

1	Willard C Jackson	32	Van Dyk MacBride	Dallasburg Ky Contd
2	E.C. KRUG	33	Frederic J. Grant	Re Contd Steam 6
3	Dr Polland	34	Phila. Foundation	2-1457 - 1-1451
4	Robt A Peck	35	Henry Hill	
5	A E Kellogg	36	E.C. KRUG.	15469 Cover 1451-III - 5457 a B.
6	Phila. Foundation	37	McINROY - War Rate "9"	3881-3915- 3921-3922 3923-3924
7	C.M. Phillips Jr	38	J.E. Molesworth	90¢ Registered To France '883
8	J.D. Baker	39	Dr Don Silsby	30¢ Fake 1860
9	J.E. Molesworth	40	E. D. Cole	
10	A.C. Russo	41	J.G. Fleckenstein	24 Green Contd 5456 Cover
11	Henry Meyer	42	E.D. Cole	Express Cover
12	Lee Chadwick	43	Morris Everett	
13	Dr Carroll Chase	44	Dr H. J. Robbins	
14	J.E. Molesworth - 4 Covers	45	Paul Christopher	
15	Harold Stark Covers	46	Harold W Stark	
16	Jack Fleckenstein	47	A. R. Davis	Moroni Cover
17	Henry Hill	48	Tracy W Simpson	Cover To Germany
18	E.C. Krug	49	Gordon Harmer	90¢ 1860 Re Meroni Cover
19	Horace S Poole	50	Billig & Rich	3451 Cover Chicago Perf
20	E.D. Cole	51	Mrs L.J. Shaughnessy	Wells Fargo Stamps Ship 2
21	W.O. BILDEN	52	Fred J Grant	Cover To Germany Contd 24 over lot
22	C.M. Phillips Jr	53	Dr W.S. Polland	Canton Miss - Two 24¢ 1861
23	Henry Hill	54	J.G. Fleckenstein	lot 455 STEAM SHIP
24	Barbara Mueller	55	Van Dyk MacBride	3¢ Star Die
25	J.E. Molesworth	56	W.H. Kiefaber	Re Cameras
26	Jack Fleckenstein	57	J.E. Molesworth	30¢ 1860 10¢ 1855
27	John D Pope III	58	J.D. Baker	Two 1847 Covers Re 1847 Cover To Germany
28	Paul Rohloff	59		5-10¢ 47 Cover
29	L.L. Shenfield	60		Re Meron Ga Fake
30	Carroll Chase	61		Two 3¢ + 14 Covers
31	E.C. KRUG	62		30¢ 69 To France

WILLARD C. JACKSON

STAMPS AND SUPPLIES FOR COLLECTORS



A. P. S. 20832

T. P. A. 515

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES
FOR ALL COLLECTORS

325 Bewley Building
FORT WORTH 2, TEXAS

September 17, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Please give me your opinion on the enclosed 1c blue. After checking your Volume I, I am of the opinion that this stamp is Scott No. 8, Type III. I am going by the flaw under the "U" of United States and after reading further along in this same volume I see where this might also be a Type IIIa. At least I am doing my best to figure out for myself what these 1c blues are but when there seems to be a question, I hate to offer unless I am sure and nobody that I have been able to find in stamp collecting circles will ever question your opinion for they know that you never miss. If I keep working on these 1c blues, I hope someday to be able to figure them out.

I enclose my check in the amount of \$5.00 which please accept as payment.

All the collectors of 19th Century U. S. around this locality are hoping someday to have the pleasure of making your acquaintance and I sincerely trust that some occasion may make this possible. Perhaps the A.P.S. in Houston next year.

Very sincerely yours,

Willard C. Jackson

P. S. I am also enclosing a pair of 1c blues which Dr. L. A. Bernhardt would like plated. WCJ

Sept. 22, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Herewith the two One Cent 1851 items - a single and a pair.

The single is a Type IIIA and you were quite correct in noting the "E" relief flaw. The break in the bottom line is much too small to put the stamp in a Type III class. Please note that on chart, page 234 that I listed 56L4 as a Type IIIA.

My fee is \$2.00 plus return postage, so I am handing you my check herewith for \$2.67.

The One Cent is a most fascinating study, and I don't think that there is another U. S. stamp that can even approach it in so many interesting features.

I assure you that it would be a pleasure to meet the collectors of the Fort Worth area and perhaps someday I may.

Sincerely yours,

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Saturday A.M. 9/27/52.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No Ft Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

Will you do me this favor? Last week Harmer Rooke had a sale to which I sent Ez a couple or so bids. The only lot he got and sent me was the enclosed. It was lot 11, sale 9/23/52 and for which he paid \$62.50. I mean contracted to pay. It hasn't been paid as yet.

I had bid as follows on the cover, not having seen it myself beforehand, which I admit is a sorry way to bid:

Lot 11 "Bid for me \$100.00 if plainly III." This was my instructions to Ez.

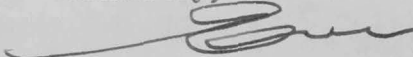
When he sent it down here he wrote-"I am enclosing lot 11 from the Harmer Rooke sale. In my opinion this is a type III stamp but it is what Stan calls "a poor example of the type." "The line is broken at the bottom and it has a wide break at the top. However even if this is a type IIIA stamp it is still a pretty little cover and catalogues \$60.00 now."Unquote.

I had to call him last night at Nyack about some other sales and told him I thought he had got for me a lousy stamp, that it was not at all a type III, that I had ordered only if it was a type III, that I did not think you would call this a poor example of that type even, that I did not expect to give Gordon any more of my money for such misinformation, in fact was rather hostile in my remarks about it. He said send it back and he would pay for it and keep it himself that he could not return it unless it was established that it was not a type III. So I suggested we leave it to you. If you say it is a type IIIA it can be sent back to H/R but if you say it is a poor type III, then he can not return it.

So, you are the "Solomon" in this case. If you find it to be a type III will you sign it for me? If it is a type IIIA as I firmly think it is then will you write Ezra and send it back to him with that information, in which case he can return it to Harmer's. Of course I don't want or expect Ezra to pay for it or anything else he buys for me. I do think he made a mistake on this baby when I clearly overlooked the description as close but did insist that the type should be perfectly clear.

I would like your analysis of this when you get time to tell me, knowing how busy you are. Many thanks in advance.

Sincerely,



Enc. Lot+11 H/R sale 9/23/52- \$65.50

Sept. 29, 1952.

Mr. Emerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave. South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

We had a most enjoyable trip to Michigan - got back late Sunday afternoon awfully tired.

This A.M. I found a stack of mail waiting for me and your letter re - the 1¢ cover. I am enclosing copy of letter to Ezra and I am sending the cover to him by air registered special delivery so he should get it tomorrow.

Stark stated he had your 90¢ and had held it to discuss it with me when I came up but with all the crowd there we never got around to it.

I note the 5¢ New York cover sold @ \$3,750.00.

More later.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

(25-2)

Sept. 29, 1952.

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

Dear Ez:

Here is a cover that Em Krug sent me - a 1¢ 1851 - Walpole, N.H.,
Drop rate - Harmer Rooke & Co. sale. This stamp is certainly not a
Type III and Thatcher had no right whatsoever to classify it as such.
It is a Type IIIA, the bottom line is not broken. It is true that in
certain cases I do classify a stamp as a "poor example of Type III," if
there is a small break in the bottom line, for example, a break of about
one millimeter, but where the bottom line is faint, or may show a hair-line
break, the stamp is a IIIA not a III.

When I wrote the One Cent book I should have laid down a rule to go
by, viz., that no stamp should be classed as a Type IIIA unless the break
was at least three or four millimeters, and for a Type III - the break in the
bottom line should be at least four millimeters.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

(25 - 2)

Some months ago I was up at
Parkers and ⁱⁿ going thru his research
material ran into a photograph of
a very rare Express cover which I owned.
To my surprise he said that it was
a Parker Lyon fake which he proved
25-30 years ago. Lyon apparently had
70-80 of the original handstamps of

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.

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HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.

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AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

various companies and created a lot of fakes with the original handstamps. I am afraid that Lechenstein, Wiltzel and even Jessup have many fakes which have been in existence so long, that they are now considered genuine. At any rate this particular cover is in the hands of the Foundation and I really ^{will} be amused, if Edgar is asked to pass on it. I am sure Parker is right, because he knows the whole story and all the details.

Parker also tipped me off about some other accepted E-pers covers, and I got my microscope out, and feel sure that he is right. I wish someone would get hold of Parker and Phillips notes, and where no historical data is available to prove a particular company existed, or where the connection is impossible,

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or the notes are wrong, give some of us a chance to study those covers with special methods, for evidence of "monkey-businers"

Levy is still with us, very quiet, enthusiastic, and as far as I know, quite legitimate. He pals around with a fellow countryman, a deartist by the name of Dr. Goodman, who kind of gets in our hair. He has been collecting Westerns about one year, and knows all the answers. He buys no good "sleepers" and then tries to make us think he has a great ranty etc.

kindest regards,

Sincerely,
W. Scott Polland

1850 Baltimore St N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.
Sept 26, 1952

Monty B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas Ky.

Dear Sir:-

I am enclosing my check for
\$1.⁵⁰/₁₀₀. Would you tell me if I
am right in my opinion of the
stamp to Valenters. I have put
it under a high power glass 60x
and there is no sign of a complete
top line. The stamp is I believe from
Plate Twelve. One to the dot and the bottom
of the stamp above it which is a type 1. But
you say in your book that plate 12 had
only type I and II. Am I correct in
saying this a type ~~III~~ from Plate 12?
Has any record been made of the
number of covers with the one cent
57 used on first day and the first
week of July 1851?

Very Truly,
Robert A. Peck.

POST CARD

Mrs Robb A Peck

1850 Belmont St N.W.

SEP 30 1952

Washington (9) D.C.

Dear Mrs Peck

Just a line to
acknowledge receipt of yours
of the 26th with enclosures. I

~~and~~ will reply within the
next few days, as I

Sincerely yours

Oct. 1, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Peck:

Herewith your valentine cover with the 1¢ 1857 - I have endorsed same on the back with the plate position.

There were possibly a dozen positions on Plate 12 which had a faint or partly broken top line, but I did not think the breaks were sufficient to class the stamps as Type IIIA.

Your stamp is 71R12.

At the time I wrote the 1¢ book I had a block of three, positions - 61R12 - 71R12 - 72R12, but the perfs cut the top of 71R12 so bad that I did not know that this was a very fine Type IIIA - See Vol. 2 - page 36 - Fig. 35B. Long after the book was published I turned up a fine copy of 71R12 and was surprised to find that through a short transfer or plate erasure that the top line was entirely broken. So far as I am aware at present 71R12 is the finest Type IIIA on Plate 12.

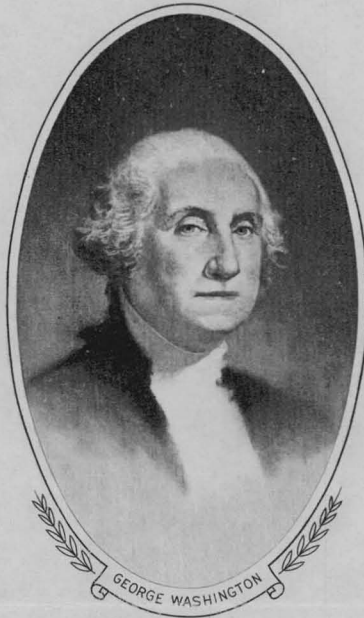
If your cover is for sale I would like to buy it.

Sincerely yours,

(25-4)

Kellogg STAMP CO.

WE ARE STEADY BUYERS OF
RARE STAMPS AND OUTSTANDING
COLLECTIONS



AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
(ON THE BOARD OF EXPERTS)
MICHIGAN STAMP CLUB
"HELVETIA"
COLLECTORS CLUB
PENINSULAR ST. PH. S.
SOCIETY OF PHILATELIC AMERICANS
(ON THE BOARD OF EXPERTS)
AMERICAN STAMP DEALERS ASSOC.

19 CLIFFORD STREET CORNER OF WOODWARD
DETROIT 26, MICH.
TEL: WOODWARD 1-4440

September 26th 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Here is a discovery which probably will make the world shake...

The enclose two 5 centers are of different design. What do you know about this? It may be that I discovered something known al ready a long time.

The distance between the two 5s differs more than 1/2 mm, and the line from the right 5 down would just touch the g in Postage. On the lighter one, it would go through the head of the g.

There are some more differences which you easily will see. It looks to me too as if the left eye on the lighter one is larger than on the darker one. The background on the light stamp seems very much lighter than on the darker one.

Are there different plates?

The t in Postage is also different at the bottom and so on.

I would appreciate your opinion in htis matter very much, dear Mr. Ashbrook, and remain in the mean time as always

most sincerely yours,

KELLOGG STAMP CO.

Encl: Reply envelope.

Kellogg

Pl. 17

Sept. 30, 1952.

Mr. A. E. Kellogg,
19 Clifford St.,
Detroit 26, Mich.

Dear Mr. Kellogg:

I am in receipt of yours of the 26th with the two 5¢ 1862 stamps. I have carefully noted your remarks and upon examination there is a slight difference in the distance between the two 5's but I doubt if it is as much as 1/2 millimeter. I am certain this is not due to any difference in design but to paper shrinkage. However, I will measure it very carefully in a scale of 1/10 millimeter under a strong glass. There was only one plate for the regularly issued 5¢, viz., Plate No. 17 and it was in use during the whole life of the stamp of this design - (1861-1868). Any differences that you noticed in the design such as the "T" of POSTAGE, etc., is due, I feel quite certain, to "impression" or possibly to a slight "shift" in the transferring.

Re - the background around the head. On the lighter stamp there is a lighter portion to the left of Jefferson's chin, but this is also noticeable on the darker stamp. I think that the variation in shading of the background lines on the original die was due to "etching." By that process, background lines were "etched" deeper than others. I have especially noted this on the 24¢.

I really don't know how many reliefs were on the roller that transferred the 5¢ plate but if there is any actual difference in these background lines on these two stamps, I have a suspicion it might be due to two different reliefs.

I am holding the two stamps over and will make enlarged photographs to satisfy myself that my above analysis is correct.

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 30, 1952.

Mr. A. E. Kellogg,

19 Clifford St.,

Detroit 26, Mich.

Dear Mr. Kellogg:

Herewith the two 5¢ 1862 stamps.

I made a photograph and will send you prints later.

Very truly yours,

Oct. 4, 1952.

Mr. A. E. Kellogg,

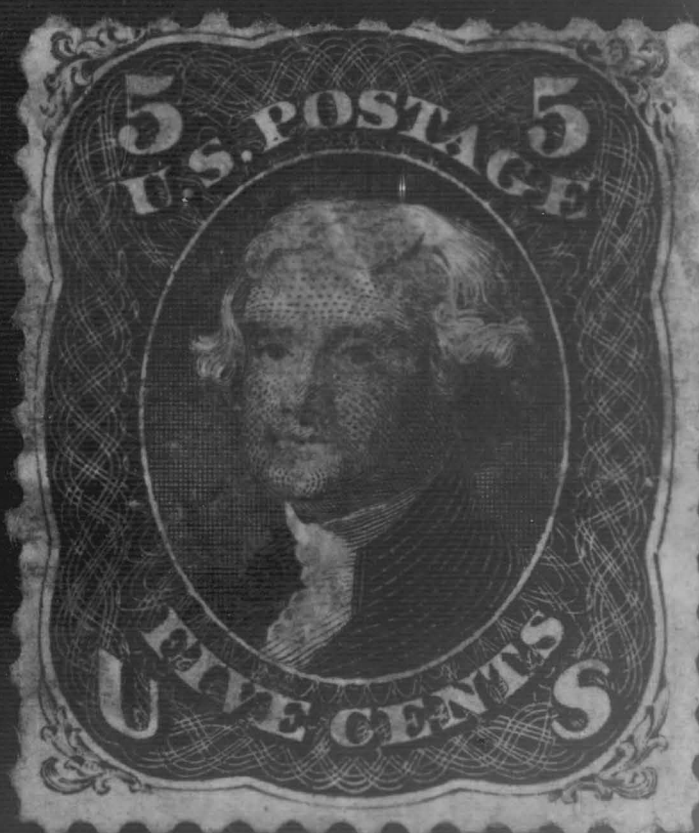
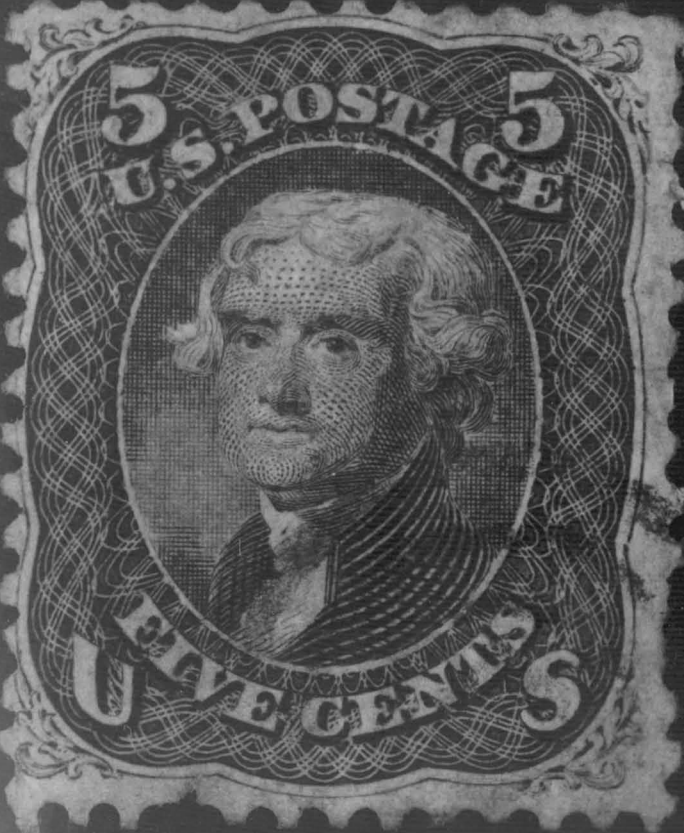
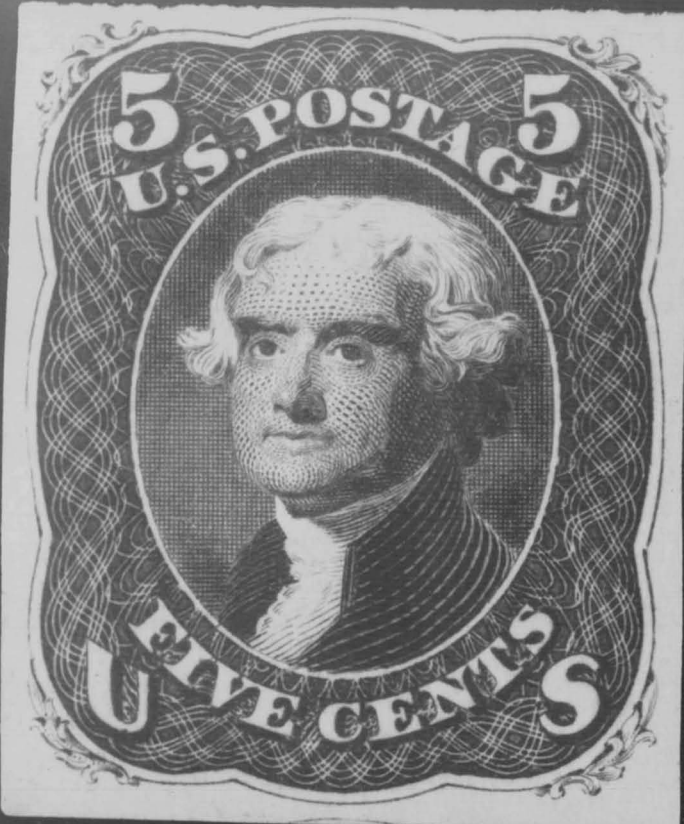
19 Clifford St.,

Detroit 26, Mich.

Dear Mr. Kellogg:

Further referring to our recent correspondence I am enclosing a photo-print herewith of the two stamps that you sent me, with a plate proof of the 5¢ Premiere and one of the "Specimen" copies. I believe that this print will answer the various questions raised in your letter. Note the "etching" in the background of the "Specimen" copy.

Sincerely yours,



THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-5667

WINTHROP S. BOGGS, DIRECTOR

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A. H. WILHELM

September 29, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

I enclose items #3881, 3915, 3921, 3922, 3923, and 3924, on which the Committee would appreciate your valued opinions.

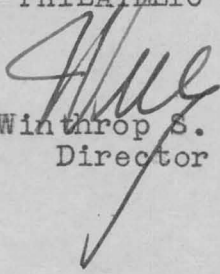
Our meeting is on the 6th of October.

I might say that I think the cover addressed to Mr. Goodhue is most interesting.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION


Winthrop S. Boggs
Director

wsb/l
encls.

Oct. 2, 1952.

The Philatelic Foundation,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Herewith lots - 3881 - 3915 - 3921 - 3922 - 3923 and 3924
as per yours of the 29th.

I am enclosing with 3922 some remarks I had about this cover in
my "Service" issue of last June. Keffer must have been dubious about
my analysis.

I am also enclosing a photo of the Ward stuff in Mekeel's re -
the Hollowbush fake 5¢ 1857 Brick Red cover.

Re - yours of recent date on the Canadian book. My friend Halliday
loaned me a copy but I would like to purchase one. If you know where I
could buy one will you please advise?

With best wishes -

Sincerely yours,

Oct. 4, 1952.

The Philatelic Foundation,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

Regarding No. 3923 which I returned yesterday. I thought when I examined this cover that I had seen it before. It was a Lichtenstein cover and was in a Costales sale of Feb. 3, 1949 - Lot 114. It is a fake and was made by Parker Lyon. He got hold of a number of the old Adams handstamps. In this case he added two 3¢ '51 pencanceled stamps and tied them with the old Adams handstamp. This information is strictly confidential and only for the Committee.

In that same sale, lots 115 and 116 were also fakes. There were other fakes in this same sale. The Parker Lyon stuff was rather clever and examples exist in the Jessup collection as well as many others. Lichtenstein fell for a lot of phony western stuff. Parker of Oroville, in my opinion, knows Western Franks better than any other living person. Do you ever send any material to him? He has reference material that is invaluable.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

By Philatelic Foundation Oct. 2, 1952.

No. 3881 - 5¢ New York - See Photo - No. C65 - Unused - Question - "Is it 9X1A? Is it uncanceled? Is it unsigned?"

S.B.A.'s opinion was - "This is No. 18 on the plate - I doubt if it was ever an unused, unsigned copy, hence assume it is a cleaned copy though the ultra violet shows no sign of cleaning. It has no resemblance to the Blue paper variety."

No. 3915 - 90¢ 1860 - with red bars - Query - "Centered slightly left - red cancel - Is it genuine, used?"

S.B.A.'s opinion was - "In my opinion this cancellation is fraudulent."

No. 3921 - 5¢ New York on cover - See Photo No. B199 - Query - "Four margin copy - hinged to cover and tied with red grid - Is it genuine Blue paper variety?"

S.B.A.'s opinion was - "Is this the BLUE paper variety or just bluish? Inasmuch as I do not have a Blue paper copy for comparison I hesitate to express a worthwhile opinion."

No. 3922 - The fake Seychelles cover with bank notes 7¢ and 24¢ - Query - "Is cover genuine in all respects?"

S.B.A.'s opinion - "The Bank Note stamps did not originate on this cover - See my analysis herewith from the June Issue of my "Special Service." This fake cover was purchased in the Keffer sale last May by Philip Ward for \$66.00 who returned it to Keffer when I informed him it was a fake."

No. 3923 - Two 3¢ 1851 on cover tied by blue oval express marking - See my Photo

No. B200 - Query - "Is cover genuine in all respects?"

S.B.A.'s opinion - "I am not an authority on Western Express covers but in my opinion these two stamps were not used on this cover originally and probably the oval marking. However, this is just my opinion and I advise the Committee to investigate this cover thoroughly before issuing a "genuine" certificate."

THIS
WAS
LOT
114
IN
Costales
Sale
at
2/3-49

No. 3924 - 90¢ 1860 - single off cover - "Va" - see my Photo No. C65 - Query - "Is cancellation genuine?"

S.B.A.'s opinion was - "In my opinion this 'cancelation' is fraudulent."

Oct. 4, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for the very interesting information contained in yours of the 1st. How very odd!!! The following is confidential as the P.F. requests it so. The Committee sent me the Lichtenstein - Costales cover #114 for my opinion last Thursday - It bears their number "3923" - It was included in a batch they sent and I judge all will be acted upon at the meeting of the Committee to be held Monday night (Oct. 6). My report on this cover was as follows, quote:

3923 - Query - "Is cover genuine in all respects?" S.B.A.'s opinion - "I am not an authority on Western Express covers but in my opinion these two stamps ~~cannot~~ used on this cover originally and probably the oval marking," (Note - this was funny wording but what I meant was that if the stamps did not originate then there was something queer about the handstamp) - continuing - "However, this is just my opinion and I advise the Committee to investigate this cover thoroughly before issuing a "genuine" certificate." (unquote)

I noted the faint Wells Fargo marking on the back - also the faint circular postmark at left on face which I couldn't make out. I also was sure the Adams handstamp could not have been used in July 1855 as Adams & Co. failed in February 1855. My guess was that someone was using a fake Adams handstamp to tie the two 3¢ stamps. I was also rather sure that the top 3¢ stamp showed traces of a red postmark.

I return the clips from the Costales sale. I have catalogues and have made notations. Thanks very much. I believe that Parker knows Western Express covers better than any other living person.

I was also interested in your remarks re- McConnell. I wonder if he would have any objection if I would recommend him to the P.F. Express Committee? Would you mind asking him?

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

Dear Mr Ashbrook: 10-1-52

I have your interesting letter of the 29th. So far I haven't found anything new on Loebl. Enclosed are ~~photographs~~ illustrations from the Costello Sales of the Lichtenstein material, which according to Parker, are fakes. Lots 114, 115 + 116 are samples of Parker Lyon's work. Lots 114 + 115 were originally stampers covers from Georgetown Kentucky to Nelson's Point on the Feather River. Some #114 and on the back of it is a faint red W.S. & Co mark. Parker says that Lyons simply added the pen cancelled stamps, and struck them with the original handstamp which he owned. Lot #116 was going the other way, and was mailed at Quincy. There are many more of these covers in

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ALBERT BUILDING

SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

the Waltze collection and other places.
My cover shows a paid 10 and there
is a manuscript date of July 2, 1885.
If the date is correct, there is no reason
for the stamps. Parker says he
tried to get this material from the
widow, and that when he examined
it, there was practically no covers with
stamps. Later, all the larger covers
had stamps on them, and a strike
in blue by this rare handstamp.
The tiny Ladies envelopes were not
disturbed, for lack of space to put
the stamps, and hand stamp. My
cover has not come back from the
Philatelic Foundation.



EXPRESS.
MILLE
POSTING WITH
ADAMS & CO.
Blue

COV, 237

July 2nd - 55 -

ORANGE

10

Mr. James H. Lane, Esqr
Nelson Point
~~Marysville California~~

By P.F. 102-52 - N: 3923 - Orange PAID And "10"
- Faint Orange Circular P.M. At Lett. Did ADAMS
& Co FAIL in Feby 1855?

SEE 25-6

TRACE OF FORMER RED
POSTMARK ON TOP 3¢ STAMP
THRU "H" OF THREE

AT 20'8 - F128-GREEN - 10 Sec

B200

BY PHILATELIC FOUNDATION OCT 2 1952



P.F. No 3881
NO 18 ON PL.

C65

SEE 25-G

By P.F. 3921 - 10/2 - 52
Is This The BLUE PAPER
See 24-54-



PAID

Jos. W. White Esq. Cashier

Merchants' Bank

Norwich. Conn.
Conn. N



B 199

At 20'8-F128-GREEN-10 See

BY P.F. No 3921

SEE 25-6

OCT 2 1952

Sept 29th - 52

Dear Stanley:-

Here are two that have
come in with the letter enclosed
from a dealer friend of mine.

What do you think of his explanation
of these as territorial? I want your
opinion before I buy of these pieces,
if these are OK and are territorial will
you state as much on the labels in
pencil, then I'll buy them for my
collection of cancellations. I like
to have your opinion on things

like this - There there can never be any
question of doubt in anyones mind
in regard to the item -

Hope this finds you & Mrs. & children
in the best of health - We are
sandwiched in between two hurricanes
right now -

Stanley would you please give
me some idea as to the value on
that gutter pair of Coufeds on Couer?
Have to sell it to this boy Hart I
promised him two years ago that he
could have it some time and he is
wanting it but I also want a to days
market value for a thing like that
so too me what you think -

Cordially yours
Clare.

Oct. 2, 1952.

Mr. C. M. Phillips, Jr.,
Route #1 - Box 78,
Winter Haven, Fla.

Dear Clare:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 29th, also the letter. Because there is no actual proof that the uses were 1860 or earlier I could not sign them as Territorials, though I suppose they are. For instance, we do find uses of the 3¢ 1857 in the late sixties and of the pre-war envelopes long after the war was over. Postmasters in small towns may have not known that the old stamps and envelopes were demonetized.

your

Re -/Confed gutter item. I prefer not to express any opinion on the value. In fact, I try to refrain from expressing opinions on values of any items. Personally I wouldn't care especially about owning the Confed item, hence my idea of value might be low. On the other hand, someone else might have a very different idea. I suppose the best opinion I can give you is that it is worth all you can get.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Sept. 14, 1952.

Mr. J. David Baker,
3909 North Delaware St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Yours of the 8th with check for \$20.00 received, to be applied on your 1952-1953 Service subscription. Thanks very much. I believe this makes a total of \$40.00.

As requested, I have changed your address as above.

No Dave, I did not go down to either the S.P.A. or A.P.S. conventions. I would have enjoyed seeing your exhibit.

Re - the Chicago Perf date - the 1857 was a typographical error. It should have been "1856" instead of 1857. The error was made by Chase but I failed to correct it when the copy of his record was made - silly things like that do creep in, in spite of an effort to avoid them.

Re - your cover with the 30¢ 1860. The date of use surely is 1861, not May 26, 1860. The records show that the stamp could not have been issued as early as May or even June. If you would like for me to look at it I will be glad to do so. Maybe the 30¢ stamp did not originate. The fakers pull such tricks.

If you receive Mekeel's perhaps you noticed that Ward listed a use of the 5¢ 1877 Brick Red as Apr. 6, 1858. The cover he mentioned is a rank fake and he was advised of the fact.

Now that the weather will soon be turning cooler perhaps you could find time to run down and pay me a visit. I assure you that you will be welcome but please let me know in advance so that I will be sure to be home.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

HUGH J. BAKER AND COMPANY

POST OFFICE BOX 892

TELEPHONE: RILEY 3326

STRUCTURAL - REINFORCING - ORNAMENTAL - BUILDING

MATERIALS

DISTRIBUTORS - FABRICATORS



September 26, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P.O. Box 3133
N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan:

Hugh and I have considered paying you a visit Saturday, October 11th if that is a convenient day for you. We will await your advice on the subject.

Enclosed is the 30 Cent cover which I reported as used in 1860 but which you feel could not have been used at that time.

Hope we will be seeing you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Dave

Sept. 30, 1952.

Mr. J. David Baker,
3909 North Delaware St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 26th which came Monday A.M.

I want to make a very thorough study of this cover so as to definitely establish what the faker actually did. One thing is sure, the 30¢ stamp was not in existence in May 1860.

Re - the October 11th date. Some of my friends seem to be planning some sort of a party for me next month on my birthday and have intimated that they may come out from New York. What it is all about I don't know but my birthday is on the 10th which I note falls on a Friday - whether they intend to be here over the weekend I don't know but if Hugh and you want to take a chance of running into them on the 11th it will be okay with me. I just wanted to inform you of what might happen.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--I will hold the cover until I can examine it from every angle.

J. DAVID BAKER
3907 NORTH DELAWARE STREET
INDIANAPOLIS 5, INDIANA

October 5, 1952

Dear Stan:

Since there may be out of town friends coming to help you celebrate your birthday, probably it would be best to postpone our visit to another time later perhaps the Friday or Saturday after Thanksgiving - weather permitting.

Dugh and I certainly want to congratulate you on your coming birthday. We hope it will be a happy occasion for you and that it will be followed by many more.

You certainly are free to examine the 30¢ cover as much as you like. I find that it was purchased in the east. I will be travelling there the week of Oct 20th. If your study is complete, it would be helpful to have it by that time.

Cardially,
Dave Baker

Oct. 8, 1952.

Mr. J. David Baker,
3909 North Delaware St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Yours of the 5th received. I think it is wise for you to put the trip off until a later date as it looks at present that I will have quite a number of out-of-town guests this weekend. However, if Hugh and you would like to drive down some Sunday I will be glad to have you.

There is no question in my mind that the 30¢ cover is bad and I hope you can get a refund on it. Years ago there was a crooked dealer in London by the name of Stuart Anderson, and I was quite sure that he was the London outlet in 1936-1937 for the great faker in Paris by the name of Zareski. I have a photo - tracings, and record of a fake 90¢ 1861 cover that Anderson sent me in 1936 with a price-tag of \$100. I felt reasonably certain at the time that it was made by Zareski. The 90¢ stamp was "tied" with a Washington postmark exactly like the fakes(?) on your cover. I figured that the cover had never been near Washington.

You will recall that a book on cancellations was offered to the public a year or so ago on "U.S. 19th Cancellations" - authored by M. Zareski and Herman Herst. The "M. Zareski" is the most notorious faker of covers in Europe.

I will have the cover back to you next week.

Thanks very much for your birthday greetings. My regards to you both.

Cordially yours,

Oct. 12, 1952.

Mr. J. David Baker,
3909 North Delaware St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Herewith I am returning your cover with the 30¢ 1860. I have made a very thorough investigation of this cover and I am of the opinion that the 30¢ stamp was not used originally on this cover. Further, I am of the opinion that both strikes of the Washington postmark are fraudulent. There appears to have been no alteration in the two French postmarks - that is, in the "60," and as I wrote you previously, the 30¢ stamp was not even engraved as early as the date "May 26" as shown on this cover.

I am enclosing two photographs which kindly accept with my compliments. I am also enclosing a third which kindly return to me. This is a fake cover that shows a 90¢ 1861 tied by the same fake Washington postmark which I attribute to Zareski of Paris. The rate on this cover was originally 15¢ and surely originated at New York. It has a credit figure of "1¢" and a tracing of this "Bremen" of New York postmark is shown in Vol. 2 of my One Cent book, page 338, tracing "A."

We certainly had a big day here yesterday and the phone rang all day with out-of-town calls and telegrams. Morris Fortgang came out from New York and presented me with the surprise of my life. I doubt if anyone ever had a nicer three score and ten birthday or received a finer remembrance. I note the names of Hugh Baker and Dave Baker among the sixty-six of my good friends who participated in this celebration and I wish to thank both of you most heartily. I am deeply appreciative.

With every good wish to you both -

Cordially yours,



Black



Black

AMERICA
ÜBER BREMEN
FRANCO

Ludwig

Stöck

Wallendorf

Landratsbezirk Lauterbach

Großherzogthum Hessen

Germany

#4



FAKE 904 1861
Cover Submitted To
SBA By Stuart
Anderson[®] in 1936

⊗ OF LONDON



Black



Black

J203

B197

Réponse à votre lettre (Angèle H. Kochler)

26/5/59

France

Sea Steamer Canada



Red



Red



Black



Black

Mademoiselle Marguerite Barrot

By J.D.B

A me d'Anjou d'honneur

Paris

B197

BY DAVE BAKER AT 208-F128-GREEN-115EC

Note

This Fake French
Receiving Postmark Is
The Same As The One
On The Meromri Fake
Cover

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

9-30-52.

Dear Stan,

I've held off answering your letter of the 21st until I could get all the facts about the plates. I now have them. The rumor that Mr. Rust offered Phil Ward a million and a half for his collection is without foundation. I do know that at one time Rust was seriously interested in buying Ward's collection though not to the extent of examining it or making any offer with or without examination. However, he recently has been repeatedly solicited by Ward to come and examine it with an eye to buying which Rust has declined to do. Though I believe he would like to have the stamps, his dealings with Ward have not proved entirely satisfactory I deduce and he is therefore very cautious about doing further business with him and will probably not bother with him further unless Ward should turn up something he couldn't afford to pass up. Rust is far enough along now that it takes something really outstanding to tempt him.

Ward's statement that he sold all the Chase 3¢ 1851 Plates is a gross exaggeration. Some months back in the Spring he sold Rust the first 5 plates of the 3¢ for \$1750 which he had secured from Chase for \$1500. However, the report that Rust purchased all of the Chase 3¢ plates is true to a certain extent in that he did purchase a complete set including the Orange Browns, but the latter were not complete. In other words, Chase has retained one set of complete plates or he couldn't continue plating for people. I don't know the price, but believe it was plenty steep. The deal went through Bernard Harmer and Cole who split the commission. Believe it was Chase to Cole to Harmer to Rust. The above is strictly confidential for your own use only, though it doubtlessly will get around as it already has to you from the other side of the deal. I have been familiar with this pending deal for 3 or 4 months and tried to get Rust to hold out for a better price since I feel he was somewhat gouged. Any information you might have on the price he paid would be of interest. Since he knows my feelings in the matter, he would probably be embarrassed to quote me the price and has therefore not volunteered to mention it.

Incidentally, I sent the 5¢ N.Y. that was suspected of being on Blue paper to Usticke and he said it was definitely Blue. So, I've sent it to the P.F. and

will let you know what they say on it as well as the #140. Enclosed is a cover with what is supposed to be a somewhat defective pair of #75, the red brown. Would you consider it the Red Brown? If so, please sign the back. Also enclosed is what appears to and may well be an outstanding Type III. Would appreciate your vouching for the type and signing the back. Is it sound? No need to note this on the back, but it looks o.k. to me yet I bought it as supposedly having a small repair. I soaked the hinges off and can find no evidence of it. Advise your fee and I'll remit promptly.

With best wishes,

Jack

Oct. 3, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks very much for yours of the 30th with information re - the Chase 3¢ plates. Although I am in close touch with Chase, in none of his recent letters has he mentioned anything about the sale of any of his 3¢ reconstructed plates. I do know that he has sold some material thru Ward and I assumed that Chase had sold the plates thru Ward to Rust. I will write Chase and ask if he will give me the details. Cole has never mentioned Rust's name to me, and I have wondered if Cole did any business with Rust. I do know that Chase deals with Cole.

If Rust is a bit disgusted with Ward he is fortunate. He should anything and everything that he buys from Ward examined very carefully, in fact, if he was wise he wouldn't have any dealings with him. It is too bad that someone couldn't give him that very excellent advice.

I was surprised that the Ogdenburgh cover went so cheap - also surprised that Rust did not buy it. Cole bought it for the Weill firm and they bought it as an investment. I understand that Cole had a limit of \$5,000.00 and that they might consider accepting \$7,500.00 feeling that they would have charged that price had they had to pay \$5,000.00. I was surprised that a Minneapolis collector let it go so cheap.

Please treat the above as strictly confidential - also the following. The P.F. sent the 5¢ 1845 "blue paper" cover to me. I stated that I could not express a definite opinion because I did not have a genuine "blue paper" copy for direct comparison. Because of that, my opinion would be of little value. I don't think Rusticke would know a "blue paper" copy if he saw one - in fact, I doubt if he ever saw one. Caspary has a genuine "blue paper" and there is one in the Lapham collection. Who has charge of that collection at present? Is it not available for study? How do you stand with Dan Kelleher? Dan knows a "blue paper" when he sees one - (I think) - However, Jack - I do not think your copy is the real "blue" but "bluish." Keep me advised re - the report by the P.F. Incidentally the Committee meets on Oct. 6th but I doubt if they will pass on your cover on that date. Keep the above confidential.

I am returning herewith the 5¢ 1862 Red Brown cover and the 1¢ 1851 from Plate 4. The pair on the cover is the Red Brown and I have endorsed it as such on the back. The 1¢ 1851 is a Type IIIA not a Type III. Unfortunately the cancel covers up the bottom line, but I plated the stamp and found it to be 7914 - fine photographs that I have show this was a Type IIIA position - see chart - page 234 - Vol. 1 of my One Cent Book.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

(25-9)

Fee 3⁵⁰ on Above

B204

Answered Jan 16/63



Blue Black



Red Brown

Mr. L. I. Martel

Agent for Absentees

Red Dec 13/62 San Francisco, Ca

By J.E.M.
10/3-52
25-



B204-	See 25-8	OCT 17/52	Pair 5¢ Red Brown on
	By MOLESWORTH		Cover - signed on
	1451-PI4.79L4-III A		BACK BY SBA
	@ 20'8-F1Z8-GREEN-11 Sec		B204

B204-

See 25-8
By MALESWORTH

OCT

3
1952

Pair 5¢ Red Brown On
Cover - Signed On
BACK By SBA

1451-P14.79L4-III A

@ 20'8 - F128 - GREEN - 11 Sec

B204

B205

See 25-10

By A.C. RUSSO - 10/3 - 1952 - Inside A Star Die From Pen
Postmark "ASPEN WALK Va Jan 16/61 - To Miss

Louisa S. Hankins - KEYSVILLE Charlotte Co. Va. Turned And Sealed - 2¢
GREEN Postmarked "KEYSVILLE 15 OCT Va" - Probably 1862 - No Doubt
The Keysville P.M. Mistook The 2¢ Green For A 5¢ Green Litho -
THUS A 2¢ Rate That Got By

Keysville Va Oct 15 To

Aspin Wall P.O.
Charlotte Co
Va

Aspin Wall Va
Jan 16 61
to Keysville Va

Oct. 4, 1952.

Mr. A. C. Russo,
127 North Dearborn St.,
Chicago 2, Ill.

Dear Tony:

Thanks very much for yours of the 1st with return of the B.J. photo. I was surprised to learn that the D.T. was new to you. The copy belongs to a collector up in Michigan and I imagine he is the type who would not care to part with it. However, I will inquire and let you know. He has the faculty of digging up some unusual items. I showed a photo of the stamp to Henry Hill of Minneapolis and he stated it was new to him. I am writing my old friend Erby Atherton.

Herewith your 2¢ Green Confed cover. When I first looked at this cover, I thought to myself - "What a lousy fake." But upon close examination I found it is good as gold. It looked to me like the fake material turned out years ago by a chap down in Lorraine, Va. by the name of Dedrick. This turned cover was sent sealed and the rate was 5¢. I judge the use was Oct. 15, 1862. The 5¢ Green Litho was also being used at that time so I suppose the postmaster took this 2¢ for a 5¢. Inasmuch as the cover is unquestionably genuine, I doubt if there can be any other explanation.

Do you know Howard Lehman of New York City? He makes a specialty of the 2¢ Green Confed. Why not send it down to him. I'll wager that he never saw a turned cover with a 2¢ Green. I am sure I never did.

Tony I am glad to give you this data and to you there is no fee.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

B205



Miss. Mary S. Breedlove.
 Aspin. Wall. P. O.
 Charlotte City

AT 20'g - FIZB - GREEN - 10 Sec

B205 See 25-10 By A.C. RUSSO - 10/3 - 1952 - Inside A Star Die From Pen
 Postmark " ASPIN WALL Va Jan 16 / 61 - To Miss
 Louisa S. Hankins - KEYSVILLE Charlotte Co. Va. Turned And Sealed - 2¢
 GREEN Postmarked "KEYSVILLE 15 OCT Va" - Probably 1862 - No Doubt
 The Keysville P.M. Mistook The 2¢ Green For A 5¢ Green Litho -
 THUS A 2¢ Rate That Got By

**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

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**PHILATELIC
LINES**

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

Sept. 20, 1952

Dear Stan:

Enclosed are two photographs of Confederate STEAM covers. Please return them after studying them.

Do you know from your own notes, or can you form an opinion from the notes on the back, who might have the negatives to these? My own notes do not show from whom I got them.

