

1	Dr W.S. Polland	Re Late Uses of S.F. Co	30	John D Pope III	Re-5¢ N.Y. To Paris
2	" " "	Re Rebecca Gibbons Covers	31	Vahan Mozian	Re 2¢ Bank Note
3	Dr Carroll Chase	Re 3 covers To France	32	Sam Paige	Re 2¢ B.J. Split
4	Emmerson Krug	Expertizing Various Items	33	Dr W.S. Polland	Re S.F. Envelope 10¢ P.O. BIZ
5	M.C. Blake	Re Various Covers	34	Dr Geo Manting	Re 10¢ 1855-I-Unused
6	Henry H. Clifford	Re Rate From SF TO FRANCE	35	L.L. Shentfield	Conted - MARION - S.C.
7	Don R. Heath	Re-Bissell Covers	36	M.C. Blake	Re 3¢ Rate To France
8	E.D. Cole	Re - "Boston Br Pkt"	37	E.B. Jessup	Re 90¢ 61 Cover Re N.C. R.R.
9	X X X X		38	Ezra D Cole	Re-TRIE With Phila. Star
10	Henry Hill	Various 5¢ 1856	39	John A Fox	Re-10¢ 1847 Cover FARMVILLE Va
11	E.D. Cole	PREPAID WAY 1¢ 61 + 3¢ 61 "TOMPKINSVILLE"	40	Vahan Mozian	May 11 1953 - 10¢ 1855 Cover
12	Jack Molesworth	Re-St Louis Bear	41	Miner Stamp Co	Re 90¢ 1860 OCEAN MAIL
13	Sam C Paige	Re III 5¢ 1847	42	Mike D'Agostino	1¢ 51 - Pl. 4 5/18-53
14	Philip Ward	Re Fake 5¢ 1856 Cover	43	Tom Parks	A Letter From Phil Ward
15	E.C. Krug	12¢ 1851 Cover Boston To SF	44	" "	Data - Also 2¢ 1870 Bisect From Whitehouse
16	Jack Molesworth	Two 5¢ 1856 covers	45	Geo N Malpass	2¢ Black Jack To BREMEN 1/2
17	Robert Beale	Earliest Known Uses From St. Francisco	46	Arthur Beckwith	2¢ Bank Note Part Pert
18	Raynor Hubbell	"Newberne"	47	Raynor Hubbell	Conted - 2¢ Green Cover - LIBERTY MISS
19	Roland E Hopkins		48	G.M. Phillips Jr	Re - 5¢ 1863
20	Ward Column Melceels	Re "FRANKLIN CARRIER"	49	Jack Molesworth	Re - 1¢ 1857
21	Dere H. Barr	Re 90¢ 1869 Cover Re 90¢ 1861 F.D.R. Cover	50	Phil Ward Jr	Re Perry Book On Carriers
22	W.W. Hicks	Re Elliott Perry	51	5¢ 1856 Proof Strip	PELANDER Sales
23	C. Corwith Wagner	Re War Rates	52	Re-Conted	AUSTIN Miss - P.M.P.
24	E.C. Krug	III 1¢ 57 57L4 - 58L4 Re Perry Carrier Book	53	J.E. Molesworth	7¢ - 15¢ Bank Notes
25	Irwin Heiman	Re 10¢ 47 Bisect	54	Philip H. Ward Jr	12¢ 1857 Jetterys Pl 3
26	Raymond Weill	Re Various 1¢ ITEMS	55	J.E. Molesworth	5¢ New York Separati 30¢ 1869 Cover
27	Dr W.S. Polland	3¢ 61 Cover with 10¢ Conted	56	Alex Dumas	- 3¢ 1861 Cover
28	Col. D.A. Alter	Re TRIE - Molesworth	57	M.H. Judd	- 90¢ Bank Note
29	Geo V Leurssen	Re 90¢ 1869 Cover	58	Raynor Hubbell	- Fake Lynchburg P.M.P.
			59	Phil. Foundation	- 90¢ 1860 - Fake N.Y. Item 4304
			60	Dr W.S. Polland	Re Western Express

Re - Confed - P.M.Provisional

"AUSTIN MISS" -

S.B.A. wrote H.C.Brooks, Dec. 18, 1945 as follows:

"I forgot to mention the following to you. I happened to look over your Confed. pages with John Hall and when we came to the page with the Austin, Miss. he remarked: 'Of course you know that this is a fake' - to which I replied that I certainly did not and that it was my impression that you had acquired the cover in a find that you made years ago and that the item had never been in a dealer's hands.

Please keep the above confidential but if you want me to write him regarding it I'll be glad to do so."

The other photograph is of a one cent post card  
from Hong Kong to San Francisco April 1883, with  
2-2¢ Postage Due cancelled by the San Francisco Co.  
It is what I call "the missing link" For years  
Jerrup and I have looked for such an item, because  
we have both obtained off cover copies of the 3¢+10¢  
Postage dues, also copies of the reengraved 1+2¢  
banknote issues with the same cog, that was used  
on the 1861 issue. Neither of us have seen the  
2¢ Postage due before, with this cancellation. Strange  
as it may seem, I have recently obtained good  
evidence that that cog, as used on the banknote  
issues was not put on in San Francisco, however,  
this is really a real San Francisco philatelic  
item - the use of the original San Francisco Co.  
on postage due stamps of the first issue, in the  
early 80's; about 15-20 years after its original  
use to cancel the 1861 issue.

Kindest regards,

As ever,

Wm. B. Colver

Dr. W. SCOTT POLLARD 2/28  
Albert Building  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIF. 1953

At one time there were said to be some  
fake Noisy Carrier handstamps, but I have never  
seen any, and I think not everyone thinks the  
type on your cover is genuine. The only monkey  
business I heard of, regarding Noisy Carrier covers,  
was the attempt of a certain individual in Florida,  
to put back 104 55 stamps on 8 covers with Noisy  
Carrier markings, from which the stamps had been  
removed previously. This correspondence was to  
Rebecca Gibbons of Wilmington, the great  
grandmother of Captain. Kinde's wife. Her brother  
and cousin, Dr. Morton Gibbons and Dr. Henry Gibbons  
are close friends of mine, and represent the seventh  
generation of doctors in this illustrious family of  
doctors. Her great grandfather arrived in Pennsylvania  
in 1849. Her grandfather was a founder of  
Cooper Medical College, now Stanford Medical School.

Enclosed are some photographs which may interest  
you - Noisy Carrier markings on old paper books - playlets.

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

Dear Stan :-

March 14 1953

Here Sam again but perhaps  
it is in a good cause. They are getting  
after Jared's card. They want to  
walk in on him one of these days with  
quite a few of his folks & see if they can't  
get some where.

Here are three more covers, be  
old personally & a friend of mine in  
France. Can you get you to give me  
the data briefly on each one? They  
are obviously all faked. Looks as  
though he couldn't get all the per  
cancellation of one of the 100. If  
you haven't the time just shoot 'em  
back.

Best regards

as ever

CC.

Return postage enclosed.

March 19, 1953.

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

Dear Doc:

Thanks for sending me the three covers as I am always pleased to see any covers made by Zareski. I am returning your postage as I will always be glad to pay it both ways or to split with you just to obtain a record of that S.O.B.'s handiwork. I am compiling quite a record and I think I can identify a great many of his fake stampers. The louse should be hung as there is no telling how many thousands of dollars worth of his faked stuff he has put in collections. Waterhouse was sure a fall-guy for him for many years and still has a lot of his fakes. However, it is hard to convince him that some of his treasures are fakes.

Re - these three items. The 10¢ 1857 "Steamship" fake was sent to me last summer by Maurice Levy of Paris, and I gave it a write-up in my Service Issue last August. I enclose a marked copy.

Re - the 5¢ 1857 Red Brown cover. This was a stampless cover sent from New Orleans unpaid. Zareski (?) added the two stamps. This was an unpaid single rate of not over 1/4 ounce. The New York postmark in black shows no payment and the "3" is our debit to France. The French Due of "8" decimes also proves the letter was not over 1/4 ounce. The French receiving shows "Br. Pkt." from New York, hence our share of the 15¢ rate was 3¢ for our "Inland" share under the U.S.-French Treaty. All these points show that the stamps on the cover are ridiculous. I think all the markings on the cover are genuine and no monkey-business with the exception of the two Zareski "PAID".

Cunard mail ships sailed every other Wednesday from New York and Boston. One week from New York, the next from Boston. Inasmuch as Aug. 23, 1859 fell on Tuesday, I judge this letter left <sup>Post Office</sup> on Wednesday Aug. 24, 1859.

Re - the 10¢ 1855 cover. Strange to relate this "Garnier" cover is genuine. Zareski obtained the Garnier correspondence and, of course, there were a great many that were genuine and he did not monkey with them. I cannot find a thing wrong with this cover. In fact, I would like to buy it. It was over 1/2 ounce, so it required 2 x 5¢ U. S. payment. This was the U.S. Inland under the U.S.-British Postal Treaty. In France it was found to weigh between 15.31 and 22.50 of a gramm, hence required a French Due of 24 decimes. Thus the French due shows it was over one-half ounce in the U.S. This "24" decimes applied only to the period Jan. 1, 1857 to April 1, 1857 and it is only during this period that we find the "G.B." markings on this class of mail from the U.S. Via England to France. Covers such as this showing pay of 2 x 5¢ are not common and I have seen very few. Of course, it is possible that such items have not come my way because people didn't attach much importance to them. There is one coming up in a Siegel sale next April 1st, Lot 86, as I recall. I don't know why those horizontal marks are on this <sup>stamp</sup> cover. The French Due proves conclusively that this letter required a prepayment of 10¢ in the U.S. - 10¢ and no more -

#2. Dr. Carroll Chase - March 19, 1953.

Further, I have a photograph of a cover to France from New Orleans by this same mail - a 3¢ and a pair of 1¢ 1851 - all the markings front and back are identical. Strange it is that this one of the three looks bad (pencancel) and is the one that is genuine.

I believe that Maurice Levy and Jamet are very good friends and both are wise to Zareski. I have been urging Levy to get the goods on the S.O.B. More power to both of them.

With all good wishes to Jean and you in which Mildred joins me.

Cordially yours,

P.S.--Confidential - I had a very discouraging letter today from Ernie. He is sure in the dumps - Has been sick most all winter - no income - and very disheartened. Said he was sour on stamps, etc., etc.

# MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.  
Monday, March 16, 1953.

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

Dear Stan,

Well, we are back from Memphis. Quite a nice city it is and grown tremendously since we lived there in the early twenties. Someday the company will go there but not this year or next. Waiting to see how things will jump.

I have your letter of last week before me. You ask about lot 564 in the Fox sale next month. Yes, that was my cover and so are most all the lots in the sale. They are no doubt the collection you sold Dr. Sellers of my 20th century. He has been trying to get the price he paid you for it out of it. I doubt if John can get him enough after commissions to give him that amount, especially if he has neglected the collection and I understand from the Weills who saw it that he had done so. You recall no doubt that I had the blue papers entire and the imperforate blocks of centerlines which you will see in the sale photos. It will be interesting to see what lot 564 brings. I paid Sloane 250 for it over ten years ago.

Here are twelve stamps and a block I wonder if you will give me some information about? First the block of 25-90¢ Bank Notes. It was Judge Emerson's. I bought it as a block of #191, the American Printing. But I am not convinced that it is not the MUCH rarer #166, the Continental. What do you make of it? Is it not at least a controversial item?

On the stamps here are my questions. They are numbered on the back of the mounts.

SUS#

- 2 I soaked this off of the lousiest cover ever made. Is it good?  
37 #2 Is this a British cancel and what is the ~~right~~ left hand marking? Has it extra value. It is not cataloged.  
37 #3 Do you consider this a "packet" marking?  
38 #2 What star is this? Chicopee? Glen Allen?  
38 #3 French Receiving?  
69 #1 What do you make of this?  
69 #3 What about this? III  
76 #1 Is this the black brown?  
76 #2 Ditto.  
115 I paid a pretty penny for this at Dans sale last fall. Isn't this the very dark one?  
116 Would you call this the Black town New York or the Steamship?  
121 Is this the French Receiving and isn't it rather rare on this?

Sure will appreciate your telling me these things at your leisure.

Ez is planning on sending David either to Cornell or down here to Georgia Tech. I am advising him on doing the latter. May get him to come down our way more often and also the latter is the best school.

Sincerely,



16 <sup>21</sup>

March 19, 1953.

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

Dear Em:

Herewith the items contained in yours of the 16th. Here are the answers to your queries -

90¢ Bank Note block. This is the 1879 Rose #191A - on soft paper - American printing. I have signed it as such on the back. I enclose with it a little gadget which might be called a "paper detector" - hold this to a very strong light - it shows by comparison the typical papers of the National, Continental and American. The paper of your 90¢ is not quite as thick and porous as the 3¢ in the "detector" but it is a soft wove and could not be of the grade of paper used by Continental. By a very strong light compare the texture of the 90¢ with the 3¢ on the "detector." While the 3¢ is thicker, the texture or wove quality is the same. In addition, this is a Rose, not a Rose Carmine or a Continental shade.

10¢ 1847 - Bottom sheet copy. You inquired - "Is it good." While I did not put it in tetro - it looks okay to me. I wonder if it wouldn't look better if you carefully trimmed the ragged edges at right and left?

24¢ 1860 - This was evidently on a cover from Boston to England - It shows the large Boston Paid in a grid but applied upside down - the cancel to right with the "74" was a London obliteration which was applied at suburban branch offices of "Tottingham, N." - To the left of this is part of a small circular London marking with a "20" day date - This read at top "London E.C." - all that is on the stamp is the "E.C." I would class this as a very rare stamp canceled with U.S. and British markings and you can charge the entire fee that I am going to charge you for this lot to this stamp alone. To give you the above data required quite a bit of time and research.

24¢ 1860 with red postmark. Rather than a "Packing marking" it is the Boston "foreign mail." It was applied to the back of covers going by Cunard steamers from Boston. Its use on the face of covers or on the stamps themselves is most unusual and I do not recall that I ever saw a cover with a 24¢ canceled with this back stamp. The S.U.S. lists "Packet Boat" @ \$75.00 as I suppose that listing refers to this marking. The 24¢ unused is not scarce - therefore, I would not authenticate this copy as genuine. This is exactly the sort of thing Zareski likes to fake. I am not stating this is bad but I do wonder if it is good? The genuine marking reads - "Boston Br Pkt Oct 2 - Paid"

30¢ 1860 - Black Star - this is not the Chicopee or the Glen Allen. I believe it would be very difficult to identify the actual town, that is, if the cancel is genuine. It could be and it could be a fake.

30¢ 1860 - with red grid and red box. This was probably on a cover from New York to Germany - a 30¢ rate by Prussian Closed Mail. The grid was applied (?) at New York -

#2. Mr. Emmerson C. Krug - March 19, 1953.

the boxed at "AACHEN" - (Aix La Chapelle). See my Service Photo #21, also Photo #56, also #65.

12¢ 1851. I think that this is the large double circle NEW YORK that was used in 1862-1863. It was used more on domestic mail than on mail going through the Foreign Division of the N.Y. P.O.

12¢ 1851 - Black cancel with three bars. Nice cancel. I have no idea where it was used. Probably good.

5¢ Brown of 1863 - Copy No. 1 - This is a cross between the dark brown and the black brown but I would class it as a dark brown.

5¢ 1863 - Copy No. 2 - This is the real Black Brown

6¢ 1869 - Yes, this is a dark shade. Luff's lists - Dark Ultramarine and Dark Dull Blue as I recall - Take your choice - either would apply in my opinion.

10¢ 1869 - This is the small size 29 MM type of "N.YORK - STEAMSHIP" with date in center that was used in the late sixties. Watch that upper left perf - it is very weak.

30¢ 1869 - This is supposed to be a French receiving marking but it looks like a fake to me.

Em - I am charging you a fee of \$20.00 for the above examination plus return postage of 6¢ plus \$1.15 registration - total \$21.21. I have credited you with \$5.00, so you owe me \$16.21.

Dr. Sellers called me up in January and said that he had sent his 20th Century collection to Fox to "appraise." I told him that he had made a bit mistake and to instruct John to ship the collection to me, and I would see what I could do with it. I told him that he would take a terrific beating if he permitted the material to be sold at auction. That is the last I heard until the catalogue came in. I believe that in nine cases out of ten it is just a damn waste of time to give advice to people. They generally go the opposite way. I suppose when John gets his hands on a collection it would take a lawsuit to get it back. Outside of that little failing I guess he is one hell of a nice fellow.

I think you gave Ezra excellent advice regarding David. What a fine chap that boy really is.

Best wishes -

Yours etc.,

March 20, 1953.

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

Dear Em:

Further referring to your 24¢ 1860 with the "Boston Br Pkt" marking. I returned it to you without making a photograph. Is this the same stamp that was Lot 365 in the Kelleher sale of Nov. 29, 1947? I looked up my data and found that Mr. Newbury bought Lot 365 in that sale - later he sent it to me and I advised him the copy was a rank fake - I think he returned it to Dan and I find that I wrote Dan and advised him the marking was bad. I note that Lot 364 must have been of the same character and I suggested to Dan that he get it back from the buyer and send it to me. I have no record as to whether this was done. I also note Lot #372 is no doubt the same as your 30¢ with a part of the "Star." I have a catalogue of the sale that was priced by Ezra. He has Lot 365 marked "repaired."

In this sale - note Lot #308 - a 10¢ 1857 - Type V - H.S. of four "neatly" canceled in red. Also note Lot #241 - Jessup bought this copy. Does it not seem strange that this marking in red appears on stamps that were rather common unused years ago? I wonder why we do not find it on any of the 1¢ 1857 Type V.

What do you think?

Yours etc.,

# MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Sunday A. M. March 22, 1953.

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

Dear Stan,

Answering your letter of the 20th in re the 2¢ 1860 single which you passed on for me, my stamp is not lot #365 in the Kelleher sale of Nov. 29, 1947. If you refer to the letter you wrote me the previous day you will note that my stamp had a date of Oct. 2nd while the photo shows in the catalog that lot #365 is dated July 10. Also the cancel on this latter stamp looks to be that oily ink while my stamp is clearly cancelled like on covers I have owned before this. I had bought lots 361-366-368-369-376-378-379-384 in this sale which I sold when I sold out a few years ago. #364 is not my stamp either for mine is not a "very fine" copy.

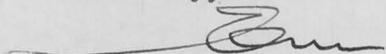
In re #372 this is not the same star as mine for if you will again read the description you will note that between each point of the star is the word UNION which my copy does not have. Wish it did.

I also note your suggestion that this marking of the packet is on lots 308 and 241. And you ask "what do I think?" Well, Stan, I don't know what to think. To me any cancel can be a fake for by the same token I can't see why any cancel can't be faked. Let's go back to that 9¢ 1860 which you had and so thoroughly tested. Why can't a fake cancel be made just as easily of the Philadelphia octagon on the West copy that I had so long here?

Sometimes I wonder what is the thing to collect. If you turn from wondering about cancels on stamps used to mint copies you have to pay big premiums for those with gum. Then you say is the gum original or have they been regummed?

It looks like the best of all is covers, that is the safest and truest. Yet I have a cover here before me with a 12¢ 1851 from Boston to San Francisco. It is tied on with a large Boston Paid. and a correct Boston dated May 1 in red is stamped on the cover. On the back in ink it says it was received May 30, 1855 in script. Everything about it is correct except the rate should be 10¢. Now is it a fake or not? Why would anybody take off a ten and put on a twelve cent? Surely the value would not be improved. So one wonders about covers also. Maybe that is why collecting is so fascinating since it presents a challenge to one's wits. Do you reckon that is it?

Sincerely,



Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

# Post Office Department

Received from: **STANLEY B. ASHERBROOK**  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.  
Fort Thomas, Ky.



One piece of ordinary mail addressed  
to **M.C. Blake**

**11 Mason St**

**Brookline (46) Mass.**

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

MAURICE C. BLAKE  
11 MASON STREET  
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

March 15, 1953

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

Dear Stanley -

It seems a long time since we were disappointed that you did not visit New England after the Meroni sale last autumn.

I wonder whether you have ever inspected this amazing 1852 phantom which was buried in the deWidts accumulations? There appear to be four instead of three bars in the upper half of the grid. Is there a remnant of the top serif of P above the 1?

I believe the deWidts considered or knew(?) it was unauthentic, despite the familiar figures 37.50 on back, as this item was not reported for Boston Postal Markings and only recently hit me in the face. What do you make of it?

Also enclosed is a really new item to me, 21¢ rate by French mail via Havre - credit 9¢ leaving U.S. 12¢, I suppose 3¢ internal and 9¢ direct sea, as no 3¢ for British transit involved, destination Berlin.

Sincerely yours,  
Maurice C. Blake

March 20, 1953.

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

Dear Maurice:

It was nice to hear from you after such a long lapse. I have been quite busy all winter and the weeks and months have slipped away very rapidly. When I was in New York in November I fully intended to pay Carroll Chase a visit and to stop enroute in Boston, but I caught a bad cold and thought it better to call off the New Hampshire visit as the weather forecast was not so good.

Thanks very much for sending me the two covers which I return herewith. No, I don't recall that I ever saw this Boston 1852 before. It is strange how people will go to a lot of trouble to make such things. In my opinion, the whole marking is fraudulent. I do not think any part of it is genuine. I did not take the trouble to examine it under the binocular to see whether it is a handpainting or from a fake stamp. Off hand my guess is, that it is the former. The stamp looks like an 1854 shade and impression. Imagine a use two years before it was printed. It is sad indeed that there are so many fake items in circulation. A great many reach my desk but those that do must be extremely small in comparison to those in existence. I have reached the conclusion that a collector takes a very great chance in buying off cover 19th with rare cancelations.

I was indeed pleased to see the cover to Prussia with the 21¢ rate as this is the first one that I have ever seen. They must be extremely rare. I would like to acquire this if you would care to part with it. Your analysis is quite correct. The rate by French mail was 21¢ per 1/4 ounce - this went direct to France by the HAVRE LINE, (Amer. Pkt), hence our share was 12¢ - being 9¢ sea and 3¢ internal. I suppose the French share was allotted as 3¢ internal and 6¢ to Berlin.

I have intended to write you about several matters within recent months, for example, the Boston marking that was applied to the back of covers as per your No. 713 on page 157 of your book, or your 712. I have noted this type of marking on the 24¢ 1860, off cover, on several or more occasions and I wondered if the items were genuine? I do not recall that I ever saw a cover with this type used as a cancelation - and without any other obliteration. I am wondering if my memory is at fault? It seems to me that a cover with a 24¢ 1860 stamp canceled by this marking would surely be most unusual. What is your opinion? One more subject.

Covers to France in the three months period Jan. 1, 1857 to April 1, 1857, with 5¢ payments. All of these went by "Br Pkt," but I do not seem to have any record of a cover by "Amer. Pkt" during that first quarter. I refer to mail via the Collins Line thru Britain.

And lastly here is another matter. A friend wrote me recently and inquired what postage had to be paid on a letter from San Francisco to France - mailed on Dec. 1st, 1850. How would you answer such a query?

I believe that Tracy Simpson would like very much to publish the 1852 fake

#2. Mr. Maurice C. Blake - March 20, 1953.

in one of his 3¢ '51 Unit Bulletins. Would you mind if I sent him a photo?

It was nice hearing from you.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

S. B. A.

M. G. Blake  
11 Mason Street  
Brookline 46, Mass.

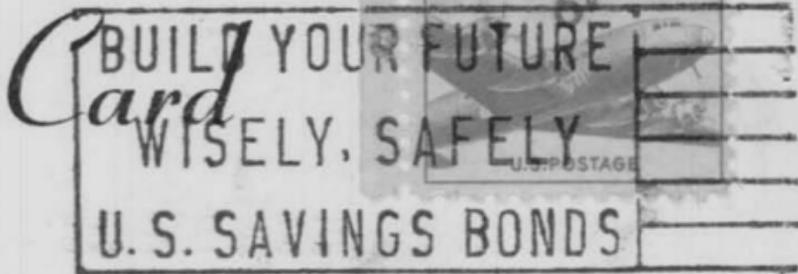
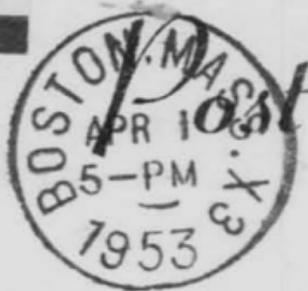
April 1, 1953

Siegel Sale, Apr. 1, 1953, lot 200 (Photo)  
shows BOSTON BR. PKT. PAID (B.P.M. 712) on face of cover  
slightly to left of single 90<sup>ct</sup> cancelled by four  
bars (B.P.M. 969).

I see in paragraph four on page one of my  
letter of March 28<sup>th</sup> I mentioned British, German  
and French steamships - no French ship involved  
as my 21<sup>st</sup> cover went by Am. Pkt. via French Mail  
to Prussia - Also error page two: A.M. PKT. (A.M. PKT.)  
only M and Televised -

M.G.B.

VIA AIR MAIL



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

~~33~~ North Fort Thomas Avenue

FORT THOMAS

Box

Kentucky

MAURICE G. BLAKE  
11 MASON STREET  
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

March 28, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

In reply to your welcome letter of March 20th I want to keep the cover with the prepaid 21¢ rate by French Mail to Prussia, because of the BOSTON/SEP/13/PAID/9 red which is the only one with this marking that I have, but you may make any use you care to of the photograph of this cover.

With this 21¢ cover I obtained two others of the same correspondence, each by different ocean conveyance in 1862: (1) with two 12¢'61 (one stamp torn and one gone but for a bit left) plus a 3¢'61 plus three 1¢'61 (the third gone but for a small bit) all tied by PAID grid (BPM 625) with red BOSTON.BR. PKT./JAN/14/7 PAID (BPM 805 - period after BOSTON, missing in BPM tracing) and red boxed AACHEN 28 1/FRANCO to Berlin, Prussia; (2) with two 12¢'61 and pair 3¢'61 cancelled PAID grid (BPM 625) with red BOSTON. AM. PKT./FEB/8/7 PAID (BPM 840) and red boxed AACHEN 22 2/FRANCO to Berlin.

I note that Stat. XII, Chap. CXXXI, p. 39, Act of June 15, 1860, Sec. 4 reads: "Foreign Mails. The Postmaster General shall cause mails to be transported between the United States and any foreign port or ports, or between any port of the United States and any other port of the United States, touching at a foreign port, by steamship, allowing and paying therefor, if by an American vessel, the sea and United States inland postage, and if by a foreign vessel, the sea postage only, on the mails so conveyed: Provided, That the preference shall always be given to an American over a foreign steamship, when departing from the same port for the same destination within three days of each other."

A sailing list from N.Y. in mid-January-February and September 1862 might show whether the Boston Foreign Office observed Sec. 4 of the Act of June 15, 1860 in sending these three covers, by British, American and French steamships, respectively.

Regarding the Boston grid 1852, I expected you would hold it fraudulent. This cover was sent to me unpriced by E. N. Sampson of Itasca, Illinois, who acquired a quantity of the deWindt accumulations not previously otherwise sold by Sam Paige. I wrote Sampson that I was sending the cover for your opinion and reported your view agreed with mine that it is a fake, asking if he would let me purchase it to file out of circulation with my Boston reference material and mentioning you would like permission to send a photo to Simpson for the Chronicle. Usually he replies promptly, but as yet I have had no answer, so perhaps he may have written you direct or may not have decided whether to let me have it. Will let you know as soon as I hear from him.

Now, your three questions, of which the last is easiest: What postage to be paid Dec. 1, 1850 on a letter from San Francisco to France  
Answer: 40¢ to ½ oz. by Br. Pkt.; 56¢ to ½ oz. by Am. Pkt., so specified in Boston Almanac for 1850, p. 150, shown in BPM, p. 149, Fig. 33.

March 28, 1953

Second question on covers to France from Jan.1 to April 1, 1857 with 5¢ payments should be by British packet per Act of April 3, 1852 in your One Cent 1851-1857, Vol.II, pp.323-324 and "21¢ when conveyed by United States packet." Was there any change in this basis for the first three months of 1857? Your Fig. 56 W has 21¢ rate by stamps from New Orleans SEP/20 with PAQ.AM. CALAIS/10/OCT/56.

I do not find that I have any covers from the U.S. to France during Jan.-Apr.1857 by Am.Pkt. I have the cover recorded in BPM No.816, p.172 which shows "p Atlantic" with green LIVERPOOL/FE 15/1857 on reverse to Boston destination 3/6/57; also a stampless (no letter heading) with red circle NEW-YORK/FEB/21/AM. PKT.(M andKT elevated) with red British circle 1857/ 7 MR 7/M crown G, "via Marseilles" to HONG KONG/29 AP/1857 black, but the American ship from N.Y. is not indicated. Perhaps you have a list of Collins steamers which left N.Y. in these three months. I note that it was a cold winter so that the East River at N.Y. was frozen over Jan. 17-21 and navigation on lower Hudson River opened March 18. Long Is.Sound was frozen interrupting navigation until Feb.16 and Boston Harbor was all frozen with below zero weather of Jan.23-25.

Re BOSTON.BR.PKT.PAID(BPM 712 and 713) please correct typographical error for latest date of 712 on p.156 which should have been 4/5/67 (not 61), though I have since extended this to 8/28/67. Usually 712 or 713 appears on back of outbound prepaid letters and on face of incoming letters paid abroad, sometimes striking a foreign stamp, but I do not recall seeing it as cancellation on a U.S.stamp, though I suppose it could happen. Would it be possible to produce an unrecognizable imitation of this marking to cancel an off cover 24¢'60?

By the way, I have just found that I have a record of another cover by French Mail to Gottingen, Prussia 21¢ prepaid by 15¢ Lincoln and pair of 3¢'61 the latter tied by red circle NEW PAID YORK(date ?)/9 with ETATS-UNIS SERV.AM. D HAVRE/22/JUIN/67 red and boxed AUS FRANKREICH/23 6/PER AACHEN FRANCO in black on face, also PARIS ETRANGER/22/JUIN/67 black and GOTTINGEN NACHTS/23/6 concentric blue on reverse. This cover was submitted to me in Sept. 1942, but I didn't have sense enough of its rarity then to take it.

