no question but what I was wrong.

Henry, I know of no P.O. Order of 1853 or 1854 whereby postmasters at river towns were instructed not to charge a Way fee on steamboat mail but I have little doubt that such an order was issued soon after the Jacobs ruling as confirmed by the P.M.G.

I have just read the references to Way Mail in the 1855 P.L. & R. and I note that no way fee was to be charged on Steamboat Way Mail. I have no fault to find with the last paragraph of your letter of the 28th. I doubt if few postal students have a clearer or as comprehensive an understanding of the facts as you have.

With best wishes

Cordially yours,

CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED
CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia - Michigan - August 17, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

Arrived safely back in Ionia last night. There were only four passengers on the plane leaving Cincinnati (46 vacent seats). Stopped off at Stark's and gave him the message re the Pan-San cover and he said you would either get a check mailed tomorrow or the cover back, - he would see to that. He agreed with you that such delays are unpardonable.

I want to thank you and Mildred for your usual hospitality and tell you that I enjoyed every minute of my visit with you both.

Re the 24¢ Bank Note Cover (Scott's No. 153) with N.Y. foreign mail cancel addressed to Amsterdam, Holland (Lot 517 in the Gibson sale) which I obtained at the recent Keffer sale, and which we discussed and you questioned the single 24¢ stamp on this cover. The red cancel on face of cover shows it went via British Packet. On reverse side this cover is a blue circle and inside this circle "A L at top - then a line with "S P 26" and below another line with "74". Also a larger red circle with red "AMSTERDAM" 27/9 5-9-74. So I would assume the use was in September 1874. I discussed this with Harold last night, and he got out his various U.S.Postal Laws & Regulations. He says that in 1874 the rate direct to Holland was 6¢ for single rate, but via England was 10¢ single rate. However his P.L.& Reg of 1873 show a single rate direct to Belgium of 6¢, whereas the single rate to Belgium via England was 8¢, and Harold thinks the Holland rate at that time was the same as the Belgium rate. He says he thinks this cover is either a 4 x 6¢ rate or a 3 x 8¢ rate, and says he would still like to have the cover at what I paid for it. Do you still want me to send it down to you for study? Or perhaps to write up in your "Special Service?"

Received the photo prints from your last issue of the "Special Service" and thanks for same.

Hope to see you at Harold's party last part of September - only about five weeks away. Rene hopes Mildred will decide to come with you and spend some time with us at Ionia before going over to Harold's.

Regards.

Sincerely,

Jack

J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/

Aug. 20, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - your 24¢ Bank Note cover. I have an Official Postal Guide dated October 1874 which explains routes to Holland, rates, etc. - also my U. S. Mail with Tables, etc. I assume from your description that the cover went by closed mail thru England and I could establish this by the New York sailing date if I had the date of the New York postmark. The rates in September were -

By Direct Mail - - - 6¢
" Closed Mail
thru England - - - -10¢

I feel certain that the latter was the rate, hence assume that originally this letter had a common 10¢ 1873 Continental which some faker removed and substituted the 24¢. I suggest you send the cover to me and no doubt I can definitely determine one way or the other.

The Registration Rate was 8¢ but there evidently is no evidence that this was a Registered letter, nor is there any evidence that it was a Supplementary Mail cover.

Regards -

Yours etc.,

Aug. 20, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

I am sending copy of the enclosed letter to Harold. I am unable to figure out any combination of a 10¢ rate to make 24¢, and inasmuch as the 10¢ is a common stamp and a 24¢ is rare as a single on cover I can see why a clever faker would remove one and substitute the other.

Mildred and I both enjoyed having you down and you really should come more often and we trust that on the next trip you will bring Rene.

Thanks for stopping by and having a chat with Harold and I trust that it will bring some action. This is written early Wednesday before I have received my mail.

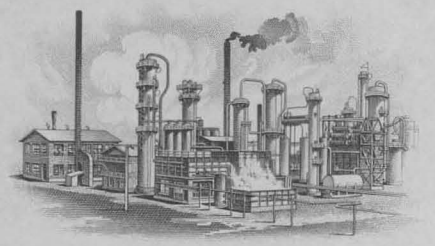
I intend to go up to Harold's D.P.S. party but Mildred won't go with me, as she feels that Ruth is not enthusiastic over having house-guests. I suppose we should have realized that on former visits, so I suppose we will not be able to get up to Ionia this year. However, Jack, we do appreciate the invitation and thank you.

With best wishes to Rene and you -

Cordially yours,

E. G. GUY, PRESIDENT & GENERAL MGR.
J. G. FLECKENSTEIN, VICE PRES. IN CHARGE OF SALES

M. A. HAGERMAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER
M. B. CLARK, ASST. TREAS. & TRAFFIC MGR.



PHONE 125

CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

~~CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN~~
419 Union Street,
Ionia, Michigan.

August 24, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your letter of the 20th referring to the 24¢ single banknote stamp on cover to Amsterdam, Holland. As requested by you, I am enclosing the cover for your study and comments.

I know little or nothing about these rates, but Harold Stark studied this cover and his rates, and says it is either a 4 x 6¢ rate, or - - since there was an 8¢ rate to Belgium during 1874, he thinks the rate was no doubt the same to Holland at that time in which case it could be a 3 x 8¢. If you find the cover is OK, please sign it on the back and return to me with notation of what your fee is and will send check. If you think it is a fake, let me know why and your fee.

Had a nice letter from Mort Neinken.

Glad you are coming up to Harold's party last of the month and only wish Mildred would come too and stay with Rene. I asked Ruth if she were inviting any ladies and she said some were coming and Rene could come along if she wanted to - however Rene is tied up she says on that date and won't be there.

You will recall I told you about the horizontal strip from Plate Three of 1¢ I got in Harmer Rooke sale for $6.50. It was the color of brown leather and worthless in condition it was sold in altho Harmer described it as "slightly discolored." I boiled it and dunked it in peroxide - three successive treatments - and am enclosing it for your inspection. I think it looks pretty nice now - don't you?

Regards to Mildred and Stan Jr as well as yourself. Rene sends her best too.

Sincerely,

J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/
Enc:REG:

August 27, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks very much for a look at your cover with the 24¢ Bank Note. The London postmark on the back shows that this did not go by "Closed Mail, Thru England" but rather in the open mail thru England. I suppose the 10¢ rate applied to "open" as well as "closed mail" - The London postmark also shows that the letter was not sent by "Direct Mail" by which the rate was 6¢. "Direct Mail" would mean that it did not go thru England. The New York postmark has "Br Pkt" which also proves it went thru England and not Direct - thus a 6¢ rate or multiple of that rate (4 x 6) seems to be out, in my opinion. I examined the "74" year dates very carefully and feel quite sure that they were not tampered with, hence the use was undoubtedly September 1874. The memo inside indicates the letter was written on "Sep 13" and I suppose the "13" in the oval firm marking on face is confirmation of the day date. The red New York postmark appears to be SEP 13 and I suppose the day date is "13". The British Mail ships of the Cunard Line sailed at this time on Wednesdays from New York and Boston (from each port every other Wednesday). In 1874 the 13th of September fell on Sunday. I don't believe any mail ships sailed on Sundays, and it seems odd that a business letter(?) would have been written on a Sunday.

I have an official record of all the mail departures from the Port of New York for September 1874, and there is no record of any mail ship departing on Sunday, the 13th. A Cunard ship sailed for Queenston on Wednesday, the 16th, so perhaps the "13" in the New York postmark was actually "16" and not a "13". I don't know what the large pen marking is at left. The one to right appears to be the British one shilling, but I cannot imagine what it has to do with this cover.

Now for the New York foreign mail cancelation on the stamp. I am firmly of the conviction that the part on the stamp is genuine but that the part on the cover is not, i.e., that it is a paint job. I firmly believe that some faker removed a 10¢ Bank Note and substituted this 24¢ stamp which had a genuine strike of the New York foreign mail. I do not think the painted portion on the cover would match the genuine - Further, I feel quite sure that the black ink of the paint job is not the same black ink that was used on the stamp. You can well appreciate why a faker would profit by removing a 10¢ Bank Note and substituting a 24¢.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Harold and also a copy to Philip Ward because this cover was Lot 517 in the Gibson Sale in 1944 and Phil may be interested in my opinion regarding it.

I think that you will agree that the fake part of the cancel does not agree with the genuine part on the stamp.

I believe that you purchased this cover in the Keffer Sale of May 28th, 1952 - Lot #560 - at $50.00. If you wish to inform Harry of my opinion I have no objection.

With regards. Yours etc.,

(24-37)

Sept. 13, 1952.

Mr. Edwin Milliken,

28 E. 70th St.,

New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Milliken:

Thanks very much for yours of the 11th with return of the 24¢ cover. I am sending it up to my good friend Harold Stark for him to have a look. I feel rather sure that the part of the cancelation on the cover is a paint job and if it is, it is indeed a clever piece of work. Further, if they can turn out such work we should be aware of that fact, and be more on our guard. I will advise you as to Stark's opinion.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Hampton House
28 East 70th Street
New York 21, N. Y.
Butterfield 8-2700

Sept 1. '52

Dear Ashbrook-

Yes indeed I will be happy to contribute, for what it is worth, in opinion of your cover. A photo is not of course as effective for this purpose as the original.

I sent the 1874 date early. If memory serves me Elliot Perry's book was once authority for the statement "the 24 was not distributed to post offices until 1875".

Yes, my interest in N.Y.F. Mails is still lively. Bill Stewart, Chicago, thinks the general interest is now sufficient to warrant re-publication of my 1939 study. Thinks he will again do it.

I saw a N.Y.F. Mail (Anchor Hope case) in dealer's booth at the Paris Centenary 1949 Ex. The ink revealed this easily made fake.

By the way that great show

received practically no publicity in our stamp press.
The entertainment of exhibitors was extensive, gratuitous and all in the grand manner. My wife & I greatly enjoyed it and remained in Europe 1½ years.
Here she has suffered the double misfortune of a fractured hip and a poor operation in setting it.
When you and your nice wife have the time in NY. come in and see us.

My warmest regards,

Thom Willibey

Address reply
here. The Nat. City
Bk is always good
however.

Sept. 8, 1952.

Mr. Edwin Milliken,
Hampton House,
28 East 70th St.,
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Milliken:

It was indeed nice to hear from you and I am taking advantage of your kind offer to have a look at the 24¢ Bank Note cover which I think is a fake. I am enclosing it herewith.

There was no such a rate (or multiple) to Holland in September 1874, at least I am not aware of such. I believe this letter was a single, and that the rate was 10¢. Further, that the cover originally had a 10¢ Bank Note, which someone removed and substituted this copy of a 24¢ which had a half strike of this marking. I think the part of the marking on the cover is a fake, a paint job. I am wondering if you might agree with me?

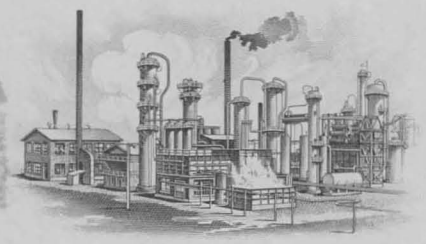
Mrs. Ashbrook and I were sorry to learn of Mrs. Milliken's mishap and sincerely trust that she is well on the road to complete recovery. I can assure you that it would be a pleasure to see you, but I do not get East very often any more.

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

E. G. GUY, PRESIDENT & GENERAL MGR.
J. G. FLECKENSTEIN, VICE PRES. IN CHARGE OF SALES

M. A. HAGERMAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER
M. B. CLARK, ASST. TREAS. & TRAFFIC MGR.



PHONE 125

CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia - September 13, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for yours of September 8th. Harry Keffer wrote me on the same date regarding this 24¢ bank note with the foreign mail cancel to Amsterdam, Holland, as follows - I quote:

> "Pardon the delay in answering yours of the 30th which I assure you was unavoidable. My impression of Stan's letter to you dated August 27th and his letter to Ed Milliken dated August 28th does not deliberately state that the 24¢ bank note is a fake. The last sentence in the first paragraph of his letter to Milliken confirms the above.
>
> I suggest we examine the situation a little further. I think we can all take for granted that the cover has to have a stamp on it, and further that it was a bank note stamp, and that the stamp had a New York foreign mail cancellation. Now, if it is as Stan suspects, that the New York mail design is painted on the cover, what has happened to the New York foreign mail design that tied the 10¢ stamp on the cover?
>
> When we have the answer to that we can go further into the matter."
>
> Sincerely,
> (signed) Harry B. Keffer.

To me, this seems like just asking for time. Where do we go from here, Stan? Let me have your comments and when Milliken reports, will be interested in what he says about this.

Let me know when you hear from the old boy who wants the reconstruction Plate One Late which you have sent him.

Regards.

Sincerely,
Jack
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/

Sept. 16, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 13th. I believe that I wrote you last week that I sent the 24¢ cover to Harold together with Milliken's letter and requested him to forward both to you. I thought that Milliken would come up with something definite but he didn't. So very few collectors are students much less, capable of distinguishing good from bad. At least, I thought heuwould send me a cover with a strike of this particular type of the Ocean Mail.

I made a negative of your cover by the Ultra Violet but never got around to developing it until yesterday. So far I haven't had time to make any prints but I believe the negative shows the thing is a "paint job." We will see later.

I was amused at Harry's letter.

He is right in stating that the cover had a stamp and that it was a Bank Note stamp but said stamp didn't have to have a New York Foreign Mail cancel on it. If every foreign letter that went out of the New York P.O. during the seventies had stamps canceled by the geometric designs then such cancels would be common - they were not the rule - but the exception. Hence the 10¢ stamp that was originally on the cover probably bore some other killer that did not tie it to the cover. Harry must think I am a dumb cluck had I not been convinced that this is what happened. I suppose Harry thinks that I never considered what happened to the cancel that tied the 10¢ stamp to the cover. Dealers are very loath to believe what they don't want to believe and in that class, none stands higher than Harry Keffer. Instead of bringing up such silly arguments why didn't he give some explanation as to why a 24¢ stamp is on a letter that required 10¢. Where do we go from here? I suggest we see what Harold has to say.

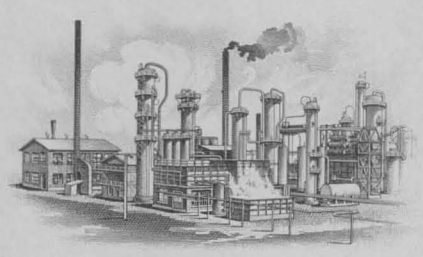
I should hear Wednesday A.M. on your 1¢ reconstruction. I hope he is not one of those impossible condition cranks.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

E. G. GUY, PRESIDENT & GENERAL MGR.
J. G. FLECKENSTEIN, VICE PRES. IN CHARGE OF SALES

M. A. HAGERMAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER
M. B. CLARK, ASST. TREAS. & TRAFFIC MGR.



PHONE 125

CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.
September 6, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for yours of September 2nd and as suggested, I am enclosing the Gibson cover I got in the Keffer sale with the 24¢ banknote issue stamp with foreign mail cancel addressed to Amsterdam Holland, and hope Mr. Milliken can come forward with some reason why this might be OK.

I sent your letter to Harry Keffer as yousaid I could use it but have heard no word from him. I also showed the cover to Mr. Kellogg of Detroit thinking he might know what the manuscript markings meant (you mentioned you thought one was put on in Holland) but he said they meant absolutely nothing to him. He examined the cover carefully and suggested to thought the blue London date marking on back of the cover was put on TOP of the red Amsterdam marking whereas the reverse should have been the case. You might check this.

Will sure be interested in getting this back with Milliken's comments. Seems like I ought to stay in my own bailiwick with the 1¢ 1851-57's and not get over the fence with later issues I know nothing about.

Have you seen the attached newspaper clipping? It was in a recent Minneapolis newspaper and a friend up there sent it to me. You might forward it on to Lindquist. Sounds fishy!

Rene is fishing over the weekend. Both girls are home here with me.

Regards to all.

Sincerely,

Jack

J. G. Fleckenstein

JGF/k
Enc:

Aug. 25, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

I had a letter from my friend who is interested in your 1¢ reconstruction stating he is on vacation and requested me not to send anything to him until after his return to his home on September 5th.

Incidentally, he stated that under no circumstances would he be interested in the two One Cent sheets at any such a price, so it is my guess that he is not the one who paid $22,000 for the 24¢ Air Invert block. I rather suspected that he was.

I received a check yesterday from Charley for the "Pan & San" cover. Thanks very much for your assistance. I am now hoping that the former owner will forget his peeve at me.

One thing more - my "friend" is sort of like Charlie, I imagine. He is very wealthy but takes his time about paying so he may be a bit slow in deciding whether or not he will take the reconstruction, on the other hand he may send me a check right off the bat.

I know that some of the eastern dealers have him in tow and are submitting him a mass of material.

Best regards.

Yours etc.,

Sept. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

I had a note from my friend this A.M. stating he was back from his vacation and would be glad to see the One Cent plate so I am sending it to him today. I imagine that he will be very prompt in reporting on it.

This acknowledges receipt of yours of Saturday with the 24¢ cover and I am sending it right down to Mr. Milliken. I don't know how good he might be on painted jobs but I have an idea that he is so familiar with this particular marking that he will perhaps recognize what is wrong.

Jack, don't get discouraged on covers just because this might not be good.

Regarding our friend Kellogg's suggestions re - the back markings. I can assure you that his fears are groundless. The two markings are as good as gold and are perfectly regular.

Let me know what Keffer's reaction was. I expect he thinks I am an old meddlesome-matty.

I return the clipping as it sounds nuts.

Best regards.

Yours etc.,

EDWIN MILLIKEN

28 E 70st Sept 11-52

Dear Ashbrook

If part of this cancellation is drawn or painted in it is a fine job defying detection so far as I am concerned! The dimensions and ink appear genuine.

Otherwise your doubt appears justified. No such single rate existed. Evidence of enclosure or weight to justify not only is lacking but the feather weight letter sheet with open ends is to me strong evidence against the 2¢ postage.

These same blue light weight sheets were commonly used during this period on New York mail to Europe.

With best wishes always

Sincerely

Edwin Milliken

Permanent address
c/ Nat. City Bk
17 E 42
N.Y. 17

TRINITY 3-5745

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

5930 Commonwealth Avenue

Detroit 8, Michigan

Sept. 18, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Regarding the 24¢ stamp on cover to Amsterdam, 1874. I have examined this item thoroly under the binocular microscope and there is no doubt that it is a very clever forgery.

I have not attempted to remove the stamp, but, under the upper left portion of the stamp there is evidence of a partial cancel on the cover. The original stamp was higher on the cover and further to the right, in fact in might have extended some beyond the edge of the cover. As you mentioned it is almost positive that a 10¢ was the original stamp. I do not know why the manuscript markings, unless they are control route markings put on at Ostend.

I am returning Milliken's letter to you and sending the cover to Jack along with a copy of this letter.

Sincerely,

Harold

Sept. 21, 1952.

Mr. Edwin Milliken,
28 East 70th St.,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Milliken:

I thought perhaps you would be interested in the remarks of my good friend Harold W. Stark of Ann Arbor, Mich., regarding the fake 24¢ Bank Note cover which I submitted to you recently. Under date of the 18th, Mr. Stark wrote me as follows:

"Regarding the 24¢ stamp on cover to Amsterdam, 1874. I have examined this item thoroughly under the binocular microscope and there is no doubt that it is a very clever forgery.

I have not attempted to remove the stamp, but, under the upper left portion of the stamp there is evidence of a partial cancel on the cover. The original stamp was higher on the cover and further to the right, in fact it might have extended some beyond the edge of the cover. As you mentioned it is almost positive that a 10¢ was the original stamp. I do not know why the manuscript markings, unless they were control route markings put on at Ostend."

I am wondering if by any chance you have a cover with this type of marking that you will loan me? If so, I will greatly appreciate the favor and will return the cover without any delay.

This cover evidently fooled Mr. Henry C. Gibson because it came from his collection. It also fooled Philip Ward, but that is not surprising because all fakes look good to that gentleman. It also fooled Harry Keffer who purchased it for a client in the Gibson sale in 1944 and resold it in a Keffer sale last May. One should closely examine covers with single copies of the 24¢ Bank Note showing uses in the middle or late seventies. That is an excellent point to remember.

You know Mr. Milliken it is really remarkable how many collectors put real money - big money - into covers of which they have little, if any, knowledge, depending solely on their own judgement. They wouldn't think of buying a piece of property without having a thorough examination made of the title.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Sept. 21, 1952.

Mr. Edwin Milliken,
28 East 70th St.,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Milliken:

I thought perhaps you would be interested in the remarks of my good friend Harold W. Stark of Ann Arbor, Mich., regarding the fake 24¢ Bank Note cover which I submitted to you recently. Under date of the 18th, Mr. Stark wrote me as follows:

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My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Hampton House
28 East 70th Street
New York 21, N. Y.
BUTTERFIELD 8-2700

Sept 25/52

Dear Ashbook

No surprise that both your doubts & mine have more complete confirmation by our mutual friend Harold Stark. His big binocular microscope is quite a revealing instrument when over a stamp! I know about it for a long time.

Sorry not to have a 45A cover to send. However the illustration in my N.Y.F. Mail is accurate. The cancellation on cover in question checked with it.

In case you do not have the booklet in your library advise & I'll post a copy pronto.

Cordially.