If I could locate the negatives, I would like to get better prints for illustrations in my book where I discuss Confederate use of STEAM. The note that one of them is Ex-Antrim suggests that I might have gotten them from Earl himself, but I have not had a letter from Earl since much longer back than the dates noted on the prints.

Does the handwriting look like writing of Dr. Frazier? Or Laurence Shenfield? I don't think it is Van Dyk Mac Bride, although that is a possibility.

If you know or suspect from whom they may have come, I would greatly appreciate your suggestion.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

Sept. 24, 1952.

Mr. Henry A. Meyer,

516 Read St.,

Evansville 11, Ind.

Dear Henry:

Herewith the two prints as per yours of the 20th. The handwriting on the back is not familiar to me but I am wondering if it could be Wulfekuhler? I have not had any correspondence in recent years that I can recall with Dr. Frazier.

I doubt if they are from Shenfield or MacBride. The fact is I don't know of any collector who uses this sort of photo-paper.

Incidentally - why Steam 6 on the cover with the New Orleans stamp and on the Star Die what sum was due?

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

**HOBBY
INTERESTS**

PICTORIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
EARLY EVANSVILLE
HISTORY
EARLY OHIO RIVER
STEAMBOATS
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**PHILATELIC
LINES**

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

Sept. 29, 1952

Dear Stan:

I have written to Earl Antrim, asking him if he knows from whom the two photographs of Confederate Steam covers came. Since one of them is ex-him, perhaps he may know. I have never had a letter from Col. Wulfekuhler, so if they came from him, it must have been by some very roundabout means.

On the Star Die envelope, I make out the amount due as "6." It is blotted, and of uncertain shape in its upper part, but "6" is all I can make out of it. I analyze the cover as a use of the envelope because the writer needed an envelope, and did not expect the stamp to count; at least, it did not count. "Old Stamps Not Recognized" in reverse: "Demyanke Satmps Not Recognized." So being an unpaid Steam letter into Natchez, it was rated 6 cents due.

Now the letter with New Orleans stamp and "Due 6." Surely New Orleans stamps were recognized at Natchez; hundreds of letters with them must have reached Natchez. So I can figure out only one thing: that it was overweight, so they rated the overweight part as unpaid, and being a Steam letter, they rated it 6 cents to the city of destination by virtue of the rate established in 1855, since the rate of 1861 (5 cents to city of destination) was not established until after secession. Does this sound like a possibility to you?

I have also seen Confederate stampless unpaid with 6 cents charged at Montgomery. But just to make it more complicated, we know well the big STEAM 7 on unpaid steamboat letters into New Orleans and addressed there. I have never seen a schedule of Confederate steam or way charges. Have you?

Since I am writing anyway, I have a question of policy to propound. You know the mark MAIL ROUTE. I have your discussion of the mark in Vol. II well in mind. At least some of the letters thus marked were carried on contract ships (without route agents, obviously, in the absence of route agents' marks). Perhaps all of them were so carried; the wording of the mark suggests it.

At present, in my book I have the mark classified under "Marks equivalent to Ship." But I am wondering, in view of the likelihood of carriage on contract ships, whether I ought not reclassify them under "Marks equivalent to Way." I don't want to make a foolish move, so I would like your advice. How does the idea sound to you?

Yours sincerely,

Henry

Oct. 5, 1952.

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

Dear Henry:

Yours of the 29th received.

I regret I cannot offer further suggestions as to where you may have received those photographs, but if you do find out I wish you would inquire of him how he figured the rates.

Re - the Star Die into Natchez. Why 6¢? I note your explanation but I still can't figure out where you get 6¢. I do not recall any Confed covers charged with 6¢ Due, especially at Montgomery. The only Confed "Steam" rates that I recall are the "Steam 7" rates into New Orleans. These meant 5¢ postage plus 2¢ Steamboat Fee. I know of no 1¢ fee that would make a rate of 5¢ plus 1¢. The only 6¢ rate that I can think of was the Ship rate of 6¢ - addressed to ports of entry - such as sea letters, blockade run into Wilmington. I never saw or heard of a blockade run letter into New Orleans rated as "Ship 6."

I am not telling you or disputing your analysis but on the contrary I am seeking information. I don't think you will find anything in Confed rate data that will bear you out, but of course I might be wrong.

Postage within the Confederacy had to be prepaid on and after June 1, 1861 - Members of the armed forces were permitted to send mail unpaid but there was no penalty.

No, Henry, I have never seen any schedule of Steam or Way charges but the Confed postal legislation was supposed to follow the U. S. with certain changes - thus a ship letter in the Confederacy was rated the same as in the U. S.

I am sending you a copy of my book on Confederate Postal Legislation herewith.

The way you figured out the cover with the New Orleans stamp seems most unlikely to me. I should have photographed those two photo-prints but I didn't and now I have to rely on my memory of them. If you locate them I would like to photograph them because there is something wrong somewhere - in my opinion.

Re - the marking "MAIL ROUTE." I suppose you refer to the S.L. marking which was used at Savannah, Ga. See my One Cent Book - Vol. 2 - Page 233 - Figure 48L. As stated, this cover is, in my opinion, a "Prepaid Way Fee." What else could it be? It couldn't be a "Ship Fee" because a ship fee was 2¢. However, in the Meroni collection there is a cover as follows: 3¢ 1853 - U.S. envelope - no 1¢ stamp - same Savannah postmark - same S.L. "Mail Route" - it is also addressed to Marietta, Ga. - but not to the same addressee as cover 48L. Why was this marked "Mail Route?" There is no evidence that there was a 1¢ stamp in the upper left corner, but there

#2. Mr. Henry A. Meyer - Oct. 5, 1952.

might have been. No evidence of year of use.

We see this same 3¢ plus 1¢ covers of Charleston, S.C. For example, you sent me a photo of one addressed to "South Santee" - it has a S.L. "Steamboat" (property of Henry H. Welch). I have classed this as a prepaid "Way" - I wrote you at the time (April 1950) that these were "Prepaid - Way covers" in my opinion. For example, I have a photo of one - a 3¢ 1853 U. S. envelope with a 1¢ '51 - a use in March 1857 (note 1857) - It is addressed to Charleston - two Charleston postmarks tying the stamps. What could this be but a "prepaid Way" - Inasmuch as we do not believe(?) that "Way" fees were charged on water borne mail, what about this cover? It must have been a land route.

I also have a record of a cover with a 3¢ '57 plus a 1¢ 1857 tied to cover by a Charleston p.m. of Mar. 26, 1859. It is addressed to South Santee, S.C. This is a Welch cover and no doubt you supplied me with the record. What is this but a prepaid Way by a land Mail Route, but why is the other South Santee cover marked "Steamboat."

I have a record of a 3¢ '57 plus 1¢ '57 tied by a Natchez postmark of April ? 1861 - the letter addressed to Woodville, Miss. Just imagine 1861 - What is this if it isn't a prepaid "Way" but it was surely a land route(?) - Do you not agree?

I could cite other covers, but does the above help you?

Regards.

Cordially yours,

Photo

Oct. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Henry:

Please note the enclosed.

Why the "Due 2 CTS."? This was a cover that belonged
to Carroll Chase when I borrowed it in 1940.

Please return.

Sincerely yours,

**HOBBY
INTERESTS**

PICTORIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
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HISTORY
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STEAMBOAT COVERS
CAPE TRIANGLES
BRAZIL • HAWAII

Oct. 14, 1952

Dear Stan:

There is no reason known to me why this cover, marked STEAMBOAT in 1859, should have been rated with postage due 2¢. According to my best present information, steamboat rates were as follows:

- 1825--Steamboat letters provided for, but no rate stated. Some post offices charged 2¢ extra, but I find no authority for it.
- 1845--Regular postage according to distance. Some post offices charged 2¢ extra, but again, I find no authority for it.
- 1855--Unpaid letters, unpaid rate plus 2¢.
Prepaid letters, no extra charge.
Unpaid letters delivered from post office where turned in, 6¢.
- 1861--2¢ extra, no distinction stated between prepaid and unpaid.
- 1863--Double postage, apparently whether prepaid or unpaid.
- 1872--Rate of 1863 reaffirmed.
- 1882--A completely chaotic statement, defying interpretation. I present the problem in my book, but I do not attempt to solve it, because P.L. & R. is so self-contradictory that no solution is possible.

I think we must place this letter in that class of freaks for which there is no explanation, like the letter I received by airmail two weeks ago bearing three 3¢ Jeffersons. I get letters with the weirdest amounts of postage due on them. I receive numerous registered letters on which my experience is as follows:

I weigh the letter, on my postal scale, and compute the ordinary rate at 3¢ per ounce, or the airmail rate at 6¢; I figure the return receipt at 7¢, if one was demanded; and the balance does not agree with any figure in the scale of registration rates nor of registration rates plus surcharge. This experience is becoming so customary, that I almost despair of trying to reconstruct what somebody had in mind 90 or 100 years ago.

If the postmaster who rated this letter at 2¢ postage due had anything in mind when he did so, it defies our intelligence to figure it out.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

I hope the big day was a big success.

Oct. 17, 1952.

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

Dear Henry:

I was interested in your letter of the 14th. It is quite true that we run across covers from time to time which apparently defy a correct solution and we assume that whatever it is, is wrong, that it was an error by the sender or a P.O. clerk. I wonder if we should be satisfied with such a decision?

Let us again consider the 3¢ 1857 cover with the "Due 2CTS." While this is marked "Steamboat," don't you think that the error might have been in this application? For example, not a Steamboat letter but a "Ship" letter into New Orleans from some Gulf port.

I return the photo-print for another look. You will note there are two N.O. postmarks, the small double circle is dated Nov. 4, 1859 - the large one Nov. 5, 1859. What can you find in error with the following analysis. This was a Ship letter into New Orleans from ? - It was delivered to an Agent of the N.O. P.O. who applied the "Steamboat" and the double circle p.m. The captain claimed his 2¢ Ship Fee. It did not reach the P.O. until the next day, or rather it did not leave the P.O. until the next day, hence the large postmark. The 2¢ was collected from Carroll Hay & Co. What is wrong with that analysis?

Return the print and I will send it to Leonard Huber and see what explanation he can give.

Yes Henry, the big day was a big success but didn't you receive my letter thanking you for your participation?

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Dec. 3, 1952.

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

Dear Henry:

I sent photographs of the two Confederate covers (STEAM 6) that you loaned me to my good friend Fred Grant of Los Angeles and I thought you would be interested in a letter that I addressed to him today.

Fred seemed to think that Leonard Huber furnished a solution to these two covers in his fine book, "The Great Mail" but perhaps my letters give a more definite analysis.

Your comment will be welcome.

Sincerely yours,

See Page 33
of This
Book

Recd. Aug 6/1865



Mr U. B. Haney
St Marys
Auglaise
Co. Ohio.

C66 | Bylee Chadwick
198 - 1952 - Blue Killer
See 25 - 12 -

C66

QUEEN CITY STAMP CO.

8470 Blue Ash Rd.

Rossmoyne, Ohio

SYcamore 5763

"A Good Name Since 1890"

October 4, 1952

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

Dear Stanley:

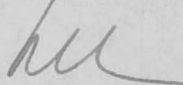
Enclosed is an item I think will be of greater interest to you than some of the more recent sendings.

The owner frankly just doesn't know what to think about it, and the affidavit certainly doesn't cut any ice with us.

Undoubtedly your study of it will reveal whether it is genuine, and if so would like your signature & a suggested price on it, and since this isn't for us, please enclose a bill as we expect the owner to settle for same. You of course are at liberty to photograph it for your records if you so desire.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,



Lee Chadwick

LC:ta

200
Oct. 8, 1952.

Mr. Lee Chadwick,
8470 Blue Ash Road,
Rossmoyne, Ohio.

Dear Lee:

Herewith the "cover" as per yours of the 4th. In my opinion this is a fake, and one that is very amateurish in every way. I suppose whoever made this, intended it to represent a "Drop" letter, (or a local ratd), at St. Marys, Ohio, as it is sealed. This would place it in the first-class mail class and such mail, according to the "Regulations" required a postmark. I suppose the crook who made it did not have any facilities or ability of reproducing a postmark. If you will examine the half of stamp you will find a portion of the original black cancel showing that the faker cut in two a used copy of the B.J.

If this examination is for you personally there is no fee but if for a client the fee is \$2.00.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Oct. 8, 1952.

Mr. Lee Chadwick,

Rossmoyne, Ohio.

Dear Lee:

Please note this Mother's Day stamp. Is this not a very unusual color?

Yours etc.,

U.S. POSTAGE

1636

1936



ROGER WILLIAMS



UNITED STATES POSTAGE
PAID AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA

U.S. POSTAGE

1636

1936



ROGER WILLIAMS



RHODE ISLAND
POST OFFICE

UNITED STATES POSTAGE



6

3

CRAIG

RANT

SHERIDAN

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

MINN.
00
3
195
MINN.



MINN.
00
3
195
MINN.

Mint Sheet Brokerage



ORIGINATORS OF THE BID AND ASK STAMP MARKET

WARREN W. SCHOLL

LEE CHADWICK

18 E. FOURTH ST.,
CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

PARKWAY 3839
Sycamore 5763

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

October 11, 1952

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

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for your comments on the Blackjack bisect and this definitely was for an outside client so glad to enclose a check in amount of \$2.00.

Also enclosed is the 3¢ Mothers Day plus a few samples of our own you are welcome to keep. The Rhode Island and other 1935 issues frequently are found in the regular purple & the reddish shade. Part of this I think was in the ink used and the rest in chemical changes that have taken place during the years. In the case of the Mothers Day I suspect--and in the case of the 3¢ Army enclosed I am quite certain--that any natural change has been helped along considerably by someone.

Incidentally, the group we were discussing last night was the Philatelic Society of Cincinnati, and not the CPS. I certainly will refer your kind offer to Helen & Leo when I see them next.

It was mighty nice visiting with you both last evening, and you may be sure all of us enjoyed ourselves immensely and will recall the evening with much pleasure for years to come.

Kind regards and good wishes.

Sincerely,

lee
Lee Chadwick

LC:ta

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

Oct 7 52

Dear Sam:-

Just of the 5th at hand. Don't worry -
I know your dear friend P.H.W., and he will
never let me.

I had him a set of the 5 commenced
3rd 1851 plates & he in turn sold them to
a man down South. Then Ez Cla &
Bernard Harner ^{together} sold the same man a
set of orange. Horn plates - 5 in number -
for me. And that is all that has been
sold by me. Don't worry about my having
sold my "working set" of plates from
which I plate. These will not be sold
until I have one foot in the grave -
or later - and you not there yet....
The deal was quite satisfactory.

Too bad Soren died before he
got to prison. He was sure headed for
it. And I think someone else is
also running his estate - though it might
be that same man.

Best regards

a son

How about that
trip to N.Y.?

C.C.

Oct. 5, 1952.

Dr. Carroll Chase,
R.F.D. #1,
Milford, N.H.

Dear Doc:

If you can give me some information on the following queries I will appreciate same, but if you do not care to do so it will be perfectly okay.

I heard that you sold some 3¢ 1851 reconstructed plates to Phil Ward several months ago. I am wondering if you know who bought them and if your dealings with Ward were satisfactory. Did he obtain a fair price for you?

I also heard that recently you sold some Orange Brown reconstructions to Ezra Cole and that Cole sold them to Bernard Harmer who in turn sold them to a friend of mine. At least, I know my friend bought them but I am not sure that he obtained them from Harmer. Did you get a square deal? Maybe if we would check up on such transactions that I could help you in some way.

Doc take a tip from me - be careful of Ward. I wouldn't trust that bird as far as I could toss a bull by the tail.

I suppose you have kept one reconstruction of each of the 3¢ plates but the way I heard the story was that you had sold all of your 3¢ plates.

I have learned recently that Souren stole a lot of material from a wealthy man by the name of Roach of Laramie, Wyoming. His attorney wrote me that they were suing the Souren Estate for \$126,000.00. Can you imagine any sensible business man trusting Souren for that sum of money? He surely hypnotized his victims.

With all good wishes -

As ever yours,

Oct. 11, 1952.

Dr. Carroll Chase,
R.F.D. 1, Milford,
New Hampshire,

Dear Doc:

Thanks for yours of the 7th.

Whenever I hear of anyone having any dealings with Philip I immediately wonder if they came thru okay. I was pleased to learn that you had not disposed of all your plates nor have any intention of doing so.

I may get down East early next month and if I go I may take Mildred with me - perhaps around the time of the Meroni sale. Here is hoping that we can get together.

We certainly had a big day here yesterday and the telephone rang all day with out-of-town calls and telegrams. I do not suppose anyone ever had a nicer three score and ten birthday or received a finer remembrance.

I note your name among the sixty-six of my good friends who participated and I wish to express my sincere thanks and hearty appreciation.

With all best wishes -

Yours etc.,

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts

October 9, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Enclosed are four rather interesting covers on which I would appreciate your comments:

(1) Pair of #11 on Cover with "TOO LATE" marking. Is this marking genuine? Scarce or rare? Any suggestion as to what I should price it at?

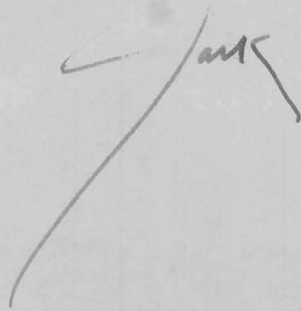
(2) #11 to Canada. Is this a scarce rate?

(3) #24, 10 copies on cover from Calif. Your book mentions that such are scarce, but I'm wondering how scarce as basis for pricing. Any suggestion you might give me here?

(4) #9 pr. and #11 on cover to Prussia. Believe this illustrates the 5¢ payment of local postage on foreign letters after local rate on domestic letters was reduced to 3¢ as outlined in your last service. Am sending it with thought you might like to photograph it and send along with next issue. If you care to mention my name as submitting it, I would be happy to have the publicity. Is it particularly scarce?

Where I have asked for an indication from you on pricing, such would be strictly a confidential suggestion and not mentioned to or used in selling it to any prospective buyer. Also expect to pay for your comments in that as well as the usual respects. Any endorsements you feel appropriate on the backs will be appreciated.

With best wishes,



Oct. 12, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the four covers as per yours of the 9th. Here are some comments:

(1) "Too Late" - S.F. I judge this use was Dec. 16, 1854. The "Too Late" is well known and the strike is genuine. Covers with this marking are indeed very scarce as they did not have occasion to use this very often. I think \$10.00 would be about right.

(2) 3¢ to Nova Scotia. I recognized this as an A.F. Black cover, as I photographed it years ago. This is most unusual and it is one of those things that "got by". The payment should have been 5¢ to go by this water route from Boston to Halifax. Note the photo which accompanies this cover - The P.O. clerks at Boston, having no knowledge of who mailed the letter couldn't return to the sender for 2¢ additional and they had no way to collect the 2¢ from the addressee, hence their only choice was to send it "as is," or to send it to the Dead Letter Office at Washington. It appears they choose the former and let the sender get away with a saving of 2¢. Inasmuch as this is quite an oddity, I think it has extra value, say \$15.00 would appear to me to be about right.
See my article in PHSA Vol 1 No 1 (Postal History S. of A)

(3) 10¢ rate from S.F. - The 10¢ rate thus paid is scarce. I judge you should charge \$35.00 to \$50.00.

(4) 5¢ inland rate under the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 - fully explained in October Service Issue - covers to Prussia showing this "5¢ Inland Rate" are very rare. I judge \$25.00 would be okay.

There is no fee for the above.

We certainly had a big day here Friday, the 10th, and the telephone rang all day with out-of-town calls and telegrams. I do not suppose that anyone ever had a nicer three score and ten birthday or received a finer remembrance. I note your name among the sixty-six of my good friends who participated and I wish to express my sincere thanks and hearty appreciation.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

per "Canada"

Black



5

Black

Messrs. S. A. White & Co.,

A.F.B

Boston

AUGUST

-1854-

Halifax,

Nova Scotia,

BACK OF 3451
TO HALIFAX
BOSTON AUG 16-54
J.E.M. X A.F.B



125

727



A172



61R7

71R

71R



71R7
Flaw

To Rhodelsland
S.F. 1860

By J.E.M. X AFB

A 172 —



DEC 20
CAL.

Too Late

Mr Walter Bidwell

Miss Catherine

Michigan

J.E.M.

2

A 172



[Handwritten flourish]

TRENTON N.J.
MAR 28
1856

By J.E.M.

Via Boston
and
Liverpool.

[Large handwritten flourish]
Hon^{ble} Peter D. Connor

Minister from the United States of America
to Prussia — Berlin

A 172

4 Covers By Molesworth
Oct 11 1952

At 20'8 - F128 - Green
12 Sec

See S. B. 25-14

Several Ex-A.F. Black

A172

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Oct. 10, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Enclosed find the three covers belonging to Putnam. They duplicated what I had and Charlie has been sick and Hutch is out of town. Presumed you wanted these returned before he yells again. Under the microscope the 90¢ shows repair in the lower left corner part. Quite a nice job of repairing. I believe the Boston cancel showing the PAID is not genuine. The smaller portion of a Boston Paid might be OK.

There is no doubt that the Ward cover with the 5¢ is a fake.

I am waiting until Hutch gets back and Charlie is feeling better before submitting the Brook's list of Civil War patriotics. Charlie has a small growth on his back and will have to have it removed.

Regarding the cover to Bavaria with 48¢ (double, I believe) that we mentioned that Bilden had. Recall your letter of Aug. 8th with a cover to Bavaria with a single 24¢ rate. I am wondering if there is something we do not know about during this period. The 24¢ cover showed what appeared to be a credit of "17" (this could have been a mistake for "7"). The Bilden cover with 48¢ shows a credit of "14". What do you think.

I am enclosing a cover to France 1871 with the GB marking I was thinking of. It is different than the one you had in mind but is not the oval type. Cute cover with "4" due us.

Telephone
Ypsilanti, Michigan
5065--2287

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Also enclosed is a due cover to France in 1874.
What is the red French marking. Another cover to France
in 1856, showing 21 plus 5¢ paid from Calif. to British
frontier. I never saw this marking before. What about the
cover from N.O. to Paris with Paid "10". 1853.

What is your opinion of the STEAM-Panama cover. Was this
a boat marking, that is mailed on board boat between Panama
and Calif. Another early usage cover from Cincinnati that
I thought you might want to see.

Best of wishes to all. More next time.

Harold

Oct. 3, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Here is a photo of the Henry Hill cover that I made last June. At that time, I wrote Henry that this particular rectangular marking with the "G.B. - 1 Fr 60 C" was not used on U. S. mail to France before Jan. 1, 1857 and not later than March 31, 1857 (Mail via G.B.).

It was a marking to be used commencing Jan. 1, 1857 according to the Anglo-French Treaty of September 1856. When the U.S.-French Treaty went into effect on April 1, 1857, its use no longer applied.

Of course, it was doubtless used on mail from other countries that was transmitted thru Britain to France after March 31, 1857 but not on mail from the U. S.

I believe the above to be correct but if you have any evidence to the contrary I would like to see it.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Photo enclosed B163
5¢ 1856 - used from New Orleans
Mar ? 1857 - Thru Boston Mar. 25, 1857
to Bordeaux, France - A very late use
of the "5¢ INLAND RATE."

"8" decimes due in France
U.S. 15¢ (This paid the postage from the U.S. Frontier
thru England to French destination at not over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.).

(24-60)

Oct. 16, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Yours of the 10th received with enclosures as stated.

Regarding the Bilden cover to Bavaria with the 45¢ rate. I had not given it any further thought since we discussed it at your home. I will write Bill and request him to loan it to me. If he sends it I will send you a photo.

Re - the five (5) covers that you sent and I am returning them herewith. Here are some comments.

(1) Cover to France from San Francisco Feb. 24, 1871. I am familiar with this odd G.B. marking but it is not the type that we discussed. The one we had under discussion was the rectangle and as I stated at the time, it was only used on mail to France (Via England) for three months, the first quarter of 1857. In the case of the enclosed cover the "4" (as you know) was our debit to G.B. and the French due was "8" decimes. The New York marking is "Br - Transit" but if it went by a British mail ship why did we debit G.B. for 2¢ inland and 2¢ sea? It would seem to me that if we had nothing to do with the sea carriage, then our share was only 2¢ inland? What do you think?

(2) From New Orleans Oct. 11, 1874 - sent unpaid under the new Treaty. The red marking is "75" centimes. On a paid letter from France the rate was 50 centimes per 10 grammes. On unpaid mail from the U.S. there was a fine of 25 centimes, hence 75 centimes was due on this letter. See P.M.G. Report of Nov. 14, 1874 for terms of the Treaty. The pen marking in upper left is also "75c"

(3) Cover from San Francisco Apr. 21, 1856. This S.F. marking is not common but it is also not rare. I have a nice record of it in my files. To France Via England from the West Coast the rate was (per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) 21¢ plus 5¢ to the British Frontier. After that it was the same as an unpaid letter from England to France (per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.) with 8 decimes due. This is a nice cover.

(4) From New Orleans to France - Feb. 12, 1853 - This is quite a nice study in weights. I made a notation in pencil on face which is a brief analysis. This letter in ounces was over one-half ounce, hence required two U. S. "inland" rates of 5¢. This is what has been termed the "Shore to Ship" by Perry and myself but as explained in my Oct. 1st, Service the U.S.-British Treaty termed it the "inland" charge. In France the sum of 5 Fr 2 decimes was due or 52 decimes. Look up that table of ounces and grammes by Jaeger in "Stamps." This is an very interesting study. Do you suppose that crackpot Elliott Perry could explain it?

#2. Mr. Harold W. Stark - Oct. 16, 1952.

(5) "Steam Panama." I think this oval marking was applied by the Agent in charge of the mails on board the mail ships between Panama and San Francisco. It indicated the origin of a "Way" letter, and enabled the S.F. office to properly rate such mail that was brought in by contract mail steamships. Similar oval markings in use were -

- (A) Steam - Acapulco
- (B) Steam - Mazatlan
- (C) Steam - Manzanillo

The latter (C) is very scarce and I only have a record of two covers with it - one is in the coming Meroni Sale.

The last line of your letter read: "Another early usage cover from Cincinnati that I thought you might want to see." But there was no such an item enclosed. Do you recall what this might have been?

Re - the U. S. "inland" - As you know, the British did not recognize three rates in the forties and fifties - that is, a letter over 1 ounce but not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. How did this apply to a letter such as the enclosed number 4? Suppose this had weighed over one(1) ounce but not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz, would it have required a payment at New Orleans of 15¢ or 20¢? What do you think?

With best regards -

Cordially yours,

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Dec. 4, 1952.

Dear Stan,

Have been waiting to hear from you and know that you were back from your trip. Figured you would be busy catching up on your correspondence also.

Regarding the Paul Rohloff cover with the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 stamps to France. From your discription and what Jack has told me I think this is a very clever forgery. My opinion is that this is a cover of the 1859 period and was a stampless to France. The dates have been changed to show a 1851 on both the cover and the enclosure. Perhaps the enclosure is not the original. I have not seen this cover, but, I can assure you I would not want it. The French 8 decimes or 15¢ our money is a give away. Have you ever seen an French receiving due of 8 decimes during this period of 1851. I have seen them later, but not Jan. 1851. The only other explanation I could give would be that someone (an old lady, possibly) did not realize that these stamps were obsolete and used them, say in 1859, and that the Boston P.O. honored them and then France (who always wanted everything they could get) recognized them as obsolete stamps and demanded the letter be classed as an unpaid letter. I am assuming this explanation, since you say you think the stamps originated on this cover. It would be interesting if I could see this cover and confirm or deny the theory that they are the original stamps. I dont like the indistinct Boston marking and certainly if it was a triple (over 1/2oz) France sure would have caught it. A little over 1/4oz. might pass, but not a cover over 1/2oz. Your mention of 3x5¢ inland (under the U.S.-Bristish Treaty) might be TRANSIT covers from other countries that England was obliged to honor. I do not know these foreign treaty arrangements for transit mail, but it seems to me that unpaid letters from France (in the 1860 period) might apply as 3 rate letters or more, such as over 1/2oz but not over 3/4oz. stampless or otherwise, from France to U.S. per British Packet. We sent them to France that way. I believe this transit mail was in a different category than our mail direct to England.

Now referring to some of your correspondence that has accumulated. Your letter of Oct. 16, 1952. Item 1---You got this cover mixed up. It is a stampless to France in Feb. 1871. The "4" is credit to us and not G.B. (cover went Br. Pkt.). Our treaty with G.B. at this time stated the country of origin kept the receipts. Hence the black "4" is a credit to us. England collected from France. Covers with 4¢ paid in stamps to France at this period are well known. I have several. They paid to the Br. frontier. The reason I sent the cover to you was the fact that I had never seen a stampless of this period with a "4" due us. "8" decimes due in France on delivery.

Telephone
Ypsilanti, Michigan
5065 - 2287

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

2.

Your explanation of the other covers was certainly appreciated, especially #4. This certainly had me puzzled and as you say I don't believe Perry or the rest could have explained this correctly. I forgot the Cincinnati cover and have since let Jack have this cover. He seems to think the 1¢ could prove whether the first plate had a number or not. It is a sheet margin cover. I was more interested in the early use of 1¢ paid in the Cincinnati town marking. Jack said he would send it to you.

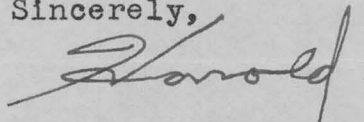
I have several items to send for your inspection, but will not trouble you at this time.

Talked to Jack last night and he was saying that possibly Renee and himself might fly down to Florida.

Our trip and yours maybe has been postponed until Feb. Ruth won't go earlier for the reason that Sonny was called for his physical and there is a possibility that they might take him when this semester closes, which will be in the first part of Feb. If you want to go earlier, let me know. Other wise I guess I will have to wait developments. The Shiersons plan to go with us also. Will let you know as plans take a more definite shape.

Best of all to you and yours,

Sincerely,



Dec. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Again re - yours of the 4th and the last paragraph on page one, in reference to the cover to France from San Francisco in February of 1871. Your analysis is wrong. All markings are in black. It is a stampless and was sent unpaid. How could the "4" be a credit to the U.S. if nothing was paid in the U.S.? We had no treaty with France so whatever the "4" was it was a debit or credit to Britain. Credits were in red, debits were in black. I suppose a credit to the U. S. would be the same as a debit from the U.S. to Britain. Who applied the "4", surely the U.S. and not G.B. You are quite right on prepaid 4¢ rates but this is entirely different, because this was sent unpaid.

In my letter of Oct. 16th, I inquired why we debited Britain with 4¢ when the only service we performed was our "inland" - under the Treaty it was 2¢. However, it must be borne in mind - and I don't see how I overlooked this important point - the sea carriage was at the expense of the sending country. In other words, we paid the Cunard Line to carry this letter to Britain, hence out of the sum collected in France, the U. S. was entitled to 2¢ inland and 2¢ sea. Thus the "4" in black was our debit to Britain. This is why 4¢ payments were required on letters to France which were only prepaid to the British frontier - such payments regardless of nationality of the Sea Carrier. You had the right idea - a credit to the U.S. but the wrong way of explanation.

Your cover No. 4 is indeed an awfully nice study.

Re - the 1¢ 1851 cover from Cincinnati with the stamp a Plate One Early showing wide sheet at right. This cover is well known to me way back. It was a Richey cover and as I wrote Jack, the stamp cannot be plated, hence we will never know if it came from an imprint position or not.

If you have some other items that puzzle you, send them down and I will see what I can do.

With best wishes -

Yours etc.,

(25-15)

1871

All Black

4



DR BACIC
LONDON
MAR 15 71

London & Paris

La Rochelle



By H.W.S
10/13-52

France.

A173

10

1150



By
H.W.S.
No Year
All
Black

John Newton
H. Hogg Hewston Ho
San Francisco
CAL



RARE 13

A 173

0.95

Blue



Black



Black

Comptoir d'Escompte,

Paris.

← Recd

73?

By H.W.S
10/13-52

France

RE: R

A173



1856

Black



Recd

Monriem Jfy. Khabaud
and Louis de Merriem B
Ducard Dufour & Co

Recd

By H.W.S.
10/10-52

Paris
15 R Ritter

A173

Red

per british

1853

Red

PAID
10

27



Messrs. J. M. Metcalf & Co.

1/1

Letter weighed
over 1/2 oz But
Not over 1 oz
In France it
weighed over
22.68 Grammes
But Not over
28.35 Grammes
Requiring 52 Decimes Due



Red

Paris
2 Dec France

5 FR → OR

52 Decimes

BR. Pict

A173

B207

per British

Recd

1853

Red

PAID
10

NEW-YORK
FEB 12
1853

NEW-YORK
FEB 12
1853

Messrs. De Meurons & Co.

Letter Weighed
Over 1/2 oz But
Not Over 1 oz
In France It
Weighed over
22.68 Grammes
But Not over
28.35 Grammes
Requiring 52 Decimes Due

NEW-YORK
FEB 23
1853

Red

Paris

2 Dec

← 5FR →

OR

52 Decimes

BR. Pkt

B207

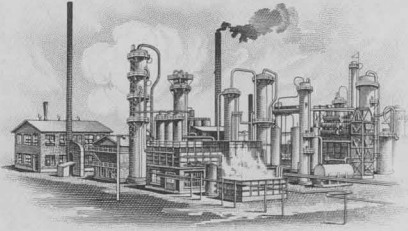
See A173-AT23 FOR THIS COVER,
AT 20's-F128 GREEN 13 Sec

Also 25-15

A173

COVERS By H.W. STARK - '19/19-52 - See S. B
25-15 AT 23-F128-K3-4-sec

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL *Refining Company* OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.

October 14, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

It was nice to talk with you on phone last night and in line with your suggestion, am sending you Lot #1349 from John Fox's sale of the Meroni collection which he will sell November 10th. It will be impossible for me to attend the sale even tho I wanted to, as the annual convention of the American Petroleum Institute takes place in Chicago on these same dates and I will be at the Conrad Hilton Hotel during this period.

I have written John that I questioned this cover and phoned you and you told me to send it down to you and you would forward it on to him at New York.

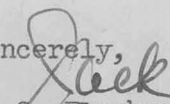
As I understand these rates to France during the non-treaty period prior to April 1, 1857, the rate could only be 5¢ - 20¢ or 21¢. There just was'nt any 15¢ rate. And this cover looks too immaculate to be true anyway. And where is the black manuscript French due marking usually found on such covers? (See page 333 Vol II your book on these rates.) This 5¢ red imperforate was only issued according to the Scott Specialized Jan 1, 1856 and this date on this cover is FEB 4 1856. Now according to page 113 of your "Special Service" wherein you list earliest known dates of use, you state the earliest known date of use of the 5¢ red brown of 1856 is March 15, 1856. This is almost six weeks earlier. Can you detect Zareski's trade mark on this cover?

On the other hand, the very fact that I sent this cover to you will make John Fox curious and if this cover is genuine (by any chance) I would like to acquire it and would bid up to as high as \$150.00 for it, so I request you refrain from giving Fox any information on it or I just would'nt get it. On the other hand, if its a fake, as I suspect it is, I see no harm in telling Fox and having him withdraw it from the sale.

Will await your report with interest and know you will be most interested in this cover, which you may want to write up in your "Special Service."

Regards to all.

Sincerely,


J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF:Enc;REG:

Oct. 15, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Your registered with the Fox auction cover came in today at noon and I got busy with it at once. After you talked with me I looked up the catalogue illustration and noted the date was Feb. 4, 1856, and that date reminded me of a fake in my reference collection.

Back in February of 1945 a 5¢ 1856 came up in a H. R. Harmer sale - an offer cover copy - I had never seen a 5¢ used even in the month of February and have I up to this time. I sent for the copy and found it was a plate proof made in 1875, backed up with another piece of paper and nicely canceled with a New Orleans postmark of Feb. 4, 1856. Of course, the 1875 reprints are all Type II but this fake had the projections painted in. I enclose you a photo of the item which is now in my reference collection. I think I showed it to you. I had to pay Harmer \$15.00 for it.

Of course, this Fox auction cover is a fake and I believe the whole thing was made by Zareski. Of course, no one will believe that I am right - Fox will question my opinion and so will Meroni - I suppose the Expert Committee of The Philatelic Foundation would issue a certificate stating the cover is genuine in every respect, but nevertheless this thing couldn't be good any more than the New Orleans postmark could be good on a proof printed in 1875. If Zareski could apply a fake postmark to a single, he could, of course, make fake postal markings and apply them to fake covers he made. Of course, the two stamps are cleaned of the original cancelations.

I am not going to volunteer any information to John - What's the use? The dealers get mad if I call their attention to a fake and lots of times they don't believe what I tell for the very simple reason that they don't want to. I note on the back is "\$275.00" in pencil. Maybe Meroni paid such a price but I doubt it.

While my eyes failed to detect traces of original cancels by the lamp on both stamps, and I doubt if my ultra violet photos will show any, the surface of the stamps indicate cleaning and especially is this true of the 5¢.

There was no 15¢ rate to France in 1856 and regardless of that fact, the cover is all wrong both as a pre-treaty (April 1, 1857) and Treaty letter. Had it been a use prior to April 1, 1857 it would have shown a French due marking - Had it been of the Treaty period, it would have showed a credit in a New York postmark to the French Postal Department. People who would question my opinion know nothing of such features and their opinions are not based on facts but on the "looks" of an item, hence Zareski does make them "look" good. Why not?

I would like to write up this cover in my "Service" but before I would do so I will have to tell John it is a fake. I may be in New York at the time of the sale.

Best wishes - Cordially,

For Steamer
NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS
FEB 4
1856
La.



RED PD

NEW ORLEANS
FEB 4
1856

Black

S. New York red Gold mit

NEW YORK
FEB 18
AM P.M.

J. Lafitte
Red

France

BLUE

Paris

B211

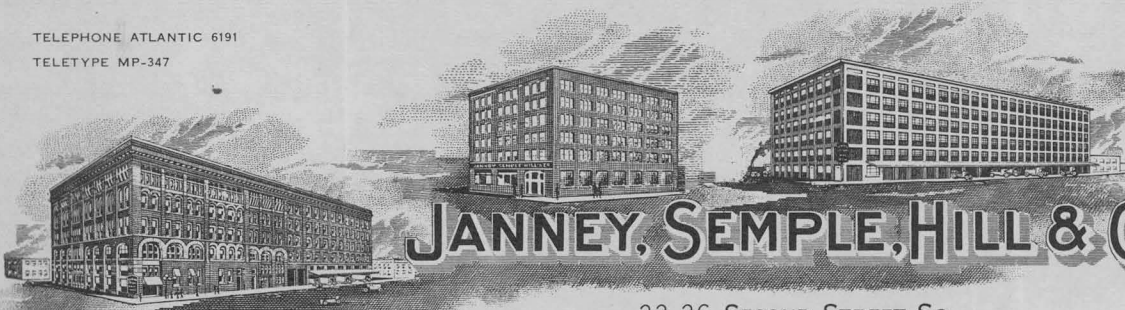
FAKE 54 1856 Cover - Meroni Sale By Fox - Nov 10-14-16-1952
Lot 1349 - The New Orleans postmark is A Fake - Also
The New York And French And The PD Also Oval Forwarders
At 20's - GREEN - F128 - 10sec - Oct 15 1952. Both Stamps Cleaned

SEE
25-16

PRINT 7

ESTABLISHED 1866

TELEPHONE ATLANTIC 6191
TELETYPE MP-347



JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & CO.

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

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



October 6, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P.O.Box 31
33 No.Ft. Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan:

Both Les and Beldon have gone to St.Louis together but I will show them your letter to Harold Stark. I'm happy to have the information.

Today I received the enclosed cover from Hoboken, New Jersey to Frankfort. It came from Jamet in Paris, one of the reliable dealers there. In fact, the two covers I showed you in Detroit came from him.

Neither I nor the boys here have ever seen a cancel like the one on the pair. It isn't tied on and it looks quite modern.

Before I buy it, what do you think of it? I'll be away until October 24th so take your time in giving your opinion.

The stamps enclosed will cover registration. Tell me what your fee is please.

Yours truly,

Henry N Hill

H W HILL :N

Oct. 20, 1952.

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

Dear Henry:

Herewith the cover to "Frankfurt" as per yours of the 6th. I am pleased to inform you that it is genuine in every respect and quite a nice item. I have endorsed it on the reverse. If you decide not to keep it you can erase my memo.

This letter went by "Hamburg Packet" and the rate was 15¢, with 5¢ the U.S. share and 10¢ the share of the Hamburg office. I enclose an example of the red New York marking. The mail steamer "BORUSSIA" was a ship of the "Hamburg American Line" which was built in England and entered the Atlantic service in 1856. The cancel on the two 5¢ stamps was simply a "killer" and its design had no significance. The color of all three stamps is quite good.

A tracing of this N.Y. postmark is shown in Vol. 2 of my One Cent Book.

I enclose photo of the cover. Don't pay any attention to the white around the stamps. This is due to a retouching of the negative to avoid over-exposure in printing of the stamps. The difference in density of the two stamps is due to the retouching.

I am seriously considering going down to New York to the Meroni sale. In the next week or so I will send you a photo of a cover in that sale.

I had a nice letter from your friend Jamet this past week. He is very anxious to know more about U.S. stamps and covers and requests my assistance. It is an interesting letter and I will send you a copy. I am glad that you consider him absolutely reliable. In this respect he is quite the exception among the dealers in Paris. I had come to the conclusion that they were all a lot of crooks.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

(25-17)



No 206 - By Henry Hill - Oct 8 1952 - 5¢ BROWN - Type II - FROM
HOBOKEN N.J. Nov 3 - 1860 - To "FRANKFURT" Rate By
HAMBURG. PACKET WAS 15¢ - CREDIT WAS 10¢ -
On Face In Red Is The New York Foreign As per
Type Here with Steamer BORUSSIA Was A Mail
Steamer of The HAMBURG AMERICAN LINE BUILT IN
ENGLAND And Entered The Atlantic Service In 1856 -
on Back Zentvo Also 20-11-1860 - This From JAMET of Paris - France

by Steamer Borussia



Germany



Gottl. Zepfloth
Agent of the Imp. & Austrian Ambat.
Bundes-Palais
g Eschenheimergasse
Frankfurt M.

2018 - GREEN - F128 - 12 Sec - 10/8 - 52

B206

by Steamer Borussia



Germany.

Gottl. Leffloth
Care of the Imp. & Austrian Amba.
Bundes-Palais
Goebenheimer-gasse
Frankfurt A.M.

B208

B208 This is same cover as B206 } CANCEL IS
AT 2018-F128-RED-TO CUT } on
Color of stamps 5-20 sec. 10/13-52 } Type II
BROWN



MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Saturday P.M. 3/29/52.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No Ft Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

Just came home from a trip to New Orleans. Saw the Weill boys while there. Nothing new.

I have your letter of the 28th. No, we did not get out to Nyack at all on our trip. As you say Susan had the virus or flu or grippe or what ever you choose to call it. It is contagious and I did not want to be exposed to it needlessly. So Jean did not get to come to town at all altho we were hopeful until the last day that she could get away. Then Nancy came home on a vacation trip from Cornell and that made her even closer to home. We were of course sorry to miss seeing her. Dorsey thinks Jean and Mildred are just about as nice as they come.

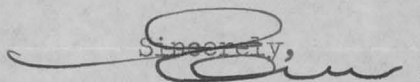
I got a few lots from the Paige sale, four covers in all. I had not seen them but what do you think? I got back one of my old covers that you had sold for me to C.L.Roser according to the record. Small world!

One of the lots I picked up while away was the enclosed from a H.R.Harmer sale, four shades of the SUS 78. I was struck with the great variety of color to this one stamp. Thought you might like to see them. Cost \$15.

Then here is the 90¢ 1860 I wrote you to see. Keep it as long as you wish if you want to photo it for your records, that is fi it is good.

I expect to stay home all next week, still resting up a bit. Just feel tired all the time.

Sincerely,



Enclosed lot 420 HRH sale 3/24/52	\$15.00
90¢ 1860	185.00
Surcharge Value at-----	200.00

March 31, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3000 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of yours of Saturday last with the four 24¢ '61 and the 90¢ 1860. I want to check the latter very carefully to see if I can definitely determine if this cancel is genuine. It seems to me that I have seen this copy before but I cannot find any record of it after a rather hasty search of my photos.

