

# SCRAP BOOK

NO 26

Dec 1952  
Feb 1953

1	O.H. Wolcott	OLD stamps Not Recognized	33	Fort Johnson Cover - Shentfield.
2	BREMEN LINE	Maj H.L. Halle	34	Jere Hess Barr - 90d Bank Note
3	E.C. KRUG	- 5¢ 1856 cover	35	Molesworth - LYNCHBURG Covers
4	Marcel Levy	13¢ Rate	36	Hy De Windt - Re-Star Die
5	Henry Hill	5¢ 56 - Beckwith Copies	37	Geo N Malpass - Re-Covers -
6	S.L. Stone	- 5¢ 1857 - P.F. Error	38	Molesworth - Re-10¢ 57 Heard Cover
7	Philatelic Foundation	4068-4084 4091	39	John A Krause - Re-3¢ 51 Biseet
8	Van Dyk MacBride	Fort Johnson	40	R.M. Wilkinson - Re James Morrison
9	E.D. Cole	90¢ 1860 - 30¢ 69 + 10¢ 24¢ 1861	41	Gordon Harmer - Re "Milky Blue"
10	J.E. Molesworth	Pair HRI - 5RI	42	S.L. STONE - 2¢ PAN INVERT.
11	WM O. Bilden	Two - 24¢ 61 / 3¢ 61 SITKA ALASKA PINK 13¢ TO FRANCE	43	Howard Lehman - 90¢ 1860
12	R. DICKSON	Fake Packet	44	E.D. Cole - Pony Ex. Cover - Wells Fargo
13	Frank H. Alpers	12¢ 51 - To Germany 5¢ 47 - Santa Fe	45	Earl Oakley - 1¢ 1851
14	Dr C.L. Rosen	Re Marion Ky	46	John Fox - Conted 10¢ + 2¢
15	Earl Oakley	Re 1¢ 1851	47	Barrett G. Hindes 5¢ 1856 Unused
16	J.E. Molesworth	- 7RIE Burrroughs	48	Ezra D Cole - 30¢ 1860 Impert
17	Morris Fortgang	- 1¢ 51-57 items	49	Jack Molesworth 12¢ 51 Biseet 63¢ To Switz.
18	Earl Weatherly	Conted 5¢ Plus 2¢	50	Robt E Siegel - 10¢ 61 Type I - Earliest
19	Mort Sampson	Tehama	51	Geo H Alten - 90¢ 1869 Re-Issue
20	Marvin Preston	Re 2¢ B.J. D.T.	52	Van Dyk MacBride - Re WAR RECORDS
21	S. Sture LUNGAHL	Re 1¢ 51 - Ic	53	Woodrow M. Kay Two Fake Conted s
22	Marcel Levy	see No 4 - 13¢ Rate	54	Walter Strait - 2¢ Green Conted
23	"	Re Marcel Jamet M. Zareski	55	Paul Christopher 7RIE 8RIE - 9RIE
24	7RIE	2 Harmer Rookie Sale 12¢ 51 Biseet } Jan 13 - 15 - 1953	56	Dr R.A. Shoter - Two 5¢ 47 Fakes.
25	Re Two 15¢ 1869 Covers	H.R. Harmer Sale 1/10 1952	57	Raymond Weill Block Ten Conted 'TEN'
26	J & Flee Kenstein	3¢ 61 - 6¢ 69 Fake	58	Jack Molesworth 7RIE 8RIE 9RIE 99RIE - 5¢ N.Y. Covers
27	W.O. Bilden	- Covers - Etc	59	Mike Dgostino
28	Klep Van Velthoven	5¢ Buft 24¢ 61 S.F. Cog	60	E. Cole 1¢ 51 Pl. 4.
28	For Noisy Carrier	See Page 26	61	P.H. Thorp. Re Star Die
29	E.E. Krug	Re Col. Eisenstadt	62	J. Dave Baker Re 1¢ 51-57 items
30	Jack Molesworth	Fake 10¢ 61 Aug	63	Thos Parks Re. Conted Nava History
31	Henry Hill	□ 5¢ 56 - Baker	64	X X X X
32	"	Re □ + □ '56 - Brown Sale		

Dec. 18, 1952.

Dear Oliver H. Wolcott,  
Box #42,  
Copley, Ohio.

Dear Ollie:

First, thanks for your Christmas card and the nice little message that accompanied same.

Re - yours of the 15th, and the fraudulent Meroni cover. This item cost Meroni \$250.00 and it is now in the hands of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation. No doubt the purpose is to obtain a certificate so that Fox can make a demand on Gordon Harmer for a refund. This cover was purchased by Fox in a Harmer Rooke Sale in 1949 for \$210. Fox sold it to Meroni for \$250.00. I have a suspicion that this cover came from the Needham collection and I figure its past is something like the following - made by Zareski - sent to John Kleeman and sold to Needham. In 1949, the Needham Estate sold a lot of material to Gene Costales. He sold a lot at auction and sold a lot to Gordon Harmer. Perhaps this cover was in that lot. I wrote Gene but he replied he had no recollection of it. Perhaps yes - perhaps no.

Some of the boys down East have a convenient way of forgetting things. The big question now is - someone has to stand a loss - but who is going to act the goat? Everyone connected, will doubtless try to find an excuse to ease out of the picture. I feel sure that Fox will not permit Meroni to take the loss. Gordon Harmer will refuse any refund unless he can saddle it on to Costales. I will eventually get the facts in the case provided they are not too bad.

I am taking the liberty of sending you a sample copy of my December 1st Special Service, together with a set of the photographs. I believe that I sent a sample set to Don Grieve. If you wish you can show this at one of your meetings of the Cleveland Group.

Re - the Hollowbush cover that I discussed. If there was any doubt that his cover is bad, then one could excuse the course of action he adopted. There are points about this cover that I did not disclose but if this case ever came to Court I could prove that the cover is bad beyond any question of a doubt. If you will accept my assurance of this, then you can get a better picture of the parts played by George Sloane and Phil Ward.

Re - Lot 1012. The bidding for this cover was very keen and insistent, if I may term it that way, and it went to "J.R." @ \$750.00. I don't know who "J.R." is and I have no idea. I don't know of any collector of Westerns with initials of J.R. - Re - scarcity of covers with this marking. I had no previous record of the Meroni cover and I don't know where he obtained it. I have a record of covers with this marking and dates of use as follows:

- 1) April 26, 1859 Earliest known
- 2) May 11, 1859



#2. Mr. Oliver H. Wolcott - Dec. 18, 1952.

- 3) May 21, 1859 (sold in West Sale \$340)
- 4) " 21, 1859 (damaged)
- 5) " 23, 1859
- 6) " 23, 1859
- 7) " 25, 1859 Meroni
- 8) June 1, 1859 Wolcott
- 9) " 30, 1859 (3¢ stamp missing)
- 10) July 2, 1859

Re - Lot #1982. I think this is quite a remarkable cover because it shows such an early Philadelphia date. As I recall, this is the earliest date of non-recognition of the old envelopes. I feel reasonably certain that Chicago items of "O.S. not R" are much scarcer than Philadelphia.

Yes Ollie, the prices at the Meroni sale were fantastic and I think that such high figures are bad. They do more harm than good, inasmuch as they have a tendency to discourage a lot of people who haven't the money to buy such material. Look back to years of long ago, was it not much nicer when one could buy a lot of nice things (Philatelic) without straining the bank account to the breaking point?

I was pleased to learn that my friends in Cleveland thought my visit was worth while and I promised Don that I would pay a return visit when the weather is nice and it wasn't cold and disagreeable.

Mildred joins me in Holiday Greetings.

Cordially yours,

Oliver H. Wolcott

box number forty-two

Copley, Ohio

December 31, 1952

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

My dear Stan:

Your letter of December 18, with enclosures, arrived at a time when my philatelic activities are reduced to almost zero, but I have made up my mind that I am not going to let 1952 slip by without answering your letter and expressing to you my appreciation for the information which you have given me. You are extremely generous in imparting to some of us novices factual information that simply cannot be secured elsewhere.

I especially appreciate your kindness in sending me a copy of your December Special Service. I would like to keep this, Stan, until I can take it to one of the meetings of our Cleveland Group and I know right now that I shall not be able to attend the next meeting, which will be held on the evening of January 8, because I have another previous engagement for that evening which I cannot avoid. The following meeting will be on February 12 and I dislike to keep your material for this length of time without obtaining your permission to do so. It would be nice to show this to the Cleveland Group and read your comments, but if you need it, I shall be glad to return it at once.

In noting what you say about the prices realized at the Meroni sale, I agree that some of these prices have gotten completely out of line. Of course, many of the items which I have were obtained many years ago and it is nice to realize that they are worth considerably more than what I paid for them originally. I am not buying very much at present prices.

By the way, my Chicago "Old Stamps Not Recognized" is in the superb class, and Delf Norona's illustration of this cover in his cyclopedia does not do it justice. If you would like to see this cover and make a photograph of it, I shall be glad to send it on to you.

I do not know how I can repay you for your kindness in sending me so much good information, but perhaps sometime in the future I can in some way do you a favor in return.

Here's wishing, Stan, that you and Mildred have a new year in 1953 full of Good Health, Happiness and Philatelic Pleasure.

Cordially,

Ollie



Jan. 4, 1953.

Mr. Oliver H. Wolcott,  
Box #42,  
Copley, Ohio.

Dear Ollie:

By all means retain the sample copy of the Special Service Issue that I sent you and show it to our Cleveland friends when you next meet with them. No hurry to return it, I assure you.

Re - your Chicago "O.S.N.R." cover, I had forgotten that you loaned this to me some years ago, and I made a photograph of it. I ran across a print today in my files. It bears a postmark of Chicago "Aug 30." Jessup owns a most unusual one. It has an uncanceled 3¢ 1857 and the use must have been in 1862 or perhaps 1863 (June 13 186?) - (not legible). It is addressed to Boston, and has the oval "Held For Postage" on the back flap. The Chicago office evidently notified the addressee to forward a 3¢ stamp. This was sent and was applied and canceled on June 22 or nine days later. The remarkable thing about Jessup's cover is that the 3¢ 1861 is tied by a blue Chicago Supplementary Mail postmark.

I believe that your cover has a Chicago postmark on the back side of "Sep 9" and also a Dead Letter Office marking. Is this correct? In the case of your cover, don't you think that it was sent to the Dead Letter Office at Washington, notification was sent to the addressee to forward postage - which was done - and the letter was forwarded to him at "Saint Peter," Minn.? I suppose it was sent from the D.L. Office under separate cover, as it does not have a 3¢ 1861. Is this the way you explain the cover? Or do you think that the blotted ink marking at left is a "Due 3?" Moroni probably thought so, but I don't, because the Chicago office could have stamped it Due 3 and sent it on to the addressee without sending it to Washington to forward, which they evidently did. In the case of the Jessup cover, there is no evidence that it was sent to the D.L. Office.

I don't recall how early Chicago received a supply of the new stamps, but if the old ones were obsolete on Aug. 30, 1861, new supplies must have been received around Aug. 20 or 21st. August 18th was Sunday.

Mildred joins me in best wishes for 1953.

Cordially yours,

Oliver H. Wolcott

box number forty-two

Copley, Ohio

January 12, 1953

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

My dear Stan:

Thanks very much for your letter of January 4. As usual, you have given me quite a lot of information and also have given me some food for thought in connection with my "O.S.N.R." cover.

The blotted ink mark upon the left side of this cover is undoubtedly "Due 3". However, across the face of this is a light pencil check mark which I believe has always been on this cover. This might indicate that the "Due 3" was put on by mistake and this method was used to indicate that it did not apply to this letter.

The reverse bears the stamp of the Dead Letter Office without a date. The Chicago cancellation on the reverse is dated Sept. 9, and if it left Chicago on this date and went to the Dead Letter Office in Washington, perhaps the manuscript marking on the front of the cover, which reads "Recd Sept 19th, 1861", together with the number 662, must be the marking of the Dead Letter Office and not what I originally supposed it to be, which was that this was the date that the letter had been received by the addressee at Saint Peter, Minnesota. I believe it would have been impossible to have processed this letter through the Dead Letter Office, write to the addressee and get his 3¢ 1861 stamp and then mail this letter back to Saint Peter, Minnesota in time for it to have arrived there on Sept. 19th. I am not too familiar with the type of marking used by the Dead Letter Office, but it appears to me that this marking on the front of the cover must have been put on by them. By the way, the abbreviation "Recd" is in pencil above the ink manuscript marking of Sept. 19th 1861 and that is probably why it did not show up in your photograph.

The cover which you describe held by Jessup is certainly an unusual one and to have it cancelled by Chicago Supplementary Mail postmark must place it in the unique category.

Your records are certainly complete, and I did not realize that my cover had been in your hands for photographing. I am always looking for something that might add to your knowledge and I hope that I can be of some use to you along this line in return for your kindness in supplying last-word information on any and all occasions.

With very best wishes,

Cordially yours, *Ollie*



Jan. 3, 1953.

Mr. Harry Weiss,  
% Gossip,  
Holton, Kans.

Dear Harry:

Thanks for your interesting letter of the 30th.

Further re - the Hollowbush affair. Nobody but a bull-headed Smart-Aleck would have taken any such action as Hollowbush adopted. I think he was urged to do so by George Sloane who is one of his closest of friends. Incidentally, there is bad blood between Sloane and me, because I have shown him up as a rank counterfeit on several occasions. Hollowbush put up a big bluff, and, of course, got away with it, which is okay with me. He never could have won a suit but who wants to be bothered with such an annoyance or to be put to the expense. I have an idea that by this time he realizes that his cover is a fake, but he is the type who would never admit he had made an error.

Harry, I have so much work piled up that I doubt if I can get a Confed article to you by the 15th, but I will endeavor to do so. The holidays put me far behind.

I read with much interest the article by Halle in the January 3rd issue of Gossip which came today. Can you inform me about Major H.L.Halle? I note that he stated that the "new line called the Ocean Steam Navigation Co." operated out of Bremerhaven." I believe this statement gives the impression that the Company was a German company which is not true. It was an American company and this mail contract was our first effort to break the British monopoly of carrying mail across the Atlantic. Here are the facts if you care to convey them to Major H.L.Halle -

The Ocean Steam Navigation Co. was an American Company and was incorporated by the New York Legislature in May 1846. It was known as the "Bremen Line," and held the U. S. Mail contract between New York and Bremen. This contract was originally awarded to Edward Mills at an annual compensation of \$350,000. Mills assigned his contract to the Ocean Steam Navigation Co. early in 1847. The Steamships of this Company were the "Washington" and "Hermann."

I was pleased to read the Halle article and I have clipped it for future reference. It had some facts regarding the German end that I did not possess.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

MAJ.H.L.HALLE  
411 SIRA TEAM  
FT.MC.PHERSON GA.

14 January 1953

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

Mr Harry Weiss forwarded your comments on my writeup on the First German American Postal Treaty. I fully agree with you that my choice of words left the wrong impression. The Ocean Steam Navigation Company was an American Company. Here are the facts as I know them. Senator Thomas Butler King of Georgia suggested as early as 1845 that the United States Government should set aside one million dollars per year for the carriage of mail (transatlantic) by the fastest and most regular means available, provided it was under the Stars and Stripes. In 1845 Congress passed an Act which permitted the United States Postmaster General to make a contract with the owners of American ships (steamships preferred) for the carriage of U.S. mail to Great Britain and the Continent. Terms suggested were \$ 100 000 per year for every ship in the service. Further stipulation was the fact that they had to make the round trip voyage from New York to Bremen, with a call at Cowes both ways, once every two months. If the ship was slower than this the subsidy was to be \$ 75 000. Other requirements were: minimum tonnage 1400, minimum horsepower 1000 and minimum speed that of the Cunard liners. Although this offer looked attractive no shipowner saw fit to accept it. In 1846 Edward Mills suggested a regular steamship service in return for a subsidy of \$ 200 000 per year. Col. D.A. Mann had convinced Mills that Bremen would serve the purpose better than any other port. Col. Mann was a member of the United States Consular Service. Mills obtained Congressional permission to found the Ocean Steam Navigation Company with himself as president. \$100 000 was the initial capitalization talked about with permission to increase the amount to \$ 1 000 000 if necessary. The money was slow in coming in and the plan seemed doomed to failure until business interests in Bremen succeeded in raising \$ 300 000 in Germany. The money came mostly from German State Governments which were likely to benefit. The interest rate charged was 6%. Two steamers had been ordered from Westervelt and Mc Kay at a cost of \$ 579 000. Originally four ships were planned for the service. However even with the money raised in Germany only \$ 599 200 were raised. The contracts for the other two ships were cancelled. One ship was the Washington having a tonnage of 1640 and the Hermann with 1734 tons. Eleven days was the best time they could manage. The design was faulty in that the boilers gave too little power and the paddles dipped far too deeply into the water. The line did fairly well and paid a dividend ranging from 7% to 10%. The Ocean Steam Navigation Company was getting into excellent financial shape. Then the United States reversed its Postal subsidy policy. The loss of \$ 200 000 subsidy per year for two ships made it impossible to be run at a profit. A new German line The North



German Lloyd was attracting the attention of German investors. The German States refused to sink any more money into the Ocean Steam Navigation Company. The two ships were sold for \$ 46 000 after having cost \$ 579 000 and were placed into the Pacific Service. The Washington was broken up in 1863. The Hermann was lost on the Japanese coast six years later. The German State Governments under the liquidation received about one third of the money they had invested into the Company.

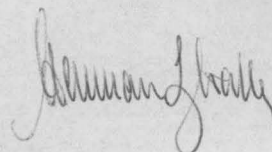
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According to your comments the Company received an annual compensation of \$ 350 000, but according to my information this sum never exceeded \$ 200 000. As a matter of fact Mr. Mills did not remain long with the Company but was bought out for \$ 50 000.

I am sorry that my inaccurate writing caused me to have to go to this lengthy explanation. On the other hand it gave me proof that the articles are read.

Again thanking you for your interest, I remain

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hermann Gotha".

Jan. 16, 1953.

Major H. L. Halle,  
411 Sira Team  
Ft. McPherson, Ga.

Dear Major:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 14th with the interesting facts regarding the Ocean Steam Navigation Co. You are quite correct regarding the annual subsidy. Perhaps my error was because I took the original figure that was agreed upon. Without looking up my reference I believe the original contract called for the construction of four vessels for the Bremen Service, and as you state, only two were put into service.

I note that the annual reports of the postmaster General for 1849 - 1850 - 1851 and later years list \$200,000. as the subsidy. The P.M.G. stated in his annual report dated Dec. 2, 1848: "It is to be regretted that the 'Ocean Steam Navigation Company' has not as yet been able to comply fully with their contract for service between New York and Bremen. But two vessels, the 'Washington' and 'Hermann' have as yet been completed. The third, the 'Franklin' has been launched and great exertions are making to have her finished and take her place on the line. The fourth vessel, it is believed, has not yet been commenced." (unquote) The P.M.G. report for Dec. 6, 1847 stated, quote: "The expenditures for the present year will exceed those of the last by the following sums:

For the Mail Steamer Washington .....\$100,000.  
For the Steamer Hermann, for 7 months ..... 58,333."

Re - the "Franklin." As I recall, contracts with Westervelt & McKay for the two extra vessels were canceled and the "Franklin" was taken over by the New York and Havre Steam Navigation Co. This Company had a mail contract calling for an annual subsidy of \$150,000.00.

I wish to assure you that I found your article most interesting and I clipped it and have it in a special scrap book for future reference.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,



# LONDON CHAT

London, at the time of writing, is a wet, bleak city and I was glad to get back home to a log fire after a day there. In spite of the inclement weather and the north wind blowing down the Mall in front of Buckingham Palace, preparations were going ahead for the Coronation and stands are already partly erected to hold the thousands of spectators.

In one stamp shop I visited I was amused watching the buying activities of the younger generation. Most of the boys that called in asked to see one penny stock book and without any reference to the country of origin they picked out all the brightly colored ones with special emphasis on the size of the stamp. The bigger they were the more delight they expressed. Later, in came a couple of school girls. They knew exactly what they wanted and the specimens they bought were in the 3d to 6d class. I think in stamp collecting girls are more selective and particular than boys. You have probably heard about the girl who was asked what she would like to be and at once replied "An angel." The boy's taste was less ethereal for when he was asked the same question he promptly replied that he would like to be an elephant's trunk so that he could squirt water through it.

British Naval Cancellations used during the first World War have been giving me much to think about lately as I bought a small collection of covers all showing these temporary marks. As naval mails were not always landed at the main naval bases or other great sea ports round the coast, the question of postal cancellations became a tricky business. This was overcome by the introduction of temporary war-time marks hurriedly made of cork or rubber for use at smaller ports which lacked the proper postal facilities. One design, in rubber, was a circle enclosing seven thin bars, another showed eight bars in a circle. One of the cruder and scarcer varieties was cut from cork and represented the three blades of a propeller. This was a favorite design as several different sizes of propellers have been seen. The worst of all of these temporary affairs was a round black solid circle completely obliterating the major portion of the stamp. Many of the covers I have which show specimens of the marks were posted from H.M.S. Queen Mary which was one of the ships that was sunk at the Battle of Jutland. It seems that units of the Home Fleet were allowed to use any stamps they could find on board provided they were G. B. issues and on the "Queen Mary" there seemed to be a stock of embossed Victorian stamps. These were permitted to be used as

By  
W. H.  
ADGEY  
EDGAR



adhesives up till 1916 which makes these covers interesting inasmuch as they show the embossed stamps used during the last three years of their postal life.

The handstruck stamps of Great Britain represent a terrific subject for the postal history collector and beyond my range, but I do occasionally pick up one or two interesting ones. Only the other day I noticed a couple of covers in a sale which had been posted in Guildford, and as this is my county town, I sent off my bids. Many of these handstruck stamps consist of the word "PAID" with no mention of town or date and the only means of identification is the shape, size and other peculiarity that each have. One of these covers showed the scarce concave "Guildford" and large red circular "FREE." I failed to secure this one but I got the other. This showed the scarce "PAID" of Guildford in a small oval frame in dull green. The interesting part of the story is that the earliest recorded cover with this stamp is 1829. Mine, which is of course a folded letter, gives the date of writing as 1813 which makes it sixteen years earlier. I am getting it verified before I slap myself on the back.

There seems to be a revival of interest in Malaya now but Burma has fewer supporters and I have never discovered why. One of the Malaya issues that collectors got a bit fed up with was the BMA overprints. They appeared at a time when we were all thirsting for re-occupation issues, and they were not too easy to acquire. Prices were high at the time but this did not deter collectors, dealers and investors scrambling for the stamps. Then, more and more appeared on the market and the interest, and the price, dropped badly. For some time now specialists have been finding these overprints particularly interesting and they are gradually finding their old level of philatelic popularity again. For anyone who has the time I recommend them as a study for there are varieties galore. Let me detail a few. In the one cent value we have the jet black with brown gum, the variety on thin paper with straw colored gum and the one with a dead white ground printed on substitute paper. The latter has a fresh appearance and the gum is white and glossy. The two cent shows two dies. Die 1 has no varieties that I know of. In die 2 I

have six shades of orange which include deep orange, light orange, bright orange and yellow orange. They all vary in tone. One is on thin paper and this is a good stamp. Die 1 is seen on the 1c, 2c, 10c, 12c, 25c, 50c, \$1, \$2 and the two \$5. Die 2 is seen on the 2c, 3c, 5c, 6c, 8c, 10c and 15c. The 8c grey was overprinted but it was never officially issued. Quite a few copies got on the market and the price varies from 20/- to 30/- each when available.

In the 3c value there is the green shade and the blue-green and a variety on chalky paper. There are several varieties of the 6c value—slate, slate-grey, thin paper and one type with a white forehead on the King. There is also a chalky paper and a local printing which gives a very fuzzy and washy impression.

10c value. Here we find a deep purple with brown gum, a deep purple on thin paper, a magenta and a red-purple.

15c value. There are two overprints of course, the black and the red and the former is by far the better. There are several shades of blue with the black overprint—ultramarine, deep ultramarine, bright blue and even a Prussian blue. Added to these is the new die.

25c value. Dull purple and scarlet, purple and deep scarlet and purple and carmine to a red.

50c value. Here you find the "Broken M" variety and an overprint that is almost vermilion.

\$1 value. We get the usual carmine and the scarlet shades. This seems to happen whenever one or other of these colors are given as the normal shades, the other always turns up.

\$2 value. The same thing happens here. Finally there is the \$5 value in its two combinations of color. The original green and scarlet one is fairly steady now at £4. As regards thin paper varieties, the following values are known: 1c, 2c, 6c, 8c, 10c and 25c and this little lot would cost you about 15/-. Those are just a few of the varieties you can find. You could fill pages with others.

I notice in a dealer's list that the IRAQ 1941 3 fils value with "Cloud flaw" is now 150/- and specimens with the hole punched through the stamp to cover the flaw are only 25/-. Those showing the flaw erased by hand are worth 40/-. The latter method was employed before the hole-punching was adopted. I remember the time when this hole-punched variety appeared and many of us wondered what on earth it meant. I received a cover from that part of the world and the franking included the 3 fils with a beautiful big round hole in the middle. I thought so little of it at the time that I gave it to a fellow collector. He generously insisted that that I should take 2/- for it!

number of States it passed through. A letter traveling from Berlin to Washington, which originally had to be routed via England, had cost 23½ Sgr. With the new German American Steamship Line it was dispatched for 17 Sgr. It was therefore only a matter of time for the postal traffic on the Ocean Steam Navigation Company between Bremen and the U. S. to show volume. In 1848, seventy-nine thousand pieces were transported. By 1852 this had increased to 354,000 pieces of mail. In 1847 the Bremen post office showed a profit from this venture amounting to 15,000 Thaler Gulden. By 1852 the balance was 43,000 Thaler Gulden. By 1857 the Ocean Steam Navigation Company was forced to go out of business, as it no longer was able to compete with other companies. Bremen, however, had gained much valuable experience and formed a new line, the Bremen-New York Steamship Line of the North German Lloyd.

It is interesting to note that in later years when Postmaster General Heinrich von Stephan formed the Universal Postal Union the concept of a flat uniform postal rate as adopted by Bremen was to become a basic principle. (References for this article: Staatsarchiv Bremen Archiv fuer Post und Telegraphie Jahrgang 1909 S. 129 and 169, Deutsche Postgeschichte 1937/1 Postdirektor H. Meyer, Der erste Deutsche Postvertrag mit Amerika ein Werk Bremens.

## The Dealer's Corner

By THE ROVING REPORTER

Art Stamp Shop,  
19 South Fourth St.,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

There is much wisdom in the phrase that "the man will show in the boy" and quite lucky is the "man who still can show the boy" in himself. Arthur McCracken is such a man with a boyish love for stamps. He was born September 18, 1906 in Minneapolis. His father and his mother took special care of their boy and he is very much devoted to his parents. He still is "their boy."

Was it fate or destiny when his mother gave the two year old boy a stamp album to play with? Of course no miracle did happen but nature took its course and the stamp album soon was shredded to pieces, however although this album may be considered to be unrepresentable, he still has it.

The boy grew up, graduating from high school and the University of Minnesota. He had a real collection of stamps started at fifteen years of age. His interest in stamps made him work for another stamp dealer. In 1939, war, his start as a stamp dealer and the ART STAMP SHOP was born. His location was a "hole in

the wall" at 7 South Sixth Street. It was a real street store but so small that hardly more than two customers could be waited on at one time. He is now in much larger quarters, his store being located in the Hotel Vendome Building. He still is an enthusiastic collector with the motto "collect everything and have fun." However he has developed a special liking for U. S. 3-cent 1851 and 5-cent Taylors and has a highly specialized collection of Germany and Heligoland. Once in a while and whenever needed, his proud father helps out in the store. Arthur McCracken is a successful stamp dealer. Very friendly to all his customers, he is well liked and respected and his store is the center of real philately.

## CANADIAN ROUND TABLE

(Continued from page 555)

A.—Yes, the stamps are secondary, the cards are the thing. Anyone having any of these, kindly send them to "Stamps for the Wounded," care of this office. The material is forwarded to the many hospitals and the American Red Cross will acknowledge your sendings. We can use anything for these veterans, duplicates that are of no use to you will come in fine in helping the Vets pass time.

Q.—Are old Canadian post cards items that collectors make a specialty of?

A.—Definitely. Refer to some of the articles appearing in our columns written by Nelson S. Bond. A good rule to follow is to remember that most anything connected in any way with the mails is of interest to some stamp collector. While all items are not of interest to any one collector, there are those who specialize on most anything in the above categories.

Q.—Does one have to be a subscriber to be permitted to ask questions of your column. After Dad gets through with the magazine it is given to Uncle Ed who lets my two cousins read it and then it comes to me.

A.—Quite a route this magazine takes before you get it. One thing nice about our magazine it is printed on paper that can take a beating. What is your question?

Q.—How many sheets of the Fur stamp exist with the missing "G" on one stamp?

A.—We have no definite facts but have traced fifteen sheets that were not recalled. This answer is based on reports we believe to be correct. We take no responsibility for this answer.

Q.—In the last issue of WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP a very comprehensive article on the N. W. Territories of Canada was written by Rev. Borsay in response to a query in the Canadian Round Table. After reading his

query I wrote him a letter enclosing a cover mailed from Pangnirtung for his collection. In my letter I told him I had a couple of covers and since reading Rev. Borsay's article it occurred to me that perhaps you would like to see the covers, so I am enclosing them for your inspection.

A.—Thank you, Mr. R. W. Franklin, North Bend, B. C., Canada for allowing us to see these most interesting covers. Wish we could illustrate them but the cuts would have to be so large they would take up too much of our limited space. Will try and describe them for our readers. Franked with a copy of Scott's No. 197, canceled "Bache Peninsula/ Ap 12/33/N.W.T." and endorsed "653 miles from the pole" and "From the most Northerly P. O. in the world, closed on this day" and addressed to Vancouver, B. C. Steamer marking in purple reads "Eastern Arctic Mail Service, Hudson Bay Co., S. S. Nascopie" boxed in oblong. Written on cover of Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The second cover is on the same general order of the above but is franked with Scott's Canada No. 204. Backstamped with five different post offices on its way back to Vancouver. Probably the most interesting Canadian covers this columnist has seen in many a day. Further correspondence should be made direct to Mr. Franklin. Our chapter on this item is closed.

## Albion Stamp Club

The Albion Stamp Club will stage their ninth annual exhibition and bourse at Baldwin Hall, one of the Albion College Buildings, Albion, Mich. Betty Gascoyne, 904 No. Ionia St., Albion, Mich. Exhibition date April 11, 1953.

## MAJOR DEVOSS TRANSFERRED

Major James T. DeVoss, regional secretary of the American Philatelic Society will be transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, effective January 5th. At Fort Leavenworth, Major DeVoss will attend the Command and General Staff College, returning to Washington, D. C. on May 5th at the close of the course.

## STAMP DICTIONARY OFFERED

A Stamp Dictionary, identifier and guide to collecting may be had by mentioning WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP in your request. This handy 36-page book is yours for the asking. Stampex Co., 116 Nassau St., New York 38, N. Y. makes this offer to our readers. For beginner or advanced collector alike, a handy reference at all times.



it all. Usually a few values, chosen for agreeable colors, suffice. But if you want to compete in shows, you then open yourself to losing points for lack of "completeness."

The same condition applies if a stamp is surcharged. Coming back to mountains on stamps, the Nicaraguan sets with Mt. Momotombo, the volcano behind the pier with narrow gauge train on it, were used for various purposes, with overprinting to change value, surcharging for use as officials and with provincial names printed on them for restricted uses. All these changes are not really with any bearing on the picture on the stamp. Yet, if you want to show the range of use of that picture, you can hardly avoid including them.



Then comes the very difficult problem of what to put into the mounting of the collection. By and large, most collectors seem to minimize their stamps by so much descriptive matter or so many and large pictures of the subject, that the real merits of their collections according to subject matter are missed. It is clear, for example, that if you are showing "Locomotives on Stamps," it is not helpful to take the U. S. 2c Pan-American and give a detailed story of Engine 999 or the Empire State Express. The fact that this engine and train once did 112 miles per hour is not in point, however interesting that may be—nor that Alco built the engine at the Schenectady works in some particular year.

Nor is a large picture of the subject on a stamp so really useful. Such a picture will draw all the attention, leaving the stamp a mere incident, all but unnoticed. One solution is to use a picture no larger than a block of four stamps, and to use a block of four stamps to equal it in size.

Again, the question of what "philatelic knowledge" to put into your write-up needs judgment. For instance, unless a stamp comes in several methods of production, there is no purpose served by mentioning whether it is engraved, rotogravure or lithographed; nor are names of producers nor perf. sizes needful. The varieties which you show have to be differentiated, however. Again, if you are going to exhibit in a stamp show, any information that is in the catalogue normally won't count as

"philatelic knowledge" with the judges nor gain you points on this score.

Most collections arranged by the pictures on the stamps tend to have so much told about the subjects shown that nobody viewing the collection will read it all. The utmost condensation, the most stringent attention to whether any remark is in point with bearing on the stamp, has to be exercised. One general hint can be given, however.



That hint is to ask yourself: "Why is this picture shown on this stamp?" The answer to that question, worded as compactly as you know how to, usually will give all that is worth saying in your writing-up. There will then be room for the necessary strictly philatelic information, such as date of issue. That last is probably the only bit of strictly stamp information needful in most cases. In some examples, it is an essential—as in "Children on Stamps," to indicate why Edward VIII appears as a child on a Newfoundland 1895 stamp.

Thus far I have avoided one question that always arises. Should a collection according to pictures consist of unused stamps, used stamps, the two mixed, covers thrown in, or what?

Some few persons, including some few ill-advised show judges, have the old-time idea still that used and unused stamps should not be combined in one collection. That idea was always a silly bit of Byzantine pedantry. It is not followed by any of the really high power collectors in any advanced field today. Neinken's marvelous U. S. 1851 1c and 10c collections combine used, unused and covers; van Elkan's great British collections that have taken such high awards lately combine used, unused and covers; Saul Newbury had all three in the collection that took grand award at Cipex 1947 show—as did Wellburn's glorious British Columbia that took the 1951 Capex grand award. Dr. Hennen's superb Latin-Americans combine essays, proofs, unused singles, blocks and sheets, used copies on and off cover. And so it goes down the line.

For collecting by pictures, there is one sure test.

If the cancelation hides what you want to show, don't take that copy. Thus, if you are showing churches on stamps, the cancelation has to be on the edge so that it does not blot out the cathedral forming the picture.

On the other hand, a stamp with a church in the scene, but not forming all of it, may well be the better for a cancelation hiding the other features, as with Czechoslovakia Nos. 225 and 226, the 5k and 10k of 1936.



Likewise for religious symbols on stamps, Israel Nos. 28 to 30, the 1949 stamps showing the Seven-Branded Candlestick, would be better shown in copies on which most of the rest of the design is obscured by the cancelation.

Any of the Basutoland stamps of the George V issue show this neatly. A cancelation across the bottom would not hurt any of them for "Bearded Men on Stamps." It would rule such a copy out completely for Mountains on Stamps or for Reptiles on Stamps. A cancelation across the top would rule the same stamp out for Bearded Men, but make its mountain or crocodile show up to splendid advantage.

As for covers—well, there every person's whim must govern. Certain facts do limit us. Thus, if the cover has a fancy cachet that enlarges the stamp's features, that may make the cover serve in place of an illustration. But a pictorial or illustrated cover that distracts attention to something else is surely a liability, not a help. Likewise, the smaller the cover, the better it is apt to fit into your collection by pictures. Nor is there any real reason for first day covers as such in this type of collecting—save if you want to introduce this as an additional sort of specialization.

You don't have to collect thus intensively in this advanced way in collecting according to the pictures on the stamps. You can do it as "lightly" as you wish. But let me warn you! If you ever start it, it will make you a real addict. You will go on and on to more and more advanced subject matter collecting. You'll discover when the used or unused block brings out the feature you want to show better than a single. You'll enjoy your stamps more than you ever thought possible.

And if you'll enter the "topical" collection in a "regular" group in stamp shows whenever possible—as, for example, the American part of "Schoolmen" in the U. S. section—I predict that you'll be pleasantly surprised to win awards. That is, provided you use real judgment in how you set it up.

# The First German-American Postal Treaty

By Maj. H. L. HALLE

In 1838 Samuel Cunard founded the Royal Mail Steamship Company with its main office in Halifax. This steamship line was later to be known as the Cunard Line. It engaged in trans-Atlantic traffic. In its first year of existence an agreement was reached with the British Government calling for transportation of British mail from England to the United States. This service brought the Royal Mail Steamship Company a revenue of 81,000 Pounds per year. It was further stipulated that there be made twenty trips per year between Liverpool and Boston (via Halifax). Thus England became the only country in Europe capable of dispatching mail to the U. S. by fast steamers. The postage rate for trans-Atlantic mail was high and set at 1sh4d per ½-oz. Consequently a letter dispatched from Prussia via England to the United States cost the tidy sum of about 23½ Sgr. (Silbergroschen). Commercial interests compelled the German Postal Authorities to use British steamers, as the fastest sailships needed twenty-seven days for this journey as compared to the fourteen days the steamers used. Fast freight by British boats demanded a high freight rate which was even increased for German shippers through the necessity of reloading at Liverpool. Large sums of money were paid to British shippers. This arrangement, after overcoming many difficulties, finally led to the establishing of a steamer line running out of Bremen direct to ports of the United States. The tireless efforts of Bremen's Mayor Smidt and of its Senator Duckwitz (Bremen was a Hansa city with 52,000 inhabitants) were crowned with success and the city newspaper, *The Weserzeitung*, on March 20, 1846, in a special edition, brought the good news to its citizens. Senator Duckwitz sent a congratulatory message to Mr. Gevekoht, the Bremen representative in Washington, who had conducted the negotiations. With satisfaction Duckwitz wrote "Bremen is awake and fights while the entire holy roman empire sleeps." The new line called the Ocean Steam Navigation Company operated out of Bremerhaven and was naturally most anxious to enter into a postal treaty with the United States. This appeared simpler than it actually was. At Bremerhaven the city of Bremen did not maintain a post office. There was no postal traffic between Bremen and Bremerhaven. By land such a connection was impossible, as the sovereign State of Hannover frowned on such a route as it would infringe on their rights. The river

Weser was also within the territorial rights of the States of Hannover and Oldenburg and any traffic on this river would have been looked upon as an infringement of such rights. Actually postal traffic between Bremen and Bremerhaven was conducted as a private business and delivery and transporting of letters was accomplished by tipping riverboat personnel. Through the efforts of Senator Duckwitz the State of Hannover soon saw the importance of having a steamship line running from Bremerhaven to the United States. It agreed to the establishment of a post office in Bremerhaven using a landroute from Bremerhaven to Bremen and on February 28, 1846 signed a postal treaty to that effect with Bremen. Under this treaty a Bremen-Hannover post office was established with two separate offices: one operating as a Bremen establishment with the other as a Hannover establishment. The Hannover office transacted all business with the Kingdom of Hannover and with all other German States not covered by a treaty with Bremen. The Bremen office dealt with all trans-Atlantic postal matters, with Bremen proper and with all German States covered under a treaty with Bremen. Mail delivered via the Prussian and the Thurn and Taxis Postal Establishments were to be serviced through the Bremen City Post Office. Bremen, in turn, agreed to deliver all trans-Atlantic incoming mail, which was not to be serviced by the Bremen Postal Service to the Hannover Postal Authorities. Hannover maintained a nightly postal run in both directions between Bremen and Bremerhaven. This line was made available to Bremen against payment of one Gutengroschen per lot (old German measure). After the signing of this treaty Bremen was able to take up negotiations with the United States to effect an exchange of mail with the U. S.

Bremen's interests were twofold. The added revenue promised to be a large one and the prestige factor for the city of Bremen was not to be overlooked. The negotiations progressed very nicely and on the first trip of the new steamer Washington the U. S. First Assistant Postmaster General Major Hobbie was a passenger, eager and willing to sign a Postal treaty. In his negotiations with Duckwitz he declared that he had full authority to conclude a postal treaty with "Germany." Patiently Duckwitz explained that this was a very difficult task as there were no less than seventeen Postal Authorities within

Germany, each one independent, and all of them in constant disagreement with each other, as to rights. Major Hobbie was not easy to convince and as a matter of fact remarked that this was all nonsense and that he was sent to conclude a treaty with Germany and was under orders not to return without one. Obviously under the circumstances it was not easy to find the proper solution and form for such a treaty. A solution was found however, and the suggestion made that the Bremen Postal Authorities were to act as sort of agents in Europe for the Postmaster General in Washington and in such a capacity would deal with the other German Postal Authorities. This was agreed on and the treaty was concluded with Bremen with the provision that it would be effective with all German and European States wanting to be included. The trans-Atlantic postal rate was set at 24c per ½-oz. (10 Silbergroschen) under this agreement, with the "uniform postage" set at 5c for distances up to 300 English miles from New York and at 10c for longer distances. For all Germany and Austria the postage rate for ½-oz. was set at 12c (5 Silbergroschen). The only exception was for Hannover, Oldenburg and Hamburg, where the German rate would only amount to half. As the agents for the American traffic and for handling the financial transactions the Bremen Postal Authorities were to receive 20% commission on all prepayments on mail, effected in Germany whether by franking or postage paid, since stamps were not a matter of requirement. Between March 29th and June 26, 1847 the treaty was formulated and signed. Gradually the rest of the German States entered into the treaty as the conditions certainly were most favorable. Austria, encountering certain transition rights difficulties with a number of German States, entered into the treaty in 1850 only after the formulation and establishment of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Thus Bremen became the postal representative of the United States. This by the way was the first time, at least with regards to American letters, that a uniform postal rate for all of Germany was introduced. This was quite an accomplishment, as heretofore a letter traveling through various German Postal territories was taxed with the prevailing rates running from border to border. For example, a letter from Dresden to Bremen required full postage in Saxony, Prussia, Brunswick and Hannover. The new treaty required a uniform postage rate (fee) of 5 Sgr., regardless of the



HOTEL



# Commodore

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

Birmingham, Alabama.  
Dec. 26, 1952.

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

Dear Stan,

Supplementing our talk over the phone night before last, here is an example of what I meant by charging me for work done on stamps I submit to you. I had bought this 90¢ 1860 at a H.R. Harmer sale when I was in New York last month for \$27.00. It looked to me like the right deep color of the used copies and the type smacked of the form of my good copy of the Jeffrys sale- Dec. 1, 1860. Can it be screened out since the stamper used blue ink? I figure most of these copies are bad but some must be good. And that if I find one good one I can discard quite a few N.G. copies.

Twice lately you have typed a 1¢ 1851 for me as II when I had bought it as IIIA. This makes me quite sceptical about all IIIAs. Last Dec. 17th., 1951, I bought these four covers at a sale of H.R. Harmer's. I must not have ever shown them to you according to my records but rushed on down to Jacksonville to open that big place down there. So, will you look at them for me now? Here is what they are supposed to be according to the catalog:

Lot 61- Vertical pair of 10¢ 1847s	Cost	\$260.00
" 66- Single 1¢ 1851 type IIIA	"	38.00
" 77- " 5¢ 1856	"	95.00
" 108- 30¢ 1861- 24¢ 1861- 2¢ 1867 (85B)	"	23.00

I enclose here with the Fox price list. Whenever you are thru with it you can return but not until then.

I have received Ezra's check for the return of the 15¢ 1869 cover with the red smudge New Orleans cancel. It is evident from the timing that Bernard said O.K. before he even got the cover back, in fact, I think the cover still at Cole's because he must have left Nyack before the same came back from me. Contrast with the other Harmer.

The Chicago Perf Cover just received back. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Jan. 4, 1953.

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

Dear Em:

The holidays put me far behind in my work and I have been trying to clean my desk of all urgent correspondence.

Re - yours of the 24th and Paul Rohloff. Ever since he got back from New York he has been terribly busy, so I suppose he forgot all about the lot of Green catalogues. Why don't you write him? As to the price for a file, you are better informed than I am but it does seem to me that \$150 is quite a price. I am quite sure that a set wouldn't be worth such a sum to me. Of course, this is just between ourselves. Paul is an awfully nice chap and I suppose he would pay you any price you asked if he was confident you considered the price was fair and square. Use your judgement.

Re - the items enclosed in yours of the 26th.

90¢ 1860 - Because of the blue "cancel" it would be impossible to do any photo work either with a blue filter or by ultra-violet. I don't see how anyone could state that this copy has a genuine cancelation - there is nothing upon which to base an opinion. If this copy was submitted to the P.R., they should return it with the following: "Opinion declined - evidence lacking." That is the policy I am advising them to follow. Do you not think that is sensible and fair?

Re - the covers

10¢ 1847 - Vertical pair - I see no reason to question this in any way. The Boston encircled "20" is well known and the addressor's "PAID" is unquestionably genuine - A double 10¢ rate. The use is early - Sep. 25, 1847. They had been in the habit of rating each letter before stamps, hence the "20" on this letter. Later on they found this extra work was not necessary. The plate positions - 70R1-80R1 are correct. 70 shows a marking to right of the right X. Easy to identify.

1¢ 1851 - Plate One Early - Type IIIA - OKAY - an "A" relief and a very fine example of a IIIA from this plate - The use was surely June 1852. Cost very cheap.

5¢ 1856 on cover. This is really nice. It was first rated in France as not over  $7\frac{1}{2}$  grammes but was later found to weigh in excess and the due was changed to 16 decimes. This made the addressee pay 30¢ instead of 15¢. The "8" is crossed out, not the "G.B." etc. From New Orleans Feb. 15, 1857 - Boston Feb. 25 - Liverpool Mar. 9 - 57 - Paris Mar. 10 - Bordeaux Mar. 11 - (This for my record).

30¢ '61 - 24¢ '61 - 2¢ '67 - No doubt okay, but not fit for a Krug collection.



#2. Mr. Emmerson C. Krug, Jan. 4, 1953.

Ezra will not have any trouble in getting a refund on the two 15¢ 1869 covers in the H. R. H. Sale. I was pleased that you got rid of yours. I seem to be costing Bernard money for refunds. I hope that he don't get sore. I had Jack Fleckenstein return Lot #270 in that same sale, as the 10¢ stamp was not used originally on the cover. Here we have a stampless plus a pencanceled 10¢ 1855 selling for \$26.00.

Herewith I am returning the Fox list of prices. Thanks.

In my January 1st Service I mentioned your name. Any objection? What did you think of my comment on the return of fake items in auctions? No reply as yet from Gordon to my letter. Why should auction firms get sore? All they have to do is to turn "returned material" over to Herman Herst or some other person in his classification and they can recover their money.

Yours of the 31st received. I had no word from Ezra since he left Nyack. I hope he had a good rest and no trouble on his return trip.

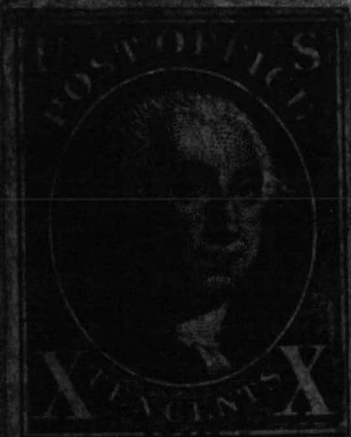
7R1E - Yes, your 7R1E with wide sheet is very fine but there are others which are finer. Your cover is now the property of Rust. I believe that I told you.

The Stark Florida trip is supposed to take place in February but I seriously doubt if I will be able to get away.

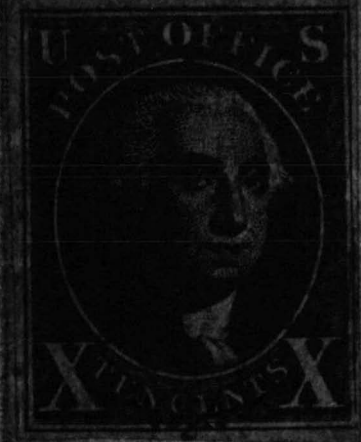
Mildred joins me in best wishes to Dorsey and you for 1953.

As ever yours,

C89



70R



80R

SEE 24



7<sup>th</sup> Steamer, via Liverpool



*M. Ducasting & Co*  
*Bordeaux*

C85

25 Rue Doidy aux chartrons

France

C85-By E.C.K. 12/26-52

This Was Lot 77-H.R.H. Sale 12/17-51

Paris, December 29th. 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

My best wishes for your happiness this full New Year!