Earl Miller

AUCTION DEPARTMENT

KELLOGG STAMP CO.
19 DETROIT 26
Clifford St. Tel. WO. 1-4440
Corner Woodward

October 6th 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I thank you ever so much for your kind letter of October 4th with the enlargements of the photos.
If the small difference in the distance between the two 5s is only due to paper shrinkage - - - I think that Columbus had more luck in new discoveries than I have. Kindly let me know what I owe you for bothering you.
By the way: Mr. Fleckenstein was here showing me the 24¢ purple on cover to Amsterdam, asking me what the rate inscription on the cover means. I didn't know. However, in my opinion the entire cover is forged. It went from U.S. over England to Holland. The back of the cover shows two very (too) clean arrival cancellations, one in red of Holland, and one in blue of England. Unfortunately, the english one was OVER the Holland one. How can a forger make such mistakes!
Always glad to hear from you, allow me dear Mr. Ashbrook, to remain with many thanks for your kind assistance,

most sincerely yours,

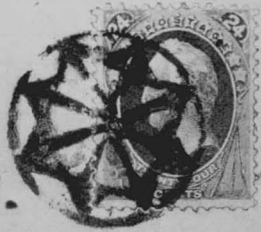
Kellogg

p. Europa

Via Ostend p. open Mail

Mess.rs Oldenhuis & v. Hemert

Amsterdam



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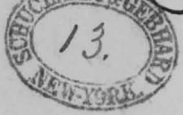
RED



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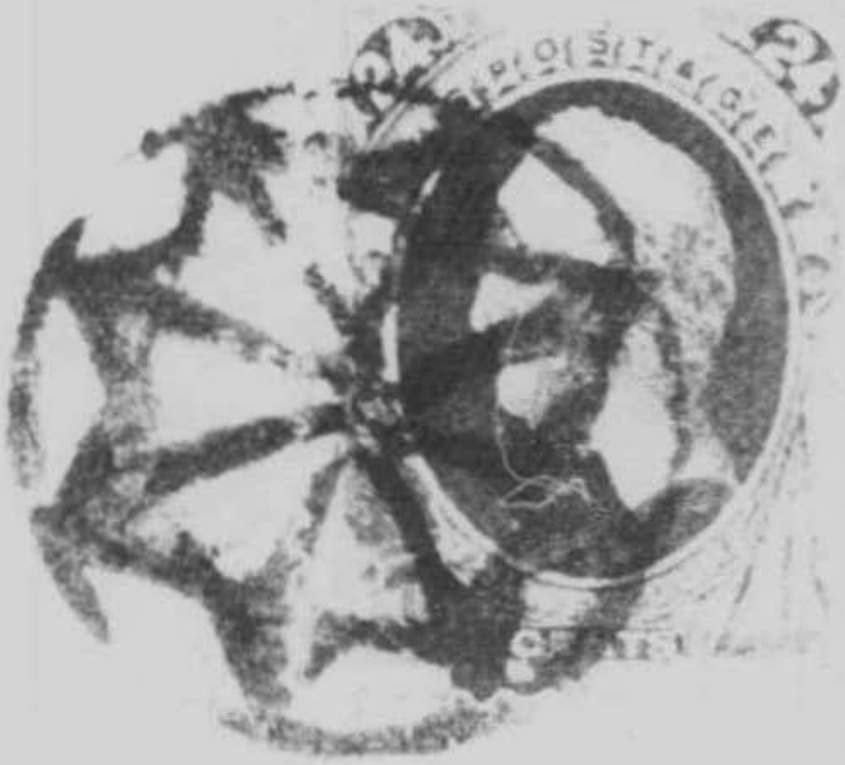
B190
(24-37)

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

B1560
or
B1533



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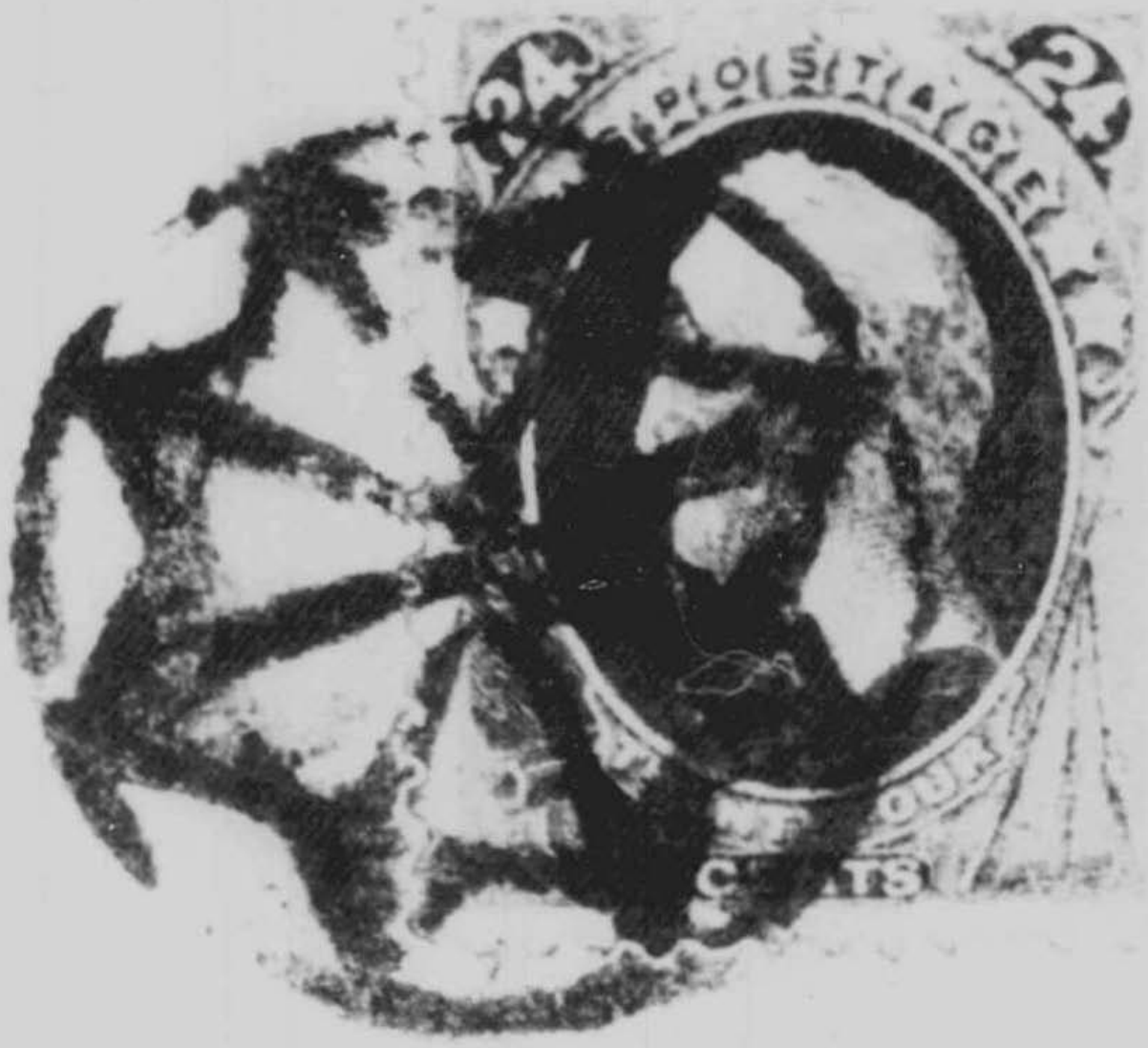
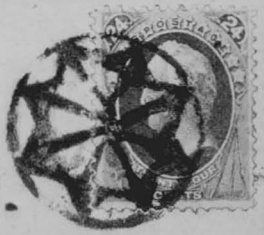

24
24
POSTAGE
CENTS

p. Europa

Via Ostende p. open Mail

Mess.rs Ashton & Heimes v. Hemert

Amsterdam



Black

Black

RED

B190
(24-37)

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

p. Europa

via Ostende p open Mail

Mess.rs Alstorphius & v. Hennert

Amsterdam

Black

RED

SCHUCHARDT & GEBHARD
13.
NEW-YORK.

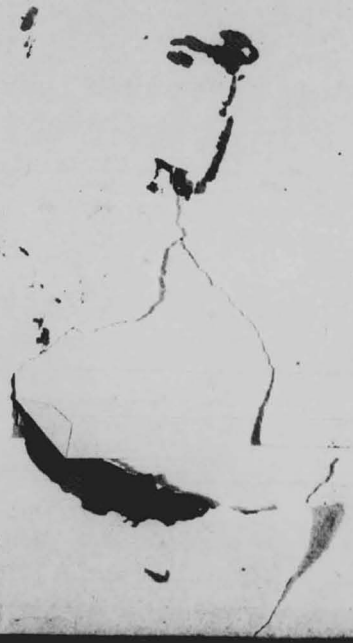
Black

B190
(24-37)

Lot #517 Gibson sale - cost 55.00 JRO

Lot 560 Ketter Sale
5/27 - 1950 - Sale
price $50.00
To J.G. Fleckenstern
(24-37)

B190



AUG 27 1952

Wrote Stark
By Pen - (Air)
To Loan Me A
Cover With This
Type of Cancel

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
August 18, 1952.
Monday A.M.

Dear Stan,

I guess by now that you have heard about the death of John Hall in Chicago from heart failure. Looks like the head of the P.F. is a marked man after the same fate to Lichenstein.

I wanted to call your attention to something, if I may. In the sale of Bob Siegel's the other day, August 14th was a lot 139, a 90¢ 1860 used single. I had it sent out to me with the intention of sending it to you to look at if it appealed to me at all. As soon as I had it in my hands I knew I had seen it before and had had it here also. I spent quite a lot of time going thru my catalogs to try to locate it and finally did so. It was lot 301 in Dan's sale of 5/19/50 and brought then $210.00. Dan either sent it to you or at least asked your opinion of it. You wrote me May 12, 1950 that "I didn't think it could be definitely determined whether the marking was good or bad."

Why do I butt in and tell you this- because Ez gave me some of the prices and this lot at Siegel's brought $285.00 but "subject to being able to get a P.F.Certificate." I am sure this is the same stamp and, to prove it is, note that there is a photo in each sale and that there is a long perf at the L.L. corner.

I know they will send the stamp to you of course and I wanted you to have the above information just in case you, in your busy work, might not immediately so recognize it.

Out of Siegel's sale I got two stamps only, lot 66 and 83. Both are photographed. Would you call lot 66 a "packet2 cancel?

In the Siegel sale Weill bought the half-sheet of $1 Columbians for $4700.00 and Rust got the poorer one for $2700.00. Some prices!

Sincerely,

P.S. I was out in Shreveport this past week and met Dewey Somdal, the architect who is doing some work for us out there. His firm is one of the architects that did over the White House. He is, as you know a packet boat collector and I could not talk his language... But just the same I told him I was from Birmingham and he wanted to know if I knew J.H.Scruggs, who he thought had one of the largest and most wonderful packet collections. Maybe so, but I never heard of it unless he has bought out some famous lot like Klein's. He is writing a series of articles in Gossip now, as you may know.

More news... Did you hear that Ward has sold his entire collection to RUST for $3,500,000.00? Ez will no doubt tell you.. he did me over the phone yesterday.. that is the rumor.

Aug. 21, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave. South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Yours of Monday received and I sure was surprised at the rumor that Ward had sold out to Rust. Up to this writing Ezra has not mentioned it to me. Ez never divulges the name to me of anyone who is buying stamps. I don't know why as I certainly wouldn't try to sell them anything. I wonder if the rumor is true? I doubt it but I do know that Ward has been slling Rust for three or four months. Putting two and two together it seems to me that Ez has not been in touch with Rust, so I really wonder if Rust bought the Invert Block. I haven't had a letter from Rust for over a week so he has not given me any hint that he bought a big lot of material. I do know that he is most anxious to avoid any publicity and if there was a big deal between Ward and Rust I doubt if either one would make it public. I will get the dope sooner or later and when I do I will let you know.

If he is wise he will have all the material from Ward expertized by the P.F. - I'll bet it is full of items with "flaws."

I was sorry to learn of the death of John Hall. Looks as though it is fatal to head the P.F. - Alfred Lichtenstein - Admiral Harris and now John.

Re - Somdal - I have corresponded with him for at least 18 years. He and his wife were in Cincinnati in 1936 and Sam Richey had them out to his home for an evening and Sam invited me over. His wife was really beautiful. That chap Scruggs is sure a mystery. I have no idea as to what kind of a collection he has. I will send you a copy of a copy of a letter that I received today from MacBride. What is your opinion - should we bar him from the Confederate Society? He made such an abject confession to me at Toronto last September that I took him at his word, viz., that he had done wrong - admitted it and was sorry - etc. etc. I concluded he was sincere and that I would not pursue the matter in the future. Is there any way that you can get a line on him in B? What about Marvin - can't he find out if Scruggs has a big Packet collection? I wonder if the fellow actually has made a world of money in the last ten or twelve years? When he was faking Confed covers years ago he must have been very shy of cash to do such a thing. He now states that he didn't realize what he was doing but that is not true.

Re - Siegel Sale - 8/14-52 - Lot 139 - I sent for this stamp but I didn't like it - On the auction slip was written in pencil - "I think it is Ok - E.E.K." I made a memo in my catalogue "Not enough to go by." I suppose I meant - "not enough evidence to show whether it is good or bad." I suppose the "Va" was supposed to be "Richmond," Em I have looked high and low but I cannot find Dan's sale of 5/29-50, but I have no doubt that it is the same 90¢ stamp. Thanks for your mention and if the P.F. sends the stamp to me I will advise them not to pass on it as there is not sufficient evidence to form any sort of a definite opinion.

#2. Mr. Emmerson C. Krug, Aug. 21, 1952.

Re - Siegel Lot #66. Yes, this is a Packet marking - See my Vol.2 - page 226 - 48B and 48C.

I believe this brings us up to date.

With all good wishes -

Yours etc.,

Aug. 18, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Re - your two letters about the 24¢ 1861. I might preface the remarks to follow by stating that an early date depends on what I call a Violet or a Red Lilac or a Steel Blue or a Lilac, etc.

We have "Steel Blues" that are changelings of the (1) Blue Violet, (2) of the Red Violet and (3) of the Red Lilac. All three "changelings" are sold as the "Steel Blue." Consider item No. 3 - This is no doubt frequently classed as a Lilac. I realize that it is all very confusing but I really don't know what can be done about it. I am sure that I would not agree with many of Thatcher's designations but this applies not only to him but to all students who classify as authorities on early U.S. This don't mean that I am right in all cases but rather that it could hardly be expected that we could all agree. I think I know the 24¢ stamp but it is possible I still have an awful lot to learn.

Consider your cover that was Lot #209 in the Harmer Rooke sale of April 24, 1951. I note you state that the use was March 26, 1862. In my opinion the 24¢ stamp is a changeling of the "Red Lilac" #70. In my list I gave -

Gray Lilac	Oct 30 1862
Lilac	Feb 20 1863

I suggest that you send me the March 26, 1862 cover, as I would like to inquire of Thatcher why he called this a #78. I recall that he had a similar argument with Neinken.

Does the above answer your two letters?

Yours etc.,

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Sat AM, August 9, 1952.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

In re:24¢ 1861.

Dear Stan,

Thinking you may be looking for some subject for future issues of your service I am asking the following question. Also knowing that fresh in your mind is the mounting of Ted Gore's 24¢ 1861s.

In going thru my cover collection I have been trying to verify some of the catalog ratings. I came across the 24¢ 1861s today. The Scott catalog gives the #70 to the red lilac giving no date of "earliest known issue" but assuming the same date of August 17 as the 3¢. Now the same Scott catalog gives #78 as the 24¢ lilac and August 1863 as the"earliest known issue" of that color. Now my question:

I have the following folded letters with dates inside as well as on the cover,

From the Harmer Rooke sale of April 24,5,6-1951* Needham Covers
Lot 208 Described as 71-78-65 Letter dated March 10, 1863)All
" 209 " 71-78-65 " " March 26, 1862)Before
" 210 " 71-78 " " May 26, 1863)August
From the Harmer Rooke sale of March 6-7,1951* Eno Covers)1863
Lot 35 Described as 78 Letter dated July 15, 1863.)

This latter cover you had mounted for Carhart and may recall it with a red cancel and S.M. type A.

Does the catalog need revising? These all seem to be lilac and not the red lilac. Maybe there should just be one number, say #70 and the various shades listed as subs thereunder. Surely there is no definite place as shwon above where a seperate catalog number becomes a fact. Or is there?

Sincerely,

Ben

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Sat. P.M. 8/9/52.

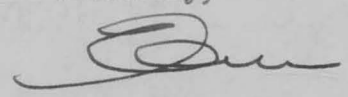
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No Ft Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

I wrote you a letter earlier in the day about the 24¢ 1861s. The mail man comes here about one oclock on Saturdays and seeing him come down the street I went down to meet him. I handed him your letter and he gave me our mail. In it was the "Service" letter. I have just finished reading it thru. It makes my letter to you seem rather foolish and so this letter of explanation. The letter I wrote of course is beyond recall. But there may be some pertinent information in it for you after all. One of those #78s is dated definitely March 1862 on the folded letter. Of course Allen Thatcher may be wrong in saying it is #70.

Of all the dope you have given us thru-out the"Service" this is to me the most helpful. The list of "Earliest Known Dates" is in itself worth to me the annual fee for the same. Are any of the dates on the 5¢ buff of 1861, the 5¢ red Brown of 1862, the 5¢ Brown of 1863 and the 5¢ Black Brown of 1863 newly acquired information gained thru the recent ad or notice in STAMPS?

Sincerely,



PUTNAM
SUPPLY COMPANY

FOOT OF SPRING STREET
Peoria 3, Illinois

COAL HEAT IS BEST—
AND COSTS LESS

VIA AIR MAIL

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

24495

PEORIA ILL.
JUN 24 1952

NEWPORT KY.
JUN 25 1952

NEWPORT, KY. FORT THOMAS BR.
JUN 25 1952

POSTAL INSURANCE

CERTIFICATE **40414-F**

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THE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY
OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

In consideration of the premium and other conditions stipulated in the policy under which the book from which this certificate has been detached, has been issued, does insure the party named therein, against loss or damage in accordance with the terms of said policy, on property while in transit by Registered, Unregistered or Parcel Post Mail. This certificate to be enclosed in the package containing the property or with the invoice describing said property.

President.

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President.

PUTNAM SUPPLY COMPANY
OFFICE AND YARD: FOOT OF SPRING STREET
PEORIA, ILLINOIS

ORIENT COAL

TELEPHONE 9133

June 24, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

I am enclosing the Pan San cover as per your request. Feel that you are right in continuing to price the item at $1,500.

Caro and I plan to leave Peoria Saturday June 28 and plan to be away until aproximately July 28. Mail sent to us % Calverts Camps, Rainy River Ontario, Canada will reach us if sent air mial prior to July 15th.

Expect to see you late summer regarding some other ideas I have. Best to you and Mildred,

Sincerely yours,

Chas. M. Putnam Jr.

Chas. M Putnam Jr.

P.S. Before returning the Pan San cover if it should not sell kindly see that I am in Peoria to receive it.

PUTNAM SUPPLY COMPANY
OFFICE AND YARD: FOOT OF SPRING STREET
PEORIA, ILLINOIS

ORIENT COAL

TELEPHONE 9133

June 20, 1952

Dear Stan:

I have your card regarding the prospect on the Pan San cover.

Do you want me to send it down to you or has the party seen the cover?

What do you feel we should do about price .... in fairness to the others?

Will send it to you if you advise although I believe it would be well for you to keep the cover if you so instruct until I return from Canada the end of July.

Will expect a letter from you the first of next week.

Sincerely yours,

Charlie M. Putnam Jr.

Chas. M Putnam Jr.

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

June 22, 1952.

Mr. Charles M. Putnam, Jr.,

℅ Putnam Supply Co.,

Foot of Spring St.,

Peoria 3, Ill.

Dear Charlie:

Re - yours of the 20th. I sent my friend a photograph of the Pan & San cover together with a full description but I have hardly had time as yet to hear from him. I made him a price of $1500 subject to sale and for the present at least I do not see any occasion to reduce the price. I also have another good prospect in mind whom I intend to write in case the present one is not interested.

If you are going away perhaps it would be best if you sent the cover to me so I could have it on hand in case of a sale.

My present prospect has plenty of money - is an ardent collector of covers and I just cannot imagine why this cover should not appeal to him. However, there is no accounting for tastes.

When do you expect to leave for Canada?

Regards.

Cordially yours,

PUTNAM SUPPLY COMPANY
OFFICE AND YARD: FOOT OF SPRING STREET • TELEPHONE 9133
PEORIA, ILLINOIS

MERCHANTS OF CLEAN HEAT

July 28, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

Following my letter of June 24th, 1952, I was wondering if you had anything to report on the Pan San Cover.

How are you feeling? I hope feeling fine.

Sincerely yours,

Chas. M. Putnam, Jr.

CMPjr:G.

THE LOGICAL FUEL FOR YOUR HOME

ORIENT COAL

July 29, 1952.

Mr. Charles M. Putnam, Jr.,

% Putnam Supply Co.,

Foot of Spring St.,

Peoria 3, Ill.

Dear Charlie:

I suppose by this time you are back home and Mildred and I trust that Caro and you had a very pleasant and restful vacation. You were fortunate to have missed all the extreme heat that we have had in the past month. It looks like today is going to set a new record in this vicinity for the present summer. Sure feels like it will hit 100.