I note that you will be home all week.

Paul Rohloff and Kenworthy of Chicago were down for the weekend and Paul sent his regards to you. They don't come any finer than that boy and I know you will agree 100 percent.

Thanks for the Stadtmiller list which I return. I am writing him to send me item #7.

With best regards -

Yours etc.,

April 5, 1952.

Mr. Emerson C. Krug,
3000 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Herewith the 90¢ 1860 and the four 24¢ 1861.

I have carefully studied this 90¢ stamp and I would rather not express an opinion. It has some very good features and some that look a bit suspicious to me. If this was submitted to me by the P.F. I would state that I was unable to arrive at a definite conclusion, hence preferred not to express an opinion. Perhaps I could get a better idea if I would photograph it thru a blue screen but I did not do this. I suggest that you send it to the P.F. Committee. If they send it to me, I will decline an opinion as above. They don't pay me anything for my work and in many cases I could possibly arrive at some definite decisions if I made photographs thru screens or by ultra-violet but photography is expensive and so is my time so I don't think I should be called upon to make such contributions to the P.F.

Later on if you wish to return it to me I will be glad to make photographic tests but it is a gamble whether or not the results would show anything.

Re - the four 24¢ - I think that all are variations of the Red Lilac.

I am hurrying to get this to the P.O. before noon so that it will reach you tomorrow.

With best regards -

Yours etc.,

Re Above - This 90¢
Has A Double Strike
of The Boston PAID



Dec. 22, 1952

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Re - your 90¢ 1860 with the two strikes of the Boston
PAID. Please note H. R. Harmer Sale Apr. 14, 1952 - Lot #80.
Here again is a 90¢ 1860 with two strikes of the Boston RAID.
I evidently examined this copy as I made a natural size photo of
it. Do you remember it?

Yours hastily,

(See Photo C47)
(S.B. 25-18)

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Saturday, July 5, 1952.
3008- 13th Ave. South,

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

In re: 90¢ 1860 Used Single.

Dear Stan,

So as you will have it at hand when this hot spell breaks and when you have the time, and only then, I am enclosing the 90¢ 1860 single. I want you to charge me for all the time and expense you go to into giving me your opinion of this stamp.

Sincerely,



Enc. 90¢ 1860 SUS #39 Used Single.

I finally got ahold of two 3¢ 1857 covers with the large Boston PAID on them as a canceller. I mounted them on cardboard so as to match up with the double strike of the same on my 90¢ 1860, the one you had. It shows the double strike to be paralell, one significant thing. Also the ink of both the 3¢ and the 90¢ look alike and the ink looks a little "oily" or "runny" on the 90¢ just as it does on the two 3¢ ones. When the heat breaks I want to send this up to you and I want you to spend some time and photos on it and charge it to me. I think it will be enlightening and worth the time and expense.

off
cover
stamp

Oct. 19, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

First of all, here is your 90¢ 1860 with the two strikes of the Boston postmark together with the items which you included. Harold Stark returned this several days ago and he stated that in his opinion he did not believe the two strikes are genuine. I quote as follows from his letter:

"Under the microscope the 90¢ shows repair in the lower left corner. Quite a nice job of repairing. I believe the Boston cancel showing the "PAID" is not genuine." (unquote)

Now what do I think of this copy. To be quite frank I don't know but I am inclined to doubt it is genuine. There are some good features and some that I don't like. I did not make any enlarged photographs by quartz lamp because I was convinced that they would not disclose anything worth while, hence would be a waste of time and material. I have, in the past year, seen some extremely clever work by Zareski and I am going to watch my step in giving any opinions on cancels on off cover material unless I am very very sure that I am absolutely right. For example, that cover in the Meroni Sale with the fake New Orleans postmark. Lot #1349. Em, you can appreciate the fact that Zareski could very easily make an imitation of the Boston "PAID" in grid and strike it on an unused copy of the 90¢. In this case, let us suppose he used a damaged copy. The very best advice that I can give you, and this is just between ourselves, forget used copies of the 90¢ 1860, unless one turns up that we can believe is genuine.

When I consult with the members of the Expert Committee I intend to give them advice along the above lines on this stamp. To sum up - I don't believe that anyone could establish it as a fact that the two strikes on this stamp are genuine - still they might be. We can identify "paintings" (painted cancels), but when a crook makes an exact imitation of an original thru a photo-engraving process, what have we to go by except the ink? If the faker uses a black ink that is different from an original we can get somewhere but where are we if he uses an imitation? I am enclosing a photo of the "Va" 90¢ 1860 that I made by Ultra Violet. This print is valueless in determining whether this copy is good or bad.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Saturday A.M. 10/25/52.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No Ft Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

Your letter dated Oct. 25th but postmarked Oct. 24th, 7 PM came this morning at breakfast. I hasten to reply.

First we will be delighted to go to Nyack Sunday if our arrival does not delay your trip out there. We arrive at 1:20 P.M. EST. at the Penn station and should be settled in the Commodore very much prior to 2 oclock. Would that be early enough to join with you? If it is count on us. I like all the folks you speak of and surely would like to have Harry along. Winn Boggs is nice and so is Edgar and his misses, so go ahead and make the "deal". I agree with you we should make some arrangement to go out for dinner up there at one of the many places along the Hudson. It would be entirely too big a job for Jean.

I return the Letter from Rust. I must confess he confuses me about the finance angle for I know he is or must be a very wealthy man. He bought a sheet of \$1.00 Columbians the other day at an auction of Siegel's and paid \$4750.00 for it without a qualm. And I am sure he knows nothing about its potentials. He seems to be collecting entirely from an investment angle, a thing I ~~sus~~spicioned before now. And of course unless he knows a lot about covers which I doubt, he would not have any information to go by like the SUS which he can follow thru the catalog. Of course I shall not say or hint anything at all about him with Ezra.

I spoke to you about the 24¢ 1861 cover I got the other day at a Pelander sale. As long as I am sending it to you I am enclosing a 5¢ 1847 and some black jacks also for your ideas. Note the "15 days after issue" came out of a lot @ 6.75 which lot 462 was nine days after issue and someone paid \$28.00 for it. The condition of my lot and the cancels are much nicer than the \$28 one.

Now about my 90¢ 1860 which I had intended to write about before I got this letter to return it. In the first place when I sent it to you I asked you to CHARGE me for the time you spent on it. This you have not done. You were to make some infra photos of the cancel and so forth. I had no idea about putting it under a microscope because I cant concieve of anything showing up that would effect its genuineness. I have a fairly good microscope myself but would ^{NOT} know what to look for if I did. I doubt sincerely if Mr. Stark would know either. When Ez and I got that stamp out of a Gregory Moziam Sale last March when I was up there in person he said to me, "Em, that cancel looks good. Buy it on such a chance and it may be. It has an oily appearance that I like." So, I bought it and here is how it was described by Greg:

(Lot 28-0- 90¢ blue (39) very fine appearance, insignificant thin spot, black "Boston Paid" (Photo).....125.00)

The sale was held March 20, 1952 and I paid \$50.00 for the chance.

I feel you know me well enough to know that I would not have you O.K. a stamp for me unless you felt sure it was O.K. but I do think I can ask you to go a little further into this case. You say "forget 90¢ 1860 unless we can believe it is genuine." Well, it presents a challenge to me to find

a genuine copy. There must be some the same as there are many copies of the 90¢ 1869.

I dont think the fact that the stamp was thin or repaired and torn or what have you, in any way affects the genuineness of the cancel. Why should it? Note the enclosed card:

(See Numbers on Back of Mounts.)

#1	was	lot	481-	Harmer	Rooke	Jeffrys	sale	9/18/51	Cost	me	\$190.00
#2	"	"	482-	"	"	"	"	"	Cost	me	29.00
#4	"	"	28-	Mozian	sale	3/20/52			Cost	me	50.00

#1, passed by you years ago and also the P.F. is was described as "with Defects." Well, it has only the following, thin-repaired at the bottom-perfs pulled and notched at top and sides. Yet I would not take a nice profit on it today. My point, I fear the fact that my Mozian copy was thin or repaired gave Mr. Stark the wrong attitude towards his remark "I believe the cancel is not genuine." Well, I believe it is and I am trying to prove it. I only wish he had given some reason why he so believed. Do you see my point?

I include the #1 copy also to show the fact that the color of the submitted copy is dark like the #1. I send the fake cancelled, #2, to show the lighter shade of blue of the "remainders." I had placed bids on all four of the 90¢ 1860s that Ward sent up to sell for Jeffrys . I missed the first one, lot 480, with a O.M. cancel, but got the other three, even knowing this one N.G. It is also torn almost half into. But it serves me as a color chart for the remainders and less expensive than buying an unused copy for that purpose.

I am indeed glad you will look further into this latter when you get a chance.

Thanks for the analysis of the three covers I sent you and your endorsement of them. I also enjoyed Harold Brooks' radio story. It was a classic. Returned herewith.

Well, I must not bore you with too long a letter. So here is hoping we have lots of time in New York together.

We, Dorsey and I consider it a privelege and honor to "look after" Mildred while you attend the P.F. dinner. So count on us. And Dorsey is much improved and looking forward to having a good time with her.

Sincerely, *Bu.*

Enclosed:

Lot 66 Pelander Sale 10/16/52	\$130.00
" 472 " " " Buff	4.50 (15 days after issue.)
" 462 " " " "	8.50 (Draft Notice inside- Albany, N.Y.)
" 466 " " " Buff	6.75 (Philadelphia Postoffice- Nov 11.)
" 493 " " " "	14.00
" 481 Harmer Rooke Sale 9/18/51	190.00
" 482 " " " " "	29.00
" 28 Mozian Sale 3/20/52	50.00
	<u>432.75</u>
	5%
	<u>21.65</u>
Registered For.....	454.40

OCT 31 1952
RETURNED BY

Excuse poor typing.

Dec. 18, 1952.

Mr. Emerson C. Krug,
3006 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Herewith I am returning the various lots contained in yours of the 12th - total value \$510.00; also the three copies of the 90¢ which I figure at \$200.00, so I am insuring this sending @ \$700.00.

I made a number of negatives of the 90¢ with the Boston and also negatives of the other two stamps -whether these new plates will show anything or not I do not know. I wish that I could assure you that the Boston 90¢ 1860 has genuine strikes but so far I simply cannot do so. I am more dubious than ever about this copy. I would much prefer to state that I don't know whether the cancel is good or not. As yet I have not developed the negatives but I am hoping that they will show some definite evidence.

Em, regarding the enclosed recent purchases. You did not request my advice and I trust you will pardon it if you do not agree - My advice is this - take it a bit easy. In other words I think you are reaching a bit too high on some items. It appears to me that there is little chance in this present day and age of obtaining any really desirable items in an auction sale at a fair price - and this, of course, influences dealers to put outrageously high prices on stock that they have for sale. After each sale it seems that they go thru their (picked over) stock and mark up prices. Take that 10¢ 1855 Keffer cover. The price was simply beyond all reason. I may be all wet and wrong on the future trend of prices but I figure when ordinary items are priced far too high, they cease to have any attraction.

I started out to give you just a hint - to take it easy - but I note I got a bit beyond.

Christmaw Greetings to all the family.

Cordially yours,

Dec. 22, 1952.

Mr. Emerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave, South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

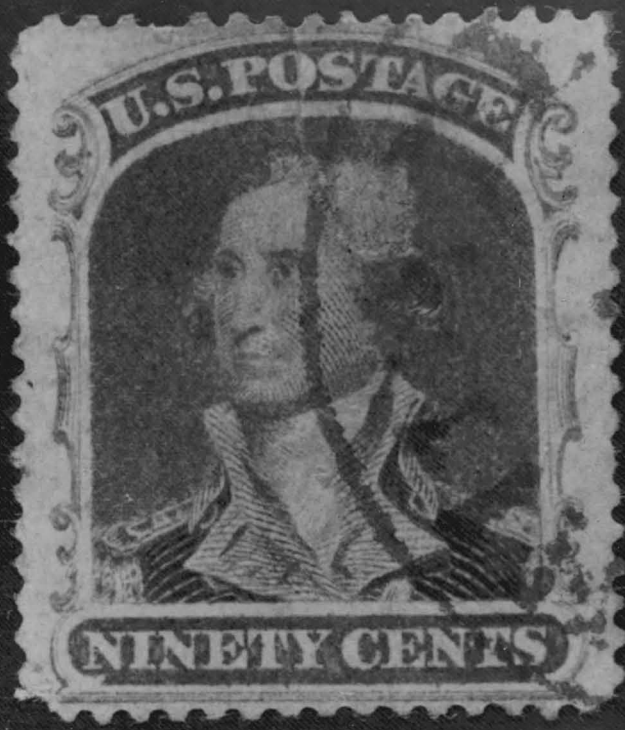
Here are three photo prints of your 90¢ 1860 with the Boston made with three different filters. Perhaps I got the best result with the "C5" - This is a very dark blue and it filtered out all the blue in the ink and brought out the lines of the cancelation. I am of the opinion that this is definitely a paint job, and not a very clever one at that. I doubt if this was done by Zareski. I also enclose prints of your other two copies.

Note carefully the "C5" felter photo print - the horizontal lines do not have the appearance of being hand-struck from a stamper - they are "WAVY" in the enlarged state. Rather a clumsy way to describe but I trust you will see what I have attempted to describe. Perhaps this photo will lead you to agree with me. I thought at first the two "cancels" might have been made from an "imitation" stamper of the Boston "PAID" but I am now of the opinion that this is a "paint" job.

Merry Christmas

Yours etc.,

SEE 25-18



AT 13-F32-C4-G MIN-

2

BOTH KRUG 12/18-52

B251

SEE 25-18



KRUG ↑

B250

\$250

HORACE S. POOLE
1475 MONTROSE TERRACE
DUBUQUE, IOWA

October 14, 1952.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a cover with 1851 stamps,
which will you please look over.

The 10 cent stamp is, I believe, Type III
and I would like to have you confirm. Also
I would like to know the color of the strip
of six 3 cent stamps and the probable year
of issue. What I am trying to do is arrive
at the probable year that this cover was
used.

A self addressed stamped envelope is enclosed
and when you return the cover, will you please
insure it for \$36.00. ^{check} Currency is enclosed
which may cover your fee and stamps are
included to cover cost of insurance.

Thank you very much.

Very sincerely yours

Horace S. Poole

Oct. 19, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Poole:

I was out of town most of last week and on my return yesterday I found yours of the 14th with the Iowa cover which I am returning herewith.

In all probability this cover was used on March 10th, 1857. The 3¢ stamps are what is known as the 1857 claret color and there is no question but what March 10th, 1856 would have been much too early for this color. The chances are, that had the letter been mailed on March 10th, 1858 that the stamps used would have been perforated. Of course, we have to consider the possibility that the writer may have had some of the imperforate stamps on hand as late as March 1858 but I am inclined to doubt if that is true in this case.

Was "Fort Dodge" a military post in 1857? The address is in a female handwriting and indicates(?) the addressor was a person of education and culture. This makes me wonder if she was the wife of some military officer?

May I thank you very kindly for your check for \$2.00.

Sincerely yours,

(25-19)

HORACE S. POOLE
1475 MONTROSE TERRACE
DUBUQUE, IOWA

October 25, 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your interesting letter of October 19th, with which you returned the Fort Dodge, Iowa cover. The information is very much appreciated.

Fort Dodge was a temporary military post from 1851 to 1853. This was during the time the Indians in Iowa were being transferred from Iowa to lands further west or north.

Among a group of covers recently secured, I have found two items that may interest you, and I want you to have them. They are enclosed. One is a ragged torn 3 cent 1857, stuck to a letter, but with margin attached showing part of plate number, it may be helpful to you. The other is a St. Louis 1860 cover with a pair of 1857 3 cent stamps, the margin showing part of the imprint of the makers. If I find others that may interest you, you will hear from me.

Thank you very much.

Very sincerely yours

Horace S. Poole

P.S.

Had a good visit with Henry Hill at the T.M.P.S. convention in Waterloo two weeks ago.

B2141



FORT DODGE CLARET
IOWA

Mr. Alfred Hall
Hartford
Conn.

By Horace S. Poole - See 25-19 - A 9x3d Rate
FROM FORT DODGE Iowa - Mar 10 - (1857?)

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

Oct. 16th, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

Enclosing a photostat of a letter which I think will be interesting.

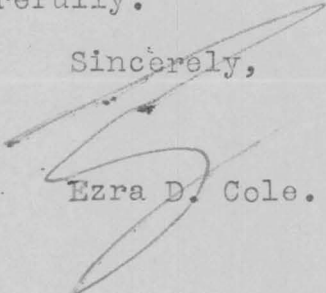
Several years ago, after long study and work with Hugh Clark, there was a note in the specialized catalogue about these reprints and remainders. Look at your S.U.S catalogue of a year or two ago.

George Sloane wrote a lot of bunk about these stamps and this year Gordon Harmer deleted the note.

Sometime when you are writing to him about the catalogue this is another subject to discuss.

I only have one other copy of this photostat so guard it carefully.

Sincerely,


Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

Oct. 18, 1952.

Mr. Wm. O. Bilden,

200 Kasota Bldg.,

Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Bill:

Re - that cover to Germany with the 48¢ payment that we discussed at the Stark place. If not too much trouble will you send it down to me so that I can again have a look at it.

Sincerely yours,

MEMO-

from

William O. Bilden

200 KASOTA BLDG.

MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.

PHONE MAIN 6055

Oct. 20, 1952

Dear Stan,

I have yours of the 18th and am glad to enclose the cover that you requested. One thing that I did notice about the cover is that one of the 12¢ values has been lifted and then replaced because when replacing it, it was not fitted exactly into its cancellation and also some glue appears around its edges. I told Lee about the cover and he thinks that it was either an over or under payment, especially since it was mailed from a small town. A letter via Liverpool has been crossed

out. Could it be that it was franked for a double
rate to England and the N. Y. ad Bureau office failed to
notice the underpayment?

However, if there is anyone who can explain the error,
you or Harold are the ones.

It was nice seeing you again. I Henry & I both
had a wonderful time. I hope that sometime we will be
able to have you up this way for one of our meetings.

Please excuse the handwriting. Mine is the world's worst.
However, my typewriter is out for repair.

Sincerely,
Bill

Oct. 22, 1952.

Mr. William O. Bilden,
200 Kasota Bldg.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Bill:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the cover with the 48¢ payment, which I am returning herewith.

I don't think anyone can give a correct explanation of this cover because almost everything about it is contrary to facts. The markings show that it went by Prussian Closed Mail (thru England in sealed bags) to Aachen, Prussia, where the bags were opened and mail sent on to various destinations in the German States and points beyond.

This surely went to Switzerland and the rate was 35¢ per half ounce. On such a single rate letter our credit to Prussia was 12¢. This shows a credit of 14¢. Why? I do not know. On a single letter of 1/2 oz., the rate to Prussia was 30¢, and our credit to the Prussian P.O.D. on such a letter was 7¢, on a letter going beyond Prussia to Switzerland there was an added credit of 5¢, making the total credit of 12¢ as mentioned above.

If this letter didn't weigh over 1/2 oz. all that should have been paid was 35¢ and the credit would have been 12¢. If the letter weighed between 1/2 and one ounce the rate would have been 70¢ and the credit would have been 24¢. So you see the 48¢ pay and the credit of 14¢ do not fit either an overpay, much less an underpay. In fact, in the case of an underpay the total payment would have been disregarded and 70¢ would have been due, and the New York marking would have been in black with a debit of 46¢ (2 x 23).

I have no record of any letter going to Switzerland with a credit to Prussia of 14¢ - There was no rate to Switzerland by any route that I know of that required a credit of 14¢. In fact, the only use of this New York postmark with "14" was on prepaid double rate letters of 2 x 30¢, requiring a credit of 2 x 7¢.

To sum up this cover is cockeyed from any angle a solution is attempted and the only thing that I can think up is that there was another 12¢ stamp in the extreme upper left corner - thus a payment of 2 x 30¢ with the New York clerk mistaking the address as a letter to Germany requiring a credit of 2 x 7¢.

Re - the crossing out of the "Via Liverpool" and substitution of "Via Prussia." The use was Oct. 25, 1858 from Galena, Ill. In 1858 October 25th fell on Monday. I suppose the writer intended the letter to go in the open mail Via Liverpool in which event it would have gone by a Cunard mail ship sailing on Wednesday, Oct. 27th. This letter, in 1858, could not have reached New York in time so the routing was changed to catch a sailing by American packet on Saturday, Oct. 30th. Saturday was the regular sailing date. I note that the "S.S. Ariel" of the Bremen Line sailed with

#2. Mr. William O. Bilden, Oct. 22, 1952.

mail for Germany on Saturday, Oct. 30, 1858. Such mail was rated as "American Packet". However, if this letter went via Bremen it was sent in a sealed bag Via Bremen to Aachen. On the back is a rectangular marking with the letters "E.B." etc. This was a railroad marking and applied on the cars between Aachen and Basle. "E.B." I believe meant, "Bisenbahn" or perhaps "Eisenbahn" which translated means railroad. Am I correct? I believe "CURS" meant "CARS" and the "V" meant "Car V" or train V - or something of that order. However, this point is of little importance.

I believe the letter bears the address of the Swiss town of Zofingen. The departure date from New York was Oct. 30 - the Aachen date looks like Nov. 18 - the "E.B." is Nov 20 - the circular "Basle" (on back) looks like "NOV ?" and the other circular on back is probably "ZOFINGEN" "21" of NOV.

I don't understand why it took 19 days for this letter to go from New York to Aachen. In October of 1858 the Cunard ships made the crossing from Boston and New York to Liverpool in eleven to twelve days.

Finally - my lamp shows (?) a faint indication that there might have been another stamp in the upper left corner - or do I imagine this?

I will send a copy of this letter to Harold Stark and later I will send him photo prints front and back of the cover.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--I neglected to make an extra carbon copy so I will send mine up to Harold when I send the photo prints.

Oct. 22, 1952.

Mr. E. R. Jacobs,
1251 Asbury Ave.,
Evanston, Ill.

Dear Ernie:

No doubt you heard or read that I had a birthday several weeks ago and some of my friends gave me quite a surprise party. There was just one little note of sadness about the whole affair - not a word of good cheer from my old friend Ernie. However, I suppose you didn't know anything about it and if you had I am sure you would have sent me a card.

Ernie as long as I live I'll never forget that note of yours of last spring when you heard I was ill. I am sure I know where your heart is.

I am planning to go down to New York for a conference with the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation and if I do, I will arrange the date to fit in with the Meroni Sale. I will take Mildred with me to keep me out of trouble. We plan to go up and spend a day with Jean and Carroll. This is something I have wanted to do for years but never had the opportunity. Jessup will be in New York at the time of the sale and our good friends the Emmerson Krugs of Birmingham plan to be in New York at that time. It would be fine if Marie and you could join us.

I was up to Cleveland last week as the guest of a select group of advanced collectors and during a little informal talk at the dinner they gave me I recalled that stop-over trips that we made there enroute to New York years ago - the time Major Harris entertained us - How Joe Lozier went with us to New York, and how he left a valuable lot of material with Sam to take care of over night. How long ago that seems - sort of like a dream.

We trust that Marie and you are well and we send you both our love and best wishes -

Yours as ever,

DO NOT MAKE ENVELOPE

DO NOT MAKE ENVELOPE

①

Dear Bill

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the cover with the H&E payment, which I am returning here with.

I don't think any one can give a correct explanation of this cover because almost every thing about it is contrary to facts. The markings show that it went by Prussian Closed Mail (thru England in sealed bags) to Aachen Prussia, where the bags were opened and mail sent on to various destinations in the German States and points beyond.

This surely went to Switzerland and the rate was 35¢ per half ounce. On such a

Single rate letter our credit to Prussia was 12¢. This shows a credit of 14¢ - Why? I do not know. On a single letter of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, the rate to Prussia was ~~7¢~~ 30¢, and our credit to the Prussian P.O. ~~was~~ on such a letter was 7¢, on a letter going beyond Prussia to Switzerland there was an added credit of 5¢ making the total credit of 12¢ as mentioned above.

If this letter didn't weigh over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz all that should have been paid was 35¢ and the credit would have been 12¢.

If the letter weighed between $\frac{1}{2}$ and one ounce the rate would have been 70¢ and the credit would have been 24¢. Do you see

the 48¢ pay and the credit of 14¢
do not get either ~~an~~ over pay,
much less an under pay. In (3)
fact in the case of an under pay
the total payment would have
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been in black with a debt
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there was no rate ~~that I~~
~~know of that had to~~
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I know of that required a
Credit of 14¢.

In fact the only use
of this ~~part~~ New Year.

postmark with "14" was ~~sent~~ on
~~mail to Germany~~ prepaid (4)
double rate letters of $2 \times 30\text{¢}$,
requiring a credit of $2 \times 7\text{¢}$.

To sum up this ~~to~~ cover
is cock-eyed from any angle
a solution is attempted and
the only thing that I can
think up is that there was
another 12¢ stamp in the "upper
~~right~~ ^{Extreme} upper
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of $2 \times 30\text{¢}$ with the New York
Clerk mistaking the ~~letter~~
address as a letter to Germany
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Re - the crossing out of the
"Via Liverpool" and substitution
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gone by a ~~sea~~ Leeward Mail
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have reached New York in time
so the routing was changed to
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"S. S. Ariel" of the Bremen Line
sailed with mail for Germany
on Saturday Oct 30 1858. Such
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sent in a seal bag via
Bremen to Aachen. On the

back is a rectangular marking
with the letters "E.B." Eto.

This was ~~a~~ a rail road

(6)

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the cars between Aachen and

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meant "Eisenbahn" or
perhaps "EISENBahn" which

translated means Rail road. Am I
correct? I believe "CURS"

meant ~~the~~ "cars" and the "V"

meant "Car V" or tram V -

~~or~~ or some thing of that order.

However this point is of
little importance.

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~~a~~ bears the address of
the Swiss town of ZOFINGEN.

The departure date from
New York was Oct 30 - the AACHEN

date looks like Nov 18 - the "E. B." is

Nov 20 - the ~~front~~ circular

"Basle" ^(ON BACK) looks like "Nov?" and
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corner - or do I ~~may~~
imagine this? I will

Send a copy of this letter to Harold
Stark and later I will send
him ~~a~~ photo prints front and
back of the cover

With Best Wishes

Cordially

TA-NON-
MIMEO BOND

William O. Bilden

Philatelic Broker

MEMBER
WESTERN COVER SOCIETY
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
SOCIETY PHILATELIC AMERICANS
TRANS-MISSISSIPPI PHILATELIC SOCIETY
NORTHWEST STAMP DEALERS' ASSOCIATION

200 KASOTA BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.

Oct. 28, 1952

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

Dear Stan,

I have your letter with the return of the cover and also your card of the 24th. Thanks. I note with interest your various remarks about the cover. I agree with you as to the possibility that a stamp was in the upper right hand corner of the cover. I put the cover under the lamp and it shows that there possibly was a stamp there. If there was such a stamp there, then I assume that it probably was another 12¢ which would then give the cover a 60¢ rate. Assuming this to be correct, then I believe that your remark about the rating clerk at New York not seeing that the cover was addressed to Switzerland rated it only to Prussia, to be the correct explanation. Evidently, all he noticed was the "Via Prussian Closed Mail" and therefore assumed that it was going to Germany without looking at the address. Thus, the reason for the 14¢ credit. Therefore, the double rate to Switzerland should have been 70¢ and through an oversight of a post office clerk 60¢ actually carried it to its destination.

All of the above are merely repetitions of the thoughts that you expressed in your letter and I believe that if we assume that another 12¢ stamp at one time was on the cover, then your explanation of the cover is correct. I cannot offer any other explanation, can you?

I enjoyed, greatly, your recent article in "Stamps" on the 5¢ 51. Your arguments are concrete and thorough and should settle once and for all any more discussion on this phase of the 5¢ 1851.

Whenever I run across any other covers that I think might be of interest to you I will be glad to send them to you.

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM O. BILDEN

WOB/jd

48¢ Rate (?)
To Swiss

All BLACK

ZOFINGEN Swiss



By Bilden



1858

E. L. 20 Nov.
Curs V. II.

C71

BACK OF B219 See 25-21-

B219-See S.B. 25-p. 21-(Green-105cc)

By W.O. BILDEN

Letter Dated
Oct 25
1858

~~Via Liverpool~~
Via Prussia
Red Red



Franco Preuss.
Red

Jacob Scharmann (Post)

~~N.A. /~~
Göttingen
Black
Sant-Organs
Suisse



B219

B219

C. M. PHILLIPS, JR.

Stamps for Collectors

Route 1, Box 78

WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

October 22nd - 52

Dear Stanley:-

How do you like it? I stuck my neck out down here on the bottom didn't I? But hope that some of my friends will come to my rescue if I get in a tight-

Happy birthday - your nice letter arrived yesterday and your note was worthy of the gifts you received, I was just too happy to stick in my letter but you know you're quite a fellow, I don't think you realize it -

"If You Want It and I Don't Have It, I'll Get It"

There were no belated survey getting stuff
ported, listed etc. - getting my God up to Michigan
to spend the winter with his daughter. Had to go by
ambulance clear to St Petersburg. 72 miles to
get a through car to Detroit and then a 125 mile
drive from Detroit to St Louis. 88 years old
this Sept 17th past.

Stanley this is a very scarce cancellation
if its OK - Can you determine this for me? if
it was used only on Christmas day - we never
seen it before and I just went your OK on it.
I think its alright in as much as its from
the Carroll Hay stuff. Let our copy be to careful -
Can you beat those birds staying open on
Christmas day to cancel mail or maybe it was
canceled the next day on the 26th - who knows?

C. M. PHILLIPS, JR.

Stamps for Collectors

Route 1, Box 78

WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

Stanley relates the "B" for in your name?

We are having weather - 9" of rain in six days and today a line squall with winds up to 45 miles an hour - a hurricane 350 miles to our west moving in a north east path - something all the time -

Hart took the cover at \$200⁰⁰ I'm pleased and relieved that the price was in keeping with what you thought all along its value should be -

Do you have anything at all for sale that you would like moved? let me know

"If You Want It and I Don't Have It, I'll Get It"

again let me tell you how I appreciated
letters from you and I hope I don't forget to
include return registered on the cover back
to me -

Remember me to Mrs Ashbrooks and
wish me luck in the venture -

Always cordially yours

Clara

Oct. 23, 1952.

Mr. C. M. Phillips, Jr.,
Route 1, Box 78,
Winter Haven, Fla.

Dear Clare:

Yours of the 22nd received with the Canton, Miss. cover of "Dec 25" and the Xmas tree. I know this cover way back and I have a record of it in my files. It was Lot 53 in the Kelleher sale of June 11th, 1938 - and it was from the Judge Emerson collection. It sold @ \$41.00 and I understood that the buyer was Jim Hardy. At any rate Hardy submitted it to a good friend of mine in February 1941 with a price of \$50.00. I made a memo at that time as follows: "Hardy stuck with this one and is unable to prove it is good." My record don't disclose what I advised my friend or whether he sent it back to Hardy or bought it. Do you think it still belongs to Hardy? If so, please treat anything I state about it as strictly confidential. I would charge Hardy \$10.00 for an opinion on the cover or anyone else but you a five dollar bill simply because my opinion on the cover would add value to it. Therefore, for your information only and not to be quoted - the cover is genuine - the cancel was not handstamped but handdrawn by the postmaster. He probably only had a few letters to mail on that Xmas day and he drew this design to cancel the stamp. It is believed he was quite an artist and whittled out of wood the various stampers he used as killers.

That is a nice letter head you have and the slogan at the bottom is very good. I sure wish you all the luck possible.

Clare, I doubt if I have any material that you could place but I'll see if I can dig up anything for you. I don't care to place material in other hands to sell but prefer to sell outright for cash. Further I do not have any bargain.

On the above basis say the word and I might be able to send you some items you could use.

Re - your query - re - the "B" in my name. It is for "Bryan" - not William J. or any connection of his. Bryan is a pioneer Kentucky name. A sister of Daniel Boone married a Bryan - one of her descendants married a distant cousin of my mother and they were very devoted. My mother gave her name Bryan to me for a middle name. I am glad that as a young man I used my first name rather than "S. Bryan Ashbrook." People might have thought I was a sixteen to one silverite.

Yesterday and today we had reports of that hurricane- I do hope it gives Florida a wide berth.

Some of my Detroit friends are going to Florida in January and as a birthday gift they insist that Mrs. Ashbrook and I go with them. We may do so - thus per-

#2. Mr. C. M. Phillips, Jr., Oct. 23, 1952.

haps an opportunity to meet your family and you, and especially Mrs. Phillips.

Our kindest regards to you and yours.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--It was 22 here Tuesday and that is the coldest October weather within my memory. Looks like a long cold winter.

C. M. PHILLIPS, JR.

Stamps for Collectors

Route 1, Box 78

WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

December 10th 52

Dear Ray:

The deer stuff isn't fit to eat yet but we having one of the boys try and select the best on the fresh farm you'd the wife and your son for Christmas - Notes are hard to get this season so are having it packed in a basket. Please advise how if carrier, may be I'll continue to use them if they are satisfactory, my chest cough is no better -

"If You Want It and I Don't Have It, I'll Get It"

To happy that Mrs. Oshersalt said such
a nice thing about me. yes Peg agreed with
her but you see just flatter a poor mug
that has such a "rough as a cob" face. We still
looking forth to the time "in the place you'll be in
Florida - let me know - the east coast is
a hell of a place. Orlando is so nice, Lake Land,
Winter Haven, etc. The ridge towns are lovely -

Ben Beemer maybe OK - I suppose he is but
I just don't cater to those types somehow. he
even jerked a table cloth out from a set of dishes
and silver right out messing the stuff up - We
heard a lot of nice things about Harry

Lindquist - maybe sometime I'll get to meet
him - it looks like its fixin to rain here.

C. M. PHILLIPS, JR.

Stamps for Collectors

Route 1, Box 78

WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

This Coeughay mine is really a lullu. The
 token everything seems like for it. I am thing makes
 me mad-

You not getting the business that I expected,
 Reg says its due to Christmas being right on
 top of us - maybe, I hope thats the reason-

Maybe I enclosed the Coverts to you with
 my checks for \$5.⁰⁰ for you to autograph the back
 of it. I believe this to be unique - never have I
 seen, heard or known of another-

"If You Want It and I Don't Have It, I'll Get It"

Hope the snow has let up and that you and
sons Ashbrook are enjoying the best of
health, may this Christmas be one of your
best and the New Year full of everything fine for
all three of you

Cordially yours
Clara

Dec. 13, 1952.

Mr. C. M. Phillips, Jr.,
Route 1 - Box 78,
Winter Haven, Fla.

Dear Clare:

Herewith the Xmas Tree cover which I have signed on the back for you. I am returning your check as there is no fee to you for this authentication.

If you want to sell the cover, I suggest that you submit it to my good friend Harold Stark. His address is - Mr. Harold W. Stark, P. O. Box 288, Ann Arbor, Mich. I don't know whether it would interest him or not but it might if you do not over-price it. Tell him you are sending it to him at my suggestion.

I suppose you intend to deal principally in unused 20th Century - If so, perhaps you might be interested in purchasing a superb collection which contains ~~everything~~ from 1900 to 1945. Every stamp is superb and a picked copy - perhaps you could purchase this and retail the stamps at a substantial profit. I told the collection intact to the present owner for \$8,000.00 along about 1945 or 1946 - I think he would be willing to take a loss. It is handsomely mounted. He recently had a cash bid of \$5,000 which was too far out of line. Let me know if you might be interested.

I will answer your letter later.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

B220

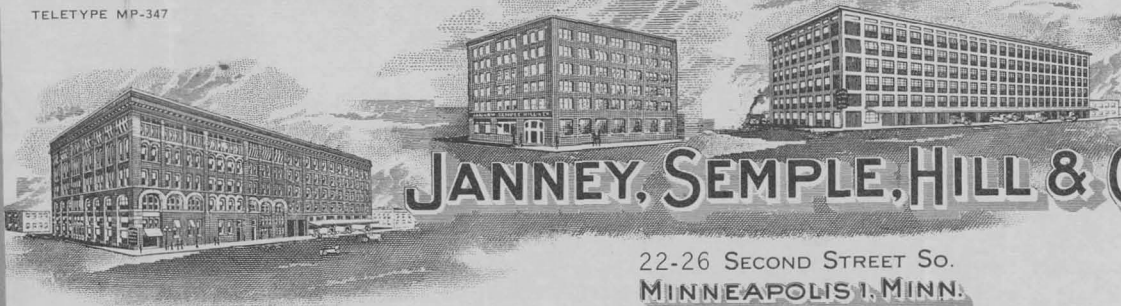


Wm Carroll Hoy & Co
New Orleans
La

By C.M.P. Jr
10/23-52
See 25-22 -

B220

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



JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & CO.

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



IO-25-52

Dear Stan. First let me congratulate you on your birthday and my best wishes for many more to come. I have been away in Iowa for the past two weeks, hence my delay in answering your recent letter. I have known Jamet of Paris for many years and I consider him one of the finest dealers in Paris and much of my material of the 5c 56 and 57s come from him. He hates Zeriski as much as we all do and would like to some way expose him. So if you can help him you will be doing me a favor too.

On my trip to Iowa I purchased a lot, the correspondance of an attorney dead many years ago, been after it for four years an accunulation of approx 20,000 covers. Bought it on Sat and sold it on Monday and have my money back. There were many ghost towns of Iowa cancels, a beautiful strip of 3 Ic type 2 I857 with the Bloods stamp and postmark. A mint block I2 2c Black Jacks, one of the finest Minn Territorials from Hokah, Minn with a lovely strike. 5 or 6 Keokuck packet covers and many others. I am enclosing a photo of a cover that has been offered to me from Paris by Pierre Bailly whom Brun states is the most honest of all the dealers in Paris next to Jamet. What do you think of it.

Reards, wish I could go to the Meroni sale but I have to go back to Iowa next month

Henry W. Hill

Oct. 29, 1952.

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

Dear Henry:

Re - the photos herewith. The year is 1888 and that is a bit late for me. I don't know why this is supposed to be a 7¢ rate. It is evidently addressed to Russia and I note by the 1887 P.L. & R. that Russia was a member of the U.P.U. and the U.P.U. rate was 5¢. In my opinion this was a made to order item by some stamp collector and as such it would not have any appeal to me. Second, the use of bisects were not permitted by the Regulations of the P.O.D. I judge 5¢ was sufficient pay on this letter, hence the half stamp did not pay anything and a tobacco-tag might just as well have been used. This is just one man's opinion.

Thanks very much Henry for your congratulations on my recent birthday. My friends sure made it quite an event.

I had a note from Poole in which he stated that he met you at Waterloo. He seems like an awfully nice chap and I hope you were able to supply him with some items for his Iowa collection.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--Thanks for the good word on Janet.

(25-23)

October 29, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

After reading your splendid article in this weeks' Stamps, I feel I must let you know how much I appreciated it, fitting in as it does with my specialty, U.S. registered covers.

After having studied both sides of the controversy, namely yours and Mr. Elliott Perry's, I am convinced that your arguments are correct. You have marshalled many facts to your side from Postal Guides and Official Registers. Incidentally, I have also found it very rewarding to study these publications. Unfortunately I am not able to do that as much as I wish. I am slowly building up my own collection of them, but they are far and few between. I am a non-resident member of the Collectors Club, and the last time I was in New York I did as much work as I had time. The librarian was co-operative, but she was very reluctant to let me pick the Guides I wanted by myself, so that hampered me considerably.

I have one cover which is a mystery to me. If you should happen to have a little time, I would be very happy if you could jot down your opinion of it. I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your convenience. Here is a description of the cover:

Dec. 2, 1868--from San Francisco to Wurttemberg--bears one each of no. 68 and 96--bears black circular marking "San Francisco Cal. Registered Dec 2", straight line "Paid All", "Recomandirt" in box, two manuscript numbers, small circular New York registry marking, manuscript "per Prussian closed mail". On the back is a Wurttemberg circular mark dated "4-1 69Z-3". The amount of postage paid puzzles me. Wasn't the rate to Germany at this time 15¢ by direct steamer and 8¢ by Prussian closed mail? And wasn't the registry fee to Germany 5¢ at this time?

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours very truly,

Barbara Mueller

From S.F. Dec 2 1868

To Wurttemberg

AN: 68. 106 1861

AN: 96. 104 1867-9x13

Nov. 5, 1952.

Miss Barbara R. Mueller,
112 Linden Ave.,
Jefferson, Wisconsin.

Dear Miss Mueller:

Replying to yours of the 29th. First regarding the cover mentioned in your letter. The rates to Wurtemberg in December 1868 were as follows:

Via North German Union - direct -	10¢	Register	8¢
" Closed Mail Via England -	15¢	"	8¢

As of January 1st, 1868, the registration fee to the German States became 8¢. If you wish, I can quote you the ruling as printed in the "U. S. Mail" of January 1st, 1868. The fee became 16¢ to many British Colonies on letters thru England. In the case of your cover, I suppose there must have been some misunderstanding re - the rates at San Francisco. From your description of the markings I judge the letter did not go via Prussian Closed Mail but was instead sent by "Direct Steamer," thus an overpay of 2¢.

I noted your article in "COVERS" but I have been so extremely busy I have not had an opportunity to read it but I have it laid aside and will do so within the next few days. I am sure I will enjoy it.

Herewith I am sending you a table of rates of foreign postages as of Jan. 1, 1868. This is one of my enlargements from a microfilm.

I am leaving for New York this weekend and I intend to spend some time next week in the Library of the Collectors Club.

I have a file of P.L. & R.'s from 1825 and almost a complete file of P.M.G. reports. While my time is almost wholly occupied I will be glad to look up any reference for you that is important.

Sincerely yours,

(25-24)

BARBARA R. MUELLER

1112 LINDEN AVENUE

JEFFERSON, WISCONSIN

November 8, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your fine letter of November 5th and the enlargement of the table of postage rates. I enclose a check for two dollars to cover your costs; if they are more, just let me know.

I appreciate your offer of assistance with your files of P. L. & R.'s. It is very gratifying to know that a great student like yourself will take his valuable time to help one of his lesser fellow philatelists.

Yours very truly,
Barbara R. Mueller

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 7, 1952

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

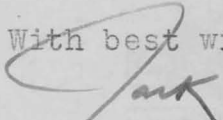
Dear Stan,

My belated thanks for your letter of October 12th giving me exactly the information I desired on the covers in question. I am quite happy to know you had an enjoyable birthday and presume that it is quite consoling for you to know that you have so many friends who joined in this well-deserved tribute. I only hope that when I reach your age I will be able to boast of half as many good friends.

I am enclosing two items for your opinion. One is a pair of 1¢ 51's which I would appreciate your plating for me if sufficient of the pair is left for you to do so without too much effort. I know that it is a dog, but tried to plate it myself without success and therefore wish your opinion for my own satisfaction. The other is a cover with #116 and #158 tied on. It looks okay, but would appreciate your examination and signature on the back if you feel it is alright. Is this an overpayment of a 12¢ rate?

Do you know much about John Fox? Several past and a few more recent incidents have given me cause to wonder about him. I have never had much respect for his philatelic knowledge, but I am now wondering in other respects.

With best wishes,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

P.S. I am enclosing a stamped reply envelope for your return of the enclosed. There is no need to register the return.

Apr 71-13
July 71 13
Oct 71
lvw

Nov. 17, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

I found yours of the 7th on my return from New York yesterday. Sorry about the delay.

The 1¢ pair is 91R4, a Type IC, the other stamp is 92R4 - a Type IA, that is, these stamps were those types before the cut at top destroyed the type characteristics.

The cover is okay and shows the 13¢ rate to Denmark. I have signed both on the back. The fee on the cover is \$2.50 and no fee on the pair.

Re - your query. I have known him for possibly ten years and have long considered him a good friend. I have never noted any slick stuff or corner-cutting. In all his dealings with me he has been very fair and above board. Whenever I have questioned any items in his sales he withdrew them without any question or argument.