Some questions: 1) I get some ship letters or stampless letters with the marking PURSER (+ Due 7 or Due 10) - why this Purser marking? As these Purser markings are always of the same ink as the due markings, I think they were put on by the P.O. and not by the ship purser himself?

2.) - A letter from Aspinwall to New Hampshire with 1857's X cents + a 3 cent stamp, cancelled circular New York steamship. If steamship marking = regular U.S. lines, why these 3 cents more, the regular rate being 10 cents only? It is a prepaid rate for something?

3) In the Stephen Brown sale was a cover, lot 825, 3 ¢ 1857 cancelled Paid 1 in a circular line from East Corinth Maine. I get the same item but the Paid 1 is black and not orange like on the Brown cover. American fellows tell me it is a carrier marking? But this East Corinth was probably only a little hamlet (I cannot find it in any geographical dictionary), never having any carrier service. This Paid 1 marking does it is not more probably a Way marking or perhaps another handshuck?

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About the Fakers Fraternity, since some weeks very clever imitations of early (and dear) Oldenburg stamps are offered on the market. (Lithographic stamps). Same fine work than the dangerous early Uruguay made by Sperati. And probably of the same making, they have the same brilliancy than the other Sperati fakes.

Sincerely yours.

Marc Levy

8 Rue Lagarde  
Paris 5.



Jan. 5, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Levy:

Your air letter of the 29th received. Re - covers into San Francisco with the straight line marking "Purser." I recall that I had some correspondence last year with Dr. Polland, regarding this marking and no doubt you obtained such a cover from him or had some correspondence with him on the subject. It is my impression that students of San Francisco and "Western" markings do not know very much about this marking. In my opinion, it was applied to mail that was mailed direct to mail ships on the regular mail line, - Panama to San Francisco - For example, a person traveling from California to the eastern section of the U. S. Via Panama wrote a letter en-route to a friend or relative in San Francisco. Same was handed to the "Purser" of the ship, and carried to Panama and then back to San Francisco. The "Purser" denoted origin of the letter at the S.F. Post Office. Whether this marking was applied on board the ship or at the P.O. has not been established, and I think that point is not very important. In many instances only 3¢ was paid, but inasmuch as the letter on its return trip came back from Panama, a 10¢ rate was required, hence the NOT UNUSUAL "DUE 7." Such letters also originated at Panama, also elsewhere and brought privately to Panama and mailed direct to the "Purser" of the U.S. Mail ship - hence the full rate from Panama to S.F. was charged. One of these "Purser" covers sold in the Meroni sale last November @ \$35.00 - (an unpaid - use 1869).

Query No. 2 - Aspinwall to New Hampshire. There was no 13¢ rate, hence I know of no 13¢ rate, hence I know of no reason why there was an extra 3¢ on the cover. I fear this is the best explanation I can give without seeing the cover. If you care to send it to me, I might be able to give you a better explanation.

Query No. 3 - Brown Sale - Lot 825. Whoever informed you that this was a Carrier or Way marking was all wrong. A use such as this had no rate significance whatsoever. The "Paid 1" in this, and many similar cases, was merely a cancelation. This stamp-er was a "rate marking" used on stampless mail but in this case it was merely used to cancel the 3¢ stamp. Of course, East Corinth did not have any carrier service - such a suggestion would be FAR too absurd to even consider. Further, payments of a Way Fee were never identified in any such a manner. A Way Fee was either pre-paid or it was marked "Way, Due 1."

Thanks very much for the advice on the new counterfeits. Sperati is probably still at work.

With New Year Greetings -

Cordially yours,

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  
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A. E. COX - S. J. MIROCHA  
P. L. COSGRAVE



Jan. 2, 1953

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

Dear Stan; Happy New Year to you and Mrs. Ashbrook. You may have wondered what results have come my Ad. Three or four letters only up to the present but it takes time and now that the holidays are over I expect more activity.

Enclosed are some pieces which are the property of Arthur Beckwith Weslaco, Texas. None are for sale.

1. Will you photograph the strip of three with the imprint in duplicate, one for me and the other I will send to Mr. Beckwith.

2. I can find nothing of importance or of aid on the pair, single and cover front, but I am enclosing them to you for your opinion.

I saw a single sent to Les today which definately had some blue silk strands in the paper. I have not been able to find time to examine all of mine but what do you know about it.

To cover any of your expense in registration, postage and paper I am enclosing a 100.00 bill and when I have used this up please inform me.

Regards and awaiting your word I am

Very Sincerely

*Henry*



Jan. 6, 1953.

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

Dear Henry:

Yours with the three 5¢ 1856 items received and I hasten to return them herewith so that you can return them to Mr. Beckwith. I have had some correspondence with him in the past and, as I recall, he has been the victim of some of the gyp-artists down East and in Europe. I suppose he has the idea that there are bargains in 19th U. S. and that it is smart not to pay high prices. This is the best way possible to accumulate a lot of repaired junk.

Note his pair herewith - This has a bad vertical crease down the right side and the top margin has been added and the design painted. The single sure looks fine but some clever work has been done with it. I am not sure whether a margin has been added at right or not, but superficial examination indicates cement work and some monkey-business with the top of the design. Also note the postmark - whether this is all a fake or not would require a thorough examination, but one thing is sure, the marking has been gone over with a brush. Looks to me like the "artist" got mixed up and painted a "K" instead of an "L" in the "ORL" EANS. I made a negative by ultra violet of this, but I doubt if it will show up the repair work. Those slickers over on the Continent are wary of the "Lamp" - hence work under one so as to make their work lamp-proof.

The imprint strip is darn nice and as far as I can see it has no defects. Inasmuch as only a very few imprints are known, this is a welcome addition to our record.

Re - copies of the 5¢ 1856 which show the two guide dots at upper right, do you believe that these all come from the top row of the plate? I may be wrong but I do not seem to recall any such copies which showed a part of a stamp above.

I am going to try to include some prints in this letter but if not they will follow in a few days.

Re - stamp paper in the middle eighteen fifties with silk threads. I do not recall ever hearing of any stamp paper used by Toppan, Carpenter & Co. that had silk threads. Inasmuch as this is news to me, it would be useless for me to comment but I seem to recall that I once saw a paper that I thought had silk threads and upon investigation, I came to the conclusion that the threads came from a cloth used to wipe the plate. I will be interested in anything you can learn.

It was awfully nice of you to send that bill and I sincerely thank you very much.

#2. Mr. Henry W. Hill - Jan. 6, 1953.

Mrs. Ashbrook joins me in best wishes for a Happy, Healthful & Prosperous New Year.

Cordially yours,



Henry W. Hill

AIR MAIL

After 5 days return to  
JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & CO.  
20-26 2nd St. South  
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

P.O. Box 31

33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave

Fort Thomas

Ky.

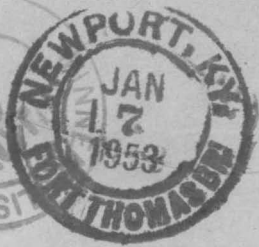
REGISTERED

9292

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

AIR MAIL

VIA AIR MAIL



**AIR MAIL**  
**VIA AIR MAIL**



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



I-6-53

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

Dear Stan;

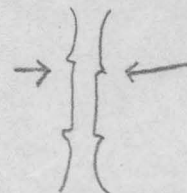
To-day I received two pieces of interest, which I am forwarding to you for your record and comments.

1. From S. Richmond, Brookline Mass. 5c 56 which seem to have been an early use of private perforation. Les seems to think it worth while to have but I wonder if you have ever seen or heard of it.

2. From Bruce G. Daniels, Boston, Mass. A block of three 5c 56s, which I wish you would photograph for my records. Note how the projections between the two lower stamps do not coincide, the right one being lower than the left side. This is not worth buying but a record should be kept of the piece I believe.

Let me have your comments at your leisure.

*Henry N Hill*



Jan. 8, 1953.

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

Dear Henry:

Herewith I am enclosing two prints each of the various 5¢ 1856 items which you sent earlier this week. Of the 5¢ single I made two negatives as labeled on the back. Perhaps you noticed the cancelation and also the repair work at top. If you wish any more prints, let me know.

Regarding yours of the 6th with the block of three and single. Regarding the single - this was one of those things supposed to have been made on a sewing machine, but I have my doubts about this copy. It looks to me like someone used a pin to fake this. I never thought much of the genuine sewing machine copies but this copy is just a damaged stamp in my humble opinion. I made a photo of it so that you will have a record.

Re - the "block" of three. It is too bad that the condition is so poor as a block of three is probably most unusual. I don't seem to have any record of such. This item apparently don't show any guide dots. The right vertical row was lower than the one to left, but this was not unusual. I believe that if you will examine multiples you will find that some vertical rows were lower than the one to left and that some were higher. The spacing between stamps in vertical rows was about 1 1/4 MM and I don't think this varied very much. This plate was evidently very carefully laid out. Perhaps someday we will run across a fairly good double transfer. I wish that I could identify the reliefs. I have an idea it is possible. I made a photo of the "block" and I will send prints later.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,



C87



SEE 26-5-C87-N°2-QUARTZ-  
N132-64-10 MIN-16-53



A207

BY HEAVY MAIL 1/6-53-PROPERTY  
OF ARTHUR SIEGEL WITH S.F.  
26-5-ATD

SEE A206 - This No. 2 Green - 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 128 - 506ec



A207



B254



By Henry Hill  
y6-53- Send 2  
PRINTS

Property of  
Arthur Beckwith  
Weslaco Texas

*S. L. Stone*

*Postage Stamps for Collectors*

45 BROMFIELD STREET, BOSTON 8, MASS.

Telephone HANcock 6-8364

January 5, 1953

We can supply  
stamps of:

UNITED STATES

CONFEDERATE STATES

HAWAII

CANAL ZONE

PHILIPPINES

CANADA

NEWFOUNDLAND

NOVA SCOTIA

NEW BRUNSWICK

PRINCE EDWARD IS.

GUAM

\*\*\*\*\*

ALBUMS

SCOTT LINE

ELBE LINE

WHITE ACE

\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. FIRST DAY  
COVERS

\*\*\*\*\*

STOCK BOOKS

\*\*\*\*\*

COLLECTORS'  
SUPPLIES

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Upon the suggestion of Jack Molesworth, I call the inclosed 5¢ 1857 to your attention.

This stamp was submitted to The Philatelic Foundation, requesting their opinion as to it being a genuine Scott U.S. #28. This was returned by them stating that it is not #28 but a reperforated #76.

As #28 and #76 are two different stamps entirely, I called the matter to their attention, and a new certificate was issued stating that it is a genuine #29. A photo of the first certificate, and the original of the second is inclosed for your observation.

At this time, will you please tell me in your opinion, as to the stamp being #28.

Bill me for your fee, and would appreciate the return of the original certificate, tho you may keep the photo.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

*S. L. Stone*  
S.L. Stone



Jan. 8, 1953.

Mr. S. L. Stone,  
P. O. Box 52,  
Dorchester 24, Mass.

Dear Mr. Stone:

Herewith the 5¢ 1857 Type I, also the P.F. certificate and photostat. I made reproductions of both, also of my mounted card with the 5¢ stamp. I will submit prints to the Committee.

I am at an utter loss to find an explanation for this error, but I believe that it must have arisen from some sort of a misunderstanding on the part of the secretary who made out the certificates. Strange to relate, I was present at the Committee's meeting on the night of Nov. 10th last, but I do not recall that this particular stamp was discussed. However, I begged to be excused from examining any items that were under consideration as I am not good enough to glance at any stamp and render an opinion, not in these days of the Speraties, Zareskies and similar crooks.

The meeting of Nov. 10th was on the day that Winthrop Boggs became ill and this error could have been caused by the confusion incident to that unfortunate event.

I feel sure that the Committee will be pleased to rectify the error after I call it to their attention.

My fee is \$3.00.

Very truly yours,



# H. L. LINDQUIST

## PUBLICATIONS

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

January 12, 1953

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

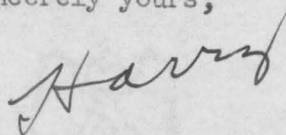
Dear Stan:

I'll be looking forward to receiving those photographs with interest. It does seem absolutely unbelievable that a competent committee would make errors such as you have pointed out, but it behooves us to get them straightened out, rather than discredit the whole organization which, in its turn, would reflect on our entire stamp industry. It would be difficult for collectors who do not know the situation to differentiate between our knowledge of what is going on, and the fact that our most important Foundation is being justly criticised.

I'm glad you had enough influence with Molesworth to get him to hold up any action for if he could get a restraining order, such as his attorney says is possible, it would pretty much ruin stamp collecting, as well as the Foundation.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



HLL/G

Jan. 8, 1953.

Mr. S. L. Stone,  
P. O. Box 52,  
Dorchester 24, Mass.

Dear Mr. Stone:

Herewith the 5¢ 1857 Type I, also the P.F. certificate and photostat. I made reproductions of both, also of my mounted card with the 5¢ stamp. I will submit prints to the Committee.

I am at an utter loss to find an explanation for this error, but I believe that it must have arisen from some sort of a misunderstanding on the part of the secretary who made out the certificates. Strange to relate, I was present at the Committee's meeting on the night of Nov. 10th last, but I do not recall that this particular stamp was discussed. However, I begged to be excused from examining any items that were under consideration as I am not good enough to glance at any stamp and render an opinion, not in these days of the Speraties, Zareskies and similar crooks.

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I feel sure that the Committee will be pleased to rectify the error after I call it to their attention.

My fee is \$3.00.

Very truly yours,



Re Philatelic Foundation  
Certificates 3981 Dated  
November 10 1952 -  
This Stamp Is A Uncanceled  
Copy of The 5¢ 1857 -  
Red Brown Type I  
S.U.S. No 28 - S.U.S. No 29 Is  
The Type I Brown - This  
Is Not The Brown - S.U.S.  
#76 Is The 5¢ 1863 Brown  
- of Course This Is Not

That Stamp. The perforations on All  
Four Sides Are, In My Opinion Genuine.  
There Is No Gum On The Back of  
This Stamp. The Width of This Stamp  
Is The Same As Normal Copies of The  
5¢ 1857 Type I Red Brown. The Length  
Is A Bit Shorter Than Normal Copies  
But In My Opinion This Is Not Due To  
Reperforation At Top or Bottom.

*Allen G. Saurer*  
Jan 8 1953

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
FORT THOMAS KY

26-6

C96

SEE B 263

C96



B263

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 -----

*Thurman S. Stearns*

For The Expert Committee *al*



B263



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¢, brown, unused, of which a photo-  
graph is affixed below -----

submitted by -----  
and are of the opinion that it is NOT #28 but a genuine  
copy of #29 -----

*Henry*  
For The Expert Committee  
CHAIRMAN



# THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET  
NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

January  
December 6, 1953

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

Re: Items #4068, 4084, 4091

Dear Stan:

The enclosed items have been submitted to the  
Expert Committee and we should very much appreciate  
your opinion on these.

Thanking you for the courtesy, I am

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

*Henry M. Goodkind*  
Henry M. Goodkind  
Secretary.

1  
encl.

Jan. 9, 1953.

The Philatelic Foundation,

22 East 35th St.,

New York 16, N.Y.

Attention: Mr. Henry M. Goodkind

Dear Henry:

Herewith items #4068 - #4084 - and #4091, as per yours of the 6th, dated "December 6, 1953." This just for the record. Perhaps my memo on #4068 will puzzle you - the explanation is this - This is for my record - This copy was made to microfilm and the print of same will accompany microfilms of the face, back and inside of this cover - thus for future reference. A lot of work but I guess it pays off in the end.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,



SEE 26-7

B260

See Microfilm For  
Full Opinion  
Roll No 28

Steamer

Mrs. A. Garrison

Nantes

France

By R.F.  
No 4068

B260 - By Philatelic Foundation Jan 8 1953 - Query Does This Stamp Belong On This Cover? Stamp Has Red GRID, Poorly Tied At Right - Letter Inside Is Headed SAVANNAH 8 Nov 1847. Cover Shows No U.S. Postal Markings Front Or Back, Letter Inside Has "PEN LNERPOOL STEAMER - 16 Nov" At This Time Cunard Steamers Sailed Only From BOSTON. No New York Sailings In 1847, The 16th of Nov was Tuesday - CUNARD Sailings From Boston Were On Wednesdays. Why No U.S. Postmark? There Is A FAINT "COLONIES" Which Should Tie The Stamp But No Evidence on Stamp. This Is A "GARNIER" Cover - Many From This Correspondence Have Been FAKED. Dates Are As Follows - Letter Savannah Nov 8 1847 - LNERPOOL - Nov 30 - 22 Days - Paris Dec 2 1847 - Nantes - Dec 3 1847. Why No Savannah Or Boston Postmarks? Rate of 10¢ (To Boston) Is Correct. Under The Ultra Violet No Evidence of A Faded U.S. Postal Marking. The FRENCH DUE IS 18 Decimes or About 35¢ U.S. The GRID IS Red - Savannah Used Red Ink But Whether That Town Had A

# Stan & Mac Bride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

January 5th, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

It isn't often that I, - or anyone else, - can actually find you provably in error! But, you definitely are in at least one point in your "Special Service" Bulletin of January 1, 1953. That is about that Confederate 2¢ over a 10¢ cover, about which you and Larry and I had considerable correspondence a year or so ago.

You are entirely mixed up about Morris Island and Fort Johnson. In 1864 Morris Island was held by Federal forces who were bombarding Charleston with big guns from Battery Wagner. The prisoners there were 600 Confederate officers who had been sent down from Fort Delaware. (The full story on this is in my articles in the AP of May, 1946, June, 1948 and October, 1950, of which the latter is a summary.) Obviously, therefore, "James C. Reynolds", if a Federal soldier, could not have been held on Morris Island.

On page #155 of your Bulletin you state "Incidentally, Fort Johnson was on Morris Island in Charleston Harbor\* \* \*". Fort Johnson was actually on James Island, which is located on the south side of Charleston Harbor west of Fort Sumter. If you have a set of "Battles and Leaders" of the Civil War", you will find it briefly described in an article in Volume I, page 43-44, which includes an excellent map of Charleston Harbor. At that time it apparently was of minor importance, but another article in Volume IV on page 12 thereof, indicates that the Fort was strengthened in 1863 after the capture of Morris Island by the Federal forces.

Therefore, this man Reynolds could have been held a prisoner there in 1864, - although I cannot imagine why. At that time, however, many Federal prisoners were being held in Charleston City, and if it hadn't been that this cover was forwarded to Fort Johnson, you would have an adequate substantiation of your theory that Reynolds was one of those prisoners, as the cover was originally addressed to Charleston.

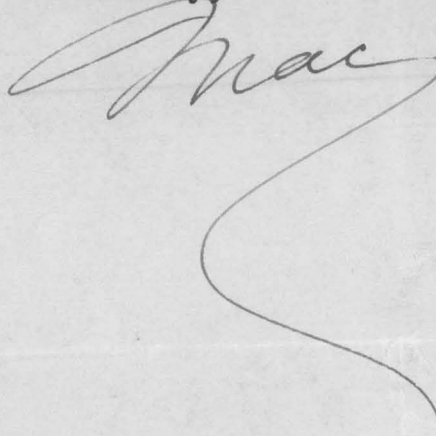
As it is, I can't venture any worthwhile opinion as to who or where he was, and why this cover was forwarded to Fort Johnson. Whether he was a prisoner-of-war, or a civilian or a soldier, I also do not know. If he was a soldier, I would think that his military rank, ~~or~~ regiment, company, etc. would have appeared on the envelope, - as on most

thru-the-lines letters to soldiers. But, anyhow, I am sure you will be glad to have the above, - ~~in my~~ own writings I found that it pays to be mighty sure you have your historical facts accurate!

Except for this, your story on that Confederate cover is excellent and interesting, as is the balance of your Bulletin. I am particularly glad to have the flag of truce and other data in it for my files, and I hope you will continue to send me such future of these Bulletins as contain any Confederate references. Incidentally, and as I have told you previously, I would be glad to pay you for any such issues. I am sending a copy of this to Larry Shenfield, but not to Fred Grant or Earl Antrim, to whom you sent copies of the Bulletin. I imagine you may want to issue a correction of some sort later, and will send it to them.

Regards!

Sincerely,

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

MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L.Shenfield



# EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

---

*Commissions . Appraisals*

---

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

January 7th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Here is some late news and dope and a couple of queries.

Still trying to get my desk cleared up and it is some job.

Damn these old fakes still keep turning up. Look at this 30¢ 1869 cover. This time I think I can get the owner either to give it to me or destroy it. This is just for you to locate where it is now.

Two stamps I am enclosing. First the 90¢ one. Let me know what you think of this. (1) Do you think it is good? (2) Do you think it is bad? (3) Is this one of those stamps that you cannot prove one way or the other? If the evidence weighs higher in one direction than another let me know.

The 24¢ stamp. Please look at this carefully. What color and what stamp do you think it is by the Scott catalogue? In particular the paper is too thin to be No. 78 according to my thoughts. Do you think it is a variety of No. 70 or the stamp which is listed in the catalogue as No. 60a? I want to know what the Scott catalogue number is on this in your judgment, <sup>not</sup> its value and anything else. This is to settle an argument.

Now as to news. Wulfschuhler's sale went over well. Will send you all the prices if you want them. Lot 19 was announced as being reserved. What did you get for it. It was sold to order for \$525.00

Lot 22 ex Steve Brown where Harold bought it for \$45.00. What did you get for it? It brought \$350.00.

Lot 25 brought \$250.00. You got more than that for it.

Lot 140 brought \$92.50

Lot 141 brought 160.00 and it was terrible.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook, #2

Jan. 7th, 1953

This is about all the interesting prices.

Some late news re the P. F. Since Boggs has been away they have been in a mess. Worse than you or I imagine.

Jack Molesworth sent some stamps to them and they did not even know the right catalogue numbers let alone anything else. If Jack writes you sometime maybe you can tell me for I am not supposed to know too much so keep me out of it.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

Jan. 10, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

Yours of the 7th received.

I was pleased to learn that the Wulfekuhler sale was a success. I regret that I have all the papers re - the sale of the Brooks collection filed away in the basement and I haven't the prices for ready reference that I obtained for his various covers, and my memory is too deficient to try and recall them. In addition, each cover was numbered and all records were by number. It would be quite a job to trace the number to the actual cover. However, if you want the information I'll take time out and try to dig it out for you.

Don't bother to send me a list of prices as they get out a printed list and it will be along in the near future. I am not in any particular hurry.

Re - Lot #19 - As near as I can remember, he paid \$500 for it. If the thing is genuine, it is a real rarity. Personally, I wouldn't have it. I didn't think it would bring \$500.

Lot 22 - I have no recollection what he paid me but I doubt if it was anything like \$350.00.

Lot 25 - No recollection as to the Brooks price.

Lot 140 - I don't recall that this was a Brooks cover.

Lot 141 - Ditto

Re - the P.F., I am keeping close tab and I am aware of the mess since Boggs has been away. God knows it was bad enough when he was there, but Ez it wasn't really his fault as he was only a clerk. He would have lost his job had he complained.

I know all about the Molesworth - Stone case and it is unbelievable. I have all the photographic evidence which I am saving if I need it. The only salvation is to call in people who know something about stamps and to keep the Committee from issuing damn fool certificates. They should forget, at all costs, the British system of no professionals. In my opinion, the majority of the Committee should be dealers, so that they could restore confidence and teach the present amateurs something. God only knows they all need such instruction.

Herewith I am returning the 30¢ plus 10¢ 1869 cover, the 90¢ 1860 and the 24¢ 1861.

Re - the 1869 cover. I fail to understand why Gibson would have had this



#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - Jan. 10, 1953.

thing in his collection. It is terrible. It should not have been offered in the sale, but I'll bet Ward would swear it is good as gold. The stamps should be removed and the cover destroyed. Even if it was good it would still be a louse.

Re - the 90¢ 1860 - In my opinion, the grid is a fake - looks to me like the foreigner who made this made the bars of his grid too wide. Also that he applied it in the lower left corner in order to cover up some bad perfs. At least he was careful to use a black ink which did not penetrate the paper.

Re - the 24¢ 1861 - This is the S.U.S. No. 78 - paper is not too thin - The gum is not original - hold the stamp in the palm of your hand face down and watch the effect.

Re - 60 A - who knows what 60A is? It certainly has no right to be listed here and I don't think there is anyone living today who could explain how it ever got there. It has no relation to the sample 24¢ Violet nor to the issued Violet of 1861. Whoever saw a copy on cover used in 1861? What is the difference between 60A and 78A? Surely Gordon Harmer wouldn't know and neither would Thatcher. I suppose the great one down at the Peach Orchard knows the answer but he wouldn't be obliging and tell anyone. Your copy is the S.U.S. #78 regummed.

Reports over the radio to the effect that you are having some very bad weather down East - lots of snow, sleet, rain and ice. How about conditions in Nyack? Also did you have cold weather in Florida?

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Jan. 10, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Your air registered of the 8th did not reach me until too late today to get the One Cent pair back in the mail to you as our P.O. here closes promptly at noon on Saturday. I will forward the One Cent pair to you on Monday. If Fortgang is not interested in acquiring it, why not try Neinken. He has been in Florida but will be back on the 12th. Do you ever sell anything to Stark? If not, I will be glad to offer it to him. I don't think Fleckenstein would be interested as he has this in a whole pane of 100. It is possible I might be able to sell it to my Belgium friend. Let us try and avoid offering it to the same person. I don't see why it wouldn't be attractive to Rust. Re - your ex-friend at 116 Nassau St. I understand from him that he sells a lot of material to Rust.

Re - the pair, it may have been submitted to me in past years, but I do not recall it, and I have no record of it in my files. Re - the price you should ask - No doubt your guess is as good as mine, but I think it will be unsaleable if you fix a price that would make it unattractive. I believe that most buyers would prefer to wait for a fine used pair.

Thanks Jack, for the account of your talk with Goodkind. I think the worst features down there are - (1) They have far too much confidence in their own opinions. (2) They resent being informed they are wrong. (3) Show little inclination to correct errors which are quite obvious. I really do not know if any items are ever shown to Usticke but I have an idea that Fox and Costales are very frequently consulted.

Again re - this pair - don't overlook the fact that it has two ironed out horizontal creases. If perchance I offered it to any of my friends I would call attention to this feature. I don't think it makes much difference but a lot of people do.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

P.S.--The pair will be mailed to you on Monday.

(26-10)



**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

1-8-53.

Dear Stan,

I'm enclosing for your examination what I believe is a very rare and desirable item, an unused pair of Pos. 4R1L and 5R1L, in sound condition. The party from whom I secured it indicated that the owner prior to him had shown it to you so you may already have a record of it though Scotts Specialized Cat. doesn't even show a dash for an unused pair so such would theoretically not be known to exist or there would be a dash I presume. Please check and endorse the back. Just checked you book and find that another unused pair and a sheet is known so the lack of a dash in Scotts appears to be in error.

This pair is for sale and confidentially I intend to offer it to Morris Fortgang first, but do not know what would be a fair price to ask for it. Since it is probable that you too have several people who would buy this on your recommendation, possibly at a higher price than I could secure for it, I would like to make this proposition. If you care to let me know what retail price you feel you might be able to secure for it, I'll offer it to Fortgang at that price and then if he doesn't take it will return it to you at that price less 20% on a consignment basis. This is assuming that your price will be in excess of \$500. I hope that this offer may be attractive to you.

Incidentally, when I was in N.Y.C. yesterday I talked with Goodkind and he indicated that apparently some mistake had been made on the 5¢ 1847 that they called a #3. He also indicated that three experts(?) had independently called my 10¢ 1855 regummed and that he was one of them who would not change his opinion regardless of the evidence I presented. He also indicated he had called another and he would not even agree to look at the stamp again saying that his opinion stood and would not be changed. This is an asinine attitude for anyone to take, but I guess there is not much one can do about it. Goodkind also indicated that Cole sees 95% of the U.S. material presented them, tho on checking with Cole the same day he was reluctant to discuss the P.F. at all indicating disgust with the whole setup. He did finally admit that the 2¢ Invert he had before I secured it and sent it to the P.F. was genuine beyond a question of a doubt and that he had not seen it when it was before



the P.F. the first time.\* I don't know who <sup>they</sup> use as experts, but do know that Boggs shows most of the material around to some N.Y. dealers like Fox who don't know the first thing about the authenticity of such items and makes mistakes right and left himself. How much influence such dealers have on the ultimate decision I don't know. I would hope that they might consult Usticke on such items but apparently they don't.

With bes t wishes,

*Jack*

\* As is the case he indicated on many items submitted.

# 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.

January 6, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

I am enclosing several items that I would like to have your opinions on. First- a cover with nos. 68 and 75 to France. Is it genuine? Second- A patriotic cover. Is it a 3¢ Pink? Third- two copies of the 24¢ 1861 issue. According to my eyes one is an August and the other is a black violet. Both are on the thin paper of the early printings. Am I right or wrong in my classification of these? Fourth- An early Sitka Alaska cover. I thought that you probably would like to see this because as far as I know this cover has never been in any collection and therefore is somewhat of a new find. To my knowledge this is the only example used from Sitka in this period on a Wells Fargo franked cover. Do you know whether Wells Fargo maintained an office or an agent in Sitka during this period (1870-1) I imagine. I have lifted the stamp slightly to determine whether it originated on the cover and it seems certain that it did because the imprint of the stamp is clearly seen on the envelope. This cover was recently given to me by a friend of mine in Denver who is a general collector and who has no interest in covers. He told me that he found it with a few other covers a number of years ago in an old trunk that had been shipped from San Francisco to Wyoming during the first part of this century. I would like to have your opinion on this also. I plan on putting this in my own personal collection of western express covers, especially since it is a gift to me.

As I sit writing this letter it is 10 below zero outside so it is a good night to be in working on stamps. I am beginning to mount my own collection of covers and I can see that I have quite a job cut out for myself. I collect used entires of postal stationery of the U.S. up until the issues of 1870, also Dakota territories and western express covers. I also have a collection of the 1869 issue on and off cover. I suppose Henry Hill has told you about the big find of covers he made. There was some nice material in it but nothing really outstanding. He and Horace Poole took what they wanted out of it and I then bought some of the remainder.

On the enclosed items send me a bill for your charges and I will remit immediately upon receipt. If you ever run across anything in Dakota territories let me know. I already have a large number, but there are still many that I need.

Best wishes to you and Mrs. Ashbrook.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

Jan. 12, 1953.

Mr. Wm. Bilden,  
200 Kasota Bldg.,  
Minneapolis 1, Minn.

Dear Bill:

Herewith the items contained in yours of the 7th. The following are some comments -

Sitka - Alaska cover. I regret to state that my knowledge of Alaska postal history is very meager, hence I doubt if I can give you any worth while information on this cover. Too bad there is no year date in evidence but inasmuch as the envelope is a Reay, the chances are that the use was in the very early seventies. Further, I never collected Western Franks and again have to plead ignorance. I agree with you that the 3¢ 1869 originated on this envelope and the cancelations on both stamps surely came from the same stamper. All three black inks are the same and really black.

I had a letter in today's mail from Parker Johnson of Grand Junction, Colo., informing me that a "Joseph J. Cavagnol" has done a great deal of research on Alaska postal history and is writing an article for the A.P. on the subject. I think he is an officer(?) stationed at the air base in Alaska. I noticed that he had an ad in a recent issue of STAMPS. Maybe Cavagnol can give you some information on your cover. I note that the Chase-Cabeen book lists this type as postmark on covers known to have been used in 1870 and 1871.

15¢ Rate to France - the 5¢ is the Dark Red Brown - and quite a good color - rate was 15¢ per 1/4 oz. The French and the New York postmarks together prove the rate - 6¢ credit to France. Looks like someone might have removed a damaged 10¢ and substituted this copy as it don't show much trace of the grid. You can form your own conclusion on this feature. I believe the 5¢ was used on the cover.

Re - your two 24¢ 1861 - Your No. 60 is not the Violet. If you would lay this side by side with the 1861 Violet you would see the difference at a glance. Neither is the 60A, but as far as that is concerned, did you ever see a "60A?" Inasmuch as the editor and editors of the S.U.S. wouldn't know a 60A if they saw one, I don't know how the average collector could identify one. And further, do you think the Editor of the S.U.S. or any member of the Expert Committee could show you the difference between a 60A - and a 78A? What then is your #60? If we go by the catalogue we have to classify it as coming under the #78 classification. Actually - and in my opinion, it is a changling of one of the shades of the Red Lilac.

Re - your 70C. This is not the Blackish Violet but rather the "Dark Lilac" listed under #78. The 24¢ colors are tough to classify unless one has



#2. Mr. Wm. Bilden, Jan. 12, 1953.

made a study of many, many years. The reason is quite obvious, viz., so many copies in existence today are "natural color changelings" and as such are totally different from the original color in which they were printed. We can, to a great degree, restore the color to an "oxidized" 3¢ 1851 or a 5¢ 1847, but I know of no method by which a 24¢ Steel Blue can be restored to a 24¢ Violet or a 24¢ Red Lilac or a 24¢ Brown Lilac. If such could be done, then the No. 60 wouldn't be such a scarce stamp.

I signed two of the covers on the back but if you do not want same, you can erase.

How about \$5.00 for the above?

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--Thanks very much for the 3¢ '57 cover - a use in 1918 - a case of "Old Stamps Recognized." I will return the compliment.



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2-12-53

Dear Mr Ashbrook -

Relative to philatelic photography - sure its a lot of work and with the tremendous amount of records you have done I can well appreciate the calls you have. My previous letter was prompted by the thought that some records foundations might be reimbursing you but if this is not the case I don't blame you a bit for not wishing to undertake the work. By the same token I do not care to assume a financial obligation for someone elses article.

Am returning the photo of the letter cover. Being addressed to Eureka I presume the sender went to Alaska from there or nearby in Calif and packed along a few envelopes for mailing purposes. Don't know any other explanation for a Wells Fargo envelope in Alaska.

Have just finished looking thru Beebe's book on

Hear the Train Blow - a grand collection of pictures of early railroading  
in U.S. Interestingly written too but don't know if historically  
accurate but presume it is. Presume you've seen it, but if not  
think you would be interested in it.

Best regards,  
Parker J.



A209



days, ret

If not delivered within

PAID  
Wells, Fargo & Co.  
OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES



C. C. Dennis Esqr.  
Eureka.  
California.

By Bilden  
Nothing On Back

A209 For Bilden  
See 26-11

REAY ENVELOPE  
ISSUED 1870-71

SITKA ALASKA

[A209] 1/10-53

68

PAID

15

By  
Bildon  
26-11



Recd B  
#75



Mrs. Maria L. R. Butterfield,  
Care of Messrs. Jno. Almon & Co  
American Bankers.  
No. 5. Rue de la Paix.

Recd

Paris.  
France.

#68 + #75

Recd

DEC 12

6

A 209



By Bilden  
Is This A PINK

SAYBROOK  
Ohio

See  
S.B.  
26-11



Undivided

PINK



W. W. Hopkins Esq  
St Louis  
Mo

Care Capt. E. D. Chapman

21854 Cromwell Ave  
FAIRVIEW PARK Ohio  
Jan. 8. 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Will you be kind enough to  
give me your opinion on the enclosed cow.  
This cow belongs to me. I have been medding out  
some of my cows and selling them through Col.  
Hubbell. He submitted this cow to Mr. Rosen  
of Louisville who in turn sent it to Henry  
Meyers for a look see. Enclosed you will find  
a note as to their opinion.

I personally cannot imagine routing  
this cow in the manner it was routed - but  
I never gave it a thought until it was brought  
to my attention.

Please bill me for any charges incurred.

Sincere Regards  
D. Dickson

Jan. 12, 1953.

Mr. R. Dickson,  
21854 Cromwell Ave.,  
Fairview Park, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Dickson:

Herewith I am returning the 3¢ 1861 cover postmarked Louisville NOV 28 ? - addressed to Pennsylvania, and with a 40 MM circular marking at left reading, "New Orleans - Steamboat - Dec 12 - Cairo." In my opinion, this marking is fraudulent. Years ago there was a man down in a town in Virginia who turned out fakes similar to this, at least I attributed them to him, as he tried to sell examples to me. His name was Die@rich and the town was Lorraine, if my memory serves me correctly.

Me might have made this more convincing had he dated his Cairo before Nov. 28, rather than later. Then a novice might have figured that it might have been carried privately from Cairo by steamboat and entered the mail at Louisville. I wonder how the crook figured a letter mailed at Louisville in the regular U. S. Mail could wind up with any such a silly marking as this two weeks later.

I will send copies of this letter to my good friend Dr. Roser and Henry Meyer.

The word "Fraudulent" should be written across the fake marking but the cover preserved for future reference.

There is no fee.

Sincerely yours,



21854 Cromwell Ave  
FAIRVIEW PARK Ohio  
Jan. 15 - 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your prompt reply regarding the New Orleans - Steamboat - Dec 12 - Cairo.

Well sir - I can certainly place myself in the novice class. I've had that crow for a long time and while it never particularly appealed to me - it was in my collection and I've probably looked at it 100 times.

I always assumed that it came up river from New Orleans or Cairo by private boat to Louisville where it was placed in the regular U. S. Mail. Had I given one thought to the dates I could have readily seen that this was impossible.

I still cannot figure out why this Character dated this strike Dec. 12. He certainly could have dated it a few days prior to Nov. 28th allowing sufficient time for boat to

travel up river to Louisville.

Some time ago Dolores Hertz wrote me that she was planning another supplement to the book her father compiled. I submitted five crews to her that were not listed either in the original or the supplement for her to photograph. I now submitted this crew as there was no "boat name" on it.

Do you think it would be a good idea to submit it to her - so it can be listed as a fake - in the event she does compile another supplement.

Sincere Regards  
D. Hickson



Feb. 22, 1953.

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

Dear Henry:

Thanks very much for yours of the 15th and the enclosed photographs. I wonder who made all of these fakes? What a disgraceful occupation. I wonder if such crooks realize what a low breed of gutter-rats they really are.

You and I seem to be in the same boat. I never get to the point where my desk is clear, as I always have a stack of mail on my desk to be answered. And month by month the situation seems to grow worse.

I note that you think the cover with the "plus 5" and forwarded from Richmond is "OK." Well, I disagree. The cover itself is genuine but the "plus 5" is a fake. I can't make out what the circular postmark(?) is but I suppose it might be a late after the war Richmond postmark and the use at a period when there was no extra postage for a "Forwarded" letter.

I note these items came from "Scruggs." Years ago I had this fellow expelled from the A.P.S. for making fake covers. He may have reformed - I wonder? Why not request Scruggs to give you the name of the "collector in Texas."

I believe it is said that a kleptomaniac finds it impossible to explain the urge to steal. I wonder if we have a breed in philately who cannot resist the urge to make fakes? What do you think?

With regards -

Yours etc.,



**HOBBY  
INTERESTS**

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

*Henry A. Meyer*

**MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT • CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

RESIDENCE 516 READ STREET

TELEPHONE 5-6380

**EVANSVILLE • 11 • INDIANA**

**PHILATELIC  
LINES**

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

Feb. 15, 1953

Dear Stan:

I have a lot of letters from you lying here waiting for an answer, but I don't know when, if ever, I'll get to them. It looks more and more hopeless to get any philatelic work done. I ought to just forget it for the rest of my teaching years. But I want to send you these few photographs before I misplace them. They are all explained on the back. Don't feel obliged to reply to anything like this, unless you prefer to reply. I know you are much busier than I am even, so I don't want to add needlessly to your correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

*Henry*

MRS. DOLORES KLEIN HERTZ  
150 WEST 82ND STREET  
NEW YORK 24, N. Y.

SUSQUEHANNA 7-4622

February 25, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have recorded the fraudulent packet cover sent  
me by Mr. Robert Dickson- New Orleans Steam  
boat Dec. 12 Cairo black circle.--and would appre-  
ciate a photo, which he says you will be glad to  
send me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

*Dolores*

Dolores Klein Hertz

A cover which I have declared fraudulent.

New Orleans & Cairo	56 X 3 mm.	} 56 X 18 mm. Pale black, from a dry pad.
Weekly Mail	36 X 3 mm.	

Steamer Travis 45 X 3 mm. Pale purple, from  
a dry pad.

Both in modern rubber stamp ink --- in 1859!

Cover offered to J. Hubert Scruggs, Jr., of Birmingham -  
ham (R. A. and Co.) by a collector in Texas.

HENRY A. MEYER  
516 Read St.  
Evansville 11, Ind.



NEW ORLEANS & CAIRO  
WEEKLY MAIL

STEAMER TRAVIS



Mess. L. L. Wrathor & Co  
Cold Water  
Kentucky

A cover which I believe to be OK., and so  
does August Dietz.

Richmond town mark (very pale) and  
+ 5 both in Richmond blue.

Submitted by J. Hubert Scruggs, Jr., of  
Birmingham.

HENRY A. MEYER  
516 Read St.  
Evansville 11, Ind.

Appo, Wipoh Va  
Feb 18th

Pa 183

+ 5

Mrs. Eliza J. Munde

Forward

~~Richmond~~

Pawktor A. Va



A cover which I believe to be fraudulent.  
Port Orange and Ship both in black.  
Where is Port Orange?

If you can think of a reasonable explanation which makes this valid, please let me know. From J. Hubert Scruggs, Jr.

HENRY A. MEYER  
516 Read St.  
Evansville 11, Ind.

If not called for in Ten Days return to

~~G. D. Thuman & Co.,~~

~~Job Printers,~~

~~12 Winter Street,~~

~~Boston, Mass.~~



Frank B. Ahtors

Care

Wm H. Sturben.

Middletown

Conn.

A cover which I have declared fraudulent.  
Offered to J. Hubert Scruggs, Jr., of Birmingham,  
by a collector in Texas.

Same mark as the one submitted by  
Dr. Charles L. Rorer 2 months ago.

The town mark is - - - - - tiville // - rk. Date not  
decipherable.

HENRY A. MEYER  
516 Read St.  
Evansville 11, Ind.





Miss Hanna H. Hayes  
Cedar Springs  
Clinton County  
Pennsylvania











Cimarron, New Mexico  
January 12, 1953

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

Dear Sir:

Several months ago I sent a photograph of a cover mailed to Germany and paying double rate to Mr. C. Corwith Wagner of Saint Louis. He wrote me that he had sent the photo on to you and that you had written to him that you would like to see the cover and make a better photograph of it for your records. I enclose this cover and would appreciate receiving one of your photographs of it if possible. Mr. C. Corwith Wagner also reminded me to ask you if you would also send him a photograph of this cover for his records.

I still have the vertical pair of 5¢ 1847 on piece supposedly used from Santa Fe and with an Independence postmark in green that I once sent you to examine. I did find a previous owner since that time. He is Mr. Elliott Perry of Westfield, N.J. who wrote me that he thought enough of the piece to pay a good price for it and kept it for a long time.

Sincerely yours,

*Frank H. Alpers, Jr.*  
Frank H. Alpers, Jr.



Jan. 15, 1953.

Mr. Frank H. Alpers, Jr.,  
Cimarron, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Alpers:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the 12¢ 1851 cover which I am returning herewith. I made a photograph of it and later I will send you a print and also one to my good friend Corwith Wagner of St. Louis. I am refunding the forwarding registered postage.

Re - your vertical pair of the 5¢ 1847 on a piece of cover. Yes, I remember the item quite well and I have a photograph of it. My records show that this was put into a John Fox auction back in 1947 by Charles E. Walcott of New Orleans, who stated that he purchased it from Elliott Perry in 1941. Mr. Walcott quoted from a letter he received from Perry in which Perry voiced the opinion that the pair, quote: "is a very rare item."

I suppose it could have been used from Santa Fe but the evidence to prove same is indeed very meager. I am sure that you agree.

Sincerely yours,

Cop to C.C.Wagner

(26-13)

## LOUISVILLE EYE, EAR, NOSE and THROAT CLINIC

629 SOUTH FIRST STREET  
LOUISVILLE 2, KENTUCKY

Jan 12-1953.

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

The photos arrived intact and are very interesting. Note that PORTLAND (JEFFERSON) is No 3952 - Will you be kind enough to send me the information concerning this route.

I have a large collection of K. Maps starting with the Filson of 1784 up thru the Civil War. This includes Railroads and a strip map for the Pilots showing the Ohio River landings etc.

Another note of interest. Perhaps you remember some correspondence with Mc Bride April 20, 1944 concerning a cover with Confederate usage from Marion, Ky. I have recently done a great deal of research work on the Civil War History of Western Kentucky and can prove that a force of Confederate soldiers under a Colonel Forrest did occupy Marion, Ky. during Jan 1862. It is quite a story that I will have typed and will send a copy to you when finished.

Best Regards,  
Charlie Roser.



# Sam Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET  
NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

January 14th, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

I am returning Dr. Roser's letter herewith. Yes, he has told me that he has established the fact that Marion, Ky. was occupied by Confederate forces in January 1862, and therefore that authenticates those two covers we corresponded about some years ago.

There are two known examples of these covers, both used with U.S. 3c 1861-issue stamps postmarked Louisville, Ky. in January 1862, in blue, addressed to different persons in Marion, Ky., and bearing a large oval handstamp reading DUE 5, in black, - the latter of course representing the Confederate rate of postage. I have long owned one of these two covers, while the other was apparently once owned by Earl Antrim, then George Malpass, and then Wulfekuhler. It turned up in the H.R. Harmer sale of the latter's material last week, and Dr. Roser bought it there.

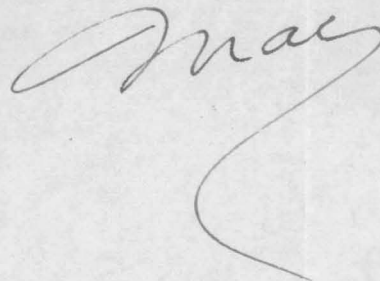
He is indeed a nice fellow, an excellent student, and has a fine collection of Louisville postal history items in which his Confederates are outstanding. We have become very good friends, and I correspond with him regularly, and he has now written a story about the Confederate occupation of Marion, Ky. which he is to send me for revision and possible publication. I expect to use photographs of the two covers as illustrations therein, - of which one, incidentally, you made for me on April 22, 1944 (1).

My best!

Sincerely,

MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L. Shenfield  
Dr. Chas. Roser





Jan. 30, 1953.

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

Dear Doctor:

I trust that you will pardon my tardiness in returning your article which I am enclosing herewith. I found it very interesting and I made a microfilm copy.

Your notes certainly explain the two Marion, Ky. covers and in my opinion, definitely establish the boxed "5" as C.S.A. postage. When my good friend MacBride first showed one of these to me, he was strongly of the opinion that they were Confederate but I was most dubious, and, as I recall, was suspicious that someone had "fixed" them.

These are most interesting because they are U. S. stamps "Not Recognized in the Confederacy." I trust that you will publish your article in STAMPS and if I may suggest, emphasize that point.

If I can supply photo prints for such an article I will be glad to do so. It is possible I may have a duplicate print in my files.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

# Sam Dyk Mac Bride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

January 31st, 1953.

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

Dear Stanley:

Thanks for yours of January 29th, and for the copy of your "Service Issue" correcting the error in your previous story on Fort Johnson.

I noted with interest your comments in that issue on General Ethan Allan Hitchcock, - about whom I happen to know quite a bit. In fact at one time I had a lot of his correspondence, and I still have some. One cover connected with him which has always interested me greatly, I think you would like to see, and I enclose it. You will note it is addressed to him as Commissioner for Exchange at Washington, D.C., and across the end of it he has endorsed a most interesting note! It is this type of thing which makes our collecting and study always interesting.

I have been working on the article about the Marion, Ky. covers, and after checking Kentucky history of the period, I think it can be pretty positively stated that the Confederate forces never held any town in that state long enough to operate its postoffice, after January, 1862. Whereas the other towns from which we have Confederate usages were held pretty generally from September 1861 through January 1862, Marion apparently was under Confederate control only for a part of the latter month. During that brief period I suppose the Confederates operated the postoffice there, and very possibly Confederate mail was sent out under Handstamped Paid markings, or possibly with the first issue of Confederate stamps. Of course no such covers have ever been found, - but all that does leads to the logical belief that these two covers which arrived in Marion in that period, were stamped "Due 5", and that ~~the~~ Confederate postage was then collected from the addressees.