Re - the Pan & San cover. It is in the hands of a very wealthy collector who is thoroughly responsible in every way. He is considering it and I feel rather confident that he will keep it.

Our best wishes to you both.

Cordially yours,

July 7, 1952.

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

Sold to Shriever

PAID

Dear Harold:

Here are two covers which I have on commission -

5¢ 1847 - Michigan Central R.R. to Jackson .....Price $175.00

10¢ 1847 - Strip of three "Pan & San" ..... " $1500.00

Re - the latter - This is the cover I wrote about in a Severe Issue several months ago. It shows a use of the 1847 stamps outside the U.S. It paid the rate by U. S. Mail Steamship from Panama to Mazatlan, Mexico - A port of call enroute Panama to S.F. This is the only 1847 cover known with this scarce marking - See My One Cent Book, Vol. 2 -

Both of these covers are an investment.

A 5¢ 1847 tied as nice as this with a R. R. is a show piece. I have to make an immediate report on the 5¢ cover so will you please let me know if you are interested by return mail. It belongs to a nice chap and I want to give him an answer as soon as possible.

No immediate hurry on the Pan & San 10¢ '47 cover.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Mr. HAROLD W. STARK
P. O. Box 288
Ann Arbor, Michigan

DO NOT MAKE ENVELOPE

Dear Harold

Here are ~~two~~ two covers which I have on commission

5¢ 1847 - Michigan Central RR to Jackson
Price $175.00

10¢ 1847 - Strip of three "Pan & Sam"
Price $1500.00

Re - the letter - this is the cover I wrote about in a Service Issue several months ago.

It shows a use of the 1847 stamps outside the U.S. - It paid the rate by U.S. Mail Steamship

from Panama to Mazatlan Mexico — a part of cull entrante Panama to S.F.

This is the only 1847 cover known with this Ocaxe marking — see my One Cent book Vol 2 —

Both of these covers are an investment.

A 5¢ 1847 used as nice as this with a R.R. is a show piece

I have to make an immediate report on the 5¢ cover so will you please let me know if you are interested by

return mail. It belongs to a nice chap and I want to give him an answer as soon as possible – No immediate hurry on the Pan & Sam 10d 47 Power

Regards

Yours Ed

July 14, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Here is an illustration of a cover that was in a sale in Switzerland in 1950 - Note the S.L. "Registered" - evidently the same as your cover which we had under discussion several months ago. Too bad we can't make out the year use on the enclosed but the stamps are 30¢ 1861 - 10¢ 1861 and 5¢ 1863 Brown. Apparently a 5 x 15¢ rate with a 5 x 6 credit - thus "Amer. Pkt" to England. Please return this as I want to put it in my files - What seems odd to me is that there is apparently no other cancels on the stamps. Your cover originated at Providence, R.I. (?) and went via Boston. This cover shows no other origin but New York. That don't look so good - still the cover has some points in its favor - viz - no other cancels on the stamps. It is odd that the same stamps are on this cover that are on yours and note the two 5¢ stamps - both centered to right - What do you think?

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Due From Stark

"T" Cover Letter 5/14 —	$ 3.50
1875 Pm 4 Reports	7.50
New Rate Cover	3.50

July 2, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Pardon the delay in replying to yours of the 19th. I have been working on an urgent job of mounting and had to let everything else slide. In spite of all the heat I worked every night last week but my room is air-conditioned so it was far more comfortable up here than downstairs. We had two couples here Sunday from New York and the weather was almost unbearable. Jack was to have come down and he was wise to pass it up. They picked the hottest day in many months to be here.

Regarding the Confederate collection. There was never any suggestion of an outright sale. The owner wanted to place it in my hands to sell on a 20% commission but I would have had to take up a loan he had on it from a New York bank of $7,500.00. My bank offered to loan me $2,500.00 but that is as far as they could go. I asked Charlie to loan me $5,000.00. I could have repaid it in a couple of weeks. The owner turned the collection over to Jack Molesworth who took up the loan. I could have made between $4,000 and $5,000. However, it is okay and I trust I'll never be damn fool enough to request a similar favor.

Brooks still has his Patriotic Collection and has promised to turn it over to me to sell when he decides to part with it. I have been after him but I think he don't want to part with it for the present.

Re - the "T" cover in my letter of May 14th, which I return herewith. The price was $3.50.

The U.P.U. went into effect on July 1, 1875 but France held back and did not ratify in time, so she did not become a member until Jan. 1, 1876. You were right, the "T" referred to unpaid or insufficiently paid mail. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the 1875 P.M.G.Report. Note Article III on page 163. This report has the wording of the original U.P.U. Treaty. The price for this P.M.G. 1875 Report is $7.50. I regret that I haven't a duplicate copy of the 1874 P.M.G. Report as this has some interesting data - The Treaty with France (1874) occupies a dozen or more pages, and I think you could obtain photostats from the Photo Duplication Service of the Congressional Library. I could make microfilms and enlargements for you but I would have to charge a much higher figure per print than the Library would charge you for photostats. I am not equipped to make the latter. In this 1874 Report are the treaties with Hawaii, New South Wales, Holland and Japan.

I will write you later about the big 12¢ 1857 blocks.

Yes Harold, I think your letter brought us up to date. Thanks for the two checks of $100 and $18.

I am enclosing a cute little War Rate cover of 8¢ plus 50% plus 1¢ Way Fee - Quite a nice little combination - I thought it might appeal to you - Price $3.50.

I have several photos to send you of some odd covers but I haven't had time

to make the prints.

Much cooler here tonight, thank goodness.

With regards.

Yours etc.,

CHARLES A. SHIERSON
322 State Street
ADRIAN, MICHIGAN

July 13th 52

Stanley B. Ashbrook.
Ft. Thomas. Ky.

Dear Stan: Find enclosed my check for $275.00/100 covering your special service for this year and the Jackson Mich and Michigan Central 1845 - 54 cover you sent to Harold. I also have the Panama cover for $1500.00 that we are considering.

I will talk to you today about it also some more album sheets, Goddess Albums, if you have any and also about the meeting up here in Sept. (27th).

Will write you more later. Kindest regards from Mrs Shierson and myself to Mrs Ashbrook and you

Sincerely
C A Shierson

Aug. 2d, 1952.

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

Dear Charlie:

I have been very much embarrassed over the fact that my good friend who has your "Pan & San" cover had failed to remit for it, but last Saturday I learned thru another friend that he had had a slight stroke. I immediately got busy and last night he called me on the phone and stated that he was keeping the cover and was mailing me a check. He stated he had been ill but didn't mention a stroke so I didn't question him. He is a very wealthy man and of course I was not warried over the payment as his wife collects with him and he had previously told me that if his wife wanted the cover they would keep it. I hesitated to press him for fear of offending him.

I know darn well that you have been wondering why you have not heard from me but I was expecting word on the cover every day for the past two or three weeks. You see he had not stated definitely that he would buy the cover until last night and I didn't want to solicit payment for fear of having him get sore and turn down the sale.

All's well that ends well and I sure was glad to hear his voice last night - as you well may guess.

How are you and how is Caro? We trust that the heat was not too bad after your return. It sure affected Mildred this summer and at times she was almost done-in with the depressing humidity.

Any intention of getting over this way before cold weather?

Our best to you both.

Cordially yours,

Form 3817
Rev. 9-37

Post Office Department

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

One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to Charles M. Putnam, Jr.
% Putnam Supply Co.
Foot of Spring Str.
PEORIA (2) ILLINOIS

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

POSTMASTER.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 5—10325

Aug. 23, 1952.

Mr. Charles M. Putnam, Jr.,

% Putnam Supply Co.,

Foot of Spring St.,

Peoria 3, Ill.

Dear Charlie:

The check for the Pan & San cover came in this A.M. and I am enclosing my check herewith for $1200.00, same being $1500.00 less 20%.

If at any time you would like to know the name of the buyer I will be glad to furnish same.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

TELEPHONE
RAYMOND 0022

RAYMOND H. WEILL CO.
ROGER G. WEILL-RAYMOND H. WEILL

Philatelic Dealers

MEMBERS
AMERICAN STAMP DEALERS ASS'N
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
SOCIETY PHILATELIC AMERICANS
COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK
BRITISH PHILATELIC ASS'N, LTD.

407 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

August 29, 1952

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

The only reason we have not sent you a renewal for our subscription to your "Special Service" is because we neglected to note our original one had expired. As you will recall we joined rather late and you started us with several back issues. We now see that we have the complete volume for the first year. I am enclosing check for the new year and I hope you will advise me when this one has expired.

We both are much interested in anything you have to write. I believe I have told you that upon previous occasions. At the moment we have been re-reading your notes regarding the N. Y. Postmaster cover to be sold by Harmer Rooke next month. On page 102 you state that Klemann sold a block of four some years ago and that the Burger Bros. found two Used strips of 5 which had once been a block of 10. You then continue "an Unused block of 10 is pictured in the Postmasters' Provisionals section of Luff's."

This would indicate that the one illustrated by Luff might not be the same block found by the Burgers. However, on page 108 you again mention the Burger "block of ten" and state that "in the MacGuffin book I illustrated this remarkable piece and described it as formerly in the Ackerman collection."

I am much interested to know whether the Burger block and the one illustrated in MacGuffin's (since I know you, yourself wrote the latter almost in its entirety) are one and the same. This would have a great bearing on the value of the Harmer block of nine. Incidentally, we both examined the Harmer piece and find it a very desirable cover.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

By Roger

rgw:lc

P.S. - Sorry but we cannot furnish unused copies of any of the items listed in your letter. We were interested to read that someone is looking for a used 12¢ August. In what year does your friend what it used ? We think you would suggest 1952 to be as valid a year as any.

R.G.W.

Sept. 1, 1952.

Mr. Roger G. Weill,
407 Royal St.,
New Orleans 16, La.

Dear Roger:

Thanks very much for yours of the 29th with check for $100.00, same being your 1952-1953 subscription to the Second Series of my "Special Service" which expires on June 1, 1953.

I forwarded to you yesterday a copy of Issue #18 which I think contains quite an interesting account of the unique sheet of the One Cent 1857 - "Worthington sheet," and Souren's connection with it. The latter data was furnished to me by the attorneys who are suing the Souren Estate. Incidentally for your information, the plaintiff "Mr. X" is Mr. Eno of Princeton, N.J. Our friend Souren must have taken "Eno" on a beautiful ride.

Regarding the block of ten of the 5¢ New York which I mentioned in a recent Service Issue. There is only one and it is the one that I illustrated in the MacGuffin book. If you have a copy of the "Revised" Luff by Hugh Clark on U. S. Postmaster Stamps you will find an illustration of the same block on Plate XII, and listed as "unused block of ten." I have the original photograph from which the MacGuffin half-tone illustration was made. This is actually not a block but it originally was one. The photograph does not show any cancelations but an account that I have on file seems to indicate that the block was used on a cover. I quote as follows:

"This block was on a letter in a creased manner so that the crease through the upper part of the lower strip broke it into two pieces, making two strips of five. These were later repaired and put back into their original shape." (unquote)

It is my recollection that John Kleeman may have been the one who had the repair work done but I am not certain. Whether it was used on a cover or was originally a folded unused block that was enclosed in a letter I do not know. The illustration in the MacGuffin book, also the photograph (which I did not make) together with the illustration in Clark's book, all three show a block stain(?) in the center of the left hand block of four but the other six stamps do not show any cancelation that I can see.

I find that I have another memo regarding the above, which was contained in a letter that I received in 1947, quote: "Gus Burger told me that he found this piece some years ago and if I recall, it was on the cover with the bottom pair bent over and attached to the back. This gave a strip on the front and about an eighth of an inch of the bottom strip. It was across this crack that it broke. I think when Gus soaked it off there was just a slight portion adherring between the two pieces but this evidently broke apart while being handled. It was in the Ackerman collection and I think John Kleeman sold it to him. I had an opportunity of acquiring it but I did not think it good enough to go into my collection."
(unquote)

#2. Mr. Roger G. Weill - Sept. 1, 1952

If this is "unused" and if it can be considered a "block" then it is no doubt unique because I have no record whatsoever of an unused block of four, though the S.U.S. lists such an item and prices it @ $2,000. I might add that they seldom take any such listings out of the S.U.S. Once in, they are there forever, and all the King's horses and all the King's men cannot get them out.

I suppose there is little question but what the Lapham collection contains the finest lot of New Yorks in one lot. However, that is just my guess. In his Exhibit at Tipex in 1936 there was a cover to Buffalo with an irregular block of six (6) my memo made at the time described it "at top a single to left, middle, a strip of three, bottom a pair."

My records on the 5¢ New York may not be complete as they might be, but I have long been interested in the stamp and I firmly believe that there is no other item in existence that will compare with the Harmer, Rooke Cover.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

(24-40)

NEAL J. GRABERT
615 SOUTH NORMAN AVE.
EVANSVILLE 14, INDIANA

September 21, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Received the cover and wish to express my appreciation to you for typing the stamps theron. I would not be the least bit surprised to find myself willing to trade it for something in "Way " covers, providing I did not have duplicates. Robert Siegel has one listed in his 158th sale, lot # 46, which I am going to bid on, or rather did bid on. I sent for the cover and Henry made a picture of it.

I noticed in Konwiser's new Stampless Cover Cat. that he lists the Railroad Way. Will have to write him for some information on it.

Kindest regards,

Neal J. Grabert

1¢ 1857 - Type V Cover
See B 165
Top Row Plate 7 -
1L7 - 6L7 Inc

Sept. 24, 1952.

Mr. Neal J. Grabert,

615 South Norman Ave.,

Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Grabert:

I regret that I haven't a thing in "Way" covers at present that I could trade you for your 1¢ 1857 cover but maybe I could trade something else that you could use as a trade. No hurry.

I am wondering if you heard from Dr. Arthur Davis.

Mr. Nathan of San Francisco sent me his Way 11 S.F. cover and I made a photo.

Sincerely yours,

NEAL J. GRABERT
516 S. HORMAN AVE.
EVANSVILLE 14, INDIANA

August 25, 1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Talked with Henry Meyer this week-end and he asked me to send the enclosed "Way" cover to you for inspection. Henry said he had received a letter from you in which you stated you had never seen this particular mark used in conjunction with an "11" fee.

I have never had a real opportunity to write Dr. Davis but intend doing so in the very near future as I am still trying to locote a Bostona and a Maysville "Way".

Kindest regards,

Neal J. Grabert

Sept. 2, 1952.

Mr. Neal J. Grabert,
615 S. Norman Ave.,
Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Grabert:

I am in receipt of your two letters of the 23rd and 25th and offer my apologies for my negligence in replying. I thank you sincerely for the Kentucky cover of May 9, 1816 which I note shows the "new rate" of that month. I will welcome the opportunity to return the favor.

I am returning herewith your San Francisco "Way" cover. Thanks very much. I find that the Mail Ship Ohio did sail with the Pacific Mails on Monday, March 6, 1854, the reason being that the regular sailing of the 5th fell on Sunday. Of course, this letter was not mailed in the New York Post Office but was transmitted at least privately to Panama, hence the Ohio had nothing to do with its transport to San Francisco. The Cortez was a ship of the Nicaragua Line.

Re - this ship. She sailed from S.F. for Nicaragua on March 16, 1854 - arrived at San Juan del Sur on March 28, 1854 - departed from San Juan on April 3 and arrived at San Francisco on April 16, 1854. It appears that letter from New York was intended to reach the Captain while he was back in S.F. on that trip.

There is no evidence that this particular letter was carried to Panama by the "Ohio" other than that ship sailed from New York on the day this letter was written. Further, at this period Vanderbilt's opposition line known as the Independent Opposition Line to Panama and San Francisco was in operation. This Line did not have a mail contract, hence in my opinion, your letter was carried from New York to Panama, and thence to San Francisco by ships of this Line. No doubt some would claim that it should have been rated at "Ship 6" but that would have meant a 6¢ rate from New York in comparison to a 10¢ rate (not prepaid) by the Mail Line.

I suggest that you show this letter to Henry Meyer.

With regards - Sincerely yours,

P.S.--In Wiltsee's "Gold Rush Steamers" you will find much data on the Independent Line - also see my One Cent book - Vol. 2.

(24-41)

NEAL J. GRABERT
615 SOUTH NORMAN AVE.
EVANSVILLE 14, INDIANA

September 5, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for your reply and the return of the cover, it arrived in good condition. Th anks also for notes and explanations. I had figured a little different explanation of the travels of this cover and I will relate my thoughts on same to you.

It is evident the letter was written March 6, 1854, the same date as the sailing of the Ohio. Now, my theory was that the writer realizing this and not having sufficient time for the letter to be processed through the New York postoffice in time to be carried on this ship, carried it to the ship. The writer perhaps turned it over to the captain of the Ohio who in turn carried it with the loose mail in his possession. On the arrival at Panama City the mail was turned over to a route agent whose duty it was to "shuttle" the mail from the Atlantic to the Pacific and vice-versa, traveling this distance by rail. This mail was then turned over to a contract mail boat and carried to the San Francisco postoffice where this particular cover, being among the loose mail, was handstamped "Way", then delivered or called for at the postoffice.

The above explanation may be far from correct but I submit it to you for what it is worth.

I am enclosing another cover I just acquired which you may have. Henry has a cover of mine I want to send to you for typing if you will. It has a strip of 6 of the 1 cent blue perforate stamps which I am unable to type. As soon as I receive it from Henry I will send it to you and whatever the fee is for your effort advise me.

Sincerely yours,

Neal J. Grabert

Sept. 9, 1952.

Mr. Neal J. Grabert,
615 South Norman Ave.,
Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Grabert:

I am in receipt of yours of the 5th and have carefully noted same. Your analysis is excellent and of course may be quite correct. However, I think we can take into consideration several other possibilities. For example, the letter is addressed to Captain Cropper of the "Cortes." This was a ship of the Vanderbilt, Nicaragua Line and the letter was addressed care of "Garretson and Fretz" - who were the Vanderbilt agents in San Francisco. I believe the correct name of the firm was "Garrison & Fretz."

In 1854, Vanderbilt was operating two opposition Lines to California, one "Via Panama" - the other "Via Nicaragua." Both in opposition to the ships of the regular mail line.

The "Ohio" was a ship of the U. S. Mail Steamship Co., the mail line to Panama, and this Line connected on the Pacific with the ships of the Pacific Mail S. S. Co. - Panama to San Francisco.

The competition between Vanderbilt and the Mail Lines was very keen and very bitter. I rather imagine the letter was from a Vanderbilt source to a Captain of a Vanderbilt ship, hence rather unlikely that it would have been carried on the Ohio to Panama, but rather by someone on a Vanderbilt ship which sailed on the same date. I believe that had it been handed to a regular mail ship on the Pacific to carry to S.F. it would have been rated at "Way 10." I believe that because it was carried from Panama to S.F. by one of Vanderbilt's ships (no mail contract) is the reason it was rated "Way 11."

Thanks very much for the Kentucky cover and I will endeavor to return the favor at the first opportunity.

I will be glad to have a look at the 1¢ 1857 cover.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

(24-41)

Sept. 2, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

Some time ago we had some correspondence re - covers with the S.F. "Way" in a double-line oval. Perhaps you read in the Konwiser column in STAMPS the comment by him and by Nathan on several covers with this marking and a rate of eleven (11). No one that I have been able to discover has been able to figure why ratings of "11." Recently the owner showed me one of these covers - one that was mentioned in the Konwiser column, with a "11" rating, and dated New York Mar 6 1854. I doubt if Edgar ever figured out the meaning of the "11" when such covers are generally rated "10." I wonder? Do you know? I am sure I have the solution and will pass it on to you if you wish.

I mailed my latest Service Issue to you last Saturday - Please look out for it because it contains a startling(?) story on the late Y. Souren. Inquire of Edgar what he thinks of it. He is too busy to write.

My kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

NEAL J. GRABERT
615 SOUTH NORMAN AVE.
EVANSVILLE 14, INDIANA

September 12, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed is the 1 cent 1857 cover. I am sorry to confess that I am unable to type the stamps as yet, due in part to lack of practise and not having seen enough of them to really work them out. When I compare a type I have in my possession to an illustration in your book, the job seems relatively simple.

Now, just one more comment on the San Francisco "Way" cover. I like your version a lot better than mine except for one point relative to the Way mark. You stated in the fourth paragraph of your letter, "I believe that because it was carried from Panama to S.F. by one of Vanderbilt's ships (no mail contract) is the reason it was rated "Way 11." It is my assumption that had it been carried by one of Vanderbilt's ships it would have had "Steam"-"Steamboat"-"Ship"-or "Steamship" on it. It would have to be carried by a contract boat to have the "Way" mark put on in the S.F. post-office. Am I not right on this point?

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Neal J. Grabert

Sept. 14, 1952.

Mr. Neal J. Grabert,
615 South Norman Ave.,
Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Grabert:

Herewith your 1¢ 1857 cover as per yours of the 12th. I have endorsed same on the back as to type - plate and plate positions. Incidentally, this is quite a nice cover and if you would ever consent to part with it I would like to acquire it - first as a 1¢ 1857 cover with a strip of six - 2nd as a plating item of Plate 7 and 3rd as a 1¢ '57 Kentucky cover. However, under no circumstance would I have you even consider parting with it unless you were perfectly willing.