Thanks for your good words on my recent birthday.

Nice seeing you last week.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

PAID

NOV 21 1952

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

Dear Stan,

Nov. 19, 1952

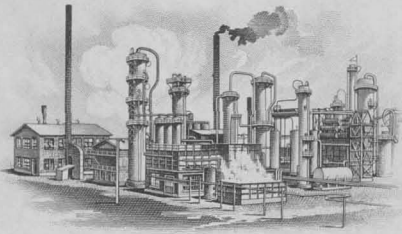
My thanks for your letter of Nov. 17th which I understood was being delayed by your being out of town. Enclosed is my check for \$2.50 for your fee on the covers. Your plating of the pair gratis is greatly appreciated.

I am sorry that I did not have time to talk with you more at the Fox sale, but it was nice seeing you

With best wishes,


Jack E. Molesworth

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY

INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.
November 17, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

The enclosed two lots just arrived today from H. R. Harmer's recent auction. Please tell me if same are OK or are they some of Zaretsky's work?

Lot #270 came to me @ \$26.00. Is it OK or was it a stampless or some damaged stamp removed? Why the pen cancel? Did'nt New York usually hit the stamp when mail came in by ship? If genuine, please sign it on back for me - if not genuine give me information so I can return to Harmer.

Lot #378 came to me @ \$42.50. I wanted it because from illustration, and description in catalog, I thought this was a French packet boat cancel - the blue octagon. However, I remember Harold Stark saying something about the date on the packet boat cancel always had to be same date as on the New York red cancel and in this case one is Nov 26 and other Nov 12. Maybe I am confused about this but anyway, you will know whether this is OK or just another "fixed" cover. If OK, please sign it on back as such and if not OK, tell me so I can return it to Harmer.

Let me have your fee on this Stan, when you return the covers.

Know you had a grand time in New York. Wish I could have been there with you. Will write you later re this Fox matter. Have been hunting and had to spend a solid week in Chicago and want to get in some more goose shooting before season closes. Rene is hunting deer in northern peninsula of Michigan - expects to be away balance of this month. I went deer hunting Saturday and Sunday (yesterday) and got a nice buck deer yesterday morning.

Regards to all. In haste,

Sincerely,

JGF
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/
Enc: REG:

Nov. 19, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two covers from the H. R. Harmer sale. I believe that both are genuine and I have signed them as such on the backs.

The 30¢ cover was not carried by the French Line but rather by the American "Havre Line" - thus "Amer Pkt." Bear in mind that the "French Line" did not start to operate until the spring of 1866. Covers by that Line bear the same date in the French postmark as that of New York. The U.S. "Havre Line" dates back to the early fifties. It ran once a month between New York and Havre. Also touched at Southampton (I believe). I was a bit suspicious that this had been a stampless to which a 30¢ stamp had been added but the evidence is all against such a possibility. You got the cover cheap because the boys were afraid to buy it not being sure that the stamp originated.

Re - the 10¢ 1855 cover. Of course, this could have been a stampless with 10¢ due at Worcester but the "tie" of the "S" looks genuine to me and I am willing to approve the cover.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

P. Arago to Havre

Lot 378

H.R. Harmer

Sale Nov 10 1952



Violet



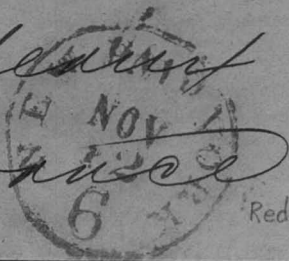
Red

Mess L. Perregrin Pères



Red:
Grid

*Bordeaux
France*



Red

30¢ 1860 Cover From N.Y. To Bordeaux. Nov 12, 1860. This Was Lot 378 In H.R. Harmer Sale of Nov 10 1952 - Sold To Fleckenstein @ \$42.50 - Sent To S.B.A. By Him on Nov 19 52 - Is Cover Genuine? This Went By The U.S. HAVRE Line - According To "U.S. MAIL" For Nov 1860 - The HAVRE Line Ship Was Scheduled To Sail On Thursday Nov 8 1860 - This Shows Monday Nov 12 (1860) - The Ships of This Line Generally Sailed On Saturday - The French Postmarks Do Not Show Evidence OF TAMPERING WITH The "60" But Date Line of Letter Inside Has Been Cut off - S.B.A. signed The Cover AS GENUINE

B230

C73

Back of
B230

07

378



HOTEL

Statler

NEW YORK

November 13, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed are two covers I have just secured in the sale of the Meroni stamps. Please tell me the significance of the postal markings on them and the rates they represent so I may annotate my album pages correctly. An envelope with postage for registration is enclosed for your convenience in returning the covers. If you will tell me your charge for this, I will send you a check promptly.

Yours very truly,
John D. Pope ^{III}
818 Olive St.
St. Louis 1, Mo.

Nov. 17, 1952.

Mr. John D. Pope III,
818 Olive St.,
St. Louis 1, Mo.

Dear Mr. Pope:

I am in receipt of yours from New York with the two covers that you obtained from the Meroni sale.

Before giving you any analysis of these covers will you be so kind as to advise me -

(1) Do you have a copy of Elliott Perry's "Pat Paragraphs" - issue #57, dated August 1952?

(2) Will you treat as confidential the information that I give you concerning one of these covers, that is, confidential so far as Elliott Perry is concerned?

I might add that Perry is not one whom I include in my circle of friends and I want no part of him in any way, shape or form. I trust that you will appreciate my position.

For my examination of these covers there will be a fee of \$5.00.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

LAW OFFICES OF
KOENIG AND POPE
818 OLIVE STREET
St. Louis 1, Mo.

DELOS G. HAYNES
(1887-1950)
LLOYD R. KOENIG
JOHN D. POPE III
IRVING POWERS
STUART N. SENNIGER
DONALD G. LEAVITT

FORMERLY
HAYNES AND KOENIG
TELEPHONE-CENTRAL 0109
CABLE ADDRESS
PATENT

November 19, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your November 17 letter was awaiting me when I reached the office this morning.

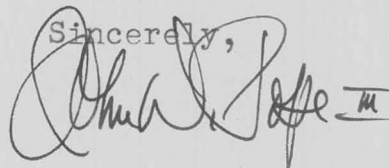
As to the questions you asked;

(1) Yes, I have a copy of Elliott Perry's "Pat Paragraphs" #57. I noted in this booklet that Mr. Perry reached a wrong conclusion as to a cover bearing a 5¢ 1847 stamp. As you pointed out to me sometime ago our 1848 postal agreement with Great Britain provided for a 5¢ rate for the U.S. postage where a letter to a foreign country was transported by a British ship, Britain collecting the balance or at least the amount due them, from the addressee or the foreign postal system involved.

(2) Certainly I will be happy to consider anything you have to tell me as confidential as far as Elliott Perry is concerned. Although I know Elliott Perry and obtain his publications, I do not consider myself one of his friends and it's doubtful that I have exchanged more than three letters with him in the past five years. What I had in mind was annotating my album pages with information you give me as to the covers with no indication as to how I acquired the information.

I hope that the foregoing answers will be satisfactory. I am quite anxious to be able to put the facts which you tell me, on my album pages.

* Enclosed is my check for \$5.00 for the examination fee.

Sincerely,


JDP/bd
*Enclosure

Nov. 20, 1952.

Mr. John D. Pope III,
818 Olive St.,
St. Louis 1, Mo.

Dear Mr. Pope:

Thanks very much for yours of the 19th.

Herewith I am returning the two 1847 covers contained in yours of the 13th from New York.

Regarding the one from Cleveland. I consider this quite an interesting cover and I believe that the great majority of collectors are as badly misinformed on the rate as was Elliott Perry. However, I note that you are familiar with it as I remember the cover that you sent me several years ago. The reason I made the request regarding Perry was because I have no desire to furnish him with any philatelic information if I can help from doing so.

Further regarding your cover. This was transmitted in the open mail via New York or Boston - and Liverpool - Calais - to France. The 5¢ stamp paid the "Inland postage" under the U.S.-British Postal Treaty of 1849. Postage was due from the addressee in Paris from the U. S. frontier and is shown by the manuscript "30" or 30 decimes - equivalent to approximately 57¢ in U. S. money at that time. (A decime was 1/10 of a franc.) We did not have a postal treaty with France at that time, hence the mail was sent *via* England was transmitted under two postal treaties - U.S.-British and Anglo-French. The rectangular marking which reads, "COLONIES - & - ART 13" identified mail brought to France Via England. It is stated that the "ART 13" refers to Article 13 of the Anglo-French Postal Treaty of 1843, but whether this is a fact, I am not certain. The U.S.-British Treaty provided for a rate between the two countries of 24¢ per 1/2 ounce and was made up as follows:

U.S. Inland - 5¢
British Inland- 3¢
Atlantic Sea -16¢

It is improper to refer to the 5¢ or 3¢ as domestic but rather "Inland," and I do not think the term Shore to Ship is proper as it is not the same as the purely domestic payments required before the Treaty of Dec. 1849.

Re - your other cover from Syracuse, N.Y. on Aug. 29 (1847). Here we have the so-called "Shore to Ship" but why should this term be applied when it is nothing more in reality but the domestic rate of over 300 miles from Syracuse to Boston.

#2. Mr. John D. Pope III - Nov. 20, 1952.

This letter, after reaching Boston, was placed aboard a British Mail Steamship - a Cunard - and the addressee was taxed one shilling upon delivery, as per the manuscript marking which reads, "1/." There was no necessity for the Syracuse postal clerk to stamp the rate but he was merely following a custom that had been in vogue for many years - This use was very early in the life of the 1847 stamps - less than two months. The 10¢ stamp is a very early use and a fine early impression. The stamper which was used to cancel the stamp must have been new as the office had no occasion to use a grid prior to the previous month.

Syracuse received their first supply of the 1847 stamps on Aug. 2, 1847, viz:

10¢ - 400
5¢ - 1200

In all probability this was one of that 400. Evidently this blue grid had not been used very often when it was applied to this letter.

In lower left is "Cambria". This was a famous Cunard Mail Steamship, and this ship sailed from Boston with the mail on Wednesday, Sep. 1, 1847. Incidentally, this letter was mailed on Sunday (Aug. 29).

I trust that the above will assist you in giving a good write-up on these two interesting covers. After all, it is the story behind the cover that makes the cover.

Thanks very much for your check.

Cordially yours,

SPECIAL
SERVICE TO
John Pope III Nov. 20, 1952.

Mr. John D. Pope III,
818 Olive St.,
St. Louis 1, Mo.

Dear Mr. Pope:

At the solicitation of some of my close friends, I inaugurated what I call a "Special Service" a year ago last June (1951). Attached herewith is an explanation.

I am taking the liberty of sending you sample copies of the two last issues, October 1st and November 1st, together with the photographs which accompanied same. You will note that in the October Issue I included a photograph of your cover.

These Service Issues include data on our postal history which has never been published before and for which I have gone to considerable expense to acquire. For this Service I charge an annual fee of \$100 and to anyone who is putting real money in their collections, I can assure them that there is no better investment.

Subscription is only by special invitation as the Service is not open or available to the general public.

If perchance you believe that the Service might be of real benefit to you I will be glad to give you further details.

Kindly return the two samples and the photographs in the envelope herewith.

Sincerely yours,

LAW OFFICES OF
KOENIG AND POPE
818 OLIVE STREET
ST. LOUIS 1, Mo.

DELOS G. HAYNES
(1887-1950)
LLOYD R. KOENIG
JOHN D. POPE III
IRVING POWERS
STUART N. SENNIGER
DONALD G. LEAVITT

FORMERLY
HAYNES AND KOENIG
TELEPHONE-CENTRAL 0109
CABLE ADDRESS
PATENT

December 5, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for letting me see the sample copies of the two last issues of your "Special Service". These were of particular interest to me in view of the covers which you had examined. I am sorry to have kept them so long, but I wanted to complete the write-up of the covers before returning the sample copies.

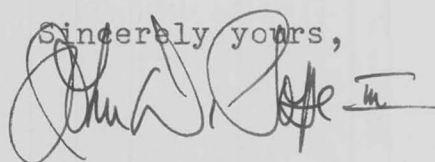
Inasmuch as my interest in U.S. covers extends only to the Postmasters' Provisionals and 1847's, I imagine that only a relatively small number of the issues would include material in my field. Would a partial subscription be possible, or would it be better to consult you from time to time as I have in the past when I acquire an unusual item or so?

* The two samples and the photographs are returned as you requested.

The October issue contains no reference to the "40" marking which appears on my Bremen cover. When you examined this a few years back, you mentioned that this was probably a marking applied either in England or in Bremen, and since that time I have been trying to draw a satisfactory interpretation of it. So far, this has been without result. The only two possibilities which seem likely are that it indicates the rate in U.S. cents for the entire trip to Bremen, possibly under a treaty with the Free City of Bremen, or that it represents decimes, although this would indicate a very high rate.

My sincere appreciation again for the analysis which you furnished so promptly on the two covers I sent you.

Sincerely yours,



jdp:fsp
*Enclosures

Dec. 9, 1952.

Mr. John D. Pope, III,
818 Olive St.,
St. Louis 1, Mo.

Dear Mr. Pope:

I am in receipt of yours of the 5th with enclosures as stated. Thanks very much.

Inasmuch as your field of collecting is limited I agree that you would not be interested in the great majority of material contained in my Service. On the other hand, a number of past issues have had some very interesting data on the 1847 Issue which has never appeared in the philatelic press. Inasmuch as it would incur too much extra work to provide any sort of a special service to individuals I try to cover as wide a range of subjects as possible.

I note your reference to your Bremen cover with the "40" marking. I regret to state that I do not recall this cover and have been unable to find a record of it in my files. If you care to send it to me, perhaps I now have more definite information than I had at the time I examined it several years ago.

With every kind wish -

Sincerely yours,

(25-27)

LAW OFFICES OF
KOENIG AND POPE
818 OLIVE STREET
ST. LOUIS 1, Mo.

DELOS G. HAYNES
(1887-1950)
LLOYD R. KOENIG
JOHN D. POPE III
IRVING POWERS
STUART N. SENNIGER
DONALD G. LEAVITT

FORMERLY
HAYNES AND KOENIG
TELEPHONE-CENTRAL 0109
CABLE ADDRESS
PATENT

December 11, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The Bremen cover I referred to is the one you used as an illustration in the October 1952 issue of your Special Service. I believe the photograph of it was numbered 59, but in any event it was the only photograph accompanying the October issue.

The "40" appears to have been applied with a red pencil having a thick lead. I surely will appreciate any additional information you can give me as to it - I've puzzled about it ever since I've had the cover.

Sincerely,
John D. Pope

Dec. 16, 1952.

Mr. John D. Pope III,
818 Olive St.,
St. Louis 1, Mo.

Dear Mr. Pope:

Yours of the 11th received. Pardon my oversight.
I received the impression that you were referring to some other
cover with a handstamped 40.

The 40 was not a U. S. marking but foreign applied
at Bremen. I judge it might have been the German due. The pen
mark was the British one shilling four pence or approximately 32¢
in our money. This was the sum due the British for transmission
of the letter - not over 1/2 oz. - from the U.S. frontier to the
German frontier. The Bremen P.O. collected this sum plus their
domestic. Perhaps you can figure out how this amounted to "40."

Sincerely yours,



W. J. L. W.
Donnerstag
A. C. Griffin

Blue
Grid

10. Rue de la Paix

By Steam

Paris

France

For Sale
9/6-50
Lot 44

H·R AND ASSOCIATES

22 west monroe street · chicago 3 illinois · telephone central 6-5556

Dear Stan

I am sure ashamed I haven't written to you sooner. Every thing has been in a mess. Moving a 10 room house with things you saved for 39 yrs. and trying to limit the amount you take is damn near impossible.

Stan I haven't been buying a thing since I purchased the house and probably won't for awhile.

I have carried this cover around for a week every day hoping for a breather to write to you. Keep as long as you need it.

Hope your health is much better so you can take a shot of old grand dad once in a while. Give my best wishes to to Gay + Mildred

Yours Truly
Paul & Poppy

Sept. 14, 1952.

Mr. Paul C. Rohloff,
Room 1603 - 22 West Monroe St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Paul:

Please pardon my negligence in acknowledging receipt of yours of the 30th enclosing the 5¢ plus 10¢ 1847 cover to Paris, France.

I want to make a more thorough examination of this in the hope that I can determine several points.

I suppose by this time you are all moved and settled, and I am sure that you are all finding a lot of pleasure in the new home.

I am glad to report that I am feeling fine and that my diet does not bar old grand-pop.

Our regards to all

Cordially yours,

Oct. 3, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Herewith a photo-print of a 5¢-10¢ 1847 cover that belongs to Paul Rohloff of Chicago. It is from the J. W. Sampson collection and several years ago Paul paid John Fox \$1,000 for it. I had him send it to the Expert Committee of the P.F. because I had my doubts regarding it. The Committee issued a certificate to the effect it was genuine in every respect. They had various photos made by an expert photographer in New York - Infra red etc. etc. etc. and the photos failed to show any monkey-business. When Boggs was here this summer he brought the photos with him. I am today writing him for a loan of the prints and I thought you would be interested in the contents of my letter, so here is a copy. Your comment will be appreciated.

Yours etc.,

*Copy
Sent
Shank
& Rohloff*

Oct. 3, 1952.

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

Dear Win:

Re - the cover belonging to Paul Rohloff with the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847;
Will you be so kind as to loan me the photo-prints of this cover that you
showed me when you were here several months ago. I will return them
promptly. I enclose one of my prints so as to identify the cover.

I still can't figure why this letter has 15¢. Under the U.S.-British
Postal Treaty - whole rates - were rated at four rates if over one ounce.
However, this was the "Inland Rate" under the Treaty and if over an ounce,
three rates were to be charged in the U.S. (3 "Inland rates") and not four.
Thus this cover would indicate that the letter weighed over one ounce but not
over one and a half ounces. The French due of "15" decimes indicates the
letter was over 1/4 ounce but not over 1/2 ounce. If it was not over 1/2
ounce only a 5¢ payment was required in the U.S., therefore, I cannot account
for the extra 10¢.

I believe we discussed all these points when you were here last summer.

Note my One Cent Book, Vol. 2- page 340 - Fig. 56Z - shows a letter of
not over 1/4 ounce, therefore, 8 decimes due in France. Fig. 56Y shows 5¢
paid with "15" decimes due in France - same as the Rohloff cover.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Oct. 3, 1952.

Mr. Paul C. Rohloff,
Room 1603 - 22 West Monroe St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Paul:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter that I have today written to Boggs of the Philatelic Foundation.

When he was here last summer he brought with him a bunch of very fine photo-prints of your cover and it was on the basis of what these prints showed that the Committee authenticated your cover.

I am requesting Boggs to loan the prints to me and if he sends them I will let you see them.

I believe your cover is genuine and that if there is too much postage on it, it can be attributed to an error - an overpay. On the other hand, if I would find anything that would warrant me in changing my mind regarding it I believe John would not hesitate to refund to you the purchase price.

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

Oct. 12, 1952.

Mr. Paul C. Rohloff,

Room 1603 - 22 West Monroe St.,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Paul:

I am still holding your 5¢ plus 10¢ 1847 cover pending receipt of the photos that the P.F. made. I am expecting them in most any day.

We certainly had a big day here Friday, the 10th, and the telephone rang all day without-of-town calls and telegrams. I do not suppose that anyone ever had a nicer three score and ten birthday or received a finer remembrance.

I note your name among the sixty-six of my good friends who participated and I wish to express my sincere thanks and hearty appreciation.

Mildred joins me in best wishes to Mildred, the boys and to you.

As ever yours,

P.S.--Have you seen Ernie? Is he back in town? I cannot get any word from him.

H·R AND ASSOCIATES

22 west monroe street . chicago 3 illinois . telephone central 6.5556

October 16, 1952

Dear Stan,

I have been up to my ears in work, so I have been working 12 and 14 hours every day. things have been in a turmoil and I haven't much of a chance to to even look of work on my stamps.

I was happy to hear that you had such a wonderful birthday, something really to remember.

In regards to the cover, anything that you think should be done to it is O.K. with me. You will hear more from me as soon as I can get clear. Give my regards to Mildred and son.

Best of luck,

Paul R. Hoff

P.S. I think I have found two covers with two pairs that will fit the reconstructed block of 1847. one pair belongs to somebody else & am trying to purchase it.

Oct. 24, 1952.

Mr. Paul C. Rohloff,
Room 1603 - 22 West Monroe St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Paul:

This is in regard to your 1847 cover and I request that you treat everything in it as strictly confidential. If I can prove that the cover is bad I feel sure that I could present the evidence to the Expert Committee of the P.F. and that they would rescind their certificate. In which event I believe John Fox would refund the price you paid him. If the cover is bad I know of no reason why you should stand the loss, and further, this cover came from the Sampson collection and I suppose John made plenty on that deal so he can better afford to stand the loss than you can. I don't know what you paid the P.F. for their examination but they sure did their very best to give you a correct opinion.

Today I received from Boggs all the photographs that they had made and they must have spent the entire fee that you paid them for these photo prints. These are from the confidential files of the P.F. and are not supposed to be shown to anyone outside of the Committee. Boggs requested that I do not disclose that he loaned them to me. They are all large size - 8 x 10 photographs and the man who made them sure knows his photography. They were taken thru the following filters: (1) Green - (2) Blue - (3) Red - (4) Ultra Violet (light) (5) Ultra Violet (dark) - (6) _____?_____ - (7) Infra-Red - (8) _____?_____. I wish that you could see these prints and I also wish that I could retain copies.

Paul - I think several of these prints prove conclusively that both stamps are canceled by the same grid and most important by the same red ink. It was on this evidence that the Committee formed their opinion (so Boggs told me) that the cover was genuine, in other words, I believe that this evidence proves that both stamps were applied and canceled at the same time. Thus the Committee felt convinced that the cover was genuine. However, they did not(?) take into consideration that this might have been a stampless cover to which some crook might have added the two stamps and canceled them both with a fake grid and the same red ink. I suppose the only way to definitely determine this point would be to carefully remove the 10¢ stamp and see if it shows a crease (the envelope does) and what is more important to find out if there is a "PAID" and "5" stamped on the envelope beneath the 10¢ stamp. Of course, a real smart crook would erase the "PAID" and "5" to destroy evidence of a stampless cover, but if there were such, and if they had been hand stamped I think I could bring them out by ultra-violet photography. What I would like to do is to carefully remove the 10¢ stamp and make this examination. I would remove it by wetting the inside of the envelope and I would avoid getting any water on the face of the envelope. I will replace the stamp in such a way that will leave no evidence that the stamp has been of this cover. If there is no evidence beneath the stamp I will then be glad to state that there is no evidence that these two stamps were not used originally on this cover, and I would be willing to sign it on the back as genuine "in my opinion."

#2. Mr. Paul C. Rohloff - Oct. 24, 1952.

Re - the bad points about this cover. The use was January 1851. In the lower left the routing is literally - "Per Steamer from New York Jan 8th." This is undoubtedly genuine, and it proves the French Calais marking is genuine because, this cover went to England by a Cunard Mail ship. The sailings were every other Wednesday from Boston and New York. For example, a Cunard mail ship sailed from Boston on Wednesday Jan. 1, 1851 - the next sailing was from New York on Wednesday Jan. 8th, 1851 (as per this routing). The next was from Boston on Wednesday Jan. 15th, etc., etc., etc.

A letter going to France at this period required the payment in the U. S. of 5¢ per 1/2 ounce, hence if this cover is genuine, it must have weighed over one ounce to require three rates or 3 x 5¢. Now the sum due in France (for carriage from the U.S. frontier to England and then to French destination) was handstamped as 15 decimes or a sum less than 30¢ in our money. To be more explicit, this "15" due marking tends to prove that no more than one rate, or 5¢ was paid in the U.S. That is the main stumbling block on this cover and the feature that would cause any well-informed student of postal markings to seriously question the cover could be genuine. Now if this letter did weigh over one ounce and not over one and a half ounces, do you know how much postage would have been due in France? The answer is - anywhere from 52 decimes (\$1.04) up to about 70 decimes (\$1.40) according to its actual weight in French grammes. Thus you can appreciate that the sum that was due in France disputes the supposition that a 15¢ pay was required in the U.S. - or figure it this way, if 15¢ was required in the U.S., then the French due of 15 decimes was an error and should have been between 52 and 70 decimes. The address is in a male handwriting(?) and surely he knew that 15¢ was too much to pay. However, if there is no evidence under the stamp then we can safely assume that the addressor did make a mistake and paid 15¢ when all he should have paid was 5¢.

For example, Paul, you have a 5¢ 1847 cover to Paris, France - the stamp is tied with a New York postmark of Nov 6 - "Per Asia" in upper left - the use in 1850. Here we have the same French due of "15" decimes. According to this cover with the same amount due, one does wonder why your 15¢ cover has 15¢ pay when apparently 5¢ would have been sufficient. I mention these points because until such a time as we can solve these problems and give the correct answers your 15¢ cover will be under suspicion and of course its value would naturally be in jeopardy.

Insshort - what is your decision - should I carefully remove the 10¢ stamp?

With every good wish, I am

Yours as ever,

Nov. 18, 1952.

Mr. Paul C. Rohloff,
Room 1603 - 22 West Monroe St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Paul:

Herewith your 5¢ plus 10¢ 1847 cover. I made a microfilm of the back of the cover and I will send a print to John Fox. No doubt he will be pleased to know that it passed every test to which I submitted it. Will you please send me the letter which was enclosed in this envelope, as I wish to make a photograph of it?

As I explained to you, I don't know why the writer put 15¢ on this letter when only apparently 5¢ was required under the U.S.-British Treaty. The French due shows that the letter apparently did not weigh over 1/2 ounce, hence only 5¢ was required to be prepaid for the U. S. postage. Either the sender paid 10¢ too much or the French due was not enough. Would you want me to write John Fox and explain the cover to him or just let the matter drop and send him a photograph of the back with my endorsement?

We got back home Sunday afternoon after a fine trip - bright sunshine all the way - both are still tired out and don't seem to be able to catch up on sleep.

It sure was fine to have Mildred and you with us in New York and I am sure we will never forget the occasion.

Our love and best wishes to you both.

As ever yours,



Henry W. Abbot Esq
Care of
Messrs. Green & Co



per Stearns fr. N.Y. }
Paris. 8th }

Paris
France

Per Green & Co



Handwritten signature or scribble

Vertical handwritten text or stamp

1847
57
107
ROHLOFF
B228

November 17, 1952

Mr. Wilton P. Moore
4529 Springfield Avenue
Philadelphia 43, Pa.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I return the cover submitted herewith. It is fake -- letter, postmarks, paper -- a complete fake. As such the Authentication Committee requests that it be removed from any possible circulation to confound others as it apparently confounded you. Destroy it, or stamp it "BOGUS" -- otherwise it may keep showing up as these things have a habit of doing.

Analysis of this cover as follows:

- (1) Postmark and "PAID" and grid are fakes. Macon never used a marking even remotely resembling these. Probably hand-painted in Europe.
- (2) The letter and address are entire forgeries. On March 10, 1865 no one could possibly predict that Lee would go to Appomattox and there was no information that a surrender was ahead.
- (3) The word "Censored" was never used at that period. "Examined" was always used. Further such a letter would be "examined" not by a Confederate officer, but at the Union lines.

It is a little astonishing that such a complete fake would not be apparent. In the friendliest spirit may we suggest that if you handle Confeds professionally that you avail yourself of the Dietz Postal History Book and the Dietz handbook and catalog, to check cancellations and historical items. The C.S.A. wants to pursue all means to shut off the circulation of spurious items.

If we have helped you any and although there is no charge by the Authentication Committee, many dealers do send a check now and then to Tom Crigler for the very thin C.S.A. treasury. Perhaps you would like to also. Tom and all of us will thank you.

Sincerely,

Lawrence L. Shenfield

Encl: Bogus Cover - Letter & P.M.
Macon GE PAID

C
O
P
Y

November 7, 1952

Authentication Committee
Confederate Stamp Alliance
General L.L. Shenfield, Chairman
40 Highland Circle
Bronxville, New York

Dear General Shenfield:

I have recently come into possession of what appears to me to be a most unusual Confederate stampless cover, and one about which I am seeking a little more information than is available to an amateur.

I have written to Mr. August Dietz, Sr., and he has referred me to you, and suggested that I send the cover to you for examination.

The cover appears to me to be a postmaster's provisional usage of the toen mark to indicate payment of postage, even though it is of a late era of the Confederacy. I have been hitherto unable to find out anything to indicate such a usage, and consequently am at a loss to know whether I have a common item or a unique one. I am much interested in knowing something about such a usage, as well as some indication as to its probable value.

I would appreciate any information you may be able to furnish me on these points.

I am enclosing the cover, together with a self-addressed stamped envelope containing registration postage for the return of the cover to me after its examination.

I am fully prepared to pay any fee that may be required to secure an opinion as to the genuineness of the usage and the approximate value of the cover.

Thank you in advance for your courtesy.

Sincerely,

Wilton P. Moore

2 encl. —
Confederate cover,
Self-addressed envelope

Nov. 24, 1952.

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

Dear Doc:

I caught a bad cold in New York and I suppose it was a good thing that we didn't try to make the trip up to New Hampshire as I am still trying to throw it off. I only took a light spring overcoat and it turned quite cold the middle of the week in New York and I stood down at Broadway and Fulton(?) one night at 5:30 for a half hour trying to get a taxi. I nearly froze and was chilled to the bone by a high cold wind. I took a big shot as soon as I got to the hotel and no doubt it did a lot of good. We will have to drive up next spring or summer and we will do so if possible.

My friend Poole took covers from your lot of \$4.75 and with a credit of \$2.00 on the imprint 3¢ '57 I am enclosing check for \$2.75. I am returning the balance of the covers amounting to \$7.50. He is a fine chap and I let him have the covers at your prices.

The two 3¢ plus 1¢ covers that you sent are very interesting. Of course, there is no way that I know of to tell whether such items are "Prepaid WAY" or Carriers, but I think there might be a clue at times.

In my opinion your Dubuque, Iowa to Des Moines cover is a "Prepaid Way cover into Dubuque." As far as I am aware, or that any records show, neither of these towns had any Carrier Service. On Way covers, when the 1¢ Way Fee was prepaid, they never took the trouble to mark the letter WAY as "WAY" had become to be regarded as a Due letter. I am inclined to regard the Old Point Comfort as a prepaid Carrier Delivery at New York City. The clue may be the fact that the letter has a street address. My guess is that this use was Sep. 1860 rather than 1861. I don't think that Old Point Comfort, Va. (Fortress Monroe) was ever in Confederate hands, but Sept. 1861 might have been too late for 1857 stamps. What is your opinion? Don't you think that the 1¢ stamp on this letter was intended and did pay the Carrier Delivery Fee at New York City?

Perry is so damn positive that prepayment of the delivery fee was not permitted and his attitude in the matter seems untenable. If the Department insisted that the collection or pick-up fee be prepaid by a 1¢ stamp why in the devil would they prohibit prepayment of the delivery fee? Does his position make sense to you?

Doc, I have no idea what covers like these are worth. I suppose the answer is - "all one can get" - As far as I am concerned I won't pay much, but when I get anything unusual (like these two), I put high prices on them, but some how or other, I never find any buyers.

I have seen 3¢ plus 1¢ into Charleston and Savannah but I classed them as "Prepaid Way" because they were addressed to small country towns. I have a record of a 3¢ plus 1¢ '57 into Old Point addressed to New York City (a street address) and I also have a record of one to a street address in Boston. Both of these I regarded as Carriers - Yours makes a third Old Point.

#2. Dr. Carroll Chase - Nov. 24, 1952.

I am returning your "Old Point" but I would like to send your Dubuque, Iowa out to Poole and ask him what he thinks of it. In case he would like to buy it what price do you want to charge him?

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

HOTEL



Commodore

42ND STREET AT LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
TELEPHONE MU 6-6000

Saturday - Nov. 22, 1952.

Dear Stan,

I have this on approval from
Sam Paige - Boston - Price 400.⁰⁰

If you approve it is my cover,
if not it is to be his cover.

I will be here until next Saturday
Nov. 29th leaving early that morning
for Boston. If you take long to
look it over I will be in Birmingham

Dec. 1st Monday.

We sure did enjoy Mildred
Do you very much. I'll write
about it later.

Sincerely

Sam

P.S. If N. G. you can return to Sam
Paige and notify me.

Postage enclosed \$2.00

Nov. 24, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
1/2 Commodore Hotel,
42nd at Lexington,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Em:

The 30¢ cover came late Sunday afternoon, and I am writing this early Monday and will get it in the P.O. around 9 A.M. You should get it tonight but the chances are you won't.

This cover was in the Doane - Green Sale of Nov. 4, 1942 and was Lot #123 - It was described as "two fine copies, one with minute tear" and was purchased by Eusticke for \$77.50. I suppose the "tear" must be very minute as I fail to see it. I believe that I questioned the cover at the time of the sale and so did Ezra but since that time I found evidence that indicates the cover is genuine. However, I want to make a thorough examination before giving it an okay. It was, of course, in the Seybold Sale in 1910, and sold for only \$6.75. If I find that it is genuine in every respect do you want me to run the risk of mailing it to you at the Commodore? If I find it is queer in any way, I will forward it direct to Paige.

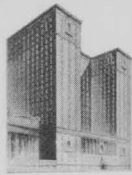
I had head cold developed after I got home and I have been miserable since last Thursday. Yes Em, we sure had a nice week in New York and one that we will never forget. We were lucky to have such fine weather.

Our best to Dorsey and you.

As ever yours,

P.S.--I don't think I ever condemned this cover but I was just a bit suspicious. I will look up my records.

HOTEL



Commodore

42ND STREET AT LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
TELEPHONE MU 6-6000

Sunday - Nov. 23 - 1952

Dear Stan -

You should be here at the A.S.D.A. this week-end. Many of your old friends are at that event. Saw Matt Neinken, Frank Hollobush, Haverbeck, etc. yesterday. Very large attendance.

This cover is from Harry Keffer - price [#]60.⁰⁰. It looks funny to me. He says its double rate. and to send it to you before buying.

Will you look it over for me and return to him if bad and to Birmingham if good and price not too high?

Sincerely
Eun.

HOTEL



Commodore

42ND STREET AT LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
TELEPHONE MU 6-6000

Tuesday All.
Nov. 25-1952

Dear Stan -

Your air special written Monday All.
mailed at 11 All., arrived General P.O. - N.Y. at
7 P.M., at Grand Central at 8, and was stamped
7:52 at Commodore & put under our room
door at 8:38. Not bad, eh?

I am replying this morning. I think you
are right. If the 30⁺ cover is good you had
better hold it until after I get home & write
you. I am glad it has not been "thumbed-down"
as yet and hope it can prove O.K.

Dorsey leaves Thursday morning for Washington
& then to Columbia, D.C. to visit the boys. I leave
here Sat. A.M. with Cy to Boston, leaving
there that night for home.

Sorry about the cold. I was afraid your
going hatless up here was bad. It would
give me bad sinus trouble.

Sincerely,
Eve.

HOTEL



Commodore

42ND STREET AT LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
TELEPHONE MU 6-6000

Tuesday night.
Nov. 25-1952.

Dear Stan -

Just talking over the phone to Ey about the 30⁺ cover. He can't recall if this cover from N. Y. to France is "reforwarded" back to New York or not. Neither can I.

But the description of Snybold & Doan ^{maybe} says it is forwarded back. Does this cover show that feature? If it does it is definitely the lot of Brey Doan's Melton Green Sale of 1942.

HOTEL



Commodore

42ND STREET AT LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
TELEPHONE MU 6-6000

Eijs notes on the cover in his Doane catalog say "This is questionable." He also never condemned it. In other words it has never been examined & passed on by any body as to good or bad.

J. W. Carby
Dun.

P.S. Seybold sale makes no mention of a "minute test". Percy was sometimes "over-particular" as you know.

Nov. 26, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
% Hotel Commodore,
42nd St. at Lexington,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Em:

Your two letters received today.

Re - the 30¢ 1869 cover - I have gone over this from every angle and I am positive it is genuine in every respect. I made a quartz photo and it did not show anything wrong. I have been unable to find the minute tear which Percy mentioned though I think I see what he took for a tear - this after a careful examination by my binocular microscope. Yes, the cover went to Paris - was undelivered and was sent back to New York. This was perfectly okay under the Treaty and later I will quote the Treaty Article to you.

I enclose a photo print made at the time of the Green - Doane Sale. I think that Eusticke sold this cover to Fitz Gore and Gore sold it to Hardy. In 1949, Larry Mason offered it to Phil Ward and Phil offered it to me at \$500 less 10%. I informed Ward it had been questioned at the time of the Green Sale so Ward promptly returned it to Mason. That is not the last that I heard of it, as Jessup wrote me last summer inquiring if I knew where the cover was at that time. I can't find my letter to him but I suppose I told him that I questioned the cover at the time of the Doane sale (Green). Is he still in New York? If so, don't tell him you have the cover as he will jump to the conclusion that I told him it was bad and told you it was good, thereby keeping him from getting it and enabling you to obtain it. Show this letter to Ezra. I will hold the cover and mail it to you on Saturday to Birmingham.

Re - the 10¢ cover to France. It is genuine but I can't imagine why it would be worth \$60. After all, it is just a 10¢ 1855 on cover and what is unusual about that? It is true that it weighed over half an ounce and required 2 x 5¢ but that is not extraordinary. I don't know why this cover would be worth over \$80.00. I am mailing it back to Harry Keffer today.

I haven't been able to get rid of the head cold but it is a bit better.

I am glad you met Don Haverbeck and others at the A.S.D.A. Show.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Nov. 26, 1952.

Mr. Harry Keffer,

1/ The Collector's Shop,

17 Broadway,

New Haven 11, Conn.

Dear Harry:

I am enclosing herewith a 10¢ 1855 cover which
Emmerson Krug sent me from New York and requested me to return to
you.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Enclosed: 10¢ 1855 - Type II on cover New Orleans Feb. ? 1857 - New York Feb. 18, '57 -
French 3 Mars 57 - To Paris - 16 decimes due.

Nov. 28, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Herewith the 30¢ 1869 cover. There is not a single thing suspicious about this that I can detect. Every point works out okay, including my quartz photograph, so I have signed it on the back, and if anyone questions my opinion, I am sure I could prove that I am right. I can't find any minute tear - Can you?

I have a photo of a cover just a few days earlier (to France) and it shows the same cancelation on the stamps.

I am sure you got a bargain.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S.-Re - forwarded back to New York. ART. XV of the U.S.-French Treaty of 1857 read (in part), quote: "Letters which cannot be delivered for any cause whatever, shall be returned on one part and the other, at the end of each month, and more frequently, if possible. xxxxxx Those which shall have been delivered prepaid to destination, or to the frontier of the corresponding office, shall be returned without charge or deduction." (unquote)

D. S. SCHANCK & SONS,

IMPORTERS OF

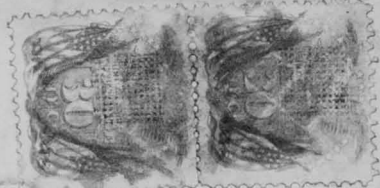
POLISHED PLATE,

GAR, WINDOW & PICTURE GLASS,

LENOX PLATE GLASS,

27 Chambers & 1 & 3 Reade Sts.

NEW YORK.



PD

Mr D. S. Schanck

~~Care Mrs. C. B. Norton~~

~~27 Chambers St
Paris~~

~~new York
Etatsunis
France~~

~~Yer
City of New York~~

If not called for within Ten Days, Postmaster please return.

B2411

By QUARTZ LAMP - F64 - 20 minutes + Nov 24
SENT BY E.C. KRUG - OFFERED TO 1952
Him By Sam Paige @ \$400.00

*CUT
for SBA*

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

November 28th, 1952.

Dr. Charles L. Roser,
629 South First Street,
Louisville 2, Kentucky.

*SBA
to make
anything like that
prob? May*

Dear Dr. Roser:

Thanks for yours of the 26th.

I got that Dallasburgh, Ky. cover to check over again, and here is a photostat of it. As you will see it isn't a very "pretty" thing, - and it certainly is a puzzler! I found out that there was a post office of that name in Owen County, Ky., and also that there was a Liberty Hill, in Iredell County, N.C., to which the cover is addressed. However, thus far no one has recognized this unusual "Paid" postmark, or come up with a satisfactory theory as to the cover. (X)

I "lifted" the 10¢ stamp slightly when I had it, and discovered what might be traces of another stamp previously there and pulled off. If that is so it might have been a U.S. 3¢ 1861 stamp, which was later replaced by this Confederate stamp. However, I saw no traces of a tying cancel underneath, which might have been on such a stamp. I concede that such a cancelation might have fallen on any such stamp, or that it was pen canceled.

entirely

From that point on a "solution" is a matter of pure theory. It just possibly might have been a "thru-the-lines" cover, mailed by one of Morgan's men on his way through Owen County, which I note is in the north-central part of the state, and that when it reached Confederate territory the U.S. stamp was torn off, the Confederate stamp put on and canceled there with this army-type of target killer. Also of course, it could just be faked, - the U.S. stamp replaced by the Confederate stamp and a fake cancel put on. However, - I'll concede that the latter does not seem too likely as a faker would probably not have used such a common stamp as this 10¢ #12.

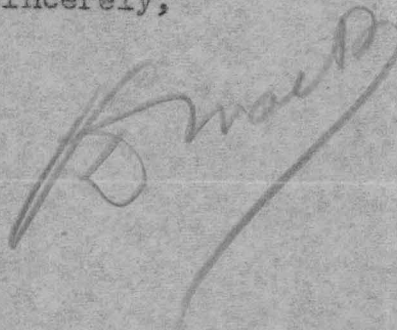
*in 1863 in
this Confed
stamp
was
available*

So, - it probably will remain in the "what-is-it" category. As such it is an interesting little item and I'll try and buy it for you at the sale if someone doesn't push it up to some silly price level. In the meanwhile I will pass a copy of the above remarks along to my associates, General Shenfield and Colonel Ashbrook, to see if they can come up with any more logical solution of the puzzle.

I'll be glad to have you tell me something of your work on Confederate packet boat markings and usages, when you get time to write. My friend Earl Antrim of Nampa, Idaho, has done quite some work on that subject, - have you corresponded with him? If not I suggest that you do so, as he will be in charge of revising that section of the new Dietz Catalog, and we will want to have all possible data in his hands shortly.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. MacB", written over a horizontal line.

MacB/HK

Dec. 1, 1952.

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

Dear Mac:

Thanks for the "Big Bourbon Binge." Probably more amusing than true, but if there is any basis of truth, I suppose I would never have heard about it. The writer gave the date as March 1862 and it seems to me that this would be out of line with historical facts.

By the way Mac, you have a credit with me, (as I recall) of five dollars. I'll send you a check if you wish.

Since writing the above I am in receipt of yours with copy of letter to Dr. Roser and the photostat of the "Dallasburg" cover. While the chances are that the cover is a fake, still there might be a remote possibility that it is genuine. Kirby Smith's army came up into Northern Kentucky to within five miles of Cincinnati and troops of cavalry spread out for miles on each side of the main army. It is possible that many post offices were taken over, but in considering covers, such as this one, I think that there is one main point to consider, viz - "How was the letter transmitted?" There was no mail route connecting a town in Owen County, Ky. with a town in the Confederacy. The "PAID" in the postmark is very unusual and causes one to go slow in condemning the thing. As you stated I don't suppose it would be possible to establish whether it is good or bad.

I return the photostat herewith and if you succeed in buying the cover I'll be glad to make a photograph and have a look at the cover itself.

With regards-

Cordially yours,

Nov. 24, 1952.

Mr. Frederic J. Grant,
515 South Lorraine Blvd.,
Los Angeles 5, Calif.

Dear Fred:

Enclosed herewith are photographs of the two covers that I mentioned in New York. Henry Meyer borrowed both so that I could photograph. I figured that the "6" on New Orleans cover had no rate significance other than a cancel, but the other cover has what appears to be a "Due 6."