With kindest regards,

*Maurice C. Blake*

P.S. Did you ever notice, as I discovered recently, that the P.O.Dep't Appropriations Act of June 25, 1860(Stat.XII, Ch.CCXII: "An Act making further Appropriations for the Service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal Year ending June 30, 1860") contains this clause:

"For payments to letter carriers, one hundred eighty-seven thousand and thirty-seven dollars." (\$ 187,037.00)

Wonder what the break-down of this sum was ?

*S.B.*

April 4, 1953.

Mr. Maurice G. Blake,  
11 Mason St.,  
Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

Yours of the 28th received, also your card of the 1st.

Okay on the 21¢ rate to Prussia cover. I appreciate your permission to use a photo of the cover in my current Service Issue. I am enclosing a copy of my remarks.

Thanks for your description of the other two covers that were sent by "P.C.M." (Prussian Closed Mail) - @ 30¢ per 1/2 oz.

Re - No. 1 from Boston on Jan. 14. This was Tuesday and it was sent down to catch the Cunard sailing from New York on Jan. 15. There were two sailings from New York by "Am Pkt" on Jan. 18, viz., Bremen Line for Southampton and Bremen, and the ? Line for Queenston & Liverpool. The next mail was the Cunard from Boston on the 22nd.

Re - cover No. 2 - Boston Feb. 8, 1862 by Amer. Pkt. There was no departure from Boston of a mail ship between the 5th and 19th. Both dates were Wednesday and were Cunard sailings. There were two sailings of "Am Pkt" from New York on Feb. 8, 1862, one by the ? Line to Queenston & Liverpool, the other by the Hamburg Line to Southampton & Hamburg. A letter postmarked Boston, Feb. 8, could hardly have sailed on that same date from New York (?). What do you think? The next sailing of the mail from New York was the Cunard on Feb. 12.

Re - the Act of June 15, 1860. Thanks for the quote. You will find this in the 1866 P. L. & R. under Laws - page 47 - Sec. 185A. I seriously doubt if mail was held up for three days to give preference to an "Amer. Pkt."

I note your card corrected your mention of French mail steamships.

No, I have not heard from Sampson. He is quite a nice chap but a bit careless in what he sells and has a tendency to resent being informed he has offered a fake cover. I think he also has a very high opinion of his ability to distinguish the genuine from the fraudulent. If he is as smart as he thinks he is there was little excuse for him even supposing the 3¢ cover could be good. I sent a photo print to Tracy Simpson. I will advise you.

Re - the rate to France from S.F. in 1850. I had the inquiry from H.H.Clifford of Los Angeles and I note your answer agrees with mine. I put the query up to several friends and in each case the reply was - "I have no information on the subject." Perhaps you would be interested in the letter that

#2. Mr. Maurice C. Blake - April 4, 1953.

I wrote Mr. Clifford. It was as follows, quote:

"I have yours of the 13th and note your interesting query, viz. - "What was the postal rate from California to France on December 1, 1850?" I believe that query would puzzle most any student of foreign rates. At that time we did not have a postal treaty with France and practically all mail from the U. S. to France went by way of England. The rate depended upon whether the letter was sent to England by the Cunard Line, (British Packet) or the Collins Line (American Packet).

If by the former, 40¢ had to be paid at San Francisco. This was merely the U.S. Internal and it merely paid the postage to New York and aboard a Cunard mail ship. Thereafter the letter traveled under the terms of the Anglo-French Postal Treaty and postage was collected from the addressee, such postage being from the U. S. frontier via England to destination.

However, if the addressor in California wanted the letter to go by the Collins Line, he had to pay the U. S. 40¢ and in addition, the "Atlantic Sea" (under the U.S.-British Treaty) of 16¢ - total 56¢. This paid a half-ounce letter to the British frontier, and thereafter the letter was in the same class as an unpaid letter originating in England with a French destination.

I have a record of a cover to Bordeaux from San Francisco on July 1, 1850. It shows 56¢ paid at S.F. and 21 decimes due from the addressee. The latter was approximately 40¢ in U. S. currency at that time.

I note the cover offered to you shows a payment of 50¢ at S.F. but I must confess I am at a loss to explain such a payment.

The S.S. Oregon sailed from S.F. on Dec. 1, 1850 for Panama with the mail for the East, and the next sailing was on the 15th by the California.

If you purchase the cover I certainly would like to see it. Do you suppose what looks like "50" could be "56?" "

Your letter - 3/28 - 2nd page - 1st paragraph. The answer to your query of "Was there any change in this basis for the first three months of 1857?" The answer is NO. The new Anglo-French Treaty went into effect on Jan. 1, 1857 and what was effected on U.S. mail (Via G.B.) to France was the postage due in France. As I recall, the rate was fixed by the Sept. 1856 Treaty at 4 pence if paid, and 8 pence unpaid between England and France. I regret to state that I do not have a list of sailings of mail ships for the year 1857, but, of course, the Collins Line was still operating during the greater part of that year.

Re - 3rd paragraph of your letter 3/28/53 - B.P.M. 712 - 713 - I made corrections in my book of latest date. Thanks. I made a further search thru my photo files since mine of 3/20 and was unable to find any cover with a U.S. stamp canceled by B.P.M. 712-713. This, in spite of the fact that off cover copies of the 24¢ 1860 and the 30¢ 1860 seem to be well known. I suspect the latter were made by Zareski though I am not at all sure. It does seem strange that I haven't a single photo showing a cover canceled by this marking and no other.

Re - Siegel Sale Apr. 1, 1953 - Lot 200. This was a 90¢ 1861 cover from

#3. Mr. Maurice C. Blake - April 4, 1953.

the "F.D.R." collection! It is addressed to his maternal grandfather "Warren Delano" at Hong Kong. I suppose he was the gentleman of opium fame. Yes, this has the 712, a use of March 1865. This cover belonged to Krug and I had it for sale but I couldn't find anyone who would have it in his collection. I cannot blame them. I heard it said that it was this 90¢ cover that started F.D.R. to collect. Probably no truth in the yarn. I have a very excellent photograph of it. I had forgotten that it had the 712 type on face.

Thanks very much for the data on the 21¢ cover to Prussia Via Havre in the summer of 1867. I sure wish I knew where the item is today. Perhaps someone among my subscribers to my Special Service will find such an item in their collection.

My very close friend Harold Stark of Ann Arbor, Mich. passed away very suddenly with a heart attack last Tuesday night. He was quite a student of foreign rates and markings. I will miss him very much.

Re - the appropriations Act of June 28, 1860. I note that the P.M.G. Report for the year ending June 30, 1860 listed among the "Revenue" items, the following:

"Receipts on account of  
Letter Carriers .....\$208,506.22"

And to offset the above  
under Expenditures -

"For payment to Letter Carriers .....\$208,506.22"

The above sum is broken down as sums received and paid out to letter-carriers at twelve offices in the U.S. The first four being in order listed New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston. Washington was next with \$6,856.02. The total of \$208,506.22 was listed as "Amount received and paid out for carriage."

I don't know why an "appropriation" had to be made for letter carriers but it is my idea that this was merely a bookkeeping item and would be offset by a receipt of a like sum from the public.

You are doubtless familiar with the 2¢ letter sheet issued in 1886 - (2¢ Green - Grant), but were you aware that this was not the first one issued by the P.O.D.? That a 3¢ letter sheet was issued in August 1861? Did you ever see one?

I would like to borrow your copy of the Boston Almanac of 1850 and microfilm the pages containing rates of foreign postages at that time. If you will send it to me by insured mail or express I will pay the carriage and return it at once. However, if you would not care to risk it in transit it will be perfectly okay.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

MAURICE C. BLAKE  
11 MASON STREET  
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

April 2, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

Simpson has kindly  
allowed me to have the  
Boston 1852 fake for my  
reference collection, where it  
will be out of circulation.

By all means offer  
your photo of it to Tracy  
Simpson for the 3<sup>d</sup> 51-57 Chronicle.

Sincerely yours,  
Maurice B.

MAURICE C. BLAKE  
11 MASON STREET  
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

April 7, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

Your letter of the 4th with Sample Page #180 from your Special Service has been received.

Your description of my 21¢ cover via French mail to Prussia in September 1861 is most interesting and thorough, -except that its source is not mentioned in the first paragraph and my correct appreciation of its significance makes the thought in your last sentence inapplicable in this case. Perhaps this is rectified by your usual source credit in connection with your Photograph No. 85. If I had that interesting 1867 21¢ cover with NEW PAID YORK 9 via Le Havre to Prussia, I would be willing to let you have it without breaking into my Boston Foreign Mail collection. Possibly it may be found by one of the fortunate subscribers to your valuable philatelic and postal history information Service.

I wondered why you were looking for covers with 5¢ only prepaid by Am. Pkt. (Collins Line) to France in the first three months of 1857, when 20¢ direct or 21¢ by first ship was required. The nearest thing I have is a letter dated "Paris Dec. 15, 1856", curiously without any French markings, but with black circle 20/DEC/31/N.YORK.A.M. PK.T. (20¢), which reads in part:

"I have postponed this letter that it might go by the Collins Steamer.".....

"We heard only day before yesterday of the narrow escape of the "AMERICA".. The British boats certainly have wonderful luck.".....

"I have just time to put this in the Post Office."  
I can see no evidence of any French stamp, though possibly one may have gone with any French mark there was entirely on the stamp (?), or perhaps an unpaid letter by Collins Line from Havre went unmarked in Paris(?).

Another cover with 80c stamp neatly cancelled and with PARIS postmark of 5/JUIL/56 on face and black CALAIS on back addressed "per Steamer" to New York bears black circle 21/JUL/28/N.YORK A.M. PK.T. (21¢ collect).

Excellent reply to Mr. Clifford's inquiry re rate from California Dec. 1, 1850 to France. I wish you had referred to Boston Postal Markings, page 149, Fig. 33 where he could see the answer in contemporary print. The more copies of this book that are sold, the better, though none of us personally benefits financially therefrom.

Sampson did not offer the Boston 1852 fake for sale, nor think it genuine. -- Yes, I have a 3¢'61 letter sheet in my Boston 3¢ plus 1¢ carrier collection fee collection. -- Is not a Supplementary Appropriation paid by the Treasury to the P.O. Dept to meet expenses not otherwise covered by receipts, as \$187,037 for Carriers June 25, 1860?

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

March 9, 1953.

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

Dear Maurice:

I was pleased to learn that Sampson sent the 3¢ cover to you and that it is out of circulation, but more pleased to learn that he had not tried to sell it as something that was genuine. I suppose I see so much of the latter that I am overly suspicious.

Yours of the 7th received today and I hasten to reply.

Re - your 21¢ rate to Prussia. I seldom mention the names of owners of covers for several reasons. I have had cases where dealers or collectors bothared owners with offers to purchase and second some people object to having their names mentioned for one reason or other, so in order to try to please, I have adopted a policy of not mentioning the owner, though, of course, I make exceptions when I consider it proper to do so. I can assure you that it is perfectly okay if you do not care to part with the cover. I most assuredly would not want you to let it go if you had the slightest desire to keep it. Very seldom do I ever request an owner to part with a cover.

Re - covers to France in the first quarter of 1857. I haven't been looking for "5¢ covers" by "Amer. Pkt." to France but rather covers to France in that quarter by "Amer. Pkt." There was no rate of 5¢ by "Amer Pkt" as the 5¢ Internal applied only to mail by Cunard steamers.

Re - the description of your cover dated Paris Dec 15 1856. I note this has a due of 20¢, so surely this was sent by the "Havre Line" - See my Volume 2 - page 338 - paragraph - "Twenty cents postage." The only postage the sender could have paid was the French internal. Naturally this was "Amer. Pkt." Though the writer mentioned the "Collins Line" it was not forwarded by that Line. It is rather strange that this 20¢ rate was not listed in the Official Rates of 1856. Did you ever note that omission? (i.e. 20¢ from the U.S. by Havre Line to the French frontier, direct).

Your cover with 80 centimes French stamp of Paris July 5 1856 was sent to England via Calais, thence by the Collins Line under the U.S.-British Treaty with 21¢ due. In this case, the sender had to pay the rate to England.

Re - my letter to H. H. Clifford. I note that the date of the letter was omitted. It was written March 18, 1953, which was before I wrote you about such a rate. I am glad that you called my attention to B.P.M. page 149, Fig. 33. I will write Mr. Clifford and call his attention to B.P.M. I very frequently mention this fine work and recommend it in the highest terms.

Re - your query re - the appropriation of \$187,037 for carriers, June 25, 1860. I really do not know why Congress had to make an actual appropriation of

#2. Mr. Maurice C. Blake - March 9, 1953.

money to pay "carriers" if it was not legal to employ carriers at Government expense. Are we confusing the term "Carriers?" Letter-carriers were those who collected mail and carried it from boxes to the P.O. and also delivered mail to street address. Such carriers had to be paid out of the actual sum collected from the public. Such service was not at the expense of the B.O.D. Of course, you are fully aware of all the above but I merely repeat it in order to inquire - Why an actual "appropriation" for this class of carriers, therefore, did this item refer to some other kind of "Carrier?" If you inquire of me, what kind do you refer to, I could only answer - I don't know.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

MAURICE C. BLAKE  
11 MASON STREET  
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

April 12, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

It was very kind of you to write Mr. Clifford such a fine recommendation of BOSTON POSTAL MARKINGS and I appreciate it.

No doubt you are quite right not often to mention the owners of covers for the reasons given in your letter of the 9th. When I allowed my cover with blue Honolulu, Hawaiian Is./Dec.7, 1850 and SAN FRANCISCO/15/JAN ms. 42,-which I was intending to illustrate together with Fig. 18 on page 106 in the Boston book showing the same blue SL Nov.16, 1850 and SAN FRANCISCO Cal./14/DEC handstamped 80 to Boston,- to appear first in the Meyer-Harris HAWAII(Fig.5), I hardly expected this would be used as an advertisement in STAMPS for the HAWAII book with the indirect result that I had various requests for this Dec. 7 cover to which I regret having eventually succumbed at far less than it ultimately brought at auction. That is long since a bygone matter, but it exemplifies the wisdom of your policy.

Obviously I misinterpreted the paragraph in your letter of March 20th which began: "Covers to France..Jan.1,1857 to April 1,1857 with 5¢ payments,"as of course you knew that letters by the Collins Line required prepayment of 21¢ U.S. postage. By the term "U.S. Steam Packets" on page 338 of your Volume II I suppose you meant to include mail by any AM. PKT. via England as well as by Collins Line steamers. I have another incoming letter early in 1857 with black circle BOSTON AM PKT./7/FEB on back and large black Boston 21 on front, as noted in BPM p. 174, No.826 under Usage from CONSTANTINOPLE (TURKIE)/1/JANV./1857 in black circle on front stampless prepaid via France to Britain, but I am not sure whether this came by Collins Line to New York or into Boston by some other "U.S. Steam Packet".

Regarding the cover from Paris Dec. 15, 1856, I wonder whether the writer, although expecting to catch a Collins steamer with just time to get the letter in the Post Office in Paris, happened upon a traveller going from Paris to Le Havre who took the letter and mailed it on board the direct steamer from Havre to New York where it received the 20 postmark, thus avoiding the normal French internal postage and any French postal markings, indicating conveyance by French postal service from Paris to Havre ?

Perhaps the June 25, 1860 Supplementary Appropriation "for letter carriers" did not refer to expenses of city collection or delivery of letters by carriers, as you suggest, but to some other kind of "letter carriers".

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

April 20, 1953.

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

Dear Maurice:

Yours of the 12th received.

I was pleased that you appreciated my position in not always mentioning the names of the owners of covers that I illustrate and describe in my articles. I might also mention that it is always my intention to give full credit to those from whom I obtain philatelic data. In cases where I fail to do this, it is an oversight and not intentional.

You mentioned in your letter a cover in your collection from Turkey in January 1857 with black "Boston Am. Pkt. 7 FEB" etc. with "21" due. This had the postage paid to England, after which it was from the British frontier to U.S. destination, hence 16¢ sea and 5¢ internal. This letter was surely brought to New York by the Collins Line or the Bremen. The Havre Line (Amer. Pkt), did not stop at a British port. At least that is my understanding.

By  
Collins  
BALTIC

Again referring to your cover dated Paris Dec. 15, 1856 with 20¢ due in the U.S. Of course, you are well posted on this rate but I mention it just for the record. From the U. S. to a French port, That is, to the French Frontier. I seem to recall that if the letter was directed to the port of entry, the rate was 26¢. This was pre - the Treaty - (April 1, 1857). In this respect I am puzzled as to how an extra payment of 6¢ in the U. S. could have paid any French postage. If you are not clear on this point I will look up my reference. In this connection I am enclosing a very interesting cover which I believe is genuine in every respect, that is, no changing of year dates, no stamps added or stamps missing. I believe that I have the solution to this puzzle and I intend to write an article about it for STAMPS. You will note the date of use was July 1857 - also Via Amer Pkt - the French Due is "10" decimes and it has the "G.B. 40c" most unusual for a cover of the Treaty period. I have had this cover for many years and I have never seen another one like it. As near as I can figure there is only one solution but of course that always seems to be a fact is one can think of no other.

By  
S.S.  
FULTON

We are having the most unusual weather out here for April. For three days we have had blinding snow storms. Saturday we had a regular howling blizzard with three inches of snow. Yesterday A.M. it dropped to 27 and never got above 34 all day. Week before last we had a high of 82. In this Ohio Valley we get the extremes in cold and heat. The chances are that the fruit trees have been severely damaged.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

MAURICE C. BLAKE  
11 MASON STREET  
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

April 21, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrooth  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

Spent a few hours this morning with the Boston Daily Advertiser of early 1857, finding:-  
my cover from Paris Dec. 15, 1856 came by the SS Fulton  
from Havre Dec. 17 to New York Dec. 31, 1856;  
my cover from Constantinople Jan. 1, 1857 came from  
Liverpool by the Baltic Jan. 21 to New York Feb. 5, 1857;  
as noted on the enclosed cards (1) and (2).

I also enclose for your files copy of  
my other notes on cards (3) (4) (5) listing the  
proposed sailings of the Collins Line steamers  
and the British Royal Mail Steamers from Liverpool  
and the former from New York, the latter from Boston and  
New York, together with an incomplete list of  
actually arrivals and departures - Boston and N.Y.

I thought you might find some of these  
data of some use for your records.

Cordially yours,  
Maurice C. Blake

May 1, 1953.

Mr. Maurice G. Blake,

11 Mason St.,

Brookline, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

Thanks very much for yours of the 21st with the five cards.

These are very interesting and I want to make copies so I will return the cards later.

I am also in receipt of yours of the 24th with the return of the 26¢ cover from Athens, Ga. I am enclosing herewith a copy of my May 1st issue of my "Special Service," together with the photographs. After you have looked this over will you kindly return the copy and prints to me. I believe that your analysis of the 26¢ cover is in accord with mine.

I will reply to your letter later.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

B303

By Henry Clifford

See 27-p.6

May 21 1950

56¢ Rate By Am. PKT - Via England To  
FRANCE - S.F. Dec 1 1850 -

'CALIFORNIA' In Same Oily INK

As The Large British Circular

PAID - 20 JA 51

A. M. CLIFFORD ASSOCIATES

INVESTMENT COUNSELORS

*Since 1945*

A. M. CLIFFORD  
HENRY H. CLIFFORD  
JAMES N. GAMBLE  
JOHN G. FRISZ

TRINITY 2228  
639 SOUTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES 14

March 13, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

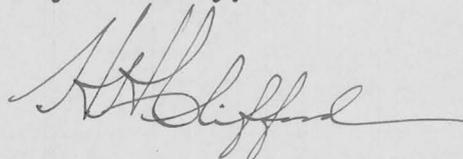
Even though we have not corresponded for years, I think of you every time I mail out an issue of "Western Express" -- I have always tried to emulate the excellent job you did with the Research Bulletins you published years ago. The purpose of this letter is to ask a simple question -- what was the postal rate from California to France on December 1, 1850?

I have been offered a cover addressed to Bordeaux post-marked in orange red "San Francisco, 1 December" (1850). Also in orange red appears "Paid" and "50".

Also on the face of the cover appears a circular British dated "paid" handstamp and a straight-line "CALIFORNIA". Both of these markings are again in orange red; and judging by the oiliness of the ink, they were applied at the same time. Hence I doubt whether the "CALIFORNIA" mark was applied at San Francisco, to indicate the steamer carrying the December 1st mail. Incidentally, the cover also bears several French transit markings, one on the face and the others on the reverse.

I will be interested in your reactions to the above, and in your answer regarding the postal rate to France in 1850. With kindest regards, I remain

Very sincerely,



HHC:MJ

A. M. CLIFFORD ASSOCIATES

INVESTMENT COUNSELORS

Since 1915

A. M. CLIFFORD  
HENRY H. CLIFFORD  
JAMES N. GAMBLE  
JOHN G. FRISZ

TRINITY 2226  
639 SOUTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES 14

March 13, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

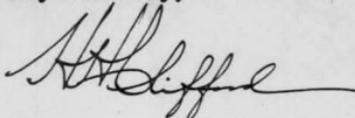
Even though we have not corresponded for years, I think of you every time I mail out an issue of "Western Express" -- I have always tried to emulate the excellent job you did with the Research Bulletins you published years ago. The purpose of this letter is to ask a simple question -- what was the postal rate from California to France on December 1, 1850?

I have been offered a cover addressed to Bordeaux post-marked in orange red "San Francisco, 1 December" (1850). Also in orange red appears "Paid" and "50".

Also on the face of the cover appears a circular British dated "paid" handstamp and a straight-line "CALIFORNIA". Both of these markings are again in orange red; and judging by the oiliness of the ink, they were applied at the same time. Hence I doubt whether the "CALIFORNIA" mark was applied at San Francisco, to indicate the steamer carrying the December 1st mail. Incidentally, the cover also bears several French transit markings, one on the face and the others on the reverse.

I will be interested in your reactions to the above, and in your answer regarding the postal rate to France in 1850. With kindest regards, I remain

Very sincerely,



HHC:MJ

March 18, 1953.

Mr. Henry H. Clifford,  
639 South Spring St.,  
Los Angeles 14, Calif.

Dear Mr. Clifford:

I have yours of the 13th and note your interesting query, viz. -  
"What was the postal rate from California to France on December 1, 1850?"  
I believe that query would puzzle most any student of foreign rates.  
At that time we did not have a postal treaty with France and practically  
all mail from the U.S. to France went by way of England. The rate depended  
upon whether the letter was sent to England by the Cunard Line, (British  
Packet) or the Collins Line (American Packet).

If by the former, 40¢ had to be paid at San Francisco. This was merely  
the U. S. Internal and it merely paid the postage to New York and aboard a  
Cunard Mail ship. Thereafter the letter traveled under the terms of the Anglo-  
French Postal Treaty and postage was collected from the addressee, such postage  
being from the U. S. frontier via England to destination.

However, if the addressor in California wanted the letter to go by the  
Collins Line, he had to pay the U. S. of 40¢ and in addition, the "Atlantic Sea"  
(under the U.S.-British Treaty) of 16¢ - total 56¢. This paid a half-ounce  
letter to the British frontier, and thereafter the letter was in the same class  
as an unpaid letter originating in England with a French destination.

I have a record of a cover to Bordeaux from San Francisco on July 1, 1850.  
It shows 56¢ paid at S.F. and 21 decimes due from the addressee. The letter was  
approximately 40¢ in U. S. currency at that time.

I note the cover offered to you shows a payment of 50¢ at S. F. but I must  
confess I am at a loss to explain such a payment.

The S.S. Oregon sailed from S.F. on Dec. 1, 1850 for Panama with the mail for  
the East, and the next sailing was on the 15th by the California.

If you purchase the cover I certainly would like to see it. Do you suppose  
what looks like "50" could be "56?"

Sincerely yours,

(S.B. 27 - P. 6)

April 9, 1953.

Mr. Henry H. Clifford,  
639 South Spring St.,  
Los Angeles 14, Calif.

Dear Mr. Clifford:

Further referring to my letter of March 18th last re - the rate to France from California in December 1850. May I call your attention to the very fine book,

"Boston Postal Markings"  
(to 1890)

by Maurice G. Blake and published by Severn-Wylie Jewett Co. - Portland, Me. Note page 149 - and Fig. 33.

If you do not own a copy of this book, I can recommend it to you in the highest terms. While it deals principally with the postal markings of Boston, it contains valuable data on many subjects of interest to collectors of 19th Century U. S.

Sincerely yours,

April 23, 1953.

Mr. Henry H. Clifford,  
639 South Spring St.,  
Los Angeles 14, Calif.

Dear Mr. Clifford:

Under dates of March 18th and April 9th I replied to your inquiry of March 13th. I am wondering if you received my two letters? It seems quite possible that they failed to reach you, otherwise you would have been courteous enough to acknowledge receipt, inasmuch as you requested information in yours of the 13th.

Very truly yours,

A. M. CLIFFORD ASSOCIATES

INVESTMENT COUNSELORS

*Since 1915*

A. M. CLIFFORD  
HENRY H. CLIFFORD  
JAMES N. GAMBLE  
JOHN G. FRISZ

TRINITY 2228  
639 SOUTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES 14

April 28, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

My apologies for not having acknowledged sooner your two recent letters. I delayed answering the first until such time as I purchased that cover; and I then delayed answering the second until I could acquire the book you recommended. I have since purchased the cover and ordered the book. When I find a little more free time, I will forward the cover to you for your inspection. I certainly appreciate your interest, and trust you will forgive me for my seeming neglect in keeping you posted.

The next issue of WESTERN EXPRESS is now being printed and should be in the mail shortly -- that's another reason why I have had so little time to attend to correspondence. With kindest regards, I remain

Very sincerely,



HHC-dk

A. M. CLIFFORD ASSOCIATES

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A. M. CLIFFORD  
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JOHN G. FRISZ

TRINITY 2228  
639 SOUTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES 14

May 18, 1953

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

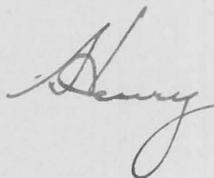
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Here is that cover I told you about some time ago, showing the 56¢ rate from California to France. Two questions arise regarding it.

First, was it placed aboard an American packet in New York or in Boston, and why was no marking applied? Second, what is the significance of the handstamp "CALIFORNIA"? I assume it was applied in England. The due marking for delivery in Bordeaux would appear to be 28 decimes -- I thought the usual collect fee was 21 decimes, or about 40¢ U.S.

I would be interested in any comments you care to make regarding this cover. Again my apologies for my delay in answering your earlier letters. Trusting this finds you well, and with kind regards, I remain

Very sincerely,



HHC-dk  
Encl.

REGISTERED MAIL

May 20, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Clifford:

I am in receipt of yours of the 18th enclosing the cover (F.L.) from San Francisco, Dec. 1, 1850, to Bordeaux, France. I note that this has a manuscript "56" in upper left and also a S.F. handstamped "PAID" and also "56." If you will refer to your letter of March 13th last, I believe you will find that you stated the rate that was paid was "50." I inquired in my reply of March 18th, if you mistook a "56" for "50."

Re - the queries in yours of May 18th. There were no U. S. Mail ships sailing from Boston with European mails at the period of this letter. Sailings were only from New York. The markings indicate that this was carried by "Amer Pkt," The Collins Line from New York to England, thence to France thru Calais. I note the British marking is Jan 20 51. At that time the Atlantic crossing required about eleven or twelve days, so perhaps this letter left New York about Jan. 8th. As I recall, the Collins steamers sailed every other Saturday. In 1851, January 4th and 11th were Saturdays, so perhaps the sailing was the 4th, and because of bad weather the trip may have required a longer passage. The letter leaving San Francisco on Dec. 1st could have easily reached New York for the Jan. 4th sailing.

I have no idea why New York did not apply a postmark but the reason may be that this went thru in a closed bag and not thru the Foreign Division of the New York Post Office because no accounting for any credit was due Great Britain. The rate was paid only to England, meaning to the British frontier.

I doubt if the French due was 28 decimes as it appears. I believe that for such a letter the French due was only 8 decimes, not 28 decimes. Perhaps this was a "2" and "8" not 28. Perhaps the 2 had a different meaning. The U. S. rate of "Paid 56" shows that the letter did not weigh over 1/2 an ounce, hence a letter from England to Bordeaux weighing not over 1/2 ounce or 15 grammes could not have been taxed 28 decimes in France. The rate was 8 decimes per 7½ grammes or 16 decimes for 15 grammes.

I believe the above covers your queries. I am returning the cover herewith. I made a photograph of it thru a special filter in order to bring out the faint San Francisco markings. If my negative turns out satisfactory do you mind if I send a print to our mutual friend Edgar Jessup?

No doubt you noticed the Pony Express cover in the recent Robt. Siegel sale (Lot 424). I am wondering if you have any explanation for the combination

#2. Mr. Henry H. Clifford - May 20, 1953.

\$3.00 Pony and the U. S. 20¢. Incidentally, the cover was purchased by a very good friend of mine. I made a very careful examination of it after the sale and some very excellent photographs. I will be glad to loan the prints to you if you are sufficiently interested. It was stated that the cover is unique - the only Pony cover with a \$2.00 green but that statement was in error.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--I overlooked mention of the S.L. handstamp "California." I never saw this before that I can remember. It seems to be of the same color and only character of the British postmark, hence I assume it was applied in Britain. It may have been employed on mail sent in sealed bags direct to England from San Francisco.

D. R. Heath

651 BARRINGTON ROAD  
GROSSE POINTE PARK 30, MICHIGAN

March 3, 1953

My dear Stan:

It has been very hard for me to find time to settle down to letter writing for some time back - and I thought after feeling not too good last fall that when winter settled in, I'd be feeling a little better - but - it didn't work out that way - and what bothered me then, still is something to remember - a back condition that I cannot get much relief from - and with my work at times pushing me, I don't know at times just what to do - Have kept up my duties as the D.P.S. Secretary - and have had enough "good days" that I can feel like working, but don't have the extra time I thought I'd have - after "retiring" - I didn't retire because I wanted to - but the age proposition in and around here - in any industrial town is about the same all over - and I had developed a small printing business while I was with the Engineering Dept. of Hudson Motor Car Co. - and the strikes of 1937 caused me to push it more - so that I'd have something to do when that time came - and it came! - I have never believed in unions as I saw them - as I always had worked on a basis of one's worth - and never knew what it was to look for a job - always had one - but was never able to put enough aside that I could say that I could "retire" on - I would be the most disgruntled man alive if I didn't have something to do - so the printing idea I thought would work out fine, and has for over ten years - but it's not much more than a living - but it has kept me very busy at times.