Again re - your S.F. "Way 11" cover. Here are some of my reasons to account for the unusual rating of "Way 11." It was not rated "Way 11" according to the Law or the Regulations at that time because it had been ruled by the Department that letters brought in by a Water Carrier were not to be rated as Way Letters. Consult Henry on this point. Second - had it been brought into S.F. by a regular mail steamship it would have been rated the same as others, viz., "Way" and "10" or "Steam 10" etc. Because it was brought in by a non-mail contract ship I believe that the S.F. P.O. clerks were perplexed as to how to rate it - perhaps the Captain of the ship claimed a 1¢ fee and this was added to the 10¢ rate - thus 10¢ due and while they had no business to class this as a Way Letter, I believe that they did. What we are trying to decide is why the letter was rated as "Way 11" when we are fully aware that there was no P.O. Regulations which permitted a "Way 11" rate in 1854. You stated that to have a Way marking it would have to have been carried by a contract ship. Yes, according to the Regulations but at a rate of 10¢ as a contract ship was not entitled to receive a Way fee at any time and especially in the year 1854.

If you disagree, I will be glad to have your comment.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

(24-41)

Sept. 14, 1952.

Dr. W. Scott Polland,

Albert Bldg.,

San Rafael, Calif.

Dear Doctor:

Yours of the 4th received and I was more than pleased to receive the photo of the P.F. certificate of the 1¢ coil pair. I think something should be done about the P.F. Committee - They should either revise and correct their methods or they should go out of business. The way they have been carrying on the recent years makes serious philatelic research work a positive joke. It has been almost a cinch to copper every opinion they render. Boggs came out to see me in July and we discussed the proposition from A to Z. I think they are sincere in their desire to give good service but I think the trouble is that those in command are far too inexperienced. They have issued an invitation to me to go down to New York at their expense and consult with them. I wrote Edgar today inquiring if he was coming East next month and if so I wanted to consult with him regarding the P.F. I could arrange to meet him in New York.

Now for your letter. S.F. "May 11" - I made a photograph of one of these covers and later I will send you a print. I understand that M. Nathan owns one. I am wondering if he would loan it to you so that you could study it and make a photograph? Would you mind asking him? I am wondering if Edgar owns one? Would you mind calling him up and inquiring? I have not mentioned it to him. I believe I have the solution, but before going into that I want to send you a photo-print.

John Fox was here a week ago yesterday. I note he was scheduled for Denver yesterday - Los Angeles on the 17th and 18th - S.F. next Saturday, Sunday and Monday. I am sure you will see him and he will tell you about the nice visit he had with the Ashbrooks.

Thanks for the clipping about Edgar.

Souren. He was a plain thief and was a mystery to the whole New York crowd. I am convinced that he possessed some sort of hyphotic power and with it he influenced business men to deal with him - men who would ordinarily have refused to trust him. Amos Eno is the plaintiff who is suing the Estate. Souren surely hypnotized Eno into leaving those sheets with him to sell and not demanding any receipt. I remember an experience that Mr. Newbury had with Souren that cost him $1,500. I think there is no question but what he worked a trick on Mr. N. I never thought much of his Expert Service in spite of the fact he had an elaborate "Laboratory." On several occasions I told him that the finest scientific equipment was in a measure useless without the philatelic knowledge to go with it. Souren hated Colson worse than poison and he took Bradley Martin away from Colson and had him return a lot of purchases to him. I remember a number of the items pictured in Souren's book, "Philately of tomorrow." I suppose the 2¢ '69 bisect cover was one that Colson sold Martin, and Souren had Martin return it to Colson. Colson probably then sold it to Moody. I think this same cover was in the Seybold sale in 1910.

#2. Dr. W. Scott Polland - Sept. 14, 1952.

Prior to Seybold's death, he was Colson's star customer. In the Souren book is a picture of a 30¢ 1869 cover. I saw and examined this cover when it belonged to Colson and it was my opinion it was bad. I have enlarged photographs of it.

Re - the P.F. certificate on the 1¢ coil pair. In recent months (or years) the P.F. Committee has been issuing certificates with the one signature of Steinway, I think it makes much difference whether one person signs or a half a dozen, simply because those who have signed in the past are unknowns with no reputations in philately - For example, Haverbeck - who is Haverbeck? Or Goodkind, or Corin, or others whose signatures have appeared. Are they known to be capable students? Each is a new-comer and if anyone of them know a darn thing about 19th U. S. I would be greatly surprised. Yet all of the above have signed certificates on very controversial items. What about that certificate they issued to you on a 5¢ 1857 Orange Brown - stating that in their opinion the black grid - genuine. Note who signed - (1) Steinway - he don't know a damn thing about U. S. stamps - (2) Haverbeck - he specializes in China (3) Goodkind - a rank four flusher with practically no knowledge of stamps, much less 19th U. S. and (4) Corin - I have been in this game for many years but I don't know anything about Mr. Corin.

I was amused at Edgar's comment re - the "Coils" you obtained from him.

I am wondering if you noticed Ward's column in Mekeel's of Aug. 29th and his reference to a cover with the earliest known use of a 5¢ 1857 Brick Red. The cover he cited is a rank fake and Ward has been informed that itis. I have known that cover since 1936.

Phil Ward is totally without any principle and he wouldn't hesitate to double-cross his best friend or his own flesh and blood.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Sept. 19, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

Here is a print of the "WAY 11" cover also print of a clipping from STAMPS.

Note the cover - It is addressed to a Captain Cropper of the Steamer Cortez care of Garretson and Frätz, San Francisco. The letter is dated New York March 6, 1854. The pencil notation re - the S.S.Ohio has no relation to the cover - at least no evidence of such.

In the Spring of 1854 the "Cortez" was a ship of Vanderbilt's Independent Line Via Panama, and Garrison & Fretz were the S.F. agents.

Why the "WAY 11" when this "Way" is usually Way "10?" I thought perhaps this letter was carried "outside of the mail" by one of Vanderbilt's Independent steamers Via Panama sailing from New York on Monday March 6th, 1854, or possibly by a ship "Via Nicaragua," thus brought into S.F. by a non-contract ship and thru error was rated as a "Way" with "11" due. I thought perhaps Way mail brought in by the regular mail steamers were rated as "WAY 10." You will recall that after Dec. 31, 1852, the P.O.D. ruled that no Way mail brought in by a water carrier was to be charged with a Way Fee. At any rate, I think the rating of "11" was an error due to a misunderstanding at the S.F. office as how to rate such "Way" mail.

I note that M. C. Nathan states that he has a cover from Chile dated Feb. 25, 1854 and brought in by the Stephens and rated "Way 11." The Stephens was a U.S. Mail steamship of the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. This seems to dispute my theory that the "Way 11" was rated (thru error) only on mail brought in by ships of the Vanderbilt Independent Lines operating at that time to Nicaragua and Panama. I would like to have a photo of the Nathan cover with "Way 11."

Would you mind discussing this with Edgar and if he would like prints the same as the enclosed I will send them to him.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

M. C. NATHAN

M. C. NATHAN & CO.
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
519 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 4
EXBROOK 2-5245

M. C. NATHAN, JR.

September 19, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I received a call from Dr. Polland yesterday with regard to Way covers. I looked through my collection last night and found several that may be of interest to you. He said that you would like to photograph them and then return them.

The cover addressed to Daniel Gibb you will note was dated February 28, 1854 and came from Valparaiso. The "11" evidently was placed on it on arrival at San Francisco. You will find a notation on the face of the letter that it was received on the J. L. Stephens on April 3, 1854, which is evidence that it did not catch Mr. Gibb at Panama but went all the way to San Francisco.

The cover addressed to Mrs. Ellen I. McHenry has a hand stamp "11" which was either placed there by the carrier or by the postmaster at Nachez or New Orleans. I just recently acquired this cover. The notation on it "in July 1851" was on the cover when I got it. This particular "San Francisco 6" postmark cancellation was used in 1851 and it is quite possible that this cover was used in that year.

The other two covers I have had for quite some time and they are different markings, so I thought that you would like to see them.

I would like to hear what comments you have on these covers as I understand from Dr. Polland you are doing some research on these markings. When you are through with them, would you please send them to me registered mail to the above address.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

M. C. Nathan

MCN:el
Encl.

Sept 24, 1952.

Mr. M. C. Nathan,
519 California St.,
San Francisco 4, Calif.

Dear Mr. Nathan:

I certainly appreciate your kindness in the loan of the S.F. Way 11 cover which I am returning herewith together with the three additional covers.

I have seen another cover rated Way and a pen "11" at about the same period, viz., a letter from New York with a date line of March 5, 1854, and no New York postmark. It is addressed to the Captain of the "Cortez" at S.F. I assumed that this letter was carried to S.F. by the Independent Line via Panama or perhaps via Nicaragua and because it came in by a non-mail contract ship it was routed - thru error by a postal clerk as Way 11. However, I note that your cover was brought in from Panama by the Stephens, hence I infer that the Independent Line feature had nothing to do with the error in rating. In both cases it was, doubtless, just an error by a clerk in the S.F. Post Office around April 1854.

Edgar Jessup has a cover with this Way marking and handstamped "10" and the letter inside is datedlined New York Nov. 6, 1854. This seems to be the closest date of this "Way" marking that I have to your cover.

I believe that the Department at Washington made a ruling in December 1852 that Way fees should no longer be charged on any "Way" mail conveyed by water.

Re - your 1853 envelope of New Orleans "Jul 4" - This was simply a "Way" letter by steamboat into New Orleans of a date of July 1854 or later. There was no Way fee on it.

The Packet cover of JUN 9 would be Jun 9, 1852 or earlier - probably June 9, 1851 - (2 x 5¢ plus 1¢).

Re - your S.F. cover of "15 JULY." I note this has a pencil marking of 1851 and I feel quite sure that this is the correct date, viz., "15 July 1851." I have a record of another cover that went by the same mail to St. Louis - same postmark - same "Paid" - etc. I do not think that the blue marking has any rate significance. I cannot imagine any connection this would have with a Way rate.

Again many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

M. C. NATHAN

M. C. NATHAN & CO.
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
519 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 4
EXBROOK 2-5245

M. C. NATHAN, JR.

September 25, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have your letter of September 24th and have noted the contents thereof which are indeed very interesting.

I am just wondering if it could be possible that the "11" that was placed on the Way letters when received at San Francisco might have been a collect "10" plus a drop letter rate of 1¢ The reason I say this is that there was still in existence in San Francisco in 1854 and 1855 such concerns as the City Letter Dispatch, Penny Post Company, etc. and perhaps the drop "1" might come into the matter as part of the collect rate - 10¢ plus the penny. What do you think about it?

Sincerely,

M. C. Nathan

MCN:el

Sept. 30, 1952.

Mr. M. C. Nathan,

519 California St.,

San Francisco 4, Calif.

Dear Mr. Nathan:

I have yours of the 25th and have carefully noted your suggestion regarding the "11" that was due. This would mean a 10¢ rate from New York plus a 1¢ Carrier delivery fee. Inasmuch as I have never seen anything similar to such a combination I doubt very much if such an explanation would apply. If it was possible to add a 1¢ delivery fee to a rate of postage then surely we would run across covers where writers would have prepaid such a fee. For example, 6¢ prepaid from the East with a 1¢ to prepay a delivery fee.

I don't know much about the City Letter Dispatch but wasn't it a "Local" rather than a regular Government agency? The "Penny Post," as I recall, did not commence business until 1855.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

Pd.

Black —

↓ Pencil

Way.

11

Daniel Gibb Esq.

To be retained till his arrival in Panama, or if he has passed to be forwarded to

Messrs Daniel Gibb & Co.

San Francisco.

— 4 —

By M.C. NATHAN
Letter Dated
VALPARAISO
28 Feb 1854
Notation
Recd Per Str J.L. Stephens
Apr 3 1854

VLXX

B198

SAN FRANCISCO
15 JULY
1851

PAID

orange

orange

11

Blue ?

Mrs Ellen I. McHenry
Care of Messrs Mason & Metcalf
Natchez
Mississippi

By McNATHAN

in July 1851

RXX

B198

POSTAL MARKINGS

By HARRY M. KONWISER

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

California "Way" Mark

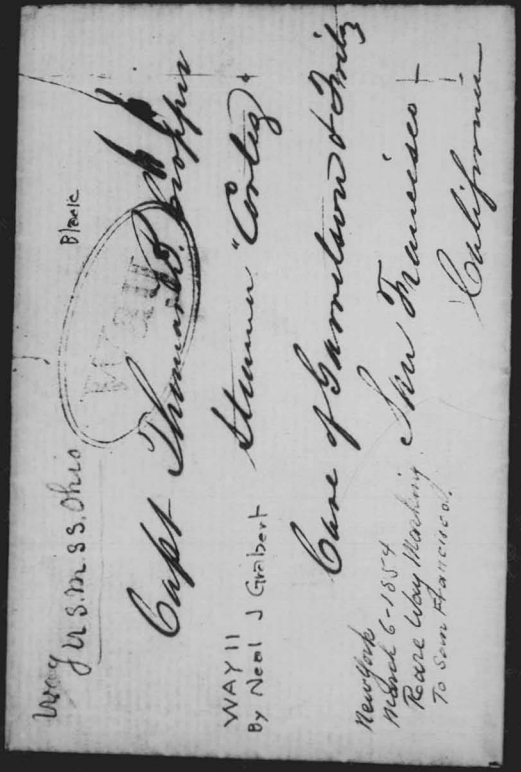
"I recently read your article on oval 'way' markings in STAMPS magazine of September 22, 1951.

"In your comments, you mention a 'way' marking with double oval and hand stamped 10 on a letter dated March 6, 1854, written at New York, addressed to Captain Thomas B. Cropper, Steamer Cortez, c/o Garrettson & Fritz, San Francisco. I have a cover with this same 'way' hand stamped and a manuscript 11, addressed to Daniel Gibb, Esq. at San Francisco. The letter is dated February 25, 1854, at Valparaiso and a notation on the envelope that it was received per Steamer 'J. L. Stephens' on 3rd of April, 1854. I also have a 'Steam Panama' hand stamp in an oval with handstamp 10 addressed to Mrs. Matilda H. Wetmore, Oakland, California. The cover has a San Francisco postmark of September 11, 1865. The letter shows that it was written at Santiago, Chile, on July 31, 1865. I also have an 'S.S. Pan. & San Fran.' handstamp in a circle of September 1st date. This is addressed to Mrs. A. L. Tasheira, Cornelia Street, New York. The letter is dated August 28, 1851.

"All of the above is for your information, which I thought might tie in with the article that you wrote for STAMPS.

M. C. NATHAN."

* * *



42

Spruce Tops
Kennebunkport, Maine

August 20, 1952

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

Dear Stanley:

Of course you are quite right in stating in your letter of the 18th that it was correct for the U.S.P.O. to charge 24¢ for the packet rate by the "Washington" from England plus 5¢ from N.Y. to Boston in 1847, regardless of the British requirement for prepayment of 1 shilling packet rate even when the letter was not carried from England by British mail packet boat, just as Britain likewise charged their 1 shilling packet rate excessively on a letter prepaid from the U.S. by U.S. packet to England. This 1 shilling charge from or to England on U.S. packet mail might be termed the British vindictive rate, which occasioned the U.S. Retaliatory rate of July-December, 1848, for I find the dictionary defines retaliatory as "repaying an evil with a similar evil!"

Was the 3¢ stamp overpayment or 1¢ drop plus 2¢ carrier delivery to Joy St. on the enclosed cover, or possibly double local 2¢, total 4¢, if year was OCT/17 in 1863 rather than in 1861 or 1862 ? PADD(632) has been found since publication of BPM p.202 as late as 12/13/63.

Of the four covers to Philadelphia two seem to have a Boston 12, but what are the large red and black 12 marks - N.Y. ?

Sincerely yours, Maurice Blake

Sept. 2, 1952.

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

Dear Maurice:

Yours of the 20th was duly received and I apologize for my negligence in replying. I have been trying to snatch a little vacation.

The British P.O. order of June 1847 could well be termed the Vindictive British Order. They hated us at that time - either thru jealousy or fear and they did not welcome any encroachment on their commerical domination of the high seas. They had by that time unquestionably learned thru experience that anything they could do, we could do betters.

Re - your 3¢ plus 1¢ cover. I believe that you will be disposed to agree with me that the use was Oct. 1861 rather than 1862 - Correct? My guess on this is that the addressor wished to drop the letter in a mail-Box and perhaps she didn't understand the proper rate, hence wanted to be sure so placed a 3¢ and a 1¢ on her letter. Or possibly the letter could have originated at some outside place close to Boston, was carried there privately and dropped in a box. No doubt either could be correct.

Re - the other four covers. No. 1 - From Rotterdam - letter 3/8-1848 - Liverpool 3/10 - 48 - The Cunard ships at this period ran every other week to New York so this black "12" is surely Boston, because the "1/8" shows the letter was a single rate, not over 1/2 oz., and a "12" applied at New York could only have meant 2 x 5 plus 2. Perhaps you will recall that the Knapp cover showed a similar single rate of 5¢ from Phila. to New York - (domesitc rate) with a British due from Holland of "1/8" from the U. S. frontier. Surely this letter was delivered into Boston but why is the Boston postmark missing and why is this "12" in black unknown as a use at Boston? Of course, the two red "12" covers are Boston and the one of May 4, 1848 (Liverpool) likewise is minus a Boston postmark. I wonder why? It is also rated as a single with 1/8 - from Rotterdam. I especially note that one of these is postmarked at Liverpool on Jan. 27, 1849 and Boston February 12th, 1849. These dates are quite significant. The letter was rated as fully paid at Liverpool, one shilling, but it shows no credit of 5¢ to the U. S. under the U.S.-British Treaty which had not gone into effect in ~~Boston~~ Britain at that time. The Boston rating shows that the retaliatory rate was no longer in effect, (as you and I discovered some months ago) and that the letter was treated as a "Ship Letter" with 10¢ plus 2¢ due. Very, very interesting in my opinion.

Now for your third cover. I am certain (?) that this large red "12" was applied at New York. The rate would have been wrong for Boston, because this was a double rate - over 1/2 oz. as witness the "2/" that was paid in Britain. Thus this ship rate was 2 x 5 plus 2¢ - New York to Philadelphia.

I will appreciate your comment on the above.

With every good wish- Cordially yours,

"Spruce Tops"
Kennebunkport
Maine

September 11, 1952

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

Dear Stanley:

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd commenting on all five of my covers returned. Your views seem to confirm my own in every case, including the mystery of the large black 12 on letter of 3/8/48 from Rotterdam, 1/8 single rate via Liverpool "p Boston Steamer" to Philadelphia. It is hard to believe that this 12 was applied at Boston without any town or SHIP indication, but there seems to be no alternative solution.

I was sure you would find the cover from Liverpool 1/27/49 PAID 1/ "p Niagara" via BOSTON MS./SHIP/FEB/12 (BPM:294)red 12 (BPM 551A)red to Philadelphia quite interesting. I have been wondering what your earliest record of a British 5¢ credit is ? I have large black 19/cents debit on cover from London May 11, 1849 via BOSTON MS./SHIP/MAY/26(BPM:294) black(rare in black) and 24 (BPM:562)black to Philadelphia, but do not recall as early use of British 5/cents handstamped credit. A double rate paid 2/red from Manchester 7/13/49 v.L'pool 7/14/49 "p Europa" shows a red script flourish that might read 10 for credit into Boston PAID(BPM 599) red with 48 (BPM earliest 715) red (no Boston packet or postmark).

The foregoing is a propos of my present query as to period of use of the marking PAID / SHIP in two straight lines in red. I believe I have one or two of these in Brookline, but other than supposing them to have always been applied at New York I do not now recall the source or routes of the covers. There is one of these covers in a local Kennebunk family correspondence which I had a chance to glance over recently after a preliminary view two or three years ago, none being available for purchase. This folded single letter sheet is dated at Liverpool Apr.6th,1849, handstamped in long oblong frame in red PAID AT/LIVERPOOL/AP 7 1849 with red ink 1/ at left and at upper right corner red script 5,addressed "p Steamer Europa" to Kennebunk, Maine, U.S.A. with handstamped PAID/SHIP in red on front (no markings on reverse). Presumably the 5 is a British credit or if applied at New York representing 5 credit from the prepd.1/. On the other hand if this 5 represents U.S. internal postage not a part of the Treaty 1/ or 24¢, then the rate from Boston to Kennebunk would have been 5¢ but from New York over 300 miles 10¢. If PAID/SHIP is surely a New York marking only, then this ms. 5 must represent 5¢ credit in April 1849. Query is whether this PAID / SHIP was ever used at Boston.

As for my 1¢ plus 3¢ 1861 cover in October (1861 ?) postmarked and addressed Boston, your suggestion that the 3¢ stamp was put on outside Boston or in ignorance of the local rate seems most probable. Without the enclosure to show origin and year date the item has no virtue.

Expect to return to Brookline about September 24th. With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

Septl 14, 1952.

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

Dear Maurice:

Yours of the 11th received.

Regarding your cover with the large black "12" on letter of 3/8-48 from Rotterdam, if you develop anything further on this item, will you please advise me.

Regarding dates when the U.S.-British Treaty actually went into effect. I have a record of a cover dated Liverpool Feb. 26, 1849 - addressed to New York. It was rated at "6." (Ship 6) I haven't a very good description and I don't know whether it came by a private ship. No mention of any British postmarks so perhaps it did. My earliest cover from England under the Treaty is a letter dated New Ross Feb 10 - 1849. It was sent unpaid - addressed to New York and shows a New York black "24" - also a large British black "3." I believe I sent this cover to you several years ago but if you would like to see it I will be glad to send it down. No New York postmark or other evidence of when it arrived at New York.