Again the New Orleans. It was not deposited in the N.O. P.O., hence it is possible that the Natchez office did not recognize the N.O. stamp and marked it "Steam 6" but why 6? Could it have been regarded as a WAY cover of 5¢ plus 1¢ Way Fee, and no recognition of the N.O. stamp? If the other Star Die cover is a "Due 6" would the same explanation apply in your opinion?

I am enclosing a photo print of a third cover. This is an item that I have just acquired. This is a fold letter and the letter inside is headed "Georgetown Aug. 17, 1864." The 10¢ is canceled Richmond Sep 5 and the 2¢ which is over the 10¢ is postmarked Charleston, S.C., Sep. 24. I believe that this cover is an extremely interesting study and that the cover is quite a rarity. Here is the way I analyze it. The Georgetown is D.C. not S.C. and the letter went thru the Lines under separate cover to Richmond where the 10¢ stamp was applied and canceled - on "Sep 5." It was forwarded to Charleston but was not delivered. After an interval, it was advertised and for the advertised fee a large 2 was stamped at left. It is probable that "James C. Reynolds" was a prisoner at Fort Johnson. The advertised letter was noticed by him and he sent 4¢ to the Charleston P.O. - 2¢ for the advertising fee and 2¢ local postage to forward the letter to him.

I can offer this cover to you, subject to prior sale, at \$135.00. I enclose stamped envelope for reply.

It was nice meeting you in New York and I trust that on your next visit to Cincinnati that you will arrange to spend some time with me.

With best wishes -
44

Cordially yours,

Sunday, Nov. 30th

☞ Smoke Tree Ranch, Palm Springs, California ☞

Dear Stan -

I stayed East longer than I intended and was caught by the blizzard. Bad for flying!! Your letter greeted me on my arrival.

The two "Meyer" covers are interesting but they are pretty well explained by the information on Steam rates in the "Great Mail" (my copy is in town, unfortunately) The U.O. stamp did not do postal duty. We can be pretty sure of that. I think the letters were both mailed on a licensed mail packet boat. Finding the U.O. stamp would not go, the sender paid the fee. In the other case, the fee was not paid and the "Due 6" was applied. The U.O. stamp appears to be the first printing so the date would be early when many people - and some postmasters - were confused by the limitations of the U.O. stamps to do postal duty.

The other cover is very nice and I'll pay \$135⁰⁰ for it. You have it interpreted just as I would consider it, altho of course Mr. Reynolds might not necessarily have been a prisoner of war. The 2 is regular for Charleston and so is the grid cancelling it. Charleston also had an "Advertised Two" marking. I have a cover

☞ Smoke Tree Ranch, Palm Springs, California ☞

someplace that had a large 2 and a notation "by Parker's Express". Ever hear of this Express? Must have been some local post, but I've never found a record of it.

I was well pleased with my purchases in the Meroni Sale. Now I have to remount all my Packet collection.

Will certainly see you when I next come to Cincinnati.

Best Regards,

Fred Grant

Dec. 3, 1952.

Mr. Frederic J. Grant,
515 South Larraine Blvd.,
Los Angeles 5, Calif.

Dear Fred:

Thanks very much for yours of the 30th from Palm Springs.

Further regarding those two covers by Henry Meyer. I agree that the New Orleans stamp was not recognized and the letter rated as "Steam 6". I note that you consider this cover with the New Orleans stamp an early use - for example, probably in June or July 1861. The "Star Die" cover also shows a use of early July 1861 and it was also rated "Steam 6" at Vicksburg.

I have Huber's "Great Mail" before me but I seem unable to find a reference to Confederate "Steam" ratings for river mail. We know that the Postal Laws and Regulations of the U. S. were adopted by the Confederacy, and by referring to the U.S. P.L. & R. of 1859, I believe that "Sec. 178" of the "Regulations" furnishes the answer as to why these two letters were rated with 6¢ Due. I quote that section as follows:

"SEC. 178. In like manner, when practicable, all letters should be prepaid which are received by steamboats or other vessels not in the mail service, or carrying the mail with no route agent on board. When prepaid, the master of the vessel, if under contract to carry the mail, may receive one cent 'way' and if not under contract with the Department, two cents each from the postmaster in whose office he deposits them; and they should be delivered to their address without any charge beyond the amount prepaid. But if unpaid, they should be treated as SHIP LETTERS, and are chargeable as such with a postage of six cents, if delivered at the office at which the vessel shall arrive, and with two cents in addition to the ordinary rate of postage if destined to be conveyed by post to another place. In the latter case the master of the vessel is entitled to receive two cents a letter." (unquote)

It will be noted that the rate to a port of entry for a Ship Letter was 6¢ but if addressed to a distant P.O. from the port of entry the rate was only 5¢. (Regular postage 3¢ plus 2¢ ship fee).

The above law (and regulation) was in effect in the U.S. when the Confederate Congress met and adopted the U. S. Postal Laws and Regulations in February of 1861.

It is interesting to note, that the U. S. Congress corrected the above inequality in rates by an Act approved February 27, 1861. Sec. 9 of this Act provided "That upon every letter or packet brought into the United States, or carried from one port therein to another in any private ship or vessel, 5 cents if delivered at the post office where the same shall arrive, and if destined to be conveyed by post, 2 cents shall be added to the ordinary postage, etc., etc."

I believe that Confed covers showing this rating of "Steamboat 6" are extremely rare. In fact, if I ever saw any others than these two I do not recall them, but, of course, that may be due to my faulty memory. U. S. covers so rated are also extremely rare, that is, of the period 1856 to February 1861. Perhaps the reason is obvious, because prepayment on U. S. domestic letters was required after March 31, 1855,

#2.

Mr. Frederic J. Grant - Dec. 3, 1952.

and the forwarding of unpaid domestic letters was forbidden.

Re - the Meyer "Star Die" cover - I wonder where this originated?
Surely not from some place in the Confederacy but probably in some place up
the river from Natchez where the "Star Die" was legal postage.

I think that this is a very interesting cover.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Copy to
Henry Meyer
L.L. Shenfield

From the desk of

12/10/52


MR. VAN DYK MAC BRIDE

To Stan

Isn't this an interesting thing! Of course not new, but mighty useful. Make any notes from it you may wish, & then return it to me, please.

Hastily

Mac



Sam Dyk Mac Bride

744 BROAD STREET
NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

December 10th, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

Larry Shenfield has sent me your letter to him and a copy of the letter you wrote to Fred Grant, both on December 3rd, regarding the photographs (which I return herewith) of those two STEAM 6 covers which Henry Meyer submitted for comment.

They are indeed two remarkable covers, - like you it is the first time I have seen a STEAM 6 marking on any cover identified with the Confederacy. I note your interesting quotation from the postal laws of 1859, establishing such a rate, and I agree that it might have been so used in the Confederacy. However, apparently the amendments to the U.S. laws of February 27, 1861, making the rate 7¢ was quite promptly adopted in the South, for we are all familiar with the STEAM 7 handstamp which has occasionally turned up on Confederate covers.

I am, however, unable to understand why the 5¢ New Orleans stamp on the cover which went to Natchez was not "recognized" and therefore why that letter was marked with the STEAM 6 handstamp. If sent in June or July of 1861 as Fred Grant thinks, from New Orleans to Natchez, it would appear to have needed only an additional rating of one cent, - or two cents, - for traveling by steamboat.

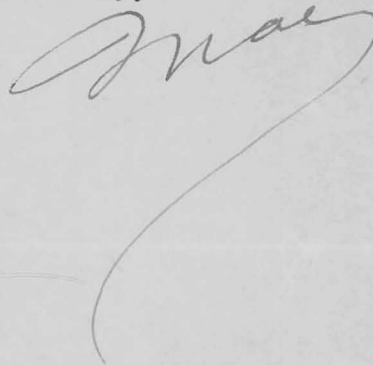
The rating on the star-die envelope is more easily understandable, as I think it was mailed in the Confederacy and the U.S. 3¢ envelope stamp was disregarded, as otherwise, I believe that would have been canceled or postmarked, probably at the point of mailing. As it was, I think it likely that the letter was mailed from some Confederate river point to Natchez as entirely unpaid, and in that case this rare "Steam Due 6" would have been the correct rating.

While writing let me also acknowledge your letter to me of December 1st. Just how that Dallasburgh, Ky. cover traveled, we probably will never know. However, it is now the property of Dr. Charles L. Roser of Louisville, Ky., who is an excellent student of Kentucky postal history, and he may come up with the right answer sometime. I have suggested to Dr. Roser that he write you further in this connection. What I would still like to know is whether that round Dallasburgh, Ky. postmark with PAID in its center, has ever been seen before, and if so in what period.

Yes, - I think I do have a "credit" with you of about \$5., - let it ride until you have some photographs to charge me with, or something else!

My best!

Sincerely,

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

MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L.Shenfield
F.J.Grant

DEC 17 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 ~~Van Dyk Mac Bride~~
744 Broad Street
NEWARK (2) N.J.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Dec. 17, 1952.

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

Dear Mac:

Yours of the 10th received. I was especially pleased to see the data on P. of W. I note that you have this labeled -

"Official Records - Series II - Vol. VIII Serial #121" - I never knew that the Government published the Civil War Records. Have you any information of this publication? If you know of anything pertaining to the Confederate postal service - Laws - Regulations - Rates, etc., in the above records, perhaps we could have such data microfilmed. Copies would be in the Congressional Library. This data that you sent and which I return herewith is indeed most interesting.

I note that in July 1862 there were 550 citizen prisoners at Camp Chase. No doubt the great percent of these were from this section of Northern Kentucky. By October 1862 the number had increased to 738. They were all "Southern sympathizers." By December 1862 the number had been cut to 28 - very interesting.

Now for your letter of the 10th. Mac, re - your remark - quote: "Apparently the amendments to the U.S. laws of February 27, 1861 making the rate 7¢ was quite promptly adopted in the south, for we are all familiar with the Steam 7 handstamp which has occasionally turned up on Confederate covers." I wonder if the Confederate P.O. Dept. changed any of their rates to conform to U.S. rates that were adopted as late as February 27, 1861? Prior to that date the C.S.A. Congress passed legislation fixing the rates in the Confederacy and as far as I am aware, the Ship rates as adopted by the Confederate Congress in February 1861, were as follows:

Letters if unpaid

If addressed to Port of Entry	-----	6¢
" " " an office)		
beyond a Port of Entry)	5¢ plus 2¢
then "Regular Postage plus)	10¢ " 2¢
2¢ Ship fee")	According to distance

Both of the two photographs you examined were addressed to the Port of Entry, Natchez, hence were rated @ 6¢ due. This was perfectly okay. But what about those that were rated "7" at New Orleans? I will discuss that later.

Re - the cover with the New Orleans stamp. Here we have two things to consider. The U.S. Law providing the above rates referred to unpaid letters. The Steam 6 at Natchez indicates that the New Orleans stamp was not recognized, hence the letter was rated as entirely unpaid and charged with a ship rate as above. Why wasn't the N.O. stamp recognized? I am sure I don't know the

#2. Mr. Van Dyk MacBride - Dec. 17, 1952.

correct answer but it may be that the Natchez postmaster decided not to recognize any of Riddell's stamps unless there was direct evidence that they were used from that office. Use from any other office was illegal - and there was no postmark on this letter indicating the use had been from that city. And this regardless of the fact, Riddell had evidently received 5¢ for his stamp. I suppose this theory is as good as any. Had this been an overweight letter requiring a double rate, I doubt very much if it would have been rated as 5¢ paid with 6¢ due - still it might. I am more inclined to the theory that the N.O. stamp was not recognized. Incidentally, Natchez figured as 284 miles from New Orleans in those days.

The important part of the other cover is that it was rated as "Steam 6" at Natchez. Of course, it is anyone's guess whether it originated in the Confederacy or somewhere up the river in loyal territory. I believe the river was still open to steamboat travel later than early in July and this letter showed an origin use of July 2, 1861. It was mailed direct to the boat and not at a post office.

Both covers are most unusual and I suppose, should be called to the attention of Earl Antrim but I haven't had the time to do so.

Regarding the New Orleans "STEAM 7". It seems to me that such letters should have been rated as "Steam 6" or "Ship 6" in accordance with U. S. laws in effect in February 1861. You have a cover with the "Steam 7" postmarked N.O. "Jul 29 1861." It also has a pen "Paid 5." What is the answer? Why did New Orleans rate one way and Natchez another? I am sure I don't know. Such a rating did not conform to the U.S. law of Feb. 27, 1861 - See Luff - page 391.

I was pleased to learn that the "Dallasburgh, Ky. cover is the property of Dr. Roser. No doubt he will write me about it and I hope he will be able to turn up something on it.

Okay on that credit - just check against it whenever you wish.

With Holiday Greetings -

Sincerely yours,

Copy to
L.L. Shenfield

(25-33)

Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield, Inc.

ADVERTISING

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

December 9, 1952

Dear Stan:

Thanks for the two photo prints, together with your most interesting letter to Fred Grant. You did your usual thorough job in digging up Section 178 which refers to this rate of 6¢. Now there's a peculiar thing about this cover -- that is, why was the 5¢ New Orleans not recognized? It must have been because of a hue and cry that went up at the time from postmasters up and down the river that New Orleans stamps were being used from their post offices instead of the sender purchasing stamps from them. This of course resulted in a loss of revenue to them and a gain to the New Orleans post office.

One way Riddell could try to dissuade companies up and down the river from using New Orleans stamps was to fail to recognize them when they passed through the New Orleans post office for delivery to river points. Of course you see what I am getting at -- this could account for the use of the Paid N.O.P.O. 5¢ cancel slapped over New Orleans stamps on covers originating from outside New Orleans. Doesn't it seem silly that when an adhesive stamp says Paid 5¢ that Riddell would use such a hand-stamp if the stamp were recognized. If this theory held water, that would account for the use of the hand-stamp on covers bearing adhesives. What do you think of this?

You remarked in your letter that the rate went to 7¢ in February of '61. That would probably account for the use of the hand-stamps Steam 7 which are so frequently seen. In other words, the New Orleans post office kept apace of the changes in U.S. laws when they knew about them.

To answer your question -- I have never seen a Steam 6 before these examples. I believe the star die cover originated at some river point where it was supposed that being an envelope it could be carried outside the mail. However, being a U.S. envelope with a letter mailed about July 2, 1861, it was not recognized at New Orleans -- hence the Due 6. Do you agree with this?

On your letter to Crigler -- I really think we should raise the dues to the C.S.A. and separate the men from the boys. I'd be willing to lose a few members but somehow I think we would make them up. We've got to get this C.S.A. out of this hand-to-mouth situation.

(over please)

P.S. I enclose a cover that was left over from some of my stampless U.S. If it's of moderate interest to you, keep it please. It has some pretty postmarks.

Best regards,

Ray

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

P.P.S. I enclose the Richmond cancels from April 19th through April 23rd inclusive. These are the critical days for early dates of issue on the Frameline and the TEN Cents. It is the result of a long study of these strange dates in these critical days. I am sure it is correct and can be made part of the record.

LLS

A189

H. F. Sargent
W. S. Sargent
72

sent by Mr. Sargent myself (summer)

STEAM

June 6



G. M. Davis Esq.

By Henry Meyer
1/5-52

Katchery
Miss

Nothing on Back

A189

GOODRICH & CO.

STEAM



Wholesale Grocers & Commission

Miss R. Mandeville
Care of N. D. Mandeville Esq.

Black

By Henry Meyer

Mary L. Sargent
Katchery
Miss

NEW ORLEANS.

A189

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-5667

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4026 4027 4028
Submitted By P.F. 1/28-52
Sec S.B. 25 - P. 34 -
B243 - AT 14 - Red
F128 - 38 Sec
FAKE
JA - Was
43L4

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

November 28, 1952

Dear Stan:

We are filling in here for Win as you know. The latest reports are very encouraging. He has been out of oxygen for almost a week now - restless but is being kept completely quiet with no visitors for a good long spell yet.

I hate to pile it on, but I have another patient on my hands. This one being a complete zany, hunkster, Henry Edward Abt, who collapsed on his trip and is now under close observation in the New York Hospital.

We are sending you herewith three items for the next meeting, knowing your profound knowledge of 1¢, 1851s, and would appreciate your writing your opinions on each one of the enclosed sheets and mailing them back so that we may have them in time for the December 8th meeting. Regarding Certificate #3866, I spoke to John Fox during the ASDA Show and informed him that the Committee has received new information so that if he wanted to submit it for reconsideration the Committee would be glad to re-examine their original certificate. He advised me that the cover in question is in England but he will try to call it back to follow my opinion.

Incidentally, Mr. Steinway is still laid up being unable to shake off his illness which was quite rampant while you were here.

Before closing, let me say again that the whole Committee enjoyed meeting you. We were ill at ease because we had never operated under such unfavorable circumstances. We had none of our reference material before us, very little of our literature or photographs, so that I am sure you received the unfortunate impression that we are no students but look at everything with snap judgments. Please be assured that since then every item has been reconsidered, having before us many control copies and many of the opinions that you heard that night, have been changed before being placed on the certificate.

With kind personal regards and I hope that we can have another reunion soon and that Win will definitely be with us then, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

Henry M. Goodkind
Henry M. Goodkind, Secretary

hmg/1
enc1.

Dec. 4, 1952.

Mr. Henry M. Goodkind,
The Philatelic Foundation,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Henry:

Herewith Numbers 4026 - 4027 and 4028 as per yours of the 28th. With #4028 I am including two of my drawings of Reliefs "E" and "F" that were used on the One Cent Plate 4. #4028 is 43L4 but this position on the plate did not have bottom ornaments near as complete as the "E" diagram herewith. This job of painting is rather crude.

I was pleased to learn that Win continues to improve and I have little doubt that his confinement is hard to take.

I had a letter early this week from Henry Abt from his hospital and I hope that we will not have any more such cases any time soon.

I was pleased to learn that the Committee will again give a bit of attention to Certificate #3866 about which I wrote you recently.

Just as soon as I can find some time I would like to present some new data on Certificate #2237 - this - my cover with the 24¢ and 10¢ 1869 to Lima, Peru from Havana, Cuba via New York in the first quarter of 1870. Incidentally, I turned this cover over to Win, together with the certificate, when he was here last summer and took no receipt for it. Will you be so kind as to advise me if you have it.

May I again assure you that it was a pleasure to spend an evening with the Committee, and to become acquainted with each one including you. And may I add that the little lunch that we had together is a most pleasant memory.

I was sorry to learn that Mr. Steinway was still laid up but I trust that by this time he has fully recovered.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

#4026 - 1¢ 1857 - Is it #19?

This is a 1¢ 1857 - Type IA - S.U.S. #19 - a stamp from the bottom row of Plate 4 Relief "F"
At some time in the past I signed this stamp on the back as a Type IA -
This is not a GOOD example of the Type IA because of Perforation damage.

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Dec. 3, 1952.

} 95RA

#4027 - 1¢ 1857 - Is it #19

This is a 1¢ 1857 Type IA - S.U.S. #19.
A stamp from the bottom row of Plate four - Relief "F"
This is not a GOOD example of the Type IA because of perforation damage.

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Dec 3, 1952

} 94RA

#4028 - 1¢ '51 - Is it No. 6?

This stamp is not a Type IA - S.U.S. no. 6, but it is a FAKE, a painting.
The stamp originally was a Type IIIA from Plate 4 - position on plate
• 43L4 - This was a Relief "E" position. The faker painted the lower ornaments
in an effort to convert the stamp to a Type IA. This stamp was Lot 76 in a
sale by Stolow July 9-10, 1952 and was reported to have sold @ \$200.00
A IIIA from Plate 4 cats @ \$47.50.

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Dec. 3, 1952.

} 43L4



4026

4027

4028

Submitted By P.F. 11/28-52
See S.B. 25 - P. 34 -

FAKE

1A - Was

B 243 -

1A1A - Red
F128 - 38 Sec

43L4

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

#4028 - 1451 - Is it N:6?

- This Stamp Is Not A Type IA - S.U.S. N:6, But It Is A FAKE "A PAINTING."

The Stamp Originally Was A Type III A From Plate 4 - Position on Plate 43L4 - This Was A

- Relief "E" Position. The Faker Painted The Lower Ornaments In An Effort To Convert The Stamp To A Type IA. This Stamp Was Lot 76 In A Sale By Stolow July 9-10, 1952 And Was

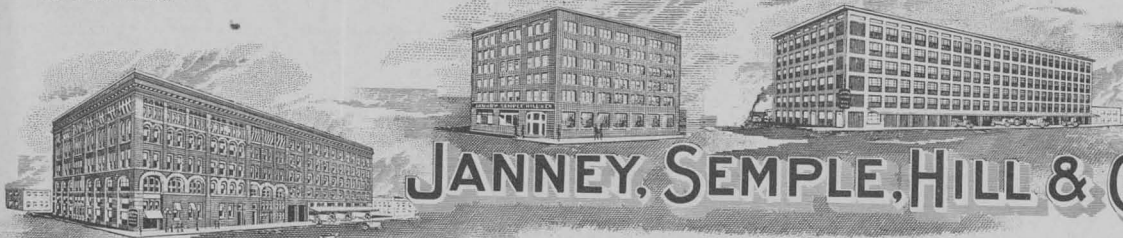
- Reported To Have Sold @ \$200⁰⁰ A III A From Pl. 4 Cots @ \$47⁵⁰

William B. ...
Dec 3 1952

C79

C
79

SEE S.B. 2:5 PAGE 34



JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & Co.

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

12-2-52

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A. E. COX - S. J. MIROCHA
P. L. COSGRAVE



Dear Stan;

Issue #21 arrived this morning a very thorough expose of some fraudulent covers. You have asked for my comments and here they are.

If I were you I would let the Hollowbush matter drop where it is. You have rendered your friends who take your service a big favor, you are on record the cover in question is not genuine and no dealer or auction house with any standing would handle the cover if it ever came up for sale. Besides this, it is my understanding that all of your files will someday become the property of the Foundation which will include your Service, so the information is available to all and as they issued a certificate that the 5c Brick Red has been added, your opinion has been validated. By the way did you notice the circle around the New Orleans postmark? How it is broken in four places, particularly near the O and A and the breaks appear to be in the same position as the postmark on the 10c indicating whoever created the circle did not observe the break was due to the cancel breaking over the stamp and then on to the envelope. You probably have but I want to call it to your attention.

Enclosed is a strip of three 5c 57 type I on a cover from Jamet received this morning. Do you think that this position can be determined from the photo of the India proof and can we use vertical strips of the 57s type I to aid us in the plating.

I received a nice letter from Harry Lindquist and he will run my ad and give us a good story to help us obtain the material we need to work with.

My Best Regards.

Henry Hill

Dec. 4, 1952.

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

Dear Henry:

Thanks very much for yours of the 2nd with comment on my current Service Issue. I would not have pursued the Hollowbush incident as far as I did had it not been for the fear that the date of this cover might get a listing in the S.U.S. That has been the intention of Sloane and Hollowbush right along. And once a listing is made in the S.U.S. it is almost impossible to get it removed. With the date listed in the S.U.S. it would be easy to find a buyer for the cover. This is the sole reason why I tried to give as much publicity to the cover as possible. Sloane and Hollowbush are very close friends and have been for years. I am not on friendly terms with Sloane and this accounts for some of the background.

Re - the fake New Orleans postmark on the Hollowbush cover. Yes, I noticed the four breaks in the outer circle but these are not on the genuine strikes on the 10¢ strip. On the fake there are three breaks, viz: over the "E" of New
" " "O" " Orleans
" " "A" " "

I examined these very carefully when I had the cover and was convinced that these did not exist on the genuine strikes, nor do they show on the fake strikes on the Meroni cover. I hope that these breaks are consistent and will help me identify them on other covers.

Herewith the vertical 5¢ '57 Brown, Type I - I note your reference to proofs of the Type I but as far as I am aware no full pane proofs exist from Plate One. We have photos of the full panes - proofs made in 1875 - of Plate 2 - the Type II, but no full pane proofs from Plate One. It would be wonderful if such was in existence.

Regarding this strip. It is rather interesting and it would be nice to know if it came from the three top rows of the plate. What I would like to know is how many reliefs were used and their order. There is a guide dot at upper right but apparently none on the other two stamps. There is also a dot on the center line - of the top stamp. The strip is not a fine impression but I think it shows three different reliefs. The top stamp is a rather blurred print indicating, perhaps, a top row. I, therefore, suspect this might be 10L1 - 20L1 - 30L1. I made a photo for future reference.

Perhaps the publicity in STAMPS will bring in some interesting material.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Type I - Brown - Use To France From Phila. Sep 11 1860 - By
AFRICA - See S. D. N^o 25 - p-35 - 18 This 102-204-304

B244 - Green - 15 - F128
50 Sec - 12/4 - 52

Gene

HOTEL



Commodore

42ND STREET AT LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
TELEPHONE MU 6-6000

Birmingham, Alabama.
Wednesday P.M. 12/3/52.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
83 No Ft Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

I sure enjoyed our talk last night and was glad your cold was better. These are tricky days with colds, so many being sick around here with them. My cook, for example, can hardly drag around.

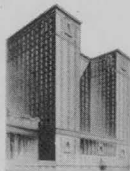
Here is the 5¢ orange brown (?) I told you about and also a 15¢ cover you saw but wanted another look at home. This O.B(?) is a match, if my eyes are still at all good for the Canary cover I have. It has a cancel of York of New York which I guess you will say is genuine.

Also I enclose the photo of my newly acquired 30¢ cover. Many and much thanks until better paid for the work you did on it.

MORRISON
Sincerely,

P.S. We have just signed a lease on a place here in Birmingham. I hope it will keep me at home for some time, maybe until I get ready to quit travelling which is not too far away.

HOTEL



Commodore

42ND STREET AT LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
TELEPHONE MU 6-6000

P.S. As I started out the door with this letter the postman came by and gave me a letter from Ez which had some lots from Bob Laurencé's sale of Monday. None amounted to much save this one which I want your opinion on.

It is either a very beautiful type III and well worth the \$150.00 it is to cost or else it is a damaged single not worth the paper it is printed on. Do you think the line at the bottom has been monkeyed with, that is erased? Ez and I just didn't know. So I had him buy it and told him not to pay for it if it was N.G. and I would return it to him and he can give it back to Bob. But if you can plate it as a III, isn't it a beauty?

Await your verdict.

Dec. 5, 1952.

Mr. Emerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Re - your Air Registered Special Delivery of the 3rd.

5¢ 1857 Orange Brown Type II - I believe this has a genuine New York postmark and that the use was in August of 1861. The color is exceptionally good and better than the copy on your old cover - that is, it is a lighter shade with more yellow in it. I signed this copy on the back and included a card with it. I also put it in tetro and found it sound in every way. I see nothing wrong with the perforations.

1¢ 1851 - Superb copy of Type III - Genuine in every respect - See card accompanying stamp. I have signed the copy on back. This is probably 66L4 but I am not absolutely sure as my record of this position is not good. However, there is no doubt but what the wide break in the bottom line is absolutely genuine and has not been tampered with in any way whatsoever. This is really a wonderful copy of a Plate 4, Type III.

15¢ 1869 cover - Re - this cover - Why the red cancel? As far as I am aware New Orleans didn't use a red cancel in 1869. On the other hand, there is no evidence that the year dates have been changed, so if this 15¢ stamp was not used - what was used? I have photos of other covers from this same correspondence used in November 1869 to Bordeaux - the nearest being Nov. 3, 1869 - but none on Nov. 1, 1869. The French marking is so blurred it cannot be read, but it surely reads, "Amer Pkt" and if so, the "6" in the N.Y. postmark is correct. It is possible the stamp missed cancelation at New Orleans and was canceled at New York. Nov. 1, in 1869 fell on Monday but I haven't a list of the sailings for that month. I would hesitate to sign the cover as genuine but I would not condemn it. My guess is that the stamp was used on the cover. After all, I don't think it is a very attractive cover and one that wouldn't add much to your collection. On this I am sure you agree 100%.

Glad to report I am entirely over my head cold but it was hard to shake off.

I note you have signed up for a new plant in Birmingham and that this new project will keep you more at home in the next few months.

Our regards

Yours as ever,

Burien, Wash.

Nov. 27, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Yours of Nov. 21st received.
Your remarks about the Meroni sale and the high prices realized fit in with the usual pattern when "Big Name" collections go on the block. Such collections contain many desirable items but past experience has taught me it is nearly impossible to purchase any of them.

Re - the \$2.40 zeppelin fake. I'm not a subscriber to Stamps and so didn't see Sloan's article. I would like very much to obtain a copy of the fake. Also any further information regarding it that may become available.

Re the 1815-16 War Rate. It would be interesting to obtain a drop letter of this period to see how they were rated. Since you have never even seen one they must indeed be very scarce. Since last writing, you some War Rate covers were offered to me. Among them was the cover I am enclosing herewith. I'm at a loss to explain the 9 cent rate (evidently 6+3) while the minimum rate was 8+4 (single rate for distance not exceeding 40 miles). The only 6+3 rate I've seen previously was the Ship rate on the photo-print of the "Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letter" you sent me. I certainly would appreciate an explanation of this rate.

Re - corn meal. I'm quite fond of corn bread, corn cakes, and last but not least fried corn meal mush. So far as I know the only corn meal available here is the ordinary store variety. If you send some meal, perhaps Mrs. Ashbrook would be kind enough to include her receipts for corn bread and corn cakes. Thank you for your kind thought.

Did your locality get caught in the snow storm? We have had about a week of foggy weather with temperature around freezing at night. Still no rain to speak of.

All very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,
D. V. Mc. Lury.

Dec. 3, 1952.

Mr. D. N. McInroy,
16003 - 15th Ave., S.W.,
Seattle 661 Wash.

Dear Mr. McInroy:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 27th. This is quite an interesting little cover and one that is rather unusual. The key to it is the absence of a New York postmark. Though it originated at New York, it was not placed in the Post Office there, but was handed to a captain of a non-contract mail vessel. When it reached Albany it was rated as a "Ship Letter" with a rate of "Ship 6" plus 50%. Thus you can appreciate why it is quite unusual. The Albany P.O. didn't even postmark it, though they should have done so. I believe that Albany is about 144 miles by river from New York. Had it been placed in the New York P.O. it would have been rated at 15¢. Thus the U.S. P.O.D. was defrauded of 6¢. There was a lot of this in the early days of the Department, clear up to and after the Civil War.

So far I have not been able to acquire or even borrow a copy of the Zeppelin fake and present prospects of obtaining a copy seem remote. And further, I loaned the Sloane article that appeared in STAMPS to someone and they never returned it and I do not have a duplicate. I will write Lindquist to send me a duplicate of the number in which it appeared and if I obtain it I will loan it to you.

I will have some cornmeal sent to Mrs. McInroy and Mrs. Ashbrook will send her some receipts - (Kentucky cornbread). Griddle cakes and molasses is awfully good eating, especially with lots of butter.

We had a lot of snow here last Saturday - the first of the season, also about three inches Monday night, but it turned warm yesterday (38) and most of it has melted. I suppose we will have real winter from this time on until the middle of February.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Dec. 8, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 4th, mailed at Boston on the 5th - this was air resitered - but it didn't reach me until today, the 8th, though it is backstamped, Newport, the 6th. It laid in the Newport Office from Saturday until this morning - Fort Thomas is a branch of the Newport Office. Whenever you wish a letter to reach me without delay, send it Air Special Delivery. Our office out here closes at noon on Saturday, so I doubt if I could have been able to get this cover back in the mail registered to you in time Saturday even had it been delivered to me before noon.

Re - this cover. In March 1883 the single rate to France was 5¢ and the registered fee was 10¢ - per 1/2 ounce. It don't look like this letter weighed over 1/2 ounce, so why is there more than 15¢ postage on this letter? You can figure it out for yourself - Do you believe this letter was a 16 x 5¢ plus 10¢? I don't. This looks like some of Zareski's work and believe me, he was no slouch at work such as this. I made a photograph and if you have no objection, I will use it in my next Service. If you have any objections let me know.

My fee is \$2.50 plus 36¢ - \$2.86.

I am sure that you will admit that the paint tie of the N.Y. postmark in the stamp is a pretty bum job.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

P.S. I will reply to your letter later.

Jack E. Malesworth

102 Beacon
Boston 16, Massachusetts



VIA AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

SPECIAL DELIVERY
VIA AIR MAIL

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

NEWPORT K.I.
DEC 13
1 30 PM
1952
REC'D

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 12, 1952

Dear Stan,

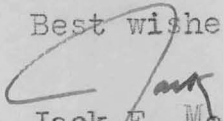
My thanks for your prompt reply on the 90¢ banknote cover. After you point it out, I can readily see that it is an added stamp, but frankly did not suspect it originally so will have to be more cautious in the future. I'm going to see what I can do to trace its origin and will let you know. My check for \$2.86 enclosed.

Also enclosed is a stamp supposed to be a Type III which I would appreciate your checking and signing on the reverse.

I shall look forward to your comments on my last letter with interest.

Best wishes,

JEM/m


Jack E. Molesworth

P.S. It is quite o.k. to put the 90¢ Banknote cover in your Special Service Report.

DEC 14 1952

Signed This On The Back And Returned
This Date (Sunday) By AIR MAIL - Not
Registered S.B.A.

Dec. 14, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 1¢ 1857 as per yours of the 12th. This is
a Type III and I have signed it as such on the back.

Thanks for permission to use the 90¢ Bank Note cover in
my Service.

With Season's Greetings

Cordially yours,

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 19, 1952

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

Dear Stan,

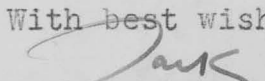
Many thanks for your signing the back of the 1¢ 1857 Type III.

I also appreciate your forwarding the enclosed copy of the letter which you wrote to the P. F. I will be very interested in knowing what they may reply.

I appreciate very much your advice as to John Fox and I shall be extremely careful in making any critical comments, the motives for which might be easily misunderstood.

The 90¢ Banknote cover which I sent you came from the last Herst auction. I did not mention this at the time it was sent, knowing that your relationship with Herst has not been the best in view of the controversy concerning the cancellation book. However, he seems to feel that your opinion of him may have had something to do with your adverse opinion on this cover. I personally feel that he has no basis whatsoever for this opinion but would appreciate your advising if you were aware that this cover came from this auction before you wrote me your opinion on it. I would like to be able to tell him that you had no knowledge whatsoever of its source if such be the case. I am personally convinced from my own examination that it is just as you say, but apparently he is not so easily convinced. There is no problem as far as his accepting its return. I merely would like to be able to express to him that your opinion was based on the merits of the cover and was definitely not prejudiced by its source. Whether or not you mention in your special service note that the cover came from the Herst auction is not important to me. If it is not to you, I believe your not mentioning its source might serve to preclude further bad feelings with Herst. Use your own judgment on it.

With best wishes,


Jack E. Molesworth

Dec. 23, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

I have yours of the 19th regarding the 90¢ cover. I can assure you that I never saw this cover before you sent it to me, nor did I have any knowledge from whom you obtained it.

I have nothing whatsoever against Herman Herst. It certainly is none of my business that he saw fit to associate his name with the most notorious philatelic faker in Europe, namely, M. Zareski of Paris. I make no bones of naming Zareski as a crook and a cheat and if anyone doubts that Zareski manipulates and fakes 19th Century covers, all he has to do is to inquire of any honest dealer in Paris. I have written Zareski on several occasions and accused him of faking certain covers that I called to his attention.

Herst knows damn well that my reputation in American Philately is above reproach and that I would be the last person in the world to give an adverse opinion on a philatelic item just because I didn't like the owner. Such stuff is silly, ridiculous and unworthy of consideration.

If Herst has the idea that I have any ill feeling against him, he is absolutely wrong. If such was the case I would have publicly condemned the so-called Herst-Zareski book. I never lifted a finger to hamper the sale, even had I been able, which I doubt. Part hurt himself when he associated his name with that of Zareski and in view of this, I can state very frankly that I, like a lot of others, could hardly have the same confidence in him, but I would not do anything to harm him in any way.

Sincerely yours,

(25-38)

DON H. SILSBY, M. D.
324-326 LANDERS BLDG.
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

December 9, 1952

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

My dear Stan:

You wanted to know what I thought of the last number of your Special Service. I thought it was just fine. It was interesting and informative. Too bad it couldn't be published.

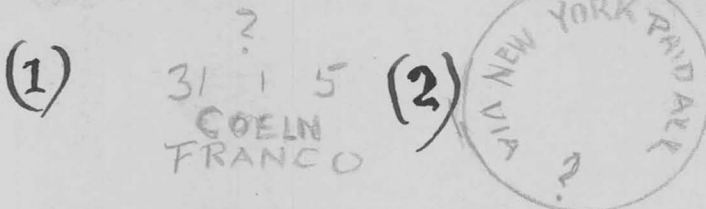
We had a fine trip to College Station, Texas. My frames were placed in the new Student Center building at Texas A. & M. College for three days. The evening of the last day they had the banquet in the same building. They have a real live stamp club there at the college. Every one seemed to enjoy the show.

I am enclosing two covers which I need a little help with.

(1) The Italy "1869" shows a rubber stamp with four lines in red. Can you make out the top line? Can you tell me what this marking means?

(2) The 12¢ 1873 cover has a red "New York Paid all" at the top of the circle. The bottom wording starts with "Via". Have you any idea what the rest of it would be?

Here are rough drawings of the markings referred to:



Lela joins me in sending love to all.

Doc

Dec. 12, 1952.

Dr. Don H. Silsby,
324-26 Landers Bldg.,
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 9th.

19¢ to Rome in January 1870, from Baltimore. The rate is correct and in my opinion, this cover is genuine in all respects. With the cover I include two rough tracings of two of the postal markings. The "4" is our credit to the Italian P.O.D. and was U.S. applied. The P.D. was applied at Rome and indicated Paid. The blue markings were applied at Coeln - (Cologne, Prussia). This 19¢ rate was by Prussian Closed Mail, that is, in sealed bags thru England.

12¢ to Switzerland in Jan. 1874 from Chicago. This went via England and the rate was 10¢, not 12¢. However, the cover appears to be genuine and I suppose the sender overpaid the rate by 2¢. I enclose a tracing of the indistinct postmark, which literally reads, "Via England and Ostend."

We note that you had an enjoyable trip to Texas, and we both hope that you have been perfectly well ever since your visit with us.

Mildred joins me in love to Lela and you, and may you both have a most Enjoyable Christmas.

Cordially yours,

(25-39)

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

Dec. 10th, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

A dealer who sells foreign stamps just sent me the enclosed; how he got it I don't know.

It is ex-Knapp and he paid \$600.00 for it and Ackerman that much or more. It costs us \$500.00, do you think that we can do anything with it?

If you think it hopeless send it back to me right away so that it reaches me before the 15th and if you think we can do anything with it, keep it for I have it on approval.

The reason for this Dec. 15th date is that I am going to try to get away with the family and go to Florida. Will leave here on the 20th and will be back on the 3rd or 4th.

I do not know for sure where we are going to stop but very likely with Edson Fifield, 1500 N. Ocean Boulevard, Pompano Beach, Florida.

Sincerely,


Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

Dec. 12, 1952.

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

Dear Ezra:

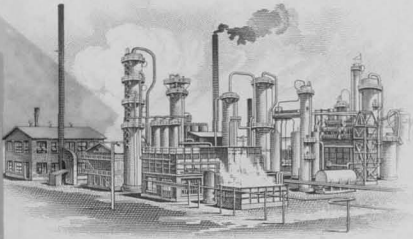
Herewith the Hawaii cover which did not arrive until late this afternoon. Mails will be slow from now until after the holidays. I regret that I have no one who might be interested in the cover. I think the condition is lousy and I wouldn't advise any friend of mine to pay a big price for it. Thanks just the same.

I am rushing this back to you and I will reply to your letter later.

Note you are taking the family down to Florida - that sure is fine. I suppose you are driving.

Regards.

Yours etc.,



PHONE 125

CRYSTAL *Refining Company* OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

~~CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN~~

Home address,
Ionia, Michigan.
December 12, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

Got the enclosed cover with lovely 5¢ 1856 tied by New Orleans cancel, in the Sam Paige sale of December 6th for \$93.00. I thought it was cheap. It sold in Dan Kelleher's sale of November 30, 1951 for \$97.50. It looks OK to me, Stan, but I'm suspicious of these early covers now, and want you to look it over and if OK in every respect, please sign it on the back with your guarantee and signature, and I won't pay Paige until I hear from you. The New Orleans cancel looks different than most that I have seen.

Received copy of letter you wrote Harold regarding the 1847 cover with the 5¢ and 10¢. Am sure he would be interested in this.

Rene and Joan have both been ill of late - Joan says she only weighs 107 pounds and thinks she may have to drop out of school for a year. Rene has had a terrible cold for three weeks and can't shake it. Will try and get her to go south for a month after the holidays. Joan will be home next Friday for Xmas and we hope to get some meat back on her frame, but she smokes all the time - like an old boiler with the flues burned out - I know if she would stop smoking she would gain weight. Says she has a craving for tobacco and probably does too, but I told her to take up chewing tobacco - it is less harmful.

Regards and the compliments of the Season.

Sincerely,

Jack
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/1

Rene sends her best to all.

Dec. 16, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 12th received. I am terribly busy so will make this brief. I return the 5¢ 1856 cover which I have signed on the back. The memo which I include with it should add a lot of value to the cover. I state should but nevertheless this is really a superb item and no doubt Henry Hill would be glad to take it off your hands at a substantial profit. No doubt Dan's description in the Chase sale was partly responsible for the high price. It was a bit misleading. I could not get the auction covering in this envelope.

Mildred and I were sorry to learn that Rene is still battling that cold. The type that is around this year seems awfully hard to cure.

I know you both will enjoy having the girls home for Xmas.

Our best to you all.

Merry Christmas

As ever yours,

P.S.--My thanks for the fee.

(25-41)

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

Dec. 11th, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

Have your air mail letter. For once we got good service.

Thanks for the dope on the 7R1E cover. This is all I needed.

With reference to the two lots in the Harmer sale. I have already paid for them of course. I think I bought one for Em and one for Ted Gore. I cannot recall. Both Em and Ted looked at the covers so I was not as careful as I should have been. I will look at them when they come back and see if I can tell what is wrong with them, although your tipping me off gives me something to go on.

Glad your trip to Florida is going to materialize but I will believe it when you get down there so be sure to send me a card.

Re the 3¢ stamp, I sent you. Isn't that the color that I have on cover that you told me about. I will keep watching for more like it and if I ever see any I will let you know.

Wishing you all the joys of the Season.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

P.S. I bought the enclosed as is for \$55.00 for it is unusual to have strikes of both the St. Joseph and Denver on the same cover. Do you think there is any chance that that stamp grew on the cover. It is bad enough to be good.

Dec. 16, 1952.

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

Dear Ez:

Mails are awfully slow so I will try to get this to you before you leave for Florida. Have a fine trip and try to get some rest. I think you have been working too hard and need it.

Yes, I read the editorial by Linn and wondered. I think what he wrote you was his true opinion and what he published was for public consumption.

I will send you a photo of the 3¢ plus 1¢ '61 cover.

Re - color slides by flash. I think the brand of the flash has a lot to do with results - also another point - a lot depends on who develops color slides. I am sure Rochester does better work than Chicago - I have been sending to Chicago but no more.

I enclose copy of a letter that I wrote Goodkind. Let me know what you think of it. They should make Zareski a member of the Expert Committee. He knows far more about 19th century covers than anyone on their Committee. That is a fact, not a fairy tale.

Herewith the 3¢ 1857 cover as per yours of the 11th. In my opinion this 3¢ stamp was not used originally on this cover. The back stamp shows the receipt by the Express Company on Dec. 19 - the St. Joe postmark shows mailing date it left the U. S. Post Office. I doubt if this is very unusual at this particular period. If you are in doubt about the 5¢ stamp send the cover back after your return and I will make a minute examination.

3¢ '61 color - The shade is similar only but not to be compared with your rare color on cover. The comparison is like a poor near pink to a pigeon blood.

I believe that Bernard Harmer will not refuse to take back the two 15¢ '69 covers, but Gordon would.