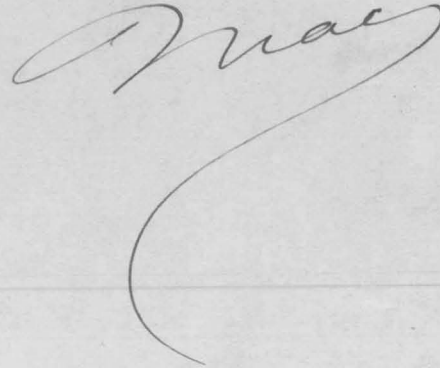
Actually those two are thru-the-lines covers, - without any observation of flag of truce, etc. rules. The only point I am still puzzled about on them, is just how they traveled or were handed over by the Union forces to the Confederates occupying Marion. However, this

was early in the War, and the contemporary existing situation at a distant place in western Kentucky, probably is the reason for the lack of any formalities in this instance. Surely there may well be other similar cases in Kentucky-occupied towns, - we may expect some will turn up in the future!

I'll write Doc Frazier about the photos of his two STEAM covers, and if and when I get to writing up that Pontotoc, Miss. cover, I'll let you know. Let me know what you may hear from the Miner Stamp Co., and if you get and photo that Danville cover, please let me have a print.

That's all for now!

Sincerely,

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

MacB/HK

c.c.:L.L.Shenfield



*Earl Oakley*  
*Attorney at Law*

*Suite 520 in Lockwood-Terrace Building*  
290 Continental Building  
*Los Angeles, California*  
*Mutual 7931*

January 5th., 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

To start with - Our best wishes to Mrs. Ashbrook and yourself for a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I received your Christmas greeting and enjoyed very much the photograph of the earliest know use of a Plate 9 stamp.

I am again in trouble in respect to identifying some of my material and would like your assistance, expecting you to bill me for the same. I am enclosing some eighteen items concerning which I should like to have further information and will later note what I would like to know as to each. I am covering them with \$375.00 insurance and would like you to cover them with the same amount in returning them to me. I shall enclose an envelope with estimated postage and registration thereon for your use.

I expect within the coming week to send you the old almanacs concerning which I wrote to you sometime ago, and hope you will find some information therein of use to you.

I would like as much information about the enclosures as possible, and, in particular, the following:

- Item 1: 8R1, late,- there is a curl or marking as I have drawn on the card. Has this been reported before and is it constant? I do not find it upon other examples from this plate position. It is so distinct That I suspicion it to be a surface crack.
- Item 2: Is this from Plate One, Early, and can you establish the plate position?
- Item:3: Is my diagnosis correct? A trimmed Type I copy from Plate 12.
- Item 4: I am most interested in receiving your comments on this stamp. I believe that it is too cheap a stamp for anyone to have tried to draw in part of the design in ink - it came from an accumulation of "seconds" made by a collector probably at least twenty years ago. I believe it to be a Type V stamp from Relief C because of the filing marks. However, how can the bottom line under the "One Cent" label be complete. Is it possible that this has been recut? Also, the outer line at the top over the "U. S. Postage" label appears recut - Could this be possible? If this was done to simulate a recut Type IV stamp, why would there be a second line appearing somewhat higher and between the "U" and "S" with two dots in the space between? I have attempted to show other plate markings on the stamp which may help you to identify it.

*Earl Oakley*

Stanley B. Ashbrook

Page two

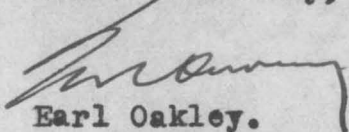
January 5th., 1953.

- Item 5: Is this a Type II or a Type IIIa stamp, and can you place its plate position? Also, will you verify the Plate One Early.
- Item 6: There is a marking - possibly a plate crack - as indicated. Is this a Plate Three stamp. Also, not the light dash as indicated on the shoulder. Can you give me the plate position of this item?
- Item 7: I believe that I am correct in my plating of this item as 10R1 Early. Will you verify, and establish the plate position if I am wrong?
- Item 8: Is this a Type II or a Type IIA stamp, and does it come from Plate One Early or Plate Two?
- Item 9: Will you verify the type and relief of this stamp, and, if possible, establish its plate position?
- Item 10: Can you establish the plate position of this stamp? Also, verify type and plate.
- Item 11: Can you verify plate and position of this pair? Would appreciate your comments as to whether this item and items 6 and 16 have any Plate Three characteristics.
- Items plate positions?
- 12 & 13: Shoulder curl varieties from Plate 7 - will you establish/
- Item 14: Will you verify type and relief? When I first saw this item, I assumed it to be a Plate One Early pair because of the clarity of the impression and did not bother to look at the relief but when I took a second look and looked at the design I knew it was a Plate Four item. Is this impression unusual on Plate Four stamps?
- Item 15: Can you verify the plating on this strip?
- Item 16: Is this a Plate Three item. It has been marked as 74, 75 and 76 R 2. Can you verify the plate and positions of this strip?
- Item 17: I believe that this strip has been properly plated as 44, 45 and 46 L 2. Will you verify the same?
- Item 18: Is a cover from Liverpool to "Great Salt Lake City", Utah Territory, U. S. A. It was posted August 31, 1855. Is there anything to suggest whether it went overland from the east coast, or from the west coast to Salt Lake City? What would be your guess?

I have quite a number of Type II 1851 1¢ stamps which I believe are from Plate Two. Could you plate these for me. I understood that you had disposed of your material from Plate One Early and could not plate Type II stamps from that plate, is this correct? I also have some items from Plate Four which you have not established as to plate positions, could you identify the positions of these for me?

Thanking you in advance for your kindness in furnishing me with any information or comments you may care to make on the enclosures, I am

Yours sincerely,

  
Earl Oakley.

EO/M. encs. noted.



Jan. 19, 1953.

Mr. Earl Oakley,  
200 Contentahal Bldg.,  
408 South Spring St.,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Oakley:

Herewith I am returning the One Cent items contained in yours of the 5th. You certainly did send me some difficult items to plate - some of which come from spots in plates 2 and 4, where my record is meager - too meager in fact to be sure.

Re - the plating of Plate One Early material. I sold all my Plate One Early reconstruction to Mr. Newbury in the late thirties and since then I have not done any plating. However, I wrote you yesterday that I had borrowed the reconstruction and intend to photograph all the items. Up to this writing I have not had time to start the work. With a set of photographs I believe you could easily plate quite a number of the positions. It is well to bear in mind that the Plate One Early "A" positions are very difficult to plate as many of them are devoid of plating marks. We can plate multiples in the majority of cases by the spacing and alignment but when it comes to "A" singles my advice is to not bother with them unless they show some consistent plating mark.

I made notations on all your cards. Here are some additional remarks:

No. 6. I don't know whether the line above the "G" is a surface crack or a "scratch" - but am inclined to believe it is a crack.

No. 2 & No. 5. With a set of photographs I think you should be able to plate "B" singles by the guide dot, provided, of course, the stamp is not heavily canceled or cut into so that the dot is not visible.

Re - your No. 5, I wouldn't bother trying to plate singles like this where no plating marks exist.

No. 8 - This shade is really rare.

\*\*\*\*\*

Regarding the cover. Of course, there is no evidence whether this cover was sent overland to Salt Lake City in Sept. 1855, but if it went Via Panama (Boston to New York to Panama) - the rate should have been 29¢ instead of 24¢, therefore, I assume it went Overland under the Magraw contract. See Hafen's book "The Overland Mail" page 60. No doubt there is a copy in the L.A. Library. If it could be proved that this was carried by this contractor it would be quite an interesting cover. May I inquire if you would sell it to me.



#2. Mr. Earl Oakley - Jan. 19, 1953.

I can assure you that I will look forward to seeing those old Almanacs.

Re - singles from Plate 2. I beg to be excused from plating singles from this plate. The time occupied would be too costly to me.

For the work on the enclosed, the fee is \$15.00.

Mrs. Ashbrook joins me in thanks for your good wishes for the New Year.

With best wishes -

Sincerely yours,

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

January 16, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your letters of the 10th and 12th. I appreciate your signing the back of the 1¢ pair and though you noted no fee I would like to pay for this service. Please advise your fee for signing and I shall remit promptly.

I have sent the pair along to Fortgang priced at ~~\$625~~ and suggested he show it to Neinken if he is not interested himself. I have sold Stark a few items from time to time but nothing of any great significance and believe you would probably have better luck with him on the pair than I. Therefore, I may return the pair to you to try on him if I do not sell it within the next few weeks. It will be priced to you @ \$625 less 20% or net \$500. Please advise if you think this is a fair figure.

I doubt that Rust would have any interest in such an item as this since in the past he has evidenced little interest in such specialized items. I also had considered Klep on the item, but the time element in getting it over and back and the possibility of a counter offer made me put his name somewhat down the list though I might still try it there.

I believe that Rust did have some significant dealings with our 116 Nassau Street friend, but they are not of recent vintage and were to the best of my knowledge entirely at auction. It seems that Rust became disgusted at the undescribed reperfed material in his auction sales and has more or less ceased bidding in them. I do not doubt that he may send a bid in now and then but do know that he has no confidence in the descriptions. He sent in only a few bids



Jan. 19, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 - 7R1E - from the recent Harmer, Rooke & Co. sale. I have signed it on the back. I also enclose a photo print which I made several weeks ago before the sale. This is what I have recorded in my files as the Karl Burroughs copy. I don't know whether you knew Burroughs or not, but he was quite a prominent New England collector a decade or more ago. Under date of March 10, 1939, Burroughs sent me a photograph of the stamp and described it as follows: "On a piece of manila paper cancelled large Boston Paid (1852 type). Colors seems to be Paris Blue." When the Burroughs collection was sold by Kelleher 2/26/1944, it was Lot 181 and I suppose it was purchased by R.J. Borhek @ \$670.00. Later, the Borhek collection was sold by Kelleher and it was Lot 72 in that sale - June 1, 1946. I have no record of the sale price. No doubt it went to F.J. Willock in that sale.

It is a variety that I call an "ink shift" - caused by the paper being too damp at the time the impression was made resulting in a "run" of the blue ink. I think someone attempted to correct this by removing some of the "run" and in doing so, much of the Boston cancel was removed.

Several friends of mine wanted to buy this copy but I advised them of the above and I expressed the opinion not to bid too much as I did not consider the stamp as described in the Harmer Rooke sales catalogue.

Re - the One Cent pair. I may be wrong but I believe that we would find it difficult to obtain as much as \$625.00 for the pair. If neither Fortgang or Neinken are interested, why don't you send it over to Van Velthoven - but perhaps it would be best to write him first and inquire if he would be interested. I will send Stark a photo and inquire if he would consider acquiring the piece.

Re - Rust. There was a rumor and no doubt you heard it, to the effect that Rust offered Ward a million and a quarter for his collection. Do you believe there might have been any truth in the story? Rust might be even smarter than you believe, but of one thing I would wager, viz., if he tangles with Phil Ward in any stamp deal, he will get the worst of it. I'll give odds on that. Phil does the trimming and many a smart chap has traded with Phil.

I won't argue with you about the creases in the One Cent pair, but Jack me how creases originate unless the paper has been folded? Tetro does show creases in the paper.

How about a fee of \$5.00. This will bring us up to date on past and present.



#2. Mr. Jack Molesworth - Jan. 19, 1953.

One more thing, and treat this as confidential. Re - the 104 1855. The Committee issued that certificate because "three prominent dealers" stated the copy had been regummed. Well, maybe I was wrong and the three were right, but if I argued otherwise people would say that I believed I was always right and never wrong. As I recall, I was not positive the gum was "O.G." but I thought it was. So maybe I was wrong.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

C90



C90-13 1/2 Red-118-35sec C90

THE BURROUGHS COPY  
HARMEER ROOKE SALE  
JAN 13-15 1953 LOT 23

BETTER  
NEG 15  
C91

26-17 23-58  
114 East 84th St.,  
New York 28, N. Y.  
January 13, 1953

Dear Stanley:

Your article "Each Cover Has Its Own Story" in your January 1st Issue of your Special Service was most enjoyable reading. I am sure that all your subscribers will agree, this story deserves to be read by all who collect stamps. It shows how a little "know-how" can extract the secrets that these wonderful, innocent-looking covers hold. Harry Lindquist would love this story. It would be a "natural" for the forthcoming Confederate Issue of W.P.G. of Feb. 7th.

I am enclosing herewith several items numbered 1 to 5.

1. Here is a small cover to Paris, France, which shows (?) the third known use in November, 1857, of a 1¢ Type V stamp. This cover was mailed during the French Treaty Period and shows a combination of three different values making up the 15¢ rate of a 1/4 oz. letter. The cover bears the red New York Foreign Mail marking dated "Nov. 28". Within this marking is the Havre receiving marking dated "13/ Dec/ 57", in red, and above this, on the Type V, is a red PD in rectangle which could (?) have been on the same Havre stamper. The back of this cover shows the Paris receiving marking in black, dated "14/Dec/57". Is there any doubt about the date of use?

The pair of 1¢ Type V on this cover plate as 14L8, 15L8, and both stamps show nice plating marks. My Granby, Conn. cover bearing 5, 15, 25L8 enabled me to plate this pair; that's right, I recalled the markings on 15L8. The 3¢ Type 1 shows perforations along the sides but none at top or bottom, altho we see the lines of the adjoining stamps. How come?

Recently I traded my Nov. 1857 cover, illustrated in your Work Vol. 1 p. 250 for Mort's Oct. 8, 1859 cover, p. 288. That gave Mort, (at the time) the two earliest known uses of the Type V stamp and gave me the two earliest known of the Plate 9.

Why do the earliest known uses of the Type V stamp come from Plate 8? In your Work, Vol. 1, P. 250 you state: "Four of these plates were made, no doubt at the same time, in the Fall of 1857, viz --- Plates 5, 6, 7 and 8". Unquote.

Indications seem to be that printings also from these four plates were made simultaneously, and that the same hard, white, crisp paper, and the same rich, blue ink was used on all four plates, so that, in early impressions, stamps from plates 5, 7 and 8 show qualities of paper and ink that is generally ascribed to plate 6. Isn't it reasonable to suppose that an accumulation of sheets had been made before issuance to the public and it so happened that Plate 8 sheets had been at the top of the pile and were the first to be issued?

2. I am enclosing herewith the pair of Type V Relief "B" which proved that the single stamp on two different covers in my collection came from adjoining positions. You have a photo of this pair. Note the three singles which I removed from the cover, Reliefs "A", "B", "D". There is no question but that these three stamps came from the same sheet: The "B" Relief plates the same as stamp to left in the pair. The "A" and "D" Reliefs come from Plate 6. Therefore I believe it is safe to assume that the pair comes from Plate 6, probably the first five rows of the left pane??



In my next letter, if you say the word, I shall send you a lot of about thirty stamps which I obtained in the recent Burger sale. This lot (#1807) is composed of stamps from Plates 6, 7, 8 and possibly 5. Practically all of the copies are from the earliest printings, but I doubt, due to the diversity of the postal markings, that they came from one correspondence. A cursory examination revealed nice examples of the Plate 7 "O" Curls, 51R7, 52R7 and 53R7 as well as a half dozen copies of the "C" Relief, none of which show the characteristic Type V scratch through ornament "F" and all of which show the side ornaments at right unusually complete.

3. This brings to mind another cover I obtained in the Burger sale, enclosed herewith. Note the plating marks on stamp to left and that on all three stamps of this strip the scratch is missing on ornament "F" while the ornaments at right are unusually complete.

4. The "C" Relief on this cover is quite similar to #3. The "E" and "F" Reliefs were originally joined as shown by the plate markings directly under the "E" of Cent and over the "T" of Postage. The "F" Relief comes from the sixth row as shown by the guide dots at lower left and lower right corners, yet note the completeness of the right scroll--similar to 60 R 8.

5. The block from the left pane of Plate 6-- 17,18-27,28 L6. This lot started at \$10. and I obtained it at \$29.

Enclosed is the card showing the positions you have located on Plate 6 to January 31, 1952. When you have time, Stanley, will you kindly bring this up to date for me? And about \$5.00 worth of Plating Cards?

All the Fortgangs extend their very best regards to all the Ashbrooks.

Sincerely,

*Morris*

Jan. 19, 1953.

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

Dear Morris:

Re - yours of the 13th. I did appreciate your complimentary remarks re - my January 1st Service Issue and they were very timely as I had promised Harry Weiss an article for his February Issue of GOSSIP devoted to Confederates. I, therefore, acted on your suggestion and revised the original and got the article right off to Harry. I made an error in my original by stating that Fort Johnson was on "Morris Island." This was a very bad blunder but I will correct it in my next Service Issue and in the article I sent Weiss I included some additional historical facts that makes that cover even more interesting, in my opinion. I don't suppose Harry Lindquist will object because I gave the article to GOSSIP. I aim to give practically everything to Lindquist.

Now for some comments on the various items you enclosed. I mailed a revised list of the positions on Plate 6 that I have located. You will note those located comprise 60%. Years ago I would have bet ten to one that such a result was impossible as Plate 6 material seemed so very elusive at that time - say 1925 or thereabouts. I also included some blank cards. If you wish more let me know.

Re - your 15¢ cover to France. In returning it I am including a description. Perhaps you will wonder about this. Rather than photograph this by my big camera I made a microfilm of the cover and to accompany same I made the description. After exposure I have no further use for same so I am sending it to you with the cover.

Re - the French applied boxed "PD" - no, this was a separate stamper and not a part of the French Receiving. I will probably send prints to Mort, to Fleckenstein and Oakley. This is a nice little cover and the "impression" is rather an early one from Plate 8. You will note that I checked your plating. The use was 1857 - no doubt about that. On the "imperf between" feature of the 3¢, your guess is as good as mine. As Herb Shriner would say, "Its possible."

Re - the order in which the first 1857 plates were made. Don't you think my original theory was wrong? Do you not think that the order was - 6 - 5 - 7 - 8 - ? And it might have been that 5 was actually not the second - It might have been between 7 and 8. Perhaps 8 was the first one put to press and perhaps when the first shipments were sent out, none of the other three plates had been used. Possible? I agree that the hard crisp paper and color of ink indicate that impressions from all four plates were run off at the same time but I doubt if Toppan Carpenter had four presses to devote solely to the 1¢ value - when the need for 3¢ was much more urgent(?).



#2. Mr. Morris Fortgang - Jan. 10, 1953.

Re - the pair and three singles which you enclosed. Yes, I remember this pair and I have a photo print that I made. You sent this to me last June together with two covers, one of Charleston, S.C. and one of Hadley Falls, Ms. The two singles were the same as the pair. (S.B.A. Note see 23-58). We made a guess at the time that the pair might be from Plate 5, but your present evidence does indicate that this pair is probably from the left pane of Plate 6, and from any of the positions 11L6 to 15L6. I regret that I have no additional evidence to confirm. The reason is obvious - in past years, I would not have considered that a pair with scratches like this could come from Plate 6. I agree with you that the singles "A" "B" and "D" are no doubt from the same sheet of stamps and that the "D" is a Plate 6 stamp. Unfortunately, these three stamps are not early impressions and hence show very few plating marks. In fact, the top row copy don't show a thing and I doubt if it would be possible to plate this copy.

Re - items that you obtained in the Burger sale - some 30 items, etc. Okay send them on and I will look them over and any that look unusual I will photograph.

Re - your covers No. 3 and No. 4, I took the liberty of removing the stamps from the covers so that I could photograph them. I am sure you have no objection as the covers do not mean a thing.

First re - cover No. 4. I am pleased to advise that the rejoined pair is 43L5 - 53L5 and while the single is surely a Plate 5 stamp, it is not 63L5. I have quite a good record and photo of 43L5 - 53L5 - 63L5. I agree that the H.S. of 3 from the No. 3 cover looks very much like it is a Plate 5 strip. I have made a very careful record of this piece.

Congratulations on your acquisition of the mint block from the left pane of Plate 6. You surely obtained a wonderful bargain, and it is nice it is in the family.

I note that Molesworth bought the 7R1E in the recent Harmer Rooke Sale but I don't know the price.

Our best regards -

Cordially yours,



U.S. POSTAGE

M.F. PAIR



From Cover  
(Rejoined)

43L5

'E' Relief

See  
Jeffrys

Three Singles  
From MOBILE  
Cover (F.L.)  
To N.Y.

43
53
63

L6

OCT 10  
1858

C. E & F Relics

This is Card  
SLATE

ONE CENT

U.S. POSTAGE

"F"

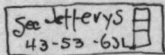


M.F. PAIR

"F" Relief 53L5

Three Singles From  
Mobile Cover (F.L.)  
To N.Y. Oct 10  
1858

C. E & F Reliefs



This Paper "GRAY"

ONE CENT

U.S. POSTAGE

" C "

Relief  
From Plate 5

This Single From Same  
Cover As The Other  
Two Singles Rejoined &  
Made 

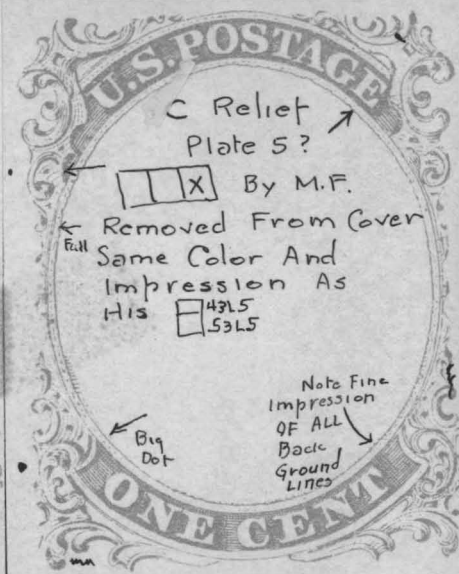
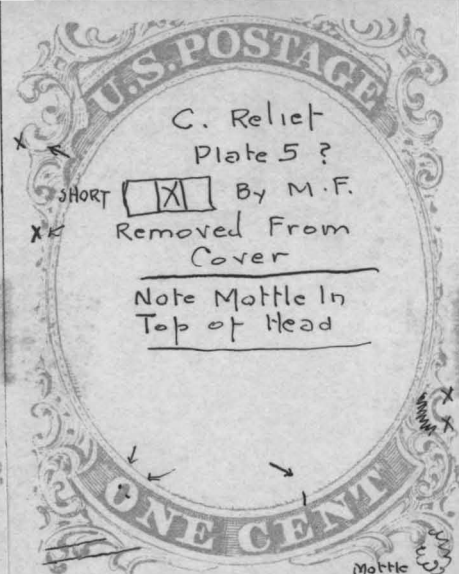
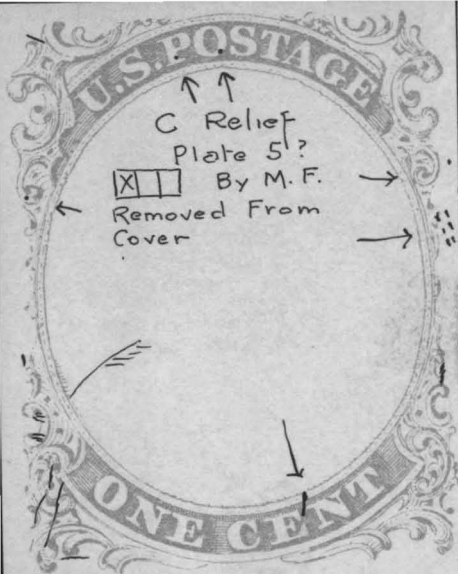
43
53

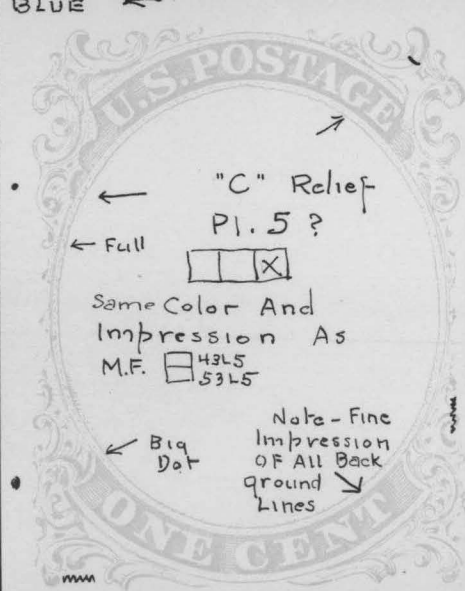
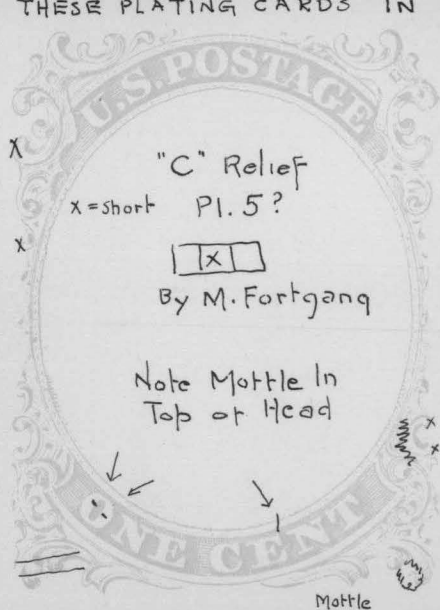
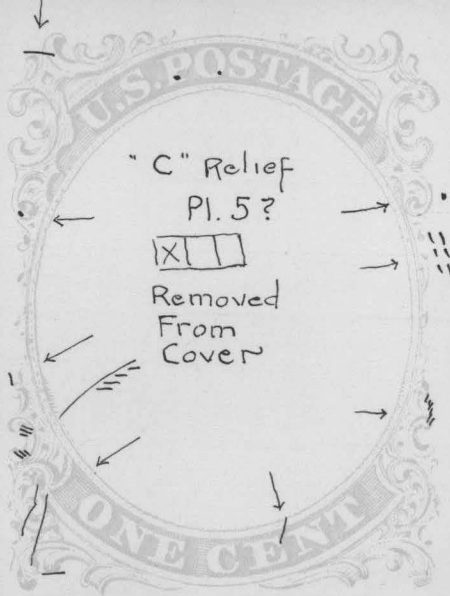
 L5 - Fortqana

Cover From Mobile  
Oct 10 1858 -

ONE CENT







Blue Card

43L5

E 43L5  
F 53L5

← FORTGANG  
Rejoined Singles  
"E" Relief

← 3 singles From  
MOBILE Cover  
Folded Letter →  
To N.Y.  
Oct 10 1858

C E & F  
Reliefs

BLUE  
CARD

53L5

E 43L5  
F 53L5

FORTGANG

"F" Relief

Three Singles  
From MOBILE  
Cover Oct 10  
1858

C-E- & F Reliefs  
See Letterys

E 43L5  
F 53L5  
63L5

Blue Card

PI 5

"C"  
Relief

This Single From  
Same Cover As  
The Other Two  
Rejoined Singles

43L5 Fortgang  
Cover From  
Mobile  
Oct 10 1858





IR -

B160

U.S. POSTAGE



ONE CENT

U.S. POSTAGE



ONE CENT



B160



This is Stamp To  
Left

B160





3726

BY M.F.



3826



3926

B255

~~B22~~



B159



SPOILED NEGATIVE

The stamps on these two covers are same as the PA  
By FORTGANG-6/17-52 - See S.B. 23 P.

B I G O DONT USE



42f

AIR -

B159





D 159

The stamps on these two covers are same as the PA  
BY FORTGANG 6/17-52 - See S.B. 23 P. 58  
B 155 BEST OF TWO NEGS

A. EARL WEATHERLY  
IRVING PARK MANOR  
GREENSBORO, N. C.

1-12-52

Dear Stan :

I am inclosing a cover that I bought many years ago (when I first started collecting Confeds.) from Burger Bros., N.Y. Later, some one called my attention to the fact that the 5¢ Blue had been repaired. I was young and unsophisticated and hadn't noticed it.

Please examine this cover. A repair job has been done on the 5¢ Blue and I can't quite figure out parts of the postmark. If stamp has been repaired has the outer circle of the postmark been faked on the left side at bottom of stamp.

Could there be a chance that the 5¢ Blue has been added entirely. I have tried to determine if there were cancellation marks under this stamp but do not possess sufficient lights. It is a shame that a nice 2¢ Green can have such bad company.

I expect your usual fee with your reply.

Warm regards,

Sincerely  
Earl

Jan. 15, 1953.

Mr. A. Earl Weatherly,  
Irving Park Manor,  
Greensboro, N.C.

Dear Earl:

I am in receipt of yours of the 12th from Madison, enclosing the Confederate cover. You are quite right - the cover is a repair job and it looks to me like the whole left side of the 5¢ had been added. May I suggest that you give me permission to remove the two stamps from the cover so that I can see what actually did happen?

The "Due 3¢" seems to be in the same ink and handwriting of the person who addressed the letter. That seems odd, as one would suppose a "due" marking would have been made by a post office clerk. An explanation could be, that the writer only had a 2¢ and a piece of a 5¢ and no other way to pay the other 3¢, so he used what he had and wrote "Due 3¢" for the deficient amount.

I will hold the cover pending further advice.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



A. EARL WEATHERLY  
IRVING PARK MANOR  
GREENSBORO, N. C.

1-17-53

Dear Stan :

It will be permissible for you to remove the stamps from the cover as mentioned in your letter. This is the most certain way to make a diagnosis. I have been strongly tempted to do it myself on occasions.

Sincerely,  
Earl

350

Jan. 22, 1953.

Mr. A. Earl Weatherly,  
Irving Park Manor,  
Greensboro, N.C.

Dear Earl:

Herewith your 7¢ cover. I enclose the "pieces" in a small envelope, and I have hinged the piece of the 5¢ together with the 2¢ to the cover. It is possible that this is the way the cover was mailed, because what appears to be a blue Petersburg postmark does look genuine to me. I think that it is possible that the cover was as we now see it - perhaps the writer had a damaged 5¢ and this 2¢ green and sent off his letter in this shape - adding the "Due 3¢." Incidentally the 2¢ is badly damaged and was almost torn in two - a horizontal tear extending thru Jackson's chin. In drying out the stamp the tear is not as evident as it was before. This seems to confirm that the writer had a badly damaged 2¢ and 5¢.

Maybe the use was in August 1862 when C.S.A. money - even pennies had more value than in 1863 or 1864. On the piece of 5¢ that I removed note the black cancel showing a "2." The other "pieces" came out in the wash.

In its former state I don't think the cover had any value but in its present shape it does not show any "fixing" and who can say that it was not mailed as we now see it.

How about a fee of \$3.50.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

U. S. COVER SPECIALIST  
OLD U. S. COVERS  
TERRITORIAL COVERS  
CANCELLATIONS ON AND OFF COVER  
BOUGHT AND SOLD

## E. N. SAMPSON

332 S. ELM STREET  
ITASCA, ILLINOIS

MEMBER  
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
SOCIETY OF PHILATELIC AMERICANS  
U. S. CANCELLATION CLUB  
COLLECTORS' CLUB OF N. Y.  
CONFEDERATE STAMP ALLIANCE

January 19, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

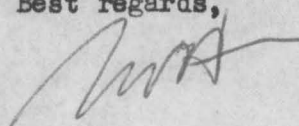
I recently sold Mr. M. C. Nathan the enclosed cover which he has returned, explaining that Ezra Cole sold it to Dr. Pollard who submitted it to you. A copy of your report is attached. It was returned to Cole who put it in circulation again and I got it - from whom I do not know.

However, the cover fascinates me and I have thrown in a few slants as you will note in my letter to Mr. Nathan. I would be very much interested in your further comments.

I am not trying to validate this cover to recover anything out of it as the amount is small, but it intrigues me, and beyond the stupid retouching of the Green Bay "tie" I am wondering if the rest of the cover could not be O. K'D.

Best regards,

ENS\*R.  
enc.



*This doesn't measure up to my rules!*

Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

**Post Office Department**  
STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

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

One piece of ordinary mail addressed  
to *E. N. Sampson*

*332 S. Elm St*

*ITASCA*

*11/5*



THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION



Jan. 22, 1953.

Mr. E. N. Sampson,  
332 S. Elm St.,  
Itasca, Ill.

Dear Mort:

Herewith the "3¢ 1851" cover of Tehama, Cal., to Wisconsin and forwarded to Maine. In my opinion, this 3¢ stamp did not originate on this cover, but that does not mean that the cover itself is a fake. It is quite evident that someone substituted this stamp for one that was originally used on the cover. Mort, I don't pretend to know all the answers nor to lay claim to being always right, but in the study of rates, uses, Postal Laws, Regulations, etc., there is one fundamental fact that stands out above all others and it is a fact that is not appreciated by the average collector or in many cases, by the more advanced collector of 19th U.S. That fact is this - Mail was forwarded by regular channels - regular mail routes - postmasters just didn't forward mail in any old haphazard manner.

You are quite right, the Act of March 3, 1851 did specify a 3¢ rate for distances under 3000 miles, but a letter in the fifties from California to the East went by a regular mail route and that route was Via Panama and the distance was over 3000 miles. Really you cannot imagine how far wrong was the suggestion in your letter to Mr. Nathan that there might have been a 3¢ rate to Wisconsin from Tehama when the 3¢ 1851 stamp was current.

When the Overland Mail Route was established in the Fall of 1858, there were many post offices in the middle-west to which a 3¢ rate applied, but there is a question in my mind whether "Green Bay, Wis." was one of them. I doubt if it was less than 3000 miles from Tehama to Green Bay. The Overland Route ran south from San Francisco to Los Angeles, then across to Texas and up thru Arkansas to St. Louis. But bear this in mind - if a writer wanted a letter sent by the Overland stage he had to direct it "VIA OVERLAND" - otherwise it was sent by the Ocean Mail. It was the Ocean Mail that carried the bulk of the mail rather than Overland by stage coach.

The letter bears no year date, so it would be guessing(?) to try and figure when this letter was actually used. In my original letter, from which you sent me the original quote, there was much more comment by me.

I do not believe that Ezra Cole put this cover back into circulation after it had been condemned by me. Mort, I would not accuse Cole of doing such a thing unless you had indisputable proof. I have known Cole for many years and have always considered his reputation above reproach. If this cover passed thru his hands he probably returned it to the source from which he obtained it with my comment regarding it.

With kindest regards - Sincerely yours,

Copy to  
M.C. Nathan  
San Francisco, Calif.

U. S. COVER SPECIALIST  
OLD U. S. COVERS  
TERRITORIAL COVERS  
CANCELLATIONS ON AND OFF COVER  
BOUGHT AND SOLD

## E. N. SAMPSON

332 S. ELM STREET  
ITASCA, ILLINOIS

MEMBER  
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
SOCIETY OF PHILATELIC AMERICANS  
U. S. CANCELLATION CLUB  
COLLECTORS' CLUB OF N. Y.  
CONFEDERATE STAMP ALLIANCE

January 26, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks very much for your letter of January 22nd and I appreciate the trouble you have gone to in shedding light on this Tehama cover. The cover is not worth going to any trouble about but the explanation of the points in question intrigue me.

1. In regard to Overland Mail routes I have the following notes made in connection with my express collection. "A northern overland route through Salt Lake City was established long before the Butterfield Route. The first U. S. P. O. Dept. contract covering the carrying of mail from Independence to Salt Lake City was let in 1850. The first from Salt Lake City to Sacramento was 1851, establishing at least the possibility of coast to coast service.

In 1858 the Kansas City-Stockton route was established. I have a cover marked "Overland via Stockton" from Dutch Flat to Wisconsin, but the rate is 10¢.

I have a further note that in 1858 the Central Mail route (northern) was considerably improved and was a strong competitor of Butterfield.

Covers over either of these routes would be carried less than 3000 miles by my reckoning. It would appear to me that the Tehama cover therefore, could have been carried over either of these routes. Of course, the imperf stamp from a small town could have been used after the perforated stamps had been issued. *Tehama was located north of Sacramento.*

U. S. COVER SPECIALIST  
OLD U. S. COVERS  
TERRITORIAL COVERS  
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BOUGHT AND SOLD

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CONFEDERATE STAMP ALLIANCE

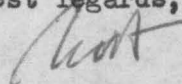
SBA-2

2. The blue grid cancellation on the back of the cover matches perfectly the grid on the stamp and to my way of thinking, this makes a pretty good tie.

I would be very much interested in your further comments, and perhaps Mr. Nathan might have some views on the extent to which early mails were carried over the northern route.

In regard to the last paragraph of my letter I could well have left unsaid - the reference to other dealers passing on questionable covers. I have no proof of who did it. I was a little upset when I wrote it.

Best regards,



ENS\*R.

P.S. Guess I didn't mention to you my price on the cover was \$1.00 + of course I paid less. There isn't much money at stake!



Jan. 29, 1953.

Mr. E. N. Sampson,  
332 S. Elm St.,  
Itasca, Ill.

Dear Mort:

Yours of the 26th received.

I made a further investigation of the Tehama cover and it seems that Ezra Cole bought the cover on order for Dr. Polland at a New York auction sale. Polland thought it was bad and he sent it to me, after which he returned it to Cole, and Cole returned it to the auction firm with my opinion. I suppose I could look up the auction sale, but it would be a waste of time. I know you will welcome the facts in the case and attach no blame to Ezra. I jump to wrong conclusions at times and I have little doubt that I have been accused knowingly of selling repaired stamps or fake covers. Stamp collectors love to gossip and if I have never had any adverse gossip then God has sure had his hand on my shoulder.

I suppose the auction firm returned the cover to the owner and he put it back into circulation. I believe that such stuff is the rule rather than the exception.

I believe that any competent student of "Westerns" and our postal history would assure you that a letter from Tehama to Minnesota would not have traveled to Minnesota by an Overland Route in the fifties such as you mention. Are you not aware that there was no Northern route - Overland Stage - until after the Civil War broke out?

Sincerely yours,



1-27-53

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

I hope I haven't caused you any trouble in regard to the Lehman, Cal & Wisconsin ~~Covers~~, in regards to which, you wrote Sampson. In some respects I blame Nathan for letting this matter wait so long. It was over a year ago that he showed me the cover, and I told him at that time, that I had had your opinion about it, and on the basis of this, had returned it to Cole, who had returned it to the auction firm, from which he had bought it for me. Recently he asked me to check over his collection and here again was this cover. I showed him your letter and <sup>he</sup> asked for its use. He should have returned this cover at the time he bought it, and it would have helped Sampson, because at that time the interest of time which had elapsed was not so great, that he would have had any difficulty in getting back his money.

I have been so extremely busy with a flu epidemic, hospital problems and a lot of other troubles, that I have had very little time for stamps. Jessup tried to reach me one night, but we never got together. I hope things will settle down and I can once more have some fun.

As usual I thought your last "Special Service Bulletin" was well.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,  
Robert Paulson

Jan. 29, 1953.

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

Dear Doctor:

I have yours of the 27th and I can assure you that you did not cause me any embarrassment on the Tehama cover. It seems that E. N. Sampson sold this cover to Nathan and evidently Sampson got sore when it was returned to him though the sum involved was small. Sampson did not inform me where he got the cover. What he wrote me about was that he had carefully examined the cover and was convinced it is genuine. I assured him that the cover is bad - that is - that the 3¢ '51 did not originate, but evidently I failed to convince him. When a person is ignorant of facts it is hard to convince them that they are wrong.

I surmised that you have been busy with the epidemic and also with the new hospital.

Thanks for your kind words on my January 1st Service Issue. I mailed the February issue to you today.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

640 W. Woodland  
Ferndale 20, Mich.  
December 13, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Accept my apologies for not answering your letter of October 7th until now. I made the mistake of trying to contact Maurice Cole, a neighbor of mine, who is quite difficult to see. Mr. Cole was not familiar with the variety and, while it is true that he wrote a book on the black jack, he is not a student when it comes to grills, shifts and transfers on this stamp. You will probably meet him at the next D.P.S. meeting you attend, since he has just affiliated with the society recently.

I am enclosing a photograph from the front of Carl E. Pelander's sale held October 16, 17 and 18, 1952. It is lot 458, described as follows - "The Atherton Shift. According to Mr. Ashbrook, only four copies are known. Mounted on album page with photographs and allied material appertaining to this great rarity." The lot realized \$127.50

I do feel that the variety I am enclosing is worth equally as much and am quoting \$100 net to you. As far as I can ascertain, this is the only copy of this variety reported to date.

Very truly yours

*Marvin Preston*  
Marvin Preston

P. S. If you have other viewpoints on this item, please do not hesitate to convey same.

M.P.



Dec. 18, 1952.

Mr. Marvin Preston,  
640 West Woodland,  
Ferndale, Mich.

Dear Mr. Preston:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the  
13th enclosing the B.J. D.T. copy as per our previous  
correspondence.

I have submitted the stamp to a good friend whom I  
think might be interested in acquiring it and I will do my  
best to net you \$100 for it. I will report just as soon as  
I have word.

With Christmas Greetings

Sincerely yours,





# MIDWEST STAMP COMPANY

---

*Anthony C. Russo*

127 NORTH DEARBORN ST. - SUITE 311-13

CHICAGO 2

ANDOVER 3-2955

POSTAGE STAMPS AND

SUPPLIES FOR COLLECTORS

---

AUCTIONS - PRIVATE TREATY

Dec. 20, 1952

Dear Stan:

Sorry but I can't see myself paying \$150 for this stamp. It may be the only one known, but I question the value of a thing like that in my collection. I'm not particularly interested in getting everything there is, as much as I am in getting nice things or interesting covers.

I did not offer it to any one around here as I didn't know whether you wanted to try yourself.

Thanks a lot for offering it to me, I am sorry I didn't return it sooner, but just couldn't get around to it.

The Seasons Best to you and yours,

*Tony*

Dec. 17, 1952.

Mr. A. C. Russo,

127 North Dearborn St.,

Suite 311-13,

Chicago 2, Ill.

Dear Tony;

The owner of the 2¢ Black Jack with the big D.T. in the lower left corner has just placed the stamp in my hands for sale.

As far as I have been able to learn after communicating with all the principal B.J. collectors in the country, this copy is unique. No one else has ever seen or heard of this rare variety, not even my old friend Herby Atherton.

I understand that the copy of the "Atherton Shift" that was offered in the Pelander sale, (Illustration herewith) last October, realized \$127.50.

I am offering the enclosed copy to you before sending it to anyone else and if you cannot use it will you please return it at your earliest convenience. The price is only \$150.00 to you.

With Christmas Greetings

Cordially yours,

Jan. 2, 1953.

Mr. W. H. Kiefaber,  
634 Woods Road,  
Dayton 9, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Kiefaber:

I have a catalogue of a New York Camera Store received yesterday. I note they offer an "EXAKTA" new @ \$343.00 with 85 MM F2 Zeiss "BIOTAR" lens - Model VX. I note they offer a slightly used Model V with the F2 Biotar lens @ \$179.50. They also offer some "slightly" used CONTAX (Zeiss) at prices that look very attractive, also some "bargains" in the Leica. For example, the model I use a IIIC - 50 MM - F2 Summar lens @ \$189.50. I believe this lists new @ \$360.00 or near that figure. Perhaps the Zeiss "CONTAX" model IIIA with the Fl.5 Sonnar is just about the last word in a 35 MM camera.

I am wondering if you could purchase a camera in Germany cheaper than you could here in the states.

Several months ago I wrote you about a new double transfer of the 2¢ Black Jack. The copy belongs to a Michigan collector and he has put it in my hands to sell. I believe it has not been offered to anyone but Tony Russo, the Chicago dealer, and the price to him was \$150.00. I am enclosing the stamp herewith together with an illustration of the "Atherton Shift." I can offer the enclosed copy to you @ \$125.00. As far as I am aware, it is the only copy known. I wrote to all the collectors who are known to me who specialize in the B.J. and none of them had any record of this variety. I believe the Atherton stamp - illustration herewith - brought \$127.50 in a recent sale by Pelander.

I do not know whether the enclosed would be of interest to you or not but am submitting it nevertheless with stamped addressed envelope for its return.

May I wish you a Very Happy New Year

Cordially yours,



Jan. 2, 1953.

Mr. Marvin Preston,

640 West Woodland,

Ferndale, Mich.

Dear Mr. Preston:

Re - your B.J. copy. It came back today from a friend whom I thought would buy it - previously it was returned by another prospect. I am now trying a third and perhaps he will keep it. I will advise you promptly.

Sincerely yours,



CARL E. PELANDER

545 FIFTH AVENUE

TEL. MURRAY HILL 2-2545

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

January 16th, 1953

MEMO:

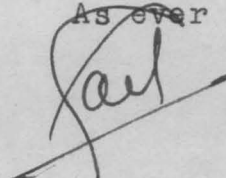
Dear Stan:

I have been in touch with my man, but he does not seem interested in this, which he only considers a strong double transfer.

Personally I think it is a very unusual and interesting item, but hardly worth \$125.00 +.

Thanks anyway and sorry there was nothing I could do to help.

As ever yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Carl', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jan. 9, 1953.

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

Dear Carl:

In one of your sales last fall, I believe that you had a copy of the U. S. 2¢ Black of 1863 known as the "Atherton Shift" of the 2¢ Black Jack. Just to refresh your memory I am enclosing an illustration of the copy that appeared on the front of the cover of your catalogue. I understand that the copy sold for \$127.50. I believe that I have a record of about seven or eight copies of the "Atherton." I also understand that a copy of this variety sold in a London auction several years ago at around the equivalent of \$400.00. However, I cannot vouch for this and any such price for any D.T. variety seems absolutely silly. However, the British think we are "nuts" so maybe someone with that idea thought he was getting a bargain.

All of the above has to do with a copy of a 2¢ Black Jack that I am enclosing herewith. This copy shows an enormous "shift" in the lower right corner. It belongs to a friend of mine and when he first showed it to me a year ago I was positive I had never seen a stamp from this position before. In other words, this D.T. was absolutely new to me and one that I had never seen. I photographed the stamp and sent prints to everyone whom I could recall specialized in the B.J., and inquired if they had a copy of this variety in their collection or had ever seen it. Each and every one replied that the variety was absolutely unknown to them. I wrote Russo - Kiefarber - Atherton - Reiner - Maurice Cole and a few others who specialize in the B.J. As far as I am aware, the enclosed copy is unique - and is unknown.

My friend has placed the stamp in my hands for sale - the price \$125.00. Perhaps the client who purchased the "Atherton" in your sale might be interested in obtaining this copy. At any rate, here it is and inasmuch as it does not belong to me, I would appreciate as early a reply as possible.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Jan. 22, 1953.

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

Dear Carl:

Thanks very much for yours of the 16th  
with the return of the 2¢ Black Jack D.T.

I am reimbursing you herewith for the  
return postage and if I put you to any other ex-  
pense, will you please advise me, so that I can  
adjust same.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Jan. 22, 1953.

Mr. Marvin Preston,

640 W. Woodland Ave.,

Ferndale 20, Mich.

Dear Mr. Preston:

I regret to state that I have exhausted my efforts to find a buyer for your copy of the 2¢ Black Jack double transfer, so I am returning your copy herewith.

Later on, if you have no objection, I might write a little article about this copy and publish it in the American Philatelist, with an illustration. That might give it special distinction.

Sincerely yours,



# THE POSTAGE STAMP SHOP

MEMBER:  
A. S. D. A. 310 A. P. S. 4005



Bankers  
Wells Fargo Bank, San Francisco  
Citizens' National Bank  
Los Angeles

STURE LJUNGDAHL — R. H. MOWER

Phone Douglas 2-8394

636 MARKET STREET

SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA

Ground Floor Retail Stores:

THE POSTAGE STAMP SHOP  
12 Broadway Arcade  
Los Angeles 13



THE POSTAGE STAMP SHOP  
636 Market St., San Francisco 4

January 16th, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

If I am not mistaken you have seen the enclosed  
Id 1851 before and that you told me that it was type Ib.

I have a buyer for this defective copy and I  
would like to have a certificate with photo, stating Scott's number and the  
defects.

Please forward your bill with the stamp and I  
shall send a check at once.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Sture Ljungdahl*  
Sture Ljungdahl

POSTAGE STAMP PACKETS



PACKETTES AND SETS

Jan. 22, 1953.

Mr. Sture Ljungdahl,  
636 Market St.,  
San Francisco, 4, Calif.

Dear Mr. Ljungdahl:

Herewith I am returning the One Cent 1851 as per yours of the 16th. This stamp is not a Type IB, but rather the rare uncatalogued, Type IC, from Plate 4. This is a sub-type of the Type IA. The plate position of your copy is 81R4. I might add, that this copy though a bit defective, is an unusually fine example of this uncatalogued type because the left bottom ornament is complete.

I enclose with the stamp a diagram showing the relief from which the stamp originated.

I have signed the copy on the back as the rare Type IC. For further particulars regarding this uncatalogued type, may I refer you to my book on the U. S. One Cent 1851-57 - Volume One, Chapter on Plate 4.

Your copy shows no cancelation and I failed to note any evidence of a cancel removed. It shows a small tear at top and a small thin spot in middle left.

My fee for the above and the signature on the back of the stamp is \$3.00, which includes return registration postage.