I have a record of a cover from Belfast to New York thru Boston and rated at Ship 7 - dated - Jan. 25-49 Boston - "Feb 14" - I judge this very late.

I have a record of a cover from Nottingham - sent unpaid to New York thru Liverpool on Feb. 23, 1849 with a pen debit of "19" and a black N.Y. "24."

Also, a cover from London 2/23-49 - sent Paid thru Boston on Mar. 9, 1849 to New York with a red "5" - also another cover postmarked "London 23 Feb 1849 Paid" - to New York - marked "By Mail Steamer 24 Feb 1849" - This has the British "1/" in pen and a pen "5" - thus by a Cunard steamer - also the curved red "PAID" of the New York Post Office. The earliest record that I seem to have of a British handstamped credit of "5" above "CENTS" is a cover to New York with a postmark of "MR 23 1849" - the P.O. of Manchester.

I believe that my earliest record of a cover with the two line "PAID/SHIP" is postmarked "ENNISCORTHY - MY 10 - 1849" addressed to New York. This has a British handstamped credit in red of "5" over a curved "CENTS."

Re - the cover that you described to Kennebunkport, Maine - Liverpool 4/7-1849 - red script "5" - "Pr Steamer Europa" - with two line "PAID/SHIP" - In my opinion, the script "5" is the British applied credit - letter Via Cunard ship into Boston. I believe the "PAID/SHIP" was Boston applied, but I have no actual proof.

I note that you expect to return to Brookline around the 24th.

We have been having a heat wave so you are fortunate to be out of it. It was 93 here yesterday but higher in Chicago - Detroit and Cleveland. A cold front is stated to be moving down from Canada. I hope so.

With regards - Cordially yours,

(24-42)

11 Mason Street
Brookline 46, Mass.
October 19, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

I was glad to hear by your letter of the 13th that you had an enjoyable 70th Anniversary.

You may recall a recently considered large black 12 on cover from Rotterdam 3/8/1848 FRANC ms. 1/8, via England red circle PAID/10 MR 10/1848 and black hexagon L/10MR/4 "p Boston Steamer" to Philadelphia.

I find I have one other cover from England red maltese PAID/L.S./10 MR 10/1848, ms. 1/, "p Cunard Steamer", via BOSTON/SHIP/MAR/28/MS (BPM 546) red with hand stamped 7 (BPM 549 or 675) to Bath, Maine. This cover has normal Boston town SHIP and rate marks, coming by same vessel as the other cover with only the large 12. Perhaps the ship letters for Philadelphia were handled separately by a different clerk, without going through the usual Boston ship letter routine for other inland destinations (?)

Boston newspapers of March 28, 1848 and Boston Almanac 1849 - Events of 1848 - show that the SS. "Caledonia" from Liverpool March 12, via Halifax, arrived in Boston March 27, and sailed for L'pool Apr. 5, 1848.

Disposal of the Weroni collection now is a surprise - The sale lasts several days, so I do not know that I shall make it. Sincerely Maurice Blake

Oct. 25, 1952.

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

Dear Maurice:

I have yours of the 19th.

I note you have another cover that arrived by the same trip and ship as your cover to Philadelphia with the large 12. It is odd that both have different types of postal markings and I agree that this might have been due to handling by different clerks. Perhaps the Cunard ship brought in a large batch of mail on that 28th day of March in 1848. I also note that the Cunarder "Caledonia" made this trip to Boston.

Yes, I think many of Meroni's friends were surprised that he decided to sell parts of his collection but he is the type who likes to acquire nice things, hold them for awhile and then dispose of them, and all of this not for any desire to make a profit. I think many collectors get a kick out of acquiring material and then lose interest after a short while of the possession.

I hope to be in New York part of the week of the Meroni sale but I doubt if I will attend many of the sessions.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

(24-42)

Sept. 17, 1952.

Spruce Tops
Kennebunkport, Maine

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

Dear Stanley:

The records you have for U.S.-British pre-treaty and treaty markings of - February + 1849, mentioned in your letter of the 14th, are very interesting.

The script 5 - British credit - on cover from Liverpool "AP 7 1849" - PAID - 1/ with 25¢ PAID SHIP to Kennebunk, Maine (not Kennebunkport) appears to have been used (with manuscript 5 credit) after your earliest handstamped 5 CENTS credit on cover of MR 23-1849 from Manchester, Eng. to N.Y.

This PAID SHIP of April - 1849 is slightly earlier usage at Boston (or N.Y.?) than on your cover from ENNISCORTHY - MY 10 - 1849 addressed to N.Y. with 5 CENTS credit.

Re: large black 12 on my cover from Rotterdam 3/8.48, as both incoming town and ship marks were not applied at port (presumed to be Boston for 2d ship + 10 single inland to Philadelphia) could it be that rate mark also was omitted at Boston and this big black 12 applied on arrival at Philadelphia P.O.?

With regards.

Sincerely Yours,
Maurice C. Blake

"Stand by the Flag."

M.C.B.
24-42

Mrs. [illegible] Jewell.
1 & 11 Joy Street.
Boston.
Mass

Per America Steamer

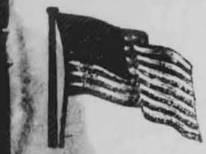
7/

Messrs. Nathan Trotter & Co

M.C.B.
24-42

Red.

Philadelphia



"Stand by the Flag."

Mrs. [illegible] Lowell.

1 & 11 Joy Street.

Boston.

M.C.B.

Per America Steamer

Messrs. Nathan Trotter & Co.

Philadelphia

M.C.B.
241-42.

Red

per Steamer from Liverpool.

18

Black

FRANCO

B.

Messrs N. Trotter & Co.

Red

Red

12

MY 4

Philadelphia.

Black

CALEDONIA

24-42

per Margaret

Red

PAID AT LIVERPOOL JA 27 1849

Red

Feb 12 1849

Nathan Trotter Esq

12

By M.C.B.

24-42

From Liverpool

Philadelphia

Red

18

per Boston Steamer

12

FRANCO

Black

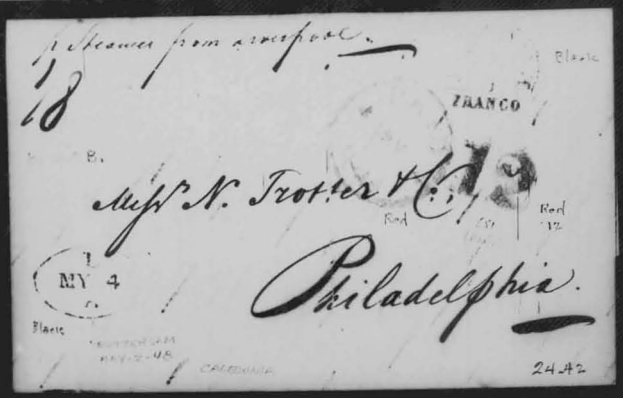
Messrs Nathan Trotter, Co,

Philadelphia,

U S.

MC B

24-42


Steamer from Liverpool
18
Blank
FRANCO
By
Mess N. Trotter & Co
Red
Red
12
MY 4
Philadelphia
Blank
24-42


Margaret
Red
PAID AT
LIVERPOOL
JA 27 1849
Red
Feb 12
1849
Nathan Trotter Esq
By M.C.B.
24-42
From
Liverpool
Philadelphia
12
Red


Boston Steamer
18
FRANCO
12
Blank
Messrs Nathan Trotter, Co,
Philadelphia,
U S.
Mr 8
24-42

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.
MURRAY HILL 3-5667
WINTHROP S. BOGGS, DIRECTOR

August 29, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

I enclose our #3846, 47, 48 and 49 on which we would appreciate your opinions.

We are having our usual hot and humid weather here and envay you in your air-conditioned office which besides being air-conditioned is nice and quiet.

All the best,

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

Wm

Winthrop S. Boggs
Director

wsb/l
encls.

3846 - 90¢ 1860 - Red Bars - Repaired - Fake Cancel
3847 - 3¢ August - Imperf
3848 - 90¢ " "
3849 - 90¢ " "

C. CORWITH WAGNER
INSURANCE AGENCY
SUITE 1824 BOATMEN'S BANK BUILDING
SAINT LOUIS (2)

MAIN
1640

SEPTEMBER 8TH 1952

MR. STANLEY B. ASHBROOK,
P.O. BOX 31,
33 N. FT. THOMAS AVENUE,
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY.

DEAR STAN:

I WONDER IF I CAN IMPOSE ON YOU AND ASK YOU TO SHARE WITH ME SOME OF YOUR PHILATELIC KNOWLEDGE.

I ENCLOSE A PHOTOGRAPH OF WHAT APPEARS TO ME TO BE A PARTIAL COVER, POSTMARKED SANTA FE N.M., ADDRESSED TO GERMANY, AND BEARING 5 (TWO PAIRS AND A SINGLE) OF THE 12¢ IMPERF STAMP OF 1851. NONE OF THE STAMPS ARE TIED - AS YOU WILL NOTE. THIS ITEM IS THE PROPERTY OF FRANK H. ALPERS JR., OF CIMARRON N.M. - A PHILATELIC FRIEND OF MINE - AND HE SENDS ME THE PHOTOGRAPH FOR MY RECORDS. WHAT DO THINK ABOUT IT. IS THE 60¢ RATE CORRECT ? I AM NOT SURE OF THE POSTMARK. I AM PRETTY SURE OF SANTA FE MARKS UP TO 1857 - BUT FROM '57 TO 1860 I AM NOT SURE. THE NEAREST THING THAT I HAVE TO THE MARKING ON THE PHOTOGRAPH IS ON THE 3¢ 1854 ENTIRE (U9-DIE 5) AND ON THE PHOTOSTAT OF THE COVER USED IN 1861 - THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH IS IN MY COLLECTION. YOU WILL NOTE THE "T A" OF SANTA DO NOT CONFORM IN SPACING AT THE BOTTOM WITH THE POSTMARK ON THE PHOTOGRAPH. I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR OPINION.

MY SECOND QUESTION. ENCLOSED IS A PHOTOSTAT OF A COVER THAT RECENTLY CAME INTO MY POSSESSION. THE POSTMARK READS "FORT BUCHANAN N.M." DATE IN CENTER MAR 7. THE FORT WAS ESTABLISHED IN JUNE OF 1857 AND ABANDONED ON JULY 23, 1861. THEREFORE THIS COVER WAS MAILED BETWEEN MARCH 1858 AND MARCH 1861. WHAT PUZZELS ME IS THE HANDSTAMP ON THE FACE TO THE LEFT OF THE STAMP IN RED READING FRANCO* EXALAMOS AND THE NUMERAL 3 ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE - ALSO IN RED. THIS MUST BE A MEXICAN MARKING. THERE IS AN "ALAMOS" IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE MEXICAN STATE OF SONORA. AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW FORT BUCHANAN WAS LOCATED ALMOST HALFWAY BETWEEN THE MEXICAN BORDER AND TUBAC - THEN IN NEW MEXICO BUT NOW IN ARIZONA. THE FORT WAS ABOUT 35 MILES SOUTH OF THE CALIFORNIA ROAD THAT WENT TO FORT YUMA. GIVE THIS MEXICAN MARKING A "THINK" IF YOU WILL AND LET ME HAVE YOUR EXPLANATION FOR ITS USE.

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR ANTICIPATED HELP - AND IF A FEE IS IN ORDER - NAME IT. WITH ALL GOOD WISHES, I AM

SINCERELY YOURS,

C. Corwith Wagner

Sept. 13, 1952.

Mr. C. Corwith Wagner,
Suite 1834 Boatmen's Bank Bldg.,
314 North Broadway,
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Corwith:

Yours of the 8th received with various enclosures which I am returning herewith.

Regarding the photograph of the 60¢ rate to Bavaria from Santa Fe, N.M. In my opinion, the cover is no doubt perfectly good but the photograph is very poor and no year dates are shown or size of the various postal markings. This was a double rate (2 x 30¢) "Via Prussian Closed Mail." Rather than to go into details regarding such mail I am enclosing a copy of my Service Issue #6 which explains the Prussian Treaty and Route. It was a Closed Mail thru England and Belgium - Mail was put up in sealed bags at New York and were not opened until they reached the Prussian border at Aachen (Aix La Chappelle).

Santa Fe used a type of postmark such as on this cover but I cannot give you the exact period of its use. The office there used about five different types of postmarks between 1850 and 1852 or 63. Why they had occasion to use so many stampers is rather odd. The New York postmark must be in red and shows our credit to Prussia of 2 x 7. You have probably seen a lot of 30¢ single rates "Via P.C.M." - with credits of "7." The routing on this cover which is partly covered over is wrong. Evidently the writer intended the letter to go Via the Bremen mail but no doubt the Santa Fe postmaster informed the writer that there would be quite a delay by the Bremen steamer and that the letter would get there much quicker if sent by "P.C.M." Though the cost was double, the writer decided it would be worth the extra 30¢. I have an idea that this use was 1855-1856 or 1857 - one of those three years.

We seldom see a double rate to Germany by P.C.M. paid by the 12¢ 1851 or 12¢ 1857, so it is a bit of a coincidence that I have on my desk at the present time a similar cover with five (5) singles of the 12¢ 1851 used from Cincinnati and I recently acquired a cover showing a triple 30¢ rate paid by a block of 4 - a pair and a single (seven stamps) of the 12¢ 1857 - Plate 3, plus a pair of the 3¢ 1857. This is a most unusual and rare cover. Believe me a block of four of the 12¢ 1857 from Plate 3 on cover is very rare. However, to the present day bunch it wouldn't mean much.

I believe that the postmark on your 3¢ U. S. envelope is quite well known and so is the type on the cover to Bristol - The chances are the type on the cover to Germany is much scarcer than either one. I seem to have only one record of it.

I fear I cannot give you much assistance on the Fort Buchanan cover. My guess is that it originated in Mexico and was from an American writing to a person in California. He evidently put the 3¢ 1857 on the cover and placed it in a Mexican Post Office. The "3" on the back looks like a Mexican figure and no doubt it was the

sum of Mexican postage the writer paid. The Mexican Postal System sent the letter across the border and it entered a U. S. P.O. at Fort Buchanan, N.M. In those days we did not have a postal treaty with Mexico and mail from origin to destination could not be prepaid, but on the contrary - only to the border. In all probability the above is the correct analysis.

Nice to hear from you.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

(24-44)

P.S. I have had some correspondence in the past with Mr. Frank H. Alpers, Jr. of Cimarron, N.M. If you care to do so you might suggest that he send his 12¢ '51 cover to me so that I can make a good photograph of it as I would like to have same for my records.

C. CORWITH WAGNER
INSURANCE AGENCY
SUITE 1824 BOATMEN'S BANK BUILDING
SAINT LOUIS (2)

ACCIDENT
HEALTH
LIFE
FIRE
BONDS
BURGLARY
& HOLDUP
AUTOMOBILE

ESTABLISHED
1914

MAIN
1640

October 8th 1952

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

Dear Stan:

I am very tardy in acknowledging your most informative letter of September 13th in reply to my inquiry of the 8th ultimo. I assure you that your kindness was appreciated and I feel indebted to you for the information furnished. I therefore enclose my check to your order in partial reimbursement for the service rendered. It will at least help pay the postage bill.

I am writing Mr. Alpers and asking that he send the cover to you for inspection and to photograph. He has been very co-operative with me and I am sure you will hear from him in due time.

I have one "simple" question that I would like to ask. I have before me a folded letter - date lined "Panama 22nd March 1850" and addressed to New York. There is a notation on the address face "Per Cherokee". There is no postmark - but a large "30" struck in black - which I presume to be the "rate" charged. What intrigues me is a handstamped - in red - "ADVERTISED 4 CTS" Why 4¢ for advertising in 1850 ? If you can tell me without any undue effort - I will appreciate it. If not - just forget the inquiry.

I want to offer to you my congratulations upon your approaching anniversary. I am sure that you have enjoyed those years that have past and I trust that those that are yet to come may be filled with good health, contentment and security for you and yours.

With every good wish, believe me to be,

Sincerely and cordially yours,

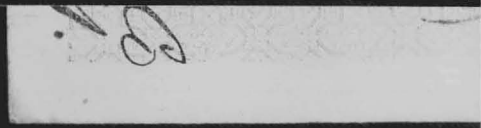
C.Corwith Wagner.

Wagner Personalized Insurance Service has acquired a reputation thru - - - Promptitude and—Reliability

PHOTO BY CORWITH WAGNER

SEE 24-44-

A167



SEE 24-44-

A167 ↑ BY WAGNER (PHOTOSTAT) PHOTO BY CORWIN

A167

Oct. 7, 1952.

Mr. Marvin Preston,
640 W. Woodland,
Ferndale 20, Mich.

Dear Mr. Preston:

It may interest you to learn that I have made inquiry among several of the leading specialists in the 2¢ Black Jack and your copy with the double transfer at lower right seems to be new to them.

I am wondering if you contacted Maurice Cole of Ferndale who specializes in the B.J. and who published a book on the stamp?

One of my friends inferred that I owned the stamp and inquired if I would sell the stamp. If you care to part with it I will be glad to inform him of any price you care to name.

Sincerely yours,

(24-45)

September 11, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I presume that by this time you have received the photograph of the "Noisy Carrier" recently acquired by me.

I am enclosing two stamps - 1¢ '51 and a 2¢ Blackjack. The latter I acquired last week. After comparing this with the Atherton shift and other double transfers, as pictured in Brookman's, I figured you would enjoy checking this copy.

The 1¢ '51 I have classified as a Type 1-C, and would appreciate your verification of same.

Very truly yours

Marvin Preston

640 W. Woodland
Ferndale 20, Mich.

Sept. 13, 1952.

Mr. Marvin Preston,

640 West Woodland,

Ferndale, Mich.

Dear Mr. Preston:

Herewith the two stamps as per yours of the 11th.

The 2¢ B.J. is not the "Atherton Shift" but it is certainly a wonderful double transfer, and one that is new to me. However, that means very little as I never specialized in the B.J. and never made any particular effort to study the plate varieties. I made a photograph of your copy and I will endeavor to find out if this D.T. is well known.

Your 1¢ stamp is a Type IIIA, not a IC. It is an "F" relief stamp from the 6th row of Plate 4.

Sincerely yours,

(24-45)

Sept. 30, 1952.

Mr. Henry W. Hill,

20-26 - 2nd St., South,

Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Henry:

Here is a photo-print of the 2¢ Black Jack that I mentioned last Saturday - Too bad it is so badly perforated. You will note that the double transfer is most pronounced down the right side of the stamp. Do you recall this variety? Will you please return the print as I want to send it to Tony Russo.

By this mail I am sending you a copy of my October 1st issue of my "Service" in which you will find my article on the 5¢ 1857 Brick Red, and also facts relative to the so-called "Shore to Ship rate" - We discussed this at Harold's last Saturday night.

The question came up as to a letter to France from California in 1849-1850 and up to July 1, 1851. What sum had to be paid at origin? The answer is the regular U. S. domestic rate then in effect, viz., 40¢. On and after July 1st, 1851, the sum required was 10¢ on a letter from California or Oregon Via Boston and New York and British Packet via England to France.

It was a pleasure to see you last Saturday.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

ESTABLISHED 1866

TELEPHONE ATLANTIC 6191
TELETYPE MP-347

SERVICE J.S.H.&Co QUALITY
TRADE MARK

10- 2- 52

Dear Stan;

Bilden and I arrived Sunday after an easy trip. We did have a good time down there didnt we. I never saw so many stamps and covers as Stark and Shiersen had. In fact I could hardly keep my eyes from getting so tired I couldnt see, unless it could have been the lot which John Fox had here yesterday.

I am returning the Black Jack photo you sent me. This I had never run acroes in the many which I have examined. The big shift I referred to was in the upper left hand corner written up by Sloane in his column many years ago and I think it much better than this.

Regards

Henry

Sept. 30, 1952.

Mr. A. C. Russo,

127 North Dearborn St.,

Suite 311-13,

Chicago 2, Ill.

Dear Tony:

Please note the enclosed photo. I do not recall that I ever saw the double transfer before. Can you tell me if it is one that is well known or is it unusual? If you have a copy that shows the top line will you please loan it to me as I would like to include the whole design in my records.

I note a copy of the "Atherton shift" is coming up in a Pelander sale next month. I have a record of eight different copies.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--Kindly return the photo-print.

MIDWEST STAMP COMPANY

Anthony C. Russo

127 NORTH DEARBORN ST. - SUITE 311-13

CHICAGO 2 ANDOVER 3-2955

POSTAGE STAMPS AND SUPPLIES FOR COLLECTORS

AUCTIONS - PRIVATE TREATY

Oct. 1, 1952

Dear Stan:

Sorry, but I have never seen this double. It really is a big one. I'm sure that if I had ever seen or heard about it before I would have remembered it. I looked over my collection and couldn't find anything to compare with it, thought I might find an earlier stage of the transfer . Is it for sale? I would be interested. What do you think would be a fair price for that "Atherton" copy that Carl has? I know that there are at least eight copies as you had told me once before, I think I have photos of about five myself, that you have sent me from time to time. I told Carl that some time ago when he told me that he was going to have it for sale, but I guess he doesn't pay any attention to me.

Stan, can you give me your opinion on this 2¢ Confed. turned cover? I can't understand the two cents rate used in this fashion. I'd appreciate your opinion on this cover, for which I expect you to send me a bill.

Regards, Tony

Oct. 3, 1952.

Mr. H. P. Atherton,

1562 Main St.,

Springfield, Mass.