I suggested to Clare Phillips of Winter Haven that he drive over and see you at Fifields.

Christmas Greetings to Jean, the children and to you - take it easy.

Yours etc.,

MORRIS EVERETT
FAIRMOUNT BOULEVARD
CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO

December 13th, 1952

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrooke
33 No. Ft. Thomas Ave
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear "Colonel" Ashbrooke:

I have just reread with pleasure for the "umpteenth" time your "Notes on the Postal Legislation of the C.S.A." and have finally gotten round to the sending down to you an envelope that I think you will be much interested in seeing.

Your booklet refers to the unique usage of a P.O.W. with the 10 cent Lithograph under Figure 47, and I thought you would like to see another one.

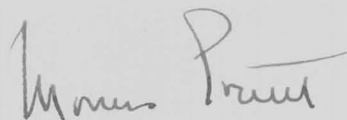
I realize that your book came out in 1946 so perhaps you have seen this one before. I did not acquire the enclosed until 1949, but I hope that maybe it will be a "new" one for you.

As you can easily see, the condition of the stamps and the envelope are not nearly as nice as the one you picture, but the cancellations seem clear and satisfactory. You will note that this cost me \$52.50 which I have always hoped was a fair price.

I hope someday that I'll have the thrill of being able to show you a 20 cent green on a P.O.W. too.

With sincerest best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Yours,



PS. I am enclosing a three cent stamp to defray the cost of sending the cover back to me.

Dec. 16, 1952.

Mr. Morris Everett,

Fairmount Blvd.,

Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Everett:

Thanks very much for yours of the 13th enclosing the Fort Delaware P.of W. cover which I am returning herewith. I do not recall ever seeing this cover and I do not seem to have any record of it, though it might have come up in some auction and I failed to make a record of it. It certainly is a mighty nice item - quite a rare and unusual combination. I have examined it very carefully and see no reason to question any feature of it. Some might doubt that this 3¢ was originally used on this cover but Delaware is known to have used a target cancelation and though this stamp shows no crease at left I believe that it was actually used on this cover.

With my thanks and the Season's Greetings, I am

Cordially yours,

Submitted By Morris EVERETT - His Letter 12/13 - 52
See S.D. 25 - page 43 - Also Microfilm of
over Roll No. 25 - No. 5

H. J. ROBBINS, M. D.

438 STATE STREET

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

HOURS BY APPOINTMENT
EXCEPT TUESDAYS

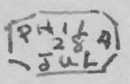
Dec. 11, 1952.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook -

Sir -

I enclose a cover with ~~SHIP~~ 4 to Boston, Mass. No enclosure, year date etc. But, to me, a most peculiar rate. I would appreciate your comments on it. Considering the type of paper, watermark + the envelope itself - I should imagine 1850-55 would about date it. - but am probably wrong.

And the 2nd cover completely mystifies me. From the cover, I assume it went from Hyack → Lowell Mass. then 5 → to Middlesexville Mass. (all circle cancellations). What in the world is the significance of the Straight Gene Middlesexville - and how could it be so cancelled without opening the entire cover - Is it genuine - or is someone playing games

Finally, I have a Phila "Fuel Rigged Ship" sent from Horona 7.16.1835 to New York City. It has the usual octagonal  ship markings

no rates. and no New York markings - Is it not usual for the N.Y. P.O. to apply its markings as well on the cover - there is no rate marking - but I imagine it was prepaid (they should this also be absent from the cover). I doubt if the cover is a fake. but it does not seem to follow the rules of the P.O. Dept.

I enjoyed your excellent article in Stampos about a year ago on War Rates etc, but have not yet

seen any follow up articles. Do you intend to
publish any more on the matter - as had been promised.
1815-16.

Do you have any real war Rates covers for sale -
I would like to see a few.

I have a few Retaliatory Rates (29-58) that
are duplicates that I might sell (or exchange for
the war rates) if you desire.

Please bill me for your comments on the
enclosed covers.

Sincerely

H. J. Rabbin

I was in N.Y. Nov. 8-12 - when you were there.
Visited for an hour or so with Mr. Fendquist who told me
he was going to have dinner with you. Wish I
could have met you to tell you how much I enjoy
re-reading your 2nd volume of 1 cent 51 -

HJR

Dec. 17, 1952.

Dr. H. J. Robbins,
438 State St.,
Portsmouth, N.H.

Dear Doctor:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 11th. The following are some comments -

Ship 4. This marking was applied at Boston and I am inclined to believe that your cover was a late use - probably in the late eighteen seventies or eighties. It was the ship rate of 2¢ for local delivery plus 2¢ ship fee. I have a record of a use in Aug. 1882, the letter originating at Liverpool - brought in by a private ship. The "Regulation" of the P.L. & R. of 1884 stated the ship rate was four cents, single, is addressed to the Port of Entry, but if mailed beyond to some office, 6¢.

It has been reported that this marking was in use from 1864 to 1901 so I doubt if it could be considered rare.

Nyack N.Y. stampless. I think that your analysis is quite correct. It originated at Nyack on Jan. 30th - year? - and was rated with pen as "5" cents due - It went to Lowell, Mass., where it was hand stamped and the 5 CTS due was repeated. I have no idea why the other Middlesex markings are on this cover and I doubt if they have any official postal significance. Perhaps the addressee or someone connected with him or his office or household was handy with a pocket knife and whittled out these imitation "postmarks" - circular and straight line.

Philadelphia Ship Letter. According to your description everything seems okay but the absence of a rate. From Havana it was brought into Philadelphia as a "ship letter" and it is almost certain that the rate was not prepaid. Had it been it would have been handstamped as PAID. Therefore, I assume that the postage was due from the addressee. This would have been regular postage of the year 1835 plus 2¢ ship fee. I believe that the Post Road distance at that time between Philadelphia and New York was figured @ 116 miles. If so, then the single rate should have been 10¢. Thus the rate was 10¢ plus 2¢. It would have been most unusual for New York to have postmarked the cover. The two markings that you illustrated are quite well known. If you care to submit the cover I will be glad to give you further information.

I started a series of articles in STAMPS a year ago last month and had in mind to follow the first one with additional ones on some very interesting subjects, but I have not been able to find the time to complete the series. Perhaps I will next year.

I will send you a few War Rate covers in the near future and would be willing to take in exchange anything that I could use in Retaliatory rate covers.

I note that you were in New York the week of November 9th. I was there

#2. Dr. H. J. Robbins - Dec. 17, 1952.

at the same time and attended most all of the sessions of the Meroni sale.
Sorry I failed to see you.

My fee for the above explanation is \$3.00.

Sincerely yours,

(25-44)

Due from

Mr W. J. Robbins

300

Rec S.D.

25 - 44

PAID

DEC 22

1952

TELEPHONE 320

H. J. ROBBINS, M. D.

HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HOURS BY APPOINTMENT
AND 1-2 & 7-8 EXCEPT
TUESDAYS

Paul P. Christopher



42 Yale Ave ~~90 Columbia Road~~
Wakefield, Mass.

Dec. 14, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I am enclosing a copy of the 1¢ 1851 which I would appreciate having you type and plate, if possible.

I think that it might be 6R1E and if this is so, I would appreciate your confirmation of this.

I shall be glad to pay any necessary fee.

Cordially,

Paul P. Christopher

Paul P. Christopher

Encl

1 stamp
1 return env.

Dec. 17, 1952.

Mr. Paul P. Christopher,
42 Yale Ave.,
Wakefield, Mass.

Dear Mr. Christopher:

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 as per yours of the 14th.

I regret to inform you that this stamp is 6RLL, a Type IV,
rather than 6RLE. The bottom line shows the recut line. Incidentally,
this is an 1852 print and quite an early impression from the late state
of the plate.

There is no fee.

With Season's Greetings

Sincerely yours,

(25-45)

Telephone
Ypsilanti, Michigan
5065--2287

Electro-Arc Manufacturing Company

BOX 448
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Dec. 15, 1952.

Dear Stan,

I returned the material you sent me immediately, so you would not be caught short. I did not comment at the time since I wanted to mull it over a bit. After thinking it over a bit I am still not satisfied with this 5¢ plus 10¢ cover. It just isn't right. I was wrong on the assumption of a possible 1859 issue. I had not the information you sent later and was just surmising a possible explanation. Your idea of a STAMPLESS COVER doctored up, strikes me as being a logical explanation. Everything seems to point to a stampless single 1/4oz. rate, with 15 dec. due. At the time Jack told me the French marking was 8 dec. due. Always remember a red cancel is the easiest to imitate. Another thing, if that was carried privately to England (There was plenty of this out of Boston), it would not show any U.S. markings. Too bad the presumed Boston marking is indistinct. I still think I would not want to possess this cover at the price it was sold for.

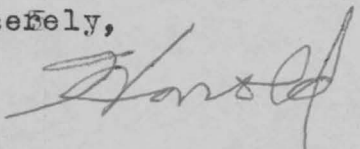
I am sending with this letter A STRIP of four 10¢ 1847 used in 1850 from New York to San Francisco. The cover appears ok to me but why the "80" cancel from New York per Panama. Is this a double rate letter or is this a misuse of the "80" cancellor. I received this from Siegel and the price he asked is \$500. The price seems OK if the cover is. Strips of the 10¢, even tho cut into at the bottom are rare and also the usage to Calif. is also rare. What do you think of this cover.

Also enclosed is an early (My own opinion) of a cover from Cincinnati, Aug. 11, 1851, with PAID 3 in cancellor and routed via Baltimore to New Orleans. (PAID). Thought you might want to look at this cover. Cover left Cincinnati July 29th.

Regarding the trip to Florida, I will have to wait more definite information. Sonny might have to go into the army perhaps in the early part of Feb. Will keep you advised.

Best of wishes for the Holiday Season to you all. Expect some oranges in the latter part of Jan. or the first part of Feb.

Sincerely,



Dec. 18, 1952.

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

Dear Harold:

Herewith the 10¢ 1847 cover, as per yours of the 15th. I have a record of this cover. It was in the J. W. Sampson collection that was purchased by John Fox and Gene Costales in 1948. I have a photograph of it that John sent me at that time. I don't seem to have any record of the price that he was asking for it, but he sold it to Chuck Meroni and it was Lot 1286 in the Meroni sale last month. I did not attend the sale the day it was sold so I don't know what the sale price was. It seems to me it has changed a bit since I last saw it. Now it is only a face mounted on an envelope. The "80" was used on this merely as a "Killer" and has no other significance. The "cover" (or rather "face") is unquestionably genuine and the use was "1850" and the S.S. Georgia did sail for Panama with the California mail on that date. The firm of Macondray & Co. is well known and is still in existence in S.F. The firm was founded in 1848 and in 1948 they celebrated their 100th anniversary, and issued a book giving the history of the firm. A great many covers from their old files are scattered thruout U. S. collections. No doubt you have some.

While the strip is rather heavily canceled it is otherwise in good condition - the paper is well preserved - and the impression is very fine. Personally I think the item - "as is" is well worth \$500 and would prove a safe investment. No doubt it didn't bring a big price at the Meroni sale, hence the present low tag. I'll bet Meroni paid much more than \$500 for it.

The S.U.S. quotes a 10¢ '47 with numeral cancel @ \$100 but I am sure any decent copy would bring 50% more at auction. Here is a H.S. of four. In addition, the N.Y. encircled "80" is darn rare and worth real money on a stampless cover. I wonder if you have one? Probably no. It was used on unpaid double rates to California from 1849 to July 1, 1851 and eighty cents was a lot of real money in those days.

The photographs of the Rohloff cover came safe to hand. I note your remarks but still I feel that the cover is genuine. I subjected it to every test I could think of and was unable to find anything that warranted suspicion. Every bit of evidence is against the possibility that it was carried privately to England or France, and ailed over there. I do think that the price that Fox charged Rohloff was way out of all reason. He sold the cover to Rohloff at the same time he sold the enclosed cover to Meroni, so if he charged Rohloff \$1500 for the one cover he surely charged Meroni \$1000 or more for the 10¢ cover. Rohloff is conscious that he paid far too much for the cover and that is why I studied this cover for almost a year in an endeavor to come up with some evidence that it was "queer" but the more I investigated it, the more I was convinced it was genuine.

I also return the Cincinnati stampless. Note the routing "Via

#2. Mr. Harold W. Stark - Dec. 18, 1952.

Baltimore" - which meant up the Ohio River by steamboat to Wheeling, Virginia, thence over the B. & O. R.R. to Baltimore or Washington and via the "Great Mail" to New Orleans. Why such a round-about trip? Why not by regular Mail Route - down the Ohio and Mississippi Via Steamboat to N.O.? My guess is that two letters were sent - an important communication - so that in case of failure of one to get there, the other one would. I note it took 13 days Via Baltimore, whereas it was less than half that time by steamboat down the Ohio.

No word from Brooks. What do you think?

A very Merry Christmas to all the family.

Yours etc.,

(25-46)

Georgia
Circular postmark: **ATLANTA**
JAN 28
1850



Black (80)

Black

Messrs Macomb & Co
Merchants
San Francisco
Calif

500⁰⁰

See 25-46

B2491

Ex J.W. Sampson Collection - Sold To MERONI
By John Fox 1948 - In Meroni Sale By Fox
Nov 13-52 - Lot 1286 - Offered To H.W. Stark
Dec 15-52 @ 500⁰⁰ - See S.B.A. Letter
To Stark 12/14-52 - S.B. 25 - p.46

B2491

Ex J.W. Sampson Collection - Sold To MERONI

By John Fox 1948 - In Meroni Sale By Fox

Nov 13-52 - Lot 1286. Offered To H.W. STARK

Dec 19, 52 @ 500⁰⁰ - See S.B.A. letter

To Stark 12/19/52 - S.B. 25 - p. 46

B

2

4

9

Second Spasme

I tore off this sheet with the
intent of writing a caustic comment
on the Dec. 1952 A.P.S. Journal and its
"Classification of Collectors". I noted
the absence of S.B.A. and Jack Fleckenstein
as having any interest in the ~~17~~ 17 1851.
CC is missing under the 3rd along with
Tracy Simpson and many more. Doe
Chase got aboard under France but
nowhere else. I find I am in good
company along with SBA and many more.

But I decided to cool off when I read
the heading of the classification —

"The following members have requested
that their names be listed under the country
they collect."

Guess I didn't read that part and
" " " return " " "

Sunday, 12/15-

Dear Stanley:-

Your two long and helpful letters with covers received. Many thanks for your time and trouble. It is problems like that presented by the Providence covers that has kept me from writing an account of KAV mail. It is a rather long story. The basic facts can be established and documented but there are certain areas in the picture that are hazy and all we can do is present the evidence in the form of covers and suggest possible solutions without being dogmatic. Anyway I have decided to go ahead with the writing project. It will take up my spare time this winter.

Let's drop the Burr article. I think Maurice Blake's estimate was very apt, "The man is addled." Such an article is unfortunate because it gives a completely incorrect picture of a certain postal use. The interest in stampless covers has increased greatly in recent years. Interest in postal history is growing and will continue to grow. The more good articles we have the more intelligent collectors we will have. Many of them will be good and will be helpful but there will always be some articles. If we put the bee on Harry and on Mrs. Dawns they might decide to cut out all postal history articles and that would be unfortunate. Let's forget Mr. Burr.

Speaking of postal history brings up the subject of rates. You have long been interested in the "war rates" of 1815 and wrote

a nice article on the subject. It is not easy to make a complete set to day, they are getting scarce. It simply bears out what I wrote above - interest in postal history and in rates is on the increase. S.B.A. advertises for war rates and writes an article on the subject. Up goes demand! Do you have on hand and for sale the double rates 37 1/2, 60, 75? The 37 1/2 rate can be 25 + 12 1/2 for a single sheet and it can be also 2 x 18 3/4 (12 1/2 + 6 1/4). It is the latter that I want.

Sometime ago I mentioned John Fremont to you and you suggested that I read Immortal Wife. I did so this past summer. What a story that is. Once I had started reading I could not put it down. Have you seen the little stickers

that were put on mail in the campaign of 1856? I have

- four
- 1) "The Heart of America shall be free!"
 - 2) "Freedom's Pioneer the brave Fremont!"
 - 3) "No 'Old Batek' wanted at the White House!"
 - 4) "Give 'em Jessie."

All four are on covers mailed from Boston before the election. #3 is a feeble reply to the slogan "No Bastard wanted at the W. H." What a campaign that was! Thank you for suggesting the book.

New York used a round 18mm - 7 bar grid in 1851-1852. The only example I have seen is on a cover face. Black grids and black tower mark. Two grids on two 3¢ 1851s. Letter to San Fran. Tower mark is the early ocean mail, Jan. 26 (1852). From the collection of Maurice Blake. I want to see more examples.

(3)

There was a grid used on o.k. stamps, letters originating in N.Y. addressed to Georgetown A.C. and to other points south. But there is no town mark. I want authentic N.Y. grids for comparison.

Until we find public notices stating that boxes had been established for the collection of mail in a city such as Baltimore all 3¢ + 1¢ must be put in the problem class. Whether the Baltimores that you have seen are collection carrier or prepaid way is indeterminate as I see it. I will watch coins with you for the answer.

Sometime before "The Great Mail" was published you told me of the Henry Meyer - Steve Riek deal. You sent me a photograph of a newspaper article^(?) which Huber had found which had to do with the abandonment of the PAY fee in N.D. In the article there was the statement that the fee was not collected in several eastern reports. I returned the ^{photo} article to you as directed and said naught about it as directed. I expected that the photo would appear in Huber's book. But, not so. NOW, I want a copy of that photo rather badly. Can you supply from my hazy description.

"Christmas recess" has started and I am celebrating with a good laryngitis and cold in head. Damn it!

My very best to you for Xmas,

Arthur

Jan 21

3x17+2

53

SHIP Red

1813 Messrs Brown & Ives

Merchants

Red

Providence R. Island



1813

From
St Petersburg
Russia

By A.R.D. 12/12 - 52

A 204

Fa

June 5

3x17+50%+2
From Amsterdam

SHIP

Red

752
Red

Messrs Brown & Ves.

WAR
RATE
Jun 2
1815

By
A.R.D.
12/12-
52



Red

Providence
Rhode Island

w 1815

A 204

Nov. 19

3X17+50%

From
New York

WAR
RATE
1

Miss Brown P. Day

Nov 16
1815

BY
A.R.D.
12/12-52



Triple
Rate

P. W. Day

Red

1175-

A204

No Year

Blue



Mark R. Hordner, Md.

No. 462, Mass. Avenue

Washington, D.C.

By A.R.D
Lot 89
Colby Sale
4/30-52

J

A204



WAY

Black

Robert Leslie Eep

Petersburg

Va

Lot 54
H. R. Harmer Sale
4/16-1951

A 187

Hamburg Nov 6 1829

H.R.H. Sale 11/10-52

Lot 19



Brown

Peter D. Vroom Esq

Member of Assembly
of
Trenton N. J.

A 191

Dec. 12, 1952.

Dr. Arthur R. Davis,
76 Brooks St.,
West Medford, Mass.

Dear Arthur:

Herewith the various covers as per yours of the 8th - also the memo accompanying them. Some comments follow, using your numbers -

No. 1 - (A) Way 10 from Boston 1819 - This letter is headed "Boston" - it was evidently mailed direct with the Carrier at Boston, hence the Carrier was hardly entitled to any Way Fee - This was too late for the closing of the mail at Boston. Do you agree? (B) Perhaps this is in the same class?

No. 2 - "A" and "B" - The "5" is the well-known Providence "5" so I feel certain that the markings on both covers was applied at Providence.

No. 3 - Trenton - I don't know the answer, unless a certain class of Way mail did not carry a fee.

No. 4 - Both Way fees prepaid - not only unusual to pay the postage but quite unusual to prepay the Way Fee, in the early days. I suppose you agree.

No. 5 - I judge this is from letter-box to P.O. at Baltimore - though the street address of Washington could indicate prepaid Carrier Delivery at Washington. I don't think this is a Way cover. I have seen three or four of these Baltimore 3¢ plus 1¢ 1861, and one was just like this, and addressed to a small town which surely had no carrier delivery service. Thus I suppose this was box to P.O. at Baltimore. Quite a nice and scarce cover.

No. 6 - Two War Rate covers. The New York of "NOV 16" (1815) was rated as follows: 3 x 17¢ plus 50% - or as you stated 3 x 25½¢. Very nice. The other was 3 x 17 plus 50% plus 2¢ (as you stated). I think these are two very interesting covers.

No. 7 - New York 18 Jan (1813) - 3 x 17 plus 2¢ - I note St. Petersburg, Russia and dated 20th of Sept. 1812. No doubt the writer referred to the battle of Borodino which history tells us resulted in the killed or wounded of between seventy and eighty thousand. What a tremendous loss and especially in view of the total engaged. I believe the battle was fought on Sep. 7, 1812 but the writer has it that it occurred a week earlier. At any rate, it opened the way to Moscow for Napoleon. This letter did not reach New York until four months later. All very interesting in my opinion.

Further regarding the law and the regulation regarding Way Letters. Note the wording - "shall deliver the same xxxx at the first office etc. etc." From Boston to Providence would hardly apply, hence such through mail as the covers enclosed, perhaps were not entitled to a Way Fee. I agree 100 percent with you that "WAY" did mean begin - there is no question of that but I sometimes

#2. Dr. Arthur R. Davis - Dec. 12, 1952.

wonder if it could not have also indicated a fee of 1¢ was due, because of long years of association. In other words, (and this is merely a suggestion), Way letters, in the early days were very seldom prepaid, and it was generally understood that a Way Letter carried a postage due fee of 1¢. Hence, perhaps a letter with WAY and 10 might have indicated 10¢ due for postage and 1¢ due for the Way and why was an extra 1¢ due, because of the origin - WAY. You state that "Way designated origin and not a fee collect" - But if 1¢ was due on a Way letter then surely the origin marking of Way gave the reason why the 1¢ was due.

The 1855 P.L. & R. had the following - Sec. 153 - "On railroad and steamboat routes, it is the duty of Route Agents - 1st - to receive letters written after the mail has closed, and way letters prepaid by stamps etc. etc." (unquote)

Arthur I doubt if postmasters actually took matters into their own hands and ignored Way Fees in certain cases, but rather reported cases to Washington where it was quite evident that the carriers were not entitled to Way Fees and then the P.M.C. issued an order not to pay such fees.

Where we have noticed that no Way Fee were charged at Certain Post Offices I believe that these had to do with special orders issued by the P.M.C. New Orleans is an example.

Re - Montgomery, Ala. - Whether or not a Way Fee was charged depended on how and by what carrier the letter reached the Montgomery office. If by a non-contract, say from Mobile, then the private carrier was entitled to his 1¢ and we find that such mail generally had the 1¢ fee prepaid.

Re - the Patterson, N.J. cover. I believe this was from the village of Hamburg, which was not much more than 30 miles N.W. of Paterson by Post Route, but rated 10¢ postage. There was a Post Office at Hamburg in 1829, (and much earlier) so why wasn't this letter put in the P.O.? I suppose the answer could be - "too late" and handed direct to the Mail Coach. In which event was he entitled to a Way Fee when he deposited the letter at Paterson? It is addressed to Trenton. I believe that the carrier was entitled to his 1¢ fee and that it was paid to him.

I would like to identify the origin of the blue Way in circle, and if I obtain any data, I will advise you.

Neal Grabert is very much interested in Way covers and markings and I believe he deserves any assistance we can give him.

With Season's Greetings and the best of wishes, believe me

Sincerely yours,

A.P.S. 5615

Gilbert- M Burr

R.D. # 1

TUNKHANNOCK

Pa

REFUNDED POSTAGE

By GILBERT M. BURR

WOULD not it be something, in this day of ever increasing postal rates, to go to the Post Office and have the clerk tell you, "There seems to have been an over-payment of postage on this item, and I will refund it to you"? If this were to happen very many times it might necessitate first aid stations in the lobby of the office, and yet this seems to have been a rather common procedure in early days.

The illustrated cover is one of an original find, and the only one that I have ever seen out of hundreds of stampless covers I have possessed, which leads me to believe that possibly this practice may have had a rather tainted odor.

My first thought on this was how would this be taken care of on any postal reports to the Department, but on examining some old records that I have, I see that specific provision was made in the reports for this very item under the heading of "letters overcharged, missent and forwarded." These reports range between 1835 and 1841.

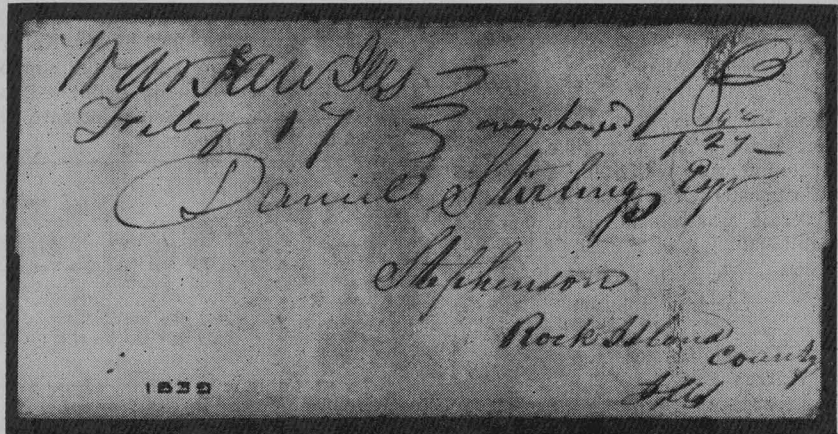
These refunds on overcharges apparently reached such proportions that on April 10, 1839, a letter was printed by the Post Office Department and apparently mailed to all Postmasters regarding the practice from which I quote:

Sir:

The attention of the Postmaster General has recently been directed to the subject of overcharges of postage appearing in the accounts of postmasters, and he has been surprised that in one hundred and twenty of the principal post offices, the overcharges exceed the undercharges reported for the year ending June 30, 1839 in the large sum of \$31,156.16. He is perfectly satisfied that the undercharges in point of fact, greatly exceed the overpayments and that the balance is thus thrown against the department, by omissions to correct undercharges. . . .

For instance: at the Philadelphia Office during the period above referred to, the undercharges reported to \$5,888.81, Overcharges \$4,787.94, thus leaving a balance of only \$1,100.87 in favor of the department.

This letter was addressed to the postmaster at Lowell, Mass. whose accounts seem to have been even



Cover showing overcharge marked on it, as discussed in the accompanying story.

worse in the wrong direction. His overcharges totaled \$84.78 and his undercharges only \$15.19 thus giving him a credit against the department of \$69.59.

If this practice was as prevalent as this, and the postage was actually refunded on the letters, why are the letters so scarce? Letters on which the postage was undercharged and corrected are not at all uncommon, and if overpayments actually did nearly equal, or in some instances exceeded the underpayments, we should be able to find more of these covers.

Of course it has long been charged that one reason so many postmasters were so slow to turn to the use of stamps after they were issued, until it became compulsory, was that there was a little "gravy" in handling letters without the stamps which could not be enjoyed with the stamps. Was there also some "gravy" in refunding overpayments?

This letter to the postmasters then instructed:

In view of this result, I am directed by the Postmaster General to require you to report—

1. What precautions are taken in your office to ascertain and correct undercharges of postage on letters received therein.
2. In what cases overcharges are admitted and entered in your office: whether it be done in any case except where letters appear to be palpably overcharged on inspection, or where letters alleged

to be overcharged are opened in your presence or that of a clerk: and if in any other cases, state such cases specifically. An immediate answer is requested.

Signed: ROB. JOHNSTON
Second Assistant Postmaster General.

I believe that I am correct in stating that the first time that the weight of a letter was mentioned as basis for payment of postage was in the Act of March 3, 1851, which specified that "single letter rate 1/2 oz." Previous to this a single sheet required a single rate of postage, with added double or treble for added sheets, yet we find many letters marked "Single" when they actually were not, which possibly accounts for the department's concern over the letters that were underpaid, that were handled, and that would help balance the amount paid out on refunds on overpaid letters. Of course, the compulsory use of stamps in later years eliminated any possibility of refunds, and stopped this practice if (??) it may not have been regular.

Suburban Collectors Club of Chicago

The annual exhibition and bourse of the Suburban Collector Club of Chicago will be held in the Hinsdale Community House in Hinsdale, Ill., on November 22 and 23. Further information can be had from William D. Johnson, 111 Prospect Street, Elmhurst, Illinois.

August 30, 1952 ☆ STAMPS

Then he returned to Ohio for a time, from where he went to Washington to continue his practice of law.

One day late in August 1865 he paid President Johnson a call in regards the confinement in prison of Reagan at Fort Warren. The following remarkable letter, the complete extract of which follows, was the business Mr. Denver called on the President to see about.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Washington, August 28, 1865

Sir:

Admit the bearer, Gen. J. W. Denver to Fort Warren, and permit him to have a private interview with John H. Reagan, late Postmaster General of the so-called Confederate government, now confined in that Fort.

Very Respectfully,
Andrew Johnson
Pres.

To the Comdg. Officer
Fort Warren

The reverse side of the letter directs Captain McKim to furnish transportation to Gen. Denver, to and from Fort Warren.

Reagan was finally released and served his country to the fullest, being the father of the present Interstate Commerce Commission, which bill he introduced while serving in Congress from Texas. He died at Palestine, Texas on March 6, 1905.

This very remarkable letter adds a bit more of the history which Confederate collectors are always searching for, and it dealt with three very important people of the time.

Fourth A.S.D.A. National Postage Stamp Show

ON NOV. 21, 22, and 23 the attention of the nation's stamp collectors will be focused on Park Avenue and 34th Street in New York City. On these three days—Friday, Saturday, Sunday—the fourth annual National Postage Stamp Show sponsored by the American Stamp Dealers' Association, Inc., will be staged in the spacious 71st Infantry Regiment Armory.

In making this announcement Peter G. Keller, the organization's Executive Officer, states that the coming exhibition and bourse, with outstanding entertainment, will surpass in interest the shows held at the same location in 1949, 1950, and 1951.

If one plan matures that is now in preparation—it cannot this early, even be hinted at—that one attraction alone will be important enough to lure an unprecedented number of visitors to the Show.

STAMPS ☆ August 30, 1952

This would indeed be an accomplishment, as the three previous attendances have totalled 35,000, 45,000 and 53,000 respectively.

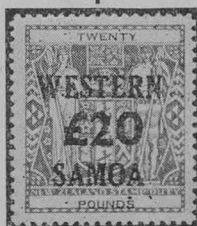
Once more National Stamp Collecting Week will coincide. This period of dedication to philately will begin on Monday, Nov. 17th, and continue through Sunday the 23rd, the concluding date of the affair at the Armory. The A.S.D.A. has placed itself behind this movement in a big way. Plans for promoting successfully both the designated "Week" and the Show itself will be announced from time to time as they are developed by Mr. Keller. The November show will be the climax event of a year which has witnessed, in his opinion, a progressive increase in the number of collectors.

Second Annual Bay Area Philatelic Week End

The second annual philatelic week end of the Bay Area Philatelic Society was held from August 15 to 18, 1952. The following clubs participated in the week end by having dinners, meetings, auction, etc.: California Collectors Club, Western Cover Society, Council of North California Philatelic Societies, Northern California Branch of the A.S.D.A., Oakland Philatelic Society, and the Pacific Philatelic Society. Full information can be had from Roy Taylor, 1207 De Young Building, 690 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif.

2 September Sales worth watching!

Sept. 9, 10, 11 United States, Airmails British, General Foreign



Collection of the late John F. Wagner of Cecil, Pa. (Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., Assignee.) U. S. of both centuries includes Covers, Cancellations, Sheets, Envelopes, Revenues and large lots. The foreign is strong in Germany and Russia, with collections by country and large collections.

Sept. 23, 24, 25 U. S. British Empire and General Foreign

The strong U. S. section of this sale includes the fabulous cover with its unique block of nine and a strip of three of the 5c New York Postmaster's Provisional. There is also a desirable copy of the 24c airmail inverted center. The choice British and Foreign section includes:

Great Britain, Offices in Morocco, 1948, 1.20pi on 1sh. double surcharge (S. G. 285). Silver Jubilee and Silver Wedding sets complete. Aden, Kathiri 1946 2 1/2a "Victory" inverted overprint (cat. \$300). Canada, 1906 Quebec Tercentenary set in imperf. corner blocks of 4 (S. G. 2240). Mauritius, 1p red orange, 15a, cat. \$200. Newfoundland cover of 1857 with half of 8p used as 4p (cat. \$350). Argentine, 10c green #9, imperf., unused (cat. \$500). Mexico 1861, #10c printed on both sides, ex-Crocker (est. \$100). Airmail 25c of 1929, Sanabria #7, \$3,500. Russia, 1883 14k blue and rose diagonally bisected, surcharged "7" in red, tied to piece by "Kutais" postmark (cat. \$400).



Ask for Catalogs today

HARMER, ROOKE & CO., Inc.

International Auctioneers of Fine Stamps

560 Fifth Avenue

New York 36, N. Y.

Executive Department
Washington, Aug. 28, 1865.

Sir:

Admit the bearer, Gen. J. W. Denver, to Fort Warren, and permit him to have a private interview with John H. Reagan, late Postmaster General of the so-called Confederate Government, now confined in that Fort.

Very Respectfully,

Andrew Johnson
Pres

To the Comdg Officer }
Fort Warren. }
Boston Harbor }

A permit granted Gen. J. W. Denver to see Postmaster General Reagan of the Confederate Government when the latter was confined at Fort Warren.

with documents from the Departments. The private baggage of Jefferson Davis, Breckenridge, Post Master General Reagan, and other cabinet members and their secretaries was also piled high.

Despairing women and crying children, sentinels with fixed bayonets, guarding the entrances to the train, pushing back all but the privileged few, marked this scene of confusion that Sunday afternoon. The special train that carried President Davis and his Department heads, from Richmond that Sunday night at ten o'clock left behind indescribable tumult, and far behind in the city uncontrollable mobs, who already had begun to sack Richmond.

Within pistol-shot of the executive mansion stood a dark and gloomy building, with iron riveted doors and grated windows, the prison home of the slave trader Lumpkin. Out from its cells came a string of slaves, fifty or more in number. Men, women and children filed their dismal way. This, the last noted slave movement of the

Confederacy, the last vestige of the cornerstone of the institution for the preservation of which the war had commenced. Those slaves owned by Lumpkin would have brought more than fifty thousand dollars a short time before, but, the rising of tomorrow's sun would see their worth as nothing, for in the turmoil of that Sunday night the Confederacy crumbled to dust.

Moving to Danville, thence to Greensborough and finally to Charlotte, nearly to the South Carolina line, Davis came to the realization that the Confederacy had gone down. Johnston had surrendered. Secretary Breckenridge had arrived with the depressing news. Mr. Trenholm, the Secretary of the Treasury had resigned. Breckenridge and Mallory stole away to seek their own safety, while Reagan, the postmaster general had remained behind with Davis and his party.

John Henninger Reagan was born in Tennessee in 1818, and went to Texas to make his fortune in 1839. He was appointed the Post Master

General of the Confederate States of America in 1861. With a territory comprising over seven hundred thousand square miles, beset with enemies, cut off from the rest of the world, with a slight means of the carriage of the mails, and a constantly falling revenue, these presented problems to Reagan and his assistants which they were never able to completely solve during the war of the sixties.

Davis, with an escort of cavalry, had conceived the idea of somehow reaching the state of Texas in his flight. A reward of \$100,000 had been offered by President "Andy" Johnson, the vice president who took Lincoln's place after that Black Friday in April. It was this same person who had told a Washington street crowd that he would "hang Jeff Davis and all of his diabolical crew at Richmond if ever given the chance."

But, once in the White House he softened his tune, for he hanged almost nobody, and proclaimed a general pardon for the Confederate rank and file—following to the last degree Lincoln's "ten per cent plan"—for restoring Southern states.

But Davis did not escape. He was captured along with all members of his party at Irwinsville, Georgia, on May 10. Reagan, the Post Master General, was among this party of captives. Davis and Reagan were sent North via Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah to Fortress Monroe on the 22nd of May, where Davis was imprisoned, and Reagan was sent still farther north, to be imprisoned at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor.

A Northerner, one who must be credited with aiding in the release of Reagan, the former Post Master General of the Confederate States of America, was General John Williams Denver, a great American. (See STAMPS, May 5, 1951, for a story on Denver by Stanley B. Ashbrook).

Denver was a Virginian by birth, whose folks had moved to Ohio when he was a lad of thirteen. Settling in Clinton County they furnished young Denver with a good education in law and engineering. He was admitted to the Bar in 1844.

In August 1861 Lincoln commissioned him a Brigadier General and he served his country well until March 1863, when he resigned his commission. It is believed his army career suffered owing to jealousy on the part of his fellow-officers, and politicians, who were of the Republican party, then in power.

August 30, 1952 ☆ STAMPS

A Permit to See Postmaster General Reagan

By RAYMOND MOORE WILKINSON

THE spring of 1865, drawing near, saw the end of the Confederacy in sight. Late in the autumn of 1864 its fortunes seemed far from desperate. Never had it borne itself to the world so well, or more defiantly, than in October.

A vigorous government may for a long time keep its armies in the field without pay—but not without food. The Confederate commissariat was in much worse plight than the treasury. The South, though essentially agricultural, and abundantly supplied with food, had yet no large accumulations. It had no great depots where supplies were collected in advance. The crops were generally consumed in the year of their harvesting, and mainly always in the regions where grown. The means of transportation were scanty. Hence, the urgent necessity arose for accumulating large amounts of provisions in Richmond. It was with the utmost difficulty that this want was met. We already know how sorely pressed Lee was in the autumn of 1864. As the weeks passed, the difficulty became greater. The immediate region was exhausted.

Early in the winter the Confederate Congress found the state of things to be; not enough meat in the Confederacy for her armies in the field, and in Virginia there was not nearly enough meat for her armies within her limits.

Grave as these difficulties were they were destined to become much greater.

Thus, General Lee, holding the siege of Richmond to a standstill, faced with starvation, imminent at the best, determined his position untenable, and was forced to abandon Richmond.

Let us go back into Richmond that Sunday morning April 2, 1865. The church bells in the early hours of the morning have called the citizen soldiers to the breastworks, and at ten o'clock they swing again in

their belfries inviting people to worship. Old men, bowed beneath the weight of their years, and women in mourning for husbands and sons laid to rest on the battlefields, obey the summons, having no knowledge of what had happened at Five Forks, or what was going on around Petersburg. The latest information was the assault of Gordon upon Fort Steadman. The morning train, the day before, had brought the news of the wonderful rumor of Lee's night attack, in which he had crushed the enemy along his whole line.

The newspapers published the story, and nothing was said of the re-taking of the Fort and the disastrous result to Lee—the loss of four thousand men. No dispatch had been received in regard to the loss of Five Forks. It was known that General Longstreet with Field's Division had gone to Petersburg during the night, but many times during the siege of Richmond, troops moved from one point to another, so no concern was shown by the people.

General Breckinridge was in his office in the War Department. The bells ceased their ringing, the choirs were singing their hymns, the melody and harmony were floating out upon the early spring air. Those who listened could hear far away beyond the James the thunder of the cannonade. They had heard it many times, and it was an old familiar sound. The telegraph was clicking in the War Department, and this was the message that came from General Lee.

"It is absolutely necessary that we should abandon our position tonight, or run the risk of being cut off in the morning."

Jefferson Davis was attending church services at St. Paul's when a messenger tiptoed down the aisle to his pew, and handed him a folded paper or envelope.

The congregation saw him read it,

and noted his face drain of color, and then, with a quick movement, leave the church. It seemed the weight of the world was on his shoulders as he left.

At once, others, here and there about the church, moved to follow him. There were men rising all around, quietly departing. Doctor Minnegerode came to the altar rail, and bid those whose duties did not call them, to stay and finish the service. When the service ended Dr. Minnegerode made an announcement. The local militia was called that afternoon for three o'clock. All knew the meaning of that. Longstreet's men must be withdrawn to the east of the city. Richmond was to be evacuated! The army was in flight! Lee's thin lines at last had given way. People were astonished. There was an immediate hurrying everywhere.

As the day wore on, clatter and bustle in the streets denoted the progress of the evacuation, and convinced all who had been doubtful of its reality. The streets were thronged with fugitives trying to make their way to the railway stations. Pale women and shoeless little children struggled in the crowds. Oaths and blasphemous shouts smote the ear. Wagons were hastily loaded at the Department with boxes and trunks of records, and driven to the Danville Depot. At the Department all was confusion and disorder of the worst kind; there was no system, no answer to inquiries; important officers were not to be found, and everyone seemed aware that each must care for his own.

The railroad leading to Danville and the James River Canal were the only avenues of escape for the Confederate government. Wagons, carts, coaches, in fact, vehicles of every description were brought into use. At the railroad station there was a pile of boxes, chests, trunks, valises, and carpet bags, all filled

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

December 3, 1952

Dear Stan:—

In the period of your Patterson, N. J. WAY letter the instructions to postmasters was very explicit, "---the post-riders and other carriers of the mail, receiving any way letter or letters---shall deliver the same together with the postage, if paid, at the first office to which they shall afterwards arrive, when the postmaster shall duly enter the same, and specify the number and rate or rates in the post-bill, adding to the rate of each way letter, one cent, which shall be paid by the postmaster, to the mail carrier from whom such way letters shall be received."

In spite of these specific instructions, we find that some postmasters did not add one cent to the postage paid or to the postage to be collected. Providence, R. I. is a good example. I have five way letters carried into Providence which show no way fee charged to the addressee. Two of these letters are enclosed. Just what the arrangement was between the postmaster and the carriers can only be imagined. It is my guess that the carrier did not receive the way fee of one cent, but this is only a guess. If correct, "WAY" designated origin and not a fee collect. In fact, I do not think that the word "WAY" meant anything but origin--a letter carried outside the locked pouch.

All five of the Providence letters are from business correspondence. Evidently the P.M. favored these concerns by not adding the way fee to the regular postage. The letters are dated between 1819 and 1850 and originated at such divergent points as Boston, Mass. and Portsmouth, R. I.

Recalling the private arrangement between the postmaster at New Orleans and the P.M.G. in 1853, which did away with the way fee in New Orleans, one cannot help but speculate that

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

-2-

postmasters in other towns took matters into their own hands at an earlier date and ignored way fees. There were offices in Maine where no way fee was added to the postage over a period of years. Knowing the native as I do (I am a native son), I can well imagine that they ignored the one cent fee but marked the letter "WAY" to show that it arrived at their office outside a locked pouch and that they would not guarantee it had not been tampered with. Yankees are like that.

Montgomery, Alabama did not always add one cent and neither did Petersburg, Virginia or San Francisco.

Letters showing prepaid postage and way fee are not common. The only examples I have seen show the fee added to the postage as directed. Enclosed are two examples,

- (a) Epping, N. H. to Concord, N. H., "Way Paid 9",
(rate of 1799, 8 + 1).
- (b) Dalton, N. H. to Hanover, N. H., "Way 11 Paid",
(rates of 1816, 10 + 1).

The Patterson, New Jersey to Trenton is interesting. The WAY in scroll is new to me. I doubt whether any way fee was paid. The writer may have given the carrier 11 cents--ten cents postage and one cent "to his own use", as the regulations phrased it, but more likely the carrier got a chew of tobacco or a swig of hard cider. It is not possible to tell what the carrier received, but it is quite certain that no way fee was due from Peter Vroom. "WAY" did not mean a fee due and the fee was not always added to the postage.

The blue WAY in circle has not been positively identified as far as I know. Sometime ago you sent me a tracing of the same or similar marking and suggested Wilmington, Del. Since the letter, of which you sent the photo, is addressed to Baltimore, it could be that the WAY was applied there. The usual marking from that town, however, is a straight line.

At your suggestion Neal Grabert sent me a list of some 34 way markings in his collection. I have not taken time to check the list completely, but some items are new to me.

Sincerely,

Arthur

11/24/52

Dear Stan:

I was mighty sorry to learn that you caught a cold in N.Y. and could not visit CC. in Amherst. Very much, I had hoped that I could meet you head on and discuss a few problems after we had soaked up some Bourbon.