PAID

If you wish a photograph I can supply a print at an extra charge of \$2.00 as I made a negative of the stamp.

Sincerely yours,

(26-21)

# THE POSTAGE STAMP SHOP

MEMBER:  
A. S. D. A. 310 A. P. S. 4005



Bankers  
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SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA

Ground Floor Retail Stores:

THE POSTAGE STAMP SHOP  
12 Broadway Arcade  
Los Angeles 13



THE POSTAGE STAMP SHOP  
636 Market St., San Francisco 4

January 26th, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of 1/22,  
returning the 1¢ type 1c with your opinion. Enclosed please find check for  
\$3.00.

Although this is a rare item I never thought too  
highly about it due to the condition. After reading your letter, however,  
I believe that someone should pay about \$150.00 for it.

Enclosed herewith you will find a single and a  
pair of perforated 1¢, which I believe are type 1a. The condition is poor  
but your signature on the back would undoubtedly help selling them as it is  
a matter of a pretty rare stamp. Just forget about the right hand stamp of  
the pair as I will throw that in if someone buys the left one.

Thanking you, and with best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Sture Ljungdahl*  
Sture Ljungdahl

POSTAGE STAMP PACKETS



PACKETTES AND SETS



Jan. 29, 1953.

The Postage Stamp Shop,

636 Market St.,

San Francisco 4, Calif.

Dear Mr. Ljundahl:

Thanks very much for yours of the 26th with check for \$3.00.

Regarding the pair and single herewith, I regret that I cannot sign these as Type IA. The proper classification is as follows: "These three stamps were Type IA before the bottom perforations destroyed the type characteristics." You see, something that was, is not always something that is. These copies are what I call Eunuchs.

Sincerely yours,



POST CARD

Feb'y 2 1953

Mr Sture LJUNG DAHL

636 Market St

San Francisco Calif

Dear Mr L.

Re - 14 1851-57 - type IC -

Plate position 81R4 - See Harmer

Roche & Co Sale Feb'y 17-19-1953,  
Lot 75.

Very Truly yours

(26-21)

January 15<sup>th</sup>. 1953.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

Many thanks for the explanations  
given by your kind letter of the 5<sup>th</sup>. inst.  
about the Aspinwall letter overpaid by  
3 cents, please find it herewith for examination

Sincerely yours.

M. Levy

---

Jan. 22, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Levy:

When you wrote me about the enclosed cover, I had forgotten all about it. I do recall it and evidently have a photograph of it in my files. It was in the Oscar Schenck sale by Harmer, Rooke & Co., New York, October 1950. I sent for it along with other lots at the time, but I couldn't find anything wrong with it at the time.

The C. J. Fox handstamp is well known to me. I suppose this was written by some person on the way from New York to San Francisco Via Panama and was given to Fox to mail. I suppose the writer was not sure what the rate was from Panama so he put those two stamps on his letter. Naturally, the 3¢ was not required. Fox attended to placing the letter aboard a ship sailing from Aspinwall to New York. My guess is that the use was in 1858.

I believe the cover is genuine in every respect, and have signed it for you on the back.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

(26-22)



Paris, March 8th. 1953.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

We received your letter of the Feb. 24th. last. about Art. 13 - of the Anglo-French postal treaty. I do not know the question, and I give your letter to a friend of mine who knows very well the France Postal History. When the answer is handy, I shall write you.

Concerning the first quarter of 1857 year, the few U.S.A. letters I get were sent via England by British packet. I shall look in another collections. The American Packet marking is relatively scarce, many times scarcer than the British Pack. - even after 1857.

At the mid. January last I sent you for examination a letter from Aspinwall (Colon) with 1857 - X cents + 3 cents stamps. Did you well receive this item? I fear it was lost.

a question. The Ocean Mail contract, Atlantic side, was from New York to Chagres by Charleston and Habana, the two only calls I think. Was the Ocean Mail the only official route between Charleston and Habana and the terminal of N.Y.? Did they were not another ship lines, Habana N.Y. - by example - with postal contract? In other words, the Ocean Mail contract gave a privilege for the Mailing to or from California. But was this privilege only for the complete trip or also for any mail sent to U.S.A. from any harbour of the route?

Sincerely yours.

Marcel Peiry



March 13, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Levy:

I was very sorry to learn that you had not received my letter of Jan. 22, 1953, returning to you the 13¢ cover. I sent this to you by air mail but I note it was not sent registered. It came to me unregistered and I thought perhaps it would be safe to return it that way. Thus the fault is mine, and if you will advise me of its value I will gladly reimburse you for the loss. I am enclosing a copy of my letter that accompanied the cover. This is the first time that I have ever had any philatelic item to go astray.

Re - the "ART 13." I will greatly appreciate any information on the meaning of this marking that you can obtain for me.

Re - my query re - mail to France during the first quarter of 1857. Practically every letter from the U. S. to France during this period went by British Packet thru England and I do not seem to be able to find a single one that went from New York across the Atlantic by the "Collins Line" (Amer. 'kt), in spite of the fact, that Line was in operation and surely carried a lot of mail. If you can locate such an item I will appreciate advice.

Re - your query about mail to Panama. For a decade, 1848 - 1858, The U. S. Mail Steamship Co. held the mail contract between New York and Panama. These mail ships touched at Charleston, S.C. and Havana, Cuba. During the period, the Company also operated ships to and from New Orleans to Panama. The Pacific Mail Steamship Co. held the mail contract between Panama City and San Francisco. During the early years of the Gold Rush - 1850-1851, the Postmaster at New York, on various occasions sent California-bound mail by some other steamship companies in order to expediate the transmission. There was also a mail contract line between Charleston, S.C. and Havana, Cuba. If you desire I can send you a list of the Ocean Mail contracts for any given year you desire. Mail between any ports touched by the contract mail ships was carried to and from New York at regular rate of postage of the period.

Does the above answer your query? If not, please advise.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Sept. 22, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Levy:

In the George Sloane column in STAMPS, issue of Sep. 6th last, was an account of a counterfeit of the U. S. \$2.60 Graf Zeppelin which is being circulated over here. I am wondering if you saw the article? Sloane stated it was a rather poor piece of work so I judge it wasn't made by Sperati. Do you know anything about this forgery, whether or not it was made in Paris and if so, by whom? I would like very much to obtain a copy for my reference collection and if you could help me in any way I will appreciate the favor.

I believe that I heard that the French police had arrested Sperati and had him locked up. Do you know whether there is any truth in the rumor?

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

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,



Paris, October 30 th. 1952.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I know very well Zareski. As I wrote you a day, I am in duty bound to tell, since more twenty years I know him, he never offered me any doubtful item. Why? Perhaps he likes me? Perhaps I am a too much dangerous customer? I do not know the reason. But there are plenty of collectors who formerly bought US letters directly from him, these items I know being always fakes. The 1869's letters recently sent you by Jamet were such materials. The owner believed they were genuine, Brun or other french "experts" having given guaranty certificates, but as I was in the opinion they were fakes, Jamet was hesitating for a correct opinion. These letters were sold some twenty years ago by Zareski. Since some years, he never sell directly. Zareski is always leaving in Paris, 45 Boulevard Gouvion-St.-Cyr, (17). Since some years, he deals only with stamps dealers. He is born Jew-Russian, escaped from the Czarist Fleet around 1910/1912 year, and to day is probably french-citizen. He tells he was an engineering formerly in Russia. It is wrong because he was too young when in his born land. He was probably draftsman somewhere, because he is really a very clever drawer. It is a mystery into his life. When the german occupation of France by the Germans, then the Jews fled away, he was always dealing with stamps, always advertising with his name and address. When I remember all the trouble I had, only by the part of my name who is jew, (being myself of an old french Huguenot family), I cannot understand the Zareski's impunity. It is an unhappy thing he was a too clever man. If reliable and correct, to day he would be the leading european dealer. He is many time more intelligent than any other dealer, and very industrious. Luckily for the philatelists, he was always hypnotized by the cancellations only. He knows nothing about foreign mails and rates, postal history. And if his fakes are always hand-clever, often they are unacceptable at a glance for someone knows Postal History. I do not know if it is right the late Needham was improving many letters of his collections, but I am sure if Zareski had only a part of the philatelic knowledges of Needham, to-day you would have a very hard work to detect his forgeries !!!!!

Also I know very well Maurice Jamet. He never sold <sup>me</sup> anything, because they are none old US items in the european markets. But often I give him my opinion about puzzling or doubtful american items he gets. And as I am always right against the experts opinion, I am a little his private counsellor for the US section. Take care, he is not specialized in old US items, but deal with any classic or old philatelic item of any country. He is a correct businessman, (one of the rare european stamp-dealer to be a real businessman), very honest, cautious; his financial standing is only medium but satisfactory. And to give you my feeling about him, he is the european dealer who knows the real importance of my stamps collections.

But, speak frankly. Why do you hope to obtain with Jamet? The advanced european collectors who buy US items of high price are very few, Van Veltoven in Brussels, myself in France, someones in England... With these advanced specialistes, Jamet is only a competitor for you. Outside these collectors who know the american items, they are only some philatelists who know nothing about rarity or even about prices, and collect only the items 'looking pretty well'. They are really deceptive customers, because they want only de-luxe items but will not pay the price for them. More especially the Yvert catalog, the only used in France, gives prices for US items who are at least 20 to 40% under the current american prices, without any notation for the main varieties of types or shades. On the other hand Jamet send his catalogs to many advanced collectors in the States, and I know he has some inquiries for US items. As he cannot find anything in Europe, he is hoping to find these scarce items in America. I think it should be quicker

quicker and cheaper for the buyer american philatelists to buy directly in America ?

About your service, Van Veltoven and myself are probably the two only possible subscribers here. I do not believe Jamet never use your studies to fake himself any item. But he is not alone, and he has shop-assistants. And it is very hard to him to refuse lend some sheets to a good customer or to another friend dealer. I put whole trust in him, but I never lend him any of your studies.

As I wrote you, no stamps dealers in France, (but for a part Jamet), know my stamps collections, or even know my name. Political, social, fiscal, etc, good reasons. But my real and complete family name is compound. Levy is only the name of my father in law who adopted me when orphan, Chomel being my father's name, =Chomel-Levy as complete official name. Since my childhood I am known under the current name of Levy only; this Mr. Levy in France is not a philatelist. But it is a Mr. Chomel who collects the US stamps, (of course his collections being unknown). If useful, you may use of Chomel as reference, but never of Levy or of my real name Chomel-Levy. France was a land of Liberty. This time has passed away !!!!!

Dr. Scott Polland offers me a letter from West Canada to East Canada by the Wells Fargo service, with Victoria stamps + Barnars Cariboo stamp + 10 cts. US 1861. Dr. Polland tells me you had this letter in hands and you consider it as genuine. Do you understand why the canadian adhesive were not cancelled ? And why the presence on the same cover of these victoria adhesive stamps and of the handstruck PAID Victoria Vancouver, which commonly means pre-paid in cash ? A french fellow, advanced specialist in early BNA, tells me the adhesive stamps were not recognized by the Victoria P.O. and a cash was paid by the Cariboo when putting the letter at the P.O. It is right ?

Friendly yours,

M. Levy

---



Paris, October 18th. 1952

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

In reply of your last letter of the Sept. 22nd. last. about the \$ 2.60 Graf Zeppelin stamp forgery, this fake was never seen in Paris by any dealer or collector. If I know anything about this item, I shall write you.

I do not think Sperati is locked up in France, because he is an Italian citizen and learning in Switzerland. And also <sup>because</sup> the reproduction or imitation of old items: stamps, engravings, etc. is not forbidden by the french laws. The only thing forbidden is to sell a "fac. simili" as a genuine item. It is the reason why Zareski never sell himself his "works of art", but only by little dealers who sell the faked letters "as they are" without any guaranty. Sperati do in the same way. When selling himself - (it is very rare). he sells only imitations. If always prudent, nor Zareski and not Sperati could never be in default.

But it is another low-trick more important I think, important by the

French philatelic people of consequence, well known experts, who are certainly party to this large fraud. When the last heir of HUBOT passed away, they were some complete sheets of printing trials of the first issues of France into the assets (Hubot was the printer of the first French issues). These sheets were bought by some dealers (twenty years ago if right), cut in blocks, and authenticated by well known expert of Paris, who knowed the proof characters of these items but was well paid for mistake himself.

Particularly they are many large blocks of the # 1 of France (20 centime block), with expert signature or not, who are only printing trials.

Please, tell this tale to nobody. I know it from friends of mine, specialists of early France issues, and their investigation is not yet closed.

Sincerely yours.

Maxim Lévy

Oct. 26, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Levy:

Thanks very much for your kind note of the 18th.

If perchance you can furnish me with any information in the future on the \$2.60 Zep Gorgery, I will certainly appreciate the favor.

Also thanks for the remarks on Sperati and Zareski. Does Zareski operate from Paris? I suppose he does. I would like to send him a photo print of a cover (U. S. to France) that I am sure that he made. Do you suppose he would acknowledge that he turned out such an artistic job?

Re - Maurice Jamet. Is his reputation excellent? Do you know him well? I had an inquiry from him to the effect he wanted to specialize in U. S. stamps and covers. Wanted ~~any~~ books, etc. I could supply. I mentioned my Special Service and that I had subscribers in Paris and Brussels but, of course, I did not mention your name. If he appears to be interested would he be acceptable to me as a prospective subscriber and would he not abuse information contained in my Service issues. Tell me frankly if you would have any objection to me informing him that you are a subscriber?

With kindest regards

Cordially yours,



S.P. ASHEROOK Esq.,  
P.O. Box 31  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue  
FORT THOMAS, K.Y.

-----

(Etats-Unis)

**VIA AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION**



MAURICE JAMET

timbres anciens

10, Rue d'Alger

PARIS 1<sup>er</sup>

Opéra 99-46

C.C.P. PARIS 4483 61 - R.C. SEINE 819.181

Paris, the 14th of October 1952

S.B. ASHBROOK Esq.,  
P.O. Box 31  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue  
FORT THOMAS, KY.

(Etats-Unis)

Dear Mr Ashbrook,

It is very late indeed to ~~thank~~ you for your letter of february 6th, but I have been very busy with business since then. I thought I should have all leisure in the summer time, but then we had to face the very serious illness and the death of my wife'smother. I was awaiting a real quiet time to write, as I consider this letter very important, and asking much seriousness.

I must say, about the 1869 30 cents on cover, which I sent you to be examined, that I was in a very difficult position towards the vendor of the cover. He had great confidence in Mr BRUN who is considered here as our greatest expert. So that I could not refuse to offer these items in my auction catalogue. But I had given him my opinion and told him that it would be written in full in my catalogue, that I should accept the expertising of an American Expert for the U.S.A items, so that foreign collectors will not doubt of my good faith.

I had noticed the painting of a part of the San Francisco postmark and the falsification of the year in the Bordeaux postmark. But of course, if I then could have said what you tought me, my opinion should have been considered. Of all this, it comes out evident that in France, we know nothing about the U.S.A. rates, and I may say, even in Europe, as I saw very well known signatures on items even worse than this cover.

I must even say, that nobody here, knows something about the French dues figures on covers coming from abroad, and there is no philatelic books about them. I inquired on this subject near the best philatelists of our Academy, and

others too. I obtained one information only, but a very worthy one: I must try to get the Post Year books of the years 1840 to 1870-80. Unfortunately, they are very difficult to find. But as I wish greatly to learn this splendid speciality which is the collection of the first issues of U.S.A., I want to do all what is possible:

- 1) to know all I can, so that my opinion about an item is worth consideration
- 2) to fight the work of the forgers, and specially of this sinister Zareski. Of course, this last one shall never admit what he is doing, but I do hope to much disturb his activities. He is doing this bad work for twenty five years at least, and I may say that there will be dreadful surprises when some collectors will want to sell their collections.

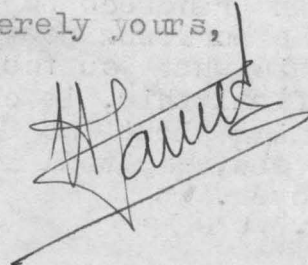
That is another reason for me to know as much as possible, as I intend to specialize in U.S.A. stamps. Up to now I only studied the ways to recognize his work: painting, scratching, etc... I can recognize a good lot of the faked covers by the use of inks and colours which are not of the time of the stamps, and this with my magnifying glass, or with the X rays, but of course if I knew the postal rates, the right use of the postmarks, and the use of the due taxes on delivery, this would be much easier and correct.

I am always trying to learn, but in the same time, I have to lead my business and to earn my living, so that I cannot do as much as I wish. If only I knew the hundredth of what you know....

I must report at once that Zareski has bought a few weeks ago a lot of over one hundred stampless covers coming from the Thomas Lachambre records. All these covers were sent from U.S.A. to Lima, Peru. There is no doubt that within a short time these covers will be sold bearing nice and valuable U.S stamps.

I apologize for this long letter. I hope you will not find it too boring. I know you have a lot of work; but I should be very happy to receive a reply to this letter. If you had some time to get me some documents, I should do all financial effort necessary to have them.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. L. Lachambre', written over a horizontal line.



Oct. 25, 1952.

Mr. Maurice Jamet,  
10 Rue d'Alger,  
Paris, France.

Dear Mr. Jamet:

I am in receipt of yours of the 14th and have carefully noted the contents.

I wish that I could assist you in your desire to make a study of U. S. stamps and covers of the 19th Century but I fear that about all that I can do is to offer a few suggestions. I think you should have copies of our standard works such as the Luff book on U. S., published in 1902 - The Brookman two-volume book, published several years ago - the Chase book on the 3¢ 1851-1857 - My various books and articles, etc., etc. You might let me know what you have at present. Some of the above are very scarce and difficult to obtain, and prices range high. My two volumes on the U. S. One Cent 1851-57 is bringing from \$40.00 to \$50.00 at the present time.

To a small group of serious collectors I supply a monthly service of valuable data on U. S. Postal History of the 19th Century stamps, covers, rates, etc., etc. To illustrate the items discussed I supply very fine photographs. Subscription to this Service is by invitation only and it is not open to the general philatelic public. The fee is \$100 per annum. I have a subscriber in Paris and one in Brussels. No doubt you are acquainted with both but I am not at liberty to disclose their names.

Zareski keeps me very busy but I have known of him for many years and I have made a study of the type of work he turns out. I regret to state that his covers fool the Experts on this side and many of them refuse to believe me when I inform them that they authenticated a Zareski. He has swindled British and American collectors out of thousands and thousands of dollars. It is too bad they can't hang such a crook. I doubt if there are many fine collections in this country which do not possess specimens of his handiwork.

I have refused to publish data on a number of subjects because I had no desire to educate Zareski and his class of fellow criminals as to how to make their products more perfect. It is really surprising what clever work that Sperati turns out and likewise it is surprising what clever imitations that Zareski turns out in the way of covers. Where he falls down is a lack of knowledge of our postal laws, rates, regulations and many more points. However, on such subjects he possesses more information than many of our U.S. collectors who have more money than philatelic knowledge.

I am enclosing a photo print of a cover that I am quite positive that Zareski "fixed up." This cover originally had a single 5¢ 1847 stamp and the Philadelphia postmark read "5CTS." The crook removed a pen cancel from a 10¢ and added it to the cover and painted a "1" before the "5." You see he was not aware that Philadelphia never used a postmark with "15CTS." This cover was presented to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation of New York City and they pronounced it "genuine in all respects." It cost the present owner \$1500 and will prove a total loss because I have condemned it as a rank fake. It is not a bit clever in any way and no doubt Zareski made it over twenty years ago. I sent him a photograph several years ago and asked him if he made it. Would you believe that he denied the charge and was very much insulted.

May I thank you very much for your kindness in giving me the information regarding Zareski and his latest acquisition of stampless covers from the Thomas Lachambre correspondence. I will be on the lookout for examples.

Very truly yours,

Jan. 2, 1952.

Curry  
Beck  
Krug

Mr. Gordon Harmer,

% Harmer, Rooke & Co.,

560 Fifth Ave.,

New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

Re - your sale of Jan. 13th, will you please send me  
lots 23 and 49.

Regards.

Yours etc.,



MARCHANT  
CALCULATORS, INC.  
OAKLAND 8, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

TO Stanley #49 DATE 12/24/52

Can this be right? I wrote you couple  
of years ago when Gordon sold this  
before. They do come back for  
resale don't they? Auctioneers  
sell & resell Collections over &  
over again -

Did we ever see a legitimate  
S.F. piece in June? I have none.

Aug is considered early -

Do you think this June ok?

Yrs

Eed.

Dec. 29, 1952.

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

Dear Em:

Your registered of the 26th received. I will get around to it after I clean up a lot of work.

Re - the 7RLE in the coming Harmer, Rooke Sale of Jan. 13. Morris Fortgang wrote me under date of the 21st, quote:

"Your reference to 'inaccurate auction descriptions' could include, I suspect, a lot #23 of the Harmer, Rooke sale of Jan. 13. This lot is described as

23. O. 1¢ blue type 1 (7RLE). Vertical crease. Fine margins, light cancel, very fine appearance. Very rare. (See Photo)

If this stamp has a very fine appearance, so has King Kong. The stamp is a nightmare. In attempting to lighten the dark, smeary obliteration, someone immersed this stamp in a solution containing a detergent and the blue ink ran so that the engraving is unrecognizable. You probably have a photo of this stamp, but if you haven't, please ask to see it."

From the above, I doubt if Morris has any intention of bidding on the stamp. If our friend Harmer is so damn righteous and his man Thatcher is so damn smart, and so accurate, then how come such an inaccurate auction description?

I looked up the photo-print that Burroughs sent me years ago and it shows that this stamp was a blurred impression. In other words, the paper was too moist when the print was made and the blue ink ran. I suppose someone tried to remove the blurr. I judge Fortgang thought they had tried to remove the cancelation.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

114 East 84th Street,  
New York 28, N. Y.  
December 21, 1952.

Dear Stanley:

Your letter of December 17th wherein you mention various shady practices of stamp dealers and others that should be brought to light in the editorial columns of philatelic publications interested me no end. I shall give you my thoughts on this subject in my next letter because at the moment I would like to report on something more pleasant -- the left pane of Plate 6. Meanwhile, may I note that Harry Weiss, in "Gossip" of Dec. 13th, p. 477, col. 2, anticipated your suggestion to Harry Lindquist. He writes:

"Something has been added when we run across something phoney. We are threatened with legal actions if we publicize what we have found. Wonder how the experts feel about this? Shades of Speretti! He is still out of the klink."

Weiss, of course, wrote as much as he dare. Lindquist dare not go even that far, though I know he would give his right arm and also his left to be able to comply with your request. He is that kind of a friend of yours, and I am in a position to be able to vouch for that.

Your reference to "inaccurate auction descriptions" could include, I suspect, lot #23 of the Harmer, Rooke sale of Jan. 13. This lot is described as

23. O. 1¢ blue type 1 (7R1E). Vertical crease. Fine Margins, light cancel, very fine appearance. Very rare. (See photo)

If this stamp has a very fine appearance, so has King Kong. The stamp is a nightmare. In attempting to lighten the dark, smeary obliteration, someone immersed this stamp in a solution containing a detergent and the blue ink ran so, that the engraving is unrecognizable. You probably have a photo of this stamp, but if you haven't, please ask to see it.

Re- 83R2. You shall hear from my lawyer pronto regarding your comment on this position.

Re- article in "Gossip" on the inverts. Yes, I agree the illustrations could have been better. I should have spent more time on them.

Re- Left Pane of Plate 6. A couple of days ago I found a mint block of four from this pane that came from the very same sheet as my strip, 35L6 - 36L6 - 37L6 - 38L6, and Mort's block of 8, 45-48L6 - 55-58L6. Isn't that strange? I recognized this block at sight -- the color, the perforations, the plating marks. This piece plates as 17-18L6 - 27-28L6, and the perforations match perfectly with the two stamps to right of my strip. Even the small tear in the "P" of 38L6 extends across the top margin and into the "E" of "Cent" of 28L6. This block, of course, is an early print from Plate 6 and shows the plating marks to good advantage, much more clearly than they show in my strip of three, 7-17-27L6, of which you have a photo. This block and six blocks of four and one block of six of the 3¢ 1857 compose lot #62 in the Harmer, Rooke Sale of Jan. 13. This block belongs to me by right of discovery and I shall obtain it.

(over)



You can then make another photo showing a reconstruction of sixteen positions from the same sheet. This block rather confirms your theory that some dealer had a complete sheet from the left pane of Plate 6 and broke it up. He sold Mort's block of 8 to Schenck, this block of four to the late Franklin J. Willock, and my strip to someone who sold it in the Colby sale. There may be other pieces in old collections.

I am enclosing herewith a cover from Philadelphia, Pa. to Etna, N.Y. which I obtained in the recent Burger sale. The cover bears a strip of three, 37L6 - 38L6 and 39L6. My strip of 4 enabled me to plate this strip. While this item adds nothing to philately, it does indicate that material from the left pane of Plate 6 is to be found. The key is probably more of a problem than scarcity of material.

Your "greetings card" which bears a 3¢ '61 neatly tied is a philatelic gem. Thanks! Has it ever occurred to you that, were you so inclined, you could outzareski Sperati or Spaghetti or whatever his name is?

Ann and the Bride and Groom join me in wishing Mildred and Junior and you our sincerest Holiday Greetings.

Sincerely yours,

*Morris*



Jan. 2, 1953.

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

Dear Ed:

Thanks very much for sending me the printed matter on the copying device called, "Contoura." It is very interesting and I like to know about such devices. Surely you have some such device that you use at Marchant, perhaps some machine like those used at banks. What equipment do you use?

Re - your note of the 24th. I return the cut from Harmer Rooke catalogue. If we had ~~only~~ correspondence on Lot 49 in the past it has slipped my memory. I noticed this Lot 49 in the catalogue and intended to send for it, but neglected to do so as I was so busy just before Xmas. No, I have no record of ~~usage~~ use of a 12¢ bisect in my files. I note it is described as a "piece" and with a P.F. certificate. I have no record that I can recall that the P.F. submitted this item to me in the past.

Of course, it might be genuine and it might not be, but I think that you will agree with me that a collector would be foolish to put much money into a bisect on a piece, and second, a P.F. certificate on an item such as this wouldn't amount to much. For that Committee to attempt to give an opinion on such an item is rather presumptuous in my estimation. I am sure that you will agree 100% with me that an opinion that would have any value would have to come from someone who was a well qualified student of San Francisco postmarks. Who on the Committee could qualify? Perhaps I am wrong, but I think a P.F. certificate on this item would be nothing short of pure guess-work.

Perhaps if I could see the item and examine it, I might be able to do a little guessing, and maybe my guess would be better than theirs. Can you inform me as to a previous sale in which this item came up?

Note the 7R1E next to it - Lot 23. I know all about this copy. The catalogue describes it "very fine appearance." That is not true - because this is a damaged copy - originally this was a badly "blurred print" - that is - the paper was too moist when the impression was made and as a result the blue ink "ran" - some "fixer" put the stamp in some chemical and tried to remove the "blurr," and he succeeded to some extent but he also removed most of the cancelation - note the description - "light cancel." I have an enlarged photo which was made before the "fixer" did his fixing. I am today writing Gordon to please send me, for inspection, lots 23 and 49.

Happy New Year to Mildred and you, and the family.

Yours etc.,

Dec. 29, 1952.

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

Dear Morris:

Re - yours of the 21st, I am returning herewith the cover with the Plate 6 strip - 37L6 - 38L6 - 39L6. I was pleased to see this and made a photo record of it. Quite a nice item. I have no doubt but what you are right about Plate 6 material. It is not as scarce as we supposed it was years ago. Perhaps the proper classification would be that it is rare in comparison to material from Plates 7, 8, 9 and 10. I suppose that used material from Plate 10 is even much more rare than the same from Plate 6.

Thanks for calling my attention to the comment by Harry Weiss in Gossip. I gave him the details in the case. My good friend Lindquist has a very high regard for George Sloane. I haven't. I think that Harry would hesitate to publish anything that would reflect on Sloane.

I noticed the 7RLE in the Harmer Rooke & Co. sale for next Jan. 13th. I have known of this stamp since the late nineteen thirties. On two occasions in the middle nineteen forties it was sold in Kelleher sales. According to my memos regarding it, made in the thirties, this was a "slip print" - i.e., the paper was too wet when the impression was made and as a result the blue ink "ran" - I think someone tried to remove the "smear."

Congratulations on the discovery of the Plate 6 block in the coming Harmer, Rooke sale. I do hope that you obtain it and when you do, please send it on to me so that I can make a photo. Of course, I will not mention it to anyone. Don't you think you had better advise Mort? According to the catalogue description, I do not think that you should have much competition. I agree that the three items came from a mint sheet that some dealer broke up. If we could only locate the balance.

Re - the "target" that tied the 3¢ 1861. It is from a genuine stamper that came from a post office up in Maine - hand-carved boxwood and a wonderful piece of work. I doubt if I could turn out better work than M. Zareski because he employs methods of which I haven't the slightest knowledge. For example, how does he remove cancelations from such stamps as the 5¢ 1861 Buff, etc.? If I thought he would inform me I wouldn't hesitate to ask him. He not only possesses great artistic ability but unmitigated brass. The crook was in this country in 1947 and had the nerve to apply for membership in the A.P.S. I threatened hell and damnation if they admitted him, but it is a wonder they didn't.

With New Year Greetings -

Cordially yours,



Dec. 24, 1952.

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

Dear Ezra:

This will be waiting for you when you get back from NYACK

Re - the two 15¢ 1869 covers in the H.R. Harmer sale.

Re - Lot 557 - The 15¢ stamp was not used on this cover - The letter was from New Orleans and N.O. never used a red cork in 1869. There are other bad points but this is sufficient. Some might claim the stamp was not canceled until the letter reached New York but the evidence that exists disproves such a theory.

Re Lot 558 - New Orleans never used a target - New Orleans didn't use a "time postmark" until 1873 - In my opinion, M. Zareski removed a 5¢ Taylor and substituted this 15¢ - The use was probably Feb. 22, 1877.

Yours etc.,

Dec. 10, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Huber:

I am enclosing herewith two photographs of two covers that came up in a sale by H. R. Hammer last month - Nov. 10th. One was Lot 557, the other Lot 558. The former brought \$35.00, the latter \$41.00. In my opinion, both covers are fraudulent. For example, the 15¢ stamp on Lot 557 is tied by a red cork cancelation. This use was supposed to be from N.O. on Nov. 1, 1869. It is my belief that the N.O. P.O. did not use a red killer such as this and a black postmark at that period. This cover is from the "A. Carriere & Co." correspondence. Many "Carriere" covers were faked by the Paris faker, Zareski, so I have been reliably informed.

The other cover shows a 15¢ 1869 tied by a target cancel. This cover had no evidence of the year of use but so far as I am aware, the N.O. P.O. did not use a target cancel during the period when the rate to France was 15¢. In addition, the postmark on this cover shows "6 P.M." - a N.O. "time" postmark. It is my understanding that this postmark did not come into use until 1873. Perhaps you will recall that we had some correspondence on the subject of "N.O. Time postmarks," back in 1950. You consulted with Mr. Wagner at the time and as I recall, he was of the opinion that the type came into use about that year. I do not seem to have any actual proof that 1873 is correct and I wonder if 1873 is not a bit too early?

I feel quite sure that the 15¢ stamp was not used originally on Lot 558, and that this cover was actually used in 1876 or 1877 or even later and that the cover originally had a 5¢ Blue Taylor which was removed and the 15¢ 1869 substituted.

I will appreciate your comments.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,



# VICTOR HUBER & SONS

Cemetery Memorial Design and Construction

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NEW ORLEANS 19, LA.

Proprietors of  
HOPE MAUSOLEUM  
3,676 Crypts

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

December 16, 1952

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letters of December 10th. and 11th. arrived over the week end and I hasten to answer.

First, you are correct beyond the shadow of a doubt about Lot #558. This cover went through the mail several years after its purported time. With reference to Lot #557, I agree with you that it looks like a ringer, but I can't be positive. I checked with the Weill brothers and all of us agree that we have never seen a red cork cancellation used on New Orleans covers in 1869. I have several in my collection and they are all black. Since the cover comes from the Carriere correspondence - which was suspect - it most probably is a fake, in my opinion.

With reference to the introductory note to head the article to be reprinted: you will find enclosed a suggested "Foreword" which I have written and which you can put into your own words if it pleases you.

I appreciate your having written to Mr. Lindquist about the steamboat article and hope that he will soon publish it.

Again thanking you and with best wishes, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Leonard V. Huber

LVH:HH  
Encl.1

# EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

---

*Commissions . Appraisals*

---

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

Dec. 19th, 1952

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

Dear Stan:

Em sent back his cover from the H. R. Harmer sale.  
I have not seen the other one yet. Here are the reasons  
why I think it is bad:

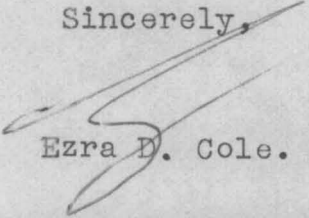
1. I do not think New York used the red postmark and  
would not use it with the black town mark.

2. Cancellation is of course painted in on the cover to  
make it tied.

3. I think the letter was actually used in 1868 and not 69.  
The dates are fouled up and unreadable.

Wishing you all the joys of the Season,

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

France.



Monsieur Gustave Harrou  
32 rue de l'Arbre-Sec 32.

Paris.

Seine.

H.R. Harmer Sale  
Nov 10 1952

B262] To show  
French P.M.  
RED-128-155c



A190

France.



Monsieur Gustave Harrou  
32 rue De l'Arbre-Sec 32.

Paris.

Did  
Stamp Originate  
?

Seine.

H.R.H  
Sale 1/10-52  
Lot 558  
No Year Shown

Jan. 2, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Here are two covers that I bought in the Meroni sale -

A Via Nicaragua - Price \$100.00

and

A Noisy Carrier - Price \$135.00

A memo on the back of the latter indicates that Meroni paid Fox \$200 for this cover. If you do not care for these two will you show them to Harold. Perhaps he would like to have one or both or perhaps Charley would want them. Both are investments at these prices. I have signed both on the back.

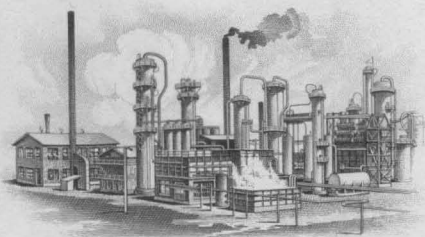
I agree with you 100% as per yours of the 28th. Everyone connected with that damn fool "United Nations" should be run out of the country. I believe that the great majority of people in this country have lost all faith in the U.N. and would vote to clean it out of this country. We should arm to the teeth and tell all who hate us to go plumb to hell.

Re - Florida. As you know, Harold put it off until February because of Harold Jr. - He may be drafted next month. I don't know whether we will be able to go or not - I may be clear out of cash at that time, in which event we couldn't leave. Stan Jr. will not be working and he will be home and will have to eat. Mildred was counting on having Rene and if we can go, Mildred will be terribly disappointed if Rene will not be able to go.

Happy New Year to you both.

Yours etc.,





PHONE 125

CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY  
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

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

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, January 24, 1953.

Dear Stan:

This tardy reply to yours of the 2nd enclosing the two Meroni covers. Have not had a chance to see Harold Stark since these arrived. He did not attend the DPS meeting last Wednesday so I called him on phone the next day and found that he and Ruth were leaving for Florida that morning, and he indicated the Shierson's would accompany them. Said he had to make an immediate trip to Florida account something about his daughter etc. Perhaps he stopped off in Cincinnati or phoned you anyway I could not show these two covers to either Harold or Charlie.

Re Noisy Carriers  
I did show them to Hutch and Clarence Wilson tho, and Clarence was quite interested in the "Noisy Carriers" cover until someone called his attention to the fact that this cover originated in Sacramento City. He figures that if it was put in the mail at Sacramento - then how could it acquire a legitimate "Noist Carrier" marking at San Francisco, and surely the "Noisy Carrier" marking reads "S.F.CAL." Add to this the fact that John Fox handled the cover and anyone would naturally be suspicious, I suppose. On the other hand, I imagine that if you could explain this to Clarence, he might want this cover @ \$135.00. Hutch said he had several of both types already. S //

In yours of the 16th, you mention borrowing the Mike Newbury Plate One Early Reconstruction. With this now at hand, Stan, can you plate that vertical strip of three from the bottom row that Neinken and I thought might be from Plate Three? I can't fit it into the bottom row of Plate One Early. Would you like to have me send it down again?

Let me know when you want me to send my Plate One Early Reconstruction down to you to photograph?

Rene still bellyaches about going somewhere this winter but can't get her to make any decision on when or where she wants to go. Sure don't want to drive a car as I do too much driving as is - incidentally the clutch came out of that damned Hudson again last light and I had to be towed in to Ionia and the weather was terrible - got soaking wet and almost froze. Had to walk a hell of a distance in the rain and drizzle to get to a phone. This is the third clutch that has dropped out of the Hudson in less than a year. Most annoying.

Will be interested in your explanation of the cover Sacramento to Maine with the "Noisy Carriers" marking applied at San Francisco. It should be cleared up for Clarence's benefit so write him sending me a copy.

Regards from us all.

Sincerely,

*J. G. Fleckenstein*

J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/k REG:

Jan. 27, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 24th received, with the return of the two covers.

Re - the "NOISY CARRIER." There is absolutely no question but what this cover is genuine, because it is addressed to the grandmother of an old neighbor of mine, a Mrs. George Crosby, whose husband and his wife moved to Northern Kentucky years ago from Maine and then moved back there. Mrs. Crosby found some old covers in a family correspondence and sold some thru a Boston dealer before I knew she had them. Later she found some more and I sold them for her. I am not anxious to sell these, but sent them to you as I thought they would be items that would especially appeal to you. Westerns are an awfully good investment.

The operations of "Kimball" the Noisy Carrier are well known to students of Westerns. At the time this handstamp was used he operated a stationery store and this handstamp was a sort of a frank which entitled the buyer to have his mail delivered to the ship sailing for Panama, if placed in the mail bag in Kimball's shop. Of if for local delivery to the residence or business of the addressee. I suppose in the case of this envelope, that a person bought it with the handstamp of "Kimball" the "Noisy Carrier" - but mailed his letter at Sacramento.

At various times Kimball used blue ink, green and black, and it was my belief at one time that he only used certain colors during certain years, but later I found that my theory was not a fact. Kimball was first located at 77 Long Wharf but later he changed to a different number and when he did he cut out the "77" in his stamper. As the rate on this cover is 6¢ and the date apparently "30 MAR," I suppose the use was Mar. 30, 1855, in order to catch the mail ship sailing for Panama from San Francisco on April 1, 1855. At that time, the U. S. mail ships sailed on the 1st and 16th. Later in the year, the sailings were on the 5th and 20th.

I purchased this cover because of the unusual use at Sacramento and because I knew that any cover addressed to Nancy Delano of Strong, Maine, was genuine beyond any question of a doubt.

With regards -

Cordially yours,



Jan. 27, 1953.

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

Dear Doctor:

Here is a NOISY CARRIER cover that I bought in the Meroni sale last November because of the Sacramento postmark. The cover is genuine because it is addressed to the grandmother of an old, old friend of mine who came from Maine. She found a lot of old covers in her grand-parents' papers, but sold some to a Boston dealer and later what she had left, I sold one to Wiltsee about ten or twelve years ago. None that I had were mailed from Sac City and I was surprised when I saw this in the Meroni sale. Ever since my return I have intended to send this to you and inquire if you have a solution for it. I believe I know the answer but what do you think? I would request you to send it to Edgar but he is so darn busy, it might be a month before he could get around to it. If you wish, you can call him up and inquire - <sup>Why</sup> Sacramento? If my solution is correct, it would give us a new slant on these covers.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

WUCF

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

1-31-53

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

your very interesting  
Nancy Carrier cover and letter of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
arrived two days ago. On the same  
day I was invited to attend <sup>on the 30<sup>th</sup></sup> at  
Finny Simpson's, a meeting of a  
small group of phylacelists of the East  
Bay who meet informally about  
once a month, at the various members  
homes. Powell who used to be one  
of our best students, but who has done  
very little in recent years is a member;  
also Edgar Jessup. Ed and I had  
dinner together before the meeting.

Without telling him of my own  
interpretation of your cover, I asked Ed  
for his opinion. We both agreed that  
~~it~~ was most unlikely or impossible, that  
the letter could have been taken out



MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.  
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of the U.S. Mails and The Morning Courier  
marking applied after it had been  
mailed at Sacramento. Since we know  
that the proprietor of Morning Courier was  
in the stationery, publishing, printing  
business etc, and his handstamps are  
found not only on envelopes, but on newspapers,  
magazines etc, it seemed to us that in  
this particular case, it was likely that  
this handstamp was applied on this envelope  
before it was mailed. It may have been  
that the writer obtained this envelope at  
Morning Courier and wrote the letter on  
board the boat to Sacramento, and mailed  
it there. I am not at all certain that  
Morning Courier did not have a commission  
on board these boats. Lot 1097 of the  
Merrill Sale was a very rare type of  
Morning Courier, of which I think there are  
only 2-3 known on covers. However, I

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.  
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have recently purchased from a bookstore in San Francisco, 2 small paper magazines which have this strike on the front <sup>of the</sup> cover. ~~also~~ another magazine with a Noring Carner mark, I have never seen on a cover.

We also know that Noring Carner printed illustrated envelopes - ~~Wm~~ <sup>Wm</sup> Carner et al - and sold them to miners or other individuals and these are known from many California postoffices. Although Noring Carner undoubtedly as a service, handled mail, and even sorted it, so that it would go a particular route, I think that at no time did he have recognition by the Post Office Dept or any official authority. Mail given to him was sorted according to the wish of the sender "Via Nicaragua" "Via Independent" etc and probably put in special pouches for this purpose and taken to the proper boat, but most of the mail was taken by him, and put into the San Francisco post office. These markings, therefore, are

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.  
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essentially advertising markings. I don't  
believe he charged for this service, but  
by this method built good will, and  
because of these markings gave to California  
another interesting chapter in its postal  
history.

At any rate Ed and I would  
like to hear your opinion about this  
very interesting item.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,  
W. Scott Polland



Feb. 9, 1953.

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

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for yours of the 31st with return of the Noisy Carrier cover from Sacramento. You are quite right about Lot #1097 in the Meroni Sale. It is a rare type and I doubt if more than half a dozen are known. In a sale by Fox in 1948 a cover with the rare type sold @ \$350.00, whereas the Meroni cover sold @ \$270.00.

Re - my cover, it is my theory that this marking was in a manner a "Frank" and entitled the user to some special service. For example, a letter placed in one of Kimball's bags to be sent to the S.F. P.O. or to a Nicaragua steamer, etc. Suppose such service was not free - suppose a person instead of paying for each letter at time of placing in bags, had a supply of envelopes with this "NOISY" frank. My theory is that my envelope was a FRANK but instead of being used at S.F. the owner used it at Sacramento. We are in agreement that the marking was applied before the letter was placed in the Sacramento P.O. and it appears to me that two theories are possible, viz:

(1) Was this an actual Frank entitling the owner to some special service as suggested above, or

(2) Was this merely an advertising device of Kimball's and its only meaning was that the holder had purchased the envelope from Kimball.

Regarding theory No. 2 - do you not think it possible that if theory is correct that we would find uses of his envelopes from various other California towns and mining camps? I have kept quite a record of NOISY Carrier covers and this is the only one I have ever seen that was used outside of San Francisco.

Note lots 401 and 402 in the Wiltsee sale. I sold these two covers to Wiltsee and I obtained them from Mrs. George Crosby, the granddaughter of the addressee, "Mrs. Nancy Delano." Before I obtained these, from Mrs. Crosby, she had sold some covers to a Boston dealer. I am sure I never obtained from her any NOISY CARRIER, so my present cover must have been one of the lot sold to the Boston dealer.

Years ago Ned Knapp and I had the theory that Kimball used the following colored inks in the years designated -

1854 blue  
1855 green  
1856 black

And we were so positive that we were right that we thought we could easily identify the year of use by the color of the marking. However, my color is black and the

#2. Dr. W. Scott Pollard - Feb. 9, 1953.

rate is 6¢. I am not sure about the month in the Sac. City p.m. but it looks like 30 Mar., possibly mailed on Mar. 30, 1855 to catch the Mar. 31st sailing from S.F.

Perhaps you will recall that because April 1st fell on Sunday in 1855, the mail steamer sailed on Saturday, the 31st. I believe the ship was the John L. Stephens.

Incidentally, the rate became 10¢ on April 1, 1855.

Perhaps Kimball did have a concession on the boats between S.F. and Sac. City and if so, then perhaps my cover was a Frank to the Sac. City P.O. - a letter perhaps written aboard the boat, mailed with Kimball, to deposit in the P.O. at Sac. City.

There is a good illustration of my cover in the Meroni catalogue (Lot 1096). Did you note that Fox described it as from S.F. (page 74)?

There is no doubt about one thing - a lot of Noisy covers indicate that the marking was applied after the letter had been addressed and handed to Kimball to mail. For example, note Lot 1100 in the Meroni sale. In a case such as this it is my theory that a fee was paid Kimball to deposit this letter in the S.F. P.O. and as evidence of such, he handstamped it, indicating the fee had been paid.

I am sending Edgar a copy of this letter and I will appreciate your comment as well as his.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Feb. 9, 1953.

Mr. Clarence W. Wilson,  
3370 Cambridge Road,  
Detroit 21, Mich.

Dear Clarence:

Re - the "Noisy Carrier" cover that Jack showed you recently,  
I am enclosing copy of letter that I wrote Jack on the 27th of January.

There is some evidence that Kimball, the "Noisy Carrier" had a concession on the boats plying between San Francisco and Sacramento City and my good friend Dr. Scott Pollard advanced the theory that my cover that Jack showed you might have represented a Frank on a letter mailed with Kimball to transmit to the Sacramento Post Office. However, in my opinion, this was a franked envelope for which the older had paid Kimball a fee for a service to be performed, viz., such as delivering a letter to the S.F. P.O. or to one of the Independent steamers sailing from S.F. - such as the Nicaragua Line or the "Independent Line" Via Panama.

Some have theorized that Kimball maintained a free service at his stationery store, viz., mail-bags - where mail could be deposited for transmission to various deposits for transmission to the East and that his various handstamps were merely advertising devices. I fail to see what advertising value would have accrued to Kimball on mail going to the Eastern states.

Sincerely yours,

# MERCHANT CALCULATORS, INC.

OAKLAND 8, CALIFORNIA

EDGAR B. JESSUP  
PRESIDENT

February 5, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

At last I am getting around to answering your letter of January 29.

I saw Dr. Pollard the other night and he showed me the Noisy Carrier and asked me what I thought about it. I told him that its being postmarked Sacramento City did not mean too much since I have a pictorial with the caption "If Here Ain't a Letter" with which you are familiar postmarked Michigan Bluffs, California. I also have one used from Vancouver -- of the same type -- and I know of a similar one used from Charlotte, Vermont, to Burlington, Vermont.

Of course, you must well remember that Wiltsee always claimed the "NCRR POST" stood for Noisy Carrier River Route. If you will look on page 161 of Stamps of June 30, 1937, you will see his article. If there is any truth to it you could have a Sacramento used Noisy, but we never heard of an office in Sacramento and we could never find one listed in any of the early directories.

There are two of these river route covers illustrated in the article and I have two -- one used from Oroville in 1858 and one used from San Francisco to Sacramento. I do not think it has ever been solved but you might have some "poor Relation" to that dream of Wiltsee's.

I have not yet been able to pick up a Linn's Weekly but I do want to for an authoritative article on that subject is of genuine interest to me.



MARCHANT CALCULATORS, INC.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

Page Two

February 5, 1953

I am enclosing your photo of the pair of 30¢ '69s and I want to thank you for the use of it.

I am also enclosing what I think is a nice photograph of my Pan and San Fran with the pair of 3¢ stamps. This was originally taken by Henry Meyer, but my photographer touched up the negative and I think it looks very nice, don't you? It is certainly better than emphasizing its disfigurement, although we are not trying to deceive anyone. The postmark, part of the address and the stamps with their killers are all on the same piece.

I do not think there are any more questions in any of your letters which I have neglected to answer.

I did appreciate your letter of January 1 describing that June 12¢ bisect as not quite kosher.