Dear Erby:

It has been a long time since I have heard from you. How are you and what are you doing these days? Anything in stamps?

Here is a photo of a B.J. that a chap up in Michigan sent me recently. I never saw this D.T. before and, therefore, I would like to know if it is anything unusual. Are you familiar with it?

My best wishes to you Erby.

Cordially yours,

H. P. ATHERTON
5 YALE ST. :: HOLYOKE, MASS.

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

Oct 7 1952

Dear Stanby, ...

This shift is a VERY GOOD one. In my lot when broken up, had 7200 NICE copies, about 2500 being on cover. In my lot, I did NOT have this shift, as it is "wider" than any I had, tho many of mine were almost like this one.

Sorry that I did not keep a record of these shifts; but they were quite minute in many cases - hard to describe, except by photo - tabooed at that time.

Mother died last fall. I was at home so much of the time that I gave up Springfield Office, and have begun an Office here at home. Expect to get going good soon.

As a 2nd photo of this shift arrived day after the 1st, it may have been for my "Files"? Will hold it.

Took a 2nd award in Phila APS Exhibit, on "FOREIGN INCOMING MAIL CANCELLATIONS" - enclos a duplicate copy for your "Squint" - or are your eyes still 20-20?

Sincerely,

Herby

Oct. 11, 1952.

Mr. H. P. Atherton,
5 Yale St.,
Holyoke, Mass.

Dear Erby:

Thanks very much for yours of the 7th. I was surprised to learn that you had changed your address and sorry to learn that you had lost your mother.

Re - the B.J. shift. If you never saw a copy of this one it surely must be a scarce variety. I suppose the most probable explantion would be that it came from an early condition of a plate, that the position was burnished out and a fresh entry made. I have often wondered why we find so many double transfers among the B.J. and no major ones of any of the other values of the National Bank Note stamps of 1861-1866.

Yes, retain the second print that I sent you and if you ever run across a duplicate, please advise me.

I think you have a nice specialty in U. S. cancels endincoming foreign mail. I suppose you take them on or off.

Best wishes to you Erby. I passed my three score and ten yesterday.

Cordially yours,

Sept. 30, 1952.

Mr. Ignatz Reiner,
2950 Bainbridge Ave.,
New York 58, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Reiner:

I believe that your favorite stamp is the 2¢ Black Jack. I am enclosing a photo-print of a stamp that was submitted to me recently and it shows a double transfer that is new to me. I am wondering if this particular variety is well known or is it one that is rather elusive. Any information you can give me will be appreciated. Kindly return the photo-print - stamped addressed envelope herewith.

Some years ago I discussed with Maurice Cole of Ferndale, Mich. the number of covers with pairs of the B.J. and inquired if he had noticed quite a few of them and if so if he had any explanation for the 4¢ rate. Later he sent me a list of some 50 covers in his collection and the only conclusion we could reach was that all such items were 1¢ overpays. It does seem strange that so many such covers exist. May I inquire if you have had the same experience.

I trust that you will pardon this intrusion but I assure you that I will sincerely appreciate any information that you can give me.

Very truly yours,

Society of Philatelic Americans

THE NATIONAL STAMP SOCIETY FOR THE AVERAGE COLLECTOR

REPLY TO ADDRESS CHECKED IN LEFT HAND COLUMN

October 4th, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

It was a pleasure to receive your letter, and an equal pleasure to help in any way on the stamp which was enclosed.

I was glad to see the copy snet. It is one of the unusual types of double transfers, and only the second one which I have seen, similar. The other one I remember seeing some years ago, either in New York or in Phila, but as I remember it, it was a better centered copy, so much so that the design was rather complete on the upper right hand corner. The Atherton double transfer is more prominent, in the upper corner, but does not extend to the lower right in any manner. Nor does the Atherton, extend into the vignette, as this does, if you will note the dotted lines (very faint) in the background. This was stated merely for the purposes of identification. This is the elusive transfer, and as I have said, the second which I have now seen. I am glad to see that another copy has turned up. If I can remember where I saw it, I will contact you again so that you may be able to get a photo of the same. I sincerely believe that you have a rather scarce variety item.

With reference to the 4¢ usage, by means of 2 Black Jacks, I have encountered this often too. I can explain some of mine as double rate local postage, and others as foreign mail printed matter postage. As for the others, I believe that Cole had the right idea. Most of them are overpays. I can state this als o because I have covers on which there are 3 - 3¢ and a blck jack making 11¢ in payment of the postage to Cuba, which at that time was 10¢. People didnt care for the extra penny at that time. it seems.

Hope that I have been of some help to you, and was glad to see the photo print. If there is ever any other problem on which I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to write me. With best regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Reiner

IGNATZ REINER

Oct. 7, 1952.

Mr. Ignatz Reiner,
2950 Bainbridge Ave.,
New York 58, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Reiner:

May I thank you very kindly for your informative letter of the 4th regarding the 2¢ B.J. double transfer. If perchance you would like to have a photo, I will be only too glad to send one to you. Just drop me a post card. If you run across a copy of this variety that is better centered, I will appreciate the loan so that I can make a record for my files.

I also appreciate your remarks regarding covers showing 4¢ payments.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

C60

SEE 24-45

35074-1

SEE 24-45

CG2

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK · NEW YORK

Commissions · Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

Sept. 10th, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

Thought you would like to see the enclosed. I guess this is the orange brown but look at the cancellation they guarantee.

Enclosing another that I would not guarantee. It is a better color.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

Sept. 13, 1952.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole,

Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the P.F. certificate and the two copies of the 5¢ O.B. Dr. Polland sent the stamp and certificate to me at the time and I made a photo of the certificate. I do not recall what I wrote him as I don't seem to have any memo in my files. However, I suppose I must have wondered how the Committee came to the conclusion that the cancelation is genuine. I am sure I would not state it was good or was bad - if I did it would be pure guess-work and I have a suspicion I know more about a 5¢ 1857 Orange Brown than any of the "Experts" who signed this certificate and in addition, I am damn sure that you do. If they say it is good the chances are that it is bad. The stamp is an O.B. but your color is better, has more yellow in it.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

(24-46)

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK · NEW YORK

Commissions · Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

Sept. 16th, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

Yours of September 13th with the 5¢ O. B. I cannot understand how the Foundation can guarantee a stamp like this for I cannot guarantee the copy that I sent to you. While I cannot prove it bad I cannot prove it good either.

Sincerely,

EDC:mkl

Ezra D. Cole.

Telephone
Ypsilanti, Michigan
5065 - 2287

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Saturday. Sept. 6, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Am glad you are using the binocular microscope to advantage. I like mine and dont see how anyone can get along without one. They will show up any and all paint jobs, regardless of how clever they may think they are. I certainly would like to examine the cover of Jack's more thoro. My previous look at it was casual and not under the microscope.

Am sorry to hear that Mildred was under the weather. Perhaps she will be feeling fine enough to make the trip with you. If not, call when you arrive at the airport and we will pick you up within 15 minutes. Telephone is Ypsilanti 5437. However I do hope Milred can make the visit as you know you and Mildred are always welcome at any and all times.

Am enclosing the PCM paid by five 12¢ imperf. and in addition am also enclosing a cover I recently acquired that is new to me. A circular rate and the marking New York PAID QUARTERLY. The date evidently 1872. Did you every see a marking like this. I never did. I could presume newpapers and periodicals might pay on the quarterly basis, but I thought circular mail was paid by stamps. Am curious to know what you might know of this method a settlement with the POD. Maybe this is some Fake but it appears OK to me. It might be that this is the crude beginning of what is now the PERMIT NO. type of marking.

I noted recently that you sent a return registered cover with stamps on. Dont do this again. I guess I can afford to pay my share of the expense just as well as you have always done. No hard feelings meant, but you do enough, so let me share my end. Send anything you might think will be of interest. I always enjoy receiving them and certainly increase my knowledge of postal history.

Best of all to all from all.

Sincerely,

Harold

Sept. 13, 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,

P. O. Box 288,

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

Herewith I am enclosing Jack's 24¢ Bank Note cover together with the letter from Edwin Milliken. Will you please return the latter to me and send the cover to Jack. I was a bit disappointed in Milliken's reaction because I thought he would note that the strike is lopsided and not like the genuine. If he don't know a fake of this marking he surely should.

I again made an examination under the binocular and I don't think there is any question but what the part on the cover was done by a brush. I should have asked Milliken if he had a genuine strike of this marking that he could loan to me for comparison. If you have one will you send it down?

If you think Jack would like to see Milliken's letter, send it to him, and request him to send it to me.

Herewith I am also returning your double rate by P.C.M. to Germany. It is indeed nice. Strange to relate I had a letter from Corwith Wagner this week enclosing a photograph of a similar cover with five copies of the 12¢ '51 used to Germany from Santa Fe, N.M. - probably in 1856. Corwith wanted to know if the cover is genuine. He collects New Mexico material so I suppose he is trying to buy it. Two of these at one time on my desk is indeed a coincidence.

I am also returning your New York "Paid Quarterly" cover. There are two different types of this marking and perhaps more and both were written up by Morona in an article in the American Philatelist of April 1930. If you haven't a file let me know and I will copy the article for you. The story is most too long to include in this letter as I want to get it into the mail before noon.

Hurriedly yours,

Sept. 13, 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,

P. O. Box 288,

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

Further re - the "New York Quarterly Paid." Norona stated that this came under Sections 17 and 18 of the Act of March 3, 1863. I have a copy of the law and also the Regulations issued by the P.M.G. regarding those Sections. I refer you to your 1866 P.L. & R. - under Laws - page 62 - Sec. 251 - under Regulations to page 30 - Sec. 202.

Herewith two rough tracings of two types of which I have a record. Covers with these markings must be very rare.

I have never seen any covers that were earlier than 1871 or later than 1872.

If you want a copy of the Norona article let me know.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

SEE 24 - 47

UNSEALED - PRINTED CIRCULAR INSIDE DATED 5/18 1872

PAID QUA

J. V. Thurston & Co.,
WHOLESALE
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
131, 132 & 133
W. Washington Market,
NEW YORK.

M. Brooks
Rockdale
Shenangdo Co
N.Y.

"PAID QUARTERLY"

A167

MARCHANT CALCULATORS, INC.

OAKLAND 8, CALIFORNIA

EDGAR B. JESSUP
PRESIDENT

September 3, 1952

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

Dear Stanley:

I must apologize for not answering your various letters, but I have been tied up and I did not see anything particularly urgent in any of them.

First I want to congratulate you on the strip of three 10¢ '47s. That is a very fine item but I knew you understood my position in the matter. It does require a certain amount of personal ballyhoo and boosting which you always give it -- and some day it will miss that enthusiasm. In fact, American Philately in general is going to miss it some time when it can no longer go on -- but in the meantime, while I do take on an unusual item once in a while, I try to stay pretty much with the standard varieties and the Westerns. Incidentally, I have had alot of them submitted to me recently, and I do get many choice items that fit well into my collection and that average somewhere under $500. That does not mean that I am not interested in better items occasionally, but I did not happen to be in this particular one. I am pushing the information regarding the other strip that was tied with a similar postmark and I shall let you know as soon as I hear anything about it.

I am glad you received the photoprints that Dr. Polland turned over to me for I was greatly concerned about them. I do not understand why they were so long in transit but mails are not too dependable at times.

Theordore Gore must have a very interesting lot of 24¢ items and would it not be nice if the three of us could meet some time in Fort Thomas and each of us have our 24¢ stamps with us. There are so many changlings and odd varieties that that particular issue certainly has me down, but I can see many errors that many supposedly good collectors make regularly, so I do not feel so bad.

Incidentally, my earliest 5¢ brown is cancelled May 10, 1861 and I believe it is a pair used from New Orleans. How are you getting along on early dates with that stamp? I would be very interested in hearing the latest authentic information.

You attached a note to an envelope which I sent to Mildred which bore a postmark which could not be read and you asked why I sent it without enclosure. The kids were up at Calaveras Big Trees for a little outing and I went up for a few days. The young man and I made a visit to every ghost camp or old postoffice in Calaveras County and this particular one was mailed from Westpoint. The next day we visited Tuolumne County and did the same thing and I am sorry the postmark was not legible so you could understand it.

Are you going to the APS? I could not possibly make for I figure I might go East in October. It surely was a shame that John Hall had to pass away so suddenly. I do not think you knew him very well, but I did, and I liked him very much.

With regard to the 10¢ greens for sale, I do not think I have anything worthwhile, or at least it has the reputation of being plating material and I think it would be looked down upon by some. I occasionally place an item in the local auction and it goes very well but I do not know what to do with the entire lot. I may bring them with me and we could arrive at some method or conclusion.

Kindest regards to all.

Sincerely yours

Edgar

Edgar B. Jessup
President and
General Manager

EBJ:B

Septl 14, 1952.

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

Dear Edgar:

Yours of the 3rd received.

Funny thing about that "Pan & San" cover, I had no sooner sold it than I had another person who wanted it and I had to report it had been sold. Another 10¢ item that I sold recently was the cover from New York to Stockton, Calif with four 10¢ '47 - singles. I have handled this one on two different occasions. However, it is possible that the cover might be shown to you as it might be in your parts at present. I do wish that you would see if you can get any line on a possible other cover with a strip of three 10¢ 1847 from Peru to Mexico. I can hardly believe that another could exist without my knowledge.

I am wondering if you have seen the latest edition of Perry's "Pats" and his two explosions with reference to me - the 5¢ 1856 and the "Ship to Shore." Wouldn't he like to cut my throat? I am publishing in STAMPS in the very near future an article on the "5¢ 1856" - but I make no reference to Perry or his "Pats." The article refutes his stuff in Pats on two points: (1) That the 5¢ 1856 was issued to pay the registration fee and (2) that payment of the fee by stamps was not permitted by the P.O.D. I produce ample proof.

I understood that Perry went to the A.P.S. Convention at Philadelphia to confer with a Committee who were to publish his "Carrier" book but I have not heard whether anything was done. Have you had any word? If so, will you please let me know. I am just a bit curious.

Your letter stated that your earliest 5¢ Brown is cancelled May 10, 1861, but this is a typographical error. I suppose you meant May 10, 1863. My earliest of record (Brown) is Feb. 3, 1863.

Yes, it was too bad about John Hall's sudden passing. I knew him quite well and had a letter from him about six weeks ago. He sent me a 3¢ 1861 and wanted to know if it was a "Pink." John was a peculiar chap and one had to know him to care much about him. I saw quite a bit of him at Toronto a year ago. It looks like it is fatal for anyone to head the P.F. Look at the record - Lichtenstein - Harris - Hall.

Re - the photo-print that you sent me. Of course, this is out of my field and had the P.F. sent it to me I would have returned it without any comment and advised them to send it to Edgar Jessup. I refuse to pass on any items they send me where an opinion would require any guess-work and I have been insisting that they follow the same procedure. I have been trying to impress upon them that they are not obligated to give an opinion on everything submitted to them. It is far better to refuse any opinion than to do any guess-work. Today the Committee stands totally discredited and it is little more than a joke simply because they have passed on so many items of which they possess no knowledge. I suppose what caused them to make so many errors was the conviction that they had to pass on everything submitted to them.

#2. Mr. Edgar B. Jessup - Sept. 14, 1952.

Again re - the "Chips" cover. If the thing is bad in any particular - where is it bad? Just because there was no Pony between S.F. and Stockton does not mean that the W.F. stamp is a fake or that the W.F. marking is a fake. Would it not be possible that the letter originated at some other place - went by Pony to S.F., but was not canceled until it reached the S.F. office? I don't know anything about western franks but on general principles it would be my opinion that the cover is genuine in every respect. I would like to retain the photograph and I do wish that you would let me know your opinion of the cover.

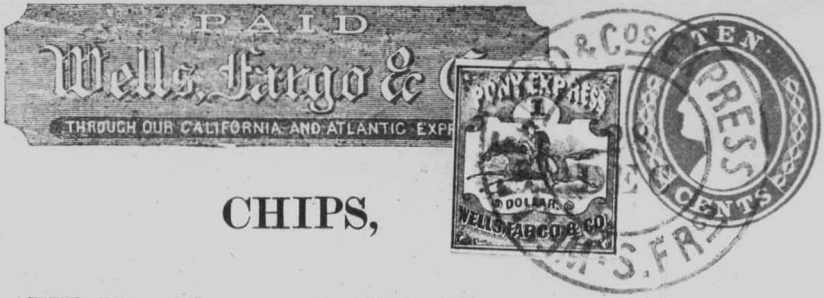
Did you notice Ward's column in Mekeel's of Aug. 29, 1952 wherein he mentioned a cover in the Frank Hollowbush collection with a 5¢ Brick Red with earliest date of use as Apr 6 1858? This cover is a fake and Ward was advised it was a fake. I have known this cover since 1936 when it was pronounced a fake by Chase, Knapp and myself. We showed it to Clark and he agreed. In the past year it was submitted to the P.F. and they issued a certificate stating it was a fake. Ward is aware of all of the above yet he came out in Mekeel's with that stuff. He is a double-crosser and a stinker - totally devoid of any principle. I am through with him for good.

Do you expect to come East next month? If so, I want to see you as I want to discuss the ~~XxX~~. P.F. with you. Let me know.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

(24-48)



CHIPS,

Wells, Fargo & Co's Express,

Stockton, Cal.

Stay-

This was sent me by P.F. Looks like it was made yesterday. The outline in printing was clear cut. etc - SF to Stockton - (no pony there) is only 65 miles or so.

Big Question ?

What can you say/ ~~to~~ them ? Rank!

Doherty, Clifford & Shenfield, Inc.
ADVERTISING

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

September eleventh
19 52

Dear Stan and Mac:

This was a 2¢ Green with a perfectly good Richmond cancel but very, very, very faintly tied. I hope you two will agree with this type of answer.

I don't bother you with these things but I will say there are a great many of this type of item that the dealers are fooling with. Certainly as a Committee we should not unqualifiedly clear them for sale when no matter who buys them, under whatever assurance, he will always be suspicious.

Sincerely,

Carry

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

Mr.Van Dyk MacBride
744 Broad Street
Newark, N.J.

TELEPHONE: BRyant 9-0445

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

September eleventh
19 52

Dear Jack:

Returning herewith the HAL unused. There was one copy Gene had that was a very clear print and that is the one I wanted. Perhaps he kept it. Thank you for the list of items disposed of. I will check it against any of my needs.

Now on the 2¢ Green. I am sorry I mistook it for another cover which was very similar. You say you have hopes that we could give you our unqualified opinion that this stamp actually was used on the cover. Unfortunately, we cannot do that for obvious reasons — the same reason that leads you to seek an unqualified opinion when you yourself have some doubt.

You know, Jack, how difficult these things are and how loathe any expert committee is to unqualifiedly call them black or white. In this case we cannot do so. However, I will give you my own personal opinion that this stamp does belong on the cover as evidenced not by indisputable cancellation evidence but by the stains and general appearance. However, I hasten to add that I personally would not buy it or own it. It will always be like most of those things under a cloud.

I hope this answer is satisfactory and I think you can understand why the Committee cannot undertake to be unqualified in its opinion about an item like this.

With best regards.

L.L. Shenfield

Mr. Jack E. Holesworth
102 Beacon
Boston 16, Mass.

MORTIMER L. NEINKEN

Sept 1, 1952

Dear Stan:-

Holiday to-day. Raining all day. So I had some time to go over an accumulation of stamps. Succeeded in plating quite a few. None from Plate 6.

This group I am sending to you, can you go over them hurriedly. Don't spend too much time on them. Some of them may be from Plate 6. Would ask you to look at the pair with part imprint particularly. It is positively not from plates 8, 9 & 10. It is close to plate 7, but does not seem to fit. Perhaps you will decide its from Plate 7.

I hope that I receive the list to-morrow that Mildred promised to send. In any event I am going to get started this week.

I haven't made any progress at all on the 10 Cent, since we came home.

Spoke to Jake Glaser. They'll be tickled to see you back in the Collectors Club. I have to see him in person to discuss the foundation matter with him.

Regard from Anna & myself to the Ashbrooks? Did Stan Jr. send that size.

Yours
Mort.

P.S. Had to open the envelope to put in the wreck. How did the 1865 year date paper become an envelope with the 1 cent 57 stamps? Is this a phony? See inside of envelope.

Form 3817
Rev. 9-37

SEP 1 2 1952

Post Office Department

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

One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to Mr. MORTIMER L. NEINKEN
49 WEST 23rd. STREET
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 5—10325

POSTMASTER.

Sept. 11, 1952.

Mr. Mortimer L. Neinken,
49 West 23rd St.,
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Mort:

Just a few lines to acknowledge yours of the 1st. We have had relatives or friends in and out for the past ten days and I have had little time to do any work. Have been compelled to let my mail pile up. On that account Mildred was unable to get that list of names off to you.

Just as soon as I can, I will check over your 1¢ 1857 items. So far haven't had a chance to even look at them.

The 1¢ 1857 cover is surely a fake but I suppose there might be a chance it is okay - Not a use prior to the war but after - say in Sept. 1866 or even later and a case where the old stamps "got by." I seem to remember that Charleston as well as some other southern towns used postmarks of this type after the war - Maybe it is good - I suppose it could be - At any rate I doubt if a cover such as this would be worth any more than three unused singles. I want to hold it and give it a closer once-over. If good, it is darn good property.