;) Enclosed is a cover that I bought in Sam Paige's sale of 11/1/52 which bears your autograph. I paid \$5.50. Am I correct in assuming that it is probably a quadruple rate from Key West?

All good wishes

Arthur P. Davis

RECORDED
INDEXED
NOV 24 1952
FBI - BOSTON

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 Dr Arthur R Davis

76 Brooks St
West Medford Mass

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Dec. 1, 1952.

Dr. Arthur R. Davis,
76 Brooks St.,
West Medford, Mass.

Dear Arthur:

That darn cold - all in my head - came home with me and I had it all of last week, not sick enough to climb in bed and too darn miserable to remain up.

Here is the Key West cover. I had two of these but the other had two 10¢ 1847 pen canceled. I sold the latter and gave this one with it to prove the 10¢ grew on the cover. It has been some time ago and I forget to whom I sold the pair. Yes, this was April 1851 and of course a 4 x 10¢ rate that was paid. Most unusual and too bad the postmark has faded.

Too bad I had to cancel my trip to Boston and Milford, but I promised Doc I would drive up next spring or summer. Will see you then and we will have a few shots of old grand pap together.

My best regards.

Cordially yours,

Nov. 24, 1952.

Dr. A. R. Davis,

16 Brooks St.,

West Medford, Mass.

Dear Arthur:

Here are two photo prints - of two covers in the H. R. Harmer sale of Nov. 10th last. Note the one of 1829, which indicates(?) that the postage and Way Fee were prepaid. What do you think? The sender would hardly have paid the postage and left the Way Fee unpaid? Do you agree?

On the 3¢ stamp - Where do you think the blue "Way" encircled was applied? All the evidence I have is Wilmington.

Haven't heard from you for a long time. Are you well? Any new Way covers?

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Dear Stan:

12/6/52

Many thanks for your answer on the 40¢ rate of 1851, Key West to Martha's Vineyard, Mass. I could see nothing but a 4x10 which is far from common in that period. A letter addressed to M's.V. (and to a gal) suggests a whaler from around the Horn and a rate of 40 suggests Cal etc. but there is no evidence. Also thanks for the two photos of KAY covers. I have written a long winded reply and enclose a few covers.

Did you read (do you recall) the article in "Stamps" for August 30, '52 by Gilbert M. Bunn entitled "Refunded Postage"? It is a classic of misinformation and misconception. It is so bad that I departed from my policy of keeping my mouth shut and wrote G. B. I tried to explain the difference between "overcharge" and "refund". From him I received a reply ~~with~~ which starts with, "yours happens to be the only one that I have received that takes exception to my logic". Hells Fire! Articles like that do a lot of harm.

I need information ^{on} and examples of the New York round grid. What information have you obtained since your book was printed? If you have any examples on hand may I borrow them? for comparison.

Hope your cold is OK and that you have regained your usual spirit.
All good wishes,
Aultman

Dec. 11, 1952.

Dr. Arthur R. Davis,
76 Brooks St.,
West Medford, Mass.

Dear Arthur:

I am in receipt of yours of the 3rd and 6th and I will probably reply in sections as I find the time.

Re - the Burr article in STAMPS. I don't know Burr and as far as I can recall, I never had any correspondence with him. I note he is an old member of the A.P.S. - #5615. When his article appeared I only glanced at it, as I didn't find the subject very interesting. I have just re-read it and note several errors - one in particular - the rating of mail. He stated that the Act of March 3, 1851, rated by weight - 1/2 oz. - single, etc. And that previous to that Act the rating was by a sheet of paper.

Re - the cover that he illustrated. About all that I noted that was of any interest was the fact that the postmaster at Warsaw, Ill. rated the letter as 400 miles or more - $18\frac{3}{4}\phi$, whereas the rate should have been $12\frac{1}{2}\phi$ - (over 150 miles". I judge it was a single as $18\frac{3}{4}$ was not a multiple of the lower rates of $12\frac{1}{2}$ - 10 and 6. The Stephenson Post Office caught the error and only collected $12\frac{1}{2}\phi$ instead of $18\frac{3}{4}\phi$. I fail to see anything unusual about this. Or how it affected the receipts of the Stephenson Office. I don't know much about the P.O.D. accounting systems that were in use when mail could be sent unpaid. Did a postmaster have the right to credit himself with a commission on unpaid letters mailed from his office? If so, then every P.M. could have made money by over-rating every letter.

I suppose I am a bit dumb but to be quite frank I cannot see much excuse for publishing the Burr article. I will appreciate your further appraisal and criticism of it. I wonder how many collectors are sufficiently interested in U. S. postal history to have any appreciation of an article such as this? My guess is that the number would be very, very small, not enough to justify the space given the article. Give me your criticism of the article and I will write Lindquist and inquire why such stuff is given space. I know, but I would like for Harry to tell me. The answer is that his assistant, Mrs. Downs practically runs the paper and publishes the articles that she selects and inasmuch as her knowledge of stamps is zero I suppose one article looks as good to her as another.

Again re - the Key West stampless rated @ 40. I admit the "40" and April 1851 suggests California but mailed at Key West could only mean 4 x 10. If brought from California all the way round the Horn and mailed at Key West, the single rate would still have been 10¢. So there is no other way to figure except 4 x 10 that I know of.

Again re - the Burr article. I agree that articles that give out misstatements of facts are bad and while it is a great temptation to write such people and set them right, it is a waste of time, because in 99 out of 100 cases, one don't get anythanks but on the contrary an insulting reply. I suggest you

#2. Dr. Arthur R. Davis - Dec. 11, 1952.

read page 137 of the November A.P., the remarks by E. Perry Esq. They refer to an article published in Mekeel's by Phil Ward, said article giving the facts about an article that was published in the handbook issued by the 3¢ '51 Unit celebrating the centenary of the 1851 Issue (Philadelphia Museum July 1951). The article was about the 5¢ 1856 and was by some young fellow by the name of Baker. It was chuck full of errors. I wrote him a nice letter and pointed out the errors and that in my opinion, it was very harmful to repeat all the errors about a stamp that had been made in the past 50 years. I sent Ward a copy of the letter and he pointed out the errors. It seems that Perry gave the data to Baker. I think Perry's remarks as quoted in the A.P. proves conclusively that the fellow is either a perfect damn fool (like Harry Truman) or else he is mentally ill.

I note your request for information on the New York round grid. I regret that I have no examples of use in 1851 on domestic mail and I don't recall that I have developed anything new since my book was published in 1938. Chase stated in his 1916 article on the 1847 Issue that New York used on the 1847 stamps the ordinary type of round grid though very rarely. Give me more information on what you want and I will see if I have any data.

I have seen some 1847 covers used to France with the 5¢ and 10¢ tied by red grids but I had serious doubts that such covers were genuine. I recall one cover that I figured had a 5¢ originally and some crook removed the stamp and replaced it with a 10¢ canceled with a red grid, and painted a "tie" to cover.

I will write you later re - the WAY covers returning those that you sent me, but in the meantime I might mention that I have just acquired a 3¢ plus 1¢ 1861 - a use in February 1862 - postmarked, Dubuque, Iowa and addressed to Des Moines, Iowa. A prepaid WAY - Yes?

With regards -

Cordially yours,

May 2, 1951.

Dr. A. R. Davis,
76 Brooks St.,
West Medford, Mass.

Dear Arthur:

It was nice to hear from you after such a long silence.

Re - War Rate - plus Way. My cover came from M. C. Blake - perhaps you saw it at one time. No handstamped postmarks on it - memo of it is enclosed.

Re - your mention of a War Rate cover "SHIP 53" - You explained 2 x 25½ plus 2¢. The War Rate was regular rate plus 50% - I can't figure how a regular rate plus 50% would equal 51¢ with 2¢ added for ship. Perhaps the cover was the "Restored Rate" - April 1816 - of 3 x 17¢ plus 2¢.

Re - the April rate of 1816. The War Rate expired as of March 31, 1816 - This meant a restoration of the old rate - (in effect to Feb. 1, 1815. New rates went into effect on May 1, 1816 - all very interesting.

For your Centennial Exhibit did you mean you need the following stampless:

- (1) 6¢ rate over 3000 miles (to California)
- (2) "Ship 7" (what period?)
- (3) U.S. Express Mail (1836-1839 ?)
- (4) a Railroad (will any do ?)

Regarding the covers which you submitted and which I return herewith:

(A) Savannah - Mail Route - Yes, a Prepaid "Way" cover - a nice item.

(B) Watertown, Mass. - Yes - classifies as "Old Stamps Not Recognized."

(C) Same as "Ship 2" - "Steam 2" and "Steamboat 2" - Mail carried into port by a non-contract steam vessel.

(D) These San Francisco "Due 7" are quite well known - This originated from a point where the rate was 10¢ to S.F. The most common was from Acapulco - For example, a person traveling East - from California - Letter was dropped off at Acapulco and carried back by the next steamer - It reached ~~the~~ S.F. as a "Way Letter" but of

#2. Dr. A. R. Davis, May 2, 1951.

course was not subject to a Way Fee - Hence was rated with the balance of the postage due. I suppose that travelers did not suppose their letters required more than 3¢, hence we see quite a few.

I am enclosing two photo-prints for your files:

(1) Prepaid Way into Montgomery on the route of the Great Mail. Letter from New Orleans.

(2) "Way" letter into Mobile (from New Orleans) - no way to collect this way - I think a "Way Letter" to a foreign address is an extremely scarce cover. Did you ever see another?

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Wed. 4/25/51

Dear Stanley:— Many thanks for your good letter received to-day. Too many of my good friends are on the "no hear long time" list. This note will try to reduce the list by one.

1 I have a "WAY 18" of 1795—

Letter written at Camden Me, June 24, 1795—
rated at "Warren, June 24, Way 18"
addressed to Pembroke (Ms)

Rates of 1792 inside the 250 mile zone.
Thank for the record of yours.

2

I have a MARIA O. Oct 7 (27 1/2 mile, black). Ms 38 1/2
to Bristol, R. I. — 25 + 12 1/2 + 1¢

* May I have a record of yours?

3

The rates of the War Period are interesting, as "SHIP 53"
 $2 \times 25\frac{1}{2} + 2¢$. Some of the multiples are scarce. I hope
to write an article on this period at some future date.

I am ^{completely} quite ignorant about how much revenue was collected
and why we have the "April rates" of 1816. At present I have
other irons in the fire.

4

at the Centennial exhibit I plan to show a few "Rates and Uses"
in the 1851 period and a frame of first day covers,

I have, Stampless 1¢ circular rate
6¢ Way
5¢ unpaid
6¢ double weight (N.Y. to Philly)
6 x Paid 3¢
Due 3¢ adhesive. a total of 11

There are obvious holes in the stampless group as
6¢ rate for over 3000 miles
SHIP - 7¢
U.S. Exp. Mail
a Rail Road

- 5] Enclosed are 4 covers which you have not seen,
- a) Savannah Mail Route as Vol. II, page 235
Why the Mail Route? Equivalent of NAV?
 - b) 3¢ 1857 + 1¢ 1861 Due 2 - the 3¢ was slightly out in 1862
 - c) Steamboat Due 2cts Unpaid fee to Ship Master
 - d) Due ? and Why in Cal. 1860 ?

This is the sort of junk that I plan to show at the Centennial.

All good wishes for a Happy Passover,

Arthur

TRACY W. SIMPSON
66 ALVARADO ROAD
BERKELEY 5, CALIFORNIA

Oct. 31, 1952

Dear Stanley

Henry Abt showed me his Metropolitan
Errand + Carrix Express cover with 3¢ to the US mail.
The cover is trial, as you know, with the usual 1856-type
New York townmark with single bar below date. I
Compared the marking that extends over the Metropolitan
stamp with two examples of this marking in my collection.
It is certainly not a fake "paint in" or forgery over
the carrier stamp. There are also other signs that it
is not a fake (!) a faker would have drawn the
circle more like an exact circle instead of as it is
which shows a slightly jumpy hand stamp. Also the
fakes would not leave these blank spaces that are
adjacent to the ^{carrier} stamp itself - caused by the thickness
of the paper of the stamp itself.

The best clincher of course is the back of
the ~~cover~~ cover - that Hinckley hand stamp shows
that it passed through the Metropolitan hand.

It must be that Perry was referring to some
other ~~kind~~ of cover when he wrote on page 1955 of P&S
"Moreover, no reason appears to believe the Metropol-
itan Errand + Carrix Express Company stamp on
that cover was placed there until long after 1860."

Sincerely yours
TWS

The 3¢ stamp plates stay + it is of the correct shade for
1856 wogt

B 209



Mrs. Laura Dickinson.

Wethersfield.

Conn.

BY HENRY ABT 10 / 7 1952

B210



THIS IS THE BACK OF B209

Dec. 9, 1952.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,
% Harmer, Rooke & Co.,
560 Fifth Ave.,
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

I am enclosing herewith a sample copy of my Dec. 1st issue of my "Special Service." Please note the photograph of the Hollowbush fake cover, photograph No. 64, and my remarks concerning it. Attached to this letter is a photograph of an item that appeared in Mekeel's last August by Phil Ward. I trust that the date of this fake will not be inserted in the S.U.S.

Will you also please note photograph No. 67 and my remarks concerning it. This fake was in your sale of Oct. 25, 1949 and was Lot #53. Inasmuch as there were some other covers in this sale that came from the Needham collection, I am wondering if this Lot #53 was a Needham cover. Will you please inform me of its source. I will greatly appreciate the favor. You will note that this also has a much earlier date of use than any that are listed in my record of earliest known uses. Incidentally, the S.U.S. gives, "Issued January 1, 1856," but although I have made a very thorough investigation, I have never been able to locate any confirmation of the above, and I attribute it to someone's imagination years ago. My earliest record of a use of the 5¢ 1856 is March 15, 1856 and I feel reasonably sure the stamp was not issued earlier than March 1856 and I consider the January 1, 1856 date in the S.U.S. as absolutely misleading.

Will you be so kind as to return all of the enclosed to me.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

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

Dec. 9, 1952.

Copy

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% Harmer, Rooke & Co.,
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New York 36, N.Y.

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Sincerely yours,
STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUES
ALBUMS AND BOOKS



580 Fifth Avenue
New York 36, N. Y.

PLAZA 7-4883-4-5

GORDON R. HARMER, *President & Treasurer*

December 17, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

Thank you for your letter of December 9 and I return your enclosures herewith. I have passed on your remarks affecting the U.S. Specialized to the proper quarter.

In regard to Lot #53 in our sale of October 25, 1949, we have not the permission to disclose the ownership of this cover.

This brings me to a point which has been on my mind for sometime and I would like to preface my remarks or my queries by saying that there is nothing unfriendly in my attitude but, of course, I am concerned when our name is mentioned in connection with fakes.

In your Special Service Letter #21, you state as follows: "The Meroni cover was sold in a sale by Harmer, Rooke & Co., New York City, on Oct. 25, 1949..."

Now, for the life of me, I don't see what good is accomplished by connecting us with a fake cover. It is true we sold it unintentionally. Our policy is always to withdraw a lot from sale if we know it to be a counterfeit or fake, providing we are satisfied the information given us is correct. I don't think this is the first time you have mentioned our name in such an instance.

Allan Thatcher who describes all our U.S. stamps is probably as conscientious and as knowledgeable as anyone doing similar work and his integrity is beyond question. If you were to point out parenthetically that this cover was sold in a Harmer, Rooke auction, and it was a fake, but that during that year they sold over \$500,000 worth of stamps, the fact that of the \$500,000 sold, only a few hundred dollars worth of stamps were questionable, that is one thing; but when you come out baldly with the statement that this fake cover was sold in a Harmer, Rooke auction, it gives a false impression. But the whole thing that escapes me is what good does it do to state we sold a fake unless the motive that would be attributed to such a statement was that you were unfriendly towards us, which I do not believe.

I do not consider that there is any firm who conducts a more ethical business than ours but we are a commercial firm and our annual sales run from \$500,000 to \$700,000 per year. It is obvious that we cannot examine every stamp with the same care that you might examine one single item. Were we to take this time, we would be unable to continue our business.

December 17, 1952

In the same Service Letter, you are distinctly unflattering to George Sloane. It may be quite impertinent of me to fight his battles but I consider George Sloane to be not only one of the most knowledgeable of professionals, a man who never makes a statement unless he believes it to be true, and who seldom makes a statement that is proved wrong. I could only wish there were more dealers of the caliber of George Sloane. I feel sure if you will reread the letter, you will agree that the remarks made about him are slighting.

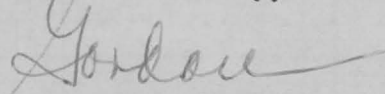
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I sincerely trust you will take this letter in the spirit in which it is written especially realizing as I do that you have a vast knowledge in your field; but to mention names and write about people because they make a mistake here and there, and who make the mistake sincerely, is a little difficult for me to understand. The exposure of crooks and fakers is a different matter and, naturally, every right-thinking person who is aware of such conditions, wishes to put those people out of business.

Perhaps I haven't expressed myself too well in this letter but I did think I would take this opportunity of letting you know my feelings. As I have said before, I have only the friendliest regard for you and the highest appreciation of your knowledge.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours sincerely,



GORDON R. HARMER

*signed in absence
of Mr. Harmer*

GRH:JK

Dec. 23, 1952.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,
% Scott Publications, Inc.,
580 Fifth Ave.,
New York 36, N.Y.

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I am compiling records of the good and the bad in philately and my records will, after my death, become the property of the Philatelic Foundation. It is my hope that they will in some measure provide a protection against all the fraudulent practices in philately. When I make a record of the source of fraudulent items, I am merely adding helpful data to these records. I will certainly continue this practice and I do not think that you or any other auction firm or dealer should desire it otherwise. In fact, I think I should have your complete and whole-hearted co-operation and that you should have been very frank in informing me of the source of that fake cover. I cannot imagine why you should have refused if you have a sincere desire to help in every way that you can to rid philately of all the crooked stuff.

Even if only one fake cover was offered in your sales in a year's time, that, in my opinion, is just one too many.

Regarding George Sloane. If I was distinctly unflattering to that person I can assure you that that was my intention. However, that is solely a matter between Sloane and myself.

Regarding your Mr. Allan Thatcher. I agree with you 100% that he is very competent and that his integrity is beyond question and there isn't the slightest doubt in my mind that he strives very hard in accurately describing items in your sales. However, to be very frank, I do not think that a stamp or a cover should be offered in an auction sale if there is the slightest doubt about it. When I informed John Fox that the Meroni cover was absolutely bad, John promptly withdrew it without any question or argument and he has followed this same rule in the past in every such instance.

In contrast, the firm of Harmer, Rooke & Co. went ahead and offered the fake 5¢-10¢ 1847 Knapp cover after I had warned you that the 10¢ stamp was not used originally on this cover and it was only by chance that the buyer, a friend of mine, was saved from a loss of several hundred dollars. It is true that this cover had a P.F. certificate but you are fully aware that there is not

#2. Mr. Gordon Harmer - Dec. 23, 1952.

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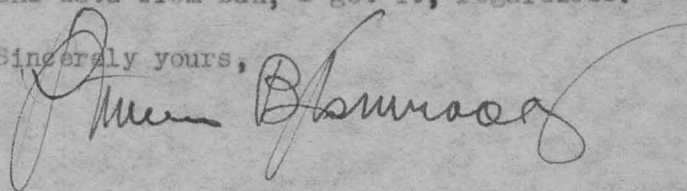
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Firm in the above conviction, I feel that I should have the utmost assistance and co-operation of every honest dealer and collector in philately. Why shouldn't I? When I inquire of you the source of that fake cover in your sale of Oct. 25, 1945, why shouldn't you welcome the opportunity to give me the information? Why should you feel one bit obligated to protect the person from whom you obtained it?

I frequently had occasion to make similar inquiries of the late Percy Doane and believe me, I obtained the information that I sought without any question. There is no more worthy successor to Percy than honest Dan Kelleher and when I request co-operation and data from Dan, I get it, regardless.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Percy Doane", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUES
ALBUMS AND BOOKS



580 Fifth Avenue
New York 36, N. Y.

PLAZA 7-4883-4-5

GORDON R. HARMER, *President & Treasurer*

January 7, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Thank you for your letter of December 23. I don't want to prolong this correspondence but I do think that I should answer one or two of your statements.

For the life of me, I cannot see that it is of any help to mention our name in connection with a cover that turns out to be a fake. Certainly the fact it was included in our auctions will not help research. Insofar as disclosing the names of owners of items in our sales, under no circumstances will we do this unless we have the permission of the owner. Unless a collector allows his name to be used in connection with the sale of his stamps, we have no right to disclose it as, naturally, all transactions are confidential. The owner of the New Orleans cover had no idea it was a fake and so what good would it do to have his name connected with it.

I might point out that hindsight is always more accurate than foresight. This cover was offered at auction by us, described and photographed in a sale catalogue that was circulated to several thousand buyers, which was probably seen by at least 100 buyers when it was on view, but neither you nor anyone else cast any doubt concerning it. We do not offer items at auction if we have a doubt about them unless we obtain another opinion. But if you say that one fake cover or one fake item included in a sale over a period of one year is one too many, then I can only say that no auction house could exist if that was the condition under which it had to operate.

In the case of the New Orleans cover, your opinion was supported by the Philatelic Foundation. In the case of the so-called Knapp Cover, your opinion was not supported by the Foundation and we had no option but to offer it at auction. The Philatelic Foundation is recognized as an authority in this country and there is no greater precaution that we can take to protect a buyer than to submit an item to their Expert Committee. Whether you agree with their findings or not is irrelevant. You cannot accuse us of uncooperation in respect to that cover. Were a similar situation to arise again, I would have no option but to adopt the same policy and were you in the auction business, I am quite sure you would take our attitude.

As a firm, we make exactly the same claim that you do: that we do not make a mistake knowingly.

I certainly agree with you that you should have the cooperation in your work and I maintain that we have given it to you and we will continue to give it to you, but under no circumstances will we divulge confidential information which, actually, has no bearing on the matter. In the first place, we would not accept material

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Page Two

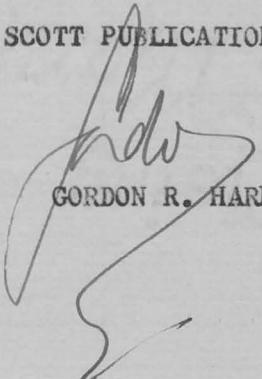
January 7, 1953

from a person we believed to be dishonest. If it did transpire that an individual was disseminating fake covers through auction sales, we would, of course, be the first to endeavor to stop such an individual. We have frequently sent you lots for inspection in preference to other requests, solely from the desire to cooperate as much as possible.

As I have said before, I have the utmost regard for your knowledge but there may well be times when, advised by others, I might have a different opinion to you, but that, I think, is my privilege.

Best wishes for 1953
Yours sincerely,

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.


GORDON R. HARMER

GRH:JK
Ret. photos, ord.

Jan. 12, 1953.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,
% Scott Publications, Inc.,
580 Fifth Ave.,
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

I have yours of the 7th and I agree that little can be gained in prolonging a discussion of the subjects of our recent exchange of letters. However, I would like to remind you of several important facts.

When it comes to the validity of U. S. 19th Century covers, I am sure that every serious collector in the country would far prefer an opinion by me than by the Expert Committee of the P.F., or, for that matter, by anyone else in American philately. I make this statement because I believe that I have made a more extended study of U. S. covers than any other philatelic student, alive or dead. This has to do with the Notorious Knapp 5¢-10¢ 1847 fake cover. I am aware that you offered this rank fake in one of your auction sales because you had a certificate issued by the P.F., but in addition, I had warned you in advance that the cover was a fake. You have a clause in the front of your catalogues stating that a refund will be made within 21 days or something to that effect. I am sure that you are aware that it is practically impossible to get a stamp or cover passed upon by the Expert Committee of the P.F. within 21 days. In fact, I think they had the Knapp cover under examination from January until May.

Suppose in your catalogue description of the Knapp fake cover you had stated: "This cover has been condemned by Ashbrook" - Do you suppose anyone but possibly some gyp-artist would have purchased it? This cover was offered in one of your sales with the understanding that your firm considered it genuine because it had a Foundation certificate, yet you and your Mr. Thatcher must have had some doubts regarding it if for no other reason than that I assured you it was a fake.

Gordon, in all seriousness, I don't think that I could possibly damage the good name of Harmer, Rooke & Co. by merely mentioning to some small group of my friends that such and such a cover was in one of your sales in 1949. I am sure that such a mention is not near as damaging as the gossip which gets around that you offered the Knapp cover after Ashbrook had advised you that it was bad. At present, the reputation of P.F. certificates is very bad, need I tell you that? In fact, if you offer a cover and mention that it has a P.F. certificate, that wouldn't mean a thing to well-informed buyers at your sales. On the contrary, you mention that such and such an item is signed on the back as genuine by Ashbrook and that guarantee is as good as any obtainable. I am not kidding myself nor am I trying to kid you on that feature.

Suppose for example, the Knapp cover had been purchased in that sale by someone who depended on your assurance that it was genuine and failed to return it within 21 days - he would have suffered a loss of over \$200. Suppose he told me about it and I informed him that I advised you long before the sale

#2. Mr. Gordon Harmer, Jan. 12, 1953.

that it was a fake. Buyers like that have a way of getting sore and they make it a point to gossip about it to everyone who will listen to them. Your commission on the sale of that item would have been \$40. It seems to me that for a mere paltry forty dollars you took a chance of damaging the reputation of your firm far more than I could accomplish by the mere mention that such and such a cover was innocently offered in one of your sales in 1949. Had I even suspected that you would have objected to such a mention I would gladly have explained that no one in your firm had any suspicion that anything was wrong with the cover. I certainly will bear this in mind in the future, and I will bend over backwards to avoid any inference whatsoever that your firm had the slightest suspicion that an item was even suspicious.

I appreciate your kindness in sending auction lots to me for inspection but almost invariably when I send for lots I do so at the request of some of your clients, and when I okay them, I really am doing you a favor because the bidder increases his bid to the limit in order to obtain the lot. All this at no expense to you. In other words, I charge your client a fee to examine a lot or lots in your sale.

Maybe I can give you another thought on why I mention that a certain lot was in this or that sale in the past. I do it not only for my own records, but for the benefit of students of future years. In the case of the New Orleans cover you mentioned - the fake 5¢ 1856 - I could have gone further and stated that according to certain evidence in my files, this cover from the Needham collection - was sold by John Kleeman to Needham and was made by Zareski. Just because it was in the Needham collection is no proof that Needham knew it was bad, nor any proof that Kleeman was aware it was bad when he bought it from Zareski. I suppose it was a well-known fact on Nassau St. a quarter of a century ago, that John Kleeman was the New York outlet for a lot of Zareski material. I can't prove it, but nevertheless I think you got the cover from Costales but I am quite sure that Gene never had any suspicion it was bad, yet Gene is rated as one of the top experts in Nassau St. on 19th U.S.

I appreciate the frankness of your letter and I can assure you that I would not want anyone to get the idea that I think I am always correct in my opinions, but I do know this - that when Zareski, Sperati and the rest of the Crooks put one over on me it has to be darn good.

I don't cover the world from A to Z nor U.S. from 1847 to 1953 - just 19th Century U.S. to 1890 and I have devoted my life to the study, hence I should have a fairly good batting average.

This letter turned out to be longer than I intended but I trust that you will give you a clearer view of the other side of the subjects we have recently discussed.

With every good wish -

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 24, 1952.

Mr. John A. Fox,
116 Nassau St.,
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear John:

Yours of the 18th received.

I sent Gordon Harmer a sample copy of my December "Special Service" together with a set of photographs, having two things in mind, viz., (1) my opposition to listing in the S.U.S. the date of the fake 5¢ 1857 Brick Red cover and (2) to give him advance notice of my opinion of the Meroni cover. I also requested information of him relative to who put the cover in his sale. Bang!!! - That request probably upset his Lordship, because today I received a reply from him in which he proceeded to deliver to me quite a lecture. My God, I wonder who he thinks he is? I enclose copy of his letter and also accompany it with a copy of my reply.

I don't know whether my letter to him will help you when you get around to making a demand for a refund but I had that in mind when I wrote it. At any rate, John, I want you to keep me informed and if he refuses, I will publicize his action in my Special Service. I dislike very much to inject personalities into my "Service" but in this case I think it would be justified. I would publicize two things, viz: (1) that he refused to inform me as to the source of the Meroni cover, and (2) that he refused to refund the purchase price.

Please keep all of this confidential because it is a bad practice to divulge the contents of a private correspondence.

I think his reference to George Sloane was uncalled for and quite impertinent. My opinion of Sloane (a damn little egotistical squirt) is none of his Lordship's business.

Regarding the source of the Meroni cover. I may be wrong but I am willing to bet that the cover came from the Needham collection via Gene Costales. That Gordon bought a lot of Needham covers as is, from Gene and this was in the lot, hence if Gordon makes a refund to you, it will be his loss. I'll give you odds that he won't make any refund if he can get out of doing so. "Wanna bet?"

This will not reach you until after Christmas but we trust that Virginia and you had a wonderful day and that 1953 will be awfully good to you both.

Cordially yours,

P.S.--May I have a list of the Meroni prices?

Dec. 24, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

I sent Gordon Harmer a sample copy of my December Special Service, together with a set of photographs. I requested him to give me the source of the fake Meroni cover in his 1949 sale and advised him against listing in the S.U.S., the "earliest date" of the 5¢ 1857 Brick Red Hollowbush fake cover. I enclose copy of his reply and also a copy of my reply to it. I thought you would be interested because his letter displays the attitude of this chap. Don't you think he had his nerve delivering a lecture to me? Who in the hell does he think he is? Here is another chap whose success has gone to his head.

This will not reach you until after Christmas but we hope that you all had a wonderful day and that 1953 will be awfully good to Rene and you, and to Joan and Jackie.

As ever yours,

From Gordon Harmer

December 17, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

Thank you for your letter of December 9 and I return your enclosures herewith. I have passed on your remarks affecting the U. S. Specialized to the proper quarter.

In regard to Lot #53 in our sale of October 25, 1949, we have not the permission to disclose the ownership of this cover.

This brings me to a point which has been on my mind for sometime and I would like to preface my remarks or my queries by saying that there is nothing unfriendly in my attitude but, of course, I am concerned when our name is mentioned in connection with fakes.

In your Special Service Letter #21, you state as follows: "The Meroni cover was sold in a sale by Harmer, Rooke & Co., New York City, on Oct. 25, 1949..."

Now, for the life of me, I don't see what good is accomplished by connecting us with a fake cover. It is true we sold it unintentionally. Our policy is always to withdraw a lot from sale if we know it to be a counterfeit or fake, providing we are satisfied the information given us is correct. I don't think this is the first time you have mentioned our name in such an instance.

Allan Thatcher who describes all our U.S. stamps is probably as conscientious and as knowledgeable as anyone doing similar work and his integrity is beyond question. If you were to point out parenthetically that this cover was sold in a Harmer, Rooke auction, and it was a fake, but that during that year they sold over \$500,000 worth of stamps, the fact that of the \$500,000 sold, only a few hundred dollars worth of stamps were questionable, that is one thing; but when you come out baldly with the statement that this fake cover was sold in a Harmer, Rooke auction, it gives a false impression. But the whole thing that escapes me is what good does it do to state we sold a fake unless the motive that would be attributed to such a statement was that you were unfriendly towards us, which I do not believe.

I do not consider that there is any firm who conducts a more ethical business than ours but we are a commercial firm and our annual sales run from \$500,000 to \$700,000 per year. It is obvious that we cannot examine every stamp with the same care that you might examine one single item. Were we to take this time, we would be unable to continue our business.

In the same Service Letter, you are distinctly unflattering to George Sloane. It may be quite impertinent of me to fight his battles but I consider George Sloane to be not only one of the most knowledgeable of professionals, a man who never makes a statement unless he believes it to be true, and who seldom makes a statement that is proved wrong. I could only wish there ~~were~~ were more dealers of the caliber of George Sloane. I feel sure if you will reread the letter you will agree that the remarks made about him are slighting.

What I am trying to learn is what does this all achieve? If I were a collector and read your letter, I would be quite inclined to give up stamp collecting.

I sincerely trust you will take this letter in the spirit in which it is written especially realizing as I do that you have a vast knowledge in your field; but to mention names and write about people because they make a mistake here and there, and who make the mistake sincerely,

December 17, 1952

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Perhaps I haven't expressed myself too well in this letter but I did think I would take this opportunity of letting you know my feelings. As I have said before, I have only the friendliest regard for you and the highest appreciation of your knowledge.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours sincerely,

(SIGNED) Gordon

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December 17, 1952

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Yours sincerely,

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

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580 Fifth Ave.,
New York 36, N.Y.

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#2. Mr. Gordon Harmer - Dec. 23, 1952.

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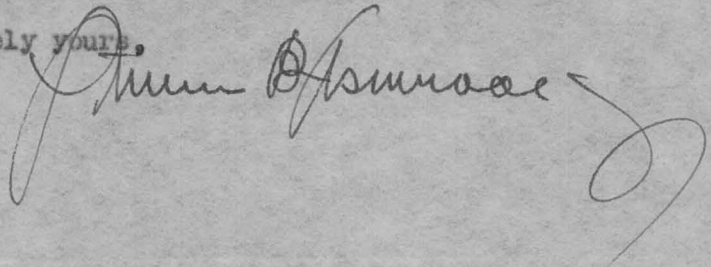
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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Percy Doane", with a large, decorative flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Dec. 16, 1952.

Billig & Rich, Inc.,
Room 630, 55 West 42nd St.,
New York 18, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of yours of the 11th with the two items - cover with 3¢ '57 - canceled Chicago "Jan. 8, 1857" and a single 1¢ 1857 - Type IV of Chicago "Jan. 22, 1857"

Inasmuch as there have been several counterfeits turned up in recent years, I would like to make a very thorough test of these two items before giving a definite opinion. You will hear from me in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 24, 1952.

Billig & Rich, Inc.,
55 West 42nd St.,
Room 630,
New York 36, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith the 1¢ 1857 off cover copy of the "Chicago Perf" together with an enlarged photograph (ultra violet) of same made by Ultra Violet. This copy, "a crease in paper before printing," is, in my opinion, genuine, and I have signed same as such, on the back.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 24, 1952.

Billig & Rich, Inc.,
55 W. 42nd St.,
Room 630 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York 18, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Herewith I am returning the 3¢ 1851 tied to cover by a Chicago postmark of "Jan. 8, 1857." I regret to state that I cannot render you a definite opinion whether the stamp is a genuine copy of the unofficial "Chicago Perforation." It may be perfectly genuine and it may not be, and in case where I am not perfectly satisfied I respectfully decline to render an opinion.

I trust that you will appreciate my position.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 24, 1952.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3008 - 13th Ave., South,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

Herewith your cover with the pair of the 3¢ 1857 Chicago Perf.
I made a re-examination of this and there is no question in my mind that
it is perfectly genuine in every respect.

Happy New Year

Yours etc.,

CHICAGO PERF BY BILLG & RICH



JAN 22 OR 23
C5 AT 13 F32 - 3 MIN

①

B250

By
Billig & Rich
Dec 1952

CHICAGO
Perf



Mr. Martin J. Gleason
Brimfield, Hampden Co.
Massachusetts

C 83
Dec 24 - 52
20's Red F128-15
Sec

Fritz Billig
Fred Rich

Cable Address: Birich New York
Telephone: PE 6-7637

BILLIG & RICH, INC.

55 W. 42nd Street, Suite 630-1
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

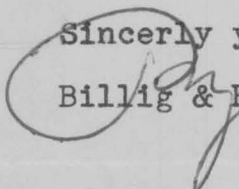
12.11.52

Mr. S. Ashbrook,
Forth Thomas Ky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Mr. H. Bloch of H. R. Harmer suggested to us to submit the 2 enclosed U.S stamps for your opinion as to Chicago perf. Kindly send us a letter for each one and let us know your charge. Thanks in advance

Sincerely yours


Billig & Rich Inc

If this is not the one you are interested in
return it and I'll send you the other one with
my best wishes to You & Mildred, Roadie S.

MRS. LEO J. SHAUGHNESSY
PLEASANTON, TEXAS

NON-REM
MK
NIMBO BOND
MADE IN U.S.A.

Dec. 24, 1952.

My dear Brodie:

This is the day before Christmas when everyone is saying Merry Christmas, etc., but we both realize that tomorrow will be a sad day for you - the first Christmas without your beloved Leo. Such is life and there is nothing we can do about it except to enjoy to the fullest the happy days while they last and then when the dark ones come, to treasure the memories of those days.

Brodie it was very kind of you to loan me the enclosed cover. I suppose I wrote Leo shortly before his passing that I would like to see this cover in order to photograph but I cannot remember. At any rate, I made a photograph of it and I return it herewith.

Mildred and I send you our love and best wishes. May 1953 be very good to you and may time gently heal the wound that you suffered in 1952.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Leo J. Shaughnessy
Pleasanton, Texas

#135⁰⁰

Dec. 3, 1952.

Mr. Frederic J. Grant,
515 South Lorraine Blvd.,
Los Angeles 5, Calif.

Dear Fred:

Herewith the interesting 10¢ - 2¢ cover mentioned in my letter of Nov. 24th. Of course, we have no proof that the addressee was a P of W, but after I read the letter I rather imagined that he was. The writer mentions, "after all the dangers you have passed through."

I figured that Reynolds was a P of W and wasn't sure where he would be confined so in a letter to his relatives at Georgetown D.C., he advised them to merely address him - "Charleston, S.C." When the letter was undelivered at Charleston it was advertised and marked with a "2" due. Evidently Reynolds was watching the list of advertised letters and when he paid the "2" fee and the 2¢ drop rate, the "2" was stamped out as paid. I wonder if the fact that he paid 2¢ in postage to have the letter forwarded to him is not a slight indication that he was "confined" and couldn't call in person? At any rate I think this is one of the most interesting Confed covers that I have ever run across and I am more than pleased to see it go into your collection.

Someday I would like to write an article about it. Would you have any objection?

I am enclosing two U. S. covers showing the large Charleston "2" used as a steamboat fee. The poor print is of a cover that belongs to Larry Shenfield. He also has a cover with a 5¢ Confed (litho blue) with this same "2."

Re - your query about a "Parkers Express." I regret to state that I have no record.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

FREDERIC J. GRANT
515 SOUTH LORRAINE BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES 5, CALIFORNIA

Dec. 20

Dear Stan -

Thanks for the cover and the photos. I am really intrigued by the cover and now believe as you do that Mr. Reynolds was a P.O.W. Of course you can write an article about it if you wish - about that or any other item that I ever own. I have so little time myself to give to my philatelic interests that I never do write up things that might really be of use. How Mac Brudo finds the time I'll never know.

I'll be in Cincinnati somewhere around Jan. 4th - 16th.

My daughter has had a share of trouble this Christmas. Her husband is in the hospital and the oldest girl fell and broke off her front teeth so "Pop" will have pay a visit and help out.

Hoping you have a very nice Christmas,

Sincerely,

Fred Grant

Dec. 24, 1952.

Mr. Frederic J. Grant,
515 South Lorraine Blvd.,
Los Angeles 5, Calif.

Dear Fred:

Thanks very much for yours of the 20th
with check for the Confederate cover.

I was sorry to learn of the ill-luck in
your daughter's home but pleased that you will soon
be paying a visit to Cincinnati, and that you will
spend some time with me. Also may I thank you very
kindly for permission to write up the 10¢ plus 2¢
cover.

Wishing you a Very Happy New Year -

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

12-22-52

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

What do you think of these
for shades? Also is the paper right?

I have seen Edger once or twice
since his return from the East.

I have been very busy medically
and otherwise, but hope things will calm
down soon.

Seasons Greetings!

Sincerely,

W. Scott Polland.

Dec. 27, 1952.

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

Dear Doctor:

Though I suspected that you were probably terribly busy with your added duties at the hospital I did wonder why I had not heard from you for so long and hoped that you were not ill.

Re - the two 24¢ by Bilden - In my opinion, his 70 C is not the Black Violet, nor is this the thin August paper, but quite the contrary - the paper is quite thick in comparison. This stamp is simply a Lilac.

Re - his No. 60. He is sorely mistaken - this is not the Violet but rather a dark Red Lilac. The dealers seem to have a lot of trouble with the colors of the 24¢ 1861.

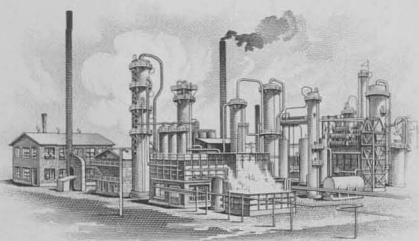
Please don't quote me to Bilden, as he has quite a good opinion of his knowledge of 19th U.S., but you can inform him that if Ashbrook will certify these copies as he has them listed that you will take them. If he sends them to me I will charge him a fee. Some dealers get sore when I kill a sale for them. They seem to think that if they tell a collector that such and such a copy is this or that, that the victim should take their word without question.

Though this is written Saturday, I will not be able to register it until Monday, as our P.O. here closes at noon on Saturdays.

Mrs. Ashbrook and I was much interested in the Polland Christmas card and comparing it with the first one that you sent me several years ago. Mrs. Polland and you show no signs of the extra years, but the children show signs of extra age. The baby of the family seems to have grown up. We were puzzled about the fawn. In the previous picture we thought the white animal standing on its hind legs was a goat. Were we wrong? Junior with three sisters to advise him must have a hard life. A most interesting and happy family, and we wish you all a Very Happy, Healthful and Prosperous New Year.

Cordially yours,

(25-53)



PHONE 125

CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN
Ionia, Michigan.
December 22, 1952.

Dear Stan:

Note the enclosed letter from H. R. Harmer Inc., together with my reply of this date. This is in reference to the "STEAM SHIP" cover with the 10¢ green Type III of 1855 which was just barely tied. You will no doubt be hearing from Harmer on this soon.

Obviously, if you sign a cover, it makes it beyond reproach in my book, or with anyone else that has any sense, for that matter. If it had not just happened that I showed this cover to Harold Stark after you first signed it, I would of course have immediately paid Harmer and put it in my collection. Harold however, spent quite a bit of time examining this under his binocular microscope and expressed the opinion that the tie was painted in. He said he was SURE that if you used a soft soap rubber eraser on the tie-in, it would rub right off whereas the rest of the "STEAM SHIP" would not be effected by such erasing. Of course he did not try this as the cover did not belong to him. Then when he saw your name on the back, he told me to send it back to you and have you go over it again. He said he was sure this was originally a stampless and some faker had added the stamp. He says that New York never used a pen cancel at this period and if this stamp had arrived pen cancelled, they would have rated it "Due 10." Now this "might" be the solution as this "might" have arrived with the pen cancel and they therefore applied the "NEW YORK 10" making it 10¢ due at Worcester. I told Harold that your signature on the back made it good anyway so why worry, and Harold said to send it back to you and let you check it again and perhaps you would not want your signature on the cover. When you returned it to me, the guarantee had been erased or practically erased, so without your signature I didn't want the cover anyway, so sent it back to Harmer and told him some question had been raised on this cover and as an out, suggested he get a Foundation certificate that the stamp originated on the cover. He came back with this letter, and it is not necessary to tell you that I would rather have your guarantee than a dozen P.F. certificates, so you will probably get a chance to look this over again, and I have written Harmer that if you sign it, I will be happy to have it and pay for same plus the fee you charge them.

Jack Molesworth sent me a beautiful Xmas card and enclosed the Ionia 1862 Patriotic with his compliments. This is just about the most immaculate cover I have ever seen. Look at the condition after ninety years. I knew you would like to see this cover. You can return it when replying.

Have spent a lot of time trying to plate the single 1¢ Plate One Early with wide sheet margin at right and believe it is 4OR. If so, it proves Plate One Early had no imprint. I may be wrong of course. Am going to send it to Mort with a known strip of three and see what he thinks and will then send it on to you if he agrees it can be plated. Maybe what I think is a

CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED
CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

plating mark is just a mirage but maybe it can be plated - am not positive yet.