The reason I'm in doubt about both negatives is that when I built the home here in 1924 - I had stored in an old ~~box~~ in the basement, all of my films, negatives, prints, etc. of many years back - and the next summer in July '25 - we had a very heavy rain which put about 4' of water in our basement - I was in New York at the time and Mrs. H. saved whatever she could - so I'm only guessing as to my ever finding it - but I'll look some day in spring - as it may be among those saved - I really had forgotten some of the names in the Meron Club so have copied them before returning.

Now the next matter - the Bissell covers - and was a little surprised to see Barre's name in their connection - and wondered how you came by the copy - but noted in Dekeeb's, the article by Ward - which somewhat explains the matter - While I have wanted to do what I mentioned to you about - the time has been a big factor - and I do want to do it my way - in the form of a small brochure - printing it myself - The story I will tell has never been told before - and of course I do have the pictures of all the principals, the actors, so to speak - and they never have been in print before - Bartels, Perry and now Ward have not told the real story about how and why the letters were brought here - and I know that none knew the party who brought them to Bartels for sale - Too late, I found this party had died, or I might have added a lot to my data - but as I told you, I know nothing of the covers or their value - only the story - and seeing this in print the other day - almost made me attempt to start the idea going - Certain things are going to develop in about three months that will give me a little more time - (as I'm apt to lose a good customer by removal from the city) and this idea about the "Bissell" story is apt to be made possible before long - and at that time, I'm going to write you again about it -

Many thanks for your interest - and hope to hear from you again - Best to you and Mrs. Ashbrook -

Cordially  
Don.

Stan :- One thing I can assure you of, is, if  
you would like photos of the Reverend R. B. Bissell  
and Mrs. B. also their daughters - I can secure  
~~you~~ these for you as I have the films that I  
copied from the originals - they are very good - and  
just as soon as this idea gets underway - will have  
some made - I don't want to do this yet - looked  
up some data tonight and found that these films are ok, as  
they were not copied until about 1930 -

J.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT  
Paul Rice North, Chief  
Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street  
NEW YORK CITY 18, N. Y.

January 28, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Barr :

In reply to your letter of January 10th, we wish to report that the Rev. Lemuel Bissell was employed by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions which had its headquarters at 1 Somerset Street, Boston, Massachusetts. This organization was responsible for the mission at Ahmednagar. (India) The Board was Congregational Church affiliation.

Lemuel Bissell and Mary E. Beaumont Bissell were at the mission as early as 1862 when their daughter Julia was born. The family of three returned to the U. S. in 1876 when Julia was sent to the Auburndale, Massachusetts Home for Missionary Children. Julia was graduated from Wellesley in 1886 and rejoined her parents in India until 1891. Mary Bissell was actively engaged in doing translations in 1886 in India.

While we found no definite statement to date the matter, we feel quite certain that only Julia, and not her parents, was near Boston in 1882. The letter you have may be from her to them or from their employer, the Board of Commissioners.

Very truly yours,

Paul North Rice  
Chief of the Reference Department

FRB:328  
mk

March 30, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

Re - Emerson sale by Kelleher - Nov. 29, 1947 - Note 24¢ -  
illustration of Lot 365. Did you ever see a cover with a stamp  
canceled by this marking? It was almost invariably applied to the back  
of covers. Lot 365 was bought by Newbury and I informed him it was a  
fake and he returned it to Dan. Since then I have noted this on off cover  
1857 stamps but I don't recall seeing it as a postmark on a cover to cancel  
any stamps. Have you any off cover copies on hand? If so, will you  
please send them to me?

Thanks.

Yours etc.,

April 4, 1953.

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

Dear Em:

I forgot to mention to you for several weeks past -  
Siegel Sale April 1st, Lot 200 - your old F.D.R. cover. Wonder  
what it brought? I will see if I can get a priced catalogue from  
Bob. I also note on the face of this F.D.R. cover that

BOSTON BR PKT

MAR 2 ?

PAID

Here is a case where this particular type of marking was applied to  
a face of a cover but not to the stamp. It was my impression it was  
always used on the back.

Thanks for the copy of the A.P. - It came this afternoon.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

March 20, 1953.

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

Dear Henry:

I sincerely apologize for holding these photo prints so long but I have been so busy since the first of the month, I neglected to drop everything and return them to you. The following are some comments:

- 1) Cover V.S. of 3 - from Boston Dec. 28, 1860 - The markings are all apparently okay and the cover is undoubtedly genuine.
- 2) Cover H.S. of 3 - center line to right - from New Orleans - thru Boston on Oct. 3, 1860 - Everything seems to be okay.
- 3) Cover to Germany with 20¢ Paid. This went by Prussian Closed Mail and the rate was 30¢. Perhaps there are two 5¢ or a 10¢ on the back.

Off cover

I like the Type I center line copy.

It was nice in Jamet to have the photos made. I believe he is quite a good friend of Carroll Chase and seems to be in touch with him right along. Chase gives him an A1 rating. I believe that Jamet and some of his friends in Paris are trying to get the goods on that crook Zareski.

Yours of the 17th came yesterday. Thanks very much for the check for \$150.00 for the two 5¢ '56 sent you on the 14th.

I return herewith your copy of the 5¢ 1856. Neither markings that you noted are consistent in my opinion. The little blurr in the "P" is a bit of color which I don't think is an actual plate variety of any kind. The line in the "S" is a foreign hair or fiber of some sort that probably got into the ink. Sometimes we find fine threads like this from a brush or from the wiping cloth.

I regret to state that I never saw the original of the 100¢. What a stamp!!! I feel rather sure that this stamp is not in the Newbury collection. I never laid eyes on as fine a 5¢ 1856. Too bad Les can't remember who owns it. The chances are the owner would not appreciate its real value.

I note you are leaving for the Continent on the 14th and will not return until May 27. I trust that your friends in Paris will have some nice things to show you. Perhaps Bacher can persuade Sir Nicholas Waterhouse to part with some of his fine 5¢ 1856 but be careful and make your purchases contingent on my

#2. Mr. Henry W. Hill - March 20, 1953.

approval as Sir N. has one Zareski that I know of - in fact, two (57 1856) and he may have more. Zareski fed him a lot of material in the 1920's and 1930's. Why not write Bacher and ask him if he can't persuade Sir N. to sell you some 57 1856. Tell Bacher I made the suggestion. Sir N. likes Bacher and gives him business.

I was pleased to learn that you had a nice visit with Paul Rohloff. Paul is a prince of a chap and they don't come any finer.

My kindest regards and say "hello" to Les for me when you see him. I haven't heard a word from him for weeks.

Cordially yours,

March 20, 1953.

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I was pleased to learn that you had a nice visit with Paul Rohloff. Paul is a prince of a chap and they don't come any finer.

My kindest regards and say "hello" to Les for me when you see him. I haven't heard a word from him for weeks.

Cordially yours,

C112 - Preboid WAY - BY  
H. COLM 3/20, 1953 - see  
27, p. 11

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 17th, 1953

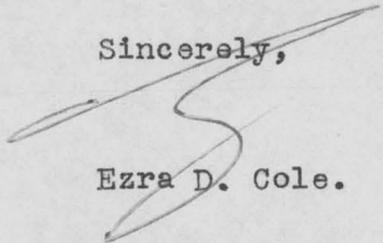
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,  
P. O. Box 31,  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

Here is a funny little cover. Carrier rate. The cover is not dated of course but the letter inside is, and it is rather interesting. Tompkinsville is on Staten Island. At that time I do not think it had anything to do with the New York Post-office. It certainly was not big enough to have a carrier.

While it is an old town, I don't have any idea how big it was, but certainly they had no carrier service in North Madison, Conn.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

March 20, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the 3¢ plus 1¢ cover as per yours of the 17th. This is not a "carrier" but rather a prepaid way cover. Of course, this small town of Tompkinsville did not have any Carrier Service nor did New Madison, Conn. This was from a soldier of the N.Y. National Guard, a member of the Band, as I suppose, from his letter. He was stationed at some cannon concentration center on Staten Island. The nearest post office must have been "Tompkinsville" and he paid a 1¢ way fee to have his letter picked up by the mail-carrier and carried into the P.O. at Tompkinsville.

I cannot find a Tompkinsville, N.Y. in my present atlas so no doubt in later years it became a part of a larger town or had its name changed. This was written in May 1861 just before the big trouble really started.

I think this is quite a nice little item and I suppose you intend to put it into your 3¢ plus 1¢ collection.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--I enclose a typed copy of the letter.

Headquarters, May 20th/61  
1st Regiment National Guard

Dear Brother:

I wrote to you last week but did not expect you would answer it from the very fact that after I had sent it I came to the conclusion that I had not given you the directions. It entirely slipped my mind, you must excuse me. there are 4 of us here and we are enjoying ourselves very well. We was up to cook room yesterday noon to get our dinner the cry of fight was heard and then sung out for the guard as loud as they could and in 2 minutes there was 200 men on the spot and about 40 men with loaded muskets charge bayonets and they reached the spot and nothing was the matter but they had found a big louse and they called the guard to take care of him I tell you there was a laugh and no mistake but never mind that now a full dress parade yesterday and they had about 15 or 20 thousand to witness the scene. the band have nothing to only get a pass over the ferry and back as often as they wish free of charge to N.Y. we have not got our uniform yet nor our instruments but we were measured Saturday and we shall probably get our fixings about next friday or saturday and get ready to go away about Sunday we are to go to Fort Monroe that is our orders now I don't know how soon it will be xxxxxxxx hope we shall go we are living high we have roast and boiled 3 times a day and good wheat bread and potatoes and baked beans and pork so we shant starve at present. give my respects to Emm and Nell and Charlies folks and the xxxxxxxx tell them I am all right and I hope they are goodbye for now.

Your affectionate  
brother

D.W.G.

Direct to me in care of W. H. Allen - Col. 1st reight  
National Guards, Staten Island

N.B. - please buy me about 1.00 worth of postage stamps if you can possibly for I am fixed so now that I can not get any on Staten Island in the barracks and about half a dozen of them one cent stamps and if you haven't got any money get some get some if you can for I have not got any we had to stop in New York most a week so I spent most all my money

Oblige your brother

D.W.G.

Headquarters, May 20<sup>th</sup> / 61  
1<sup>st</sup> Regiment National Guard

Dear Brother

I wrote to you last week but did not expect you would answer it from the very fact that after I had sent it I came to the conclusion that I had not given you the directions.

It entirely slipped my mind, you must excuse me. There are

4 of us here and we are enjoying our selves very well.

We was up to cook room yesterday noon to get our dinner the cry of fight was heard and then ~~seeing~~ <sup>SUNG</sup> out for the guard as loud

as they could and in 2 minutes there was 200 men on the spot and about 40 men with loaded muskets charge bayonets and

they reached the <sup>BAYONETS</sup> spot and nothing was the <sup>SPOT</sup> matter but they ~~found~~ had found a bay lance and they killed the

guard to take care of him I tell  
you there was a laugh and no  
mistake but never mind that  
now a full dress parade yesterday  
and they had about 15 or 20  
thousand to witness the scene.  
The band have nothing to only  
get a pass over the ferry and  
back as often as they wish  
free of charge to N.Y. We  
have not got our uniform  
yet nor our instruments but  
we were measured Saturday  
and we shall probably get our  
fixings about next Friday or  
Saturday and get ready to go  
away about Sunday we are to  
go to Fort Monroe that is our  
orders now I don't know how  
soon it will be x x x x x x x  
hope we shall go we are living  
high. we have roast and boiled  
3 times a day and good wheat  
bread and potatoes and baked  
beans and pork so we shant

Starve at present. Give my  
respects to Emma and Nell and  
Charles <sup>F M M</sup> and the x x x x  
x x x x Tell them I am all right  
and I hope they are good bye  
for now  
your ~~affect~~ affectionate  
brother  
D. W. G.

Direct to me in care of  
W. H. Allen - Cal. 1<sup>st</sup> Regt.  
National Guards, Staten  
Island.

N. B. - please buy me about  
1.00 worth of postage stamps if  
you can possibly for I am  
fixed so now that I can  
not get any on Staten Island  
in the barracks and about half  
a dozen of them one cent stamps  
and if you haven't got any money  
get some. Get some if you can  
for I have not got any we had  
to stop in New York most a week  
so I spent most all my money  
OBLIGE YOUR Brother D. W. G.

**Jack E. Molesworth**

Philatelic Broker

102 Beacon  
Boston 16, Massachusetts

March 23, 1953.

Dear Stan,

Here is another instance of the P.F.'s bungling that I thought you might like to know about.

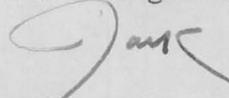
The enclosed stamp was purchased by me in the Harmer, Rooke & Co. Willock sale and then returned as a forgery, in fact the very one described in the Luff Provisional Book in detail. It matches this description perfectly, has dozens of slight but significant differences in the design from a genuine Type III, and has a type of ~~thin~~ paper all its own not common to any known genuine Bear. In spite of this the P.F. has just issued a certificate verifying its authenticity.

Gordon Harmer just returned it to me with a request for payment and acceptance of it. This, of course, I will not do and it disgusts me that they would ever send it to the P.F. anyway with the ~~irrefutable~~ proof given them when it was returned including a two page summary of the differences in the design which C. Turner Nearing prepared for me with enlarged photos. In fact, I told Thatcher that I didn't care what the P.F. might say, it was a fake and I wouldn't accept it.

Please send it right back by Air-Special so that I can get it back to them.

I presume you have heard from Stone on the 2¢ Pan Am. Invert...what is your opinion of the P.F. on this? I've twice talked him out of suing them, but wonder if such action may be the only thing that will make them alter their ways!

With kind regards,



P.S. I've sent the 90¢ 1869 to Ward and will let you know what he says.

March 24, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks for sending me the St. Louis Bear and the P.F. certificate. I have made photographic record for future reference because something must be done about the situation. As you are aware, I am not a student of the P.M.P. stamps and any knowledge that I have of any of them except the 5¢ New York is second hand and not from my own study. While I am a bit familiar with the Bear stamps I would not kid myself that I could render a reliable opinion. In this case, however, it does seem to me that the P.F. is in error.

I am aware of the fact that Mr. Nearing has made a specialty of the St. Louis stamps but I am not informed as to how thorough a study he has made or if an opinion by him could be regarded as absolutely correct.

My advice is to send the stamp to Phil Ward. He has genuine copies in his collection and he should be prepared to give you a correct opinion.

Yes, I wrote Stone yesterday on the Pan Invert and gave him since very excellent advice.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 26th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Just a bulletin. Nothing new on the Foundation.  
I did have a talk with Caspary.

The latest thing is that damned if they did not  
issue a certificate on a counterfeit 5¢ St. Louis saying  
that it was genuine, but repaired.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964  
April 1st, 1953

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

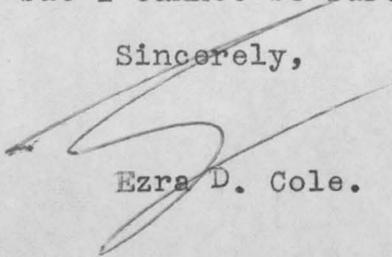
Dear Stan:

Here is the latest bloomer from the P. F. and it just happened too.

This is the old counterfeit actually written up and accurately described in the Luff book.

Will you please make a good photograph of the stamp and also one of the Foundation's certificate for me. I just want this as evidence. Return the stamp as quickly as you can. There is a bare possibility of my being able to get all of these and keep them myself but I cannot be sure.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

April 3, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

I made a photo enlarged of the St. Louis stamp when Molesworth sent it to me - also of the P.F. certificate but as yet I have not made any prints. In fact, I only glanced at the remarks in the Luff book and made a few comparisons. It did seem to me that this thing is the counterfeit that Luff described. If it is, we should use this in every way that we can to force action by the Committee. If they refuse to listen to reason then I think we should back Molesworth up in court action to enjoin them from issuing any certificates.

I know of no better weapon that has come into our hands than this Bear stamp provided it is the counterfeit. I qualify thus because I am not any sort of an authority on the St. Louis stamps.

Keep me advised.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

No. 4170.....

March 16 1953..

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

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed United States...  
(St. Louis) 1846, 5¢, gray lilac, #11X4,.....  
pen cancel -----

submitted by -- Harmer, Rooke & Co. Inc. ----  
of which a photograph is attached below -----  
and are of the opinion that it is genuine but repaired  
lower right corner -----

*Thomas J. Stearns*  
For The Expert Committee  
Chairman



SAINT R LOUIS



SAVVS POPVLI SUPREMA LEX ESTO

POST OFFICE



Samuel C. Paige  
45 Bromfield Street  
Boston 8, Massachusetts

March 26, 1953

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

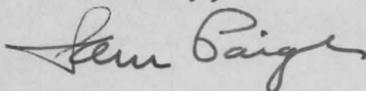
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Please find enclosed a horizontal strip of three 5¢ 1847's. Would you please look it over and tell me whether in your opinion it is unused and whether the gum appears to be original.

As usual, I expect you to let me know what the charge is for your advice.

With kind regards

Sincerely,



Samuel C. Paige

Samuel C. Paige  
45 Bromfield Street  
Boston 8, Massachusetts

BOSTON, MASS.  
MAR 26  
6 30 PM  
1953

UNITED STATES POSTAGE  
BUILD YOUR FUTURE!  
WISELY, SAFELY  
U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

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

April 1, 1953.

Mr. Samuel C. Paige,  
45 Bromfield St.,  
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Paige:

Herewith I am returning the 5¢ 1847 strip of three as per yours of the 26th. This item came to me by regular mail, and not registered. I suppose you have it insured but nevertheless I don't particularly care to have valuable items sent to me by ordinary mail. I am sure that you can appreciate the reason.

Regarding the strip which I am returning herewith. I have spent quite a bit of time with this item and I have subjected it to every test that I have at my disposal. I have a faint suspicion that a cancelation has been cleaned but none of my tests disclosed any such evidence. I went over every spot with my binocular microscope and failed to find any evidence of a cleaning - under my lamp I could not find any traces, then I made an enlarged photograph by the fluorescent light and no evidence of cleaning appeared on the plate. I will send you a print later.

Regarding the back of the stamp. I doubt if anyone could state with any certainty that the gum is "original," because if it is, there is, in my opinion, only a trace of the original. Whether this "trace" is original or not I am unable to determine. I suppose that it could be.

In consideration of the above I find it impossible to cast any suspicion on the strip and am, therefore, handing you the enclosed letter.

My fee is \$5.00 plus return postage of \$1.21 - total \$6.21.

Sincerely yours,

PAID.  
APR 20 1953

April 1, 1953.

Mr. Samuel C. Paige,  
45 Bromfield St.,  
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Paige:

Regarding the horizontal strip of three U. S. 5¢ 1847, which you submitted to me for examination. It is my opinion that this strip is unused, that is, that it was never canceled, and that no cancellation has been cleaned from it. As for the trace of the gum on the back, it is my opinion that very little remains but I think it is possible that it could be a trace of the original gum.

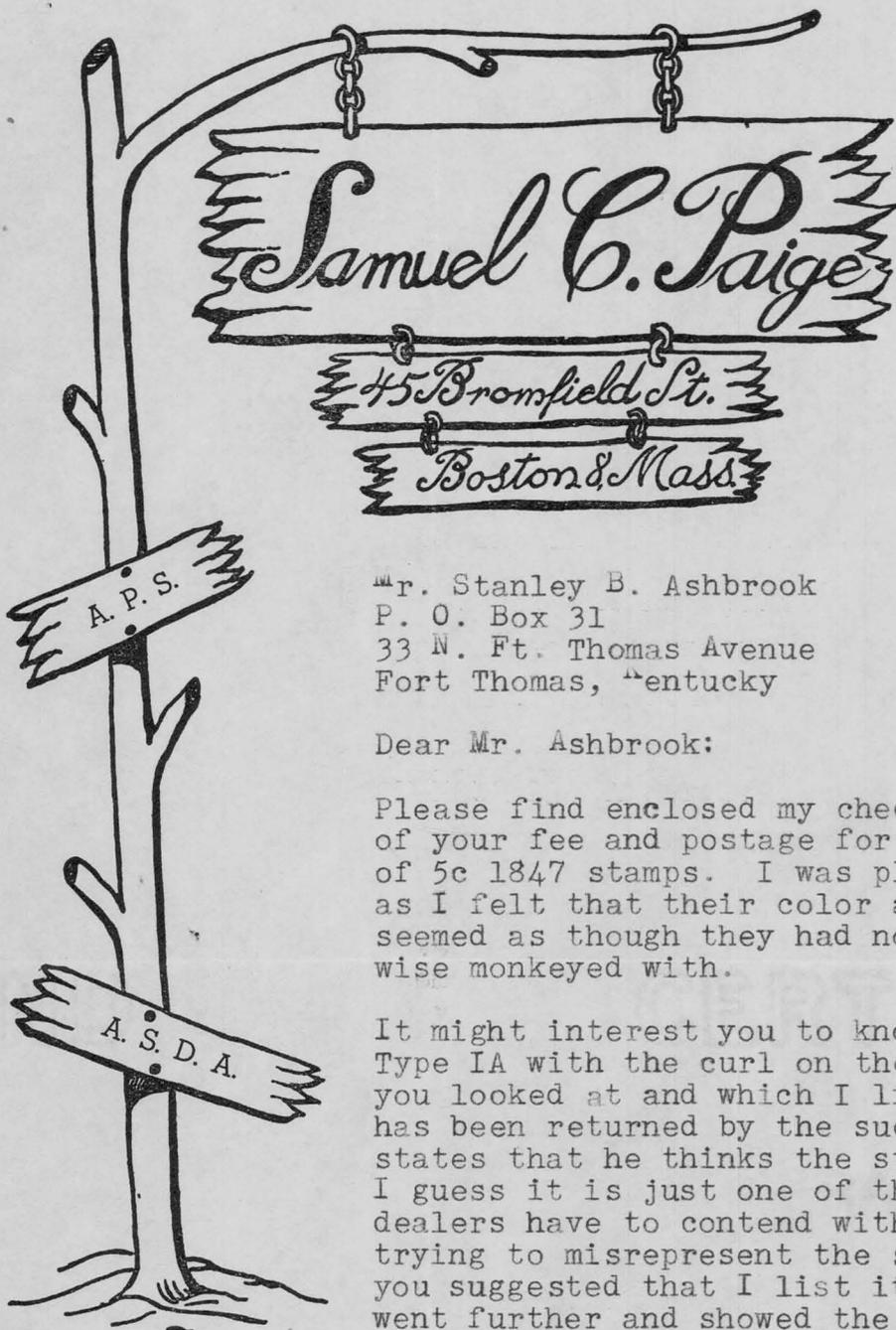
---

Stanley B. Ashbrook.

27-13

April 17, 1953

OK  
621



Samuel C. Paige  
 45 Bromfield St.  
 Boston & Mass.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

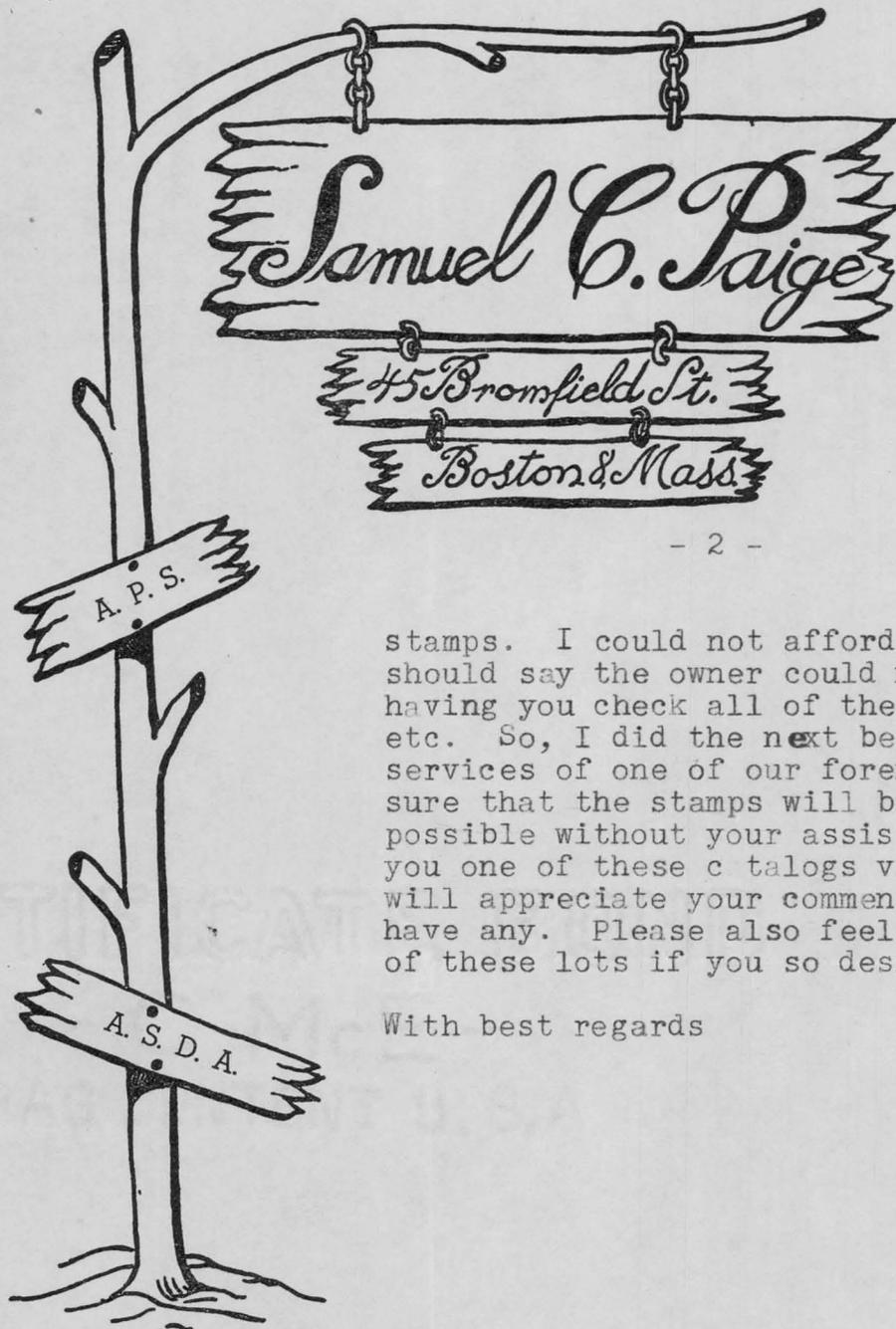
Please find enclosed my check for \$6.21 in payment of your fee and postage for looking over the strip of 5c 1847 stamps. I was pleased with your opinion as I felt that their color and appearance certainly seemed as though they had not been cleaned or otherwise monkeyed with.

It might interest you to know that the 1¢ 1851 stamp Type IA with the curl on the shoulder (97L4) which you looked at and which I listed in my last auction has been returned by the successful bidder because he states that he thinks the stamp has been tampered with. I guess it is just one of those things that we auction dealers have to contend with. I certainly was not trying to misrepresent the stamp for you may remember you suggested that I list it as uncanceled and I even went further and showed the catalog value as a used copy. However, "c'est la guerre" and I feel sure that I can dispose of the stamp to good advantage even if not for the realized price of \$325.00.

Please also find enclosed a list of prices realized from my last sale as I thought you might like them for research purposes.

One other comment I would like to make is in regard to my next auction to be held on June 6th and in which I am offering the George C. Willard collection of 1¢ 1851's and 57's. There will be some 250 lots of these

Member  
 A. S. D. A.      A. P. S.  
 U. S. ENVELOPE SOCIETY  
 COLLECTORS CLUB OF N. Y.  
 U. S. CANCELLATION CLUB  
 3c 51-57 UNIT  
 R. I. PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
 NEW BEDFORD STAMP CLUB



April 17, 1953

- 2 -

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

stamps. I could not afford the cost, or perhaps I should say the owner could not afford the cost, of having you check all of the lots for plating, varieties, etc. So, I did the next best thing and enlisted the services of one of our foremost collectors and I feel sure that the stamps will be listed as correctly as is possible without your assistance. I will be sending you one of these catalogs via first class mail and will appreciate your comments or remarks should you have any. Please also feel free to ask to see any of these lots if you so desire.

With best regards

Sincerely,

*Sam Paige*

Samuel C. Paige

*Member*

A. S. D. A.      A. P. S.  
U. S. ENVELOPE SOCIETY  
COLLECTORS CLUB OF N. Y.  
U. S. CANCELLATION CLUB  
3c 51-57 UNIT  
R. I. PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
NEW BEDFORD STAMP CLUB

April 21, 1953.

Mr. Samuel C. Paige,  
45 Bromfield Street,  
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Paige:

Thanks very much for yours of the 17th with check for \$6.21.

I note your remarks about the 1¢ 1851 - 97L4 - being returned by the buyer who thought the stamp had been "fixed" in some way. There are all sorts of people in philately, many of whom we could well do without, but they have always been with us and always will be. What I earnestly try to do is to have no contacts whatsoever with the riff-raff and cheap-skates. I think I succeed to a certain extent.

Thanks for the list of prices realized at your sale. I am pleased to have this and intend to check it carefully.

I note that you are to have a sale in June with a collection of 1¢ and I will certainly watch for the catalogue. I do not recall that I ever had any correspondence with Mr. Willard.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

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

March 26, 1953

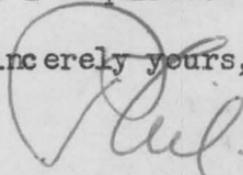
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Here is the cover showing the strip of three of the 10¢ and single 5¢ of the imperforate stamps on cover addressed to Germany. The cancellation looks to be Milwaukee and I hope that at this date there will be some rate of this amount prevailing. The 5¢ stamp certainly is a magnificent copy with four margins and it would be difficult to believe that someone would ruin a nice copy like this by adding it to the cover.

I am anxious to know your opinion which, as I stated, I trust will not be published. I see from the back of the cover that this is from the Henry Gibson collection which I sold at auction sometime back. From the marking on the back, he bought it from me at \$250. Where I got it, I cannot say. I do not recall buying it individually and it must have come in one of the collections that I acquired.

Sincerely yours,



PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

enc.