Frank Hollowbush passed through on his way to the Islands and nothing was said in particular. I think I dropped you a note on that at the time, but of little interest to you is the fact that Colson also passed through here on his way to the South Pacific. That fellow is simply amazing. He pulled out of his pocket a little tissue paper, folded three times, in the size of an envelope, and when he opened it up there were six of them. They had beautiful New York 5¢'s mounted as close together as possible and the entire stock would fit in his vest pocket without any bulging. It totalled about \$25,000, not in catalog but in selling price values. I got a beautiful positioned #2 on the Plate which is the only one I needed to fill out the four prominent recuts or reentries. He sold it to me for a great deal less than it sold for at Moedies and it is a superb copy. He told me that in moving from Boston to Proctorsville, Vermont, he was going through his stock as a part of the moving job and he was picking out a lot of material to dispose of. Isn't he a mystery? I know you dislike him, and I see very, very little of him, but I have to spend at least a half hour each time to look over what he has, and there are really many nice things available which would add to anyone's collection. I buy very little from him, and only things with which I am intimately familiar. When I can get a superb block

MARCHANT CALCULATORS, INC.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Page Three  
February 5, 1953

of four with an imprint and plate #3 with a 12¢ '57 in mint OG condition, I think I am getting a nice item, don't you?

This is enough of such gossip for I know it annoys you and I do not know of anything else new at the moment.

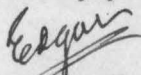
We had a lovely evening at Tracy Simpson's the other night and Al Rowell was there. We do wish we could get him interested again but it seems impossible. We are having a Western Meeting on February 16, but there is not much use telling you about these meetings for you never schedule a trip out this way so you can be present. I have told them all so much about you that they are very eager to meet you and I hope some time it takes a more definite form than our mere dreaming about it.

Your last edition was fine. I read them carefully and thoroughly appreciate them. Then I put them in a binder. I have them all in nice order and somewhat cross-indexed so I can refer to them instantly. I think I will mount each one of the photographs on the page where the copy is -- which would make it much easier.

I guess you know that Henry Meyer photographed a good many of my Pan and San Fran's and other river marks so if you would like copies of any of them let me know and I will be very happy to send them to you.

With my very kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours



Edgar B. Jessup  
President and  
General Manager

EBJ:B

Feb. 9, 1953.

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

Dear Edgar:

Re - yours of the 5th and my Noisy Carrier cover from Sacramento. I am enclosing copy of a letter I have today written Doctor Pollard. I would greatly appreciate your comment on it.

In your letter you referred to a Wiltsee article in STAMPS of June 30, 1937, page 161, but your reference is wrong, as there was no June 30 issue in 1937 or any article by Wiltsee on a page 161. I don't seem to have a record of such an article in my files.

You mention "Pictorials" with the printed imprint, but I do not think that such envelopes were in the same class as the handstamped varieties, which I suggest might have been "N.C. franks."

I have gone all thru my N.C. records and my cover is the only one of which I have any record that was used outside of San Francisco. That is one reason why I think the handstamp was intended for use only at San Francisco, indicating payment of a fee for carriage to the S.F. P.O. or to some "Independent" ship - Nicaragua or Independent Via Panama.

Thanks Ed, for the photo prints. Your photographer did a good job of retouching on the 3¢ '51 "Pan & San." Your cover "Forwarded" from Benicia to Fort Yuma is nice. I, too, wonder if this went by the "Jack Ass Route."

Re - the 12¢ Bisect that was on a piece in the Harmer, Rooke sale last month. I am wondering if you agreed with my analysis that it had been "fixed?" Let me know.

Yes, I agree that the Redhead is quite amazing. He has great knowledge of the stamps of the world - no doubt about that. He also has a good knowledge of 19th Century covers. I never discounted his knowledge or ability. He is, on the other hand, a foul-mouthed gossip, a character assassin, in fact, an effeminate rat. I lived to see Mosler pass out and I hope to live long enough to rejoice that American philately is rid of Colson. I certainly don't blame you for seeing him whenever he passes thru S.F., and if you can get anything worth while from him, at a decent price, more power to you. Even the thought of the fellow runs my blood-pressure up.

I am so glad that you loaned material to Henry Meyer to photograph and study. He is a hard worker, a good philatelic student and one who deserves all the assistance he can obtain.



#2. Mr. Edgar B. Jessup - Feb. 9, 1953.

Any prospect of you coming East this Spring. You haven't paid your Cincinnati Office a visit in an awful long time.

I heard that Gene Costales was going to retire from business. They tell me that Gene has made a lot of money.

I understand Larry Shenfield is on his way to the Coast.

Did you know Henry Abt had a heart attack in December?

Win Boggs will be back at the P.F. most any day.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

March 18, 1953.

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

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for yours of the 27th with the five (5) photo prints which I am returning herewith. My apology for this tardy reply.

I have carefully noted your remarks about Capt. Hindes. If he could see some of the unused o.g. 19th Century that come to my desk he would probably agree with me that it is a bit foolish to put money into much of such material. It is well to bear in mind that the crooks in Paris spend a lifetime in trying to perfect their methods. Just imagine a bunch of amateur "experts" on various Expert Committees attempting to pass on such material. At times these committees make themselves ridiculous.

Re - the Noisy Carrier markings. Edgar is of the same opinion as you that the N.C. markings were for advertising purposes and there seemed little to my theory that they did at times represent a Frank. I must confess that I find it difficult to differ with your joint opinion.

Edgar suggested that a real solution to my cover might be found in an article by Wiltsee that was published in STAMPS issue of Jan. 30, 1937. I am wondering if you have a copy? I had forgotten all about this article and at the time I failed to put a memo regarding it in my files. I have today written Edgar that I agree with him and that the chances are that the Wiltsee article contains the solution to my cover. If you do not have a copy of this issue of STAMPS and cannot obtain a copy please advise me and I will microfilm it for you. It is indeed most interesting.

Your remarks about the Rebecca Gibbons covers brought back a lot of memories. Well do I recall the lengthy correspondence I had with Wiltsee about covers from which stamps had been removed and replaced. If my memory serves me correctly, the old man and I suspected that one James Hardy was the guilty person who was manipulating covers at that time. I think all this happened in the summer of 1939 and Wiltsee wanted me to meet him in New Orleans at the A.P.S. Convention and bring charges against Hardy. I doubt if there ever was a bigger crook in philately. Sometime ask Jessup how he threatened to break a chair over Hardy's head at the 1936 New York Show. Jessup was so incensed at Hardy he could have put him in a hospital.

The Gibbons correspondence was a marvelous "find" and I have a lot of photographs of "Gibbons" covers. I believe that I also have the file of correspondence that I had with Wiltsee but of this I am not real sure.

Re - the Pony cover. Ezra Cole sent this to me and I informed him that in



#2. Dr. W. Scott Pollard - March 18, 1953.

my opinion, the cover was a fake. My recollection is that he made an effort to have the P.F. Expert Committee call in the "genuine certificate" that they issued and cancel it. The part of "Carson City" on the stamp is a painting, in my opinion, and no doubt about it. A high power binocular will show it up.

The photo print of the S.E. cog is most interesting and I have recorded same in my files.

My kindest regards -

Cordially yours,



As regards the N. C. R. R. mailings,  
don't you think that Kimball notified the  
public and the post office officials that  
he was handling mail to and from  
Sacramento by special chartered coach,  
and that he gave this service free, or  
more likely, made a special charge for it.

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

Lette Apr 24 1953

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

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SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

His agent would then collect all the mail, mark it and put it into an open mail sack. In order to be sure that there was no violation of the postal regulations, or because he wanted the envelopes or stamps properly cancelled by a postal official, he took the mail sack to the post office, had the letters cancelled, and then put the mail aboard the special boat. Since he was not primarily in the Express business, he may have purposely avoided cancelling the mail himself. There may have been some advantage to himself in working with the post office officials. After all he was in the printing business. He also may not have wanted it to appear that he was in competition with the Expresses, such as Wells Fargo. Who knows what his problems were.

May 5, 1953.

Mr. Arthur Beckwith,  
Route Two,  
Weslaco, Texas.

Dear Mr. Beckwith:

In the J & H Stolow sale of Sep. 29-30 and Oct. 1, 1949 was  
a cover from Richmond, Va. to France, which had a horizontal strip of  
three of the 5¢ 1856, left stamp showing part of the plate imprint.  
My good friend Henry Hill recently informed me that you now own the  
above strip. If perchance you removed the strip from the cover and you  
still own the cover will you be so kind as to loan it to me. This  
cover had postal markings that I would like to incorporate in my records.

Sincerely yours,



William O. Bilden  
*Philatelic Broker*

26-27

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

200 KASOTA BUILDING  
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.

January 17, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

I have yours of the 12th and note with interest your comments on the items sent to you the 7th.

Re - the two 24¢ 1861's - I have long been puzzled with the classifications on this issue. Les and I have had several discussions on them and I have also discussed these issues with various other persons who have specialized in 19th century U.S. You state in your letter that you do not know how the average collector can identify them. I would carry that statement much farther and say that I believe that very few of the specialists could agree on the shade classifications of some of the border line shades. From my own experiences with these and with talking with others I have gathered that both nos 60 and 70 with its "A" numbers must be on a thin paper and the no. 78 on a thicker paper, the first two being the early printings which were on thin paper? Am I correct in this? For this reason I classified the so called #70c as being this. Although I did not think it was the black violet shade, I did not think it to be #78 because it was on thin paper. Therefore, the nearest category that I could put it into was #70c.

I fully agree with you that the catalogue listing of 60a is wrong. As far as I am concerned the August shade is violet and not lilac. The 60a shade would then be the same as #78. The so called #60 that I sent to you is most probably a changeling from #70, but I believe that it would be impossible to sell as a red violet since there is not reddish hue left at all in it. I would call it a dark violet shade and for that reason I classified it as #60 although I know that most of the copies of this stamp are a lighter and distinctly different shade of violet. Before I sent it to you I showed it to Les and he would not express an opinion, but said send it to Stan because he has numerous reference copies and has studied these for years and can therefore give you a definite answer. One thing that I do know is that I would accept your opinion way over that of the Expert Committee. I do not know who their U.S. experts are, but I have seen enough of their opinions proved wrong to make me seriously doubt their qualifications. Most collectors regard their decisions as of God and anything that they turn down is just like putting the kiss of death on it. I have rambled along enough on this matter and will now devote a few paragraphs to the enclosed items.

William O. Bilden  
*Philatelic Broker*

TELEPHONE  
MAIN 6055

26-27

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

200 KASOTA BUILDING  
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.

page 2

First- I have enclosed a stampless cover with a New Orleans straight line dated 1842. The early straight line of New Orleans was used in the very early 1800's by the U.S. post office dept. and was a smaller type letter. The enclosed cover I assume to be what is listed in the Stampless cover catalogue as the British consular postmark of New Orleans. Is this correct and what do you know about this usage? I have never seen anything on this office and wonder whether it was a regular consular post such as the British used in various places in the world during the 19th century. If so, it seems rather odd to me that our government would permit the operation of a foreign postoffice in our country. I know that the Republic of Texas had agents for the collection of its mail in this country but this could not be construed as a post office. If the British government did have such an office I would think that this would make an interesting article and a subject for interesting research.

Second- 3¢ 1869 cover. Several months ago I purchased a small accumulations of cheap covers and at the time did not give the lot much attention. Recently in going over them I noticed the back of this cover with the senders handstamp dated Jan. 17, the same date that appears on the postmark. But the interesting part is that the year date is 1869. According to the S.S.C. the earliest known date for this stamp is March 27, 1869. From all indications the cover is perfectly genuine in every respect. I even removed the stamp to see if the impression was on the envelope and it matches perfectly. No stamp of the preceding issue could have been on it because of the size along. Also the perforation marks match perfectly. Unfortunately the stamp was not tied, but there are two faint blue ink marks on the left hand side of the impression, but they are of so small a nature that it is of no consequence. Therefore, the only doubt in my mind is that the sender might not have changed the year date, but this would not seem probable to me either because the sender was business firm and I doubt if they would have forgotten to change the year after 17 days had elapsed in the new year. Also this handstamp was no doubt a receiving mark for incoming mail to this firm as was commonly used in this period and therefore it would be important for them to keep their handstamp correct for purposes of their records. What is your opinion on this? Recently a dealer in St. Paul told me that he had seen a cover of a customer of his and on it is a 3¢ 69 dated sometime in February of 1869. I have not seen it so I cannot verify this.

Third- I have also enclosed two covers with the six cent 1869 stamp on each, one with the 9¢ payment with a short paid and the other with the 6¢ rate to Ireland in 1870 used with a local stamp. What is your opinion of them? I have had both of these covers in my own collection for several years and have often meant to send them to you but have forgot about them each time that I have written to you.

William O. Bilden

*Philatelic Broker*

26-27

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

200 KASOTA BUILDING  
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.

Henry Hill was in yesterday and showed me a nice piece that he had just bought. It was an unused block of 8 of #28. He told me that the owner had found it with a group of other large blocks including a block of the 1¢ 1851's all stuck together. Some find eh! Henry has, no doubt, written to you about it or sent it on to you. He is getting a great deal of fun out of studying these stamps and I hope that he keeps it up and something comes out of it.

I talked to Charlie Shierson over the phone the other day and he told me that he and Harold and their wives are going to Florida for a few weeks. I am giving a talk on rates to our local study club the latter part of this month. I am going to mainly dwell on the local rates from 1845 to the end of the century and also some of the more common rates to foreign countries. If I got into the more intricate foreign rates it would probably bore and confuse most of them and a better excuse yet is that I do not know them myself well enough to talk intelligently on them.

I have enclosed my check for \$15 to cover the charge for the first group of covers sent to you and also the enclosed. If this will not cover it let me know and I will gladly send any additional amount. I received the #26 on patriotic cover. When the mailman delivered it to me he said "Another new stamp? Never saw that one before". Thanks, Stan. I will put it in my collection of patriotics.

Best personal regards,

*Bill*



Jan. 26, 1953.

Mr. Wm. O. Bilden,  
200 Kasota Bldg.,  
Minneapolis, 1, Minn.

Dear Bill:

Please pardon my negligence in acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 16th with enclosures and check, for the latter my sincere thanks. I have been turning out a big job that was most urgent and was forced to neglect everything else. I will get at your material in the next few days and write you.

Yes, Henry wrote me about his new 5¢ 1847 block. I have known of this item for some years but I thought the price the owner asked was too high. I hope Henry obtained a reduction.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 29, 1953.

Mr. Wm. O. Bilden,  
200 Kasota Bldg.,  
Minneapolis 1, Minn.

Dear Bill:

Further replying to yours of the 17th, again I apologize for the delay. A bad cold and an urgent bit of work got me way behind.

Regarding the 24¢ 1861 colors. I suppose that there are several reasons why the great majority of collectors and dealers fail to agree on the proper classifications. Perhaps reason No. 1 is because so many copies of the 24¢ are changelings of color. The second reason is that very few have made much of a study of covers, that is, identifying the colors with dates of use. I will be specific. Consider #60A. This has no right whatsoever to be listed under #60. In all my experience and study of the 24¢ 1861, I never saw a cover with 60A that was used in the Fall of 1861. The truth is, I have no record of a cover with No. 60A. Off cover copies that I have classified as 60A were on an extremely thin paper - not just thin, but extremely thin. In the A.P. - Issue of July 1946, I published an article on the 24¢ 1861 - Steel Blue - color changelings, etc. If you do not have a copy I will loan it to you. In addition, if you would care to see my reference copies, I will be glad to loan them to you. What I classify as 60A is on very thin paper and the color is distinctive and different from what I classify as the common 78A. To be more specific, the common 78A is frequently offered as the 60A. I suppose it is profitable to do so as one lists @ \$62.50 and the other @ \$6.50. I imagine it would be rather dangerous to accept a certificate as valid from the Philatelic Foundation authenticating the \$62.50 stamp. There are many things in this game that one cannot learn in books, but only thru long years of experience.

Re - the Expert Committee of the P.F. I know exactly how they work at the present time and while I am sure that they are honest and trying to do a good job, the fact is, that they are not informed and hence are bound to make many errors. Material sent into them is shown to several or more New York dealers but in many cases I think a snap verdict is given, then the Committee attempts to judge whether differing opinions given them are correct or wrong. As a result they are liable to be wrong or right - just a matter of tossing a coin. I am doing all I can to persuade them to call in the best informed dealers in New York and have them serve as regular members of the Committee. I am unalterably opposed to the British system of varying dealers from any important philatelic activity. As far as honesty and decency is concerned, there is a higher percent of these qualities among the so-called "professionals" than among the class known as "amateurs." In my opinion, it would be far better to have several or more dealers on an Expert Committee who know something, than a bunch of "collectors" who know darn little about stamps.

Regarding the covers you enclosed and which I return herewith, the following are some comments -



#2. Mr. Wm. O. Bilden - Jan. 29, 1953.

New Orleans cover with S.L. "Mar 8" - I have no information regarding this whatsoever. In my opinion, it is a private marking, not a U. S. postal. I suppose someone has some data indicating this was applied at the British Consulate in New Orleans. I note that the Stampless Catalogue lists such a S.L. and also one of "Mar 8" which I assume was taken from this cover. My explanation of this cover would be that it was never placed in the U. S. mail, but was put aboard a private ship bound for England. If this was done by the office of the British Consul in New Orleans, I think such action was perfectly okay and within the law. I assume the letter went by a sailing vessel as the elapsed time of 45 days indicates such transit. (Mar 8 - Apr 22). It appears that the packet charge into Britain from New Orleans was a shilling but when Britain delivered the letter to the French at Havre, she charged France 1/4 or a shilling 4 pence. The French due seems to be 21 decimes or about 40¢ U.S. I may be a bit wrong(?) but I suppose these figures are approximately correct. Perhaps my good friend down in New Orleans, L. V. Huber, could give you some facts on the S.L. marking. Do you know him? He is quite a postal student and an awfully nice chap. He knows New Orleans postal history.

3¢ 1869 cover dated on back Jan. 17, 1869. I feel absolutely sure that this use was 1870 rather than 1869, as no evidence that I know of is in existence to indicate that any of the 1869 stamps were delivered by the National Bank Note Co. before March 1869. To me a use in January or February would be impossible.

The S.U.S. does give Mar. 27, 1869, but I don't know where they obtained that date. When Hugh Clark was editor of the S.U.S. I wrote him and inquired where he got the date, as the earliest use of any 1869 stamp in my record was a 3¢ used on Mar. 30, 1869. Hugh replied that he was unable to locate their record. The March 27, 1869 date for the 3¢ first appeared in the S.U.S. 1937 Edition. Prior to that the date had been Mar. 30, 1869, which was from my records. I have a record of a use of a 2¢ on March 15, 1869, but in my opinion, the cover is not genuine. The "U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant, issues of December 1868 or January 1869, makes no mention of any new stamps being issued.

I haven't the slightest doubt that this 3¢ stamp was actually used on this envelope. I would like to see the cover with a supposed use in February.

6¢ 1869 to Ireland Jan. 29. I don't know a thing about Locals - wouldn't know a genuine "Hussey" if I saw one - entirely out of my line, but it does seem queer that a stamp of this character that the S.U.S. lists as issued in 1856, would be used in such a manner in January 1870. My guess is that this is a philatelic cover. With plenty of mail-boxes by 1870, why would anyone have actual use for such a combination as this. Elliott Perry is perhaps as good on Locals as anyone else - Why not inquire of him if he thinks the Hussey stamp is genuine?

3¢ '61 - plus 6¢ 1869 - This really is something and it sure don't make sense in its present shape. Bill, here is the story - This use was not in 1869, but in Sept. 1862. Of course, the 6¢ stamp did not originate. This letter was fully paid, hence the "SHORTPAID" marking is a fake. A hand-painted job. Note the long time between New Orleans Sep. 9 and New York Sep 24 - The reason is because this had to go by sea from N.O. to N.Y. - While New Orleans was in Federal hands in Sept. 1862, communication by land - thru the Confederacy was cut off. How damn silly for an 1869 use. The chances are that this cover had this 3¢ stamp and in addition, a 12¢ alongside. The original rate was 15¢ and the letter went



#3. Mr. Wm. O. Bilden - Jan. 29, 1953.

from New York by A British Mail (Cunard) Ship. I suppose some would consider the "SHORT PAID" a rather clever paint job, but it is lousy in my estimation. The whole job looks exactly like some of Zareski's work. His blue target on the 6¢ is a darn poor match for the INDIGO of the New Orleans postmark. I have several ways to prove that the use of this cover was New Orleans Sep 9 1862. Don't you really think Zareski did a bungling job in changing the 1869 to 1862? I would like to buy this cover for my fake cover collection. Will you sell it to me? Looks to me like some French expert authenticated this cover as per memo on the back. Do you know the meaning of this memo? I wish that you would show this piece of work to Henry Hill and to Les Brookman.

I understand that the Starks and the Shiersons left for Florida last Thursday.

Again may I thank you very kindly for the check.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

CONSULADO  
DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA  
BRUSELAS

Brussels, I9-I-53  
4.avenue d'Hougoumont, Uccle .-

Private  
AIR MAIL

My dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thank you ever so much for your very kind letter of January the 4th and excuse me once more in being so late in answering your letter of October 26th.

PART OF COVER a photograph would not give enough details, therefore , I have pleasure in sending you the fragment itself; this remains for me a real puzzle and I will be very glad to obtain your opinion. I mentioned in one of my last letters, that the stamps were tied with star cancellations my expression was wrong, these cancellations were really the "San Francisco cogwheels , what we call "étoiles".-

2 Covers to France with a 5 cent buff and 10 cent green :  
the latter being tied 100. The dates of use from San Francisco are may 1th 1862 and may 13th 1861 .

Cover to Germany with 5 cent red brown 10 cent green and 1 cent blue

The stamps are cancelled with 3 black stars , not tied, but they are cancelled and tied with a blue stamp, mentioning AMERICA UBER BREMEN , FRANCO

The cover is stamped with the New York post mark, mentioning N.York 12 BREM packet. In the middle of the stamp is mentioned Jan 17 and under this mention in the lower part of the middle of the stamp in the word PAID .

This N. YORK stamp is in red.

The photographs of the two blocks (covers) 5 cent red brown 1857 are going to follow as soon as possible.

I understand that you are helping Mr. Hill in reconstructing the plate N°12 of the 5 cent 1856.

I own one nice imprint, can I be of use in lending you this stamp.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Cordially yours.

Consul Klep.-

P.S. Many thanks for your information concerning the cover 1847 , 5 cent. I am so glad to receive your useful opinion. Has the 3 c. blue (ultramarine) 1869 ever been issued "imperforate"



Jan. 29, 1953.

Mr. N. Klep van Velthoven,  
4 Avenue d'Hougoumont,  
Brussels, Belgium - Europe.

Dear Mr. Klep:

I have your air mail letter of the 19th enclosing the piece with the 5¢ Buff plus the 24¢ 1861, both with the San Francisco "cog" cancel. Just to be sure, this was the only item contained in your letter. Will you please advise if this is correct. Herewith I am returning the above item.

Inasmuch as these two stamps were not used originally on this piece of a Mobile cover, my advice is to remove them. Mobile, Ala. never used a marking such as this. If you will examine the bottom of the 5¢ Buff you will find that there is still a trace of a red circular marking.

I note that you have two covers to France with the 5¢ Buff plus 10¢ Green, but you listed one of the uses as - From San Francisco "May 13, 1861." I assume that the 1861 is a typographical error as the stamps were not issued that early. The date is probably May 13, 1862. Is that correct?

Re - your cover from New York with 5¢ Red Brown - 10¢ Green and 1¢ Blue. If this cover is genuine, then it is a rather unusual item, because it would represent the 15¢ rate by Bremen steamer plus a 1¢ Carrier Fee to the New York Post Office. You did not mention the date of use, but it would have to be prior to July 1, 1863. If you care to give me further details, same will be welcome.

Yes, I am co-operating with my good friend Mr. Henry Hill of Minneapolis, Minn. in his study of the 5¢ 1856 Plate No. 1. Mr. Hill is a very fine gentleman and quite an enthusiastic philatelist. He is most reliable in every way and should you loan any material to him for study I can assure you that your interests will be protected in every way. He pays a visit to Paris every Spring and on his next trip I advised him to run over to Brussels and pay you a visit.

I note that you have a copy of the 5¢ 1856 with imprint. May I trouble you to give me a description of same - whether right or left pane and the wording. I will advise Mr. Hill that you have such a copy. For some unknown reason, imprints from this plate are extremely rare, but we have turned up several new copies in recent months.

Re - the 3¢ 1869 - You inquired if this stamp was ever issued imperforate. The answer is a positive NO.

I sincerely trust that you have fully recovered and that you are enjoying the best of health.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



HOTEL



# Commodore

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

Birmingham, Alabama.  
Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1953.

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

Dear Stan,

Your letter of yesterday came at noon today and I hasten to answer it. It is always a great pleasure to me to have you ask me to do something for you and then be able to do it. Herewith is the cover. Lots of luck! You know I also have a 24¢ plus 10¢ 1869 which went to Lima also. Wouldn't it be of aid?

Thanks for the photo of the 90¢ 1860 which I return herewith. I have still another 90¢ I have had quite a while hoping someday to have you find time to photograph it and give it a thorough test. It's not a Boston Paid but looks good to me. But then that one I sent you looked good or I wouldn't have laid out \$50 on a chance. I still haven't given up turning up a good one that you will like.

I was in New Orleans yesterday and went over to Weill's. Met a Colonel Aisenstadt from Kansas City, whom you may know. He was the one who bought the first four of the imperforate sheets of the Green Sales and offered the Chase Bank \$2000 each for the entire 30 odd sheets. They turned that offer down altho Walter Scott advised the trust department to take it. He paid from \$1400 to \$1900 for the 4 sheets and sold them lately for \$3000 each. Not bad to have happen while serving in Korea, is it? Sold them to dealers also who sold them at around \$3500.00. Fifield was one, I think. The Colonel is liquidating his holdings, he says. Must be quite extensive, 1869 inverts etc. He offered me two things I was not interested in at all. A block of 15 of the 10¢ 1869 mint and a block of similar size of the 15¢ 1867 Lincoln mint. I mention these to show he has some finer things. He bought at the time Souren did and paid good prices then but they are LOW today. So he says he can sell to dealers and low enough so they can sell to collectors today and still make a profit. Maybe you want to get in touch with him. I doubt it though.

Sincerely,

Enclosed

Cover with 10¢ and 30¢ 1869 to France  
Valued at \$295.00 Cost.

Jan. 29, 1953.

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

Dear Em:

The following is a quote from a letter from Molesworth, dated Jan. 21st. I thought it might interest you, quote:

"From my personal conversatinn with Mr. Rust the rumor that he offered Ward a million and a quarter for his collection is without foundation. There was a time when he indicated a very serious interest in purchasing the entire lot, but logically no price was ever discussed as the material was never examined. However, Ward is no longer in Rust's favor by virtue of the latter's dissatisfaction with certain of Ward's business methods and I seriously doubt that there will be much business done between them in the future."

A later letter from Molesworth indicated that he bought the 7R1E for his own account and that he has it for sale but he did not mention his price.

Thanks Em, for sending me the 30¢ plus 10¢ cover. My former exposures were thin and poor as you will note from my Feb. 1st Service. As this is a most unusual and rare cover, I wanted a good photo to send down to the P.F. I have prints of the P.F. certificate and also of the back. My February Service should add a lot of dollar value to this cover. No doubt the Weills would like to re-purchase it at your cost.

Yes, I have a photo of your other 24¢ plus 10¢ to Lima but it was a use prior to 1870 - not much help.

Thanks for the dope on Colonel Aisenstadt. Of course, I have heard of him in the past but never had any contacts. I doubt if I could be of any service to him. I don't know what New York dealer was his special choice.

Herewith I am returning the 30¢-10¢ cover.

With best wishes -

Yours etc.,

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

January 27, 1953

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


Dear Stan,

In my last letter I forgot to ask if you would care to explain the basis for your comment that you thought someone attempted to remove some of the "run" from the #7RLE and in doing so removed much of the Boston cancel. I am wondering whether this conclusion is drawn merely from the present appearance of the stamp or from the fact that you may have seen a former photo in which the Boston cancel was clearer. Your comments on this will be greatly appreciated. From my experience, it seems that any attempt to do this would have significantly dulled the rich bright color that the stamp now has.

I am enclosing a cover with a #58 and #76 tied on which Jack Fleckenstein suggested I submit to you. He questioned it by virtue of the black manuscript French Due marking and indicated that all covers used at France prior to 1857 had this mark but after that date only stampless covers were used. Apparently he showed it to Stark who felt that the cover might have originally been a stampless. Your examining and signing it if genuine would be greatly appreciated. Advise your fee and I shall remit promptly as usual.

The unused 1¢ combination pair is still available though currently out on approval. I shall let you know when and if it is sold and would appreciate your letting me know if you feel you might be able to move it at a net price of \$500 to you; I am asking \$625 as previously indicated but would probably reduce this to \$550 if I meet further resistance on price.

With kind regards,



Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm



Jan. 29, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 27th. This is the one with a 10¢ 1861 - Type I plus a 5¢ 1863 Brown, showing a use from New York, Oct. 25, 1863.

Everything about this cover seems cockeyed as I will explain - First, the French due of 13 decimes don't make sense for a use in 1863. Second, no British Packet sailed from New York on Oct. 25, 1863, in fact, Oct. 25 fell on Sunday in 1863. I never saw a New Orleans postmark that resembled this one. In fact, in 1863, New Orleans used a double circle type, according to all the evidence in my files. A Type I 10¢ '61 stamp used with a 5¢ Brown is quite an odd combination, yet the target seems to have been used as we see it on the two stamps.

While I am unable to prove it, I believe that this was a use in 1853 and the faker changed the "53" in three postmarks to read "63" but the ultra-violet shows no evidence that this was done. Oct. 25 in 1853 fell on Tuesday and it is my guess that this was mailed in New York on that date and caught the British Cunard sailing from Boston on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1853. I do not believe this cover ever originated at New Orleans. The "Canada" was built in 1848 and continued in service until 1867. The British marking on back is Nov. 7, 1863 but the "6" could have been a "5" originally. New York Oct 25 to Nov. 7 was 13 days, or from Boston on the 26th to Nov. 7 was 12 days. In 1853 the record for a crossing west to east was 9 days 20 hours. By 1863 this had been cut to 8 days 3 hours. Twelve days was surely very slow time for 1863. The red French postmark on face would be quite correct for 1853 but I doubt if this type was used in 1863.

The 10¢ appears to have a small thin spot over the left eye. Perhaps that is why it was decided to put it on this cover. What is left of the date line inside could have been New York Oct ?? 1853. The New Orleans postmark is not like any that I have ever seen. This brings up the question - If this use was 1853, how was the 5¢ U. S. Inland PAID? I suppose by a 3¢ 1851 and a pair of 1¢. A due of 13 decimes at Paris in 1853 meant that a 5¢ Inland was paid in the U.S. I believe that I have seen stampless covers from New York to France at this period which failed to show what payment had been made.

I will send a copy of this letter to Jack Fleckenstein.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Jan. 30, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Referring to the fake 10¢ 1861 Type I cover. In my letter of yesterday, the 29th, last paragraph, I brought up the question that if the cover was originally a stampless of 1853, how was the U. S. 5¢ "Inland" rate paid? I suggested by stamps - a 3¢ '51 plus a pair of 1¢. I also stated, "I believe that I have seen stampless covers from New York to France at this period which failed to show what payment had been made."

After I mailed your letter, I made an extensive search among a lot of stampless covers and luckily found an item I was trying to find. This is a stampless from New York, to Nantes, France on Nov. 3, 1852. It has the same type of New York postmark on face and the same type of French postmark with "Paris" at the bottom. The French due is "26" decimes, (2 x 13), showing that this particular letter weighed over 1/4 ounce but not over 1/2, thus the U. S. Inland that was paid at New York was 5¢. However, there is no New York marking indicating that 5¢ was paid. No "5" or no "Paid" and this in spite of the fact that the U.S.-British Postal Treaty and U. S. Regulations required such evidence. I have never seen a stampless cover from New Orleans of that early 1850 period which failed to show markings indicating payment of the Treaty "Inland" rate.

Later, I will send you photo prints of the N.Y. stampless cover.

Regards.

Yours etc.,



Feb. 9, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

In my letter dated Jan. 30th last, I described a cover I had located which did not show actual payment of the U. S. "Inland rate" of 5¢. Your fake cover of 1863 was originally a cover like the one I described. I am now enclosing a photo print of my cover.

Sincerely yours,



ESTABLISHED 1866

TELEPHONE ATLANTIC 6191  
TELETYPE MP-347

DIRECTORS:  
A. J. HILL - B. J. CASE  
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# JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & Co.

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



I-2I-53

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
P.O.Box 3I  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan;

The enclosed pair of 5c 56s are the property of J.D. Baker, of Indianapolis, Ind. In his letter he thinks there are 3 guide dots in the lower left hand bottom of the pair. I think he is wrong though there may be one. This came from Dan Kelliher's Sale of May 1950. Do you think it of any use to us. If so take a photo.

I understand Bill Bilden told you of the mint block I purchased of the 5c 57 type I red brown and no gum from Fiero of Ardmore Pa. This is the piece written up in a Collectors Club Philatelist of some years ago. It is a lovely piece and now you know in whose collection it now resides in.

Very Sincerely

ESTABLISHED 1866

TELEPHONE ATLANTIC 6191

TELETYPE MP-347



# JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & CO.

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

DIRECTORS:

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TRADE MARK

I-16-53

Dear Stan;

Here is cover which I have just received from Pasquet, of Paris and it is my judgement a bad one and I would like your opinion about it. It is cheap enough at 40.00 and I can sell it for the stamp, but I want to know if I am getting good enough to detect phonies. Emil Brun warned me about this fellow hence I am suspicious. In an earlier lot I did detect three splendid repair jobs which at black light or benzine I found some tinkering done and only showed under one or the other.

By the way I warned Beckwith not mentioning your name only based on my judgement about the pair and he was glad I told him and said he bought it as is from Pat Herst. To be expected.

Thanks

*Henry*

Jan. 29, 1953.

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

Dear Henry:

I sincerely apologize for my tardiness in acknowledging receipt of your two letters of the 16th and 21st. I will try and be more prompt in the future.

I am returning the cover and the pair - 5¢ 1856. I made photographs of each and I will send prints later.

Re - the cover. I fail to note anything wrong. This is one of those "Inland" rates to France Via Britain about which I have had much comment in recent "Service " Issues and more in the current issue of Nov. 1st. The 5¢ stamp is a bit close at left but otherwise it seems to be okay. Use a good glass and note the "blurrs" in "CENTS." I wonder if these are a consistent plate variety? There is a guide dot in S.E. margin and the top margin seems to be a bit wide.

Re - the pair. This is apparently sound and very nice. There is only one guide dot at S.W. - there are two black dots, a part of the postmark. The one to right of the two is brown.

Yes, Bilden mentioned that you had purchased the Fiero block. I have known of this since about 1945 and I must have mentioned it to you as Fiero loaned it to me and I made a photograph of it some years ago. I have a faint recollection that he wanted \$1200 for it and I offered it to Paul Rohloff but Paul thought his price was too high. As near as I can recall, the block was sound. It is a nice and scarce item and I never could figure how it was that Ward didn't buy it.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,



ESTABLISHED 1866

TELEPHONE ATLANTIC 6191

TELETYPE MP-347



# JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & Co.

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

January 29, 1953

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



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

Dear Stan:

In Bookmans Books Volume 1, page 128, photo 197 is a cover with a strip of 3-5¢ 56 and a single 5¢ 56, a photo of which you sent me some months ago.

I think this is the cover that is now offered to me at a ridiculous price of \$1750.00.

Do you know its present owner, what value do you place on it, and is it a piece that should be in my collection?

Yours truly,

*Henry*

H W HILL :N

Jan. 30, 1953.

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

Dear Henry:

Re - yours of the 29th. The cover was Lot 539 in the Brown sale in 1939 and it went to Ned Knapp @ \$530.00. I was sitting alongside of him at the sale when he bought it. I also saw it sell in the Knapp sale in May 1941 to Dan Kelleher @ \$500.00.

While this is a scarce rate to France, I think a price of \$1,750.00 is positively absurd. In my opinion \$750.00 would be tops.

I have no record (apparently) of what became of it after the Knapp sale but Dan would tell me if I inquired. It would be a darn poor investment above \$750, in my opinion.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

(26-32)

Feb. 1, 1953.

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

Dear Henry:

Further re - the "Brown cover" - 20¢ rate, etc. See my One Cent book, Vol. 2 - page 338, first paragraph. You will note the N.Y. postmark reads, "A. Pk." and the French p.m. has "HAVRE" at the bottom. The French "due" is 6 decimes - or about 10¢. Fig. 56V on page 337 shows one of these 20¢ rates with a French due of 12 decimes, about 20¢. Looks like French domestic rates were high, because the latter was under 1/2 ounce, but over 1/4 ounce. As mentioned, covers showing the 20¢ rate are scarce as most mail went by British Packets where only the U. S. 5¢ "Inland" rate was required.

With regards -

Cordially yours,



From the desk of

**MR. VAN DYK MAC BRIDE**

---

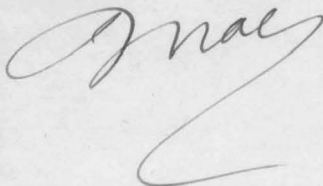
To S.B.Ashbrook

---

Here's Larry's letter of January 27th and the carbon copy of your reply. Yes, he had sent me a copy and I was interested to see your answer.

There was so much speculation in just what that "2" indicated on the Roberts' cover, that I doubt we will ever get the right answer. I think you and Larry have explored the possibilities about as thoroughly as is possible, and either of you might be right and both of you probably are in some particulars. I don't feel that I can add anything helpful to this particular matter.

Regards!



2/3/53

*Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield, Inc.*

ADVERTISING

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

January twenty-seventh  
1953

Dear Stan:

This will acknowledge copies of all your notes to Mac, Stan, which I have followed with interest.

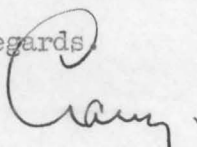
I think you will be interested in the following in connection with your analysis of the Flag of Truce Richmond-Charleston Confed cover:

I have a 2¢ Red on sealed drop letter postmarked Charleston, South Carolina, Nov. 26, 1863 and addressed to Major Joseph Abney, 27th Regt. S.C.V., James Island, So. Caro. This cover proves of course that the islands off Charleston were considered part of the Charleston Post Office area and a drop letter even though addressed to James Island, was the 2¢ rate for drop. I don't believe, however, that such a drop letter was delivered to James Island but was merely left in the Charleston Post Office to be called for as usual.

Perhaps the soldiers on these islands sent for this mail and it was carried by small ship to the various islands. My point is that I again bring up the fact that I am quite sure C.S.A. Postal Regulations required that when an amount was due on an advertised letter the handstamp had to read ADV. ---. Every example I have seen of an unmistakable advertised letter carried a handstamp containing the above. It is quite possible that this cover originated as you describe, that it was held in the Charleston Post Office, received by some person who knew where the addressee was -- this person changed the address for forwarding and the letter was at first stamped with a big "2" for Due 2 for drop, but that the person finally supplied a stamp and the Due 2 was cancelled out.

In this way it could have been handled just like a forwarded letter which was often taken out of the post office by some member of the family who knew where to forward it and then re-deposited with the new address for forwarding with a stamp on it. I still believe that this big 2 was not used for advertised.

With best regards,



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

TELEPHONE: BRyant 9-0445

Jan. 30, 1953.

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

Dear Larry:

I have carefully noted yours of the 27th regarding the big "2" on the Reynolds cover, and I admit that the theory you suggest may be correct, but I am not convinced that the "2" <sup>did not</sup> represented an advertised fee. I believe that if I could discuss the subject with you in person that I could convince you that your theory is in error.

As we are both well aware, the C.S.A. Postal Regulations were copied almost word for word from the U.S. P.L. & R. of 1859. Chapter XIII in that edition is before me and I have just finished reading it. Nothing is mentioned in the Regulations that the fee shall be marked on the letter as "Adv" or "Advertised," but, of course, nearly all post offices specified what the fee was for and added it to the postage that was due. The nearest that comes to a direct instruction is "Sec. 184," which reads as follows:

"The cost of advertising must be marked upon each letter advertised, and be collected with the postage."

Bear these facts in mind - The Richmond postmark on the Reynolds cover is "Sep 5." The Charleston postmark on the 2¢ is "Sep 24." Now it surely did not take but a few days for the letter to reach Charleston - let us suppose it reached there on the 7th or 8th. No one called for it - It had no street address, so ~~it~~ is not perfectly logical to assume that after a week or ten days time it was "advertised" and immediately this was done, the large "2" was stamped on the letter as a "postage" that was due. You base your whole objection to the fact there is no handstamped "2" or a manuscript "adv" or "advertised." But suppose some 25 or 50 or 100 letters were all advertised at the same time, would a clerk have taken time to handstamp them all "ADV" - why go to that trouble - The Reynolds letter with the big "2" showed that the letter could not be delivered unless a fee of 2¢ was paid. You suggest that someone called for the letter, but Larry I believe that I can point out why this theory is at fault. Suppose, for example, the letter was not advertised, then if someone called for it at the Charleston P.O., then why was any extra fee charged?

You state that you doubt it was sent over to Fort Johnson, but I feel sure that it was and that is the reason the 2¢ stamp is on the letter. If it was not sent to Fort Johnson, but remained at the Charleston Post Office, then why the 2¢ stamp and why the large "2"? It seems to me that you have attempted to construct a theory that is not in accord with the evidence on the cover. How much more logical is the following analysis -

The letter was received at the Charleston P.O. on the 6th or 7th of September 1864. No one called for it, so in due course - say a week or ten days or even two weeks - it was advertised and then marked with the large "2" representing the advertised fee. Reynolds saw the advertised letter - sent 2¢ in stamps to pay the fee - also a 2¢ stamp to forward the letter - He gave the



#2. Mr. L. L. Shenfield - Jan. 30, 1953.

forwarding address as "Fort Johnson, care of Col. Yates," whereupon the letter was sent over to Fort Johnson % of Col. Yates. Surely the 2¢ stamp paid for that service.

I don't know whether you sent a copy of your letter to Mac, but just to keep the record straight, I am sending your letter to Mac together with a copy of this letter.

I feel reasonably sure that you both will agree that my analysis is logical and doubtless correct.

My best regards.

Cordially yours,

Copy to  
MacBride.

Jan. 30, 1953.

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My best regards.

Cordially yours,

Copy to  
MacBride.



*Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield, Inc.*

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February 3, 1953

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your nice long one of January 30th going into the cover we have corresponded about.

I am leaving for the Coast tomorrow and am up to my ears but I will take it up again on my return about March 5th.

Sincerely,

*Cary*

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

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

February 11, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I read your article in the Confederate Issue of "Weekly Philatelic Gossip" with fascinated interest.

That folded letter is even more remarkable than you think - it was sent to a Confederate officer via flag of truce, being mistaken for civilian correspondence.

Last night I looked up the name in the "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies!"

Volume 35, Part 1, of Series 1, on index page 4706 refers to James C. Reynolds on page 167. On page 167 there appears part of a report of Brig. Gen. Wm. B. Taliaferro to Major Stringfellow, Assistant Adjutant General, written from James Island on July 23, 1864, describing one of a series of attacks on Fort Johnson which took place about the time the letter arrived in Charleston.

"On the morning of the 3rd (July 1864) at daylight, two columns of barges were observed rapidly approaching the Shell Point Beach, upon which the several batteries known as Simkins are situated, and which is immediately connected with the important post and harbor defense of Fort Johnson. One column landed its men near the end of the point, and the other and larger between Battery Simkins and Fort Johnson, which post was, simultaneously with Shell Point, furiously assaulted. The gallant garrison, under the command of Lt. Col. Yates, received them with heroic determination, and the efficient and rapid discharge of heavy and light guns, and the withering fire of our musketry, soon staggered and drove them back, when, with a rapid charge upon the enemy, headed by Lieutenants Waties and Reynolds, First South Carolina Artillery, 140 prisoners, including 5 commissioned officers, were taken before they could make good their escape. ---- "

Inasmuch as Fort Johnson was under frequent attack, I rather imagine that the prisoners who were captured by Lt. Reynolds were not kept at Fort Johnson but were sent to the mainland. Other attacks followed quickly after this one.

I have sometimes wondered whether mail managed to get through to military personnel, and this apparently answers the question of how it was done. The fact that the letter is inscribed "Care Col. Yates" clinches the identification.

I have always maintained that studies as interesting as this one cannot be found anywhere except in Confederate philately.

Yours for more such articles,

Sincerely,

*Thomas Parks*  
Thomas Parks



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

February 17, 1953.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your note of the 13th.

I think readers of WPG would appreciate a few paragraphs supplementing your most interesting article, pointing out that this particular letter illustrates one of the no doubt several ingenious methods by which friends and relatives in the North managed to communicate with members of the Confederacy's armed forces. From the announcement of the permissibility of civilian mail to civilians it appears that letting the letters go ~~through~~ was discretionary with the censor and even if his orders did not bar mail to Confederate troops, his attitude no doubt would have, if he had known.

Yes, by "Official Records" I meant the "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies" published by the War Department. I do not own a set but the New York Public Library is two blocks from my office and I run in there now and then to check up on points of interest.

Probably the Cincinnati public library has a set. I do not know how far it is from Fort Thomas. When I was stationed in Cincinnati during the last war I got over there once. Fort Thomas is a lovely spot, as I remember it.

Hoping you will run some more articles from your probably inexhaustible fund of information, I am

Sincerely,

Thomas Parks



*President*  
**JOSEPH A. HERBERT, JR.**  
515 E. Capitol Street  
Washington 3, D. C.

*First Vice President*  
**JERE HESS BARR**  
11 Howard Street  
West Lawn, Pa.

*Congress Editor*  
**MAJOR JAMES T. DEVOSS**  
Route 6, Box 449-A  
Alexandria, Va.

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426 W. Main St.  
Kutztown, Pa.

January 16, 1953.

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

Dear Stan :

Sometime ago I acquired some 90 cent U. S. stamps on cover and on large pieces. I notice Phil Ward writing in Mekeel's this week mentions that his copy of the 90 cent Bank Note Issues, ex Emerson-West, "is the only copy of the 90 c stamp on cover known to Ashbrook."

My three covers are as follows :

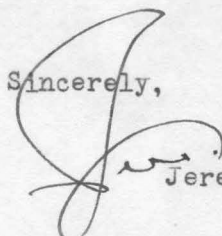
- No.4847: Boston to India, Bissell correspondence, 10c 1861, 12c 1867 grilled and 90c 1861; red BOSTON MAY 19 68; large crayon "4" x 28c rate = \$1.12. Black corck cancellation in quarters. Backstamped AHMUDNUGGER 4 JY 68.
- No.4813: Large piece of linen paper, New York to Germany, NEW YORK, N.Y./8-2/1887/REG'Y DIV., black; stamps cancelled double oval NEW YORK/REG in center, black. Pair 90c carmine 191a; 30c black No.190; 10c brown No.209; 15c red orange No.189. The two 90c and the 30c and 10c are arranged in a square, with the 15c to the right center. Piece marked Registered.
- No.4845: Large piece of linen paper, New York-Germany, NEW YORK, N.Y./- 13/1889/REG'Y DIV., black double oval; stamps cancelled double oval black NEW YORK/REG in center. Pair 30 c orange brown No.217; pair 10 c brown No.209 and 90 c purple No.218. Stamps are arrange with pair of 30's at top and pair of 10's st bottom, with 90 c to the middle right. Also marked Registered.

I had understood that there are fairly large cancelled blacks of the 90c banknote issues known, not on cover, however.

As you know Major James DeVoss is now editor of the Congress, but I am sure that he would welcome an article from you for the 19th Book next fall. Your article on the 90 cent stamps was wonderfully received.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



Jere. Hess Barr.

Jan. 22, 1953.

Mr. Jere Hess Barr,  
11 Howard St.,  
West Lawn, Pa.

Dear Mr. Barr:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 16th.

I read Phil Ward's remarks in Mekeel's and noted that he had some of his statements a bit mixed up. Phil does a lot of his writing from memory without referring to facts in the case and in many instances he gets a bit confused.

He evidently had in mind some data that I published in my January 1st (last) "Service Issue." This goes to a small circle of friends who are especially interested in the advanced study of 19th U.S.

If you will glance over my remarks in reference to 90¢ Bank Note covers, I believe you will note what Phil had in mind. By "Bank Note covers" I referred to the Bank Note Issues of the seventies and eighties.