Our best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S. After looking thru a lot of records I found that Charleston did use this type of postmark after the war, hence I am of the opinion the cover is genuine and was a use, say in 1866, and a case where the stamps were permitted to pay the rate or perhaps they "got by" - It raises a nice question - which? Maybe the clerk didn't know the "old stamps" were demonetized in 1865 - Maybe he did but didn't see any sense in declaring them null and void. I am returning the cover herewith.

B191

SEE A168

Homemade Envelope Made From Some Sort Letter Head With A Date Line Thus ---------- 1865. Why A Use of An Envelope Made From paper With An 1865 Date Line. Charleston Used This Type of Postmark After The War - So This Was A Use In Sept 1865 -1866 or Even later

B191 - SEE 24-50

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

VICTOR HUBER & SONS

Cemetery Memorial Design and Construction
4841 CANAL STREET
GAlvez 5560 NEW ORLEANS 19, LA.

Proprietors of
HOPE MAUSOLEUM
3,676 Crypts

September 10, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed is the early Mobile - New Orleans steamboat cover that I wrote you about on August 26, 1952. I also enclose a typewritten copy of the contents of the letter and the information which I have ascertained by research which applies to it and which you might keep with your copy of the photograph.

With best wishes, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Leonard V Huber

LVH:HH
Encls.

Sept. 11, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Huber:

Thanks very much for your kindness in the loan of the enclosed cover. I made a photograph of it and if you wish I will be glad to send you a print, in case you intend to write a story around it. Please advise.

I am retaining the two memos which you sent me but in case you wish them returned I will have copies made.

If you write an article why not send it to "STAMPS?"

This is certainly a very interesting cover and its historical background is remarkable. How fortunate that it has survived to our time.

If you will consider "STAMPS" I will be glad to recommend it in the highest terms to my friend Harry Lindquist.

My kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--How about Somdal and Henry Meyer? Did you advise them re - it?

Mayor's Office, Mobile
22nd. October, 1827

Sir:

Our city has been visited by an awful calamity. A fire originating in one of our principal hotels, between six and seven o'clock yesterday morning laid in ruins the fairest portion of the town; indeed ten-twelfths of the business part of the place has been destroyed. Stores and houses supposed to be fireproof have not been exempt; and many, very many, of our most respectable population have been left houseless.

Will you do us the favor, by every means in your power, to encourage the migration of mechanics hence. For without an acquisition to this description of our population, it will be almost impossible to prepare for the transaction of the ordinary business of the place.

I believe the fire was the work of an incendiary--altho' the destruction of property has been very great, probably exceeding a million dollars, all our public records with the books and papers of the post office have been preserved.

I have the honor to be, with very great respect,

Your obt. sevt.

(SIGNED)
Jno. F. Everett,
Mayor

His honor the Mayor of
the City of New Orleans

THIS "STEAM" COVER IS THE ONLY ONE KNOWN TO ME AS HAVING BEEN CARRIED ON THE FIRST STEAMBOAT MAIL CONTRACT BETWEEN MOBILE AND NEW ORLEANS. THIS CONTRACT WAS WITH GEORGE SUCKLEY OF NEW YORK AND WAS TO HAVE RUN BETWEEN JAN.1, 1827, TO DEC. 31, 1829, AT A RATE OF $9,900.00 PER YEAR, 3 TRIPS A WEEK. SUCKLEY DID NOT COMMENCE OPERATIONS UNTIL MARCH, 1827, WHEN HE MADE ONLY TWO TRIPS A WEEK. THIS COVER WAS CARRIED ON OCT. 22, 1827, ABOARD SUCKLEY'S STEAMBOAT, THE "COLUMBIA". ON DEC. 21, 1827, THE "COLUMBIA" BURNED AND SHORTLY AFTERWARDS THE MAIL CONTRACT WAS ANNULLED.

"COLUMBIA" WAS A 131 TON VESSEL FIRST ENROLLED AT NEW YORK, WHERE SHE WAS PROBABLY BUILT, OCT. 16, 1826. SHE WAS ENROLLED AT NEW ORLEANS OCT. 18, 1827. SAMUEL ROGERS WAS MASTER AND PART OWNER.

1834

STEAM
Black

His Honor The Mayor

City of New-Orleans

Mobile Oct 27 1827

OCT. 1827

Aug. 23, 1952.

Mr. Harold W. Stark,

P. O. Box 288,

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear Harold:

I thought you would like to have a look at the enclosed cover which I got in the last Laurence Sale. This shows a triple rate by P.C.M. to Baden in 1860. In my files I have no other record of a triple by P.C.M. and this is the only one of which I have any recollection. This cover has a block of four of the 12¢ 1857. Blocks of four on cover are a darn sight rarer than the S.U.S. indicates. Note the New York postmark on this cover. It shows the credit for a double rate (2 x 7) - I suppose they didn't have a stamper with a "21" so perhaps the clerk failed to cross out the "14" and mark it "21," or would you guess that perhaps the sender overpaid a rate? Maybe the New York Office found the letter was not over one ounce so all the Prussians were entitled to was 14¢.

The cover was purchased by my old friend Bill West back in 1927 in a Klein Sale @ $167.40. Blocks of four of the 12¢ '57 were better appreciated in those days than they are today. Perhaps that was because Colonel Tracy was alive and very active in the 12¢ and ran the price up on Bill. My guess is that the Colonel didn't have a cover with a block of four. I intend to use this cover in my next "Service" so thought you would like to see it "in person."

I received a check yesterday from Charlie for the "Pan & San" cover. The owner of that item has been considering turning over to me a batch of fine covers to sell and I am hoping that he is not so sore about the delay on the "Pan & San" that he has changed his mind.

Regards.

Cordially yours,

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

Sept. 12, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing three items that I would appreciate your opinion of same. Would you consider the strip of three imperforate horizontally?

The Rheatown I found in an old book at a household sale 25 year ago. The catalogue gives it as red.

Do you have any idea what the 12½ item came from. I picked it up at a household sale.

I just want to show you the other two strips. That much postage seems unusual.

We might have some 1815-1816 covers. Last week I picked up two soldiers' letters from Camp Peach Orchard and Camp Cross Roads, 1812-1814 and one 1818, Free, evidently from a congress man. We have a thousand or more stampless and the same of Confederates.

We have better than 25000 covers and only 2,000 in albums. None sorted.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. Shafer

R. A. Shafer, M.D.

Sept. 17, 1952.

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

Dear Dr. Shafer:

I am in receipt of yours of the 12th with various enclosures, all of which I am returning herewith.

The following are some comments -

1) One Cent 1861 - H.S. of three on cover - addressed to "POKEEPSIE N.Y." This strip had horizontal perforations which were cut off. A part perferate item has no standing unless it is in a pair showing no perforations between.

2) The Confederate "Rheatown" is a counterfeit.

3) The 12½¢ item. My guess is that someone was trying to make some sort of a postal item.

4) Cover with strip of six Confed 5¢ Typographs of 1862. In my opinion this strip was not used originally on this envelope.

5) The 3¢ 1861 with strip of five is not unusual. It is what is known as a "Court House" cover.

Sincerely yours,

(24-53)

A. S. D. A.
A.P.S. No. 19844 C.S.A. No. 483 S.P.A. No. 12627

Jack E. Molesworth
Philatelic Broker
102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

9-8-52.

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your let ter of the 27th and my apology for the delay in answering it due to my being out of town on a short vacation.

I appreciate very much your offer of the suitcase gratis, but would like to pay you something for it so am enclosing $5.00 which I hope you will accept.

I received a card from Gene this morning asking that I send the enclosed Ship Island P.O.W. cover to you. I presume that he wanted you to photograph it for him and that it will be returned. Should you have any sale for it at the $200.00 figure(it was reduced from $250.00 after being offered to several who turned down because of price), I'd be glad to give you 10% off. I could move it at $150.00 but Gene doesn't want to go below $200.

You will no doubt be interested in Perry's letter re the unused #140 which I am enclosing for your perusal and would appreciate its return once you have read it. It seems like a lot of hedging doubletalk to me, but was a pleasant surprise as he did not condemn it as fraudulent as the P.F. did so maybe he wasn't the one they showed it to. I didn't mention to him that Brookman had passed on it, but did say that the A.P.S. Expert Comm. had given it a clean bill of health. After getting a couple of more opinions I plan to resubmit it to the P.F. Think they might reverse their original opinion?

The 5¢ 1857 on the cover with the 3¢ is an obvious fake that I should have noticed and not bothered you with if I had looked a bit closer. Thanks for enlightening me with that which I should have been able to deduce myself.

Enclosed is a #118 on cover that may or may not have originated there. Your opinion will be appreciated. Also enclosed is a 5¢ N.Y. Prov. on cover that is supposed to be the "Blue Paper". If this is a field of your knowledge would appreciate your opinion on it too. If you should feel that it is the Blue Paper, please write it on a separate sheet of paper that I may include with the cover. If not, just include in letter with other comments.

I appreciate very much your mentioning Mr. Ehrman's

name. It so happens that I am familiar with him and have sold him a few items over the past two or three years but nothing of any note. I was familiar with the $1 Omaha sheet trouble as I furnished the Eno lawyers with some information regarding my viewing it when in Sourens office about six months before his death. Ehrman was interested in big pieces of high value Col. and Omahas and may have purchased the $1 Col. sheet in Siegel's recent sale as well as the 24¢ Invert block, but I doubt both as I have found him fair but quite unwilling to pay a really top price for anything. I was the underbidder on the bet ter $1 Col. sheet and bought the not quite so nice one in the same sale for a client.

With kind regards,

Jack

P.S. Did you sell Huber a #59 August issue? Rumor has it that you did and I'm somewhat curious in view of the feeling I know you hold towards such items.

Sept. 10, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 8th received. Thanks for the check for $5.00 for the suitcase which I am accepting if you consider it worth that sum to you.

Herewith I return the Ship Island cover. Yes, Cane wanted a photo-print of it. I am sorry but I could not recommend it at the price to any of my friends.

I also return the Perry letter, and thanks for a look. I don't know why he had to consume so many words to simply say - "I don't know whether it is good or bad." When I am a bit doubtful I simply refuse to express an opinion. I don't consider it a disgrace to state - "I don't know." I think it commands more respect than to guess. I thought perhaps the P.F. had submitted the stamp to him but I suppose they didn't. I advise you to re-submit it to the P.F. Expert Committee and inform them that inasmuch as Brookman passed it as okay, also the A.P.S., that in all fairness, they should again consider it. They will probably tell you to go to hell but if they do it will display a damn bad attitude.

Re - the 15¢ 1869 cover - I see no reason to doubt that this stamp originated on the cover. The rate was certainly 15¢ and no one has monkeyed with the year dates. I have endorsed it on the back. My fee is $3.00.

PAID

Re - the 5¢ New York. In my opinion this is not the "blue paper" but rather the regular "bluish". However, I do not happen to have a blue paper copy for direct comparison, so you can take my opinion for what it is worth, and there is no fee. If you will put this copy under a microscope or a strong glass you will find fine particles of the blue dye, the same as the "bluish" paper of the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847. In other words, this is practically the same paper as the 1847's.

Re - Ehrman. Off hand do you recall when that ad appeared in Stamps about the $1.00 Omaha sheet? I refer to the ad inserted by the Eno lawyers when they were trying to locate Ehrman.

I wondered why Mr. Rust was satisfied with second best Columbian block rather than the better one.

I sure didn't sell Huber a 12¢ August and as far as I know he hasn't purchased one - or at least he hadn't up to a few weeks ago. While I would not advise a friend or a client to buy any high priced "August," I would hesitate to obtain copies for any who insisted on having them.

Regards -

Sincerely yours,

Fee $3.00

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

Oct. 3, 1952.

Mr. L. G. Brookman,

121 Loeb Arcade,

Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Les:

I don't know whether Jack showed this letter to you or not, but if not perhaps he had a reason so keep it confidential.

Keep this print or return it to me just as you wish.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S. Pay surprised to hear Edgar's oils are fakes - he probably bought them "cheap".

Dear Stan

Here is a picture of Perry opinion on Wholesworth grill

?

Sincere regards
Les

10/6/52 - It is snowing hard here. Thanks for letters and photo shown to me. Real Busy this w.e.

A.P.S. No. 19844

A. S. D. A.
C.S.A. No. 483

S.P.A. No. 12627

Jack E. Molesworth
Philatelic Broker
102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 5, 1952

Mr. L. G. Brookman
121 Loeb Arcade
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

Dear Les,

I am enclosing 3 bank notes that are supposed to be grilled as follows: #139*, #140, and #142.

I personally believe that the #139* is quite alright. I have difficulty in locating a definite grille on the other two. Your opinion will be appreciated as well as your signature on any of them which you feel are okay.

Incidentally, after securing an A.P.S. certificate on the #140 which you okayed a few months back, as well as a favorable but unconclusive comment from Elliott Perry, I sent it back to the P. F. for a review of their opinion. They refused to change it and I later talked with Boggs personally who indicated that their opinion was not based on the representations of any experts but rather their comparison of the stamp with the Luff reference collection. This appears to me to be a rather feeble excuse for a method of expertizing which results in conclusions contrary to experts like yourself.

With best wishes,

Jack

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm
Enc.

Stan No need to return but read this. Your "rebuttal" letter virtually excellent. Best regards

Les

PUBLISHER—
"PAT PARAGRAPHS"
THE PHILATELIC
REFERENCE
LIBRARY

FROM THE DESK OF

ELLIOTT PERRY

STAMPS BOUGHT, SOLD AND APPRAISED

PHILATELIC
CONSULTANT
MOUNTING
LETTERING
EXAMINATION

August 29, 1952

Dear Mr. Molesworth;

Since July 1st I have been working against a dead line to have at least the first draft of a book on U.S. Carrier Stamps ready for a meeting at the APS convention next week. The text which has already gone to the Editorial Committee and the photos which are available for illustrations will fill a book of 400 pages same size as the A.P. - which is twice the number of pages which I agreed to have ready by September 3rd. For this reason other matters, such as your inquiry, have had to wait.

In my opinion the grill on this 12c National could be good and it could be bad. The fact that in some ways it resembles the genuine does not make it good. Most fakes do bear some resemblance to the genuine. But unless enough of the grill shows and the impression is clear enough so that its authenticity can be demonstrated it should not be accepted as genuine. In my opinion the details on this embossing are not definite enough for anyone to be sure it is genuine.

If this stamp is sold, whoever buys it will not be getting a grill which he himself can be sure is correct. All he will get is someone' else's opinion - which may or may not be correct. No doubt there are thousands - or millions - of people in the world who could make a grill which would just as presentable as this example.

From my experience, and the law of averages, I would think the grill is probably good; yet the law of averages is no criterion for a single specimen. For instance, it might indicate that of ten such grills seven would be good (or bad), but not which individual stamps had the good (or bad) grills.

The minimum fee for my time is $2 plus return postage. As no definite opinion is rendered - or can be - on this stamp, no other fee is payable.

Sincerely,

Elliott Perry

9/8 Paid $2.00

9/2/52

PUBLISHER—
"PAT PARAGRAPHS"
THE PHILATELIC
REFERENCE
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FROM THE DESK OF
ELLIOTT PERRY
STAMPS BOUGHT, SOLD AND APPRAISED

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In my opinion the grill on this 12c National could be good and it could be bad. The fact that in some ways it resembles the genuine does not make it good. Most fakes do bear some resemblance to the genuine. But unless enough of the grill shows and the impression is clear enough so that its authenticity can be demonstrated it should not be accepted as genuine. In my opinion the details on this embossing are not definite enough for anyone to be sure it is genuine.

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From my experience, and the law of averages, I would think the grill is probably good; yet the law of averages is no criterion for a single specimen. For instance, it might indicate that of ten such grills seven would be good (or bad), but not which individual stamps ~~xhd~~ had the good (or bad) grills.

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Sincerely,

Elliott Perry

9/8 Paid $2.00

9/2/52

B194

B194

By P.F. 3921 - 10/2 - 52
Is This The BLUE PAPER
See 24-54-

PAID

NEW YORK
20
MAR
5 cts

Joel W. White Esq. Cashier
Merchants' Bank
Norwich. Con.
Down St

At 20'8-F128-GREEN- 10 Sec

BY P.F. No 3921

SEE 25-6

OCT 2 1952

A.P.S. S.P.A. C.S.A. B.N.A.P.S. A.S.D.A. C.C.N.Y

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

9-15-52.

Dear Stan,

Enclosed is $3.00 for your opinion on the #118 cover, many thanks.

I've sent the #140 back to the P.F. for a review of their first opinion and shall let you know the outcome. The ad in Stamps must have been in 1948 or 1949 re the $1.00 Omaha sheet, but I'm not sure except that it was a few years back.

Please note that in my last letter I did not say the the $1.00 Col. Sheet was purchased for Rust. It was for a client who I'm sure would want his identity kept confidential. We preferred the better sheet, but felt the price it realized excessive and the second one (about as well cent.) a far better buy at the price. I figured $1,000 diff. at most between the two. Best wishes,

Jack

Pair 1d 1902 Coil

Sept. 14, 1952.

Mr. L. G. Brookman,

121 Loeb Arcade,

Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Les:

Please note the enclosed and return to me. This was sent to me by my good friend Dr. Polland. The pair was Lot 544 in the Close Sale and sold @ $200.00 - was purchased by Ezra for Hindes of Oakland. What do you think? Would you attempt to pass on a pair such as this? I think a person has a hole in his head to pay 200 bucks for such a lousy thing. That is just one man's opinion.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

L. G. BROOKMAN

BRIDGEPORT 2969

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.

Sept. 16, 1952

Dear Stan:

I have always refused to pass on these 1902 coils except upon those that I could prove were fakes. It is sometimes possible to prove a thing to be a fake when it is very difficult to PROVE a similar item to be genuine.

The 1902 stamps do exist as genuine coils in the 1¢ and 2¢ denominations but there seems to be a thousand fakes for every genuine coil. We often find fake coils cut out of the booklet panes of the period but these can be detected instantly by watermarking them for the watermarks run vertically on the booklets and horizontally on the regular stamps.

Another type of fake often met with on these items is of course one that is cut from the edge of the sheet where the crook has one straight edge to start with and needs only to find a stamp that the perfs are wide and trim it so that it looks like a doil. On such items the watermark is O.K. However, the natural straight edge on such items will be found to be, in many cases at least, ~~to be~~ not a sharp straight edge but will be "feathery" and rough. This will eliminate this type of fake. Now the third type is one that has such wide perfs that it can be trimmed on both sides and if this is properly done it is truly difficult to detect. I have heard, but not examined the theory, that under a powerful microscope the edges of the coils cut by the government, (at least on the early coils), were cut by a particular type of cutting roller that left its own "footprints" on the edge. The A.P.S. Expert Committee once held this information as a sort of a "hush, hush" bit of knowledge and as far as I know the facts have never been made public. As I gather it, the roller effected a sort of a ~~wedgin~~ wedging tiny action as it cut and probably turned the edge a bit or mashed

L. G. BROOKMAN

BRIDGEPORT 2969

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.

as it cut. I have seen some very peculiarily cut coils due to loose cutting wheels. I once saw an entire coil of the scarce #354 coil with the top edge really wavy due to a loose wheel--perfectly genuine as a friend of mine bought it out of the Seattle P.O. but I would bet my last dime the P.F. would turn down a strip of it!

I couldn't hazard even a guess on the coil from the photo of the P.F. I could give one of those "It looks good" opinions, which aren't worth a damn, but I wouldn't even do this without looking at the top edge of this pair. The photo is so out of focus that I cannot see much with a glass so cannot even hazard a guess.

One thing is certain about any Certificate--if it does not tell WHY it is no good I would say that it can just be classified as a joke. If you would ever tell me that a cover is no good--and couldn't tell me WHY it was no good--I wouldn't give a hoot whether I had your opinion or not. I know you feel the same way.

I am beginning to think the P.F. is a joke--- although it is no laughing matter.

Now I must get at my mail.

Sincere regards,

Lee

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

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

My friend Barrett Hindes has received a letter from Boggs stating that the Committee had made an error when they issued certificate # 3775, and that the item was genuine, and they were going to issue a new certificate. This has done after Cole and Costalles raised a little hell.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Austin Bland

Sept. 30, 1952.

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

Dear Les:

Do you recall the photographs that I sent you of the 1¢ 1902 coil and the P.F. certificate? I have just been advised that the Committee advised Barrett Hindes last week that a mistake had been made and that if he would return the certificate they would issue a new one. This is the first instance of this kind I have heard of. Maybe the work I have been doing is bearing fruit.

Dr. Polland in a recent letter mentioned the fact that an "Ed McConnell" is quite an authority on coils. I do not recall such a person. Do you know him? He lives in Berkeley, Calif.

Had a nice visit with Henry Hill and Bilden last Saturday at the Stark place. So sorry you were unable to attend as I am sure you would have enjoyed it. I was rather favorably impressed with Bilden. He seems like an awfully nice chap and one who is unusually well-informed on early U. S.

With best wishes -

Yours etc.,

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

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

Sep 1952

all about the paper shortage, watermarks and even the positions in the booklet panes from which the fakes were made. All that I have shown him of Edgars are obviously fakes. I am anxious to get the one which is in the East, getting a new certificate from the Foundation. Ed McConnell knows all the tricks, unfortunately, and has many fakes, and a few genuine of the early ones, collected over a period of years.