Lot 66 Gibson Sale  
Sold To Order \$120<sup>00</sup>

*Notice/74.*

MAR 27 1953

VIA AIR MAIL



REGISTERED

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

224689



March 28, 1953.

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

Dear Phil:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 26th with the cover to Germany. There is absolutely no question but what the 5¢ did not originate on this cover and in this case I will be able to prove it to you without any question of a doubt this is really a very amateur bit of faking. I doubt if Zareski would turn out such a bum job. I will return the cover to you next week as I want to make some photographs. Of course, I will not publicize this item in any way whatsoever.

I note that this cover was not in the Gibson collection of foreign rate covers that he loaned to me some years ago. I surely would have caught it at that time. Don't see how I overlooked it in the Gibson sale.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

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

March 30, 1953

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

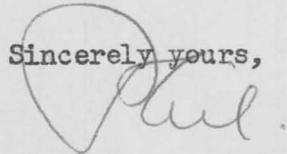
Dear Stan:

I have your letter of the 28th and regret to note that you do not feel the 5¢ 1851 on the cover was actually used with the 10¢ strip. I will be glad to have your further notes.

This was in the Gibson collection when it was sent to you and it is my thought that you may have overlooked it, just as you overlooked it when it was in his auction.

It seems to me that I have another cover to Germany in the later fifties with the same rate, although I may be in error. I am going to look it up and if I find this is the case I will send you the other cover. I am frank in telling you that the postmark on my cover on the 5¢ looks as if it might have been put on simply to tie the stamp, otherwise I think the whole marking would have appeared on the cover. I was not convinced when I sent it to you that it was good. I, however, could not see why anyone would take a nice unused copy with four margins and add it to the cover for it would have brought more alone than on this cover. I can find no traces of a pen cancellation cleaned with a glass, although I have not put it under a lamp.

Sincerely yours,



PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

April 1, 1953.

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

Dear Phil:

Herewith your cover with the "35¢ rate" to Germany. This use was June 1856. There was no 35¢ rate to Prussia at that time or at any other time. See my One Cent Book - Vol. 2 - page 344 - Fig. 56EE. Note "Prussia" - these pages are from the 1857 P.L. & R. but in 1856 the rates to Prussia were the same. You will note there were four routes and rates and no other, viz:

By Prussian Closed Mail .....	30¢
By Bremen Mail .....	15¢
By Hamburg Mail .....	15¢
By French Mail .....	21¢ per 1/4
By French Mail .....	42¢ per 1/2

There were no other routes and no other rates.

Your cover went by "P.C.M." at 30¢ per 1/2 oz. Our share was 23¢ and the Prussian was 7¢, hence the credit of 7 in the red N.Y. postmark. In my Service some months ago, I gave a full description of the "Prussian Closed Mail."

As I wrote you, the 5¢ 1856 was not used originally on this cover. The stamp is a cleaned copy (no one would use an unused). This is a very peculiar shade for this 5¢ stamp. Did that not occur to you? This color is probably due to the cleaning material that was used to remove a former cancel. The faker, in a clumsy manner, attempted to imitate the "WIS" of the genuine. In his fake imitation, the top of the "1" measures  $4\frac{1}{2}$  MM from the outer circle of the postmark, whereas the original measures  $3\frac{1}{2}$  MM.

I think you should remove the 5¢ stamp from this cover and, of course, if you sell it, it should be described as a cleaned copy with a fake cancel. The Hollowbush 5¢ Brick is just as silly as this one.

It is very difficult to impress upon collectors that U. S. Mail had to go by certain official routes. When they get hold of a fake cover such as this, and they cannot explain the rate, they get the idea that there must have been some other route to the destination and that a different rate applied to that mythical route. This certainly applies 100% to the Hollowbush cover with a 35¢ rate to France. How utterly absurd.

#2: Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr., April 1, 1953.

Phil I have been feeling rotten with a bad cold and haven't had time to get around to your other letters but I will do so today.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--One more word regarding the 5¢ 1856 - Under a strong glass you will find traces of "red" - (very small) in the margin of the stamp to right. This is a trick that is used by Zareski. I believe that he made the Knapp 1847 fake cover and he used this same trick - put small spots of red ink on the 10¢ 1847 stamp to make it appear that it was actually used on that cover. This was one of the main features of the Knapp fake that fooled the Expert Committee of the Foundation.

April 1, 1953.

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

Dear Phil:

Further re - the 5¢ 1856 cover. In my letter of the 28th, I stated that this cover was not in the Gibson collection of foreign covers that he sent me some years ago. I had no record of it prior to the Gibson sale in 1944, and I overlooked it in that sale. Looking over that sale, I note Lot 71. This has 20¢ whereas the rate was 30¢, but in the description of the lot there is no mention of a 10¢ missing payment. I note this cover went to order so you probably know where it is today. Is it in your collection?

This cover went to Germany by "P.C.M." (Prussian Closed Mail) - Note the red New York with a "7" credit. Note Lot 73 - the 30¢ "P.C.M." rate to Germany with the "7" credit. Lot 68 went by "P.C.M." but thru Germany to Switzerland, hence the extra 5¢ to pay transit from Germany to Switzerland. This cover has a "12" credit - (7¢ plus 5¢). All covers by "P.C.M." to Switzerland have 35¢ rates and if paid a credit in red of 12¢.

Lot 72 was a P.C.M. 30¢ rate with the 7¢ credit but someone cut out a 5¢ from the block. In your description you stated "one stamp removed."

Note Lot 85. This was "paid only to England" - by American Packet - a 2 x 21¢. A letter over 1/2 ounce - going to Berlin. This was in 1856. After arrival in England it was transmitted to Berlin just the same as letter originating in G.B. and sent unpaid. Paid to England, meant paid to the British frontier.

Note Lot 147 - 30¢ by P.C.M., also Lot 149. Lot 166 shows 2 x 30 by P.C.M. with 2 x 7 credit. Lot 150 is similar - Note 176 by P.C.M.

There were a number of covers to Russia in the Gibson sale by "P.C.M."

Yours etc.,

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

April 14, 1953

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

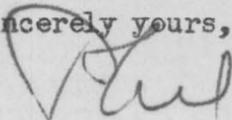
Dear Stan:

Thanks for your detailed letter of the 10th in regards to the two covers showing a strip of three of the 10¢ together with an additional 5¢ stamp. I am going to have access to a stronger light, which has recently come upon the market, and will examine my copy to see if I can find any trace of a cancellation. If Zareski or anyone else has discovered a means of cleaning stamps so that the cancellation cannot be seen with any lamp or otherwise, I am afraid we have something to really worry about and that will be, cleaned stamps where the market will be larger than would be the case for faked covers. I still do not believe that any stamp can be cleaned which cannot be seen in some way.

I would prefer that you not mention my cover in any way or quote from my letter in regards to the cover.

Looking forward with pleasure to your further communications,

Sincerely yours,



PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

April 17, 1953.

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

Dear Phil:

I have yours of the 14th and again I wish to assure you that I will make no reference in any way, shape or form to your cover with the 5¢ 1856. I suppose you fear that I might treat it as I did the Hollowbush cover but that was an exceptional case. I denounced that cover because George Sloane had written it up in STAMPS as the earliest known use of the 5¢ 1857 Brick Red. This was misrepresentation, and false information. However, in the case of your cover, I have no feud with it whatsoever, it is nothing in my life and in fact it is entirely immaterial to me whether anyone thinks my opinion of it is right or wrong. About the only way you would hear from me is that if it was ever submitted to me for my opinion I would state that the 5¢ stamp was not used originally on the cover.

I was interested in your remarks re - a new "light" that has come on the market. I would have my doubts until I was convinced that any quartz lamp would show up evidence of cancelation removals by an "Expert." I believe that Cheavin of London with his experiments with the X-ray is the most proficient method. He seems to be able to show up any kind of monkey-business. You are wrong - if my opinion - if you believe that an old stamp cannot be cleaned of a cancelation and leave no trace under the finest Hanovia lamp.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

(27-14)

# MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.

Thursday, April 2, 1953.

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

Dear Stan,

I am quite shocked and also sorry for you to have lost another close friend in Harold Stark. I have never met him of course but thru you have felt like I did know him. It almost scares one today the number of close friends I have that are kicking off thru heart trouble. Two this past week here. I guess you and I had better slow down, dont you think. For your sake I am glad the deal for the Brook's collection was consummated in full beforehand.

Now, as to how are you getting along. You have not told me in a long time about your gall-stone trouble. I note you have quite a mean cold, which I can testify are hard to get rid of. I wish you could have had some Florida sunshine this winter. I haven't seen much of it myself this time. Did the Detroit folks ever make that trip?

I sure did forget to thank you for the gadget you sent me with the various banknote papers. It is and will be very helpful. I have it "put up" for future use. I will be most happy to have you use and print my block of 90¢ 1879s and use my name if you so desire. Do you mean for me to send it up to photograph? If so I will gladly do so and at once.

I dont know why Karen sends me a catalog. I know him of course at the various auctions and also since he hangs around Sy's place. But there are a lot of auction catalogs I get that are sent me since they have no way of checking whether I buy or not since I always buy thru Ezra. Folks like Mozian, Mercury, Billig & Rich, Stolow., from whom I never buy.

Here is the cover with the 12¢ 1851 on it. It was mailed as you see May 1st and received May 30th 1855 in California. On May 1st or April 25th 1855 when it was written the rate was of course 10¢ since the effective date of April 1<sup>st</sup> 1855. So as I figure it he had only available for use at that date the 1¢-3¢ and 12¢ 1851. The 10¢ came into use on the 19th of May. The way I figure it he had no 1¢ or 3¢ at hand and just overpaid the rate by 2¢. The corner card is written also in long hand on the back. Not necessary to register just the one cover. They have the costs up too high and I have never lost a letter after all these years.

Sincerely,



April 3, 1953.

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

Dear Em:

Yours of the 2nd came at noon today. I note the B. postmark is "Ap 2 - 9 P.M." Not bad.

I return the 12¢ 1851 cover. It is a queer looking item and sure does look suspicious but I believe it is genuine. Here is the reason - If the receipt notation is genuine and it looks as if it is, then this use must have been in April - May 1855. Bear in mind that at that particular period there was no 10¢ stamp, though the rate became 10¢ on April 1, 1855. It would be silly to assume that a strip of three 3¢ and a single 1¢ was removed and this 12¢ substituted, so it is only logical to assume that this 12¢ stamp did actually originate on this letter. This letter was posted at Boston on May 1st to catch the New York sailing of May 5th for Panama. It reached S.F. some 25 days later which was correct time via Panama at that particular period.

Yes, the passing of Harold Stark was quite a shock and I sure will miss him. I had no idea he had anything the matter with his heart and I doubt if he was aware of it. He thought he had an attack of indigestion. He was the leader in the D.P.S. and he will be sorely missed. Charlie Shierson was his closest friend and he went over there early Wednesday. I had a long talk with him after his return that night. Yes, it was very fortunate that the Brooks transaction was entirely cleared before he was stricken.

It was just about a year ago that I had that gall stone trouble. I have not had a return since. Seems to me if it had been as bad as the Doctors thought it was I would have had more attacks since. However, I am a bit careful about fats and cream. Yes, I had a very mean cold for a week - started with a sore throat and I sure felt miserable for quite a spell. Guess I picked up a germ - everybody seems to have had attacks.

Re - the 90¢ '79 block. I made a nice photo and will use it in my May 1st Service. Thanks.

I am sending the cover back by registered mail because I recently lost some nice covers that I mailed to the Methodist Minister here in Fort Thomas. How could such a letter go astray? I think some postal employee stole it, so I am not taking any risks. I didn't have any evidence that I mailed it to the Reverend.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

April 4, 1953.

Re

239 B

239 C

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

Dear Jack:

Re - the two 5¢ 1856 covers. These were used in November 1856, showing payments of the U. S. Internal of 5¢ per half ounce - Via England. When such mail reached France, the postage due was from the U. S. frontier, but the rating was per grammes, i.e., fractions of grammes. One of these has 13 decimes due, (about 25¢ U.S.) - the other has 16 decimes due (about 30¢ U.S.). I suppose the first weighed under 1/4 gramme, hence the "13" whereas the other weighed 1/4 gramme, hence the "16" due.

As you are doubtless aware, a quarter of an ounce was more than a quarter of a gramme.

Further re - these two covers. The Collins Line (Amer. Pkt) sailed on Saturdays, the Cunard steamers every other Wednesday from Boston and New York.

Your Nov. 12 cover was a sailing from New York on Wednesday, Nov. 12 (1856). Your other cover shows New York Nov. 18 (1856). This was Tuesday which meant this was sent to catch the Nov. 19, 1856 sailing from Boston. Note the French receipt postmark on the face of this cover - It reads - "Paq. Am". This was an error - it should have read "Br" or "Brit." because this letter was not carried to Britain by a Collins Line steamer (Amer. Pkt) but by a Cunard ship - or "Br Pkt."

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Copy to  
J.G. Fleckenstein

60/10

April 4, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 1st. I am enclosing a separate letter on the two 5¢ 1856 and sending a copy to Jack Fleckenstein.

Harold Stark died suddenly of a heart attack Tuesday night. I called Mrs. Fleckenstein Wednesday morning about his death and she had heard it and was trying to get Jack on the phone in Boston. Evidently when he was in your office, she had not succeeded in reaching him. As you know, Stark was a very close friend to Jack.

Thanks for your check of \$3.50 which squares us up to date.

I was pleased to learn that Phil Ward agreed with me on the 90¢ 1869.

Also thanks Jack, for the 1852 stampless. I will add it to my reference collection labeling it with your compliments.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

When This Cover Is  
Returned File This Copy  
With Molesworth Letter

S.B. 27 - P. 16

A Duplicate Copy Is Filed  
In JAEGER File

Cover enclosed

April 6, 1953.

Mr. Eugene Jaeger,  
34 Sumner Ave.,  
Norwood 7, R.I.

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

I have before me a copy of a letter that I wrote you on Feb. 24th last, but I find that I never received any reply. I am wondering if you wrote me and the letter went astray? I mention this because, several letters of mine have been lost in the mail recently.

This week I was shown two covers, both from New Orleans to France in the month of November 1856. Both had singles of the 5¢ 1856. One had a French Due of "13" decimes, the other a due of "16" decimes. Both went by Cunard steamers, one a Cunard New York sailing, the other by a Cunard Boston sailing. As sailings were every other Wednesday from Boston and New York. One of these covers bears the "New York Br. Pkt" marking of "NOV 12" (Wednesday) (1856). The other has New York Br. Pkt. of "NOV 18" (Tuesday) (1856). This went up to Boston to catch the Wednesday sailing of the 19th. This cover with the N.Y. NOV 18 shows a due of 16 decimes. What is your explanation? Strange to relate, the French receiving postmark reads - "ET - UNIS - SERV - AM - A - C"

A "16" due according to your table applied to a letter of less than half an ounce carried to England by an Amer. Pkt. The French due would have been over 7.50 gramme. Do you suppose an error was made in stamping the French receipt postmark at Calais and hence because of this the Paris office stamped "16" due, whereas the due should have been 26 decimes? In other words, the Calais marking indicated the letter was carried across the Atlantic to England by a Collins Line ship. According to my records a Collins Line ship was not scheduled to sail until Saturday, Nov. 22, and this letter is postmarked New York NOV 18 (Tuesday), evidently plenty of time to reach Boston for the Cunard sailing the next day. Could it be possible it was held over for the Saturday sailing? If so, then the 5¢ rate should have been 21¢ and the Calais marking was correct and the French due of "16" decimes was also correct. If you would like to see photographs of these two covers, I will be glad to send them to you.

I am enclosing herewith a cover for which I have no explanation. Here is a cover from Athens, Ga. in July 1857 to Paris, France, with a payment of 26¢ paid and 10 decimes due with New York "Am. Pkt." On back is a British marking. Everything seems to be wrong. This a sue during the Treaty period - but no credit or debit and a "G.B." marking. I lifted the stamps to see if there was any monkey-business - and apparently found none. Can you offer any explanation to account for this very unusual cover? I enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT BEALE  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
405 CENTRAL TOWER  
MARKET AT THIRD STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 3, CALIFORNIA

CABLE ADDRESS  
ROBEAL-SAN FRANCISCO  
TELEPHONE  
YUKON 6-1365

April 6, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Recently I came into possession of four covers, letters written by John C. Bull, 1st Officer of the Barque Tasso, to his sister, Miss Elizabeth S. Bull at Hanover, Massachusetts, written in 1845, 1846 and 1847, two of them being covers mentioned by you on p. 299 of vol. 11 of your book on the 1¢ stamp of 1851-57, namely the items dated: (1) "St. Francisco, California, October 16th, 1845," and (2) "San Francisco, Oct. 21st, 1846".

I do not have the other two items described by Mr. Brazer, to wit: letters of Oct. 19th, 1845 and of April 30, 1847, my other two letters being described as follows:

(3) Letter dated: "Barque Tasso, St. Pedro, California, Dec. 9th 1845" ("San Francisco, 18th January 1846"). There is a P.S. by the author stating: "this letter was begun the 9th of December and finished the 18th of January, the ship sails the 24th"; and in the body of the letter he writes: "This you will receive from Mr. Goodhue the 1st Officer of the Ship Admittance who has promised me faithfully to deliver them in person ....." I wrote a letter two months ago which I intended to have sent by the Whale Ship Sarah, but she went to the other side of the Bay to water, and in lieu thereof I wrote you a short one in her cabin which I hope you have received. I now send the original by the Admittance." (The original must be the cover dated "St. Francisco, California, October 16, 1845, described as the earliest cover known to you from San Francisco). This cover bears the notation in the lower left corner "Per Ship Admittance." It would appear; (a) that this is in reality also a San Francisco cover, begun at St. Pedro, but finished at San Francisco Jan. 18, 1846 and dispatched from there on Jan. 24th, 1846; and (b) that these two covers reached their destination on the East Coast at the same time, and that (c) perhaps a third cover (Brazer's: St. Francisco, Oct. 19, 1845) was the first to reach its Eastern destination from San Francisco.

Would you consider that the Oct. 16th, 1845 item is still the earliest cover from San Francisco? Also, I wonder if any earlier cover has come to light since the publication of your book?

NOTE: As to Item (2), "San Francisco, California, Oct. 21st, 1846" bearing note in lower left corner "Care of Messrs. Wm. Appleton & CO., No. 36 Lewis Wharf, Boston", the body of the letter recites: "When I commenced this I did think of sending it by the Ship Sterling Capt. Vincent who will sail in about two months for Boston and the reason of my writing so soon is because

April 6, 1953.

that I must have my letters here for him or lose the chance of sending them, as in a few days we sail for the Leeward Parts,) but the Barque Don Quixotte sails in a day or two for the Sandwich Isles and I will send this and Melissa's (his wife) by her to be forwarded to the U.S. by the first vessel and run the risk of their getting home before Brothers E and A's letters that I shall send by the Sterling."

(4) Letter dated: "St. Diego, California, January 20th, 1847". In the lower left corner there appears the notation: "Care of Messrs. Wm. Appleton & Co., No. 37 Lewis Wharf, Boston." It appears to bear a postal rate marking of a very large "10" in black, about 30 mm. wide and probably 20 mm. in height. It is struck at right hand top and the upper third or so of the marking is missing.

This would appear to be an extremely early postal marking on a cover from California (St. Diego) after it became a part of the United States. The author writes: "California now belongs to the United States the particulars you will learn by my letters to Melissa." (I do not overlook the numerous covers stamped as forwarded by Larkin from Monterey -- but perhaps these are in a different category, both before and after 1846-1847? I would appreciate any comment you may have).

As to its means of transport, the author has added the following notation at the beginning, apparently after writing the letter: "This will be forwarded by the U.S. Prize Brig Malek Adhal (sic) which sails with government dispatches in a day of two", (presumptively from St. Diego.)

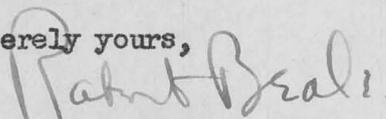
Each of these letters have a pencilled number on the back, apparently placed thereon by some former owner being 3, 6, 5 and 7 on my covers listed as (1), (2), (3) and (4) in the order named. My inference is that there must have been, then, in one ownership 2 covers dated earlier than Oct. 16, 1845, and one, number 4, between the dates of Oct. 16 and Dec. 9, 1845. Brazer's described cover of Oct. 19th could be number 4. The letter of Oct. 16, begins by stating that the author has just finished one letter to the sister (and one to Melissa his wife), which if received might have been number 2. There is no indication where numbers 1 and 2 might have been written.

I am writing this to you to furnish the additional information, if you do not already have it, and to inquire if the 3 San Francisco items are still the earliest from this city according to your records, and also as to the status of the St. Diego letter in this regard. If you wish to see the covers, I will be happy to send them for your inspection.

I also have in mind disposing of them to the best advantage and wonder if you have any suggestions. If I do so, I also have in mind permitting the Bancroft Library to make microfilm photos for their records on the chance they might not gravitate in the future to one of the permanent California Libraries or Historical Societies.

I will appreciate hearing from you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Beale.

April 9, 1953.

Mr. Robert Beale,  
405 Central Tower,  
Market at Third St.,  
San Francisco 3, Calif.

Dear Mr. Beale:

I am in receipt of yours of the 6th and wish to state that I have never seen or heard of any earlier uses from S.F. than those listed in my One Cent book, Vol. 2.

I am wondering if you have mentioned your covers to Edgar Jessup or to Dr. Pollard? It is my recollection that Jessup has an early use from San Francisco but not as early as October 1846, therefore, I believe that he would probably be as much interested in acquiring your covers as anyone else. However, if for any reason you would prefer to place them in my hands, for sale I will be more than pleased to accommodate you. I would like very much to borrow the covers and photograph them for my records. May I thank you very much for your interesting letter which I will carefully file for future reference.

Sincerely yours,

REGISTERED  
APR - 7 1953  
NO.

RAYNOR HUBBELL

SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



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

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

April 3/1953

Dear Stanley:

The enclosed is submitted to me by another dealer. He wants to know what is his. I don't know.

I must answer this dealer quickly about this and some other material.

Can you get it back to me by special delivery before I leave for Louisville Tuesday April 7 or later is doubtful. The parcel is registered to me at the Pealbook Hotel Louisville.

I enclose 1.00 from which you can pay Registered Air Mail special delivery to Griffin or just registered to Louisville, Ky.

Raynor

April 7, 1953.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,

7. Seelbach Hotel,

Louisville, Ky.

Dear Mr. Hubbell:

Your registered letter of Friday did not reach me until Monday morning. I doubted if I could get a reply to you before you left for Louisville so I am sending this to you to the above address.

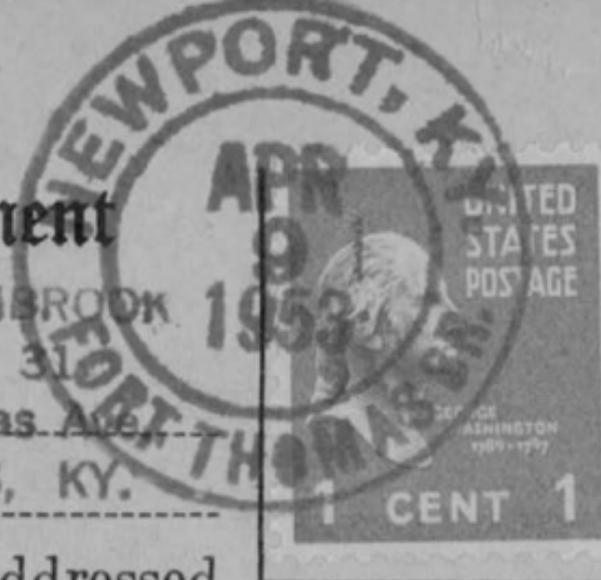
Herewith the "NEWBERNE" item that you enclosed. I suppose this was intended to be a Confederate Postmaster Provisional but I can assure you that it is a fake, probably made years ago by "S. Allan Taylor" of Boston. At least it has the appearance of the numerous fakes made by that crook.

Sincerely yours,

Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

# Post Office Department

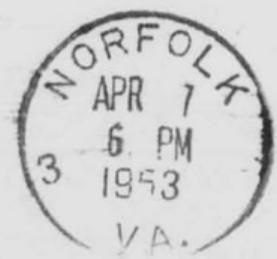
Received from: STANLEY B. ASHBROOK  
P. O. Box 31  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.  
FORT THOMAS, KY.



One piece of ordinary mail addressed  
to Roland E Hopkins  
111 Mr. Freemason St  
NORFOLK (10) Va

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

ROLAND E. HOPKINS  
111 W. FREEMASON STREET  
NORFOLK 10, VIRGINIA



Mr. Stanley Ashbrook  
Fort Thomas  
Kentucky...

Sell me your Confederate Stamps, boys - the South won't rise again



STAMPS: Appraised, Bought, Sold and Exchanged

ROLAND E. HOPKINS  
111 W. FREEMASON STREET  
NORFOLK 10, VIRGINIA

A. P. S. 27141  
C. S. A. 611

M. A. C. S. A. 311  
N. P. S. 6



Apr. 7 1953

Col. Stanley Ashbrook CSA  
Ft. Thomas,  
Kentucky

My Dear Col.

At the suggestion of Raynor Hubbell I am sending the enclosed 2 covers to you for your comments and opinions. From a recent find involving the Davis coorespondence from Albany Ga. containing 3 very fine Postmaster Provisionals dated Oct. & Nov. of 1861, I find the enclosed Albany PAID 25. The Albany markings show exactly the same characteristics as the enclosed although this is a poor impression because of the contents. Due to the nature of this cover I suppose that it contained a handkercheif or something similar. Now my questions are; is this to be considered as a handstamp Paid 25 or a Postmaster provisional? And is not this an unusual rate????? The other cover from another sorse has the unusual 'JAN' marking. Have you ever seem anything like this and what could it mean???

I will be deeply indebted to you for your trouble and comments. Return postage enclosed.

Very truly yours,

*Roland E. Hopkins*  
C. S. A. 611

April 9, 1953.

Mr. Roland E. Hopkins,  
111 W. Freemason St.,  
Norfolk 10, Va.

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 7th.

Re - the Albany, Ga. While the postmark date is not legible, I suppose it could have been a use in October 1861. At that time, the Confederate postage was 5¢ per 1/2 oz. for distances up to 500 miles and 10¢ for over that number. As Albany was within 500 miles of Marion, Ala., I judge this letter required a 5 times 5¢ rate, because of the weight. Of course, this could not possibly be a Postmaster Provisional, but rather a letter with the postage paid in cash at time of mailing or by charge to the sender. This would be the same as a handstamped paid, though the "paid" and the amount in this case are in manuscript. Thus a "Manuscript Paid." I believe that the Dietz catalogue defines the difference between a P.M. Provisional and a "handstamped Paid." May I recommend the description to you.

I know of no explanation for the "JAN" on the other cover.

Sincerely yours,

Copy to Raynor Hubbell

# U. S. Notes

By PHILIP H. WARD, JR.  
1616 Walnut St., Phila. 3, Pa.

April 3, 1953

## The Franklin Carrier Stamp

When the Post Office Department decided to reissue all of our earlier postage stamps for distribution at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876, the Franklin Carrier was included in the list to be reprinted. From correspondence we have located, it seems that some of the stamps were printed on the hard white paper such as used for the "Specimen" departments for it was thought that the original Franklin Carrier were printed on white. An old employee of the bank note company, however, "recollects that it was a pink paper". Some of the old original pink paper which had been put aside some twenty five years earlier was located and this was used for these reprints. Its slight difference in shade may be due to the deterioration of the paper while stored away. Unused copies of the originals, unless with original gum, are most difficult to distinguish from some of the reprints. The reprints are available in several shades of pink paper but we believe this to be due to the effect of time and climatic conditions on the paper. The reprints, of course, were issued without gum.

About six copies of the reprints on white paper exist, all perforated. These we believe were found in the Steele papers and stamps acquired some years back by John A. Klemann of the Nassau Stamp Company. Mr. Steele was an employee of the bank note company. It is our recollection that these stamps were in a block but blocks were of little interest in the early days so that it was broken and today a horizontal pair, which was in the Col. Green collection, is the only multiple known. The variety is consequently quite rare and, of course, deserves catalogue rank.

From the correspondence which follows it will be noted that 10,000 of the reprints were destroyed by the department in July 1884.

"U. S. POSTAGE STAMP and ENVELOPE AGENCY  
New York, May 3 1875

Sir:

In reply to your Telegram of this day 'When will Carrier stamps on last order be forwarded', it has been thus far impossible to find in New York any paper to match the original; hence the delay — No endeavors are being, or will be spared, to obtain the paper at the earliest possible moment —

Respy Yours  
D. M. Boyd Agt  
pr. Wm. Henry Brown

Wm. M. Ireland Esq  
Acting Third Asst P.M. Genl  
Washington, D. C."

"U. S. POSTAGE STAMP and ENVELOPE AGENCY.  
New York, May 5th 1875

Sir:

Enclosed please find a sheet of Stamps taken as a Specimen of the Carrier Stamp (Franklin Head) issue of 1851. It is printed on paper that the contractor says 'is the nearest to the enclosed specimen stamp he can find if said stamp is printed on tinted paper' I have submitted the 'Specimen Stamp' enclosed to Mr. McDonough of the National Bank Note Co. and he says it is printed on *white paper*. Please return the Specimen stamp with your opinion

Respectfully &c  
D. M. Boyd  
Agent

Hon. E. W. Barber  
Third Asst. P. M. Gen'l  
Washington D. C."

"Philada. May 7. 1875.

Wm. M. Ireland, esq  
Actg 3rd Asst. P.M. General.  
Washington. D. C.

Sir:

In reply to your favor of the 6th inst. I have to say that I do not personally remember (it was 'before my day') whether the Franklin Carrier stamp was printed in 1851 on white or pink paper by Toppan, Carpenter & Co. —

An old employee, however, of that firm, now in my service, recollects that it was a *pink paper*; and oddly enough I have in my possession some pink sheets of paper which tradition informs me were used to print this Franklin stamp in old time days. I have hunted up a sheet and inclose it for your examination.

Very Restfly Yrs,  
Jos. R Carpenter"

"U. S. POSTAGE STAMP and ENVELOPE AGENCY.  
New York, June 14th 1875

Sir:

Yours of May 27th ('C. No. 254. Vol 18.') rec'd.