Ward owns the Continental (1873) 90¢ cover. It is the only Continental 90¢ on cover of record in my files. I did not mention all the 90¢ purple covers of which I have a record but I might add, that even this 90¢ is much scarcer on cover than is generally supposed.

I do hate to bother you but I would like to borrow your three covers and make a photo record of them for my files. I will be pleased to reimburse you for the forwarding expense, and I will return them most promptly. I can assure you that I would handle them very carefully.

Yes, I believe I have a record of some large blocks in the 90¢ and while they are of course awfully nice, I love covers, because here we have the stamp doing the duty for which it was intended.

Yes, I noticed that the Congress had a new Editor. May I thank you for your kind remarks on the 90¢ article that I contributed year before last. Since that time no new 90¢ 1860 cover has come to my attention.

With every good wish -

believe me,

Sincerely yours,

*President*  
**JOSEPH A. HERBERT, JR.**  
515 E. Capitol Street  
Washington 3, D. C.

*First Vice President*  
**JERE. HESS BARR**  
11 Howard Street  
West Lawn, Pa.

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1621 N. Taylor St.  
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**JAMES B. SHANER, SR.**  
426 W. Main St.  
Kutztown, Pa.

January 26, 1953.

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

Dear Stan :

I have your letter of the 22nd and I am enclsing the following covers by registered mail with 90 cent U. S. stamps :

No. 4847: Nos. 68, 97 & 72. Boston to India. May 19 1868  
4813: 191a, 190, 189, 209 N. Y. to Germany, Registered (piece)  
4823: 191 N. Y. town cancel. (piece)  
4845: 217, 209, 218 New York to Germany, Reg'd (piece)

I certainly don't wish to have you pay the postage but I would like two copies of the photographs and will be glad to pay whatever they cost you if you will let me know.

I would also appreciate if you could tell me what grill is on the 12 cent; I could not determine it and took the cheapest variety.

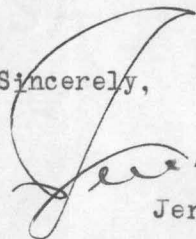
Also the color of the 90 cent carmine or rose carmine.

I am sending you the small piece with the 90 cent; I think it is rather scarce with the town cancellation.

I shall certainly be pleased to have your comments.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



Jere. Hess Barr.

P.S. Please return by registered mail, NOT airmail; covers are insured both going and coming; return receipt requested.

P.SS. Just celebrated my 77th birthday; started collecting in 1886.



Jan. 29, 1953.

Mr. Jere Hess Barr,  
11 Howard St.,  
West Lawn, Pa.

My dear Mr. Barr:

First permit me to congratulate you upon your recent birthday and may you have many, many more. You are indeed most fortunate to have reached that mile-stone and to be so well preserved both in mind and body. In philately since 1886, and no doubt you can attribute some credit for your long span to our beloved avocation. I despise the term HOBBY, but recognize the fact it is adapted to the juvenile stamp collector but hardly to the mature philatelist.

And now my thanks for your kindness in sending me the four 90¢ items which I am returning herewith. I will be more than pleased to send you photo prints later. Regarding the four items, and your queries -

12¢ grill - I am not a student of grills and my opinion as to which one this really is would be valueless. Perhaps competent authority could identify it without removing it from the cover but I am not in that class.

Pair 90¢ 1879 - It is possible this color has faded to some extent. I think it should be classed as a "pale carmine"

90¢ on piete - Too bad there is not more of the original cover. The red New York with "VIA ENGLAND & OSTEND" indicates the original went to Germany which the address seems to confirm. This stamp with a town postmark is most unusual.

It would be most unfair to permit you to pay the forwarding postage.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

January 30, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

I am enclosing two Lynchburg, Virginia Confederate Provisional covers and would appreciate your examining them with an eye to their authenticity. I secured them in a Stolow auction who apparently received them from abroad. I did not quite like the looks of them myself though could put my finger on nothing actually wrong with them so sent them along to Larry Shenfield and the C.S.A. expert committee. Enclosed is a copy of the letter that MacBride wrote Shenfield concerning the covers along with Shenfield's pencilled comments indicating that he disagrees with MacBride and feels they are not genuine. As you can see he suggested that I send them along to you something which I might not otherwise have done since I had in mind that you did not expertize Confederate Provisionals. Anyhow any comments that you care to make will be greatly appreciated.

With best wishes,



Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm



Feb. 1, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two Lynchburg covers as per yours of the 30th. Your "special" did not arrive until this morning (Sunday).

I have very little knowledge regarding Confed Provisionals and make it a rule not to attempt to pass on the validity of any of them. Both of your covers are addressed to "PAMPLINS DEPOT VA.," which reminded me of two Danville, Va. covers with "10" and unlisted. I enclose photographs of both which please return. Please note that both are addressed to "Pamplin's Depot, Va." and one bears the same address as one of yours, viz., "Mrs. Lou V. Woodson." This 10¢ "Danville" has the corner cut out but note the address - "S. S. R. R." - In the lower left corner of your Patriotic cover is "S. S. R.R." This seems rather significant, and suggests the following queries. Where was "Pamplin's Depot" and was there such a R.R. as the "S.S. R.R." during and after the Civil War?

Pamplins Depot, Va. was on a railroad running from City Point to Lynchburg, a distance of 133 miles. The corporate name of the road was the "Petersburg & Lynchburg R.R.," however, it was better known as the "S.S. R.R." or "South Side R.R." Running East from Lynchburg the stations were - Concord 13 miles, Appomattox 24 miles, and Pamplin's 36 miles. The road then ran thru Farmville, Nottoway C.H. - Petersburg to City Point. Later it was built to Norfolk, probably before the War.

Re - the Danville cover that has "S.S.R.R." - Danville is in Southern Virginia close to the North Carolina line. It was the southern terminus of the R.R. to Richmond known as "The Richmond & Danville R.R." At a station called "Burkesville" on the "S.S.R.R.," some 71 miles east of Lynchburg, the "R & D R.R." crossed the "S.S.R.R." - The town of Burkesville was 88 miles north of Danville and 53 miles south of Richmond. Thus a letter from Danville could have been addressed to "Pamplin's Depot, S.S. R.R."

Note the handwriting of the Danville cover addressed to Mrs. Agnes Hill. This seems to be the same as your cover addressed to Mrs. E. R. Woodson.

Neither one of your covers have a postmark which might indicate they were not placed in the Lynchburg Post Office but were sent over by the railroad.

Re - the 10¢ Danville. From Danville to Burkesville it was 88 miles and from Burkesville to Pamplin's it was 35 miles, total 123 miles. If the use of the two Danville covers was prior to July 1, 1862, then one wonders why a 10¢ rate was required. Surely no 10¢ Provisional was needed at Danville after July 1, 1862, as there were plenty of adhesive stamps at that time.



#2. Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - Feb. 8, 1953.

Incidentally, I believe the Expert Committee of the Foundation issued a certificate stating that the 10¢ red Danville covers are not genuine.

Re - the one with the corner cut out. I have wondered if these two envelopes were "left overs" and used after the war and U. S. 3¢ 1861 stamps were cut and torn off of both. Perhaps your two covers are in that class.

I am sending copies of this letter to Shenfield and MacBride.

Sincerely yours,

Feb. 1, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

The following is from my files. It pertains to a letter that I received from John R. Walter in 1945, quote:

"Confederates  
Lynchburg Provisional

John R. Wolter of Philadelphia wrote me under date of Mar. 22, 1945 as follows:

'Now comes news about a Confederate item I picked up in the old days and sold to John Kleeman. The small brass die of the Lynchburg envelope. It was found in Richmond in a junk place and a collector from here bought it and I gave him \$5.00 for it in 1918. I never gave this matter any publicity then and had intended to write Dietz about it but finding the pamphlet lets you get the news first. What Kleeman did with I never heard.'

I referred the above to August Dietz who replied as follows, (Mar. 28, 1945):

'I suppose he refers to one of the numerous electrotypes of Postmaster Glass' 5c. provisional. He states 'brass'--but he probably means 'copper.' The original was a woodcut engraving from which probably ten electrotypes were made for the printing. Several of these are known to have come into collector and other hands. I have had two loaned me. I made a replica electrotpe of one some time ago. There's nothing unusual about them. Whoever has one can have uncounted duplicates made from it.

If there exists such a thing as a 'Brass Die' used for printing the envelopes, no one ever heard of it or brought it to notice. And if Klemann had it, he certainly would have publicised the thing.

I have a record of the whereabouts of most of these 'relics' - both originals and electrotpe replicas--and can easily detect impressions made from them after the war.'

With regards.

Yours etc.,



Feb. 2, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

I noticed that you failed to enclose the MacBride letter in your first letter but overlooked mention in my letter returning the two covers. I compared the Patriotic with the one pictured in the Dietz book and think it is possible that the Dietz illustration might have been taken from this same cover.

On page 2 of MacBride's letter he states that Confed stamps of the General Issue were cut out of the corners. He may be right but I do not recall any positive evidence of such. What greatly impressed me was the use of the "S.S.R.R." but, of course, some faker might have copied an address from a genuine cover. However, it seems to me if someone wished to make two fakes such as yours, do you not think they would have tried to make them more convincing by adding a fake postmark of Lynchburg, Va.?

I am returning the copy of the MacBride letter herewith.

Regards.

Yours etc.,



# Sam Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET  
NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

February 3rd, 1953.

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

Dear Stanley:

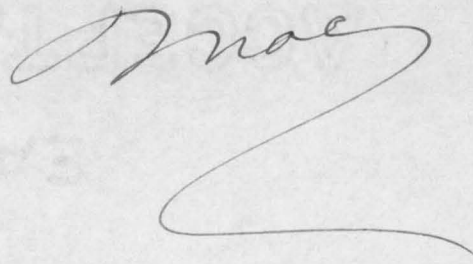
Thanks for the copies of your letters to Molesworth re the two Lynchburg Provisional covers. He first sent them to Shenfield who then sent them to me for my opinion. A copy of my comments on them to Shenfield is enclosed for your information.

Larry did not share my opinion, and says he returned them to Molesworth along with a copy of my letter on which he commented to that effect. Larry Shenfield was always impressed with Caspary's statement when he was asked about the 10¢ red Danville envelopes, which was to the effect that he knew them to be fakes made in Europe. Now, these two Lynchburg envelopes come from Europe, and are addressed in a similar hand to at least one of the persons to whom the Danville covers were addressed. Larry seems to think that this puts them all very much in the "N.G." class.

I don't know, - I am willing to describe them all as "doubtful", - and await possible substantiation through later discoveries or research. As I say in my letter, these addresses seem genuine enough, and it would take a pretty smart crook to so fix them up! Anyhow, I thought you would like to have this, and the enclosed, for your reference files.

Regards!

Sincerely,



MacB/HK

Jack E. Molesworth

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

SPECIAL DELIVERY



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

VIA AIR MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY

SPECIAL DELIVERY

SPECIAL DELIVERY



SPECIAL DELIVERY

VIA AIR MAIL





Jack E. Molesworth

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts



SPECIAL DELIVERY

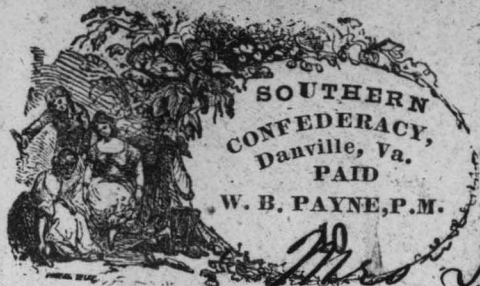
VIA AIR MAIL

Stanley B. Ashbrook

33 North Fort Thomas Ave

Fort Thomas, Ky.





Red

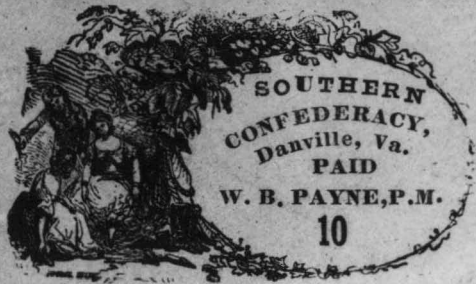
Yellow Butt  
H.C.N.

Mrs Lou V Woodson

3  
Campbell's Dept S.S.H.

Appomattox Co Va  
3





SOUTHERN  
CONFEDERACY,  
Danville, Va.  
PAID  
W. B. PAYNE, P.M.  
10

Mrs. Agnes Hill  
Pamplin's Depot  
Ga



Via  
Old Point Comfort  
& Richmond Va  
Per Flag of Truce

Edmund R. Woodson Esqr  
Pamplins Depot  
S S R R.  
Va

Lot 622  
Peters Sale

Feb. 8, 1953.

Mr. Heyliger De Windt,  
Wolfboro,  
New Hampshire.

Dear Hy:

Re - yours of the 3rd. The 1¢ Star Die was never demonetized, and neither was the compound, the 3¢ plus 1¢. Both continued to be supplied to post offices until the quarter ending June 30, 1863. I suppose the reason is that small supplies (comparatively) of the 1¢ had been sent to southern post offices in the late months of 1860 - it seemed at that time that was was imminent. It is believed that no supplies of the "compound" was sent to any southern offices.

If I am not mistaken I believe that I have seen uses of the 1¢ from southern post offices but I suppose the Federal P.O.D. considered it wasn't worth the expense and trouble to demonetize the small supplies that were in the hands of southern post offices.

Re - the 1¢ 1857 cover, or rather wrapper. Both stamps are the common Type V and both are from Plate 8 - In fact, I note that the stamp to right is 71R8.

Incidentally Hy, I wonder if a 1¢ Star Die postmarked in the South before the war wouldn't be worth about three times as much as one used in the North.

It is little points like that that makes philately more interesting. I believe that such points will be emphasized by the educated collector of future years.

Of course no fee.

With regards -

Cordially yours,



Feb. 9, 1953.

Mr. George N. Malpass,  
5401 - 9th Street North,  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Dear Mr. Malpass:

I trust that you will pardon my negligence in acknowledging receipt of yours of the 17th.

I am enclosing herewith a photo print of your "TEN" block with my compliments and I can assure you that I would have no objection to your quoting from my letter regarding it. The negative that I made was a bit over-exposed, hence the dark print due to an effort to bring out detail.

Regarding the two photo prints that you sent me -  
(1) "By Flag of Truce" - I am wondering if your analysis is the same as mine - Origin in Federal Territory - sent under separate cover to Fortress Monroe - thence by Flag of Truce to Richmond - Confed stamp put on there and canceled Richmond. Addressed to Wytheville, it was Forwarded to Saltville. I note the memo at left reads, "From my dear Ma." I seem to recall that his wife Flora was the daughter of a Federal army officer, Colonel Cook. This letter was received after Gen'l Stuart was killed at Yellow Tavern.

The other is a F. of T. from South to North. Too bad it don't show any Southern postmark. I would question whether the 5¢ Confed was used on this cover.

Your two prints are returned herewith.

I sincerely trust that you will find in Florida a place where you can fit in and be very successful.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

February 6, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your recent letters with opinions on the #58 and #76 combination cover and some comments on the two Confederate Provisional covers. You did not mention any fee on these but I do want to pay you so please advise what I should send. It is apparent that you put quite a bit of work into these examinations.

I removed the #58 and 76 from the covers and the #58 was not thin but rather 100% sound except that the target cancel cut through the paper at one point. Since there is no visible indentation in the envelope it would appear that the stamp was generally cancelled with the target while adhering to another cover and that possibly the target on the 5¢ stamp was added. I do not recall my source on this cover which is unfortunate since such might help to determine where it may have originated.

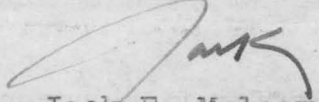
I appreciate very much your comments on the 1¢ pair especially with respect to price and assure you that I shall never be offended by any comments in this respect that you may be considerate enough to give me as I know it is a field wherein there is much room for many honest differences in judgment. Rather than send the item abroad I am attempting to work out a deal with Fortgang at a lower figure and will let you know the results.

I assume that you have now received and examined the 2¢ Pan American invert which has been the cause of so much controversy with the P. F. I have not re-examined it myself since they returned it with the comment that it was cleaned and had no occasion to put it under an ultraviolet lamp when it was in my possession. I have as a matter of logic felt there is certainly no logical bases for the stamp ever having been pen cancelled which is the only type that could possibly be cleaned.

Also, I am sure that any attempt to clean the stamp would cause the colors to run. However, I shall be very interested in

your conclusions in respect to it. I recently talked with another person into holding off on contemplated legal action against the Foundation but frankly I am beginning to believe that sooner or later it must come to this unless something is done to alleviate this abominable situation. I have not as yet heard from them with comments on #1 (called #3) or the #28 (called #29). I sent the 10¢ 1851 to Cole for an opinion on the gum, but he declined to render any opinion apparently because he takes the wishy-washy attitude of not wanting to get into any arguments, a rather spineless position for a so-called expert.

With best wishes,

  
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/rpm

P.S. Enclosed is #14 + 17 pr. cover for your opinion + signature.  
Also, interesting cover with 16 #35's you might like to photograph for Special Service Bulletin.

P.P.S. When are you going to publish an index for S.S. Bulletin — I get lost trying to find things written months back?



Feb. 9, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 6th.

The Heard cover is a puzzle and the chances are that no stamps are missing. Your analysis that this was a 4 x 45¢ rate is in error. The 142 proves that the rate was not \$1.80. Had the rate been \$1.80, this "142" would have been \$1.60.

I made a microfilm and will make a further study. The cover at present has me puzzled. If it belongs to you I may request you to return it to me later. You will note that I made a lot of pencil notations on the cover - Will you please leave these on as I may wish to make regular photographs later.

Re - the cover to Peru. It is undoubtedly okay but Jack I don't like to put my name to a cover that is in as bad condition as this - the markings are all faded and - well I just don't fancy a crumb like this. The rate in the middle fifties to Peru was 22¢ - of which 12¢ went to the British (1/2 oz.) for transmission from Panama to Peru. They had a monopoly on carrying mail down the west coast of South America.

After I correctly analyze the China cover I will sign it for you. Too bad the block on this cover is not fine. A used block of six is a darn desirable item.

Thanks for return of the two Danville photo prints.

Re - the fake 1863 cover - I enclose two prints of the postmarks. I think the alteration in the British marking is quite noticeable, - from "5" to "6." The "32" looks queer. Note the two "6" in the French marks. I am sorry you haven't the record where you obtained this cover. Surely you keep a record where you obtain Type I - 10¢ '61 on cover. See if you cannot dig up the source. Do you have any objection if I write up this cover in my next Service?

No, I have never seen the 2¢ Pan Invert. The P.F. does not submit 20th Century to me (Thank God).

May I correct your misunderstanding re - cleaned stamps. A cleaned stamp does not mean it had a pancel. Not by any means. Those crooks over in Paris can remove any early cancel and in the great majority of cases they never leave a trace. It is damn silly to suppose that the ultra-violet

#2. Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - Feb. 9, 1953.

will show up monkey-business. My guess is that the best of lamps is about 10 to 12% efficient. The crooks have been working under lamps for several decades and the real artists don't leave any evidence. How do you suppose they remove a cancelation from a 5¢ 1861 Buff? I wish I knew.

Re - the tum on the 10¢ 1855. I never mentioned this to Cole, but it is possible that those at the P.F. told him that I did not see anything wrong with the gum. Perhaps on that account Ezra did not wish to go on record as questioning my opinion. Ezra is very keen and his judgment is excellent. He knows more about 19th U. S. than all the New York crowd put together.

I really should compile an "Index" to my Service and I will just as soon as I can find a bit of time.

With regards -

Yours etc.,



Feb. 14, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - your Heard cover with 16 of the 10¢ 1857 - Type V stamps. The two stamps that are missing from this cover are two 1¢ 1857 - probably Type V, because the original rate on this letter was \$1.62. The rate was 39¢ per 1/4 oz. by British Mail Via Marseilles. The credit of \$1.42 to G.B. proves this and the rate was figured as a quadruple, hence the faint "4" under the 10¢ to right. This "4" did not mean 4 x 39¢ but rather that the U.S. share was 4 times the U.S. "Inland," hence if our credit out of \$1.62 was \$1.42, the U.S. share was 4 x 5¢ (20¢).

This letter weighed over 1 ounce but not over 1 1/4 oz. The rates were as follows:

not over 1/4 oz. ....	39¢
1/4 to 1/2 ....	45¢
1/2 to 3/4 ....	84¢
3/4 to 1 ounce ....	90¢
1 ounce to 1 1/4 ounce .....	\$1.62

The reason the rates "Via Marseilles" are very complicated is because the U.S. and Britain rated per 1/2 oz. - the French rated per 1/4 oz.

It might interest you to know that this \$1.62 rate was broken down as follows:

U. S. share .....	20¢
Britain's share	
Atlantic Crossing .....	64¢
Marseilles to China .....	48¢
French share	
(This was	
5 x 6¢ per 1/4 oz.)	
Total	\$1.62

Your friend Stone sent me the 2¢ Pan Invert and I made a report to him yesterday. If you will send me the Heard cover I will make a good photograph of it.

Sincerely yours,



2 Min

F8

This Rate Was  
British Mail  
Via Marseilles  
3 1/2 per 1/4 oz  
See P&R of  
1859 - For  
A letter of  
1 - To 1 1/4 oz  
Rate Was  
162 - Cr Was  
142

Cover  
By  
J.E. Molesworth  
2/9-53

Crease →

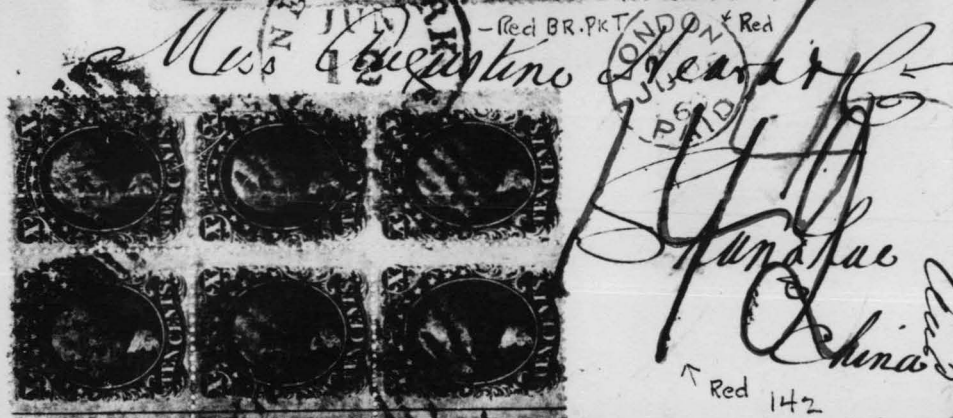
Why  
\$160  
Rate  
With

Red  
142  
Cr.?

Red  
RECEIVED  
JUN 12 1860



← BROWN  
Red GRIDS  
(Faint)



- Faded  
4

Letter Inside  
Dated  
New York 6/12-60  
Per 'ARABIA'

Jun 12 1860  
Was Tuesday  
So This Must  
Have Gone  
out of BOSTON



← "60" Black  
in  
British  
Postmark

1860  
← 1860 Genuine  
New York 12 June  
16 August  
China  
PAID  
LONDON  
Red BR. PKT  
Red 142  
Faded 4  
BROWN Red GRIDS (Faint)

Fee PAID

3<sup>50</sup>  
—

For

160¢  
—

Cover

2/21



F 8

90

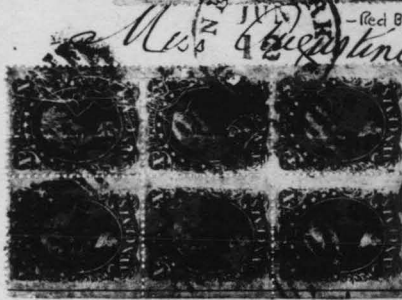
Red →



Cover  
By  
J.E. Mylesworth  
2/9-53

Crease →

Why  
# 160  
Rate  
With



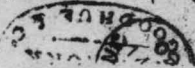
Red BR. PKT  
Red  
H. H. H.  
Singapore  
China  
Red 142

← Brown  
Red G. R. D.  
(F. n. o. l. e. s)

← Feder  
4

Red  
142  
Cr.?

Letter Inside  
Dated  
New York 6/12-60  
Per ARABIA



Jun 12 1860  
Was Tuesday  
So This Must  
Have Gone  
out of BOSTON  
Black

Go where the  
New York - 12 in  
Red - 16 in

January 24, 1953.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Sir:-

We discovered the enclosed stamp going through our stamp collection and we would like to know if it is of any value.

We were advised by Mr. Paul Rohloff, of Forest Park Illinois, to send it to you for inspection.

We would appreciate any information regarding it. Thank you.

Yours truly,

*John A. Krause,*

John A. Krause,  
1132 N. Elmwood Ave  
Oak Park, Ill.

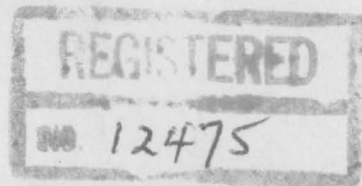


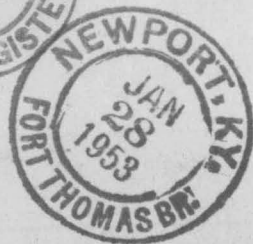
John A. Krause, 1132 N. Elmwood Ave., Oak Park, Ill.  
ALLIED BARREL & DRUM SERVICE  
3108 SOUTH ROBINSON STREET  
CHICAGO 8, ILL.



RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook  
34 W. Fort Thomas Ave  
Fort Thomas Kentucky.





Feb. 1, 1953.

Mr. John A. Krause,  
1132 N. Elmwood Ave.,  
Oak Park, Ill.

Dear Mr. Krause:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of  
the 24th with enclosure.

The fee for an opinion on the item will  
be \$2.50 plus return registered postage or \$2.83.

Sincerely yours,



February 6, 1953.

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

Dear Sir:-

Thank you for your letter regarding the  
opinion on a stamp we sent you recently.

As per your request we have enclosed  
a check of \$ 2.83 to cover cost. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Enc.

Feb. 10, 1953.

Mr. John A. Krause,  
1132 N. Elmwood Ave.,  
Oak Park, Ill.

Dear Mr. Krause:

I am herewith returning the 3¢ 1851 diagonal (lower right) bisect tied with a round grid and a Denver marking of 1860, to a piece of paper.

I regret to inform you that this item is fraudulent. The grid is fraudulent and the Denver marking is fraudulent. Denver never used any such a marking as this. The black ink of the markings is modern and not of the 1860 period.

May I thank you very kindly for your check for \$2.83.

I have endorsed the item on the back and I enclose photograph herewith.

Sincerely yours,

*Mr. Ashbrook.*

MORRISON, Colonel James - born Cumberland, Co. Pa. <sup>1755</sup>~~1775~~; served in Revolution. In 1792 moved to Lexington, Ky. (Statehood year) He held the following offices in succession. Land Commissioner, State Representative, Supervisor of Revenue, (which gave him right to frank his mail and which this cover is an example) Navy Agent, Contractor for the Northwestern Army War of 1812, Quartermaster General, President of the Lexington branch of the United States Bank, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Transylvania University. (I have learned that Morrison Hall is located there, is this correct?)

Died in Washington, D. C. in the year 1823

*For your files if you want these notes - RmH.*



Shelby, Ohio  
Box 129  
Feb. 10, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I thought nothing at all of your not writing sooner, for I realize you are a very busy man.

I wish to thank you for the information on the 5¢ Brown of 1863 - if anything shows up on this please advise.

Herewith you will find the cover I wrote you about, this the Ka. straight line cancel from James Morrison, Supervisor to the Rev. Heckewelder. Yes I have written Dr. Roser about this, but I do not wish to sell it as it concerns some of our Ohio history. Brook Courthouse could have been in the Virginia Military Lands and the nearest post office. I must learn which it was, and today I am writing the different historical groups to learn this. It could have been Wheeling, Va. or Wellsburg, at least I think it might have been either.

The second stampless enclosed, is this a non-treaty cover from Gibraltar, by the way of France overland and thence to New York. The marking 118 (is this de~~ci~~imes).

I am truly sorry to have to bother you so much, but, I do learn something each time I ask you any questions, and I do appreciate everything you have done for me.

I am sending you under separate cover a Louisville paper of January 1863, that you might like to have it. I ran across these in a find I made recently and that they would be nice to have.

Very truly yours,

*RN Robinson*

*Almost forgot - By all means let me see  
those maps as soon as possible.*

*RN*

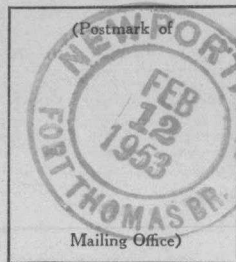
Form 3813

# RECEIPT FOR INSURED MAIL

**CAUTION**—Indemnity will not be paid unless this receipt or other equivalent evidence of insurance is submitted.

No. 1929  
Postage 70 cts. Insurance fee 15 cts.  
Special delivery \_\_\_\_\_ cts. Special handling \_\_\_\_\_ cts.  
Return receipt \_\_\_\_\_ cts. Restricted delivery \_\_\_\_\_ cts.  
Fragile ☒ Perishable ☐

(Other endorsement)



c9-16-13285a-10  
POSTMASTER,

By Steph

**NOTICE TO SENDER.**—Enter below name and complete address of addressee. Show also if addressed in care of person, hotel, etc

SENT TO W. L. Kinison

**IMPORTANT.**—READ OTHER SIDE REGARDING ENDORSEMENTS AND INDEMNITY.



**SAVE THIS RECEIPT UNTIL PARCEL IS ACCOUNTED FOR**

## SAVE THIS RECEIPT

It is understood that unless specially noted on face of receipt parcel contained no fragile or perishable matter. No indemnity will be paid for damage to fragile or spoiling of perishable matter resulting from the absence of the required endorsement.

If this receipt is not available in case of damage, spoiling, or partial loss, the wrapper of the parcel bearing the endorsement "INSURED No. ....," together with the serial number assigned to the parcel, may be submitted for consideration as evidence of insurance.

Claim must be filed within 6 months from date parcel was mailed.

Each article for which claim is filed should be described and value stated. Receipted bills, cash sales slips, if available, or other suitable evidence of value, should be submitted. IF ARTICLES WERE NOT NEW make allowance for depreciation due to age or use.

### SCHEDULE OF DOMESTIC INSURANCE FEES

FEES	(Including Canada)	INDEMNITY
5 cents	-----	Value up to \$5
10 cents	-----	Value up to \$10
15 cents	-----	Value up to \$25
20 cents	-----	Value up to \$50
30 cents	-----	Value up to \$100
35 cents	-----	Value up to \$200

Apply at post-office window for information concerning fees applicable to insured mail for foreign countries.

(Fees subject to change. Consult postmaster)

(Claims may be filed at any post office)



Feb. 12, 1953.

Mr. R. M. Wilkinson,  
P. O. Box 129,  
Shelby, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

Under separate cover I am sending you the following old Ohio maps:

1838 - price	\$5.00
1840 - "	3.50
1841 - "	4.00
1850 - "	2.50
1850 - "	3.00
1883 - "	2.00

I note the 1840 map shows a branch of the Miami & Erie Canal extending to Lebanon and another branch running over to Sidney. This 1840 map shows canals that I had no idea were ever in existence.

I am returning herewith the two covers as per yours of the 10th. The Morrison cover is very interesting but I believe that in addressing the letter Morrison meant to give two addresses, viz:

Gnadenhutton, on the Muskingum River  
(or)  
Brook Court House, VA

There was a post office at Brook Court House, Va. and there was a Post Route between that office and Steubenville, O. The Morrison letter was written in 1805 and surely Morrison knew better than to call any place in Ohio - a part of Virginia. Brooke Co. West Va. is in the N.W. tip of the state opposite Steubenville and perhaps in the early part of the last century there was a Brook C.H. I am wondering if the name could have been changed. Apparently there is no Brook C.H. today. I have an 1802 list of Post Offices and a "Brooke C.H.Va." is listed.

Re - your memo re - Morrison - He was born in 1755 not 1775 - He died suddenly in Washington, D.C. on Apr. 23, 1823. He saw six years service in the Revolutionary Army as one of Daniel Morgan's Corps of Rifle men. He came from very humble origin - little education while young but he acquired great wealth for his time and was self-educated. He was a patron of Transylvania University and no doubt there is a "Morrison Hall," named for him at Lexington. I will inquire, and advise you.

Regarding the cover from Gibraltar. What you took for "118" is the British 1/8 or one shilling eight pence. This sum was paid at Gibraltar and

#2. Mr. R. M. Wilkinson - Feb. 12, 1953.

am paid the carriage to the U. S. frontier. On delivery the addressee had to pay 5¢ - as evidenced in the New York postmark. This was the "U.S. Inland" under the terms of the U.S.-British Postal Treaty. Not "domestic" but the "Treaty Inland." For example, under the Treaty - the "U.S. Inland" was 5¢ - but the British was 3¢. The "1/8" represented one shilling from Gibraltar to England (24¢) and the 8 pence was the Atlantic Sea postage from British Frontier to U. S. Frontier.

A letter from the eastern part of the U. S. to Gibraltar Via England and British Packet, the sender had to pay 5¢ - (per 1/2 oz.) - no more - no less - This merely put the letter on board a British Mail Packet bound for England.

I made a photograph of the Morrison cover and I will send you print later.

Inasmuch as I requested a look at the cover I think that I should pay the postage both ways.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,



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

Feb. 7, 1953.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,  
% Harmer, Rooke & Co.,  
560 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

I am today returning under separate cover, five lots from your coming sale of February 17-18 and 19th. May I respectfully call your attention to lots

264 - 271 and 274

in the above. These are sheets of the common 10¢ engraved Confederates S.U.S. No. 11 and 12. All three sheets are described in your sales catalogue as the rare milky blue color, whereas none of these three lots are that color. Lot 264 is described as #11A - catalogue value \$250.00 plus. This is a misstatement and is misleading because this sheet is the common blue No. 11. An unused copy of #11 catalogues at 35¢, whereas you price the #11A, the milky blue, unused @ \$1.25. I might add, that in my humble opinion, such a price is far too low. I might add with all due respect that if the Editors of the S.U.S. are not familiar with the real "milky blue" it could hardly be expected that they would know the real value in pricing.

Lot 271 is described as 12A, but this sheet is not the milky blue #12A, but rather the common #12. Lot 272 is likewise described as the #12A and likewise it is the common #12. For your information, the #11A and #12B milky blue were printed on an entirely different grade of paper than the three sheets in lots 264, 271 and 274. And further, the gum was entirely different, nothing like this brown molasses gum that was used at a later period.

The very first printings of 9, 10, 11 and 12, occurred in the spring of 1863 and the same milky blue ink was used, the same grade of paper, and the same white gum. These printings took place in March 1863, and were by Archer & Daly. The sheets comprising Lots 264, 271 and 272, were doubtless printed in the spring or summer of 1864. To describe an #11 or a #12 as a milky blue is just as ignorant and misleading as to describe a common 3¢ 1861 Rose as a Pink.

I was requested to examine these lots by a very valued client of yours and a collector who is a big buyer. I regret that I have to report to him that these lots were misdescribed.

May I also call your attention to Lots #288 and #289, which I examined for him earlier this week. I fail to understand why these were listed under "Confederates" as they have no actual Confederate connection, though your catalogue description would doubtless lead a prospective buyer to suspect they have. There is no Confederate marking on the front or back of these covers. As they are,



#2. Mr. Gordon Hamner - Feb. 7, 1953.

without the enclosures, they are simply covers from Germany to the U. S.

May I also call your attention to Lot #81, which is described as a "24<sup>th</sup> August - #60" - a catalogue value of \$62.50. This stamp is not as described - it is not the #60 - the violet, but rather an off shade of the red lilac #70, with a catalogue value of \$12.00.

In the front of your auction catalogues is the statement that, quote: "Any lot, description of which is incorrect, is returnable only within three days of receipt." Suppose a buyer bought a lot, and depended on your descriptions, and after receipt of same, sent the lots to me for confirmation, you surely appreciate that returns could not be made within three days of receipt.

I sincerely trust that you will consider the above remarks in the constructive spirit in which they are offered.

Errors in catalogue descriptions are inexcusable and if a person who writes an auction catalogue is so ignorant of what he is writing about, he has no business in that capacity as he can greatly damage the reputation of a good and reliable firm.

I should charge you a fee for expertizing lots 81 - 264 - 271 and 274 - 288 and 289, but in this case I will charge it to one of your valued clients, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,  
STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

# Sam Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

February 9th, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

Herewith a copy of your letter of February 7th to Gordon Harmer. You probably have the little memo I sent you Friday afternoon, which was written after I had just been in to examine the lots in their February 17th sale.

You certainly have supplied a good deal of information to them, which I hope will be accepted and used. The real "milky blue" shade of the Confederate 10¢ engraved is indeed a scarce thing, particularly in sheets, and I agree with you that none of them in this sale were the real thing.

I wonder where all those sheets came from, - it is the largest lot I have seen in years. Sheets of that stamp used to be very common but no more so. Many have found homes in new Confederate collections in the last few years, and many others have been cut up by dealers for sale. I inquired where they came from, but only learned that while some of the Confederate lots in this sale came from abroad, these sheets did not.

I hope you did make photographs of those two covers, - Lots #288 and 289. While you were perhaps right in questioning their listing under "Confederates", I wouldn't criticize Harmer too much on that point. Many dealers and auction houses take liberties of that sort, particularly where covers connected with the Civil War are concerned in any way. These were addressed to the commanding general at Fortress Monroe, and bore the Flag of Truce notations. So, its only fair to assume that most likely their contents were intended to be examined and then sent on to some Confederate address. Of course you are right, - these covers do not bear any Confederate postal markings, including that odd Paid 10 in red, about which I asked you. I'll be glad to have your further comments.

Sincerely,

*PS) Thanks for your comments on those two Lynchburg covers.  
Glad to note you and I are in agreement on them.*

MacB/HK



# EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964  
February 9th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Your three letters of February 5th and 7th.  
Returning your letter to Gordon. If he says any-  
thing to me I won't know a thing.

With reference to Lots 288 and 289 in his  
next sale. It is too bad there is not more of  
them. I would like to see the enclosures. I  
thought at first they were letters someone tried  
to get into the Confederacy and they were just  
sent back, and if that was the case there should  
be some additional marks on them. Half a dozen  
collectors pestered me about them. I saw them a  
long time ago and they have been out on inspection  
ever since.

Re - the American Autograph Society. They  
publish an interesting quarterly. Quite a lot of  
stamp collectors belong to it. Would you like me  
to send you one of their latest issues? Your friend  
Fitzgerald is quite a big shot.

Boggs is not back at the Foundation yet.  
I have heard that Ethel Harper, ex Robson Lowe, is  
helping down there some. Trust this is not more of  
the English influence. No word from Boggs.

One of these days some people are going to  
get mad enough at the P. F. to go to Court, you wait  
and see.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1



# 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*

April 1, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Thank you for your letter of March 23. I am always glad to receive any information that will help us with the Specialized Catalogue. While we are not always able to adopt every suggestion, we do try when it is practical. We will certainly go into the matter and I am passing on your Special Service Letter to Thatcher for his further consideration.

In regard to your letter of February 7, we withdrew the 24c August from the sale.

As to the Confederate sheets described as "milky blue," we sold them as the ordinary stamps although we went to a great deal of trouble to try and follow this up further. Several copies from various people of the so-called "milky blue" shade were seen but in most cases people differed as to their opinion.

In regard to the two covers, I enclose you copies of letters received by me from MacBride and Shenfield in response to letters of mine. As you possibly know, Shenfield is now a member of the expert committee of the Philatelic Foundation.

With thanks for writing, and kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

*Gordon R. Harmer*  
GORDON R. HARMER

*(in absence)*

GRH:JK

COPY

Van Dyk MacBride  
744 Broad Street  
Newark 2, New Jersey

March 4, 1953

Mr. Gordon Harmer,  
Harmer, Rooke & Co., Inc.  
560 Fifth Avenue  
New York 36, N. Y.

Dear Gordon:

Those two covers about which you write, are unusually interesting.

It is of course true that they apparently did not enter the Confederacy, but I should hardly describe them as having "no Confederate connection". Were it not for the existence of the Confederacy and the Civil War at that time, such covers coming in from Europe would certainly not have been marked "For Flag of Truce", or addressed to the commanding general at Fortress Monroe. I consider that both, and particularly the larger one of the two, thereby have a distinct Confederate connotation, even though they did not actually pass "thru-the-lines" or enter the Confederacy.

Probably each of those covers originally contained a letter addressed to some Confederate point, - the envelopes were opened when they reached Fortress Monroe, the enclosures were examined, and if approved were doubtless forwarded under the flag of truce regulations to their ultimate southern destinations. All this is entirely in accord with the regulations then existing, which included the Fortress Monroe and the flag of truce notations.

These are the first such covers originating abroad which I ever saw, - I consider them interesting items of Civil War-Confederate postal history and I bid on both lots for myself. Your catalog descriptions appear reasonably complete and accurate, although as usual some of the details thereof, and the location under CONFEDERATE STATES, would be a matter of individual opinion. I see nothing in that connection which would justify their return on the basis that they were improperly described.

Sincerely yours,

MacB/HK

VAN DYK MAC BRIDE

DOHERTY, CLIFFORD, STEERS & SHENFIELD, Inc.

ADVERTISING

350 Fifth Avenue, Empire State Building

New York 1, N. Y.

COPY

March the ninth  
1953

Dear Gordon:

In answer to your good note of March 2:

If any Confederate collector collects Prisoner's covers, then certainly lots 288 and 289 were, as usual, accurate and in no sense misleading. I might add that I, as a Confederate collector, bid on both lots (by mail, because I was on the West Coast).

Regards,

(Signed) Larry

Mr. Gordon Harmer,  
Harmer, Rooke & Co., Inc.  
560 Fifth Ave.  
New York 36, N. Y.



## EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

---

*Commissions . Appraisals*

---

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

Sunday April 12, 1953

Dear Stan,

I sure put in a bad week last week. I never had so many letters and things to do except perhaps after some big auction sale and there was no big sale. Plenty of small ones and even foreign stamps to look at and check. Next week is bad too, two days of U. S. sales and three of foreign, B. N. A.

I'll answer your letter in same order as you wrote me.

Re letters from Gordon, MacBride and Shenfield. And covers in H. R. & Co. sale. That description in the sale was written by Allan Thatcher, his describer. It was absolutely correct. It did not say anything about those covers which was not so. On the other hand it could have said a lot more in order to clarify the covers. But what it said was true nevertheless. If there was any fault to find in the description it is that it left a great deal to imagination. Jack Molesworth bought them on the floor, he saw them, thought he was buying a big bargain and in my opinion not only paid too much but got stuck. He thought he had something. Everyone else in America saw them, tried to figure out what they were (like I did) and passed them up. They were written in 1863 ← and from Europe and addressed in mms. "per flag pf truce". The war was on and the sender wanted them delivered or else he never would have written them. They probably did not get there and Nobody said they did. The description could have hardly have been changed, the covers could have been sold in a different place in the catalog under foreign but I think I would have sold them there. Also regardless of their value or worth, I never saw any others like them.

*S. L. Stone*

45 BROMFIELD STREET  
BOSTON 8, MASS.



*Air Mail Special Delivery*

**VIA AIR MAIL  
Special Delivery**

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

Received  
5 P.M.  
Feb-11  
1953



11420



**S. L. Stone**  
Postage Stamps for Collectors

45 BROMFIELD STREET, BOSTON 8, MASS.

Telephone HANcock 6-8364

Feb. 10, 1953

We can supply  
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NEW BRUNSWICK

PRINCE EDWARD IS.

GUAM

\*\*\*\*\*

ALBUMS  
SCOTT LINE  
ELBE LINE  
WHITE ACE

\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. FIRST DAY  
COVERS

\*\*\*\*\*

STOCK BOOKS

\*\*\*\*\*

COLLECTORS'  
SUPPLIES

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

On January 31st, I submitted to you via Registered Mail a unused  
#295A.

According to your usual prompt attention, I should have heard from  
you by now.

Perhaps you did not receive it, or perhaps I am being too impatient.  
At this time, I would appreciate it, if you can shed any light on  
the subject.

Thank you for past favors.

Very sincerely yours,

*S. L. Stone*  
S.L. Stone



J. L. Stone

45 Bromfield St  
BOSTON Mass

NIGHT TELEGRAM

2/11 - 1953

Yours Tently ~~Have~~<sup>DID</sup> Not Receive The  
Registered Mentioned. Please Wire

~~Stanley B Ashbrook~~

Your Boston Registered Number  
So Can Trace From This Encl

Stanley B Ashbrook

**S. L. Stone**  
Postage Stamps for Collectors

45 BROMFIELD STREET, BOSTON 8, MASS.

Telephone HANcock 6-8364

Jan. 31, 1953

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CANADA

NEWFOUNDLAND

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NEW BRUNSWICK

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ALBUMS  
SCOTT LINE  
ELBE LINE  
WHITE ACE

\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. FIRST DAY  
COVERS

\*\*\*\*\*

STOCK BOOKS

\*\*\*\*\*

COLLECTORS'  
SUPPLIES

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

At Mr. Molesworth request, I am submitting to you the inclosed #295A. He tells me that you would like to examine it.

I believe you know the details about this. When this stamp was first submitted to the Foundation, it was returned to me with the notation on certificate that it was counterfeit by lithography.

I then resubmitted this for the January 19th meeting for reconsideration, and it was returned to me today, as being genuine but cleaned.

In your reply, will you please give me your opinion as to this stamp being cleaned or not.

Bill me for whatever cost involved.

Thank you for your kind attention, and for past favors.

Very sincerely yours,

*S. L. Stone*

S.L. Stone

This Letter  
Received  
Thursday  
A.M. Feb 12 1953  
Enclosing 2¢ Pan Invert





Telegram

Sent

2/12 -53

@

1 P.M.

S.L. Stone

45 Bromfield St

Boston (8) Mass

THRU STUPID ERROR OF LOCAL  
POST OFFICE Your Registered Was  
Not Delivered To Me Until

This Morning Explanation Will Be  
Furnished You By Postmaster

Stanley B Ashbrook

Feb. 12, 1953.

Mr. S. L. Stone,  
45 Bromfield St.,  
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Stone:

Your registered letter was received at the Post Office here on Feb. 2nd last, but I was not notified it was there nor was any effort made to deliver it to me. It was simply put into a drawer at the P.O. and remained there until it was noticed this morning. Just a very stupid mistake and someone is liable to lose their job as I have simply raised all kinds of hell. Such an error is absolutely inexcusable.

I will submit to you later a report by the Postmaster. The office here at Fort Thomas is a branch of the Newport, Ky. P.O. and I have never had anything like this happen before. The Postmaster at Newport is in charge with a Branch Superintendent out here.

I will give the 2¢ Pan Invert a careful look and will report to you later.

Please advise me as to the expense of your telegram as I intend to demand a refund for the expense of our exchange of telegrams.

Sincerely yours,



Registered  
\$1000<sup>00</sup>  
Valuation

Feb. 13, 1953.

Mr. S. L. Stone,  
45 Bromfield St.,  
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Stone:

Herewith I am returning to you the 2¢ Pan American Invert, together with the P.F. certificate #4036, stating that the stamp is genuine but that the stamp has been cleaned of a cancellation.

I dislike very much to differ with the P.F. Expert Committee but I have examined this stamp very carefully and I must confess that I am unable to detect any evidence of cleaning. I agree that this is a genuine copy of #295A, that this is the genuine watermarked paper, perforations are genuine. I regret to state that I am not an authority on gum and on this point I decline an opinion, but this does not mean that I condemn the gum on this stamp. It simply means that the present gum seems a bit off color of the regular white gum of the Pan Issue.

I examined the stamp by ultra-violet and found no trace of a cancellation. However, I made an enlarged photograph by ultra-violet and if any evidence shows up on the negative I will be pleased to advise you.

For your information I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Henry Goodkind of the P.F. Expert Committee with the request that he call same to the attention of his Committee.

Sincerely yours,

←  
Copy Sent  
Henry Goodkind  
2/13 - 1953



# CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

## SYMBOLS

= Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LT = Int'l Letter Telegram

VL T = Int'l Victory Ltr.