I found a coil specialist right over in Jessups Group. Ed McCornell who used to live in the east and did a lot of work with Howard, has been specializing in coils for years. He knows

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.
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ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

I don't believe my friend McConnell was ever known in the east as a coil expert. He is a quiet unassuming chap, and I discovered him accidentally. Edgar was amazed when I told him about his studies which have been going on for years. The coil which the Philatelic Foundation has now issued a genuine certificate upon was examined by him. His only comment was "I don't know". I suspect he does not agree with the new certificate, but does not feel it his duty to stir up a dispute with the Foundation. I feel sure that if he had to pay 200 $ for it, which was what Hindes paid for it, he would not accept it. I am impressed by the careful measurements and tests which he applied to Edgars coils which he agreed were all fakes.

Please return the illustrations from the Costales catalogues.

Sincerely
Scott Polland

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
22 EAST 35TH STREET
NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States 1908, 1¢, green, unused pair, of which a photograph is affixed below

submitted by--Barrett G. Hindes

and are of the opinion that it is NOT a genuine coil pair

For The Expert Committee
CHAIRMAN

With regards to Lot No. 544, the 1¢ 1902 coil pair. This is signed by Spencer Anderson and C. H. Mekeel. Besides this I have had Mr. Costales sign it and I have initialed it. You can of course still submit it to the Foundation if you want to and see what happens. In my opinion if this one is not genuine the stamp does not exist.

Of course good sales like this come along very seldom but, believe me, when any one is collection fine stamps like you do, one of the primary requirements is patience.

Sincerely,

EDC:mkl

Ezra D. Cole.

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

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

9-16-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Enclosed is a cover Molesworth sent me. You may have seen it before. I think it is a rather nice Slate or Steel Blue, or whatever you want to call it. I would say that it is without a doubt a color changeling and that originally it was a medium shade of violet. What do you think?

I am taking a few days vacation at home, so yesterday went over to Oakland and attended the Oakland Philatelic dinner and meeting. Edgar was there, and he looked to be in fine shape. He has been working his head off, planning a new factory etc. However, preliminary bids came to 5 million dollars, and that is just too much, even for Edgar. He doesn't know what they are going to do; they need a new plant badly. His new scientific friends are also giving him a bad time.

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
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ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

Next Monday night Edgar is having a dinner for John Lot and the Merosie collection, at the Athens Club. It should be a very interesting affair; I have never met Lot, but he sounds like a very likeable chap.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely
W. Scott Polland

Sept. 19, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

Herewith the 24¢ 1861 cover. You are quite correct - this is really a very fine example of the 24¢ '61 Violet changeling - the catalogue listed "STEEL BLUE" - I feel certain that this is a "natural color changeling" of the first color of the 24¢ - the color that I call the "BLUE VIOLET." I have no doubt whatsoever that this stamp originated on this cover as the date of use, early October 1861, is correct for this color, that is, the color is correct for an early October 1861 use.

If perchance you do not intend to keep this cover I would like to have it for my reference collection. I wish you would show it to Edgar as he is quite partial to the 24¢ 1861 and inform him that I think this is a very fine example of what I call a "natural changeling of color" of the 24¢ BLUE VIOLET. This "STEEL BLUE" is a bit different from the changelings of the REDDISH VIOLET, and also different from the "STEEL BLUES" which are color changelings of the 24¢ Red Violet.

Some of the smart boys down East including the smartest of them all, Elliott Perry "Himself" take violentissue with me on the subject of the "STEEL BLUE" but perhaps in time they will learn. Maybe yes - maybe no. I believe Clarence Brazer sees red whenever I mention the fact that the STEEL BLUE is a "changeling of color," and that the 24¢ stamp was never issued in a "STEEL BLUE" color.

Thanks Doctor for keeping me posted on our good friend Jessup. I had a letter from him earlier this week stating that his daughter and husband went to Detroit to drive his new Cadillac to Oakland and that he was getting it so thathe could drive the Ashbrooks to all the old ghost towns when we made that promised visit to California. I fear the new carewill be worn out before we can get that far west.

I knew Mr. Marchant was giving a dinner for John Fox but I thought it was a noon luncheon tomorrow. I know you will like John and Mrs. Fox very much. We had an awfully nice visit with them when they were here several weeks ago.

Incidentally John bought a new Cadillac to make this trip. All my friends seem to be buying new Cadillacs.

If you intend to keep this cover will you loan it to me in the near future? I have a great friend out in Wichita by the name of Ted Gore - perhaps you met him last Spring when he was in S.F. - Gore specializes in the 24¢ 1861 and I would like to show this cover to him as a fine example of the "STEEL BLUE" changeling of the BLUE VIOLET.

I mailed Edgar a photo-print of the "Way 11" cover today - please tell him what it is all about.

With regards - Cordially yours,

24 & Steel Blue

Was this Lot 165
in Warner Revoke
Sale of 12/10 - 1957
Sold @ $27.00

Sept. 29, 1952.

Mr. Theodore Gore,

400 Brown Bldg.,

Wichita, Kans.

Dear Mr. Gore:

Here is the 24¢ 1861 cover that belongs to my good friend Dr. Polland of San Rafael, Calif. I think it is quite a fine example of the "STEEL BLUE" changeling of the 24¢ "Blue Violet" - the first 24¢ 1861 color. I thought you would like to see what I classify as that stamp. You can return it at your convenience to me.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--With it I am enclosing a cover from my reference collection with a use of Nov. 11, 1861. You will note that this "changeling" is slightly different from the October use and I wonder if this is not a changeling of the reddish violet?

The Travelers Fire Insurance Company
The Charter Oak Fire Insurance Company

Hartford, Connecticut

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MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.
HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.
ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M.D.
AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.
ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

9-23-52

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

The dinner and evening with John Fox was a grand affair and a wonderful success. I certainly enjoyed meeting Fox and seeing that Meroni material. I think Fox has done a marvelous job in organizing this material, and I really think he will have the most outstanding ~~material~~ sale since the Knapp. It will be interesting to compare prices on similar material between the two sales.

John told us of his experience in going over the Berges Bro. material. Quite a remarkable experience, to have dug out and gone over that vast accumulation.

Thanks very much for your interesting letter of the 19th with photographs. As I said before, Jessup does not have the "Way", and has no explanation for its use. By now you should have heard from Mel Nathan

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I am returning the "Steel Blue" so that you can show it to Bore. Thanks also for your letter about it. It is the only decent example I have; so I would like to put it in my own collection. I missed Bore when he was out here, but Edgar told me that he had a wonderful eye for color.

Incidentally Edgar was shown this "Steel Blue" before I sent it to you. I was amused by his opinion of it. Before he saw the date, he called it a #78; after he saw the date he said it was too poor a copy to consider. When I told him I had sent it to you, he said I was wasting my time. In all fairness to him the light we were using was artificial, and not too good.

2H & Steel Blue

Bent Pallard

Steamer "Persia"

Oct 9. —

"Steel Blue"

Fine Example of Blue Violet Changeling

Red Oct 21 61

George Atkinson
Church Lane
Leyburn
Yorkshire
England

Red Grid

Red NY With "19" 15 Oct 9 (1861)

N. York, Oct. 12 1861.

Dear Sir

Pay Thompson with unlimited credit for £50 sterling, which I have paid to your order to Mr. Richard Thomas of Manchester, London & N.W. Bks. Dublin.

Yours truly
Geo. Atkinson

Rec'd Oct 21 1861
Pay Richard Thomas Esq.

PROPERTY OF DR POLLARD

C63

MARCHANT
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

TO Dear Stanley DATE 9/13/52

Just when I'll read this I don't know but am in my library for the eve and thinking of you. Virginia & her husband went to Detroit to drive my new Cad back. Their first trip together and he has only a limited time off. I'm getting the 190 HP power steer and all pish so I can take the Ashbrooks all over California ghost towns when they come out. We have Amy (2) & Larry (6) and he has a boy with him. They are all bunged into bed so I have this respite to bore you with this mss letter —

MARCHANT
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

To H Date

I was just filing your letter of June 29 1944 in which you wrote on Rich's opinion of lots 454 and 490 Gibson Sale. I note he guaranteed 490 (?) and knew all about 454 - His opinion of 490 means more to me now than it did then - I got out Gibson Catalog and note many fine items again. Krug sent me the catalog marking buyers in many cases and gave list of buyers - on title page - there were ten and I placed 6 red stars after the names of those principle buyers who had gone on. Think that something? And May 1944.

MARCHANT
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

TO Ill DATE

Do you now believe 490 to be ok? From Hioga to Yokohama 42¢? Funny they were used over there and never here. That 24¢ on a cover r known to be ok is something.

Colsky sent me a block of 9 - P.I. Late.

71	72	73	R Been folded over edge of
81	82	83	R letter - scored. not a
91	92	93	R good printing but XLNT

margins tho no guide line. $1250. Am not taking it. From this meager description what do you think would be a fair price? I sent it back but would just like to know - He is not bashful!

He also sent superb vertical strip of 5 12¢ '51 plate one. White margins all

MARCHANT
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

To IV Date

around it - really very nice but I think it high also. $550 if I take both - I'm returning both but loved like the 12¢ very much - but when one think I gave only $325 for a beautiful block on cover to 5,7 so it's hard to go so far for a strip but it's v. nice & Duckwall I'm told. The stamp is a weakness of mine and am going to work mine over very soon - among other items I have a beautiful block of 6 used perforated and a plate number & imprint block of plate 3 I consider rather nice. It's a great stamp & it experienced some very unusual usage - here and there -

MARCHANT
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

To V Date

Johnnie Zoy is here 20-21 + 22nd. I am giving a dinner for him to show Meroni's famous world postal history auction material. How much do you think he'll have with him? I'll have about 20 there - cash Bay group that is interested. They will not have to go to S.F. and we can clear the tables at the club + pull over the lots as late as we wish - The collectors here will enjoy it + John likes it too. We are turning the heat on Al Rowell to come. He may, Tracy Simpson will be there or Pollard and others prefer here.

MARCHANT
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

TO VI DATE

I was looking thru another book of mine + I ran onto another brown or Orange Brown 54'59 which I will add to my Henna samples I sent that time which you returned but asked me to send on again. There are not 3 people in U.S.A. who can tell those in a definite way. Do you agree? I couldn't name 3. This is Aug 20 '61 N.O. to Bordeaux - Or with a 10¢ plate II - Coved be in but somewhat short of Orange -

I've backed up to only four issues of U.S. '47 - '50s '60s + '69 and they are plenty - I have my A to Z Carey P.O.s I can't keep up on at all - A to Z Western Franks and

MARCHANT
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

TO VII DATE

my ocean mail - that's it - with the ocean is a bit of continental oneland - but some era and a bit later - they are westerns aside from Franks. U.S. Contracts with many odd marks - that's enough - and contemporary with it are a few patriotics and a few Confeds but intend to be so particular guess I'll get few. But it's enough - You must get out here sometime to look over the country & what every have.

Did you go to the APS? I wanted to but may have to go in October & could't take on both so close together -

MARCHANT
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

TO IX DATE

Ezra Cole tells me many dealers are coming up this autumn with loads of material. Is any of it real choice that you know of or is that only a boosh?

Dr P. is always buying and selling. He is not only lucky but he spends a terrific lot of time at it. He spends Friday in S.F. every week regularly and additional time also with a great deal of corresponding + photography - He is a genuine enthusiast & a great credit to the hobby. He keeps circulate good items as he gets them.

MARCHANT
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

To X Date

You'll be completely done-up reading this - I see its the 10th page. I'll make it the last.

I do hope you are feeling your very best again and that Mildred is tip-top too -

Best Regards to you all

Edgar

Sept. 29, 1952.

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

Dear Ed:

Yours of the 13th received. I note it was written a week ago today. Two weeks ago this afternoon John Fox was at the Netherland Plaza with the Meroni collection. He came out in a new Cadillac but I didn't get to see it. That night we had dinner in the "Pioneer Room" - first time we had dined there in quite a long time. Today Virginia and John are in San Francisco and next Monday night you are giving a dinner in his honor. It has been a long time ago since we used to have those lunches in the Pioneer Room. Bill West, Dolph, Richey and the Iretons. Bill, Dolph and Lou Sr. have passed on and Sam is completely out of stamps.

Ed, I fear I'll never get out to California to travel around with you thru the old ghost towns. Next month I will be three score and ten and you know what the Bible says about that mile stone.

Re - the Gibson Sale and Lots 454 and 490. I remember both covers well and have photographs of them that I made. I borrowed both from Gibson in 1942 and made careful records. I feel sure that 454 is perfectly genuine but that 490 is a fake. It went from Osaka to Yokohama but there is no evidence that it went by American Packet or even thru the mail. I think it was a folded letter that was carried privately and had no stamps or postal markings. Some faker copied another cover with a 42¢ rate. I haven't the slightest idea what I thought about it in 1944, but I do have a vague recollection that Ward refused to believe that it was a fake. I note that someone paid $400 for it in the Sale. It is strange how people who don't know anything about covers rely on their own judgement.

Recently I had Gibson cover #517 submitted to me for an opinion and I found it was a rank fake, but Ward refuses to believe me. He is impossible. He is the dumbest chuck in philately but he imagines he knows a lot.

According to my records, Gibson bought Lot 490 from Colson. That bag-of-wind has sure placed a lot of fake stuff in his time and he pretends to know all the answers. I wonder how the effeminate redhead ever arrived at a price of $1,250.00 on a block of nine of 1¢ 1851 - Type IV. Boy oh Boy - he is getting nuts in his old age. My guess is that $200 would be the top for such a piece. In the Emerson deluxe sale of April 12, 1947, Lot 254 was a very fine block of ten of Type IV - positions 36 - 40 - 46 - 50R1L (5H x 2V). It sold @ $165.00. Does this answer your query?

A <u>fine</u> vertical strip of five of the 12¢ 1851 is quite a rarity - no question about that, but it would have to be fine to be worth $500 or more.

#2.

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup - Sept. 21, 1952.

Did you notice my reference to the 12¢ 1857 in my last Service Issue? I believe that I am the only person in all the world who has an accurate plating record of Plate One. I spent lots of time on the plating of Plate One and in making an accurate record of same.

Dr. Polland wrote me that he planned to attend the dinner for Fox and I hope you persuade Al Rowell to attend. I haven't heard from him for many years.

Yes, Ed, the colors of the 5¢ 1857 both the majority and so do the 24¢ '61 colors. Dr. Polland has a 24¢ '61 cover that I requested he show to you. No doubt he will.

No, Ed, I didn't go to the A.P.S.Convention. God deliver me from such affairs. I heard that this one was a perfect flop. I think John will confirm. I understand the attendance was small and of an inferior quality - probably all were just "Stamp Collectors."

Ezra knows more about sales that are coming up than I do - In fact, I don't know of any coming sale that is really outstanding except the Meroni.

Yes, Dr. Polland is sure an ardent philatelist and very keen. For everyone like him we have a thousand or more nuts who are absolutely insane, - regular pests.

I am sticking strictly to my diet and have not had any return of the gall trouble since May. I have my fingers crossed.

If you plan to come East next month perhaps I could arrange to be in New York at the same time. The Expert Committee of the P.F. have invited me to go down to New York at their expense to discuss matters with them. I may accept. Perhaps if the two of us could talk to them we could give them some damn good advice.

A week from today - the 24th - the Detroit Philatelic Society is being entertained at an all day affair at the Stark Estate, on the outskirts of Ann Arbor. Mildred and I plan to drive up via Marshall to Ionia - We will visit with the Harold Brooks and the Jack Fleckensteins, then the latter will go over to the Stark "Castle" with us. We plan to drive home on Sunday, the 28th.

Stan Jr. has entered his 5th and final year at the University of Cincinnati - Mildred was not very well all summer due to the intense heat, but I got thru O.K. thanks to my air conditioner.

By the way you never sent me those colored slides. I have a fine projector so we can throw them up on a screen.

Our regards to all the Jessup family.

Yours etc.,

JACK O. KING

STAMPS FOR COLLECTIONS
900 F STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONE METROPOLITAN 4321

September 16, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed please find a one cent '51 cover. Please classify as to type and position. We will greatly appreciate it if you will place this information on reverse side of cover and sign.

Send along your statement when you return the cover and our check will feach you by return mail.

Sincerely,

Jack O. King

Jack O. King

JOK:GSS
enc.

Sept. 20, 1952.

Mr. Jack O. King,

Washington Loan & Trust Bldg.,

900 F Street N.W.,

Washington 4, D.C.

Dear Mr. King:

Herewith the One Cent 1851 cover as per yours of the 16th. This is quite a nice strip from Plate 4 as the bottom stamp is the scarce Type IC, same being plate position 47L4, which is one of the best of the Type IC stamps on this plate. I have described and signed the cover on the back. My fee is $5.00. You should get a good price for this cover and my certification of types and plate positions should not do the value any harm.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--In case you would care to dispose of this strip I may have a friend who would be interested in acquiring it. Will you please put a price on it and return it to me.

JACK O. KING

STAMPS FOR COLLECTIONS
900 F STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONE METROPOLITAN 4321

September 22, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks very much for your certification of the 1851 strip recently submitted. We enclose herein our check in the amount of $5.00.

It has always been my policy on an item of this type to place it in a good auction and let it seek its own level as to value. I, frankly, do not have the vaguest idea as to its potential value. If in the meantime I do arrive at an asking price, I will certainly give you first chance at it.

Sincerely yours,

Jack O. King

Jack O. King

JOK:GSS
enc.

Sept. 25, 1952.

Mr. Jack O. King,

Washington Loan & Trust Bldg.,

900 F. Street N.W.,

Washington 4, D.C.

Dear Mr. King:

Thanks very much for yours of the 22nd with check for $5.00.

Okay on the cover with the 1¢ vertical strip but if you change your mind I would like to have a chance to acquire it, as it is quite an exceptional item.

Sincerely yours,

B185

PAID

Red

5

Edward Earle
Worcester
Mass

Red

N.Y. 5/16-46

By P.F.
#3753

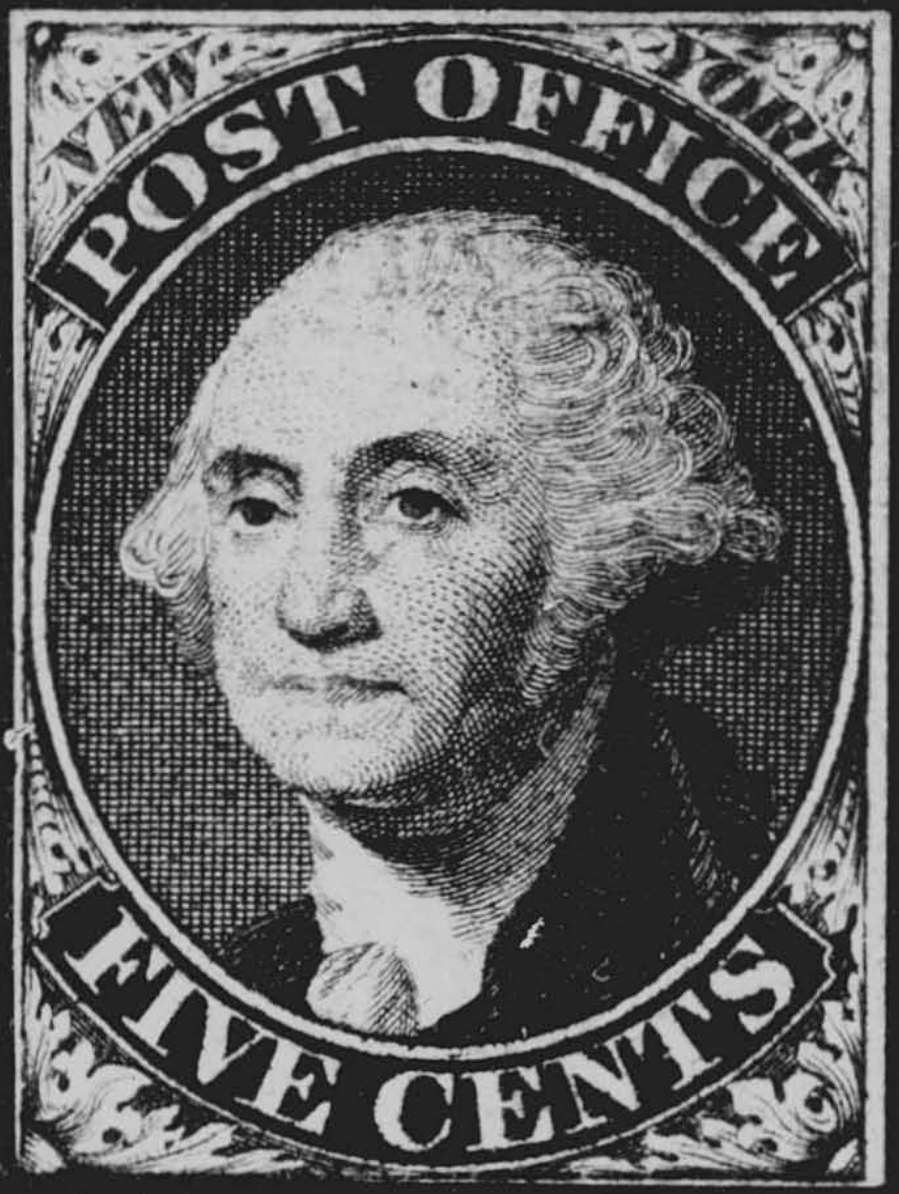
B185

By P.F. 3785 - Type II - Plate Proof PAINTED Projections

1R2 - 2R2 - 3R2

B174

B174 QUARTZ



C57

By P.F. 3803-99R2 { 14½-Quartz
Is Uncanceled? { F64 - 20 Min

C57