Mr Carpenter informs me he has on hand about 1000 or 1500 sheets of pink paper such as the Carrier Stamp of the issue of 1851. (Franklin Head) was printed on which he says are at the disposal of the Dep't. wherever they may order them. This will make about 100,000 stamps

Respectfully &c  
D. M. Boyd  
agent

Hon. E. W. Barber  
Third Asst't. P. M. Gen'l  
Washington D.C."

"POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF

THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

Washington, D. C. July 15, 1884

Mem;

The stamps in this case, (Carrier stamps of 1851) which possess no value as stamps for paying postage — were misprinted by the contractors when the Dept. first decided to sell specimens of back issues, and have been retained in the Division of Postage Stamps of this office ever since. They were this day turned over to me by the Chief of the Division — Thomas P. Graham — and will, by order of the 3rd Asst. Postmaster General, be destroyed.

Madison Davis,  
Ch. Clk. Offc 3d Asst. P.M. General.  
See certificate of destruction on back of case."

"Letter. G No. 309 Vol. 36

10,000 — One cent.

(Franklin) Carrier  
stamps, Issue of 1851

Counted by  
G. F. White  
D. C. Fountain  
July 15, 1884"

*President*  
**JOSEPH A. HERBERT, JR.**  
515 E. Capitol Street  
Washington 3, D. C.

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426 W. Main St.  
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*Congress Editor*  
**MAJOR JAMES T. DEVOSS**  
Route 6, Box 449-A  
Alexandria, Va.

April 7, 1953.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook,  
38 North Fort Thomas Avenue,  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan :

George Leurssen, Vice President of The Carpenter Steel Co., Reading, Pa. has just told me at Rotary Club that he has acquired the 90¢ 1861 on cover from the Roosevelt collection; I think it is three times the 30 cent rate to Hong Kong.

I told him to write you and if you wanted to see it, to send it to you for photographing and recording. However, since talking to him I have thought that you are probably aware of its existence and maybe already have a photograph of it. I do not think it has been "expertised" and Leurssen was thinking of sending it to The Philatelic Foundation to have it checked. I think it is a Delano cover.

Shandr and I are leaving to-morrow morning for Washington to attend the Hall dinner and after that will go to the Washington Society meeting.

I think you know that Leurssen has a 90¢ 1869 on cover which Bartels originally sold; a 10¢ stamp was missing and has been replaced. I do not know whether George has ever had this expertized or whether you have ever seen it. Maybe if you want to see that also he would send it to you.

Regards.

Sincerely,



Jere. Hess Barr.

April 10, 1953.

Mr. Jere. Hess Barr,  
11 Howard St.,  
West Lawn, Pa.

Dear Jere:

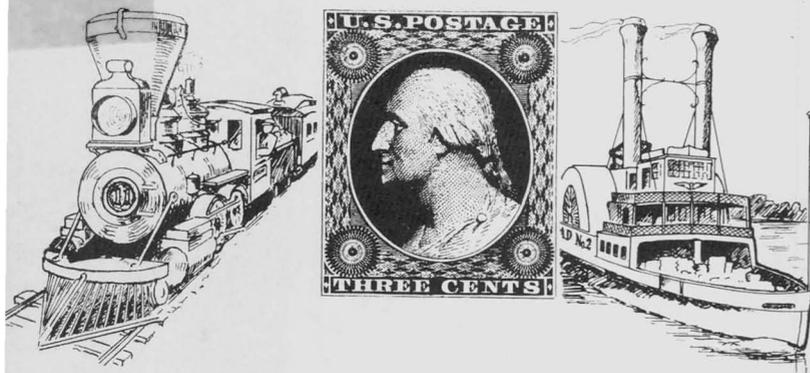
Yours of the 7th received and I do thank you sincerely for keeping me informed on such subjects as mentioned in your letter.

I am well acquainted with the Roosevelt cover and have a photograph of it in my file. You can assure your friend Mr. Leurssen that it is genuine in every respect. When it came up in the F.D.R. sale it was purchased by my close friend Emerson C. Krug of Birmingham. I think it cost him something like \$250.00 but I may be mistaken. Later I had the cover for sale for him at that price but I couldn't find anyone among my friends who would buy it. I suppose they all hated F.D.R. as much as myself. Later Krug sold it at auction and I think he took quite a loss. It is addressed to the maternal grandfather of F.D.R., the ancestor who was said to be the opium smuggler or something of that sort. I believe that it has been said that it was this cover that started F.D.R. to collect stamps and also that he prized it highly. One would suppose that a family with any decent instincts would have retained this family treasure and not have sold it. I advised Krug at the time not to put such an item in his collection. You are quite right, it does show a scarce rate, the 30¢ per 1/4 oz. by French mail, (3 x 30¢). I can assure you that I have seen very few covers with this particular rate, either in a single or multiple. I also recall that it has a "Boston Br. Pk" marking that is seldom seen on the face of a foreign rate cover.

Also thanks for mention of the 90¢ 1869 cover. I suppose you refer to the cover with a 90¢ 1869 - also 10¢ and 12¢ Bank Notes. No doubt you do, because I never heard of another one. This cover was sold to Ackerman by Bartels or Ackerman to Bartels. It came up in a Morgenthau sale in April 1943 - just ten years ago - and I sent for it and photographed it. It is a fact that a 10¢ was missing and Bartels had Sam Singer replace it. It has also been stated that the original 90¢ was torn and the present copy was substituted by Singer. At any rate, I suppose there is no doubt that Singer did a lot of monkey-business with the cover. If not too much trouble, I would like to see it again and see if I can see anything at present that escaped me ten years ago. I will gladly pay the carriage both ways and will return it promptly. I have a copy of the letter that Bartels wrote about the cover in 1926. No doubt it is still with the cover.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



**The**  
**3 CENT — '51-'57**  
**Unit**

**AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Unit No. 11

1 Garrett Ave.,  
Rosemont, Pa.,  
April 11, 1953.

Dear Stan:-

How have you been? Its been a long time since I've heard from you. I meant to write you for the past month or so to tell you of a tough problem The Unit's Directors had a while back. We received an application for membership from Elliott Perry, and all of us would have preferred to keep him out of The Unit due his unfair ethics and the troubles he often stirs up.

However our By-Laws state that anyone in good standing in the APS is automatically eligible for The Unit, so we all had to decide that there wasn't any way we could keep him out. Altho we did have to accept his application, he wasn't "welcomed" nor did we publicize his name on the list of new members; but his name will, of course, have to appear on the annual membership list we usually publish in April. Tracy and all others who have anything to do with Unit bulletins have sworn he will not succeed if he tries to disrupt our harmonious functioning, so far, of The Unit's affairs.

I thought I should give you these details so you'd know that we weren't at all happy over his application, and that we had to accept it.

With very best wishes, and regards,

Sincerely,

*Bill*

---

W.W. Hicks.

April 13, 1953.

Mr. W. W. Hicks,  
#1 Garrett Ave.,  
Rosemont, Pa.

Dear Bill:

It was nice to hear from you and I was pleased that you wrote me about Elliott. I certainly do think the Board did the right thing in admitting him to membership, and it would have been most unfortunate had they done otherwise. I believe that we should bear in mind that Elliott is a sick man and not entirely responsible. I suppose, as far as I am concerned, that I should pity him rather than censure him, but honestly Bill it seems to be something that I simply cannot do. Elliott and I were good friends over a long period of years, and for no just cause, he sacrificed that friendship. This was most unfortunate because had we continued to work together I feel sure that philately would have benefitted.

There is no question but what Elliott Perry is honest, and that he has made outstanding and valuable contributions to American philatelic research work. I doubt if anyone appreciates this fact any more than I do, and no one is more willing to accord to him all of the credit that he justly deserves.

Perhaps his trouble with Needham threw him off balance and his brooding over the trouble thru the years has no doubt been the cause of a mental illness, which has caused all of his many friends of former years to turn against him. You know Bill, that is terrible punishment and even if he is ill he must realize, that thru faults of his own, he sacrificed one good friend after another. I suppose I should feel awfully sorry for him, and sometimes I do, then my thoughts revert to some of the lousy stuff that he published about me in his "Pat" and I feel no pity whatsoever.

Yes, it was nice to hear from you so drop me a line more often.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

1 Garrett Ave.,  
Rosemont, Pa.,  
April 20th, 1953.

Dear Stan:-

I was delighted to get yours of the 13th, and your most gracious comments re E.P. We were afraid we weren't handling the matter of his membership properly, altho not knowing what else to do, and its a real pleasure to have you say we couldn't have handled it otherwise.

Incidentally, I also spoke to Henry Abt when he visited me a while back, and he took exactly the same attitude about it, and as you know Elliott said some awfully nasty things about Henry, too. It takes a strong, christian character to try and forgive someone who, in turn, has tried to almost tear you apart, and I sincerely congratulate you, Stan, on the wonderful statements you have made, and the very fair attitude you have taken.

If you ever run into any nice RRs on 3¢ '51s or '57s that I haven't got, wish you would remember me if for sale.

With very best wishes and regards,

Sincerely,

*W.W. Hicks*

---

W.W. Hicks.

C. CORWITH WAGNER . . .  
INSURANCE AGENCY

SUITE 1824 BOATMEN'S BANK BUILDING

SAINT LOUIS (2)

ACCIDENT  
HEALTH  
LIFE  
FIRE  
BONDS  
BURGLARY  
& HOLDUP  
AUTOMOBILE

ESTABLISHED  
1914

M A I N  
1 6 4 0

MARCH 22ND 1953.

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK, ESQ.  
33 NO. FT. THOMAS AVENUE,  
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY.

DEAR STAN:

I HAVE BEEN WANTING TO WRITE YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME - BUT THE PRESSURE OF BUSINESS HAS BEEN SO GREAT, THAT FREE TIME FOR PHILATELIC CORRESPONDENCE HAS JUST NOT BEEN AVAILABLE, UNTIL TODAY.

FIRST I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR COURTESY IN SENDING ME A COPY OF YOUR LETTER OF LAST JANUARY 15TH TO FRANK H. ALPERS JR., OF CIMARRON, N.M., AND FOR THE INFORMATION CONVEYED THEREBY AND ALSO FOR THE PRINT OF THE PHOTOGRAPH THAT YOU MADE OF HIS COVER. IT IS CERTAINLY A MUCH BETTER PICTURE THAT THE ONE ALPERS HAD MADE OF HIS COVER - A COPY OF WHICH HE SENT ME - AND WHICH YOU SAW. THANKS AGAIN FOR SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH ME.

FOR MANY MONTHS I HAVE NOTED YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS IN STAMPS REGARDING STAMPLESS COVERS SHOWING THE WAR RATES OF FEBRUARY 1815 TO JUNE 1816. TODAY - HAVING A FEW MOMENTS OF "IDLE TIME" I CHECKED OVER SOME OF MY COVERS OF THAT PERIOD AND CAME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING: (1) A COVER FROM WASHINGTON CITY POST MARKED JULY 14 (1815) ADDRESSED TO ST. LOUIS MISSOURI TERRITORY - RATED  $37\frac{1}{2}$ : FORWARDED FROM ST. LOUIS TO WASHINGTON KENTUCKY - ST. LOUIS MANUSCRIPT POSTMARK "AUGT 27" -  $37\frac{1}{2}$  RATE MARKED OUT AND RERATED "30": (2) (A) A COVER POST-MARKED ST. LOUIS DEC 18 (1815) IN STRAIGHTLINE TO WASHINGTON - RATED IN MANUSCRIPT  $37\frac{1}{2}$  - AND (B) A COVER POSTMARKED IN STRAIGHTLINE ST LOUIS DEC 25 ALSO TO WASHINGTON - SAME RATE: (3) A COVER DATELINED ST. LOUIS FEBY 4TH 1816 - STARIGHTLINE POSTMARK ST LOUIS FEB. 5 - RATED  $37\frac{1}{2}$  - ADDRESSED TO MAJOR GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: (4) A COVER DATE LINED KASKASKIA JULY 15 1815 - ADDRESSED TO HAGARS-TOWN MARYLAND - POSTMARKED ST GENEVIEVE MISSOURI IN OVAL - JU Y 13 - RATED 75: (5) A COVER POSTMARKED IN MANUSCRIPT HERCULANEUM APRIL 2ND (MERCULANEUM MISSOURI - ABOUT 30 MILES SOUTH OF ST. LOUIS ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER - NOW CALLED CRYSTAL CITY) LETTER DATED 1816: (6) A LETTER DATE LINED "CAMP NEAR PORTAGE DES SIOUX FEBY 9, 1815" AND IS ADDRESSED TO CAPT. GEO. STOCKTON, 3RD REGT. INFANTRY, FLEMINGSBURG, KENTY. UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER OF ADDRESS FACE APPEARS IN MANUSCRIPT "PUBLIC SERVICE JOHN MILLER COL. 3RD INFNTY" IN THREE LINES. THE COVER IS POST-MARKED STRAIGHTLINE "ST LOUIS JULY 17 AND IS RATED IN MANUSCRIPT 30. ON THE BACK OF THE COVER APPEARS IN MANUSCRIPT "FLEMINGSBURY KY AUGUST 11TH 1815 - I CERTIFY THAT THIS LETTER ARRIVED AT MY OFFICE THIS DAY APPLETON E. BALLARD POSTMASTER" - PORTAGE DES SIOUX IS A SMALL TOWN - STILL IN EXISTANCE - SITUATED NEAR THE CONFLUENCE OF THE MISSOURI AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS - IN MISSOURI. THAT IS ALL OF THE "WAR RATES" MATERIAL THAT I COULD PUT MY HAND ON TODAY. IT PROBABLY IS ALL THAT I HAVE - ALTHO THERE MAY BE ONE OR TWO MORE STUCK

*Wagner Personalized Insurance Service has acquired a reputation thru - - - Promptitude and—Reliability*

C. CORWITH WAGNER . . .  
INSURANCE AGENCY

SUITE 1824 BOATMEN'S BANK BUILDING

SAINT LOUIS (2)

ACCIDENT  
HEALTH  
LIFE  
FIRE  
BONDS  
BURGLARY  
& HOLDUP  
AUTOMOBILE

ESTABLISHED  
1914

M A I N  
1 6 4 0

AWAY THAT WILL SHOW UP SOME DAY (MAYBE). ALL OF THESE ITEMS HAVE BEEN IN MY COLLECTION FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS - AND WERE NOT BOT FOR THE "WAR RATES" , BUT FOR THE POSTMARKS. I HAVE TO CONFESS AGAIN THAT I HAVE VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF "RATES" OR HOW TO EVALUATE SUCH ITEMS. I THOUGHT PERHAPS A LIST OF SUCH ITEMS IN MY COLLECTION MIGHT BE OF SOME SLIGHT INTEREST TO YOU.

AS YOU NO DOUBT KNOW LOUIS (LOUIE) F. YECKEL IS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE. YOU TOLD ME QUITE SOME TIME AGO THAT HE SUBSCRIBED TO YOUR "SPECIAL SERVICE". I ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD LET ME LOOK OVER SOME OF THE MATERIAL HE HAD RECEIVED - BUT SUGGESTED THAT HE ASK YOUR PERMISSION TO DO SO. SOMETIME LATER HE TOLD ME HE HAD DONE SO AND THAT YOU HAD VERY GRACIOUSLY TOLD HIM HE MIGHT DO SO. IN EARLY FEBRUARY MRS. WAGNER & MYSELF VISITED MR. & MRS. YECKEL ONE EVENING - AND I LOOKED OVER SOME OF HIS "PIGEON BLOOD" 3¢ 1861'S. HE GAVE ME THE 1952 SECTION OF YOUR SERVICE TO LOOK OVER - AND I MOST CERTAINLY ENJOYED READING IT AND OBTAINED MUCH INFORMATION OF WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE. I MADE NO NOTES OR OTHER MEMORANDUMS - OF THAT I WANT YOU TO BE SURE. I DO WANT YOU TO BE SURE *know* THAT I DO APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS IN PERMITTING ME TO REVIEW YOUR NOTES.

I THINK THAT YOU AND YOUR GOOD WIFE SHOULD VISIT ST. LOUIS SOME TIME - I AM SURE THAT SUCH A VISIT COULD BE MADE BOTH INTERESTING AND ENJOYABLE FOR - ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. AGAIN WITH THANKS FOR THE MANY PAST COURTESIES EXTENDED AND WITH BEST PERSONAL REGARDS, I AM

CORDIALLY YOURS,

C. CORWITH WAGNER.

C. CORWITH WAGNER . . .  
INSURANCE AGENCY

SUITE 1824 BOATMEN'S BANK BUILDING

SAINT LOUIS (2)

ACCIDENT  
HEALTH  
LIFE  
FIRE  
BONDS  
BURGLARY  
& HOLDUP  
AUTOMOBILE

ESTABLISHED  
1914

M A I N  
1 6 4 0

April 7, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,  
33 No. Ft. Thomas Avenue,  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

In compliance with your request as contained in your letter of April 3rd - I enclose herewith all the "war rate" letters enumerated in the third paragraph of my letter to you of March 23rd, with the exception of the cover to Washington City with St. Louis straightline pm with Dec 25 date. This is identical with the cover enclosed - addressed to Frederick Bates - with the exception of the date in the postmark. You are welcome to see it however if you want to.

Sincerely



April 14, 1953.

Mr. C. Corwith Wagner,  
Suite 18246- Boatmen's Bank Bldg.,  
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Corwith:

I apologize for holding these War Rate covers for several days but I was so busy I just couldn't get around to giving them a bit of attention. The Andrew Jackson letter of Feb. 1816, is the regular rate of 25¢ plus 50%. This applied to "1 sheet of paper over 500 miles." This is a very interesting item.

Re - the cover from Herculaneum. This is a rare cover as it shows the restored rate of April 1816 which was only in effect during that month - or probably from March 31, 1816 to May 1st, 1816. Congress repealed the War Rate Act, and restored the old rates which were in effect prior to Feb. 1, 1815, when the War Rate went into effect. The old rate was "over 90 miles but not over 150 miles, one sheet of paper - 10¢." A collector seeking covers to show all our rates of postage, has a hard time finding one of these "Restored Rate covers." Rub off my memo if you do not care for it. Herculaneum was quite a town at that time, so I understand.

Re - the cover "Camp near Portage Des Sioux" - This from St. Louis to Flemingsburg, Ky. July 1815. It has a rate of 30¢. At this time a rate of 30¢ meant 20¢ plus 50% (20 plus 10) for one sheet of paper - not over 500 miles.

Re - the cover from Washington, Ky. to St. Louis and back to Washington. Washington rated it @ 37½¢ or over 500 miles - which was paid at St. Louis (25¢ plus 50¢). But on the return trip St. Louis rated it not over 500 miles - 20¢ plus 50% or 20 plus 10 due on delivery.

St. Louis Dec. 18, 1815 - to Washington, Ky. Here we have a rating of 37½¢ or over 500 miles and hence 25¢ plus 50%. I wonder why this confusion in distance? I don't know whether there were two mail routes - one by land (Stage) the other by river. The latter seems unlikely as early as 1815-1816. What do you think? *See Wagner letter About This Cover*

Re - the St. Genevieve Mo.T. - This was evidently - 2 sheets of paper, over 500 miles (50¢) (2 x 25) plus 50% or 75¢ due. Back in 1815, a dollar was a lot of money - It must have been tough to be stuck with a letter with 75¢ due on it. Today a dollar has little value but imagine a letter today with 75¢ due. How we would cuss the sender.

For many years, Hagerstown, Md., was known as Hagers Town, the same as Charleston was known as Charles Town. Many other similar cases.

I certainly appreciate your kindness in the loan of these outstanding

This Was  
From  
Washington  
City D.C.  
Hence  
37½¢  
-

To Wash D.C.

4/14-53 Here

#2. Mr. C. Corwith Wagner - April 14, 1953.

items and whenever I can return the favor I do trust you will give me the opportunity.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

C. CORWITH WAGNER . . .  
INSURANCE AGENCY

SUITE 1824 BOATMEN'S BANK BUILDING

SAINT LOUIS (2)

ACCIDENT  
HEALTH  
LIFE  
FIRE  
BONDS  
BURGLARY  
& HOLDUP  
AUTOMOBILE

ESTABLISHED  
1914

MAIN  
1640

APRIL 17, 1953

MR. STANLEY B. ASHBROOK,  
33 NO. FT. THOMAS AVENUE,  
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY.

DEAR STAN:

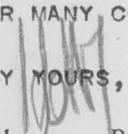
MY "WAR RATE" COVERS TOGETHER WITH YOUR LETTER OF THE 14TH ARRIVED SAFELY YESTERDAY. PLEASE ACCEPT MY THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION THEREIN CONVEYED.

SOLELY FOR YOUR RECORDS I DEEM IT ADVISABLE TO CORRECT ONE "ERROR" THAT YOU SEEM TO HAVE MADE. THE COVER THAT YOU REFER TO IN THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH OF YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 14TH AS "THE COVER FROM WASHINGTON, KY. TO ST. LOUIS AND BACK TO WASHINGTON" IS IN FACT A COVER FROM WASHINGTON CITY (IT IS POSTMARKED WASH<sup>N</sup> CITY) TO ST. LOUIS - AND RATED AT WASHINGTON CITY 37½ : FORWARDED FROM ST. LOUIS (MANUSCRIPT PM AUGT 27) TO WASHINGTON KY. AND RATED 30. THE COVER REFERED TO IN THE FIFTH PARAGRAPH OF YOUR LETTER IS FROM EDWARD BATES TO HIS BROTHER FREDERICK BATES AT WASHINGTON (CITY) WHO WAS AT THE TIME THIS LETTER WAS ADDRESSED TO HIM SECRETARY OF MISSOURI TERRITORY I BELIEVE. EDWARD BATES - THE WRITER OF THE LETTER WAS LATER ATTORNEY GENERAL IN LINCOLN'S CABINET. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR THINKING FROM WASHINGTON KY. TO WASHINGTON CITY - YOUR QUESTION "WHY THIS CONFUSION IN DISTANCE?" I BELIEVE IS ANSWERED.

RE - THE ST. GENEVIEVE MISSOURI ITEM RATED "75". AS THE ENTIRE LETTER IS THERE - AND NO MENTION OF ANY ENCLOSURE - WHICH WOULD MAKE FOR TWO SHEETS OF PAPER - I AM WONDERING IF THE LETTER WHICH IS ON RATHER HEAVY PAPER COULD HAVE WEIGHED OVER ½ OZ AND WAS THEREFORE RATED "DOUBLE" OR 37½ X 2. I WILL HAVE THE LETTER WEIGHED AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY, AND LET YOU KNOW THE RESULT.

WHILE WE ARE ON THIS SUBJECT OF RATES - I WANT TO IMPOSE ON YOU ONCE MORE. I ENCLOSE AN ENVELOPE POSTMARKED SACRAMENTO CITY CAL., (THIS TYPE OF PM WAS IN USE AS EARLY AS MAY 26 1851 - STRUCK IN RED - AND IN BLACK IN 1852) - ADDRESSED TO COLUMBIA OR SONORA CAL. AND RATED "15". CAN YOU OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY - WILL YOU - EXPLAIN THE 15¢ RATE TO ME. IN MY OPINION AFTER JUNE 30, 1851 THE LOCAL CALIFORNIA RATE SHOULD HAVE BEEN 3¢ IF PREPAID AND 5¢ IF UNPAID. BEFORE JUNE 30, 1851 THE LOCAL CALIFORNIA RATE I BELIEVE WAS 12½¢ - SO - THE 15¢ RATE DOES NOT "ADD UP". DOES THE OLD MASTER HAVE THE ANSWER?

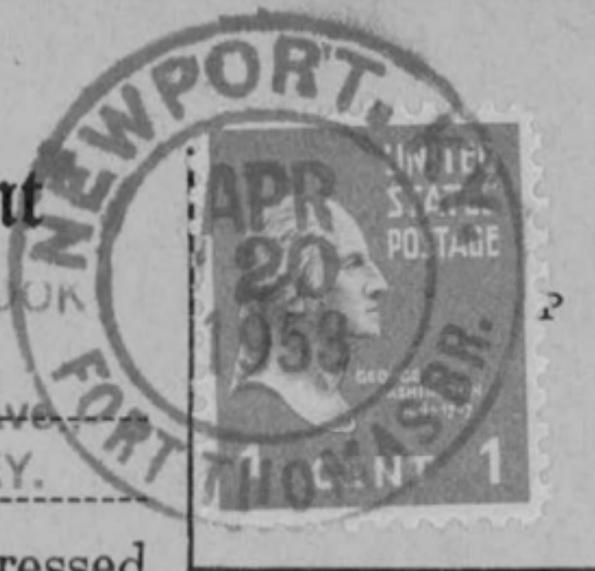
NO REFUND OF POSTAGE EXPENDED BY ME AT ANY TIME IS ACCEPTABLE BY ME - SO HEREWITH YOUR EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION IS RETURNED. IF ANY REFUND IS IN ORDER I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO DO THE REFUNDING - TO YOU. AGAIN MY THANKS FOR YOUR MANY COURTESIES - UNTIL YOU GET BETTER PAID.

SINCERELY YOURS,  


*Wagner Personalized Insurance Service has acquired a reputation thru - - - Promptitude and—Reliability*

# 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 C. Corwith Wagner  
1824 Boatmen's Bank Bldg  
314 N. Broadway St Louis (2) Mo

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

April 20, 1953.

Mr. C. Corwith Wagner,  
Suite 1824 Boatmen's Bank Bldg.,  
314 North Broadway,  
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Corwith:

I hasten to reply to yours of the 17th because my face is a bit red about my confusion of Washington, Ky. and Washington, D.C. Of course, this explains the difference in rates. Perhaps it is a bad habit that many of us make when we are puzzled about a rate to attribute it to an error by the postmaster. Thanks for calling my attention to this interesting feature. I will correct it in my record.

Re - the St. Genevieve, Mo. cover. This could not have been rated by weight because U. S. mail was not rated by weight until July 1, 1845. Rates of postage was by sheets of paper and distance traveled. Rates in 1815 were those of March 2, 1799 plus 50%. See Luff book, page 382. These rates (1799) were again confirmed by the Act of Apr. 30, 1810. (See Luff book, page 383).

Re - your Sacramento cover which I return herewith. Your statement of rates in effect in 1850-1851 is quite correct. If this use was prior to July 1, 1851, and a single, the rate should have been  $12\frac{1}{2}\phi$ . If after July 1, 1851, or I should state "26 Mar 1852" or later the rate should have been  $5\phi$  due per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. It hardly seems possible that this letter weighed over one ounce, but that seems to be the only explanation. If you have a copy of STAMPS dated July 8, 1950 you will find an excellent article on Sacramento postmarks by M. Nathan.

While it is possible that the 35 MM postmark on this cover was in use as early as March 1850 I seriously doubt that it was. I believe that at that time the office was using the oval type. Later they used a circular type which had " $12\frac{1}{2}$ " in it. I have a record of the large 35 MM as early as Nov. 20, 1850. I made a photo of your cover and I will send a print to Nathan to see if he thinks it was a 3 x 5 $\phi$ .

Inasmuch as I requested a look at the War Rates covers I think I should not have put you to any expense. I do appreciate your kindness and I will try to make it up in some other way.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

# MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.  
April 15, 1953.

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

Dear Stan,

This enclosed pair came out of a sale Monday, the 13th of H.R.Harmer's. It is marked as No. 22, the type IIIA. However it looks to me like a type II which is a much cheaper stamp. What do you say? It cost \$38 as shown and since I did not bid on it I can send it back. Will you advise me. Also I find no reference to such in your book. Maybe you will send it back direct to Cole if it is wrongly described.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be the name 'Dun' or similar, written in a cursive style.

April 16, 1953.

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

Dear Em:

Just a line to advise you to send Cole a check for the 1¢ 1857 pair. The stamps are IIIA and from the sixth row, Relief F, Plate 4. Two very desirable positions. I judge the pair is in good condition, no thin spots, creases, etc., but I will examine further before I return to you.

Hurriedly yours,

57L4 58L4

Emmerson C. Krug  
3008 13th Ave., South  
Birmingham, Alabama



**SPECIAL DELIVERY**

**REGISTERED**

9667

**VIA AIR MAIL**

**VIA AIR MAIL**

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK  
33 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.  
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY



April 17, 1953.

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

Dear Em:

Herewith the 1¢ 1857 pair. I think this is quite a nice pair of IIIA. It is an "F" relief from the 6th row of Plate 4 - This is the relief which gave us the IA stamps from the bottom row. In addition, some of the perfs are blind. There are strips in collections from this plate which show blind perfs, hence imperf between.

Thanks very much for sending me the letters from Elliott Perry. Use your own judgement but if you reply to his letter I do wish that you would do this - Write him and tell him that you are a very close friend of mine and that in the past you have resented his scurrilous attacks upon me, that you will be pleased to make a small contribution to his book provided he adheres strictly to philatelic subjects and refrains from attempts to discredit philatelic students who have made greater contributions to philately than he has.

He is a lousy S.O.B. and a dirty rat but I would like to see his book published even if he gives me unshirted hell on every page. If you will do me the above favor I will be most grateful. I have an idea that he will write you a long-winded reply and bring in a lot of Needham stuff. He is a mental case and perhaps should be pitied but it is hard to have much pity for a vicious rat who would bite you or a rattlesnake who would strike you.

One day this week I had a letter from Phil Ward stating he had just returned from Washington where he had spent several days going thru a lot of old P.O.D. correspondence and had found evidence that Perry was absolutely wrong and I was right in the controversy between Perry and Ashbrook over the Carrier Fee.

Best wishes -

Cordially yours,

(27-24)



# IRWIN HEIMAN

INCORPORATED

*Stamps for Collectors*

2 WEST 46TH STREET

NEW YORK <sup>19</sup>36, N. Y.

April 15, 1953

Dear Stan,

Enclosed herewith, you will find lots you wanted to inspect in my 160th sale.

I am also enclosing a 5¢ 1847, which I suspect might be a double transfer variety, as well as a 10¢ 1847 cover with splits on it that I cannot fathom. If you want to fool around with these items, there is no hurry on their return.

I am disappointed that you didn't call me the last time you were in New York. Don't let that happen again. The ~~fourbon~~ that we serve here is just as good as the stuff you have in Ft. Thomas.

Best regards, I am

Sincerely,

*Irwin Heiman*

IH/msk  
Encl.