FX-1201

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

!CTC006 BB126

.B.LLF106 PD=BOSTON MASS 12 11 07A=

1953 FEB 12 PM 12 13

:STANLEY B ASHBROOK=

:33 NORTH FORT THOMAS AVE FT THOMAS KY=

REGISTRATION NUMBER OF ARTICLE 257386=

:S L STONE=

41-1183 Mrs Ashbrook  
TG 1223P mail  
at once

*S. L. Stone*

*Postage Stamps for Collectors*

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GUAM

\*\*\*\*\*

ALBUMS

SCOTT LINE

ELBE LINE

WHITE ACE

\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. FIRST DAY  
COVERS

\*\*\*\*\*

STOCK BOOKS

\*\*\*\*\*

COLLECTORS'  
SUPPLIES

Feb 17 1953

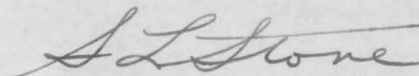
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,  
33 North Ft. Thomas Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your report on my #295a. On the strength of your statement that the stamp has not been cleaned, I am re-submitting this to the Foundation, for re-consideration.

I am inclosing my check of \$5.00 for your fee. I thank you for permitting me to deduct telegram cost from this fee, but I decline as I don't feel that you should absorb this loss. I am perfectly willing to forget this matter.

Very sincerely yours,



S.L. Stone



Feb. 13, 1953.

Mr. S. L. Stone,

45 Bromfield St.,

Boston 8, Mass.

Der Mr. Stone:

On the Pan Invert, I am charging you an examination fee of \$5.00 which includes the sum of \$1.45 postage which I paid on the return of the stamp today (total \$1.78 less \$.33 you paid), also a photograph by ultra-violet - a print of which I will forward later.

From the above please deduct the expense of your telegram to me of the 12th.

Sincerely yours,

Stone's Wire	5.00
	1.44
	<hr/>
Due	3.56
SBA	



**S. L. Stone**

*Postage Stamps for Collectors*

45 BROMFIELD STREET, BOSTON 8, MASS.

Telephone HANcock 6-8364

Feb. 13 1953

We can supply  
stamps of:

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ALBUMS

SCOTT LINE

ELBE LINE

WHITE ACE

\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. FIRST DAY  
COVERS

\*\*\*\*\*

STOCK BOOKS

\*\*\*\*\*

COLLECTORS'  
SUPPLIES

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Regarding your letter of the 12th, I am pleased to hear that my registered article was located, and will receive your attention.

The circumstance of it's delay was no doubt inexcusable. Negligence is a common fault with the Post Office. If this was minimized the Postal deficit wouldn't be so high. As long as political favorites run this show the public will have to pay higher rates to account for their folly.

The cost of my telegram was \$1.44. It is immaterial to me if this is recovered or not. I feel that those at fault should be reprimanded.

Very sincerely yours,

*S. L. Stone*

S.L. Stone



**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon  
Boston 16, Massachusetts

February 19, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

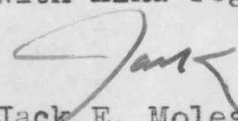
My thanks for the additional information on the Confederate Provisional covers. I returned these to my source since in view of the doubt cast on them I preferred to steer clear of them.

I also appreciate your detailed conclusion on the Heard cover and I am returning it as you suggest for your signature on the reverse. Please advise your fee on this and I shall remit promptly.

Thanks also for your comments on the so-called "First Day" cover. I was quite interested to learn that there are two others recorded on this same date.

I hope that the P. F. will on the basis of your letter reverse themselves again and state that the 2¢ Pan American invert is genuine and unused. As mentioned in one of my prior letters, I personally doubt the original nature of the gum, but the sale of the item apparently hinges only on the Foundation stating that it is genuine and unused, the presence or lack of gum original or otherwise not being of much significance to the prospective buyer. My description of it when originally given to Stone included a statement that it is "probably re-gummed".

With kind regards,

  
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

Feb. 21, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 19th with return of photo print and the 10¢ 1857 "Heard" cover received. I am returning the latter herewith and have signed it on the back. The fee on this cover is \$3.50. I am sending this by Air Special as it is too late today to send via Registered mail.

PAID

I am also enclosing a Confed. P.M. Provisional - signed on the back - price \$50.00. This should be very cheap. Note the June 1861 use.

EATON TON Geo  
RETURNED BY

It is my guess that the P.F. will issue a new certificate on the 2¢ Pan Invert. Considering the fact that a genuinely used 2¢ Pan is really much scarcer than an unused it would appear to me that it is most unlikely that anyone would clean a copy. Further, the risk of doing so would surely (in my opinion) make a person think twice before attempting such a thing. I wouldn't swear the gum was faked though it sure does have a queer appearance. Keep me advised as to their action.

With regards.

Sincerely yours,



Feb. 23, 1953.

Mr. S. L. Stone,

45 Bromfield St.,

Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Stone:

Thanks very much for yours of the 17th with check for \$5.00.

I can hardly imagine that the P.F. Committee will refuse to issue a new certificate on the 2¢ Pan Invert but at any rate, I will appreciate advice of whatever action they take.

Sincerely yours,

March 4, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

I am enclosing a large print of the Heard cover with my compliments, also a print of the 2¢ Pan Invert and one of a normal used copy - but from the same negative made by ultra-violet - Note the ~~darkness~~ <sup>darkness</sup> of the used copy. I cannot account for the dark spots on the Invert. These dark spots may be caused by the brown gum.

Will you show these to Stone.

Sincerely yours,

S. L. STONE  
45 Bromfield Street  
Boston 8, Mass.

~~CONTENTS: MERCHANDISE — 3rd CLASS MAIL~~  
~~POSTMASTER: This envelope may be opened for~~  
~~postal inspection if necessary.~~

Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed



REGISTERED

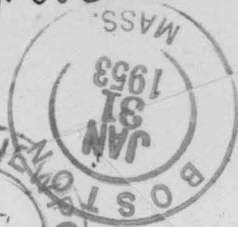
257386

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



This Letter Was Not  
Received By Me Until  
10.35 AM Feb 12 1953  
Mildred L. Ashbrook

Registered Letter From  
S.L. Stone - Boston Mass  
Reg No 257.386



This Registered Letter Was Delivered To Me  
At The Fort Thomas P.O. By Ralph Rauch At 10.30  
AM On Thursday Feb 12 1953.

Mildred L. Ashbrook

# United States Post Office

Newport, Kentucky

February 26, 1953

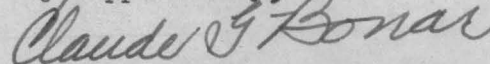
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,  
33 N. Fort Thomas Ave.,  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed herewith find the envelope which was received for investigation of delay of delivery bearing register No. 257386, mailed by S. L. Stone, 45 Bromfield Street, Boston 8, Mass., January 31, 1953.

I regret very much the inconvenience caused you as the result of delay in delivery. A through investigation has been made and I can assure you every step has been taken to prevent any reoccurrence.

Very respectfully,



Claude G. Bonar, Postmaster.

CGB/ smb

First

Newport, Kentucky

February 26, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed herewith find the envelope which was received for investigation of delay of delivery bearing register No. 257386, mailed by S. L. Stone, 45 Bromfield Street, Boston 8, Mass., January 31, 1953.

I regret very much the inconvenience caused you as the result of delay in delivery. A through investigation has been made and I can assure you every step has been taken to prevent any recurrence.

Very respectfully,

CCB/ amb

Claude G. Bonar, Postmaster.



Re Stone and the 2¢ Pan American. You will recall that STONE is the guy that sold all that junk to your friend in Illinois. If I were you I'd be damned if I'd pass on anything for him. As to the stamp itself. It's as good as gold. No countedfeit. It came at one time from a good collection sold by Harmer Rooke. At that time it had O. G. too. I believe it still has. There was some question then, as I remember it, as to whether it might not be THIN. A small thin spot. This could have been the watermark but at the time I advised a customer not to bid too high on it for there was that possibility. The watermark came at a bad place, its a big double line watermark anyway and I may have been too careful but my client was a VERY FUSSY buyer and I was very careful.

| Cole Wrote 2/15 - 1953 |

Now of course someone could have removed a hinge, or even removed the gum, fixed up the thin spot IF IT WAS THIN and then regummed it. Such things have been done. Anyway I don't think they would be that crazy and furthermore its a GENUINE invert all right and no fake in spite of the P. F. And I will bet a new hat it is not cleaned. Hell there are only two or three used copies known, they have heavy machine cancellations, Brooklyn N. Y. I think and I don't believe anyone can clean them. As I remebber the used ones, Judge Emerson had one, Adolph Steeg had or has one (which could be the same copies) and that is all there are used. One is slightly defective, tiny tears or something. Therefore I will bet there are not more than THREE used copies in existance. There are some reperforated copies, and some which have been monkeyed with. The stamp comes in two shades so I believe in spite of what Max Johl says or anyone else there were probably parts of two sheets that got into collectors hands. The big lot was of course found in Brooklyn. part of a sheet, but not a whole one.

24  
Re ~~\$2.00~~ Pan-American - I think the stamp is as good  
as gold and that the gum is alright too but there was a question  
about that water mark and whether or not it could be thin there.  
I don't think it was thin but it certainly looked it.

Maybe some of the dealers will stir up something about  
the P. F. I am doing a little off the record work.

*S. L. Stone*

*Postage Stamps for Collectors*

45 BROMFIELD STREET, BOSTON 8, MASS.

Telephone HAncock 6-8364

March 20, 1953

We can supply  
stamps of:

UNITED STATES

CONFEDERATE STATES

HAWAII

CANAL ZONE

PHILIPPINES

CANADA

NEWFOUNDLAND

NOVA SCOTIA

NEW BRUNSWICK

PRINCE EDWARD IS.

GUAM

\*\*\*\*\*

ALBUMS

SCOTT LINE

ELBE LINE

WHITE ACE

\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. FIRST DAY  
COVERS

\*\*\*\*\*

STOCK BOOKS

\*\*\*\*\*

COLLECTORS'  
SUPPLIES

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Regarding your letter of Feb. 23, 1953, I have today heard from the  
Foundation in regard to the 2¢ Pan American Invert.

I quote Mr. Boggs letter to me:

"We return herewith certificate #4036 together with the stamp in  
question. The Committee has re-examined it and still retains the opinion  
"genuine but cleaned". The Committee does not say that a cancellation has  
been removed but some markings have been removed from the face. It is  
obvious that the stamp has been mistreated."

Should you feel that there is any additional effort can be made in  
regard to this stamp as to a favorable report from the Committee, I  
would appreciate your telling me.

Thank you for past favors.

Sincerely yours,



S.L. Stone





March 23, 1953.

Mr. S.L. Stone,  
45 Bromfield St.,  
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Stone:

In reply to yours of the 20th, it is to be regretted that the P.F. Expert Committee refused to cancel their certificate on the 2¢ Pan Invert. I made a photograph of the stamp by ultra-violet and it failed to show any evidence that the stamp had been mistreated. If I owned that stamp I would send it to Cheavin of London and have him make photographs by X-ray. A report by him would be the last word and final, and if it was favorable I would be willing to back you up in making a demand that the P.F. cancel their certificate and issue one in line with the facts in the case.

Cheavin is a friend of mine and I will be glad to recommend you to him. I consider Cheavin the highest authority in the world on repaired stamps.

Sincerely yours,

LEHMAN & MAY

516 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

AIR. MAIL

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Ft. Thomas, Ky.

P.O. Box #31

REGISTERED

373727

AIR MAIL

EASTERN Air Lines







# LEHMAN & MAYER



- NECKWEAR
- TIE SETS
- MUFFLERS
- ROBES

516 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.  
TEL. MURRAY HILL 2-4453-4

Feb. 9, 1953

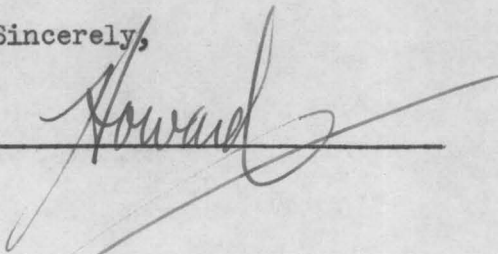
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stanley:

I am enclosing a 90 cent 1857 stamp for you to look at. This is really an exceptional copy and before I purchase it I would like to have your opinion on this item. Both the cancellation and stamp look all right to me but there have been so many fake cancellations put on these 90 cent remainders that I am always skeptical regarding used copies.

Thanking you in advance for your valuable opinion and with kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_

LEHMAN & MAYER



- NECKWEAR
- TIE SETS
- MUFFLERS
- ROBES

516 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.  
TEL. MURRAY HILL 2-4453-4

Feb 11, 1953

Dear Stan;

Since writing you yesterday about the 90 cent 1857, I purchased the enclosed cover and immediately thought about you. I know you are interested in Zareski fakes and this looks like one to me. It fooled a few dealers but I can not see how it could fool anyone who had a knowledge of rates. — The stamp is good (no pen cancels removed) and the cover is good except the San Francisco cancel looks a little suspicious because of the inverted month. But the

rate is all cockeyed and the grid cancel  
on the stamp is a phoney. At any  
rate I would love to hear you tell  
me that the cover is O.K. Please  
send it back when you are through  
examining it.

Sincerely

Howard



Feb. 13, 1953.

Mr. Howard Lehman,  
516 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 18, N.Y.

Dear Howard:

Herewith the 90¢ 1860 as per yours of the 9th.

In my opinion, the cancelation is fraudulent as is the case of practically all these remainders with red grid cancels. Fifty years ago it was the unused 90¢ that was common. Now it seems to be the other way round. I examined this very carefully and feel reasonably sure that my opinion is quite correct. One should include an unused 90¢ - full o.g. - or else a genuine cover with the stamp.

Anything new in the 2¢ Litho. Confed?

You may refund return postage and I will not charge you any fee.

Sincerely yours,

# 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 **Howard Lehman**  
**516 Fifth Ave**  
**New York (36) N.Y.**

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Feb. 13, 1953.

Mr. Howard Lehman,  
516 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Howard:

Your analysis of the enclosed cover is quite correct, and I find very little that I can add to your comments. This, of course, was an unpaid single rate letter from San Francisco to Paris on Nov. 5, 1857. Naturally by the Ocean Mail Via Panama. Sailings from S.F. were on the 5th and 20th. The New York p.m. is a debit marking - these were always in black on unpaid mail. The "15" in the S.F. postmark shows that "15¢" (per 1/4 oz.) had not been paid. The large "8" is the French postage due of "8" decimes or approximately 15¢ U.S. - The "3" in the N.Y. p.m. is our 3¢ debit to France - 3¢ per 1/4 oz. for the "U. S. Inland" rate under the U.S.-French Treaty. This was 6¢ per 1/2 oz. in comparison to the domestic rate of 10¢ in effect at that time.

As far as I am aware, S.F. never used a grid like this and it don't look like any U. S. grid, so I suppose it is one used by Zareski or some other crook over in Paris. Had a 10¢ stamp been used on this cover originally, it was customary for the New York P.O. (Foreign Mail Division) to handstamp "SHORT PAID" - As you are aware, no part payments were permitted - it was a case of "all or none."

The U.S.-French Treaty went into effect on April 1, 1857 - and at that time this type of New York postmark was used for the first time - Note how "new" this one looks. This was also a new type of S.F. marking at that time.

I wonder how much added value the crook added to stamp and a stampless cover? At times it appears that they did a lot of work making their fakes for very little profit. Maybe such were "practice items."

Twenty-six days from S.F. Via Panama to New York in November 1857 was okay - not bad time at that.

Regards, -

Sincerely yours,

(26-43)



**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

---

*Commissions . Appraisals*

---

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

February 14, 1953

Dear Stan.

A couple of problems this morning.

I am sending you the \$4 pony cover I mentioned to you last week when I wrote you. Will you please look this over and tell me what you think. I won't quote you. In my opinion this is queer as hell. It could be good for I have see so damn few of these it isn't funny but I DON'T LIKE IT.

Will you please make a couple of photos of it. One should be exact size I think and the other a blow up so we can check the cancellations, both of them. Ypu can also photo the certificate if you want to. Don't write anyone about this for I am checking with Jessup and others and we will gather the dope later. Please send back the cover as soon as you can.

Next problem. Ward ran an advertisement recently and I thought he had some things that sounded interesting. I wrote him just to see what would happen and he sent me the enclosed. I opperated on the idea that if he said a cover was good it might be bad and if he said it was bad it might be good \*\*\*---.

What do you think about the enclosed. Shall I just send them back. Or can we buy any of them and make a dollar.

Yours,



EZRA D. COLE

NYACK • NEW YORK

Special Delivery.



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

33 North Fort Thomas Ave.

Fort Thomas

Ky.

VIA AIR MAIL



VIA AIR MAIL

Special Delivery.





Sunday -  
Feb. 15, 1953.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole,

Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ezra:

Your air special of yesterday arrived this afternoon at 3:00 P.M. - not bad.

Re - the Pony Express cover. Seems to me I have seen this before and in some way either Jessup or Pollard knew about it. Either one would be a better judge than me. I think the damn thing is a lousy fake and I wouldn't want any part of it. Look at the CITY of Caresm City - In my opinion this is no handstamp but a paint job. I wouldn't waste a 5 x 7 panchromatic plate making a photo of it, but I did make a microfilm exposure of it and of the P.F. certificate. I suppose this came from the Needham collection. Just imagine the Expert Committee even attempting to pass on an item such as this.

I return the Ward items. The only thing worth while is the 3¢ '51 Bisect of Jackson, Miss. That thing might be good. If it is, it is sure worth more than \$100.00.

Let me know what Jessup thinks of the Wells Fargo. He has surely seen this in the past.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Sent you the \$2. green Pony cover. Mrs Dale has TWO covers. I don't like EITHER OF THEM. The more I talk to her the more certain I am that she is a nice person but all of her stamp information is at least SECOND HAND, and that she herself does not know as much as a lot of people think she does. Her reputation is based on her fathers. She has a lot of stamps all right but that does not make her an EXPERT. I could sell that \$2 Pony cover if I believed in it but I want to be able to GUARENTEE in myself, or at least believe in it myself. Am trying to get more dope on those Express markings and will keep you posted. That is a rare baby I never had one. Knapp did not have one, Emerson did not have one. I don't think there has been one in a sale that I can find in 50 years. I don't think Wiltsee had one. Maybe that smart Jessup has one but he don't talk about it and I think he would if he did. Caspary has a damaged one on a letter. Came from the Chapman collection many years ago. When he would even keep a damaged stamp you know it would be something. And to add to all this the cover came from Needham, I think.

Think this is about all the problems this morning. Raining like heck here today. Have a busy week for me ahead.

Yours,

Cole 2/15 - 1953

Dr. W. SCOTT POLLARD

Albert Building

SAN RAFAEL,

CALIF.

228-53

Some time ago I told you about the \$2<sup>00</sup> green Pony Express from Carson City to Sacramento. Edgar had it from the Foundation. At that time, I suspected that it was a fake, but I understand, according to Cole, that the Foundation has issued a certificate of genuineness. No one to my knowledge has ever seen that Carson City or Sacramento, Wells Fargo handstamp. How come a \$2<sup>00</sup> green pony from Carson City to Sacramento. Do you know anything about it?



**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

---

*Commissions . Appraisals*

---

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 2nd, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Re: Pony Express cover.

As I wrote you I have checked this over very carefully and compared it with a lot of things which I gathered together and the whole thing in my opinion is as phoney as a \$3.00 bill. I do not think there is anything that is right on it except that the stamp is probably genuine. (remainder)

Re: \$2.00 Pony - I don't like the thing at all. The more  
I study it the less I like it. The whole thing. More on this later

Ezra Wadell 2/26-53

*Earl Oakley*

*Attorney at Law*

*Los Angeles 13, California  
Mutual 7331  
Suite 200 Continental Building  
408 South Spring Street*

January 27th., 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have received your recent letters enclosing the stamps I sent to you for checking and relating to the photographing of the Newbury plate of 1¢ 1851 stamps from Plate One Early. I have also received a note from Mort Neinken about this matter. I would like to have a set of the photographs and trust that they will contain any notes that you may have that will be helpful in the plating. I am enclosing my check for \$65.00 to cover the photographs and your checking of the material I sent to you.

I was very interested in your comments on some of the items I had sent you but do not have time to comment on your observations at this time. I may write you further about several of these items at a later date.

I was interested in the "mormon" cover sent from England to Salt Lake City and your conclusions as to how it went to its destination. It was carried during a time within ten years of the founding of the Mormon settlement. However, it does not have too much relation to my collection and I would consider disposing of it but would much prefer trading it for some item that would be more akin to my field.

I have another item that I did not send you for checking and overlooked. It is an "E" relief Type III 1851 one cent stamp from Plate Four. Could you place its plate position for me? Is the break at the top greater than usual in this instance? Also, could this be one of the Type Ic stamps from the "E" relief? How are the Type Ic stamps from this relief distinguished from the Type IIIa stamps?

I am also confused in regard to Plate One Early statements contained in your book. On page 117, 18R1 (early) is referred to as a Type IIIa stamp, while in the diagram on page 110 it is shown as a Type II stamp.

I shall be looking forward to hearing further from you and eventually receiving the Plate One Early photographs.

Yours sincerely,

*Earl Oakley.*

EO/M. enc. CA128256



*Earl Oakley*  
*Attorney at Law*  
*Room 520, Los Angeles Terminal Building*  
200 Continental Building  
*Los Angeles, California*  
*Mutual 7334*

February 6th., 1953.

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

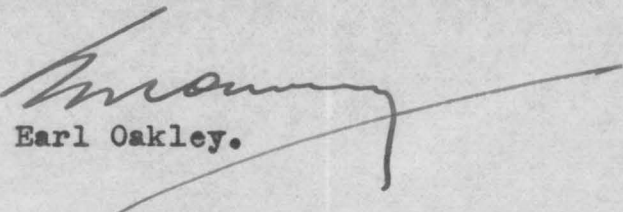
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Please find enclosed five items concerning which I should like to have your opinion, all being of the 1¢ 1851 stamp. I should like to establish the plate positions wherever possible. I have noted my questions on each card and have made such notations of markings as I have discovered.

I am particularly interested in your opinion of the Type Ia stamp. It has been submitted to me and I would want to be certain that it is not from one of the Type Ic positions. Do you think that it is too close at the bottom to be a very fine item? Also, what is your opinion of the condition and value of this stamp.

Please insure the enclosures for \$<sup>100.00</sup>200.00 when you return them to me.

Yours very truly,

  
Earl Oakley.

EO/M.  
encs. noted.

Feb. 16, 1953.

Mr. Earl Oakley,  
Suite 200 Continental Bldg.,  
408 South Spring St.,  
Los Angeles 13, Calif.

Dear Mr. Oakley:

I sincerely apologize for the delay in replying to your two letters of Jan. 27th and Feb. 6th. I have been swamped with work of late and had to lay aside all mail that did not demand immediate attention. I will try and be more prompt in the future.

Thanks very much for your check for \$65.00. In the next few days I will send you a set of the Newbury Plate One Early photographs and also a set of diagrams showing all the plating marks I was able to record from the Newbury material. This is an added feature to the set of photographs and I am sure you will find the combination very interesting as well as useful.

I am engaged at present in going over every stamp in the Newbury plate with a binocular microscope and recording on diagrams all the plating marks. With a set of the photographs and a set of the diagrams one should be able to plate a great many Plate One Early stamps.

In envelope "A" herewith I am returning the 1¢ 1851, Plate 4 stamp, which you described as a Relief "E" stamp. This copy is badly cut into and is heavily canceled. I doubt very much if the bottom line on this copy was broken, hence not a Type III. The stamp is an "E" relief but I doubt if it was from a Type IC position. The condition is such that it would be difficult to plate with accuracy. Because the stamp is so badly cut into at bottom it classifies as a Type IIIA - viz - top line broken - bottom line not broken. If it came from a IC position in the 5th or 9th rows, I would then classify it as follows: "This was a Type IC before the cut at bottom destroyed the type." In locating the plate positions of many 1¢ stamps much time might be required and unless the stamp is in fairly good condition it is not worth the time to establish its plate position.

I enclose a diagram with this copy of the relief "E" as it probably existed on the transfer roll. This is the way a Type IC should look. The left bottom corner ornament should be complete. If it is not like this, then the stamp is not a IC. I don't think this corner ornament is complete on your stamp. Note the top of the diagram - and you will see that the top line on your "E" stamp shows a wider break than the normal. This was due to plate erasure.

Re - your reference to 18R1E. You are quite correct. On page 117 (Vol. 1) I listed 18R1E as a Type IIIA but on the chart on page 110 I showed it as a Type II. I have before me two photographs of this position, one of which shows no break in the top line, the other shows quite a nice break. The top line on all "A" relief positions was a very fine hair line and there is no doubt that early prints from the plate showed no actual break in the top line whereas later printings, after plate wear, did show a decided break. The chart on page 110 must be considered as appro-



#2. Mr. Earl Oakley - Feb. 16, 1953.

ximately correct rather than absolutely correct.

Regarding yours of the 6th and the five (5 ) items that you enclosed and which I am returning herewith. I have made notations on the cards.

Re - the IA stamp on card No. 1. This stamp appears to be sound - free of thin spots or creases. It is a bit close at bottom and on this account I believe that a price of from \$175.00 to \$200.00 would be fair.

There is no fee on this lot.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

(26-45)



STAMPS  
COVERS  
ACCESSORIES

## JOHN A. FOX

116 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK 38, N. Y.

BEEKMAN 3-5443

RETAIL  
WHOLESALE  
AUCTIONS

February 14, 1953

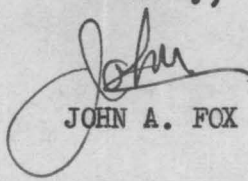
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Enclosed please find a Confederate cover that has me a bit puzzled. Does it look good to you and by chance can you decipher the cancellation. I got it from a good source but still wonder about it.

With kind personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,



JOHN A. FOX

JAF:C

Feb. 16, 1953.

Mr. John A. Fox,  
116 Nassau St.,  
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear John:

Your guess on this 10¢ plus 2¢ Confed cover is as good as mine. The darn thing does have a sort of genuine look - stamps dirty and somewhat faded, etc. The whole trouble is in the inability to make anything out of the postmark. Ask yourself this question - Did this cover originally have only the 10¢ stamp and did some joker add the 2¢ and copied the marking on the 10¢? If so, then he did a pretty good job of copying, in fact, it might be said, most too good. I suppose some would say that this rate of 12¢ is crazy - there was no such a rate - and I am sure I never saw one, but, if you could prove to be that the postmark was Wilmington, N.C., it would be quite a different proposition. In that event, we could account for the 12¢ rate, viz., a blockade-run cover into Wilmington, N.C. with a prepaid Ship Fee of 2¢. Such a thing would be some cover. I never saw such a Confed nor never heard of one. Please keep this information from reaching Zareski or he would make some for us. Do you think the black ink on the 2¢ is the same as on the 10¢? It looks a bit grayer to me.

I believe this is just about the best I can do. Send it to MacBride, but don't mention that I saw it.

Mildred joins me in best wishes to Virginia and you. We trust you both have been well all winter.

Cordially yours,

STAMPS  
COVERS  
ACCESSORIES

## JOHN A. FOX

116 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK 38, N. Y.

BEEKMAN 3-5443

RETAIL  
WHOLESALE  
AUCTIONS

March 4, 1953

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

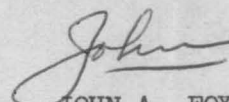
Dear Stan:

Thank you very much for your letter of Feb. 16th. Please excuse the delay in answering your letter but my Dad took very sick and after a short illness died. We buried him the day before yesterday. We are going to miss the old gent very much. He passed his 84th birthday two weeks ago.

Relative to the 10¢ plus 2¢ on Confederate cover, I showed it to MacBride and he said he does not know what the cancellation is but thinks it's a fake. I acquired it from the Gustave A. Burger stock and Gus thought it was good. While every one can be wrong, the old boy had a pretty good eye and I do not think it is a fake but, like yourself, cannot explain it. Sure wish I could make out that cancellation.

With kind personal regards to Mildred and yourself,

Sincerely,

  
JOHN A. FOX

JAF:C



March 7, 1953.

Mr. John A. Fox,  
116 Nassau St.,  
New York 7, N.Y.

Dear John:

Yours of the 4th received.

We were awfully sorry to learn of the passing of your father and Mildred & I offer our sincere sympathy. Eighty-four is quite a long life-span and you were fortunate to have him with you so long.

I note that MacBride believes the marking on the 10¢ - 2¢ cover is questionable. If so, then perhaps the fixer made it so that the town could not be deciphered. The Burgers always thought every item they owned was genuine.

Our regards to you both.

Cordially yours,

BARRETT G. HINDES  
140 MONTGOMERY STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIF.

February 20, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a 5¢ 1851 Scott No. 12 unused stamp, which has been offered to me.

Doctor Polland and I looked this stamp over together very carefully, and we feel rather suspicious about it. He suggested that you might be interested in looking at it and might be willing to give us your opinion as to whether work has been done on it or not, and whether you would consider it a sound, Genuine stamp.

My collection has been getting along quite slowly and I still need unused copies in 1¢ and 10¢ Type varieties, both the 1851 and the 1857 issues. I recently was fortunate in obtaining a really Superb copy of the 89R2, which really pleases me.

I am enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope for you to return the stamp, and ask you to advise me as to any charges you might like to make for the time that you spent for my benefit.

Very sincerely,



B. G. Hindes.

BGH:jm  
encl.

ins.\$300



Feb. 24, 1953.

Capt. B. G. Hindes,  
140 Montgomery St.,  
San Francisco 4, Calif.

Dear Captain:

Herewith I return the 5¢ of 1856 as per yours of the 20th. In my opinion, this is a cleaned copy - not unused - In addition, it is a damaged copy inasmuch as there is a bad vertical crease down the entire left side. I suggest you put the stamp in a bath of Carbon Tetrochloride and you will note the crease. The margins of this stamp are very close and the paper is no different than the same stamp of the perforates. The chances are in my humble opinion, that this was a perforated copy and the perforations have been trimmed.

My fee for the above opinion is \$5.00.

The following advice is absolutely free but if you profit by it you will save yourself a lot of money. It is not a mere opinion, but facts learned thru long years of actual experience.

There is perhaps no bigger sucker game in American philately than an investment in unused 19th Century stamps - issues say - prior to 1870. The crooks over in Paris spend years in perfecting their various methods. Just picture to yourself the removal of a cancelation from such a stamp as the 5¢ Buff of 1861. Here we have a very delicate color that one would hardly believe could be cleaned of a cancelation and leave scarcely a trace. Imagine a collector paying the S.U.S. price for an unused g.g. 5¢ buff which was originally a used copy without gum. Imagine a collector trusting to his own limited ability to detect the good from the bad.

Some person might inform you that he examined the enclosed stamp under the ultra-violet lamp and it did not show any evidence of cleaning. I doubt if it would ever occur to him that the crooks on the Continent work under ultra-violet in order to leave no trace of their work. Collectors who purchase off cover stamps with "rare" cancelations take some risk but none in comparison to the collector who collects unused o.g. copies of the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 and other "unused" which run into real money. Of course, there are genuine unused copies to be had of the 1¢ 1851 and 3¢ 1851 and with genuine gum, but look out for such things as the 10¢ 1855 - Type I or Type IV or even the 12¢ 1851. The green of the 10¢ and the black of the 12¢ are fast colors from which cancels can be easily cleaned. When the Post Office Department adopted the grill in 1867 they did so after years of experimenting. I doubt if all the cleaning back in those days was merely the pencanceled stamps.

Very truly yours,

Copy to  
Dr. W. Scott Polland.



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

2-27-53

Dear Mr Kohbrook:

Thanks very much for yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> and the copy of the letter sent to my good friend Capt Hinder. I have told him repeatedly to stay away from certain dealers and certain stamps, but he continues to be a sucker. However, I have trained him not to pay for the stamps until checked by some one else. He is gradually putting together a marvelous collection, but I have made him send back several thousands of dollars worth of stamps.

Re - 304 1860

304 imperf ?

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

February 20th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

I bought the enclosed in the Harmer Rooke last  
sale for Raymond Weill.

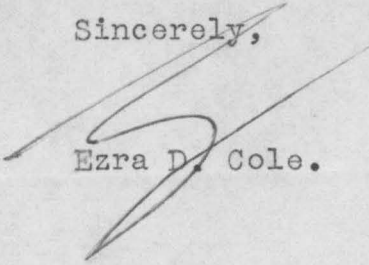
I don't like this lousy stamp but I thought  
it was the stamp listed in the catalogue - so did  
Raymond and Roger, and I thought it was genuine.

As you know this brown yellow color is  
typical of the so-called imperf, and the Foundation  
turned it down. Note the enclosed certificate.

Everyone concerned is perfectly willing to  
pay your fee of \$5.00 or whatever it may be. I will  
collect it for you, so let me know what you think about  
it, and I will pursue the subject further.

Sincerely,

EDC:mk1

  
Ezra D. Cole.





#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - Feb. 25, 1953.

I think a person is foolish to buy a single of any of the "1860 trial colors." If one wishes to acquire such non-issued stuff he should insist on pairs. Inasmuch as these things were not regularly issued they should be taken out of the catalogue.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

(26-48)

With reference to the 30¢ stamp. Thanks a lot. I agree with everything you say about that "stamp". It is my opinion that this is the thing that is listed in the catalogue. Again let me repeat that I do not like its listing but the stamp I sent you is, in my opinion, the item in question. I don't see what else it can be.

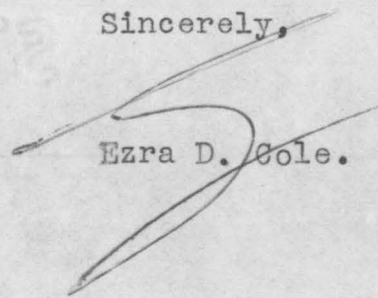
These of course were cut into singles. I believe there are only two or three pairs of the thing known. I have never seen a regular stamp in quite this color regardless of the exact adjectives used in describing it.

The 30¢ black comes on two papers I am sure.

Of course this 30¢ orange could as well.

I will let you know what develops on it if I can find out, and if I can also what Brazer says about it.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

**NYACK . NEW YORK**

*Commissions . Appraisals*

**TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964**

March 5th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Re: German cover. I am sending it to Thatcher.

Re: Pony cover. I wrote you about this.

Re: Pan American Invert. As I told you in my previous letter I do not think the stamp was thin, but it looked liked it was. The only reason I did not buy it was because the man who was interested in it was so damned fussy, I did not take a chance.

Re: 30¢ Imperf. Brazer wrote me a letter and he says "of course it is Scott's No. 38a". He does not think any- more of it as a stamp than you do or I do, but it is the variety listed in the Scott catalogue. In fact it cannot be anything else.

To quote from his letter he says "it is a little sulphurated or oxidized which accounts for the color.

Re: 30¢ black. I do not know where I got my infor- mation but I think this comes in two kinds of paper. One definitely may be a proof and the other may be a proof on stamp paper. I have forgotten and it is of so little in- terest to me that I just don't care.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1



March 6, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

I would hesitate to differ from an opinion expressed by Brazer, but I still have my doubts about that 30¢ 1860. I do not believe that it is the genuine 38a, and I have a sneaking suspicion that a thorough investigation would prove that I am right. I believe that he is wrong about it being a "little sulphurated." If it is, then I failed to notice such a feature.

Ez, in all my study of the imperf's, I never heard that the 30¢ black comes on two different papers. Do you know R. J. Mechin? He lives in New York now. Call him by phone and ask him if your 30¢ could be other than the 38a and if the 30¢ black is known on two kinds of paper. Tell him I advised you to call him.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

**NYACK . NEW YORK**

*Commissions . Appraisals*

**TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964**  
March 9th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

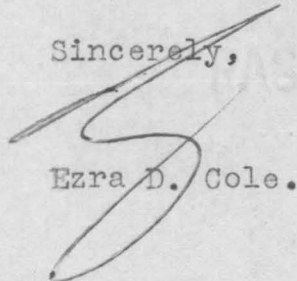
With reference to No. 38a. The problem is here as Brazer has explained to me since his letter.

While he feels that this item should never be in the catalogue as a stamp [it should be listed in the proofs] but as long as it is listed as 38a this is it. It cannot be anything else. This of course is the fault of the catalogue rather than of the stamp or whatever you choose to call it. I have had several copies of this and have seen many more and some of them are oxidized or sulphurated. A little peroxide will bring them back to their natural color.

Personally I like them this way for they have a little character which helps identify them.

I did a lot of work with Mechin on that 30¢ stamp. In fact I bought some for him from sales and I think this is where I got my information about the papers. I will drop him a line.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

EZRA D. COLE  
MYACK,  
A. S.

March  
12  
1953

I heard from Mechin and here is what he writes me, which verifies, I think, what I had in mind, and what I wrote you about the 30¢ stamp. Here is what Mechin has seen:

1. Unfinished Proof on Bond
2. Finished Plate Proof on India
3. Finished plate proof on cardboard (this was put out around 1875)
4. The stamp (?) which was officially authorized, partly prepared (i.e., printed on stamp paper but not gummed or perforated)."

These are all in black as I understand it and of course there is the so-called stamp No. 38a in orange on stamp (?) paper.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl



March 14, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

I returned the 1¢ '51 block to you today by regular mail special delivery. Here is a copy of my letter.

I have carefully noted the data by R. J. Mechin. So far the P.F. have not answered my query, viz., if your stamp is not 38a as they stated, then what is it? I am disposed to agree with them that your stamp is not a copy of 38a but if so, I don't know what it is. I have always understood that 38a was supposed to be the regular stamp paper. Your copy is not the regular stamp paper. Do you not agree on that point? If you do, then it couldn't be a regular stamp with trimmed perfs.

I cannot find out if Boggs is back at the P.F. Can you find out? If so please let me know - please.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

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*Commissions . Appraisals*

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TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 16th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

I am not interested in this frank. They are hard to sell and so much depends on the condition.

If, however, it is a full letter A.L.S. signed I might be interested.

Sorry you stirred the Foundation up again about the 38a. Mechin and everybody else says that this is the so-called stamp. I just saw another one and they are just alike even to the same color. I know you don't like it and neither do I, but as long as it is listed in the catalogue some people will want it. Perhaps it should be listed in the proofs or at least another place in the catalogue.

Wrote you about Boggs. Had another letter from Mechin verifying the fact that there are five varieties of this thing known, as I mentioned in my letter to you which are all in black plus the item listed as No 38a.

Thanks for the dope on the 1¢.

Returning your photograph print. Thanks a lot again and I am sending the lot back to Harmer Rooke.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1



March 19, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

Yours of the 16th received.

Again regarding the 38A - 30¢ 1860. I can honestly state that I have no dislike for the so-called 30¢ 1860 - My only objection is to the listing - The 30¢ imperf. was never issued, hence it is not a stamp, but a proof - as such it has no place in the S. U. S.

I think that it has always been considered that the real 30¢ imperf. was on regular stamp paper - that has been my understanding - but the stamp you sent me is not on the regular stamp paper. Brazer, Mechin and all authorities may be right in stating that the stamp you sent me is the item listed as 38A. I will not question the point if that is their opinion, but if they are right I suggest that it be understood that 38A is not on the paper of the issued stamp and neither is the 30¢ black. I merely asked the P.F. if the item they declared was not 38A then would they be kind enough to tell me what it is.

I don't give a rap where 38A is listed because I am not interested in trial color prints, proofs, essays, etc., etc. As long as 38A is listed as 38A then collectors will be mislead, thinking it was a part of the 1851 Issue and a regularly issued stamp.

I really don't know what Mechin meant if he stated there were five varieties of the 30¢ black plus the 38A.

Let us see if the P.F. will come up with an answer as to what the thing is if it isn't 38A

Let me know what Harmer, Rooke said about the 1¢ 1851 block of three.

Yours etc.,



April 20, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

Herewith the three stamps as per yours of the 12th.

The 5¢ '57 and the 12¢ 1857 have the Boston postmark that I am highly suspicious of. These two copies have the type that I believe is a fake. It has "PAID" at the bottom.

The 30¢ 1861 is a bit unusual with this N.Y. Foreign Exchange postmark. It should have been applied on the face of the cover and in this case I suppose another strike was made on the cover. This letter originated outside of New York where the target was applied, then N.Y. hit the cover with this red. This surely is a 2 x 15¢ rate to France Via American Packet to England.

I will make a photo of the 5¢ by ultra-violet to see if I can get any evidence of cancel removal. I may have seen covers going abroad with this particular Boston postmark canceling the stamp but if I have I cannot remember them. Why so rare on cover and not scarce off cover?

While I think about it, Mildred and I want to thank you for the can of maple syrup which came last week. We certainly appreciate this and thank you sincerely. It arrived in perfect shape.

I sent you a copy of the letter that I received from Mrs. Dale and it is very plain that they don't think they have made very many errors. That is the attitude of Henry Goodkind and I think he and his associates figure they are martyrs to the cause. That they give their time and in return, receive nothing but criticism and insulting comment. They fail to consider how they destroy the value of a person's property by declaring a genuine article as a fake or how they damage philately, by declaring one of Zareski's items to be genuine in every respect. Louise is influenced by Goodkind, Haverbeck and Boker. It is this trio who dominate the Committee and who believe that everyone who differs with their opinions is a trouble-maker. I hope it does not get back to Louise that you went over their heads and wrote to trustees. What was your reaction to her letter? I think you can work best thru Caspary. They all look up to him and I feel sure that they would adopt any recommendations he would make. Is he in town at present?

Re - the 90¢ 1861 cover in the Siegel sale (the F.D.R. - Ex-Krug cover). It was a real sale and I know the man who bought it. In fact, he offered to loan it to me if I had never seen it. He is also the present owner of the 90¢ 1869 cover sold in the Morgenthau sale in April 1943.

Heiman sent me the St. Louis bear stamp, also the 24¢-30¢ and 90¢ imperfs, also the 30¢ black. The 30¢ in this sale is on a different paper from that 30¢ that the P.F. paid was not the 30¢ 1860 imperf. All four stamps in the Heiman sale are on regular postage paper. That P.F. copy is not on postage paper and it is not the right paper. I don't give a damn what anyone says to the contrary - believe it or not. I did not examine the bar stamp - merely made a photograph

#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - April 20, 1953.

which I can examine later.

Re - the 1861 Letter Sheet. I acquired an unused large size for my reference collection. Now I want a small sizx - used or unused - for my reference collection. I was offered one at \$10.00 but this seems much too high (or is it?).

Re Belmont - My P.L. & R. of 1859 does not list a Belmont, Neve., and neither does my official 1863 list. I wonder if Pollard meant Galif.?

Re - the "Wells Fargo - Honolulu" - I have absolutely no data whatsoever on any Wells Fargo mail from Hawaii. Did not know that they had an office in Honolulu. I have searched thru my files and found nothing at all - not even references. Did you write Jessup about this cover? He should have data on it. Express markings are outside my field.

Boise - Chase might be able to give you some data, also that chap out in Idaho. Is his name Langdon? And his town "Buhl, Idaho"?

Thanks for reference to Siegel sale 424 being 171 in the Seybold. Latter price \$9.00, last price \$1,250.00. Just imagine!!!

Yes, who says covers are not a very safe investment?

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--Re - the Stark collection - Keep this strictly confidential and don't mention my name. It will not be sold. So the Eastern dealers are wasting their time.

January 26, 1953

## THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35th STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

## EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States  
1860, 30¢, orange, of which a photograph  
is affixed below

submitted by -- Raymond H. Waill Co. --  
and are of the opinion that it is NOT a genuine copy of  
1860, 30¢, imperf

*Thurman Stearns*  
For The Expert Committee  
CHAIRMAN





No. 4123

January 26, 1953

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35th STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

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*Thurman Stearns*  
For The Expert Committee  
CHAIRMAN



## THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35th STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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1860, 30¢, imperf -----

*Henry Stearns*  
For The Expert Committee  
CHAIRMAN



THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION  
22 EAST 35th STREET  
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

## EXPERT COMMITTEE

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1860, 30¢, orange, of which a photograph  
is affixed below -----

submitted by -- Raymond H. Weill Co. -----  
and are of the opinion that it is NOT a genuine copy of  
1860, 30¢, imperf -----

*Henry Stearns*  
For The Expert Committee  
CHAIRMAN





**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

February 24, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

I am enclosing two covers which I would greatly appreciate your examining and signing on the back.

Please advise me of your fee and I will remit by return mail.

I have your last two letters and will answer them in a day or two.

With kind regards,

*Jack*  
*me*

Jack E. Molesworth

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

*Int'l  
2-26-53*

VIA AIR MAIL



12

VIA AIR MAIL

275005

REGISTERED

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





# ROBERT A. SIEGEL

# POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONS

APPRAISALS

WANT LISTS

BRANCH OFFICE  
124 MAMARONECK AVE.  
WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.

505 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

Dear Stan;

I am enclosing a cover I would like your opinion on if possible. It is suppose to be Sept. 17 which is first day usage of 10c August.

I am remitting check for \$5<sup>00</sup> which I believe is fee. If incorrect kindly advise.

Kindest regards,  
Bob

March 2, 1953.

Mr. Robt. A. Siegel,  
505 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Bob:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 28th. I am pleased to report that the cover is genuine in all respects. Several clients of mine wrote me about the cover before it came up for sale last week.

Re - the "First Day of Issue." That may be true and it may not, because we do not know when the 10¢ Type I so-called August was first placed on sale. The date of Sep 17 1861 in the S.U.S. is from my records and simply means that I have never seen a cover with an earlier use, but such a thing might turn up at any time. In my files I have records of three covers with the 10¢ used on Sept. 17, 1861. The enclosed and another one used on the same day at New York. This a "Payen" cover to Lyon, France with two 30¢ - a 5¢ buff and a 10¢. Same black grids as yours. The third cover has a single 10¢ and was used from Rochester, N.Y. on Sept. 17, 1861 to Canada. I wouldn't swear this third one is genuine, though it could be. It was a Babcock cover and was sold in a Laurence sale in 1943. Doc had a lot of queer covers in his collection.

Larry Mason used to own the Payen cover and it was the first Earliest of the 10¢ Type I to be discovered. It has been the earliest in my records for some 30 years.

I never heard of your cover until it came up in the sale of last week.

May I thank you very kindly for the check for \$5.00. I have signed the cover on the back.

If you would like to have a complete analysis of the cover and markings I will be glad to furnish same.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Feb. 16, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 13th, several people wrote me about the cover in the sale by the United. I don't know anything about this outfit. Do you? Who runs it and do they have a good reputation?

Re - the cover. It is hard to judge a cover by a half-tone illustration but it seems to be perfectly okay. As far as the "First Day" is concerned, that statement is not true, at least we have no proof it is true. The date in the S.U.S. of "Sep 17" is from my records and simply means that I have never seen or heard of an earlier use. This cover is the third cover on record in my files used on Sept. 17, 1861, two from New York City and the other from a town in Wisconsin. An earlier use might show up at any time.

No doubt Stone has advised you re - the 2¢ Pan Invert. As yet I haven't developed my negative taken by ultra-violet but I would be surprised if any cleaning showed up. I hate to pass an opinion on gum (any damn fool can do that) - but I think most anyone will agree that the yellowish gum on this copy don't look much like the white gum the Bureau was using in 1901 - 1902 etc. Still I wouldn't argue with anyone who would state it is okay.

I wrote you about the \$1.60 rate cover and if you want me to sign it on the back return it and I will be glad to do so.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,



Feb. 12, 1953.

Mr. W. H. Kiefaber,  
634 Woods Rd.,  
Dayton 9, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Kiefaber:

I return the page from the auction catalogue of the United Stamp Co. of Tuckahoe, N.Y. I don't know anything about this outfit or who runs it, but I note that the sale is to be public and not one of those private mail order gyp affairs.

From the illustration, the covers appear to be genuine. The sender figured it was a single rate of not over 1/4 ounce, but the New York P.O. found the weight was over, hence rated it as entirely unpaid with two (2) rates due in France or approximately 30¢, thus the French due of "16" or 16 decimes, or about 30¢ U. S.

The date of Sep 17 in the S.U.S. is from my records and while it is not an actual First Day use of the 10¢ Type I, Sep 17 1861, is the earliest known use to me of this stamp. In addition to this cover, two (2) other covers are known with the 10¢ Type I (so-called "August") used on Sept. 17th, 1861.

A 5¢ Buff and a 10¢ Type I in combination on cover is quite a nice item and if the cover is genuine and in good condition, I believe that it would be worth from \$125.00 to \$150.00.

I note that you bought an Exakta but of course this time of the year is not very good to try out a new camera. I would be interested in learning the Model No. - lens, etc. I also note your comment on the Cobiwe projector and when you pay me that promised visit I would greatly appreciate seeing this instrument.