Was sure glad to get your letter mentioning that you had talked with Dan Kelleher. There's sure a lot of difference between Molesworth and that lousy New York kyke.

Rene joins me in wishing all the Ashbrook's the happiest Christmas ever.

Sincerely,

Jack
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/

Joan is home and brought two - yes - (2) - boys friends with her to spend the holidays.

Dec. 27, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 22nd. This did not arrive until today but the mails will be better from now on - thank God.

I return the correspondence with Harmer and if he sends the cover to me, I will express my doubt that the stamp was originally used on it and I will not charge him any fee. I think very highly of Bernard Harmer so I will give him a good report and I am sure you will be relieved of adding this doubtful item to your collection.

The Patriotic that Molesworth sent you with the Ionia postmark is certainly a nice clean Patriotic, and it will be a nice addition to your cover collection.

What do you think of the enclosed letter from Spees?

We had a nice Xmas card from Jackie and we all appreciated it very much. She is a fine little mother.

Re - the Plate One Early sheet copy. I am hopeful that Mort may be able to confirm your suspicion that this may be 4OR1E. Maybe Mort might have an item that I have never seen that would identify this sheet copy. I will be glad to check any items that Mort and you want to submit.

Joan didn't take any chance in driving home alone - did she?

The nuts arrived in fine shape and they simply marvelous - They certainly have a wonderful favor and they are so easy to crack - all of us have been enjoying them - Mildred roasted some as soon as they arrived. Each one of us send our thanks.

Mildred and Stan join me in wishing you all a Very Happy New Year.

Yours etc.,

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 41 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W. I.
AND 26 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
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

31st
December
1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a cover offered in our auction of November 10-11 which has on the back of it the comment in your handwriting, since largely erased, that in your opinion the 1855 10c type U was used on the cover.

The purchaser of the lot, Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein, whom no doubt you know, writes that if you will rewrite your opinion on the cover he will be glad to take the item and pay any fee involved.

I do not know of course whether your comment was erased by yourself due to some later information or whether it was erased for some reasons unknown by some other party. The obvious solution was to send it back to you to find out.

May I at this opportunity extend to you very best wishes for your health and happiness in 1953.

Sincerely yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

Bernard J. Harmer

Director

BDH:E
Enclosure

CC: Mr. Fleckenstein

Jan. 3, 1953.

Mr. Bernard D. Harmer,
% H. R. Harmer, Inc.,
32 East 57th St.,
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Harmer:

Replying to yours of the 31st, I am returning herewith the New York "Steam Ship" cover which was Lot #270 in your sale of Nov. 10th, 1952. You are quite correct, there was a memorandum on the back of this cover in pencil which was made and signed by me, and which I later erased.

Regarding this cover. It is my opinion that the 10¢ stamp was not used originally on this envelope, that the cover was originally a "stampless" and that someone added the pencanceled 10¢ 1855. I am aware that apparently the tip of the "S" ties the stamp to the cover, but in my opinion, the part of the "S" on the stamp is fraudulent. I do not believe this black ink is the same as that on the cover.

The New York postmark was one that was used on stampless mail and indicated that 10¢ was due from the addressee. The "Steam Ship" was an origin marking and indicated that this letter was brought into the Port of New York by a ship of the U. S. Mail Line operating between New York and Panama, touching at Havana. I note the routing "Per Florida" but I have no record that such a ship was of the New York - Panama Line, known as The U. S. Mail Steamship Company" - Thus it is most unlikely that this cover was of California or U. S. West Coast origin, but rather that it may have originated somewhere in the West Indies, and perhaps the Florida was a vessel that connected in some manner with a U. S. Mail ship. I mention this theory because if it is true, it seems unlikely that a letter originating outside of the U. S. would be prepaid with a U. S. stamp.

Further, I note that the letter is addressed to "Edward W. Lincoln P.M." of Worcester, Mass. I note that E. W. Lincoln was listed as postmaster of Worcester as of April 1st, 1854, but in my next list, dated July 1st, 1855, Emory Danister is listed as postmaster, and my 1857 list gives the same.

The 10¢ 1855 was issued in May 1855. May 6, 1855 would have been too early for this stamp, hence if the use was May 6, 1856 or later, E. W. Lincoln was not postmaster at that time. Whether this proves anything or not, I will let you be the judge.

I might also add, that the 10¢ rate shown in the New York postmark, indicates that the letter originated outside of the U. S. inasmuch as I assume that the origin was not the West Coast of the U.S.

(25-54)

Sincerely yours,

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 3-6481

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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

6th
January
1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your letter of January 3rd and the return of Lot 270 from our November 10th auction.

I note that you have revised your earlier opinion on the cover and incidentally I feel most inclined to agree with your second opinion after examining it further.

What bewilders me slightly is when the erasure of your comments was made. We feel sure that they were on the cover when it was sold; Mr. Fleckenstein writes that he showed the item to Mr. H. W. Stark and presumably this is the first time you have seen the cover since it was auctioned. If however you did see it since the auction and before my sending it to you and did erase the comments, this is satisfactory, but should the situation arise again, which I am sure will not be the case, I would like you to write to me first as I naturally have an obligation to return the cover to the vendor in the condition in which it was received and in this instance I am unable to do so.

I do not imagine that I will have any trouble but I could have trouble and it is easier to go about the matter in the correct order of obtaining the vendor's permission first.

However thanks for your opinion which I am passing on to Mr. Fleckenstein and of course making the lot unsold.

With best wishes for 1953.

Sincerely yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

Bernard J. Harmer

Director

BDH:E

Jan. 8, 1953.

Mr. Bernard D. Harmer,
% H. R. Harmer, Inc.,
32 East 57th St.,
New York 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Harmer:

I am in receipt of yours of the 6th, and wish to assure you that the original pencil memorandum that I put on the cover was not put there until after the sale. I never saw this cover until after the sale and the purchase was made by Mr. Fleckenstein. When I first examined the cover, I did not question it, but after more careful consideration I realized that the stamp did not originate on the cover as all the evidence was contrary.

When I send for lots before a sale and examine them, I rarely advise the auction firm that such and such a lot or lots are bad. This would be offering an opinion that was not requested, and second, I charge a fee for an opinion.

I am frequently requested to send for auction lots and examine them for friends of mine. For such service I charge a liberal fee. If a lot is genuine in my opinion, I further advise whether or not I think the item would add anything to the collection, but I make it a rule to refrain from expressing an opinion on value.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

Van Dyck War Bride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

December 22nd, 1952.

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

Dear Stan:

I greatly enjoyed your good letter of December 17th.

If it is true that you didn't recognize that Official Records notation, - I am indeed surprised! I imagine the notation just didn't "click" when you read it, for the "Official Records" are the basic reference for every student, reader, and writer on the Civil War! On the chance, however, that you may not have known of them, - here is what they are.

The correct title is as follows: THE WAR OF THE REBELLION. A COMPILATION OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES. They were published by the U.S. War Department in Washington in the years 1880 to 1901, and a complete set comprises no less than 70 volumes which were bound into 128 large books. I think there are also two index volumes, and there is "The Atlas to Accompany the Official Records" published in two large volumes. Finally, there was published as supplementary to all this: THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE NAVIES, 1894-1927, in 30 volumes and an index!

The short name to which these works are usually referred is the "Official Records", and as you can see from the above their publication was possibly one of the most monumental tasks of the sort ever accomplished. They are supposed to include every order, document, letter, record, etc. etc. of the Civil War, and the volumes include all such Confederate military and naval records as remained to be captured, - mostly in Richmond, - at the close of the War. I think there is little if anything, however, on the Confederate Post Office Department, - as the Official Records were pretty strictly limited to military matters.

The "Official Records" are an inexhaustible mine of information, and while I am not man enough to claim that I ever read or even looked through them all, I have more or less constantly looked up references in whatever subject I happened to be studying or writing about. Oddly enough, they are not too difficult to acquire. Their very

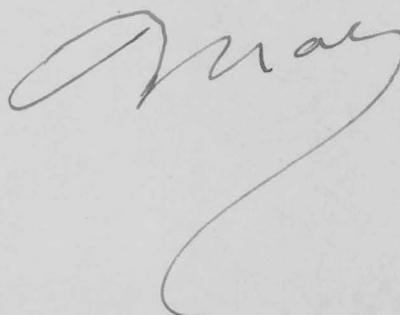
size and weight, as well as their character, did not serve to make them "popular". I have been offered a set for practically nothing, - if only I would pay the shipping costs! But like many others, I haven't wanted to add such a load to my library in my home, and instead I go to our public library here whenever I want to check something. I am certain that a complete set is in the Cincinnati Public Library, and one may be in your local library at Fort Thomas. So go to it!

Now I enclose a most unusual item for your study and comment. The typed clipping enclosed with it describes it pretty well, but can you figure out the following? The U.S. 3¢ star-die stamp is uncanceled, and there is no U.S. postal marking on this cover. How in the world did it ever get from the Confederate lines to New Haven, Conn. in June of 1861? Larry Shenfield thinks it might have been "snaked thru by some unknown express carrier", and even wonders if the tiny "2" in the upper right corner could represent "2 bits" for an express charge. The only theory I have left is that it never was delivered, but that it was intercepted when it reached either the Confederate or the Union lines, - but then it should have received either a Confederate or the U.S. Dead Letter Office marking. Along with its enclosures, which substantiate it perfectly, it is an interesting object, - what is your opinion on it?

Thanks for your comments and additional information on the STEAM 6 and STEAM 7 markings, - they go into my files for future reference. I have discovered that only the latter marking is in the present Dietz Catalog, - will you please send back the photo of the cover showing the STEAM 6 marking, so that I can get it copied for the new edition we are working on? Also, I do think both covers should be called to Earl Antrim's attention, and if you want to send both photos to me I'll send them on to him for that purpose.

That's plenty for now! Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,



MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L.Shenfield

Dec. 27, 1952.

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

Dear Mac:

Herewith the 3¢ Star Die cover from "Pontotoc, Miss." to New Haven, Conn. on June 8, 1861 - also the enclosures. I think that this is a most interesting cover and that it is genuine in every respect. I believe that the enclosures are mute testimony that this letter was mailed on the above date and that it was received by the addressee five days later.

Perhaps a sentence in the letter that was enclosed offers the solution as to how it reached New Haven, viz: "Request your postmaster to send your reply, direct, to the Louisville, Ky. distributing post office and it will probably reach me." (unquote)

Pontotoc is in north-central Mississippi not very far from the Tennessee line, so I suppose there is little doubt that the mail routes to Louisville were still open. As this was evidently an important letter with a draft on Mobile, (an important enclosure), perhaps the Pontotoc postmaster sent this letter under separate enclosure to the Louisville office and requested them to send the letter on in the regular channel to New Haven. I assume that the Louisville office complied. The Pontotoc office did not cancel the 3¢ stamp, why should they, and neither did Louisville nor New Haven. I don't think that an express company had anything to do with the carriage of this letter, but, of course, such a thing was possible.

We can theorize that at some point along the line in Tennessee that a C.S.A. postmaster might have handed the letter to Adams Express to carry thru the lines and the Company could have transmitted it all the way to New Haven. Had this been the case, I believe, even at that early date, there would have been applied some evidence of express carriage and payment for same. My guess that the "2" in upper right is the number of the letter - one before this was No. 1 - this was No. 2.

Of course, we can only speculate as to how this letter reached New Haven between June 8th and 13th, 1861, but the important thing about it is, in my estimation, that it did reach the addressee.

Mappy New Year

Cordially yours,

(copy to L.L.Shenfield)
(25-55)

REGISTERED

No. 6225

OFFICE OF **St. John, Powers & Co.**

Exchange for ~~500~~⁵⁰ ~~100~~¹⁰⁰ **Mobile,** April 17 - 1861


Twenty days after date of this
Second of Exchange. (First unpaid) (Pay to the order of

C. J. Pett
John Smith & Co. ²⁰ ~~100~~ *of Miss.*

Value received and charge *Your Otd. Scts.*

To **Duncan, Sherman & Co.**
Bankers, New York.

St. John, Powers & Co.

Paid 



Henry White Esq
New Haven
Conn.



Dec 6253-

GEORGE

No. 2223


Office of **St. John, Powers & Co.**

Exchange for ~~\$1000~~ ¹⁰⁰ **Mobile**, April 27. 1861

Second of Exchange. (First paid). Pay to the order of

James H. [unclear] of *[unclear]* *[unclear]* Dollars
Value received and charge *[unclear]* Your Obedt. Servts.

To **Duncan, Sherman & Co.**
Bankers, New York. *[Signature]*

Paid 



Henry White Esq.
New Haven
Conn.



See 8253

My kind regards to my sisters & all yours - 1861

MS. A. 8. 1

Bontice 7th June 1861

Henry White Esq
New Haven Conn.
D^r Sir

Enclosed I hand 10^{rs} of
M^{rs} St John Tenors & Co. Bill of Exchange & 2000
dated Mobile April 17 1861 Payable to my order
to say after date in M^{rs} Duncan Sherman & Co
New York for four Months & quarterly sum 375^{rs}
dollars which you will please place to credit of my
account - (It is endorsed to you -)

Will you please inform me if C. J.
Collins Esq. Hudson Co. N. J. has made enquiry of the
Com^r of stock in the C. B. & N. R. ? & if so what
was your reply? - He is now anxious to acquire
of a tract of land adjoining mine in this State.
& if we can agree I will accommodate him -
It has increased much in value since we have been
negotiating - & the tax on it for the present year will
be heavy - I think about \$200 -

Please inform me how many shares I
have? & the par value -

Note → Request your post master to send
your reply - direct - to the Lewisville N. J. Postoffice
Post office & it will probably reach me -

Respectfully Yours H. J. Sargent

My kind regards to my father & all friends - 1861

Monticello 7th June 1861

Henry White Esq
New Haven Conn.
D. Sir

Enclosed I hand \$100 of
M^{rs}. & John Jones & Co. Bill of Exchange & \$2000
dated Mobile April 17. 1861 payable to my order
to pay after date on M^{rs}. Duncan Sherman & Co
New York for Jan Adams & degeny draw \$100
dollar which you will please place to credit of my
account - (It is enclosed to you -)

Will you please inform me if C^o
Collins Esq. Hudson N.Y. has made enquiry of the
Amt. of stock in the C. B. A. R. ? & if so what
was your reply? - He is now anxious to acquire
of a tract of land adjoining mine in this State.
& if we can agree. I will accommodate him -
It has advanced much in value since we have been
negotiating - & the tax on it for the present year will
be heavy - I think about \$200 -

Please inform me how many shares I
have? & the par value -

Note → Request your post master to send
your reply - direct - to the Leicester N.Y. distributing
Post office & it is probably reach me -
Respectfully Yours Wm. G. Baggett

Ray Henry White Esq
at a/cw
Layton
S.H.

see 0753 -

A remarkable example of mail which went thru somehow between South and North shortly after June 1st, 1861, - after that was forbidden, - except of course, via Express or Flag of Truce. In the original letter which it encloses, along with a Mobile, Ala. draft for collection from a New York banking firm, the sender says: "Request your postmaster to send your reply direct to the Louisville, Ky. distributing Post Office & it will probably reach me". The cover is a superb uncanceled U.S. 3¢ Star Die envelope, bears the unusual postmark of PONTOTOC, MISS. with the Confederate postage "Paid 5 cts" endorsed thereon, and it is addressed to New Haven, Conn.

Pay My White Boy
a few
Laggett
L.H.

See B253 -

A remarkable example of mail which went thru somehow between South and North shortly after June 1st, 1861, - after that was forbidden, - except of course, via Express or Flag of Truce. In the original letter which it encloses, along with a Mobile, Ala. draft for collection from a New York banking firm, the sender says: "Request your postmaster to send your reply direct to the Louisville, Ky. distributing Post Office & it will probably reach me". The cover is a superb unsealed U.S. 3 Star Bis envelope, bears the unusual postmark of PONTIAC, MISS. with the Confederate postage "Paid 5 cts" endorsed thereon, and it is addressed to New Haven, Conn.!

Stephen Daggitt
Boston Massachusetts

Date June 7. 1861
Recd " 13
am " 14

ending part of exchange
for #477 $\frac{35}{100}$

see B253-

our crops look promising - The wheat
crops unusually full & abundant -
S.D.

Will you request A. Townsend Esq. to
send me statement of J. G. -

Stephen Dazett
Pondstoc Massachusetts

Date June 7 1861
Per " 13
am - 14

enclosed find of exchange
for #477 $\frac{35}{100}$

See B253 -

Our crops look promising - The wheat
crop unusually high & abundant -
S.D.

Will you request A. Townsend Esq. to
send me statement of -

One guess found as another -

- (1) Shipped this p - not finished
- (2) Failed thru by some unknown system
cause - possible -

Reason - He writes to use the
Horsville Distributing P.O. "direct".

That could only mean some private
method.

- (3) Note the "2" in msg. at upper right -
Could be "2 bits" for ref.

2 2 2

W. Sheffield

One guess good as another -

- (1) Shipped Resp - not possible
- (2) Failed thru by some unknown agency
cause - possible -

Reason - He writes to use the
household Distributors P.O. "direct".


That could only mean some private
method.

- (3) Note the "2" in mes. at upper right -
Could be "2 bits" for ref.

2 2 2

W. Sheffield



Paid 5⁰⁰ 

B253
12/27 52

Henry White Esq.
New Haven
Conn.



By V. McBride
See 25-55

8253

W. H. KIEFABER

634 WOODS ROAD

DAYTON 9, OHIO

December 22, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Four or five weeks ago I was in Cincinnati and had the afternoon free. I called your house several times but received no response. You were probably away at the time.

I was interested to see your photographic equipment that you use for the photographing of stamps and covers. For years I have had a well equipped dark room and have done my own developing and printing. I am far from an expert and have never photographed such small objects as stamps although I have done a lot with wild flowers in the garden.

I have miniture camera, Ikonta B which is $2\frac{1}{4}$ & $2\frac{1}{4}$, a Graflex and Speed Graphic. Which do you consider the best for this work?

I am going to Europe in the Spring and am thinking of buying a Contax or an Exakta to take along. My small camera is a Bantam Special which is old and about played out. I am going to spend sometime in Switzerland and hope to get some good colored slides of plants and wild flowers. Besides stamps I am a garden fan. It also occured to me that either of these cameras might be the thing for photographing stamps. I could get black and white slides to show on screen. I have a very clever camera of Eastman which I just insert the slide and can get a larger negative to print on paper.

I had hoped to get down to see you again but so far haven't been able to do it. I must make some decision soon about the camera I will take to Europe. Would you mind giving me your opinion about the Contax or Exakta?

I take this occasion to wish you a very MERRY Xmas and a happy prosperous New Year.

Sincerely, *W. H. Kiefaber*

Dec. 28, 1952.

Mr. W. H. Kiefaber,
634 Woods Road,
Dayton 9, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Kiefaber:

Yours of the 22nd received.

I was sorry to learn that you were in Cincinnati within recent weeks and that no one answered our phone. It is barely possible that we were in New York at the time and no one was here during the day.

Before you leave for Europe in the spring I wish that you could pay me a visit and that we could discuss cameras and photography. I have a Leica 111C - with a 50 MM Summar lens and while I have a "Focastyle" I seldom use this for photographing covers much less stamps off cover. For such work I have a large 8 x 10 enlarging and reducing camera, equipped with a Goerz Dagor lens. In photographing stamps and covers I have to have detail and razor-sharp focus. I believe that in enlarging work to achieve the utmost in these two features, the enlarging has to be done direct from the object to the negative. The Leica people and other manufacturers of 35 MM cameras might claim that such results can be obtained with their cameras but that claim I seriously doubt. My experience has been that no matter how sharp a focus can be made close up of a stamp with my Leica that an enlargement loses a lot of the sharpness. Too much of the human element is involved, viz., focusing the original - then a sharp focus in make the print from the 35 MM negative.

My big camera stretches out about eight feet and if necessary I can enlarge a 3 1/4 1851 to cover a 4 x 5 negative. I use glass plates in order to get sharp focus - also panchromatic plates with various color filters - red, green, yellow, blue, etc.

I also have a 4 x 5 Graflex and a Bell & Howell movie but I have used these very little in the past decade, doing very little outside work. In the past year I have used my Leica outdoors with black and white and also color work. A lot of failures and some very satisfactory results.

I have never had any experience with any 35 MM cameras outside of my Leica. For a number of uses I don't see how it could be any better. I really don't know a thing about a Contax or a Exakta. If I contemplated a trip to Europe I would take along my Leica, or if I could afford the luxury of two, I would take two. I would use one for black and white film, the other one for color film. A 35 MM camera is compact and easy to carry around and for outside work I feel sure it can be adapted to most any requirement. I also have a Leica enlarger with a fine lens. Confidentially, I believe that I could obtain a 10% or perhaps a 15% discount on a new Leica for you but I am not sure. On a slightly

#2. Mr. W. H. Kiefaber - Dec. 28, 1952.

worn, "good as new" I could probably save you from \$100 to \$150.

I might mention that I can make regular glass lantern slides with my big camera but I have my doubts that satisfactory slides for screen projection could be made of philatelic items on 35 MM film.

May I wish you, and yours, a Very Happy Healthful and Prosperous New Year.

Cordially yours,

(25-56)

W. H. KIEFABER

634 WOODS ROAD

DAYTON 9, OHIO

January 3, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very kindly for sending the Black Jack with double transfer. I was glad to look it over but hardly think I care to put any more in them at present. It no doubt is worth the money too. I am returning to you.

Since writing you inreference to the camera I have been looking around some and have received several price lists like the one you mention. The Contax and Leica are fine. There is no doubt about that but I have about decided that a reflex type like the Exakta would probably be better for taking Alpine Plants and Flowers in Switzerland. These are pretty close shots and with a range finder such as on the Contax or Leica you must almost lay on your stomach. Then there is the matter of field. With the reflex type with ground glass you get what you see. I could also experiment latter on with the photographing of stamps and covers where a ground glass is important. I have been reading that it has been done successfully. There is also one thing that may be worth while, and that is I could make a slide which I could throw on the screen. Whether I could get the detail remains to be seen. We are using microfilm at the office for important records, and get them pretty sharp.

There is a camera made in Switzerland called the Alpa which has caught myeye. It is a fine piece of engineering and built like a watch having many new advantages. It sells here for around \$450 but I have written to a friend in Zurich to see what I can save by waiting until I get there. I am not going to Germany this time only England, France and Switzerland. I am sending to you under separate cover one of the circulars. Please look it over and tell me what you think. You can then return as it is the only one I have.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Warner H. Kiefaber

Jack E. Malesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 28, 1952

Dear Stan,

I'm enclosing two unused 10¢ 1855 imperfs plus a used pair on piece. I would appreciate your opinion as to whether the two unused ones have original gum.

These two singles were originally in a ragged pair which I severed to get the better margined single and trimmed and evened the margins to improve the appearance. Also there was a small piece of paper on the back of the good margined copy which I carefully removed and thereby smudged but preserved most of the gum. It was located at the lower left corner on the back which was also the end(right) of the pair before it was severed. I mention this only to indicate why the gum on the better copy is somewhat less fresh than on the cut in copy tho they were both part of the pair originally. The used pair has a part of the paper off the back showing the same dark glossy original gum which proves to my satisfaction that the other two have original gum too. I'm convinced the gum is original and have the single sold as such but the client wanted the P.F. to o.k. it. They just replied with the enclosed cert. claiming it is regummed.

If you feel this is o.g. as I believe you will please write me a separate letter on it, just the wide margined single, as I would like to use it in resubmitting the stamp to the P.F. for a review of their opinion.

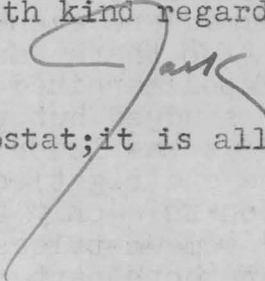
It seems as if the P.F. is becoming quite insane and a menace to philately. I am frankly considering legal action to put them at least temporarily out of business based on their obvious negligence and lack of knowledge. Enclosed is a photostat of a cert. they recently issued on a #28 sold from my stock to Huber by another dealer. It is utterly absurd, esp. since the stamp was a beautiful rich color carefully checked by me under the ultraviolet light. Last week they returned a beautiful #1 of mine sold by same dealer to Huber with statement it was a #3, again utterly absurd as any 10 year old kid can read the cat. and see the difference between the two; it is definitely #1 with full o.g. to boot. I'll send you a photostat of this cert.

as soon as I can get one, but can't send the original as it is going back to the P.F. for a review of opinion and must be there by Jan. 2nd ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~.

Then to top the above off I had a beautiful 2¢ Pan American Invert sold subject to their o.k. and they replied that it was a lithographed counterfeit. I don't claim to be an expert, but surely believe I can tell the difference between a lithograph and an engraving. Also, the stamp is Ex-Col. Green Collection, was in Cole's hands for two months during which he offered it to my client but at too high a price prior to my getting it, and has since the P.F.'s opinion been expertised as genuine by Dan Kell-her who said he would buy it in spite of their opinion. Again this has to get back by Jan. 2nd so I can't send it on to you as I would like to, but will try to get you a photostat of the cert. if you like.

If this keep up I'll have no alternative but to go to court to stop their criminal actions. Am I becoming unduly disturbed or do you feel I should do something?

With kind regards,



P.S. Please return this photostat; it is all I have.

Dec. 30, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two copies of the 10¢ 1855, also the used pair and the two P.F. certificates. I regret that I am not an authority on gum, hence I cannot render an opinion on these two uncanceled copies. I might add that I examined both very carefully under my binocular microscope and if the gum is not the original, I think it is perhaps just as good. I have my opinion of people who collect "gum" on the backs of our early 19th Century stamps but this letter is no place for an expression. I note that the P.F. states that in their opinion the copy has been regummed. With no reflection on this opinion, I wish they would educate me on how to distinguish the difference. Are these two 10¢ unused? All I can state is that I failed to note any evidence of cancel removal under my microscope or by ultra violet. However, I made a negative by the U.V. and if any evidence turns up on the plate, I will advise you.

I was awfully sorry to learn of your disagreements with the Expert Committee of the P.F. and I believe that the best advice that I can give you is to go slow and don't do anything that you might have occasion to regret later. One thing is sure, we do need an Expert Committee in this country and I think we should all do all that we can to endeavor to make the present P.F. Committee more efficient than to do anything to further discredit it or to put it out of business. I am co-operating with them to the extent of my ability and I believe that men like Goodkind, Haverbeck, Corin, Bash and others are real fellows and are striving to do a good job. They receive no pay and they give a lot of time to the work of the Committee. The trouble is that they are not experts, hence they are bound to make serious errors. What I have advocated is that they call in reputable dealers to meet with them and advise them. I would even be in favor of having certain dealers serve as regular members of the Committee. Why not? Could anyone question the high integrity of men like Sidney Barrett, Ezra Cole, Bernard Harmer and others I could name.

I doubt if you could get anywhere with a lawsuit because they merely render "opinions." In the charter of the P.F. there surely must be some provision whereby members of the Expert Committee would be protected.

I agree with you 100% that it is most exasperating to have a genuine item declared to be a fake and vice versa. I have had sore experiences both ways but I believe that it is the duty of every decent and honest person in philately to strive to make the P.F. Expert Committee as efficient as possible, that is, until such a time, as they would refuse to listen to reason.

I would like to see the Pan Invert together with the P.F. certificate. Maybe I wouldn't be able to tell the difference between a steel engraving and a lithograph counterfeit. I would like to see if I have been kidding myself.

No fee on the above.

Happy New Year to you.

Sincerely yours,



Dec. 30, 1952.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two copies of the 10¢ 1855, also the used pair and the two P.F. certificates. I regret that I am not an authority on gum, hence I cannot render an opinion on these two uncanceled copies. I might add that I examined both very carefully under my binocular microscope and if the gum is not the original, I think it is perhaps just as good. I have my opinion of people who collect "gum" on the backs of our early 19th Century stamps but this letter is no place for an expression. I note that the P.F. states that in their opinion the copy has been regummed. With no reflection on this opinion, I wish they would educate me on how to distinguish the difference. Are these two 10¢ unused? All I can state is that I failed to note any evidence of cancel removal under my microscope or by ultra violet. However, I made a negative by the U.V. and if any evidence turns up on the plate, I will advise you.

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I would like to see the Pan Invert together with the P.F. certificate. Maybe I wouldn't be able to tell the difference between a steel engraving and a lithograph counterfeit. I would like to see if I have been kidding myself.

No fee on the above.

Happy New Year to you.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 30, 1952.

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

Dear Harry:

Yours of the 19th received and carefully noted.

Along the lines discussed in your letter, I am enclosing a letter from Jack Molesworth together with copy of my reply. Please return.

Sooner or later someone is going to bring suit against the Expert Committee and such a thing would set a bad precedent. I wish that some pressure could be brought to bear whereby the Committee would change their present policy of depending entirely too much on their own opinions. They should have some level-headed dealers sit in with the Committee at every session and to see to it that no opinions were rendered unless it was generally agreed that it was safe to issue an opinion.

Jack, in his letter, sent me a copy of a 10¢ 1855 which was apparently unused O.C. - The certificate the P.F. issued stated the copy had been regummed. I am frank in stating the gum looked okay to me and I should know a 10¢ 1855 better than anyone on that Committee. If not, then I sure am a dumb cluck. I don't see how they could state the copy was regummed. If they did a bit of guessing, they had no right to issue the certificate.

Please keep this letter and my reply confidential. I do think that something should be done before it is too late. The only solution that I know of is to enlist the active support of reputable dealers, because at the present time, there is a great scarcity of amateur collectors in the New York area who have very much knowledge of 19th U. S. It is far better to have some dealers on the Committee than a bunch who do little else but guess.

Happy New Year

Cordially yours,

Jan. 2, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks for sending me the photostat of the P.F. certificate No. 4018. I made a copy of it. If possible, I would like to see the stamp, regardless of what action the P.F. takes to correct this. I could use it to excellent advantage in persuading them that they have to revise their methods.

I note their certificate reads that they have examined "a United States 1847 - 5¢ Red Brown #1," etc. but in their opinion, "it is not #1, but #3." I suppose you submitted it as an unused No. 1. Is that correct? It seems to be that they made some sort of an error in the certificate. Perhaps what they meant was that it is a No. 1, but not an unused O.G. copy. I have an idea that if this is true then they will correct the wording of the certificate.

Please advise me.

Sincerely yours,

(25-57)

H. L. LINDQUIST
PUBLICATIONS

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

January 5, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

I have ^{read} Molesworth's letter and your reply with considerable interest, and I certainly approve of your reply to Molesworth, and congratulate you on the way you have handled it.

Of course, we both recognize that there are great improvements necessary in the P.F. to make it function effectively, but this can only be brought out by constructive work, and the assistance they need.

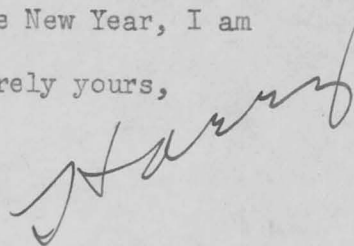
We are up against more or less a stone wall right now, but I am sure that the pressure that is constantly being brought upon them will have its effect, and that they will see the necessity of securing the aid of every collector and dealer really qualified to be of assistance, and have them solidly behind their decisions.

They should also go back to their original intention to grant no certificates unless they were absolutely sure of their opinion. It is far better to admit that they are not qualified to pass on an item than to give out a certificate that can be justly criticised.

I am returning Molesworth's letter with your reply. But your reply to my mind is a masterpiece, and would do much to clarify the whole situation if it was passed around among those interested. However, I am keeping it confidential as you suggest, but I do believe it would do a lot of good if every member of the committee could see it.

With best wishes to you and Mildred for the New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,



HLL/G

(25-57)

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

January 5, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

I acknowledge with thanks your letters of December 30th and January 2nd. I very much appreciate your advice with regard to the Foundation and after due consideration believe it is definitely the wisest course to follow. I have therefore temporarily shelved any idea of legal action and shall attempt to work with the Foundation and see what can be done to improve the quality of their opinions. I shall be in New York tomorrow and shall attempt to talk with Haverbeck and Goodkind if I can reach them. I am heartily in favor of having certain dealers such as you mention serve as regular members of the committee as such is the only way they will be able to have expert advice firsthand. The law suit I considered would incidentally not have been directed primarily to try to collect for injuries suffered, but rather to prove that the organization was a menace to philately and should be prevented from rendering opinions as experts. My lawyer investigated this matter and assured me it would be quite possible to secure an injunction in a Court of Equity on the evidence I showed him. Naturally, I agree there is a strong need for a respected and informed expert body and would much prefer to improve the current one than destroy it and hope another superior to it might spring up.

If the 2¢ Pan American comes back again as no good I will see that you get a look at it. It was presented to the P. F. this time with the expert opinion of several printers indicating it was an engraving and not a lithograph which should have some influence on them. I will also send you the U. S. #1 when I get it back. It was submitted to them with the question: "Is it genuine unused?" It is apparent that they have made some sort of an error and will correct it, but what conclusion they will come to a second time is still another question. Incidentally, they corrected the certificate on the U. S. #28 which they called a reperfed #76 but this time called it an unused #29. I have suggested

to Sam Stone, the local dealer who had sold it for me to his client, to send it on to you for an opinion. It certainly has as rich aged brown color as anyone could expect to get and in my opinion is definitely not the brown shade. If you agree with me this will be another incidence of their complete lack of knowledge.

I appreciate your comments on the two copies of the 10¢ 1855. I understand and support your position in respect to those who collect gum and not stamps. However, I am not in a position to change the collecting habits of most of my customers so must abide by their wishes and hence run into problems like this. I have resubmitted the stamp to them with the same evidence which you saw and hope they may change their opinion.

With best wishes,



Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

No. 3981

November 10, 1952

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
22 EAST 35TH STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States
1857, 5¢, red brown, unused, of which a photo-
graph is affixed below -----

submitted by -----

and are of the opinion that it is NOT #28 but a reperforated
copy of #76 -----

See 25-57-

Thomas S. Stearns
For The Expert Committee *ds*



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 28, 1952

Dear Stan,

I'm enclosing two unused 10¢ 1855 imperfs plus a used pair on piece. I would appreciate your opinion as to whether the two unused ones have original gum.

These two singles were originally in a ragged pair which I severed to get the better margined single and trimmed and evened the margins to improve the appearance. Also there was a small piece of paper on the back of the good margined copy which I carefully removed and thereby smudged but preserved most of the gum. It was located at the lower left corner on the back which was also the end(right) of the pair before it was severed. I mention this only to indicate why the gum on the better copy is somewhat less fresh than on the cut in copy tho they were both part of the pair originally. The used pair has a part of the paper off the back showing the same dark glossy original gum which proves to my satisfaction that the other two have original gum too. I'm convinced the gum is original and have the single sold as such but the client wanted the P.F. to o.k. it. They just replied with the enclosed cert. claiming it is regummed.

If you feel this is o.g. as I believe you will please write me a separate letter on it, just the wide margined single, as I would like to use it in resubmitting the stamp to the P.F. for a review of their opinion.

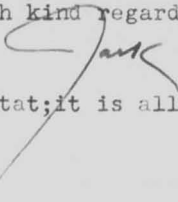
It seems as if the P.F. is becoming quite insane and a menace to philately. I am frankly considering legal action to put them at least temporarily out of business based on their obvious negligence and lack of knowledge. Enclosed is a photostat of a cert. they recently issued on a #28 sold from my stock to Huber by another dealer. It is utterly absurd, esp. since the stamp was beautiful rich color carefully checked by me under the ultraviolet light. Last week they returned a beautiful #1 of mine sold by same dealer to Huber with statement it was a #3, again utterly absurd as any 10 year old kid can read the cat. and see the difference between the two; it is definitely #1 with full o.g. to boot. I'll send you a photostat of this cert.

as soon as I can get one, but can't send the original as it is going back to the P.F. for a review of opinion and must be there by Jan.2nd~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~.

Then to top the above off I had a beautiful 2¢ Pan American Invert sold subject to their o.k. and they replied that it was a lithographed counterfeit. I don't claim to be an expert, but surely believe I can tell the difference between a lithograph and an engraving. Also, the stamp is Ex-Col. Green Collection, was in Cole's hands for two months during which he offered it to my client but at too high a price prior to my getting it, and has since the P.F.'s opinion been expertised as genuine by Dan Kellher who said he would buy it in spite of their opinion. Again this has to get back by Jan.2nd so I can't send it on to you as I would like to, but will try to get you a photostat of the cert. if you like.

If this keep up I'll have no alternative but to go to court to stop their criminal actions. Am I becoming unduly disturbed or do you feel I should do something?

With kind regards,



P.S. Please return this photostat; it is all I have.

No. 4018.....

December 8 19 52

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
22 EAST 35TH STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

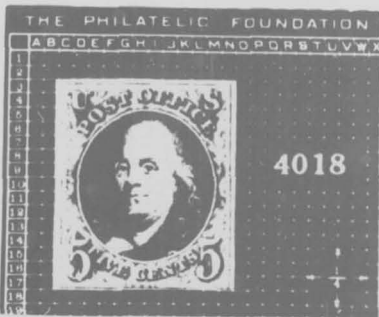
EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States
1847, 5¢, red brown, #1, of which a photograph
is affixed below -----

submitted by -----

and are of the opinion that it is NOT #1 but #3 -----

Thomas Stearns
For The Expert Committee



SEE 25-57

No. 4018.....

December 8 19 52

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
22 EAST 35TH STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States
1847, 5¢, red brown, #1, of which a photograph
is affixed below -----

submitted by [REDACTED] -----

and are of the opinion that it is NOT #1 but #3 -----

Thomas Stearns
For The Expert Committee



SEE 25-57

No. 4052

December 8 1952

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35th STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

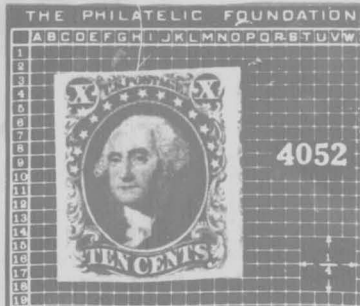
EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States
1851, 10¢, green, uncanceled, of which a
photograph is affixed below

submitted by -- Mr. Jack E. Molesworth
and are of the opinion that it is regummed

See 25-57-

Thurston
For The Expert Committee



No. 3981

November 10, 1952

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item, a United States
1857, 5¢, red brown, unused, of which a photo-
graph is affixed below -----

submitted by -----

and are of the opinion that it is NOT #28 but a reperforated
copy of #76 -----

See 25-57.

Thomas S. Stearns
For The Expert Committee *ds*



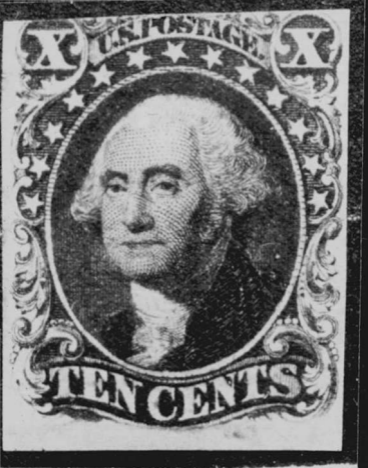
X

U.S. POSTAGE

X



TEN CENTS



EZRA D. COLE

NYACK,

N. Y. —

Wade

2/26-53

Re: Goodkind and the P. F. etc. I never said the gum was phoney on that 10¢ pair. My remarks were that it had gum but as I understood it the question was: Was it "O.G". I am perfectly willing to admit that this is a technical question but if the gum has been monkeyed with or some supplied or tampered with, is it original gum?

9. DAVID BAKER
3907 NORTH DELAWARE STREET
INDIANAPOLIS 5, INDIANA

Dec 26th, 1952

Dear Staw:

Thanks for your card.
Enclosed is my check for December and
January service & total to date 80⁰⁰ /
At the Meroni Sale I purchased several items
one of which I have before me. Lot 1306 the 5+10d
Michigan Central cover with a single 10 and a strip of 5
finer.

I have been trying to figure out all the transit
workings. On the reverse is a New York April 8th
and an octagonal Heidelberg [9. Mai 11] mark in
black.

I place this as a letter which traveled by
American Packet to England where it received the
16 denier marking since England was collecting
the sea carriage since England was collecting
prepaid because it didn't travel Per Packet.

What is "America Per Bremen" and the 1³
marking in red. What are the 2 red markings
which look like 6's and are crossed out by
black line.

This cover seems to have a little bit
of everything in the way of markings on
it.

I also have recently acquired privately
a cover addressed with to Stockton, California
which carries 4 single 10 of 1847's. You have
guaranteed it in 1958.

Thanks for your help

Sincerely,
Dave

Jan. 2, 1953.

Mr. J. David Baker,
3909 North Delaware St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Thanks very much for yours of the 26th with check for \$20.00 to be applied on your subscription to my Service. You are quite correct, this gives you a credit of \$80.00 for the 1952-53 Series.

Congratulations on the two rare 1847 covers that you recently acquired. I have known both of them for quite a long time. I sold the Stockton cover to John Fox when he was here in September with the Meroni collection but did not deliver it to him until his return from his western trip. It is a very rare and desirable item.

Re - the cover to Heidelberg, Germany. This was in the C.R. Hurd collection back in the middle 1920's and when he sold his collection thru Dan Kelleher on Jan. 11, 1928, it was Lot 180. It had a write-up in the A.P., Vol. 41, page 441. In those days students of early U. S. really didn't know very much about U. S. foreign rates or markings - routes - etc. This was simply a cover to Germany with a R. R. marking. However, it was recognized as quite a scarce item and it brought quite a good price for that period. I suppose Phil Ward bought it for Henry Gibson as it was in the Gibson sale by Ward on June 14-15, 1944 (Lot 31). Harry Keffer purchased it and no doubt sold it to Meroni. I don't seem to have any record that it was in any sale between 1944 and 1952. It is among the rarest of 1847 covers. As I recall, there is no evidence of the actual year use, but if so, will you please advise me. This letter went direct by American Packet to the Free City of Bremen. The U. S. paid the rate, viz., - U.S. internal 10¢ plus 24¢ sea to Bremen. Thus the 35¢ paid was a 1¢ overpay. The marking "America - Uber Bremen" was German applied, and meant - From America to Bremen. The "PAID PART" meant that the postage was only paid to Bremen, not beyond. The "16" and the "1 1/3" are German markings and I am not informed regarding their meaning.

I have no record as to where this cover originated but it was mailed direct with the Mail Route Agent on the line of the Michigan Central R.R., hence required a rate of 10¢ to New York. My guess is that the use was probably in April 1850 or 1851 - probably the latter.

Incidentally, this cover should not be confused with "Retaliatory Rate" covers of the period prior to 1849.

Two steamers performed the American Packet Service to Bremen, viz: The "Washington" and the "Hermann" - the former placed in service in July 1847, the latter in 1848. A third steamer, the Franklin, was added to the Bremen Line in 1850. This mail contract was with the "Ocean Steam Navigation Co." and the service was monthly between New York and Bremen.

#2. Mr. J. David Baker - Jan. 2, 1953.

I have a Railroad Guide of 1852 and the railroad at that time was called the "Central R.R." I suppose the mail route was called the "Michigan Central Rail Route." The road in 1852 was built as far west as New Buffalo - 219 miles from Detroit. It ran thru Ann Arbor - Jackson - Marshall - Battle Creek - Niles - etc. - same as the route today. I suppose your letter originated at some point on this road west of Detroit.

I believe the above will about cover the principal data on your new addition.

With best wishes to Hugh and you -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 3, 1953.

Mr. J. David Baker,
3909 North Delaware St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

I am today in receipt of the January 3rd issue of Gossip and note it has an article on the "Bremen Line." I am not sure that all the statements made by the author were correct. I believe he was under the impression that the Ocean Steam Navigation Co., the company that operated the "Bremen Line" was a German owned company. He stated that this company operated out of Bremerhaven. The Company was incorporated by the New York legislature and was American owned. When its ten years mail contract expired it is my recollection that it went out of business. I believe that I stated in my letter yesterday that it owned the "S.S. Franklin." This was an error as it only operated the two steamships - the "Washington" and "Hermann."

With regards -

Sincerely yours,