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

*old grand pappy*

April 20, 1953.

Mr. Irwin Heiman,  
2 West 46th St.,  
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Irwin:

Herewith the 5¢ 1847 and the 10¢ 1847 cover as per yours of the 15th.

Re - the 5¢, it is not a D.T. but a miserable and damaged copy from a very dirty condition of the plate.

Re - the cover. The half stamps don't mean a thing except that they were accepted to pay the 10¢ rate from Baltimore to Boston. The half to right is a piece of the D.T. plate position 2R1. Why this woman used two halves of a 10¢ stamp to pay the rate I don't know. Maybe she didn't have any 5¢ stamps so cut up some 10¢ to use as 5¢, then ran out of 10¢ and used two halves. That is about as good a theory as any. Never before have I seen such a freak.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



322



274



(FULL COVER)



67  — 10c (2 var.) right vertical 2/3 of one stamp, plus vertical 1/3 of another tied to cover with red grid canc. to make 10c rate, latter has Double Transfer 2R1, pmkd. Baltimore and addressed to Boston, Maine, most unusual freak usage, very fine (Photo)



298



299



316



383



444



331



340



344

7040



345



347



366



393

1964A



726



638



725

RAYMOND H. WEILL Co.  
ROGER G. WEILL - RAYMOND H. WEILL

*Philatelic Dealers*

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SOCIETY PHILATELIC AMERICANS  
COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK  
BRITISH PHILATELIC ASS'N, LTD.

407 ROYAL STREET  
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

April 16, 1953

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

There are herewith enclosed seven (7) stamps which we would like to have classified by an expert.

When returning, please include bill for your services. With kind regards to you and Mrs. Ashbrook, we remain

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

  
By

rhw:lc  
enc.  
reg & ins

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

4-18-53

Dear Washburn:

Is there any explanation of the Confederate stamp being on this cover? Ed McConnell says he has owned this cover for 25-30 years and that it came to him directly from the family who were the descendants of the writer. He says that Mr Clark wrote almost daily to his wife, and that there were a huge number of letters. The original short, but interesting note is enclosed. Is it possible that there was Confederate territory between Sherman's army and Nashville, and that some agreement had been made about mail going thru the lines. In that case there should have been a "Via Flag of Truce" or some Confederate Postal marking, or was it possible that

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ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

this agreement about mail from Sherman's army only was necessary, in case a roving band of Confederate cavalry happened to come along to destroy part of the railroad or a few cars. They might let soldiers letters pass by agreement, but this seems far fetched in a war such as they were fighting. At any rate this cover seems interesting, although it may be strictly an oddity. Certainly Sherman's troops had plenty of chance to acquire Confederate stamps in their march thru Georgia.

I had a grand session with Jessup last night. Earl Cahley of Los Angeles was up and showed us his color charts to demonstrate rebuffs, types, reprints etc of his One cent '51 material. He is also doing quite a bit with the 10¢ '55. He was simply over come by Edgars material,

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SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

although he has some well natural himself. He showed Edgar a few mistakes in his 1457 platiny, but I can assure you, there were very few mistakes, and what a collection of marvelous items.

I got a few nice covers away from Edgar, although the going was tough at times. The best one was Krapp lot 1160, the embossed penny post. Edgar says these are very rare, although I had one already. It is interesting that this one is slightly different than mine, in that there is one more town listed - Mohelunne Hill; whereas mine stops with Grass Valley. I also got a beautiful illustrated cover <sup>from</sup> Minne-Ha-Ha Falls in June W Anthony Falls Minn. Co New Brunswick with a Type I preprinted 10¢; also several other less valuable items.

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.

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AUSTIN W. LEA, M.D.

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

Edgar was in a good mood, but  
resistant and stubborn at times.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Wm. Polland

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA

DINSMORE ALTER, PH.D., Sc.D.  
DIRECTOR

C. H. CLEMINSHAW, PH.D.  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



FLETCHER BOWRON  
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
RECREATION AND PARKS  
GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY  
AND PLANETARIUM  
P. O. BOX 9787, LOS FELIZ STATION  
LOS ANGELES 27  
OLYMPIA 1191

11 April 1953  
Dear Ashbrook: The stamp is beautiful appearing, but Oakley and I found a filled thin spot! I am enclosing the lump of filler for I suspect that Mr. Mobsworth knows nothing of it. This is the second stamp from Boston which I have found to be filled!! Some years ago a <sup>Tom</sup> dealer (neither Mobsworth nor Kelleher) submitted a pair to a local dealer to show me. They were 5 and 6 RIE and looked beautiful. In that case I believe the dealer knew them to have pinholes. My suspicion was attracted by the low price, \$1.50.00 for a pair which looked wonderful. The price was not too bad (perhaps \$2.50 or \$3.00 too high) if the truth had been told about the pair.

This stamp should have considerable value, despite the thin spot. The funniest case was when Herst sent me a trimmed Type V as 99R2. I told him what it was, but he wouldn't believe me until you had seen it! Then he apologized.

You will have spent the enclosed as postage by the time the stamp gets back to Boston.

Am afraid that I did not make plain my attitude (pen must have run its "70000 words without refilling) on plating. I merely meant that I do not attempt to collect those positions which have little to distinguish them. I do identify every Type IV which comes to me, unless too much cut in or otherwise defective. This practice is part of my training of myself to know these stamps. I need the photos!

Best wishes in every way

Altes.

Hope the 80 fairmail stamps get a good dated cancellation!

April 23, 1953.

Col. Dinsmore Alter,  
P. O. Box 9787,  
Los Feliz Station,  
Los Angeles 27, Calif.

Dear Colonel:

I am in receipt of yours of the 11th returning the 1¢ 1851 - 7R1E. I apologize for my tardiness in acknowledging receipt. I returned the stamp to Molesworth and today I am in receipt of a letter from him from which I quote as follows:

"Thanks for your prompt reply on the 6R1E. I'm sorry that your client concluded that it has a filled-in thin spot and frankly can find no basis whatsoever for his conclusion. I've checked it carefully in fluid, under a strong glass, and under my ultra violet lamp; it passes all tests 100%. I wish you had examined it yourself."

When I returned the stamp to him I informed him of your finding but stated that I had not made a careful examination of the stamp and did not know whether your finding was correct.

Molesworth is a young chap about thirty years of age. He is very keen and is learning fast. He is rather cautious about what he offers and relies a great deal on my examinations of items.

I have known of this stamp for some years and I never questioned its condition and as far as I am aware no one else has. I don't think Jack would have offered it thru me if he had the slightest intimation that it had a filled-in thin spot.

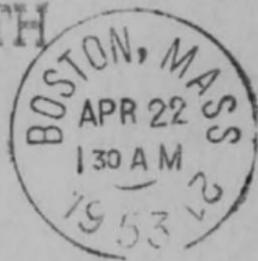
Re - the Plate One Early photographs. No doubt Oakley showed you his set and if he did I will be glad to make up a set for you. The price is \$50.00. I probably wouldn't have time to turn them out before the middle of May as my desk is piled high with work.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

JACK E. MOLESWORTH

4 102 Beacon  
BOSTON 16, MASS.



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

VIA AIR MAIL

VIA AIR MAIL

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

4-21-55.

Dear Stan,

Thanks for your prompt reply on the 7RLE. I'm sorry that your client concluded that it has a filled-in thin spot and frankly can find no basis whatsoever for his conclusion. I've checked it carefully in fluid, under a strong glass, and under my ultra violet lamp; it passes all tests 100%. I wish you had examined it yourself.

It appears that your friend either has a rather vivid imagination or didn't want the stamp for another reason and trumped up the filled-in thin claim as an excuse for returning. Actually, I don't mind its being returned as it is the type of thing I don't mind having in stock, tho of course no one appreciates having their mdse. unjustly condemned.

With kind regards,

Jack

April 23, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

I have your card of the 21st, and note your remarks about the 7R1E. I regret that I did not examine it carefully, however, I will write my friend and quote your remarks. It is possible that he might have trumped up an excuse for returning the stamp, but I can hardly believe it, as I have always found him to be okay in every way. I was so busy when the stamp was here that I couldn't spare the time to give the stamp a thorough examination. My guess is that he was sincere in thinking the stamp had a filled-in thin spot but was mistaken.

If I had thought for a moment that he would turn the stamp down I would not have taken up your time or mine. He has been looking for a 7R1E for some time at a reasonable price. Perhaps the "slip print" was the real cause.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

(COPY)

J. MURRAY BARTELS

17 John St.

NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

Aug. 25, 1944.

Mr. G. V. Luerssen,  
Reading, Pa.

My dear Mr. Luerssen:

I was very pleased to hear that you now own the 1869 - 90¢ cover which I still consider the only one so far known. There is not much that I can add to the history which was enclosed in this cover. The collector from whom I obtained it was named Grant Squires who lived then in this city.

Senator Ackerman had a standing offer of \$1000.00 for a 90¢ of 1869 on the cover but never could get one. I sold him this one for \$400.00 and he was glad to get it, including it in one or more International Exhibitions.

I did not know what had become of it after the dispersal <sup>by</sup> ~~of~~ the Scott Co., after his death.

When I saw this cover loose in the back of Squires' album, I was naturally surprised. Being torn into two pieces he stated it was not much good. I offered him \$50.00 as it was, which seemed to surprise him and he accepted. I showed it to several collectors and all I heard was, "What a shame." After it had been repaired by a skilled repairer, the verdict was: "Wonderful piece even if it is repaired."

This is the story and I am pleased to know it to be in good hands, one who enjoys its possession.

I appreciate your kind remarks about my writings in "Stamps." Shall continue from time to time.

Very sincerely,

(signed) J. Murray Bartels

G. V. LUERSSEN  
MUHLENBERG PARK  
READING, PA.

April 25, 1953.

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

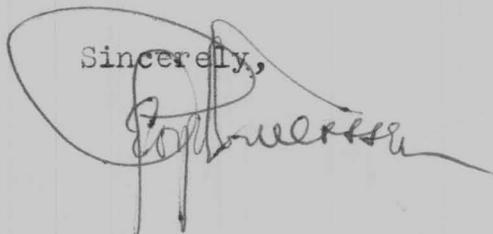
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your letter of the 23rd and the very complete comments received, concerning both the 90¢ 1861, and the 90¢ 1869 on cover. I appreciate very much the time you have taken in discussing both these covers.

The matter of the white paint covering the envelope tear in the 1869 cover is easily explained, and let me hasten to say that this cannot be attributed to the "expert repairer" referred to by Bartels. When I received this cover from Morgenthau, the gum or paste which had been used to repair the envelope had turned black, and one day I showed it to an artist friend of mine who knows a lot about pigments, and asked him if he knew of any way to remove or bleach out the black color without injuring in any way the adjacent parts of the cover. He told me he wouldn't take a chance on it, but facetiously said he could fix it up in a jiffy. Whereupon he whipped out a fine brush and some watercolor, and drew a line over the black seam, stating that any time I didn't like it I could remove it with a damp cloth. I never took the trouble to wipe it off, even though it is of course a crude job, and not very sightly. Upon receiving the cover back from you, I tried it, and the water color came off like so much powder, and so it is back to its original condition.

Again many thanks to you, and my kind regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. V. Luessen", written over a large, loopy flourish that starts under the word "Sincerely," and extends to the right and then loops back down.

G. V. LUERSSEN  
MUHLENBERG PARK  
READING, PA.

April 18, 1952.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Our mutual friend, Jere Barr, has passed along to me your letter to him of April 10 relative to the Delano cover. I want to tell you how much I appreciate your interesting comments. I recall quite well when this cover was offered in the Harmer sale, and I was surprised that the family would let it go, just as you were. All of which seems to prove that some humans are unpredictable.

In any event, when the cover turned up again in the recent Siegel sale, I bid and got it. The little fill-in which you have provided from the time it was first offered up to the present is quite interesting. Your recollection with regard to the Boston Br. Pk marking is quite correct. Incidentally the 30¢ rate to Hong Kong by French mail is shown on page 343 of your book on the U. S. 1¢ of 1851-57, which I recall having referred to when the cover first came up.

Now, with regard to the 90¢ 1869 on cover, I secured this in the Morgenthau sale in April 1943 which you refer to. It contained the statement by Bartels which you commented on, but the statement was not signed. Bartels was still alive at the time, and I wrote him asking if he would sign the statement, and at the same time give me the benefit of any other information in his possession. He wrote me in August 1944 (I recall that the idea did not occur to me until about a year later, when I happened to run across some articles he was writing for Stamps Magazine) and I photostated both his statement and his letter to mount with the cover. So you will find enclosed both the cover and the photostat.

When I first received this cover, I checked over it pretty carefully in light of the statement, and I was convinced at that time that the 90¢ stamp actually had been torn entirely through at the left upper corner, and that the repair had been done with extreme skill. I would very much appreciate your looking at this feature

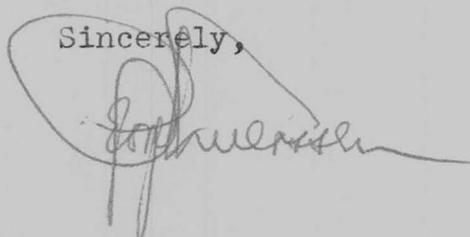
G. V. LUERSSEN  
MUHLENBERG PARK  
READING, PA.

again, particularly with the binocular microscope if you have one available. To trace the path of the tear, it is a help to hold the top of the envelope open and get the light in the inside so that the path through the envelope can be readily seen. I believe you will find a tear through the stamp following this very closely, but it is hard to identify on the face of the stamp. It is most apparent to me in the black cross hatched part of the vignette close to the border. There seems to be a possibility therefore that Singer really did repair the original stamp rather than replace it, but I am sure you are a much better judge of that than I, and your comments will certainly be most welcome.

It has been several years since I last contacted you in regard to the genuineness of the high values of 1869 on cover, and I am sure you will recall our correspondence on the subject of a Thorel cover with the 24¢, 15¢ and 3¢ from the Gibson collection. After our correspondence on the subject, Phil Ward came out with an article in Stamps Magazine decrying the number of faked 1869 covers in existence, and I took occasion to write him relative to this particular cover, and suggesting that he and other auction dealers might have all such covers checked by a competent authority before putting on sale, thus screening out spurious material. I suppose this was a very naive suggestion. In any event I never received an answer, and I still have the cover, which I have marked as doubtful, and which I will not let get back into circulation so long as it is not in the clear.

Thanking you for your willingness to look at this present cover again, and looking forward to your comments with interest, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. V. Luerssen", written over a large, loopy flourish that extends across the width of the signature.

(COPY)

J. MURRAY BARTELS

17 John St.

NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

Aug. 25, 1944.

Mr. G. V. Luerssen,  
Reading, Pa.

My dear Mr. Luerssen:

I was very pleased to hear that you now own the 1869 - 90¢ cover which I still consider the only one so far known. There is not much that I can add to the history which was enclosed in this cover. The collector from whom I obtained it was named Grant Squires who lived then in this city.

Senator Ackerman had a standing offer of \$1000.00 for a 90¢ of 1869 on the cover but never could get one. I sold him this one for \$400.00 and he was glad to get it, including it in one or more International Exhibitions.

I did not know what had become of it after the dispersal of the Scott Co., after his death.

When I saw this cover loose in the back of Squire's album, I was naturally surprised. Being torn into two pieces he stated it was not much good. I offered him \$50.00 as it was which seemed to surprise him and he accepted. I showed it to several collectors and all I heard was, "What a shame." After it had been repaired by a skilled repairer, the verdict was: "Wonderful piece even if it is repaired."

This is the story and I am pleased to know it to be in good hands, one who enjoys its possession.

I appreciate your kind remarks about my writings in "Stamps." Shall continue from time to time.

Very sincerely,

(signed) J. Murray Bartels

April 23, 1953.

Mr. George V. Laarssen,  
Muhlenberg Park,  
Reading, Pa.

Dear Mr. Luerssen:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 18th enclosing the 90¢ 1869 cover. I was pleased to see this again and to make new photographs, also enlarged exposures of the stamps. If my negatives turn out satisfactory, I will send prints to you. I also made an exposure by ultra-violet.

Further regarding the 90¢ 1861 F.D.R. cover. I am making an investigation regarding items with the type of "Boston Br Pkt - Paid" marking on the face of the cover. This postmark was generally used as a back stamp on mail going abroad out of Boston by Cunard mail ships. I have seen numerous stamps of the 1857-1860 issues - off cover copies - canceled with this type of postmark but I have no record of any covers with the stamps actually canceled by this marking. However, I may have seen such items but never considered them unusual enough to record. What bothers me is this - Why so many off cover stamps and no covers? I may be wrong but I am a bit suspicious of the off cover copies. Such things would be exactly the class of material that the notorious Zareski of Paris would turn out. His method - to remove ordinary cancels - and apply an imitation of the Boston marking.

If you will look thru auction catalogues I believe you will find they generally bring nice premiums. I have records of the following off cover stamps with this "Boston Br Pkt" - month and day in the center - and "PAID" at the bottom.

Regarding your 90¢ 1869 cover herewith. I have examined the 90¢ stamp on this cover very minutely under my binocular microscope and there is no question whatsoever but what the whole upper left corner of this stamp was torn. Therefore, in my opinion this 90¢ 1869 stamp was used originally on this cover. Every bit of evidence is in favor of the usage of this 90¢ stamp on this cover. The tear in the stamp coincides exactly with the tear in the envelope - where the tear enters at the left side and where it emerges at top.

I note that Bartels mentioned an "expert repairer." I suppose he was the best repair artist in this country at that time but compared to the European crooks of the present day he was a "bungler" and must have used plumber's tools in his work. However, this applied to about 95% of his work. I think he did a fairly good job in joining together the severed edges of the 90¢ stamp and replacing same on over the torn parts of the envelope. I don't

#2. Mr. George V. Luerssen - April 23, 1953.

know why he used white paint on the face of the cover, but no present day "artist" would do such a thing.

While it was said that a 10¢ was missing and the present one was replaced, that story may be true and it may not be anything but gossip. As far as I am concerned I would never have suspected that this was done had I not been informed that such was the case. In short I see no evidence of such replacement. I carefully examined the back markings and they are unquestionably genuine. The year of use was 1873 and this was a 4 x 28¢ rate "Via Brindisi" - The 96 over 4 was our credit to the British and our share was 16¢ which was quite correct.

There is just one point that seems odd - a use in August 1873 of a 90¢ 1869. I suppose a master artist could have removed a badly torn and damaged 90¢ Bank Note and then added a 90¢ 1869 stamp and then tear off a corner, remove the pieces, joined them together and put the rejoined stamp back on the cover. However, Singer was not that sort of an artist in my opinion. I doubt if such an operation would ever have occurred to him.

Yes, I remember the Thorel cover and have a photographic record of it. Phil Ward is very hard to convince that any cover that he ever handled was or is bad, especially if he still owns it. When people do not care to be convinced, it is useless to present evidence. Phil cannot believe that the Paris crooks can remove cancellations "WITHOUT A TRACE" from early U. S. stamps and mucilage is very cheap. In many instances collectors who prefer unused o.g. 19th U. S. live in a false world.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

May 15, 1953.

Mr. G. V. Luerssen,  
Muhlenberg Park,  
Reading, Pa.

Dear Mr. Luerssen:

I trust that you will pardon my negligence  
in acknowledging receipt of your kind letter of the 25th.

I have been extremely busy and I don't recall  
whether I sent you one of the photographs that I made of  
your 90¢ 1869 cover. If I failed to do so and you would  
like to have one just drop me a post card.

Again thanking you for your kind co-operation,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

LAW OFFICES OF  
KOENIG AND POPE  
318 OLIVE STREET  
ST. LOUIS 1, MO.

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

FORMERLY  
HAYNES AND KOENIG  
TELEPHONE-CENTRAL 0109  
CABLE ADDRESS  
PATENT

April 28, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have just acquired the enclosed cover and I would appreciate it if you will tell me the following about it:

1. Does the New York stamp belong on this cover?
2. What is the significance of the postal markings on it?
3. If the N.Y. stamp belongs on the cover, how did the route agent who put the "U.S. Express Mail" marking on the cover, collect the 5c from the Postmaster of New York? Or did he have to?

Any help you can give me will be appreciated and if you will tell me what your fee is, I will send you a check promptly.

Sincerely,  
John D. Pope III

April 30, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Pope:

Herewith the 5¢ New York cover as per yours of the 28th. This, a cover from New York, Dec. 31st, 1845 to Paris, France, and signed by "C.Law." In my opinion this cover is genuine in every respect and the 5¢ New York stamp, which was not canceled, was used as we see it on this letter.

The letter was not placed in the New York Post Office but was mailed direct with the mail agent on Express Mail Route between New York and Boston. This was part water and rail. I suppose it was mailed thus in order to reach Boston in time for the sailing of a Cunard British mail ship for England. The mail agent recognized the 5¢ New York stamp as paying the postage to Boston just the same as if he had received the letter from that office without any stamp and marked "Paid." The stamp itself was evidence that the office of origin had received 5¢ in postage.

Other covers are known with recognition of the 5¢ New York by route agents, for example, a cover from New York to Albany, in both cases the agent tied the stamp to the cover with the postmark. I also have a record of a cover with a pair of the New Yorks and the "Express Mail - N. YORK" postmark. I infer that mail agents were instructed to recognize such uses. This letter was carried to England and thence to France under the terms of the Anglo-French postal treaty, postage from the U. S. frontier to destination was collected from the addressee. The pen marking is "13" decimes or approximately 25¢ at that time in U. S. currency.

The rectangular marking "Colonies" etc. was an accounting marking.

My fee for the above is \$3.50 which includes return registration.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

(27-30)

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

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

FORMERLY  
HAYNES AND KOENIG  
TELEPHONE-CENTRAL 0109  
CABLE ADDRESS  
PATENT

May 1, 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for supplying the information as to the  
New York cover so promptly. My check for \$3.50 is  
enclosed.

3 50

Sincerely  
John D. Pope III

# VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

DEALERS IN RARE POSTAGE STAMPS • ESTABLISHED 1901

505 FIFTH AVENUE AT 42<sup>ND</sup> ST. NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PHONE VANDERBILT 6-0162

April 28th 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

We are taking the liberty of enclosing herewith a 24¢ Banknote which we believe to show a grill to the left of the face, possibly two rows. Besides this, the stamp shows paper with several strands of silk, one quite decidedly red or purple.

Would you be in a position to examine this stamp and give us your opinion as to whether you believe it to be #164 the Continental banknote or #142, the grill of National. Any advice you can give us in this respect, we would appreciate and if you will let us know the charges, we will forward same.

Sincerely yours,

VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

*Herant Mozian*

HM:SL

April 30, 1953.

Vahan Mozian, Inc.,  
505 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Attention: Mr. H. Mozian

Dear Mr. Mozian:

I make no claim to very much knowledge of the Bank Note Issues, so please don't permit the following to be considered other than my own personal opinion.

Re - the 24¢ Bank Note which I am returning herewith -

1. I fail to see any actual trace of a grill.
2. Under my microscope I noted a number of colored fibers, which apparently are embedded in the paper and apart thereof. Whether these are actually silk threads or strands of silk I do not know but I have my doubt that they are.
3. I have never run across any positive proof that the Continental Bank Note Co. used a paper with silk strands for the 24¢ stamp, viz., #164.
4. In my humble opinion, the stamp enclosed is S.U.S. #153.

There is no fee for the above.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

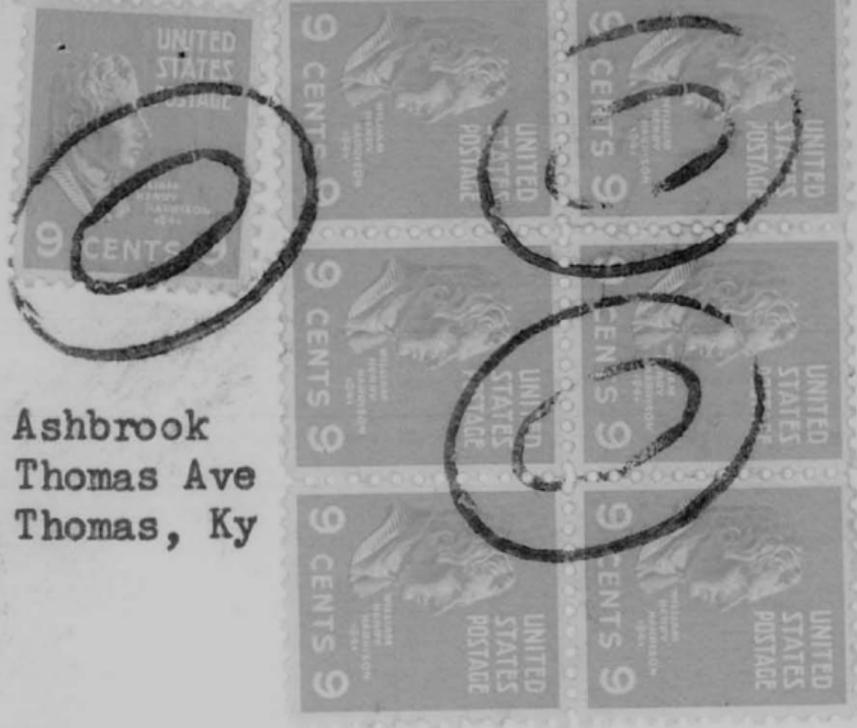
(27-31)

VAHAN MOZIAN, INC.  
505 FIFTH AVENUE  
AT 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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

1214767

REGISTERED





# VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

DEALERS IN RARE POSTAGE STAMPS • ESTABLISHED 1901

505 FIFTH AVENUE AT 42<sup>ND</sup> ST. NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PHONE VANDERBILT 6-0162

May 1st, 1953.

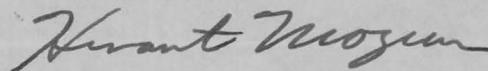
Mr. Stanley B Ashbrook  
33 N Ft. Thomas Ave  
Fort Thomas, Ky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your kind letter of April 30th received, and  
we wish to thank you for your information.

Sincerely yours,

VAHAN MOZIAN INC.



HM:SL

Samuel C. Paige  
45 Bromfield Street  
Boston 8, Massachusetts

May 4, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing the Blackjack cover about  
which Mr. Paige wrote you last Friday.

I came across it this morning and realized  
that I had forgotten to enclose it with  
the letter.

Sincerely,

*N. Freitag*

N. Freitag  
(Sec. to Mr. Paige)

May 5, 1953.

Mr. Samuel C. Paige,  
45 Bromfield St.,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Paige:

The B. J. cover came in this A.M. and I was pleased to find that it had not been lost in the mail. I am returning it herewith and regret that I cannot give you a definite opinion regarding it. It may be good and it may not be. However, there are certain suspicious features which prevent me from giving it my okay.

I am enclosing herewith also one of my covers showing a 4¢ rate - no doubt, a 1¢ overpay as there was no carrier or way fee after the B.J. was issued. I also include a tracing from my cover of the target and postmark. The target was attached and part of the postmark stamper. If you will lay this over your split I think you will find that the two targets do not match. It appears to me that the split has been cleaned and the black ink of the target on the split does not match the black ink on the stamp. However, this is just my opinion and you can judge for yourself.

My ultra-violet lamp failed to disclose any visible monkey-business but to be sure I made an enlarged photograph by the lamp and if the negative discloses anything I will advise you later.

I wish that I could give you a favorable report on the cover but I have seen so much faking of covers, and an expert artist would have little trouble in turning out an item such as this.

My fee is \$3.00 which includes return registration.

Sincerely yours,

PAID  
MAY - 8 1953

Samuel C. Paige  
45 Bromfield Street  
Boston 8, Massachusetts

May 6, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

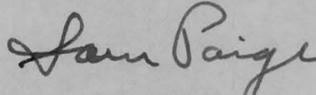
Please find enclosed my check to cover the expertization of the Blackjack cover. I am afraid that you are probably right in your conclusion. I rather doubt if it's a genuine split myself.

I am returning also your cover and tracing which you sent me to see. Thank you very much.

Please also find enclosed the three lots from my next sale which you wished to examine. Hope you will let me know if you notice anything else of interest to you.

With best regards

Sincerely,



Samuel C. Paige

# Post Office Department

Received from:

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed

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

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

May 5, 1953.

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

Dear Doctor:

Yours of the 29th received.

I cannot imagine Edgar bidding over \$1,000 for that Siegel cover, Lot 424. You probably noted that I gave it some space in my May 1st Service issue. Maybe my remarks will bring something out of a hole. I think it is lucky that Edgar did not obtain it. I sure would hate to pay any such a price for an item that is at least questionable, and questionable in two ways - (A) overpay or underpay? (B) no U.S. postmark - Why? I will not advise Edgar that we have had any correspondence regarding it.

Thanks very much for calling my attention to the "N.C." ad in the Harlow book. I have a copy and I will use the ad in connection with the cover. This definitely settles the question whether Kimball charged any fee to convey mail to the S.F. P.O. or to any of the mail ships.

I have never offered the cover to Edgar but if you think you would work it in on a trade I will be glad to send it to you. I will sell it to you with the understanding I will buy it back in case you are unable to interest him. You can pay me 1/2 balance to be paid if and when. In this way you can assure him that the cover is your property. Advise and I will forward it to you if you wish.

I have carefully noted yours of the 25th and the photo prints which you enclosed and which I return herewith. I regret to state that I do not possess any data whatsoever on the use of this class of covers, with the exception of an item that appeared in the Ward column in Mekeel's and photo of the cover. I know Dr. Winter of Louisville, the owner of the cover. I have an indistinct recollection that I had some correspondence with Edgar regarding these 10¢ covers.

I regret that I haven't the answers to your queries. I wonder if Thorp has any facts. Why not write him. He is quite a nice chap.

Re - yours of the 24th and the Parker Lyons collection. I never knew the man or had any correspondence with him. Jessup can give you the information you desire I am sure. Also W.R. Parker of Oroville. It seems reasonable to suppose that Parker Lyons was in close touch with Lichtenstein, Henry Needham, Burger Bros., John Kleeman and others down East.