Re - any 35MM camera for philatelic work. So far as photographing stamps off cover is concerned I have done quite a bit of experimenting and as far as I am concerned, the results have been so unsatisfactory I refuse to go any further. I am still experimenting with covers but when I want a fine picture I don't want to bother with any 35MM exposure.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

March 2, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - my letter of Feb. 16 last re - the cover Lot #34 in the sale by the United Stamp Co. of Tuckahoe, N.Y. Did you forget that you owned the other "Sep 17 1861" cover with a 10¢ Type I? That was a "Payen" cover to Lyon, France - and had a pair of 30¢ 1861 - a 5¢ buff and a 10¢.

Who runs the United Stamp Co.? Do you know?

What did Lot 34 bring in their sale?

I had it submitted today for an opinion.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

George H. Alten  
539 W. Wheeling St.  
Lancaster, Ohio



Organized April 26, 1950

LANCASTER - OHIO

Feb. 27-1953

Stanley B. Ashbrook

P.O. Box 31

33 North Fort Thomas Ave.,

Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Sir:

I am inclosing a 90¢ Lincoln  
Scotts Cat. #122. I am owner of Stamp  
Having recently purchased it from a  
dealer. I also purchased a fake 90¢  
with some work you did in examining  
it for Ralph Hoffman, when you  
made photographs showing faults and  
fakes in Stamp. am glad to have this  
work in my collection.

Please look this stamp over carefully and  
evaluate it covering good or bad in  
it with photos if necessary and a  
written answer. I will pay a fee for  
your work. if you will give me your  
report with bill you can hold  
stamp untill I pay for your  
services. Am sending stamp  
registered and insured

George H. Alten



350

March 3, 1953.

Mr. George H. Alten,  
539 West Wheeling St.,  
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Herewith the 90¢ stamp as per yours of the 27th. I note that you mentioned that this was a copy of #122. However, the stamp is not the 90¢ 1869 - S.U.S. #122, but on the contrary it is an unused, without any gum, copy of #132, the re-issue of 1875.

I have examined this copy very carefully and am pleased to report that in my opinion, the copy is in fine condition and has no defects. The carmine color of the 132 is different from the #122, being much brighter. Further, the #122 has the "grill," whereas the #132 was issued without grill.

My fee for the above is \$3.50 which includes the return registration postage.

I am enclosing the envelope in which this stamp came to me. May I suggest that you refer this to your local Postmaster. To cancel stamps in this manner is absolutely disgraceful. It should be reported to the Department at Washington.

Sincerely yours,



Organized April 26, 1950

LANCASTER - OHIO

March 4-1953

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

We enclose check for your fee, 3<sup>50</sup>. We purchased this stamp for a #122 - dealer said he would guarantee, paid 200<sup>00</sup>. I also notice Scotts list #132 at 150<sup>00</sup>

I may need you further but will quote you in letter to source which sold stamp. would you care to give a fair buying value for the 90¢ Lincoln which you examined.

Thanks

George H. Allen

P.S. Will follow your suggestion on Mutilated stamps on cover. sent to you.

March 7, 1953.

Mr. George H. Alten,  
539 West Wheeling St.,  
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Thanks very much for yours of the 4th with check for \$3.50.

If you will give me the name of the dealer who sold you the 90¢ stamp, I would appreciate the information. Surely he knew the stamp was not the 90¢ 1869. I would like to report him to the Dealers Association.

I ask to be excused from expressing an opinion on values. It seems that most everybody has their own opinion on this subject and I doubt if I could prove that mine would be correct. I rather imagine that a person who would pay \$150.00 for a copy of #132 would demand superb condition and a stamp with full original gum. I am sure that I would. A copy without the original gum would bring quite a discount at an Eastern auction in my opinion.

Personally, I do not advise investments in "unused" 19th Century U. S. So many copies in existence today that are claimed to be "unused" are nothing more than "cleaned" stamps. Unless one has sufficient knowledge to detect the cleaned from the genuine, he assumes quite a risk in investing sizable sums of money into "unused" 19th Century U.S.

I can offer you a very fine used copy of the #122 @ \$100 net.

Sincerely yours,

(26-51)



**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

3-19-53.

Dear Stan,

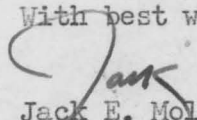
I am enclosing a 90¢ 1869 which I sold to George Alten at the Columbus Show last month as a #122. At the time I pointed out to him that I believed it to be #122A, the regular issue without grill, but since it lacked gum I was pricing and selling it as #122. He mentioned in buying it that he would like to send it to you for checking since he had evidently seen some of these made from proofs. I encouraged this suggestion at the time.

He has since returned the stamp with the statement that you expertised it as the Reissue, #132, and I made him an immediate refund. However, after checking it carefully with respect to paper and color with two unused copies of #122 and two of #132 that I have in stock, it still appeared to me to be #122. Therefore, since you have several times expressed a high opinion of Ezra Cole's knowledge which I share though feel he sometimes does not express himself too clearly, I sent it along to him for his opinion not mentioning that you had seen it since I did not want to prejudice his opinion one way or the other.

I am enclosing his letter which includes several paragraphs of comment and a comment in the 4th that I don't understand, but ends with the statement that his personal opinion is that it is a copy of #122A from which the gum has been removed. Therefore, I sending it along to you with the request that you reexamine it in the light of his opinion and my own examination knowing that if you conclude that your original impression of it may not be correct you will hasten to correct it which is more than I can say for the P.F. and most other experts.

Many thanks for your assistance.

With best wishes,

  
Jack E. Molesworth

P.S. Please do not write or mention this to Cole as I have no desire to draw him into it or pursue the matter any further if you should still feel it is #132, though your reasons for such an opinion will naturally be greatly appreciated.

March 20, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 90¢ 1869 as per yours of the 19th. I have again examined the copy and while I would like to agree with Ezra I can find no reason to change my opinion. I think this is most typical of the 1875 Reprint. May I suggest this - Phil Ward does know the difference between the 1869 and the 1875. Send it down to Phil and ask him which one it is - nothing else - Or if you would prefer that I send it I will be glad to do so. If Phil pronounces it as the 1869 I will be more than glad to agree with his opinion. I can assure you that I will not mention the incident in any way to Cole. If Phil says it is the 1869 I will be glad to pay any fee he charges you and I will voluntarily refund to Alten the fee I charged him. Is that fair enough?

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

April 1, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

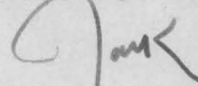
I have just heard from Ward on the 90¢ 1869 and his opinion after comparing the stamp carefully with those in his own collection is that it is undoubtedly the reprint, #132. This, of course, is in agreement with your original opinion and though I had hoped he would feel it was #122, I am happy to have the matter settled and see your opinion verified. I appreciate very much the open-minded attitude which you took in the matter. I shall write today to George Alten letting him know that Ward has upheld your opinion.

Enclosed is a stampless cover which I recently received from abroad that I am sending along with my compliments for your reference collection. You will note that the markings on it are quite similar to the fake cover with the #58 and #76 added to it which I recently submitted for your opinion.

My thanks for your plating and typing the three 1¢ 1851's sent you on the 16th. Enclosed is my check for \$3.50. Also, many thanks for the additional copy of your service issue reference to the 2¢ 1869 cover.

As I dictate this letter Jack Fleckenstein is here in the office and also sends you his best regards.

With best wishes,



Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/um

P.S. I am enclosing two 5¢ 1856 covers with different French due markings and would appreciate a few comments from you for the reason for the difference. Jack Fleckenstein just called this difference to my attention and although the covers have been in stock for quite a while I have never noticed it before.



# MacBride

744 BROAD STREET  
NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

February 25th, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

This is in reply to yours of the 22nd.

I found the name of the man who offered me a set of those Official Records and I am writing him today to see if he still has them. There may be a few missing out of the entire set, but he said he had 124 of the volumes, - which should be enough. He originally offered them to me for less than \$50., but I would have to come and get them! I'll let you know what develops further on this.

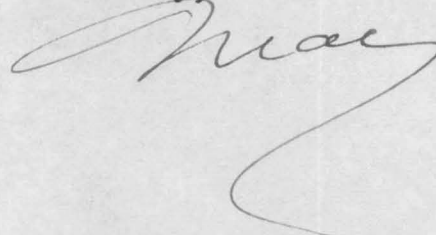
Then, a man I know in Denver, Col. wrote me that he has a friend who is a librarian who says the Official Records are often advertised in library periodicals, - that is those publications which are used by librarians. Usually they are offered to libraries or to individuals who agree to pay the cost of shipping, "with no cost for the volumes themselves". Perhaps you might run this down by asking someone connected with your local, or the Cincinnati, library to watch out for any such offer and let you know.

Our mutual friend Allen Thatcher at Harmer Rooke & Co. is an odd sort of chap, but isn't a bad fellow at all. As a matter of fact he was considerably concerned at the error in listing those "milky blue" sheets, and I think he chiefly wanted to be put straight as to them, rather than merely to prove you wrong, as you suspected.

Did you note that Larry Shenfield has been made a trustee of the Philatelic Foundation? I imagine that this was done largely to replace John Hall, and Larry will be a real valuable man for them. He is still on the Pacific Coast, but writes me that he expects to be back around March 4th.

Best regards!

Sincerely,



MacB/HK

WOODROW McKAY  
LEXINGTON, N. C.

March 3, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
100 Henry Court  
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing two Confederate Covers that I have just picked up that look so nice that I am afraid they are fakes. I would sincerely appreciate your expert advise on them.

I haven't written you for several years, but if I can be of service to you in any way in this community, please call on me.

Cordially yours,

*Woodrow McKay*  
Woodrow McKay

McK:s

Enclosures 2

March 6, 1953.

Mr. Woodrow McKay,

Lexington, N.C.

Dear Mr. McKay:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 3rd.

In my opinion, the stamps were not used originally on these two covers and further, that the postmarks on both stamps are fraudulent.

It was nice to hear from you and I do appreciate your offer of assistance should the occasion arise.

Sincerely yours,

(26-53)





PHONE  
STATE 2  
0257-8-9

**Lyons**

**BAND INSTRUMENT CO. INC.**

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

*Complete Band and Orchestra Equipment*

WALTER G. STRAIT  
EDUCATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
PERRY, GEORGIA

223 W. LAKE STREET  
CHICAGO 6, ILL.

*Broadway, No. Car.*

*Asheboro, N. C.  
March 6<sup>th</sup> 1953*

Dear friend Stan:

Enclosed find a cover bearing a Confederate 2¢ Green which I would appreciate your giving it official scrutiny and opinion as to genuineness etc.

There is a faint continuation of the circle postmark on the stamp itself - but when I place Sid Shure's transparent Postmark Gauge over the entire cancellation the part on the stamp is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. off on out of line - I thought that possibly someone had removed the stamp to see if the cancellation continued on under the stamp and in putting it back didn't exactly get it back in the same place as originally. Also notice the pencil marks around the stamp which might have been placed there to help replace it.

Remember the 2¢ Green on turned cover that Tony Russo sent you? I now have that in my collection. You will remember it was between Keyville and Aspin Wall, Virginia both of which were in Charlotte County. Could the 2¢ usage be explained by both Aspin Wall and Keyville mail being distributed by the same post office?

By the way, what did you think of my article in Weekly Philatelic News? It was a story that I ran into in my Georgia travels. Please return answer to Broadway, N.C. Regards.

Walter.

March 10, 1953

Mr. Walter G. Strait,  
Broadway, N.C.

Dear Walter:

Herewith the Confed cover as per yours of the 6th. This item is sure not very convincing but in spite of that I rather believe that it is genuine. Here are some of the good points.

- 1) It was a Drop Letter and it went thru the Richmond P.O.
- 2) While there is not much left of the Richmond postmark, it is of a type that was used there in 1861-1862.
- 3) The stamp has an old look -don't look like an unused remainder that was put on the cover.
- 4) The envelope is addressed to a "Major" - hence this sort of ties in. The pencil Sep 12 1862 on the back would be okay for the stamp and for this particular type of Richmond postmark.

If someone did remove the stamp and put pencil marks around it to replace properly I think he would probably have removed the pencil marks. I would hesitate to state that the stamp had been removed. The paper of the envelope fails to show any stain of water used in a removal.

I am wondering if you have given up your residence in Chicago and are living in the South, or is your stay down there but temporary?

I recall that Tony Russo sent me a cover but I seem unable to locate a photograph, hence cannot answer your query.

I certainly did read your article in GOSSIP and found it very interesting.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,



*Paul P. Christopher*



42 Yale Ave

~~xx Columbia Road~~  
Wakefield, Mass.

March 7, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I enclose herewith a cover bearing 3 1¢ 1851 stamps which appear to be positions 71, 81 & 91 Plate 1 early.

I would greatly appreciate your examining this cover as to plate positions of the stamps and as to whether or not this is a genuine item in all respects.

Your signing the back of it would also be appreciated, if the cover is genuine.

I shall be pleased to remit any fee that is required.

Thank you for past favors,

Cordially,

*Paul P. Christopher*  
Paul P. Christopher





350

PAID

MAR 17 1953

March 10, 1953.

Mr. Paul P. Christopher,

42 Yale Ave.,

Wakefield, Mass.

Dear Mr. Christopher:

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 cover as per yours of the 7th. You are quite right - the three stamps are the Plate One Early "Inverts." It is most unusual to see these three stamps on one cover. In fact, I do not recall ever seeing such a cover, hence this one might be unique, any one of these stamps is just as scarce as a 7R1E, because, for every 7R1E printed there was a 71 - an 81 and a 91.

I have signed the cover on the back for you and marked it on the front.

The fee for the above is \$3.50.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul P. Christopher*



42 Yale Ave

~~90 Columbia Road~~  
Wakefield, Mass.

March 15, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thank you for your letter of March 10th, I enclose my check to cover your very modest fee in expertizing my cover with the "inverts" on it.

I realize that the "Inverts" from Plate 1, early are just as scarce as the 7R1E and I can not understand Scott's catalogue valuation on them. I would think that the "inverts" would be worth just as much as the 7R1E; however, I realize that they are a "specialist's" item and therefore it would be difficult to ask a price that would approach the price asked for a 7R1E, let alone, three of them. I was wondering if you could suggest a value that you think this cover is worth.

I personally have a very high opinion of it due to the scarcity of the stamps and the fact that it may possibly be a unique item however, I would appreciate any comments you care to make as to what you think it's actual value is.

Again, I would be very pleased to pay a fee for your services.

Cordially,

*Paul P. Christopher*  
Paul P. Christopher

encl:

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

March 9, 1953

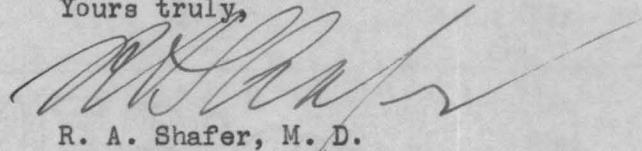
Stanley B. Ashbrook  
P. O. Box 31  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed are two copies of the five cent  
brown of 1847 which have been offered to me by  
a dealer.

The frame lines are partially doubled in  
each stamp, and I am wondering if this represents  
an unlisted double transfer or if it is a variety  
of recutting or other error. I am unable to find  
any mention of this doubling in Brookman's book,  
and I would greatly appreciate your comments.

Yours truly,



R. A. Shafer, M. D.

RS:mc  
Enc.

3/9/53 - I will be glad to pay whatever  
fee you see ~~sent~~.  
RA S.



March 13, 1953.

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

Dear Doctor:

Herewith I am returning the two 5¢ 1847 stamps as per yours of the 9th. I can assure you that both stamps show various kinds of repair work, such as painted lines, design, and "mounting" - the latter meaning - added margins, etc. Inasmuch as these fakes are absolutely valueless and represent work of the crudest character, I am not charging you any fee as it would be a waste of money on your part.

Would you be so kind as to inform me of the name of the dealer who submitted such fraudulent material to you.

Sincerely yours,

(26-56)

**RAYMOND H. WEILL CO.**  
ROGER G. — RAYMOND H. WEILL  
407 ROYAL STREET, NEW ORLEANS 16



**REGISTERED**

NO. 190109

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
33 No. Ft. Thomas St.  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.





RAYMOND H. WEILL CO.  
ROGER G. WEILL-RAYMOND H. WEILL

*Philatelic Dealers*

MEMBERS  
AMERICAN STAMP DEALERS ASS'N  
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
SOCIETY PHILATELIC AMERICANS  
COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK  
BRITISH PHILATELIC ASS'N, LTD.

407 ROYAL STREET  
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

March 2, 1953

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

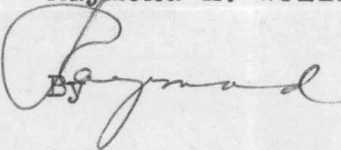
Dear Stan:

The enclosed block of TEN's is from a new "find" and perhaps you would like to record it.

As well, do you think you can remove the stamps from the paper without losing all of the gum? We would appreciate if you would make an attempt at it. This will probably be a tedious undertaking. Please do not fail to bill us when returning. As will be noted, the odd stamp has a bad tear at top but the block of four may be intact.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

By 

rhw:lc  
enc.  
reg & ins

March 4, 1953.

Mr. Raymond Weill,  
407 Royal St.,  
New Orleans 16, La.

Dear Raymond:

Herewith the block of the "TEN" as per yours of the 2nd. I believe that I saved practically all of the gum as the only bit that is not on the block is on the piece herewith. My guess is that someone stuck this down to this piece of paper because of the tear and the crease. The gum used on the TEN and the Frame Line is a sticky material and it is advisable to handle it with care in any removal of items from covers, etc.

Strange to relate, George Malpass made a new "find" lately of a block of six of the "TEN" - 3V x 2H. He sent it to me and I made a photo. I am wondering if there is any connection. I will send you a print if you would like to see it. Later I will send you several prints of the enclosed.

How about a fee of \$3.50?

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

RAYMOND H. WEILL CO.  
ROGER G. WEILL-RAYMOND H. WEILL

*Philatelic Dealers*

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COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK  
BRITISH PHILATELIC ASS'N, LTD.

407 ROYAL STREET  
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

March 9, 1953

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

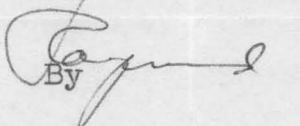
You did a very good job in separating the TEN block  
for us. It looks attractive in spite of the crease.

We do not think there is any connection between this  
block and the one found by George Malpass. Ours came from a nearby  
town and the owner indicated he had not found anything else of  
value.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

By 

rhw:lc  
enc.



**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon

Boston 16, Massachusetts

March 11, 1953.

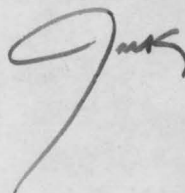
Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your March 7th letter and additional comments on the 2¢ 1869 cover. If you have a duplicate copy of your Service remarks on it same would be appreciated. Your comments on gum are appreciated and I agree 100%. Also appreciate your comments on the gum application on the 1851 issue which conform with my deduction on the matter. I'm tempted to send the 10¢ 1851 back to the P.F. again with Cole's letter that it has not been regummed and another from Usticke stating it is an unused o.g. copy. I'm not sure whether I mentioned that they finally issued a certificate reversing themselves on the #1 that they originally called a #3.

You are quite correct on the 75¢ rate Pay n cover; I'd forgotten all about it, but my records confirmed your comments. I still do not recall to whom I sold it or at what price.

Enclosed are three covers which I would appreciate your examining and signing. One is a 7R1E strip, another a rather nice 99R2, and the third a 5¢ N.Y. Prov. that is supposed to postmarked from Boston. Advise your fee and I shall forward promptly.

With kind regards,



March 14, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the three covers as per yours of the 11th. I have signed all three on the back.

Re - the 5¢ New York. Although the evidence is very limited, I am of the opinion that the stamp was originally used on this cover - and was put on at Boston. The use was October 1845, which is quite correct.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a duplicate copy of my Service Issue with reference to the 2¢ rate to Canada.

Re - the 10¢ 1855. My advice is to return the item to the P.F. and in a nice way request a reconsideration. Do not antagonize them, but state in a nice way that you believe they are in error and if so you feel sure that they would especially desire to correct a wrong opinion. Inform them that "Ashbrook seriously doubts that the item was regummed." Don't tell them I stated it was not.

I was pleased to learn they had adjusted the No. 3. I think they are trying and - co-operation is much better than antagonizing them. I am sure you will appreciate the wisdom of this advice.

My fee on the three covers is \$5.00 and this will bring us up to date.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

(26-58)



From  
Mr Mike D'Agostino  
Orange Lake  
Tennis Club  
South Orange  
New Jersey



March 14, 1953.

Mr. Mike D'Agostino,

1/ Orange Lawn Tennis Club,

South Orange, N.J.

Dear Mr. D'Agostino:

Herewith your One Cent 1851 cover as per yours of the 12th.

There is no new variety in the three stamps comprising the block.

In fact, the three stamps are quite regular and the types are listed in the S.U.S.

Inasmuch as I charge an examination fee on all items submitted to me, I cannot give you the facts without charge. If you wish same together with an enlarged photograph, kindly forward me your check for \$3.50.

Sincerely yours,

PS I think these Stamps are Rare  
the 4 types?



FROM Mike Diagostino  
40 Orange Lane  
Jennis Club  
South Orange N.J.

Sir

I Would like to know

What you think about  
the enclosed 1 cent Stamps  
1851- 1857 Issue - Just  
What Types or Scott's  
Numbers are they? Note  
one Bottom Stamp on

the Block of 3 - on cover.  
Supposed to be No 7-Type  
-2- but this Bottom Stamp  
has the Line Broken at top  
and the <sup>top</sup> also broken - the  
Bottom 3 - HAS the Plumeri Complete  
(over)

Return  
Postage 30 Mr Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Enclod  
for Return of  
Stamps and your  
answers  
Thank you 2 ?  
P.O. Box 31  
Fort Thomas  
-KY-

How come, - is Type 2- not-

supposed to have the TOP LINE

And top ornaments Baker? also

same goes for the Bottoms

Right Side Bottoms. is this

Not a new Nasty?? -

What the Hell is Wrong  
with SCOTTS - they dont  
say anything about the  
Type 2- top line Broken.

also Whats all this talk  
about ~~99 RE~~ - - 99 RE -

And Plate 1- and 25 on 16  
on



195  
Sh.

Orange Lawn  
Jennis Club  
So Orange Cal

I have US Scotts - No 7.  
+ TYPE-2. which has the  
(Enclaved for your inspection)  
TOP LINE and TOP ORNAMENTS

Broken at the top-!! and

the LOWER PLUMIE at  
Right Bottom almost complete  
and not missing as Per Catalogue  
How do you account for  
this - is this not a  
new variety?? - I'd sure

like to know your opinion  
on this matter - I thank  
you - Mike Diagostino  
Orange Lawn Jennis Club  
South Orange N.J.



# DINNER



IPS.

~~Your Callose States~~

~~No 7 - 1872 -~~

From  
Mr Mike Dagston  
Orange Lawn  
Jenn's Club  
South Orange  
N J

Y So Please  
Send Along your  
Price for Same  
As I Can Pick  
one copy

MIKE D'AGOSTINO  
Orange Lawn Tennis Club South  
Orange, N.J.



Postage

Endorse

for Return

Take a Look at  
the Position of the  
BLOCK OF 3 -

No. 1 - one HAS  
TOP LINE Broken

And ornaments Cent ??  
top any "

EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

---

*Commissions . Appraisals*

---

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 12th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Two things this morning:

I bought the enclosed lot in the Harmer Rooke  
sale for a customer and in order to save time and  
additional trouble - is this as described? Of  
course the important stamp is the stamp on the right.  
Is it truly a type III?

March 14, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

This is Saturday and too late today to send this by registered mail so I am sending it regular mail "special delivery."

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 block of three from the Harmer, Rooke sale. The positions of this piece are as follows:

77 R 4 - 78 R 4  
87 R 4 -

Refer to my Volume One, page 234. I have these positions listed as follows:

77R4 - III or IIIA  
78R4 - III or IIIA  
87R4 - IIIA

Later I changed these as all IIIA - 77 and 78 both show very small breaks in the bottom line and at best 78R4 could not be considered other than, "a poor example of Type III." I prefer to classify such stamps as Type IIIA. A person should not buy a stamp described as a III unless it shows a wide break in the bottom line (I refer to Plate 4). Thatcher should not have described 87R4 as a Type IC. This position is nothing like that type as much of the bottom corner ornament (the identifying characteristic of IC) was burnished out of the plate. 87R4 is a Type IIIA.

I enclose a photo which shows the three positions in this block. You can see that the bottom line on 77 is not broken but that 78 does show a small break.

I think this block should be returned to Harmer, Rooke & Co. because of inaccurate description. Isn't this getting to be quite a habit with them?

Best regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--Please return this photo print as I lifted it from my files to send to you.

(26-60)



PRESCOTT HOLDEN THORP

NETCONG, NEW JERSEY

—\*—

March 6, 1953

Dear Stanley;

I am glad that you have written to me for I've had laying on my desk for some time the inclosed photograph of a 6c star die used via Adams Express (probably through the lines during the uncertain period when Adams was permitted to carry on contact between the North and South) to New Orleans. This I had intended to send to you some time ago. Time, however, has a way of slipping by.

I've read your remarks about the star dies with considerable interest and I can find nothing with which I would wish to disagree. I suggest, however, that you might quote the mention you dug-up - and which you advised me of some time back- which specifically designates that the compound was not to be considered as demonitized. That discovery on your part was a very real and very important reference.

Now as to the 6c star die (which is on buff - same as the one Marcus has used at Oxford, N.Y.) a picture of which I inclose.

This came to me via Dick Townsend who brought it to the ASDA show last fall. It was apparently the property of a Gladys Hendrick for that is the person to whom Dick requested I make out the check in payment for it.

The envelope created quite a sensation at the Show as word got around quickly that I had it. Dr. Hertz, Johnny Fox, HMK, and several others all came around to my booth to take a look and admire it. Marcus, of course almost cried because he hadn't got first crack at it.

I had hoped that I might see you at the show so that you could have looked it over.

Anyhow, later, I sold this envelope to our friend Barkhausen in Chicago who owns it today. The price paid was very substantial and in keeping with the rarity of this item.

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Keep your friends, both new and old - the first are silver, the last are gold.

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PRESCOTT HOLDEN THORP

NETCONG, NEW JERSEY

—\*—\*—\*—

This envelope had been offered by a small ad in Mekeels (in 1921 ?) by a small dealer in Minneapolis. A clipping of the adv was preserved with the envelope. I gathered that ~~them~~ Gladys Hendrick would have been the wife of the collector who bought it at that time but this is conjecture.

The envelope is complete the back having been tightly sealed with an ugly dark glue which appears to have been applied under the flaps to seal the envelope and not to paste it to a package as only small traces of the glue had squeezed out from under the flaps. However I would not discount the possibility that this envelope may have been pasted to a package. No markings of any kind on the back.

Only marks on face are as seen.

Interesting to me is that this is part of the Carroll Hoy lot of which there are literally thousands of 3c envelopes but this is first time we have ever seen a 6c star die.

It would appear that the envelope originated in New York but absence of any Post Office cancellations indicate that it was handled completely "outside of the mails".

It would appear, also, that the "PAID" mark accompanied by the Adams Express mark would be somewhat in the nature of a "frank."

Anyhow it is an interesting and very rare envelope and I would appreciate your comments about it.

Incidentally, getting into the realm of "rumors" I have some hazy recollection that Phil Ward told me that he had both the white and buff paper 6c envelopes used. I think he meant the star dies but of this I am not sure. Personally I am inclined to believe that he meant the 6c red first issue Nesbitts.- rare used, but in no way comparable to the star dies. I will have to check on this next time I'm in Philly.

Presently I am in the midst of preparing a new edition of the envelope catalogue. Among other things I am trying to indicate, with illustrations and

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Keep your friends, both new and old - the first are silver, the last are gold.

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PRESCOTT HOLDEN THORP

NETCONG, NEW JERSEY

text all of the printed farnks that appear on government stamped envelopes. I've long ago come over to your opinion that envelopes were primarilly issued so that it would be legal for the express companies to carry mail and, hence, the printed franks on envelopes are, in my opinion, a part and parcel of envelope collecting. Indeed, I am begining to discover that some sizes of envelopes rare to envelope collectors are quite common with Western Franks. Quite obviously some of these were made up for and used almost exclusively by Wells Fargo and others. ~~Foraminist~~ I note that Berthold lists the 7c Plimpton envelope with a type 5 Wells Fargo Frank. I suppose Berthold is correct (will check) but if so this is a strange thing indeed. TB&R indicate that only 3000 seven cent envelopes were made by Plimpton and at the time of their issue we know that there was no possible rate fora seven cent envelope or stamp. Why, in all get out, would Wells Fargo print their frank upon them?

The deeper I get into this thing the more bewildered I get. I am tempted to back out and let "sleeping dogs lie" (or is it "lay?")

Regards,

Pep

P.S.  
Sorry - I don't  
have an 1861  
letter head in the  
place - used to  
have lots of them.  
They were faded  
once being.  
Pep



March 17, 1953.

Mr. Prescott H. Thorp,  
Netcong, N.J.

Dear Prescott:

Thanks very much for yours of the 6th with the photograph of the 6¢ Star Die. What an extremely nice item and I am sure our mutual friend Barkhausen was delighted to add it to his collection. I was also pleased to obtain the story of its background.

In my opinion, the oval "Paid" was applied at New York and indicated that the Express Fee had been paid. I doubt if I can add any further comment regarding it as your analysis is quite correct I am sure. Letters such as this were generally from New York banks and I have an idea that communications of this nature went thru in the period of three or four months prior to June 1, 1861, at which time, the C.S.A. took over the Postal System in the Confederacy. After that date there would have been a payment of Confederate postage. I believe that banks and business firms sent communications by regular mail and duplicate copies by Express, hoping that one would get through if the other one was lost.

The Express companies used a sort of black molasses mucilage or gum and perhaps they used some of it just to be sure this envelope was sealed very secure.

The story of mail between the North and the South in 1861 is very interesting. You will recall that President Lincoln issued a proclamation early in August 1861 declaring the carriage of mail to and from the Confederacy was unlawful and later the P.M.G. ordered the arrest of any persons engaged in such. There was a fellow in Kentucky by the name of Whiteside who had been carrying on such a business during the summer of 1861. Recently I found one of his advertisements in the "U.S. Intelligencer" published at Washington, in an issue as late as the middle of September 1861. I was surprised to find it because of the late date. I suppose they closed him up at about that time.

This 6¢ Star Die is so very interesting I am wondering if you would have any objection to me writing Mr. B. and request his permission to write it up in my "Special Service." If so, don't hesitate to so state.

One more point - don't you think it would be a good thing if Gordon Harmer gave more information in the S.U.S. about the dates of issue of the Star Dies? Do you think it would be worth while to send him a copy of my Service Issue with my data on dates of issue? Or would you prefer to call it to his attention?

Re - the Plimpton 7¢ envelope. When this was issued there was a rate to Germany Via England of 7¢ as well as to quite a number of other countries. Perhaps

#2. Mr. Prescott H. Thorp - March 17, 1953.

Wells Fargo had a call for such an envelope but because the U.P.U. went into effect July 1, 1875, the number used must have been very small. I never knew that Wells Fargo franked such an envelope but my knowledge of envelopes and Western Franks is insignificant.

Again thanks for your kindness.

Cordially yours,

2325  
131



Messrs Carroll Hoyt & Co  
New Orleans  
La

per Adams Express



J. DAVID BAKER  
3902 NORTH DELAWARE STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS 5, INDIANA

February 22, 1953.

Dear Stan:

Since it seems that Hugh and I are not going to get to Cincinnati in the near future, I am enclosing a lot of 1¢ imperforate and perforate to be plated. In some instances they have been plated, but I wish for you to check the plating.

I am starting on the long road of remounting my United States stamps. I have never cared to do any plating for the sake of plating, but I have learned that interesting stories do develop from your material after it has been plated.

I may find that there are certain items which might add to my story. If you can supply them as they turn up fine. Right now I am looking for a copy of 33L2 imperforate showing the crack. I am told that there are just three copies now held in two collections. Is this correct? I have good copies of all the other stamps which comprise the big crack.

Included on the same card as the single with the Cincinnati cancel on the top row is a single stamp. What is it? a proof or a reprint?

Thanks for your assistance. Send me your bill when you return the stamps.

Sincerely,

*David*

Feb. 27, 1953.

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

Dear Dave:

I am in receipt of yours of the 22nd with the 1¢ 1851-1857 material. It is impossible to plate many copies of the 1¢ 1851-1857, for example, imperfs from Plate 3, of the Type V. To the specialist in the One Cent, the important feature is the type and plate, rather than the actual plate position. The latter is only of interest to the advanced specialist who is interested in plate reconstruction. Of course, there are many desirable plate positions to include in a well-rounded-out collection, such as the 33L2 that you mentioned as well as many other outstanding plate varieties such as the Inverted Transfers, etc., etc. I couldn't plate all the various single items that you sent me and, of course, no living person could do such a job. It is nice to be given credit for being able to plate everything in the One Cent stamp but it is also regrettable that collectors who have never done any plate reconstruction work have so little appreciation of how very difficult the work really is. The fact that so very few get into it is perhaps because it is no child's play.

All this could have been put in fewer words but what I have been trying to state is this - I will go over your material very carefully and give you the information that I think will be most appropriate in properly displaying your items. Wherever I think a piece should be plated I will do so.

I trust the above will meet with your approval.

Copies of 33L2 showing the extension of the crack are very scarce, both imperf and perf but I doubt if only three copies of the imperf are known. I have no recollection of ever making such a statement and if anyone is better informed on the One Cent than I am, he is unknown to me. The crack did not extend down into 33 from 23 until very late in the life of the plate, so it is understandable why the 33L2 crack is scarce. It never did get very far and the chances are the variety would be very easily overlooked. I don't doubt that there are copies in collections and unknown to owners.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



10<sup>00</sup>

PAID

MAR 17 1953

March 3, 1953.

Mr. J. David Baker,

3909 North Delaware St.,

Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

I am enclosing herewith the eleven covers contained in yours of the 22nd. You will find memos with each cover. My fee for classifying these is \$10.00.

I will finish up on the off cover material in the next few days.

My kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,





50.00

PAID

MAR 17 1953

March 12, 1953.

Mr. J. David Baker,  
33909 North Delaware St.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Under separate cover, I am sending to you via registered mail your lot 1851-57 off cover material. I note that you have quite a few nice items, and I was especially pleased to see the Plate 4 - Type IC - 1857. This is indeed a very rare stamp. You will note that I plated quite a few of the items. Please don't get the impression that this is any attempt at mounting but rather an arrangement of the various items in a manner that will probably assist you in re-mounting your collection.

My fee for this work is \$50.00.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

J. DAVID BAKER  
3902 NORTH DELAWARE STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS 5, INDIANA

March 14, 1953.

Dear Stanley:

I have received all the packages of covers and off cover  
1¢ '51 - '57 items which you returned to me. I very much  
appreciate the way you have written them up. It really  
will be ahelp in mounting.

I did not mean that there were only three 33 Plate 2  
crack known. I only know that there are three copies in  
two New York collections. I am hopeful of someday finding  
this elusive item. I havé a copy of this perforated,  
but not imperforate.

Enclosed is my check for \$60 if I understood correctly  
that your charge was \$10 plus \$50.

Are you going to go over to Louisville for the Tri-State  
show April 10th to 12th? I am showing my Provisionals  
and 1847 covers. Also I am goiving a talk on domestic  
postal rates illustrating with slides of items in my  
collection. (I probably shouldn't tell you about this.  
as this is my first attempt to explain rates).

Sincerely,

*Dave*

March 17, 1953.

Mr. J. David Baker,  
3902 North Delaware Street,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Dave:

Thanks very much for yours of the 14th with check for \$60.00, which was quite correct.

I am wondering if you were fully aware of the rarity of the large size 1¢ 1857 Type 1A? Would you mind if I made special mention of this stamp in a future issue of my "Service?"

I will bear you in mind in case I can lay hands on a 33L2 imperf.

Re - the Tri-State Show at Louisville next month. I doubt if I will be able to attend as I may have to go down to Charleston, S.C. at about that time.

I note that you picked a very interesting subject to talk about and I wish that I could be present to hear it.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



3.9.53

Dear Mr. Ashbrooke:

Here is the story of a  
forgotten episode.

Tom Parker

THE CONFEDERATE NAVAL DESCENT ON PORTLAND HARBOR, MAINE, JUNE 26-27, 1863.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series 1, Vol. 27, part 2, page 801.

No. 1.

Report of Major George L. Andrews, 17th U.S. Infantry.

Headquarters, Fort Preble, Maine, June 29, 1863.

Major: I have the honor to report that, about 8 a.m., on the 27th inst., I received ~~notice~~ notice that the revenue cutter "Caleb Cushing" had been captured during the night previous, and that the steamer "Forest City" would report to me for men and armament. I therefore ordered Captain Nathaniel Prime, 17th Infantry, with his men, and 1st Lt. Edward Collins, 17th Infantry, with a detachment of the "Permanent Party" together with one six-pounder field piece and one twelve-pounder howitzer, to be placed on board the steamer. I also furnished 40 muskets to the citizens who were on board.

For particulars of the expedition, I beg leave to refer you to the accompanying reports of Captain Prime and Lieut. Collins.

I would also state that 1st Lt. F. E. Grosman, who is attached to Captain Prime's company, was fortunately here, and I have suspended his orders to go to Augusta, Me., on mustering and disbursing duty, for the present.

The prisoners were searched upon their arrival here, and I have in my possession the appointment of C. W. Reed as 2nd Lt. in the Confederate Navy; also the appointment of E. H. Brown as acting 3rd Asst. Engineer in the same service. These papers, the parties design to have returned to them. I have also the private notebook of Lt. Reed, containing a very interesting journal of his movements during the past six months; also ~~bonds~~ bonds given by several vessels, viz: June 7, 1863, P. Dillen & Co., Washington County, Texas, \$5,500; June 12, 1863, schooner "Kate Stewart", \$7,000; June 12, 1863, brig "Arabella", \$40,000; June 20, 1863, ship "Isaac Webb", \$40,000; amounting to \$92,500, and all payable 30 days after "the ratification of a treaty of peace between the United States and the Confederate States of America"; also a few other papers of little value, all of which I hold subject to your instructions.

The schooner "Archer" and all that was on board of her, together with the log-book, are now in the custody of the Collector of the Port, where I let them remain, thinking it best at this time to do so, rather than increase the excitement which now exists in Portland.

You can form but a faint idea of the excitement now existing among the citizens of Portland and vicinity. Rumor follows rumor in rapid succession; and just before daylight this morning, some one from the vicinity of the post went to the city with a fresh rumor, which set the whole city in a ferment. The bells were rung and men, women and children soon filled the streets, and were rushing hither and thither in aimless fright.

I would respectfully suggest that the prisoners be sent from here as quietly and expeditiously as possible as I do not think it safe for them to be placed in the custody of the citizens; and while the present excitement continues, I feel obliged to mount so large a guard that one half my force are on duty every night.

This, with the day duty of the garrison, and the labor of mounting and dismounting guns, will soon exhaust the men.

Respectfully submitted, George L. Andrews, Major, 17th Infantry, Commdg. Post.  
To Major C. T. Christensen,  
Assistant Adjutant General, Department of the East, New York City.

----- No. 2 -----

Report of Captain Nathaniel Prime, 17th U.S. Infantry

Fort Preble, Maine, June 27, 1863.

Major: I have the honor to make the following report of the part I took in the capture of the crew of the brig "Taconey".

Agreeably to your orders, I left Fort Preble on the steamer "Forest City" about 10 o'clock this morning, accompanied by Lt.E.Collins and Lt.F.E.Crosman, with 28 men, armed and equipped as Infantry, and 10 men for the service of the two field pieces which we took with us.

Shortly after passing the light house, the revenue cutter "Caleb Cushing" was discovered about 15 miles to leeward. We immediately headed for her. When within about two miles, she opened fire upon us from a 32-pounder, most of the shots falling short; one hitting us.

I regret to say that I was not in the position to take the stand my inclination dictated; the steamer was filled with citizens, without any knowledge of the responsibilities of the situation, and who apparently had left the harbor for a pleasure trip. The accumulated advice and disjointed comments of these bewildered the captain, who stopped his boat and waited the arrival of the propeller "Chesapeake", some two miles astern of us, although the boats were fast leaving the cutter at the time. The propeller finally took the lead, and shortly afterward the cutter was in flames.

There being no further ~~danger~~ danger excepting from small arms, we headed for the boats and succeeded in capturing the captain, second officer and entire crew. Annexed I hand you the list of their names.

From a man picked up in one of the small boats which left the cutter, we learned that the schooner "Archer", lately a prize to the "Taconey", was but a short distance to the eastward. We immediately started in pursuit, and she was brought to put a gun from the battery. We took from her 3 of the crew of the "Taconey", and a seaman lately captured.

The "Archer", I understand, was armed and equipped from the "Taconey", but of that I cannot speak positively, as she was taken in charge by the Deputy Collector of the Port and taken to Portland.

With reference to the men under my charge, I must say that although not exposed to any very imminent danger, as soon as the fire was opened upon us they manifested coolness and determination, and I have no doubt, had they been called upon to take a more active part, would have confirmed the favorable impression they made upon me. For the conduct of those serving with the pieces, I beg to refer you to the enclosed report of Lt.Collins, who was placed immediately in charge.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant

N.Prime, Captain, 17th Infantry, U.S.Army, Commanding Detachment.

To Major George L. Andrews,

17th Infantry, U.S.Army, Commanding Post.

List of Prisoners: C.W.Reed, Captain; E.H.Brown, 2nd Officer; J.E.Dillips, Master's Mate; N.B.Pryde, Master's Mate; J.W.Mathewson, Master's Mate; and 20 seamen. Albert J.Bibber and Eldridge Titcomb, fishermen on board the cutter and the "Archer", as prisoners of the crew.

----- No.3 -----

Report of Lt.Edward Collins, 17th U.S.Infantry.

Fort Preble, Maine, June 28, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to report that, in pursuance to orders, I took a detachment of 2 non-commissioned officers and 8 men of the "Permanent Party" of the 17th Infantry at this post, with one 6-pounder field piece and one 12-pounder howitzer, with a good supply of shot and shell, and went on board the steamer "Forest City" in pursuit of the revenue cutter "Caleb Cushing", at about 10 a.m. yesterday, the cutter having been seized the night before by the crew of the "Taconey".

We came within range of her 32-pounder about 15 miles outside of the lighthouse, when she opened fire, with solid shot, several coming very near, but none hitting us.

The master of our boat was unwilling to risk her any nearer; we could not control her movements; and had to wait for another steamer, the "Chesapeake", when we started to run her down. Seeing this movement, the rebels set fire to the cutter and took to their boats.

I did not return the fire of the cutter as my pieces were too light at that distance and I did not wish to show their small size, preferring to fire on her decks at the



moment of boarding, nor did I fire on the boats, as it was impossible to distinguish the rebels from the prisoners in their hands. They were accordingly all received as prisoners. We then stood for a small fishing schooner, which proved to be the "Archer" of Southport. I fired a shot across her bows, and pointed another directly at her, when she luffed up and surrendered.

I am gratified to say that my men were perfectly cool under fire, and would, no doubt, in a more serious engagement, have acquitted themselves with credit.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant

Edward Collins, 1st.Lt., 17th Infantry, Acting Artillery Officer.

To Captain N.Prime,  
17th Infantry.

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Series 3, Vol.3, page 421.

(telegram) 6-27-63 for Stanton to Coburn, authorizing the organization of a company of volunteers to guard prisoners of war at Fort Preble, Maine. (See Series I, Vol.27, part 3, p.368.)  
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Series I, Vol.27, part 3, pages 368-9.

(telegram)

Headquarters, Fort Preble, Portland, 6-27-63  
Received 3:30 PM

Hon.E.M.Stanton, Secretary of War.

I have in confinement 2 officers and 23 men, being the party who captured the revenue cutter Caleb Cushing last night. My force is too small to guard them. I await instructions.

George L.Andrews, Major, 17th Infantry, Commanding Post.

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(telegram)

War Department, 6-27-63 6:20 PM

Maj.George L.Andrews, Fort Preble, Portland, Me.

Call upon the city authorities to raise a volunteer guard for the immediate exigency. As the Governor of Maine is at Portland, apply to him to raise a sufficient force for temporary guard duty until arrangements can be made to transfer them to Fort Warren. In the meantime, place them in irons, and at every hazard, prevent their escape. Send me the Governor's address.

E.M.Stanton, Secretary of War.  
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(telegram)

War Department, 6-27-63 10:15 PM

Governor Coburn, Augusta, Maine.

It is reported to this Department by Col.George L.Andrews, Commandant at Fort Preble, that his force is not sufficient to guard the rebel pirates that cut out the Caleb Cushing. You will please organize a company of volunteers for temporary duty until the pirates can be taken to Fort Warren, or otherwise disposed of, unless it is already done by the authorities of Portland, upon whom Col.Andrews was, in your absence, directed to call.

E.M.Stanton, Secretary of War.  
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Headquarters, Fort Preble, Me. 6-27-63.

Hon. E.M.Stanton:

In the private notebook of Lt.C.W.Reed, Confederate States Navy, I find as follows:

"The latest news from Yankeedom tells us that there are over 20 gunboats in search of us. They have the description of the Taconey, and overhaul every vessel that resembles her. During the night we transferred all our things ~~mon~~ board the schooner Archer. At 2 am. we set fire to the Taconey, and stood West. The schooner Archer is a fishing vessel of 90 tons, sails well, and is easily handled. No Yankee gunboat would ever dream of suspecting us. I therefore think that we will dodge our pursuers for a short time. It is my intention to go along the coast, with a view of burning the shipping in some exposed harbor, or cutting out a steamer."

The above appears to have been written since the night of June 24. The schooner taken today is the Archer, of Southport.

G.L.Andrews, Major, 17th Infantry, Commanding Post.

(telegram)

Portland, Maine. 6-27-63 9:40 PM

Hon.Salmon P.Chase, Secretary of the Treasury:

The party which cut out the cutter Cushing were part of the crew of the bark Taconey, which vessel, ~~as~~ as appears from her log book, in my possession, that burned June 25, and transferred her armament to the schooner Archer, which we have captured and stripped.

They intended to burn the two gunboats here, transfer the Archer's armament to the cutter, and burn and destroy on the coast of Maine. The men are in Fort Preble, under guard, but I would recommend their commitment to Portland jail.

Lt.C.W.Reed, of the Confederate Navy, was in command of the men, and is a prisoner.

J.Jewett, Collector.

Series 2, Vol.6. (telegram)

War Department, Washington, 6-29-63.

Col.Dimick, Fort Warren, Boston.

If the rebel pirates taken at Portland should be sent to you for safekeeping you will take them in charge and have them securely kept until further orders.

E.M.Stanton, Secretary of War.

(telegram)

Washington, D.C. July 6, 1863.

Col.Andrews, Commanding Fort Preble, Portland, Maine.

You will please detain in your custody the rebel prisoners, until further orders, for the purpose of affording an opportunity to identify some of them.

E.M.Stanton, Secretary of War.

(telegram)

Fort Preble, Maine 7-7-63

Hon.E.M.Stanton:

I cannot guard the rebel prisoners securely. The accommodations for so many are too small. Three are now sick with typhoid fever and others are threatened.

G.L.Andrews, Major, 17th Infantry, Commanding Post.

War Department, Washington, D.C. 10-7-63

Hon.E.M.Stanton, Secretary of War:



Sir: The following prisoners were a part of the crew of the pirate ships Florida and Tacony who went into Portland Harbor and seized the revenue cutter and were captured. (The list is omitted from the Official Records).

All these prisoners swear that they did not know the piratical character of the vessel when they shipped and had no chance of escape afterward. They captured and burned about 38 vessels while in the pirate service. Wilton and Lawson want to take the oath of allegiance and enlist in the U.S. Service. These prisoners should not be discharged or exchanged.

L.C. Turner, Judge Advocate.

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Confederate States of America, War Department, Richmond, Va.,  
December 19, 1863.

Brig. Gen. S. A. Meredith, Agent of Exchange:

Sir:

Authentic information has been ~~received~~ communicated to our authority that Robert Hunt, Thomas Butters, and Francis Traner, seamen, captured on board the Tacony, under the command of Lt. Chas. W. Reed, Confederate States Navy, are now confined in the Portland jail. I will thank you to inform me why these men are separated from the rest of the crew and ~~whether~~ whether they are treated as prisoners of war.

Respectfully, etc.

R. O. Ould,  
Agent for Exchange.