It is to be regretted that the crooks get rid of so much fake material but did it ever occur to you that our national societies do absolutely nothing about it. Don't even warn members. Some of the auction houses sell some very rank stuff and when any are returned, I wonder what they do with it? I imagine

#2. Dr. S. Scott Pollard - May 5, 1953.

some of the real crooked auction concerns run from bedrooms could supply the answer.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

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

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

4-25-53

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

In the L & S sale of April 16-18<sup>th</sup> lot # 262 had 2 of these odd P.O Business Free - Perkins envelopes, which according to Wiltzel were envelopes used for the return of registered letter receipts to the San Francisco P.O. from the east. Wiltzel says that contrary to P. O. regulations, Perkins deemed that the Roberts line which was using the old Nicaragua route and had no mail contract, could carry the San Francisco mail, and that these envelopes were carried outside the mail, contrary to law. This went on from sometime in 1864 until sometime in 1867, when the government officials insisted upon Perkins obeying the law.

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

Now there are some interesting points about these envelopes. Why do all of them have a hole in the head of Washington, made by some blunt instrument such as a nail or spike. Since these envelopes were perfectly good for postal use, why did he attempt to destroy the stamp and for what purpose? How did he account for these envelopes to Washington? Did these envelopes accompany the registered letter along with the receipt? Why did the Eastern P.O.'s, such as Boston, handle such an item, and why would they recognize Perkins' order, rather than the postal regulations. How did the Roberts line obtain this mail from the regular eastern post offices? It must have been a nuisance to them, to render this service without compensation and without the advertising and glory that

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

Vanderbilt used to get with his  
handstamps in the early days. It  
seems to me it would have been  
a lot simpler for the eastern P.O.  
to have put the registered receipt in  
a regular P.O. envelope and send it  
with the regular San Francisco mail  
either overland or by Panama.

It seems to me the whole story  
of these envelopes has not been told.  
Do you have any additional data?

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,  
W. Scott Polland

Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

# Post Office Department

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed  
to Dr George Manting

7483 Shattesbury Ave  
UNIVERSITY CITY 5 Mo

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

DR. GEORGE MANTING

4903 DELMAR BOULEVARD

ST. LOUIS, MO.

May 3rd 1953

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

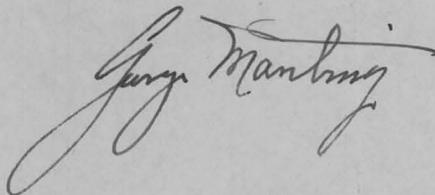
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for selling my stamps and I want you to feel that I was very well satisfied and agree with you that you obtained a very nice price for them.

I am enclosing a stamp which I would like to have your opinion about. I will gladly pay you for this service. I have never had it expertized and have been unable to find any evidence of a clean cancellation under a black UV. lamp I use in my office.

Thanking you again, I am

Very sincerely,



GM: j  
ENCL.



Job

Paed

May 6, 1953.

Dr. George Manting,  
7583 Shaftesbury Ave.,  
University City, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

Herewith the 10¢ 1855, Type I - S.U.S. #13 as per yours of the 3rd. I made a careful examination of this stamp under my ultra-violet light and also under my binocular but failed to find direct evidence of cancel removal. However, the philatelic crooks on the Continent are extremely clever at removing cancelations as the real "artists" work under the ultra-violet and have developed methods to leave practically no trace.

I made a photograph by the ultra-violet rays - sometimes such a negative will show evidence that is not visible to the eye. I will report later on the result. I have signed the copy on the back as a Type I.

My fee for the examination is \$3.00.

Sincerely yours,

DR. GEORGE MANTING

4903 DELMAR BOULEVARD

ST. LOUIS, MO.

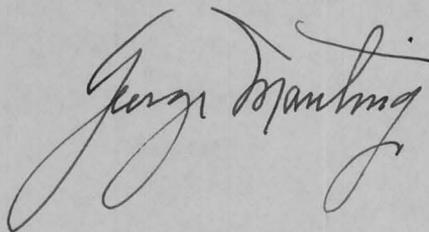
May 9, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thanks for the letter and valued opinion on the #13 stamp. I recently had a local dealer looking at my stamps and he insisted he could see a cleaned cancellation and on only cursory examination. I have always considered that it would have to be carried as a very fine used copy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Manting". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Sincerely,".

May 15, 1953.

Dr. George Manting,  
4903 Belmar Blvd.,  
St. Louis 8, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

Many thanks for yours of the 3rd with check for \$3.00.

I made a photograph of your stamp by ultra-violet and the negative don't seem to disclose any evidence of a removed cancellation. So far I haven't had time to make a print but I will do so shortly and send you a print.

If your local dealer could find visible evidence of a cancel then the ultra-violet would disclose it. On the other hand, if my print fails to show any evidence I would conclude that your friend might be wrong. We will see.

I am not overlooking the fact that some of the crooks who make a business of faking stamps work under a lamp in order to leave no trace, if possible.

Sincerely yours,

May 15, 1953.

Dr. George Manting,  
4903 Belmar Blvd.,  
St. Louis 8, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

Many thanks for yours of the 3rd with check for \$3.00.

I made a photograph of your stamp by ultra-violet and the negative don't seem to disclose any evidence of a removed cancelation. So far I haven't had time to make a print but I will do so shortly and send you a print.

If your local dealer could find visible evidence of a cancel then the ultra-violet would disclose it. On the other hand, if my print fails to show any evidence I would conclude that your friend might be wrong. We will see.

I am not overlooking the fact that some of the crooks who make a business of faking stamps work under a lamp in order to leave no trace, if possible.

Sincerely yours,

To Gus Dietz

---

May the fourth  
19 53

Dear Gus:

I haven't bothered you with mail because MacBride has been handling the correspondence on our joint work with you on the Handbook. We are so encouraged and I hope you are too. What a monumental job — even for a group of us. I often wonder how you ever did it almost single-handed.

We (your Authentication Committee) have just come to an important decision: The MARION, S.C. Provisional (listed on p. 100 of the present Handbook) is a rank fake. I have the copy on white in my hand as I write. Bob Laurence has had it for years, always suspicious of it, never tried to dispose of it. It came from Walcott (ex Ferrari).

The cover (of which you probably have a photo) is real and so is the MARION C.H. S.C. cancel (note it is "C.H." not just MARION) — that is real except for the part on the fake stamp which is painted in — lightly and inaccurately. There is part of the cancel under the stamp. The stamp is so obviously fake — ink and everything! Some old case of a cheap stamp removed and this fake substituted and fake tied. Funny — but the ragged edge at left probably occurred to the faker as a smart way to match up to the strike of the cancel on the cover! We have no record of the yellow copy — but that too must be bad.

Luckily the item was never priced, so all we have to do is remove it completely from the new edition. Another devil killed!

Warmest regards.

LCS

General August Dietz  
109 East Cary Street  
Richmond, Virginia

Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

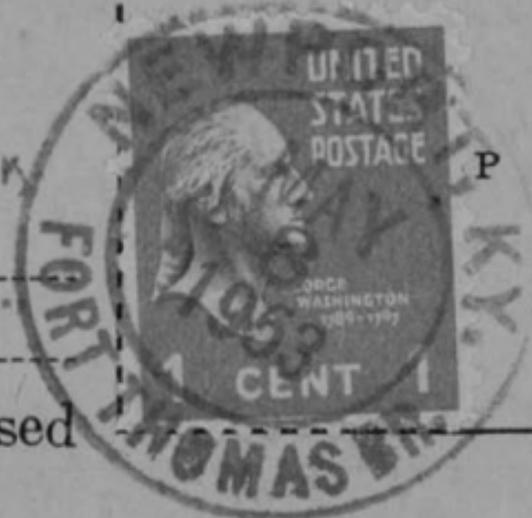
# Post Office Department

Received from: STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.

FORT THOMAS, KY.



One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to Maurice C Blake

11 Mason St

BROOKLINE (46) Mass

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

May 8, 1953.

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

Dear Maurice:

I note a typographical error in my letter of April 20th, third paragraph, fifth line, the "26¢" should be "20¢."

Regarding yours of the 24th, and my cover from Athens, Ga., Via N.Y. Aug. 1, 1857. I forwarded to you a copy of my May 1st "Special Service." Our analysis of the cover was in agreement except in one particular and that was in reference to the French due of "10" decimes. I do not think that the "G.B. 40c" was other than an accounting marking. For example, had this letter weighed not over 1/4 ounce, the French due would have been "5" decimes, and there would have been this same "G.B./40c," but this letter weighed over 1/4 - but not over 1/2 oz., so the due was 2 x 5 or 10 decimes and we still have the "G.B./40c."

You probably have covers from the U. S. to France via England in the first quarter of 1870, with 4¢ U. S. payments. I believe you will find that all such have the "G.B./40c" - those of not over 1/4 oz. show 5 decimes due, those over 1/4 oz. show 10 decimes due. If you wish, I will be pleased to forward some photo prints.

Now for the third paragraph of your letter (April 24). I do not know of any pre-treaty rate to France from the U. S. of 26¢ or 32¢ and I am quite sure no such rates ever existed.

Re - the rate to Nantes that I cited in my Volume 2 - pages 339-340. I made a partial record of such a cover but I never made a photograph. I evidently borrowed it or it was submitted to me. I have some tracings that I made of the Boston and New Orleans postmarks. The cover had a vertical pair of the 10¢ 1855 and a single 12¢ 1851. The postmarks indicated uses as follows:

New Orleans - July 7, 1856  
Boston - July 14, 1856  
French receipt - July 26, 1856  
Nantes - July 27, 1856

I find that we had some correspondence regarding this cover years ago but I haven't the exact date - probably about 1941. My memo is to the effect that you suggested a solution as follows:

5¢	U. S.
16¢	Atlantic
3¢	British
2¢	Channel
6¢	French Internal
<u>36¢</u>	

Some years previous, I sent Konwiser a description of the cover and he

#2. Mr. Maurice C. Blake - May 8, 1953.

gave it a write-up in his column in STAMPS - issue of NOV. 21, 1936. Perhaps you have a copy and can look it up. That was 1936 and my knowledge of foreign rates at that time was just about zero. However, I had plenty of company - I requested information re - the rate and the markings - and I find that Steve Brown came up with the following - The answer is "very simple" - a 2 x 15¢ rate with a 2 x 1¢ carrier rate. It would appear that he was kidding but the chances are he was serious as I believe he knew less than I did at that time about rates and markings.

The 32¢ cover was as stated, addressed to "NANTES" which is bad so I long ago came to the conclusion the cover was probably a fake and made by that notorious crook, Zareski. I made no memo of the address other than NANTES but all the "Garnier" covers went to Nantes.

On page 338 - Vol. 2 I produced as "G" the markings on the cover, the Boston, New Orleans, the P.D. and the N.O. grid. I imagine this was a 30¢ rate of the Treaty period and that Zareski substituted the imperforates for some 1861 stamps and changed the year dates to "56." On the back of the cover was -

"BOSTON  
JUL  
14  
BR. PKT"

Would you state that my "G" tracing was your B.P.M. - 870 - 871?

I suppose there is no question but what this "32¢" cover was used in the 1860's and with the "P.D." naturally there was no French due. In all the years my book has been in circulation, I think you are the only one who ever mentioned this "32¢" item. It is most unfortunate that I failed to photograph the cover at the time that I had it in 1936.

I enclose a photo of a genuine Garnier to Nantes in 1860, with the same type of the Boston Exchange marking but with the "12" credit.

I am returning your cards and apologize for the delay.

One further word re - the 32¢ cover. The Boston date was "14 JUL." The Cunard mail ships sailed from Boston on Wednesday. In 1856 July 14 fell on Monday. In 1858, July 14 fell on Wednesday, but it did not fall on that day again until 1869. I guess there is no doubt but what the Boston postmark could have been in use as early as July 1858, so perhaps the actual use of the cover was 1858. Zareski could have removed a damaged 10¢ 1855 and substituted the 12¢ 1851. I wonder?

With Regards.

Sincerely yours,

MAURICE C. BLAKE  
11 MASON STREET  
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

April 24, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

Your letter of the 20th with interesting cover from Athens, Ga. with two 10¢'55 and two 3¢'51, both vertical pairs, by AM. PKT. from N.Y. August 1, 1857 per Collins Line via England and Calais Aug. 12 to PARIS 1 POSTE RESTANTE 1//13/AOUT/57 came yesterday.

What seems to me a reasonable solution of this cover may or may not agree with your view. Upon what advice or information the sender used 26¢ in U.S. postage stamps is unknown, but as the Treaty rate in effect from April 1, 1857 required 30¢ for full prepayment on a letter of  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to France, if sent prepaid, the letter was Short Paid though not so marked at New York. As the U.S. share of the proper 30¢ was 2x3¢ internal and 2x6¢ sea by Am.Pkt. totaling 18¢, New York sent the letter on, but without any credit to the British-French offices, as only 8¢ of the proper 12¢ credit had been paid by U.S. stamps. Consequently, Britain received this letter prepaid only to England and forwarded it with a 4 pence charge or debit, shown by GB/40c, to France, according to British-French convention, so that the French added 60 centimes internal to Paris to the GB 40c and marked the letter 10 decimes (100 centimes=1 franc=10 pence=20 cents) payable by the recipient in Paris.

I do not know of a pre-treaty 26¢ rate from U.S. for delivery in French port of arrival or 32¢ rate from U.S. for delivery to a place in France other than port of arrival. I suppose such 26¢ and 32¢ rates, of the latter of which you cited an example to Nantes on pages 339-340 of your ONE CENT 1851-1857 Volume II, might have been assumed rarely by some U.S. Postmaster who misunderstood the meaning of the paragraph you quoted from the 1855 P.L.& R., whereby the 20¢ rate by U.S. Packet to Havre or any other port or place on the Coast of France, ~~Germany, etc.~~ when applied to a letter taken by the U.S. Havre Line, was "subject in France, to an additional postage of 30c (6¢) if destined to Havre; and 60c (12¢) if destined to any other part of France." Actually the U.S. rate was only 20¢, but the sender was informed that there would be a charge of 30c payable in Havre or of 60c payable elsewhere within France by the recipient. You do not illustrate the cover prepaid 32¢ to Nantes, so it is uncertain whether or not there was a French decimes marking on this cover for the French internal of 60c, but it would seem that there should have been this amount payable by the recipient in Nantes, unless by any chance there was some conventional arrangement between the U.S. and Britain allowing the U.S. to credit this 12¢ (60c) through Britain to France.

I should be glad to know your own solution for this 26¢ cover from Athens, Ga.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

May 8, 1953.

Mr. Eugene W. Jaeger,  
34 Sumner Ave.,  
Norwood 7, R.I.

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

In my One Cent Book, Vol. 2, pages 339-340, I mentioned a cover that I had with a 32¢ rate to Nantes, France. This record was made back in 1936. I made a partial record of such a cover but I never made a photograph. I evidently borrowed it or it was submitted to me. I have some tracings that I made of the Boston and New Orleans postmarks. The cover had a vertical pair of the 10¢ 1855 and a single 12¢ 1851. The postmarks indicated uses as follows:

New Orleans - July 7, 1856  
Boston - July 14, 1856  
French receipt - July 26, 1856  
Nantes - July 27, 1856.

In 1936 I sent Konwiser a description of the cover and he gave it a write-up in his column in STAMPS - issue of NOV. 21, 1936. Perhaps you have a copy and can look it up. That was 1936 and my knowledge of foreign rates at that time was just about zero. However, I had plenty of company - I requested information re - the rate and the markings - and I find that Steve Brown came up with the following - The answer is "very simple" - a 2 x 15¢ rate with a 2 x 1¢ carrier rate. It would appear ~~that~~ he was kidding but the chances are he was serious as I believe he knew less than I did at that time about rates and markings.

The 32¢ cover was as stated, addressed to "NANTES" which is bad so I long ago came to the conclusion the cover was probably a fake and made by that notorious crook, Zareski. I made no memo of the address other than NANTES but all the "Garnier" covers went to Nantes.

It is an established fact, that Zareski got hold of a lot of the Garnier covers and faked many of them.

On page 338, Vol. 2 of my One Cent Book, I produced as "G" the markings on the cover, the Boston, New Orleans, the P.D. and the N.O. grid. I imagine this was a 30¢ rate of the Treaty period and that Zareski faked the year dates to 56. On the back was

"BOSTON  
JUL  
14  
BR. PKT"

The Boston date was "14 JUL." The Cunard mail ships sailed from Boston on Wednesday. In 1856 July 14 fell on Monday. In 1858, July 14 fell on Wednesday, but it did not fall on that day again until 1869. I guess there is no doubt but what the Boston postmark could have been in use as early as July 1858, so perhaps the

#2. Mr. Eugene W. Jaeger - May 8, 1953.

actual use of the cover was 1858. Zareski could have removed a damaged 10¢  
1855 and substituted the 12¢ 1851. I wonder?

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

MERCHANT  
CALCULATORS, INC.  
OAKLAND 8, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

To Deane Stanley DATE 5/6

Am rushing to phone for  
N.A. - important Board  
meeting there so only a  
note -

An envelope addressed to  
you has been accumulating  
wild items for some time  
so am enclosing all -

Also N.C.-RR. Sometimes  
it's a puzzle to me -

Bear in mind it's Wiltsee's  
idea - not mine -

Could be Northern Calif. RR  
or anything - He did find  
an article - contemporary

Glad you subscribed to  
Pony Express. It has good items.

MERCHANT  
CALCULATORS, INC.  
OAKLAND 8, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

To \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Note H.C. letter - pls return -  
Also print I took of Pony  
cover you mentioned. I was  
runner up on it I guess  
for I think it was used  
as it is - might be wrong  
but wouldn't care to be quoted  
on that - Sorry its not a  
better photo.

I had these NC-RR's here  
all ready to photo but had  
not taken them to photo shop.  
so am sending them just as  
your letter arrives - quicker than  
printing etc. Glad to get your  
story re P.F. something must  
be done. Dealers are necessary.  
Yours Edgum

MERCHANT  
CALCULATORS, INC.  
OAKLAND 8, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

To SPB DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Page 184 - Issue No 26 MAY 1953

Record p. you ask for cover  
with Boston BR Plot - PAID at bottom

Eyas 90461 - you remember -  
slight tear at top you once said  
was not good so + Behr left it  
out of Knapp sale. Later you  
said it was ok which I agree to -  
but wasn't it a Boston-PAID-Ped?  
904 tied - but faint? I saw  
it recently but its not too hot  
as a cover but has the mark -  
I dont think I have any -  
wonder why?

MERCHANT  
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

TO Dear Stanley DATE Apr 13th '53

I was just looking over Knapp  
Sale II and saw all those covers  
with 26¢ + 30¢ '69s -

Can they all be ok? or any  
of them? He surely had plenty  
of them -

One from S.F. - 30¢.

One with Sewing Machine pictorial  
Cover with 26¢ '69.

Can't be true can it?

I never did see a 26¢ I was  
sure of unless it was Blughe's  
big cover with two or a pair -

Some day we may find 90¢  
covers - if the "boys" get clever.

Saw Dock the other day. He is fine  
& happy, but doesn't get enough -

Yrs. Eagan

MERCHANT  
CALCULATING MACHINE COMPANY  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

TO SBA. DATE 3/10/53

I have a cover with a pair of 34 5's  
Tied with New-York / SHIP / DEC / 2 / -

also has MSS / 10 with **6**

I believe this went via mic.  
Guests "Lancaster Canada. week"

I don't know why the -10-  
Six seems OK for Canada  
letter. I don't seem to locate  
the year there was a "Dec 2"  
via mic. mail into N.Y.

You may have seen the cover  
& forgotten it as its nothing  
to rave about - I wonder  
if it went via mic? *Edger*

May 8, 1953.

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

Dear Edgar:

Yours received.

Referring to the Pony Express cover and Clifford's letter. In reference to the rate, he was wrong - the rate to or from California was 10¢ per 1/2 ounce, and not 20 for a letter that weighed over one ounce but 15¢. I think you were very lucky that you were not stuck with the cover. So far I have been unable to learn who bought it. I had an idea it might have gone to Hugh Baker of Indianapolis. I wrote him a week ago inquiring if he purchased it and if so would he loan it to me but strange to relate, I have not had a reply. I was more than pleased to see your photograph but I would sure love to see the cover itself. It could be good, but if so, then there must be a 10¢ missing. It does seem odd that there is no U. S. postmark.

I think that you should set Clifford right on the 10¢ rate - Apr. 1, 1855 to June 30, 1863 inclusive - 10¢ per 1/2 oz. If I find out who bought the cover I will advise you. In the meantime I will hold your print, but will return it if you wish. I suppose you can have another one more. Do you suppose someone removed a \$1.00 Pony stamp and substituted the \$2.00? I'll bet I could find out if I could see the cover.

I return the Colson Bulletins. Yes, he certainly does get around and he is remarkable for a man of his age. I started to state girl, but maybe he is more male than female. Good thing he never got to Denmark or we would have had a female with as sharp a tongue of that thing who calls herself Lady Astor.

I have the three(3) volumes of the Butterfield Overland Mail - I purchased the work when it was first published. Thanks just the same.

Re - Knapp Second Sale - 24¢ - 30¢ 1869 covers. It is quite a long story - Some were good - some were bad. Colson said - back in 1938 - that Knapp's 1869 collection was full of "Zareskis." I thought at the time it was a malicious lie but Colson was right. Knapp believed that everyone he had was good. No doubt all came from Zareski via John Kleeman. Ned had great faith in Kleeman, but there was never a bigger crook in Nassau St.

Re - 24¢ 1869 cover - My Service Photo No. 77 is a very great rarity and good as gold. Do you remember it?

Re - your cover with a pair of 3¢ '51 to Lancaster Canada West -

#2. Mr. Edgar B. Jessup - May 8, 1953.

New York - Ship - of Dec. 2. I haven't a doubt but what this originated in California and went "Via N." Of course, the pair of 3¢ paid the rate to the East, but it was short paid to Canada - New York sent it on its way as an unpaid letter from New York to Canada and at the Line it was manuscript marked as 10¢ due. Received in Canada it was marked with a large "6" - which was Canadian 6 pence due - Their 6 pence sterling was 10¢ U. S.

Your cover left S.F. on the "Cortes" on Nov. 9, 1854 - and was brought into New York by the Star of the West on Dec. 2, 1854. You purchased your cover from Laurie Mason. I enclose a photo of a Short Paid to Nova Scotia in 1853 - This should have had a U. S. payment of 10¢. The 3¢ served no purpose. File this photo with your cover. I believe that this cover should have been rated with 15¢ due as the rate from California was 15¢ to Canada at that time. Had the letter been deposited in the S.F. P.O., it would have had the 6¢ pay disregarded and an unpaid rate of 15¢ applied.

Thanks very much for the loan of the two "N.C. R.R." covers. I really don't know what to think at present so I will not attempt to express any opinion. Did you ever hear of a "Northern California F.R.?" I never did and besides why would such covers as these have a railroad marking? Consider the one S.F. to Sac City. Was this given to Kimble to carry to the S.F. P.O.? If so, why did he put any such a marking on the cover? This is marked by you 1853. The other shows five years later from Oroville to Greenwood - the handstamp looks just the same - What could be the connection with Kimble? You know far better than I do. I will express this opinion. I think the N.C. markings on both these covers is a **BANK FAKE**. Did Parker Lyon make it? I will make photos of both covers and send prints to you later.

Re - the 90¢ 1861 cover you mentioned. This was Lot 2873 in First Knapp sale. It was from Philadelphia May 1863 and the stamp was tied by two dark blue grids. I did have a lot of correspondence with Souren about it in 1943. It came up in a sale by H. R. Harmer Oct. 25, 1951 and I pronounced it genuine in all respects. The stamp did have a tear. I do not recall it had any Boston postmark on the front. A faint red Philadelphia p.m. with PAID at the bottom also tied stamp to cover. For the Boston "Br Pk" marking I referred to - see the Blake book. Also see the Emerson off cover items I mentioned - Be careful of such off items as I suspect Zareski made them. You surely have some - "Wanna Bet?"

I return the "N.C.-R.R." covers herewith.

Best regards.

Yours etc.,

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

May 11th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

A good customer of mine saw the 7RIE cover in the Heiman sale. I told him how bad it was and besides everything else mentioned in the catalogue, the stamp had a very big tear in it, not described and just to get the record straight, his original bid was \$1000.00.

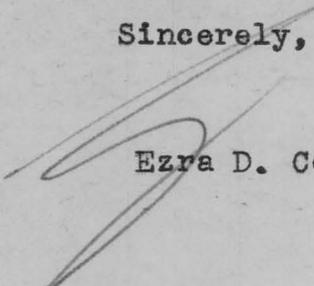
As a result of my letter he cancelled his bid and I told him I had this cover which I described to him and he then asked to see it. I am selling it to him for less than one-half of what he bid and he writes me as follows:

"I am buying the cover you sent me, although I know the stamp is rather poor, but I also know it is very rare. I return the cover. Will you please have it signed by Stan Ashbrook and please ask him, if possible, to make a little comment on this item with reference to the little red star."

I would like very much to have you do this for me and of course if there is any fee I will be glad to pay it. He knows the condition of the stamp and that the 7 is cut badly, so all you have to say is that this is the correct plate positions which is what I am selling it for and I would also appreciate your writing about the little red carrier cancellation.

You can erase the notes on the back if you want to and write what you want to there.

Sincerely,

  
Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

May 15, 1953.

Mr. John A. Fox,  
173 Tulip Ave.,  
Floral Park, N.Y.

Dear John:

Yours of the 11th received, enclosing the 10¢ 1847 cover which I am returning herewith. I have examined this very carefully and I am convinced the markings are genuine, hence have endorsed it as such on the back. The pair is from plate positions 19L - 20L. The cover seems to be addressed to "FARMVILLE FLR" but I was unable to find any P.O. listed as in Florida by that name, so assume it was intended for "Farmville, Va.," as that was the only Farmville P.O. in my official 1851 list.

This letter was brought into New York by "ship" and it could have originated at Chagres, Panama, or some point in the West Indies. A 20¢ rate applied to Chagres. The S.L. "Steamboat" is new to me. I suppose one would assume it was applied at New York but I don't seem to have any record of it. It seems to be in the same ink as the circular marking.

John there is no reason why you should pay me a fee of \$15.00 on this cover as my charge to anyone would only have been \$5.00. I am therefore sending you my check for \$10.00.

Best wishes to you in your new location.

Our best to Virginia and you.

Cordially yours,

STAMPS  
COVERS  
ACCESSORIES

NEW ADDRESS:  
173 TULIP AVENUE  
FLORAL PARK, N.Y.

**JOHN A. FOX**

216 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK 38, N.Y.

BEEKMAN 3-5443

RETAIL  
WHOLESALE  
AUCTIONS

May 11, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 2nd. Your Service Issue mailed to the old address came through in fine shape. It is nice to get away from Nassau Street. Things are going along smoothly and we are very busy, with future auction commitments.

Trust all is well with <sup>Mildred</sup>Virginia and yourself. Virginia joins me in sending our very best regards.

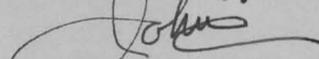
I will send a cover next week I want checked. I did not have time to check it before putting it in my auction sale so put it in and as soon as it comes from the photographers will send it to you. If not good, we can withdraw it.

With kind personal regards and best wishes,

P.S. Here is the  
Cover.

JAF:ew

Sincerely,

  
JOHN A. FOX

STAMPS  
COVERS  
ACCESSORIES

NEW ADDRESS:  
173 TULIP AVENUE  
FLORAL PARK, N.Y.

## JOHN A. FOX

116 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK 38, N. Y.

BEEKMAN 3-5443

RETAIL  
WHOLESALE  
AUCTIONS

May 18, 1953

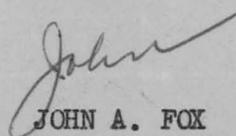
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
P.O. Box 31  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan;

Thank you for sending the check for \$10.00, but I am returning it herewith. I feel that the expertizing was well worth fifteen dollars, rather than the five. You have done me many favors in the past, for which I am grateful, so I am more than pleased to repay you in this small way.

With kind personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

  
JOHN A. FOX

JAF:ew

May 20, 1953.

Mr. John A. Fox,

173 Tulip Ave.,

Floral Park, N.Y.

Dear John:

I have yours of the 18th with return of my check and I feel rather guilty in accepting it back but what can I do about it? The only thing that I can think of the next time is to refuse you an opinion unless you agree not to over-pay. That sure seems fair enough.

With best wishes - and again thanks -

Cordially yours,

# VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

DEALERS IN RARE POSTAGE STAMPS • ESTABLISHED 1901

505 FIFTH AVENUE AT 42<sup>ND</sup> ST. NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PHONE VANDERBILT 6-0162

May 11th 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

We are again taking the liberty of enclosing three items for your opinion:

1¢ blue can you let us know what type this may be? We believe it to be either IIIA or III.

The 10¢ Imperforate tied to cover with a Red Grid and also Benicia Calif. Cover also contains the red Swarts also tied. Can you give us any idea of this red grid? This cover is from the original correspondence of "Washburn," most all letters addressed were between California and New York.

1¢ 1870 grill with what we believe to be colored ribbing. (*color of stamp.*)

Thanking you in advance, and if you will let us know your charges, we will forward same by return mail.

With kindest regards.

Very truly yours,

VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

*Avant Mozian*

HM:SL

May 16, 1953.

Vahan Mozian, Inc.,  
505 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Attention: Mr. H. Mozian

Dear Mr. Mozian:

Herewith the three items as per yours of the 11th. My analysis is as follows:

10¢ 1855 - Type II - on cover, addressed to Vallejo, Calif. Letter inside dated New York, Apr. 19, 1856. Stamp tied by New York ringless grid in red. Swart's Local stamp tied by Benicia, Calif. The cover bears no New York postmark and the reason is undoubtedly as follows -

The mail ships for Panama sailed from New York on the 5th and 20th of each month. This letter was entrusted to Swart's Post to carry direct to the mail ship, hence no New York postmark. The 10¢ stamp was canceled by the mail clerk at the pier. Letter dated Apr. 19, 1856 - probably given to Swarts the next day to convey to the ship - too late to place in New York Post Office for sailing that day. Arriving at San Francisco it was missent to Benicia, and from there, postmarked and forwarded to Vallejo. The "Paid 10 cts" appears to be in the same ink as the address, and if so, it might indicate that the writer applied it to show she had paid 10¢ in cash to Swarts for the postage.

I have endorsed the cover on the back as genuine.

One Cent 1857 - This stamp is a Type IIIA from Plate 4 - The perfs cut the bottom part of the design but this position on the plate had an unbroken bottom line, hence Type IIIA as the top line is broken.

One Cent Bank Note. Re - the blue horizontal lines. I agree that these are in the same blue ink as the stamps. This indicates an offset from some item that was printed in the same blue ink. I haven't the faintest idea what that item was. This is really a most unusual item and the defective sheet should have been destroyed and not issued.

My fee for the above is \$3.50.

Sincerely yours,

(27-40)

PAID

MAY 20 1953

# VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

DEALERS IN RARE POSTAGE STAMPS • ESTABLISHED 1901

505 FIFTH AVENUE AT 42<sup>ND</sup> ST. NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PHONE VANDERBILT 6-0162

5/18/53

Dear Mr. Ashbrooks:

Many thanks for your letter  
of May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Re: 1c ultramarine with horizontal  
lines in color of stamp; think this has  
something to do with ribbed paper.

Sincerely yours,  
Vahan Mozian  
H. Mozian

May 20, 1953.

Vahan Mozian, Inc.,  
505 Fifth Ave.,  
at 42nd St.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Mozien:

Re - yours of the 18th. I was rather puzzled at your letter, being unable to understand what relation the blue lines might have to a ribbed paper variety. Would the latter be due to something similar to a paper watermark, that is, something in the manufacture of the paper, whereas the lines are ink printed. The only possible solution to me seemed to be some sort of offset from the same dark blue ink used to print the sheet of stamps.

I will appreciate your comment as I always heartily welcome any opinion contrary to mine.

Thanks for your check.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

# VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

DEALERS IN RARE POSTAGE STAMPS • ESTABLISHED 1901

505 FIFTH AVENUE AT 42<sup>ND</sup> ST. NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PHONE VANDERBILT 6-0162

May 25th 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letter of May 20th received, and I am very sorry that I confused you in my little remark. You most probably are absolutely correct in stating this is some sort of offset. What first puzzled me was that according to the counting of the marks on the face of the stamp it checked to the description in Brookman's book page 31 where he states approximately 40 lines to the inch for ribbed paper. We checked this and it came out almost exact.

On the return of the stamp from you the other day, we blew this up in our Radex enlarger and it checked again showing about 40 lines to the inch.

But after considering how ribbing is made, we feel that it cannot have anything to do with ribbed paper, in as much as the ribbing is put in before the stamp is printed.

Many thanks for all your past favors.

Sincerely yours,

VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

*Herant Mozian*

HM:SL

May 27, 1953.

Vahan Mozian, Inc.,  
505 Fifth Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Mozian:

Re - yours of the 25th. Here is a suggestion.

The chances are that one of the officials of the Bureau at Washington could explain how the offset happened. Phil Ward is quite a good friend of Hall, who is in charge. Why not send the copy to Phil and ask him to send it to Hall, or if you wish, send it to me and I will send it to Phil.

Years ago in the nineteen thirties, I recall a somewhat similar item that was an offset of some kind. As I remember, the stamp was a 7¢ Bank Note but the offset was in black and was from some other of the Bank Note values.

Your copy is interesting and quite a nice variety that deserves further investigation.

Sincerely yours,

# VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

DEALERS IN RARE POSTAGE STAMPS • ESTABLISHED 1901

505 FIFTH AVENUE AT 42<sup>ND</sup> ST. NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PHONE VANDERBILT 6-0162

June 3rd 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your letter of May 7th, and we appreciate your interest in this 1¢ Banknote. As per your suggestion, we are going to forward the stamp on to Mr. Ward asking him to show it to his friend, Mr. Hall.

Will keep you informed as to developments.

Sincerely yours,

VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

*Herant Mozian*

GM:SL

Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

# Post Office Department

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to Mike D'Agostino  
% Orange Lawn Tennis Club  
South Orange N.J.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

This Relates To The 90¢ 1860  
With OCEAN MAIL CANCEL  
In Sale By The Miner  
Stamp Co Jan 28 1953  
Lot 87 - see S.B. 27 -  
p. 41

Feb. 12, 1953.

Mr. Irwin R. Weinberg,

1/2 Miner Stamp Co.,

Harveys Lake, Pa.

Dear Mr. Weinberg:

Thanks for yours of the 10th.

Will you please advise me what price the 90¢ 1860 brought in your sale of Jan. 28th. This was Lot 87. I enclose postal card.

If you will just jot down the price it will be sufficient.

Sincerely yours,

# EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

February 17th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

First the Confederates which I am enclosing.

The one I have marked with an "X" on the card is the color of the Harmer Rooke sheets except that theirs have gum and I don't think are even as good as this, but I don't think this is the milky blue.

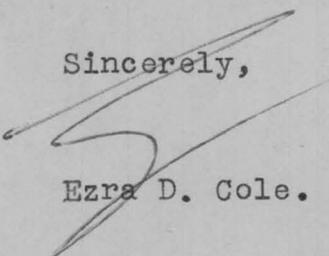
The one on the envelope is what I consider the milky blue. This is one of Emerson's which I saved just for the color. Do you agree with me on this? If not, set me straight so I will know it. The writing on this is Emerson's I think.

I am also enclosing a 90¢ stamp. I picked this up in New York yesterday. What do you think about it? Of course you will note the cancellation right off. The dealer who let me have this stamp knows of course that it is cancelled but I am not sure whether he identified the cancellation so tell me what you want to in a letter to me, and also write me another note that I can show to him. The problem is this: Maybe we can buy it just as a nice used stamp, if you consider it genuine. It looks to me like it might be alright.

If we cannot buy it or do anything with it even though it is genuine I think I can get some kind of a fee out of him for you, but first I would like to see if we cannot make some money on it.

For instance I think ~~Em~~ would be interested, possibly Ted Gore, etc.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

Feb. 19, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

Re 90¢ 1860 Ocean

You can show the enclosed letter to your friend if you wish.

This stamp was Lot #87 in a recent sale by the Miner Stamp Co. I sent for it before the sale and examined it, then gave him (or them) a bid. I knew darn well I would not get it because he would conclude that because I bid the stamp must be good. It has a bad tear at top. It might be good and it might be bad - chances are it is the latter. Someone probably copied by illustrations in my book - this would be duck soup for Zareski. I told Krug there was a copy in a sale by "Miner." I don't think he gets their catalogues.

Re - the Confeds. I don't think the Harmer, Rooke sheets are even good as your "X" copy - They are on an entirely different paper - much thinner and have brown molasses gum - no milky blues have brown gum and no brown gum are in the milky blue. It seems that Thatcher is asking everyone who has any knowledge of Confeds if the sheets are the MILKY BLUE. He must think that I am a dumb cluck - dumb as he is.

The "Milky Blue" comes on a rather thick wove paper with white gum - your vertical pair is a very fine example. I don't think that I ever saw a full pane of 100, much less a full sheet of 200. It is perfectly asinine to call those sheets the Milky Blue - might as well call a common 3¢ 1861 Rose a "Pigeon." Just as damn silly. I would say the Milky - Type I or II is scarce used but it is damn rare unused even in pairs, much less blocks. The very first printings were in that ink.

Incidentally, this 90¢ sold in that Miner sale for \$51.00, so the "proprietor" informed me. This is one of those bedroom auctions. If I owned this 90¢ I certainly would not OK it but I would sell it "as is." At that it is a damn sight better than those fakes that Em Krug has bought in recent months. Zareski turns them out as fast as he can lay hands on copies to fake. Knowing that the fish don't fall for his red grids any more he cleans the red grids and substitutes black towns. Boy is he a cute little joker.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Feb. 19, 1953.

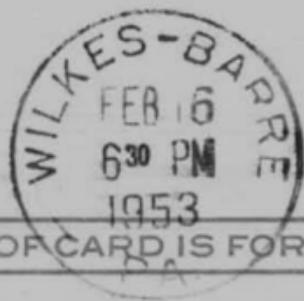
Mr. Ezra D. Cole,  
Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the 90¢ 1860 as per yours of the 17th.

My advice is to submit this to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation. I would not attempt to express an opinion unless I made a very thorough examination, which would include a photograph by ultra-violet, etc. For same I would charge a fee of \$5.00 regardless of whether my opinion was that the cancel is good or bad, or whether I could not reach a definite conclusion.

Sincerely yours,



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

UNITED STATES

2

CENTS



HIRE THE HANDICAPPED  
IT'S GOOD BUSINESS

POSTAL CARD

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

Sale June 28<sup>th</sup>  
Lot # 87 Sold @ \$51.00

J. W. [Signature]

# EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

May 15th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Yours of May 13, before I could get my other letter mailed to you.

Everyone around here has been either sick or half sick with a cold.

Thanks a lot for signing the carrier cover. This is going to a man who knows all about it and just wants the damn thing, and he sure as Hell saw the condition of it, and the price in my opinion is fair. I think it would bring as much as I am asking at auction and perhaps a little more the way things are selling now.

You will recall sometime ago I sent you this 90¢ stamp. Here is what the Foundation says about it. Now the problem is this. The owner says he will pay you a fee. This is not for me and you can charge him what you would charge some stranger and he will pay it. I suggest that when you have looked at it you just send me a bill. Of course there is the bare possibility that we can buy it and sell it provided you think it is genuine, but please go on the assumption that we may not be able to get it and we will work on the selling angle when we can.

A had a note from Fred Schmalzriedt today. You are dead right about that gentleman - he knows more about stamps than both of us together - in his own opinion.

Everybody as written Wilhelm about his mixup with the Foundation and I have a sneaking idea he will get in touch with Jessup, and I will hear from everyone before this is through - except the Foundation and I think I can keep the animal stirred up. I will do my best to keep the pot boiling. It is not an important item, it is only about \$100.00 but it is enough to bother with and irritate the Hell out of everyone.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

May 20, 1953.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole,

Nyack, N.Y.

Dear Ezra:

I am returning the 90¢ 1860 herewith together with the P.F. certificate. Yes, I recall this copy as it was Lot 87 in a sale by the Miner Stamp Co. last Jan. 28th. I examined the copy at the time of the sale, also at the time you sent it to me but Ez I really cannot express a definite opinion regarding it and I don't think anyone can. It may be a genuine strike and it may not be. Zareski wouldn't hesitate to turn out an item like this and I have no desire to authenticate any of his stuff.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

July 17, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

I am returning herewith the 90¢ 1860 with the Ocean Mail marking. I have again examined this very carefully but I am unable to arrive at any definite conclusion regarding it. I think the stamp should be put in a class "as is". This could have been made by Zareski and I would dislike very much to even suggest that some of his work might be genuine. The tracings in my book of this marking were very accurate and he could have very easily made a reproduction of any of them. I know positively that he did copy some.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

May 18 1953  
1953

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK  
A. B. EAST  
22 N. THOMAS AVE.  
E. THOMAS, KY.

Sir

I'm sending herewith a -  
Stamp of 1851 - Imp. one Cent BLUE  
Please EXAMIN. for the usual  
FEE - 3.50 which I Enclosed - but so  
to me like one Stamp 15/13 -

the Rest + 4 P E 3 - ~~all type~~  
Please send me your the  
~~Plate Positions~~ and Plate Positions

and your Certificate and signature  
and Enlarged PHOTOGRAPH  
of same showing just what  
what in this Stamp Resp yours

South Orange N.J. Mr Mike D Agostino  
Orange Lawn Tennis Club

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

A. P. S. 2497

33 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.

FT. THOMAS, KY

March 14, 1953.

Mr. Mike D'Agostino,

1/2 Orange Lawn Tennis Club,

South Orange, N.J.

Dear Mr. D'Agostino:

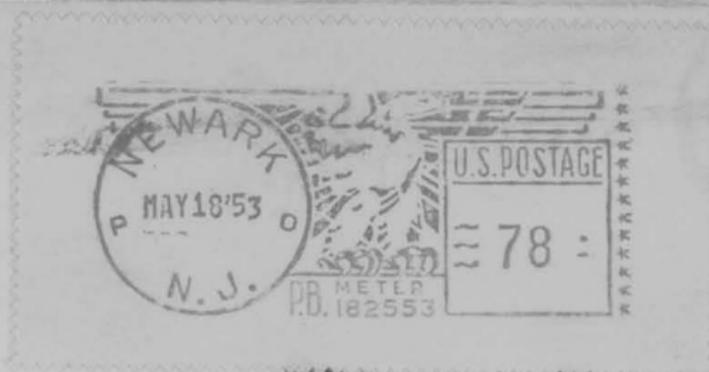
Herewith your One Cent 1851 cover as per yours of the 12th. There is no new variety in the three stamps comprising the block. In fact, the three stamps are quite regular and the types are listed in the S.U.S.

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,

*Stanley B. Ashbrook*

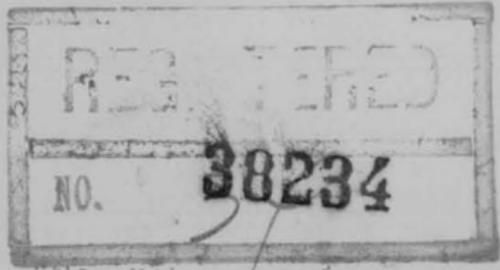
Mike DiAgostino  
Orange Lawn  
Tennis Club  
South Orange  
New Jersey



Special Delivery - Air Mail

Mr Stanley B. Ashbrook

33 N. Fort Thomas  
Fort Thomas Ave  
-KY- -KY-



Special Delivery - Air Mail



May 21, 1953.

Mr. Mike D'Agostino,  
% Orange Lawn Tennis Club,  
South Orange, N.J.

Dear Mr. D'Agostino:

Herewith your vertical strip of three of the U. S. One Cent 1851  
as per yours of the 18th. Thanks very much for the fee of \$3.50.

The plate positions of this strip are 48L4 - 58L4 - 68L4 - The  
reliefs are E, F and G. The types classify as follows:

Top stamp - This was a Type III before the scissors cut at top  
destroyed the type. In other words, this is a was type not an is type,  
therefore, a enuch, the letter being a was rather than an is.

Middle stamp. This is a Type IIIA - top line broken, bottom line  
not broken.

Bottom stamp. This was a Type IIIA before the cut at bottom de-  
stroyed the type.

I made a photograph of this strip and I will send you print later.

Very truly yours,

COPY

May 13, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Parks:

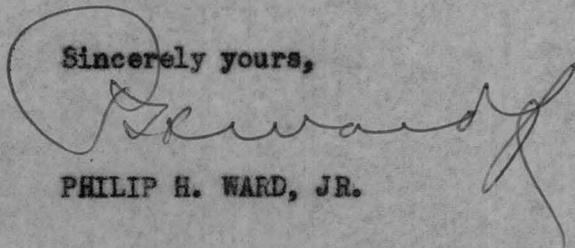
Thanks greatly for your letter of the 11th enclosing a communication from Mr. Lowell Cooper of New-castle, Indiana wherein he calls your attention to a Nashville prison camp cover. I have read this with interest and am im-pressed with what Ashbrook had to say. He, as you are aware, is a very careful student and it is my thought that had he felt the cover was good, he would have followed it up and written for more details, or else asked for the loan of the item.

Unless you or someone else has checked this cover carefully and feels it really is a prison camp usage, I do not feel that I will add it to my list, which will appear in "Mekeel's" of next week. This list of prison camps, which you have gotten together, is no doubt very accurate and has been carefully checked. I hope the Cooper cover may be checked later so that we will know exactly whether such a camp existed and if so, was this cover used at that point? In the meantime I am re-turning the Cooper letter.

I will add the Savannah, Georgia to your list in view of your remarks. I note you have a photograph of the cover and that Mac Bride has checked it.

Again thanking you, I am with kind per-sonal regards,

Sincerely yours,

  
PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

enc.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

4.3.53

Somebody offered a New Orleans - Mobile  
flag-of-truce cover (with C.S. stamp - no U.S.  
stamp - "Examd" & "Approved Henry L. Pusin, Jr.,  
A.A.G." on it) to Earl Antrom.

He asked me what I thought.

I had never heard of such a thing so  
I looked it up in the Official Records  
at the Library.

Maybe you already knew of this.

Regards,

Tom Parks

NEW ORLEANS FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series 2, Volume 7, page 1095.

Headquarters, Military <sup>Division</sup>~~District~~ of West Mississippi,  
Office of Exchange.  
New Orleans, November 5, 1864.

Major James R. Currell,  
Assistant Agent of Exchange, Mobile, Alabama.

(last paragraph) I enclose a few letters, one to your own address. -

C. C. Dwight,  
Colonel and Agent for Exchange.

-----  
(page 888) Office of Exchange of Prisoners, Mobile, Sept. 28, 1864.

Colonel C. C. Dwight,  
Agent of Exchange, Military <sup>Division</sup>~~District~~ of West Mississippi.

(2nd par.) May I request that if Fort Morgan prisoners ~~are~~ or any of them have left New Orleans, letters and packages for them may be forwarded to them without delay.

James R. Currell,  
Major and Assistant Commissioner of Exchange.

-----  
Currell to Dwight - (page 981) - October 13, 1864.

(2nd par.) Not knowing what disposition you will make of the prisoners captured at Fort Morgan, I have the honor to request that all letters and packages which I may send you for them be forwarded to them if they are moved away from New Orleans. If this does not meet with the approval of General Canby, may I ask that you advise me thereof as soon as convenient, as I am probably forwarding a number of parcels for those prisoners in a few days.

-----  
Dwight to Currell - (page 897) - September 30, 1864.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd inst., with enclosures addressed to Major Szymanski, which I have already forwarded to him.

\*

In answer to your proposition to exchange for the prisoners captured in Fort Morgan, I have to say that under existing orders no exchanges beyond those already agreed upon can for the present be made.

The letter for Mrs. Currell, enclosed by you, I have caused to be delivered.

((Apparently Mrs. Currell was in New Orleans.))

-----  
\* at Alexandria, La.

Dwight to Currell - (page 161) - Sept.22,1864.

Your favor of the 11th inst. is before me. I regret that you could not make the deliveries on parole which I proposed, but join in your hope that they will soon be exchanged.

I have the honor to enclose a communication for Major Ig.Szymanski in reply to his letter which you had the kindness to forward.

(page 717)

Office of Exchange,  
Headquarters, New Orleans, Sept.3,1864.

Major Ig.Szymanski,  
C.S.Agent of Exchange, Trans-Mississippi Department, Alexandria, La.

(last par.) I enclose a few letters which you will please have delivered.

Chas.C.Dwight, Agent of Exchange.

Dwight to Szymanski (page 888) - Sept.28,1864.

-- I enclose a few letters, mostly for citizens within your lines.

Szymanski to Dwight (page 923) - October 4,1864 (from Shreveport,La.)

(2nd par.) -- I also send you a package of letters which you will please mail or send to their proper address.

Dwight to Szymanski (page 1077) - November 1, 1864.

I enclose a few letters for prisoners and others.

Currell to Dwight (page 1074) - October 31,1864.

I have the honor of forwarding a few papers.

Dwight to Szymanski (page 1078) - November 1, 1864.

I enclose a few letters for prisoners and others.

\*\*\*\*\*

MAY 27 1953

Parlage

H 2 f

Geo Malpass

May 26, 1953.

Mr. George N. Malpass,  
5401 Ninth St. No.,  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Dear Mr. Malpass:

I am returning herewith the various items contained in yours of the 21st. I photographed the various items and I will send you prints later together with the charge. The B/J on the Lowell, Mass. cover is an exceptionally fine D.T., so I made quite an enlarged photo of it.

Re - the cover to Bremen with the large "1/2" marking. This was applied at Bremen and it was the German postage due marking. It is the same as the strike on the copy on the piece of cover. I suppose it didn't make any difference if it was applied in red or black. I could look up the Treaty and find out the name of the German currency as designated by 1/2, but I suppose it was equivalent to about 2¢ in our money. Incidentally I had no record of a cover (circular mail) - to Bremen with this 1/2 marking.

Regarding your 2¢ Bank Note bisect cover. I examined this very carefully but I would not care to express a definite opinion on it. Personally I don't care for such freaks and I try to avoid them. There were a lot of stamp collectors by 1870 and we had many busy-bodies in those early days who made "new" varieties. I will state this - The chances are the cover is genuine - the postmark is White House, New Jersey, the use Sept. 1871. I think it could be good.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

See

4x5

C135

Also

see

S.B. 37

To  
Belmont  
Stamp Co

**GEORGE N. MALPASS**

5401 NINTH STREET NO.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

May 21, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for yours of May 16, re Black Jacks, and for your offer to photo some of the varieties.

I contacted the collector last night, and we selected the enclosed as examples of particular interest to him. He is open minded about the project and cooperative as well as interested.

Enclosed:

3 copies #73 with double transfers at top.

1 copy #87, D.T. at bottom

Used block of four #73 with D.T. at bottom

1 copy with what appears to be a Triple Transfer at bottom

1 copy tied to piece with 1/2 in red

1 cover to Bremen, 1/2 in black

1 cover from Lowell, Mass. with D.T. at bottom

Please use your own discretion on these. If some are really not prominent enough to make any kind of a picture, they can be omitted. If any are of sufficient importance to warrant a large size print (like the unique D.T. obtained from you), then the enlargement will be better.

I did not include the unused copy with 11 x 13 grill and D.T. at bottom, previously sent, and which you say may be with your other negatives. If this does not turn up he may want a photo of that one at a later date.

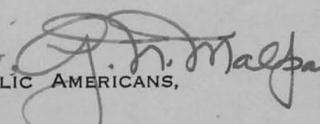
I have also enclosed a 146b cover recently offered to me. I know very little about the value of this stamp, so would like a photo, and you may also be glad to have it for your files.

I have not included return postage or registration. Please add this on your bill when you send it.

Hope these are of sufficient interest to make the work worthwhile. Certainly it will be appreciated on this end.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,



Premier

Black



No  
Grill

Blue

Messrs

AMERICA  
FOR BREMEN  
FRANCO



Oct 3  
1867

Blue



Black

Premier



1/2

SEE 27-45 B306

B306

# BECKWITH FARMS

CITRUS - COTTON - CATTLE

GROWERS AND SHIPPERS OF

BEST QUALITY GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGES

Mail Address - Route Two, Weslaco, Texas

HIDALGO COUNTY

PROGRESO, TEXAS

May 15, 1953

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

As I have a naturally inquisitive disposition, especially regarding postal history, I like to read all the available literature and therefore thank you for the information in your letter regarding Texas supplies of 1847 stamps.

I would not like to discourage you in continuing this practice by telling you that quite recently I got practically the same information from Hahn Postal Markings, 1938, because I must advise you that this handbook also gives the totals furnished, which brings me right up to date, but my sincere thanks to you nevertheless.

I am enclosing check in the amount of \$18.00 covering four covers submitted, and returning two on account of duplication. I would like to call your attention to the very interesting letter in the Galveston <sup>Houston</sup> cover returned. The sender, Sterling McNeil, was quite a character, and both he and his father have biographies in the Texas Historical handbook, which confirm very closely the statements in his letter, and these biographies also indicate that he was not exactly the unfortunate innocent, which his letter suggests.

I am taking the liberty of also enclosing a Texas cover and ask you, at your leisure, to give me your opinion and comments on same, as it completely puzzles me. As you are a recognized authority on Philatelic matters, meaning that any comments by you tend to increase the intrinsic value, I request and expect an invoice covering this service. It is a Tyler, Texas cover containing latter dated May 21, 1869, with a single and a pair of five cent browns, #76, (1863). It is a neat cover even if some one did cut off part of the envelope stamp, but what to me seems very strange are the extremely wide margins extending on three of the sides into part of the adjoining stamps. One side of the pair might be a straight edge, but all the other sides give the impression that someone was very proud of his imperf vertically stamps and wanted the whole world to know about it. (Note guide line on pair)

I can find no reference anywhere to imperf or partially perf stamps of this issue and would certainly like to have your comments.

I received today from London, Robson Lowes fourth coming auction catalogue dealing solely with early U.S.A. which undoubtedly will be an outstanding event. Friend Hill should attend that sale if only to examine the Jefferson five cent browns on covers.

Sincerely,

Arthur Beckwith

May 21, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Beckwith:

Thanks very much for yours of the 15th with check for \$18.00, and the return of the Houston and Galveston covers. I had not read the McNeil letter and I thank you for calling it to my attention. Ninety-three niggers and 4000 acres of land was not bad for the year 1852.

I note you have a copy of the Hahn Postal markings handbook. It does contain some very valuable data. My data was compiled from the same original source.

I am returning herewith your registered cover, Tyler to Jefferson, Texas (postage 3¢ - registration 15¢ in 1869). I do not believe that the stamps were originally used as we see them but rather that perforations were trimmed to give an added value to the cover. The vertical pair, surely had the perfs cut from the right side and I have little doubt that the same was done to the single, which, in my opinion, was also a center line copy. This single measures about 25 MM wide which is not at all unusual as I have examples of trimmed 3¢ and 10¢ which show 26 MM. People who do this kind of silly monkey-business remove stamps from covers, trim the perfs and replace. They do not seem to have much trouble in finding buyers for such unlisted varieties.

Yes, I have a copy of the Robson, Lowe sale of the Tapp collection. I had a lot of correspondence with Major Tapp some ten or twelve years ago. I had no idea he had so many "Garnier" covers in his collection. The Garnier correspondence fell into the hands of Zareski, the most notorious philatelic crook in Europe. Not all Garnier covers are bad, but a great many are and are found in some of our foremost collections. A person is very foolish to buy a Garnier unless he has positive evidence it is not a Zareski fix.

There is no fee on the enclosed. I wish my report could have been better.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--I trust the recent storms in Texas did not bother you.

# BECKWITH FARMS

CITRUS - COTTON - CATTLE

GROWERS AND SHIPPERS OF

BEST QUALITY GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGES

Mail Address - Route Two, Weslaco, Texas

HIDALGO COUNTY

PROGRESO, TEXAS

May 26 - 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

Your comments on the Texas Set Brown Jeff cover are much appreciated. & as you advise that you have seen contemporary stamps wider than my stamps I am concluding that your opinion is entirely logical & therefore this cover will go into my collection without comment. There is no harm done - financially - as it was bought at a nominal ~~price~~ <sup>price</sup> from Bob Siegel (Buroer stock) with no reference to the import condition my valid reason <sup>being that</sup> I did not own a Texas registered cover of such an early date.

Although temporarily I am without stenographic (Mrs B) service. I hope you are able to decipher my scribble. ~~State~~ that I am asking you to accept the enclosed check for \$5. as a nominal fee. I would also suggest that you accept it as in the spirit of which it is offered. which briefly is that I can not see any valid reason why stenographic & postal fees should be earned by you. - no matter what your willingness must be. I can guess that you enjoy these problems. but that in itself does not change the circumstances. I placed bids in a few of the items in the Tapp auction but all low priced ones, as we are still about a month off from cotton harvest time & our farming expenses are very high & still quite speculative. So all in all financially this is rather a weak period. 600 Mile. The Waco tornado did not bother us. That drought - has not interim saved us that worry. Our chief trouble is drought - has not vained here for a year. altho on the eastern state line. (Orange) too many floods. The Rio Grande, which is our irrigation water supply is bone dry. - a gentle three inch rain without hail would be worth many thousand dollars. but as they say - such is life.

Thank you

OMB

RAYNOR HUBBELL

SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



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

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

May 22/1953

Dear Stanley -

Could this be a Liberty

press. Has latter?

Has the stamp been on

the cover a long time?

I see by the map the

Summit + Brookhaven Miss  
are towns in adjoining counties

in Mississippi.

But I see nothing

to indicate that the cover

was mailed at either of

those points

You may charge me

a fee for opinion and I

will send check.

Hubbell

May 28, 1953.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,

Box 573,

Griffin, Ga.

Dear Mr. Hubbell:

Herewith the 2¢ Green cover as per yours of the 22nd. This is not a very convincing looking item but I have examined it very carefully and I am of the opinion it is genuine and was a drop rate at Liberty, Miss. While the postmark is very faint, it is certainly "LIBERTY - MISS" and this postmark is genuine in my opinion. The day date "8" in the postmark is in the same ink (in my opinion) as the pen marks on the stamp.

I have signed the cover on the back as genuine and this I would not do unless I was quite certain that my opinion was correct.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

May 28, 1953.

To Mr. RAYNOR HUBBELL  
GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

For examination of cover

Confederate

2¢ Green Lithograph

Drop Rate

Liberty, Miss. .....\$5.00

Howard Lehman would like to have a record of this cover -

If you care to advise him regarding it you can inform him

I will furnish him a photo print @ \$2.00.

S.B.A.

**RAYNOR HUBBELL**

**SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS**



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

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

May 29/1953

Dear Stanley  
I have been for  
the opinion on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Green & I endorse check.

As suggested I am  
writing Howard Sherman  
addressing in my letter to him  
the slip to the effect that  
he can get a photo from  
you. But I am talking

him the cover is not for  
sale. Between you and me  
I do not particularly enjoy  
doing business with him.

Raynell

Raynor Hubbell

500

PAID  
JUN - 3 1953

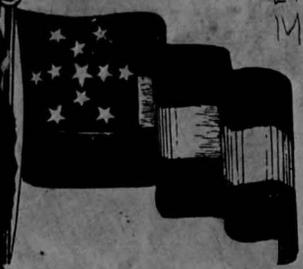
See

27-47

LIBRARY  
MIDWEST  
UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO  
ILLINOIS



LIBERTY  
MISS



Mrs. Olym A. McSoudell

Mail at Summit  
or Brookhaven

} Liberty  
Miss

BY RAYNOR HUBBELL  
SEE S.B. 27. p 47

B3

51

C. M. PHILLIPS, JR.

*Stamps for Collectors*

Route 1, Box 78

WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

May 10th - 1953

Dear Stanley:-

I hardly know what to say or how to go about thanking you for the covers you sent me - they are grand and I do appreciate them so much. I completed picking my entire crop last week but I saved a tree for you and my family, both Valencia and Marsh Seedless. I believe the last lot was a solid grapefruit was it not? and you three do like oranges too - I'll get

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

you off a hot tin needs - as usual it  
seems, of late, I can't seem to get my letters  
to my dear friends answered on time - I should  
have written you a week ago but we have at  
this stamp business, getting my first picked and  
trying to rent a vacant apartment in one of my  
units and by golly I have really been pushed  
for time - trying to get stock is like trying to  
dig a gold filling out of a roasters mouth - the  
wholesalers are asking within one or  
two percent of full Gibbons - I can buy from  
dealers better than I can from wholesalers.

you must have a word of material  
yourself to be able to give Confederate notes away  
we always favored the same period you  
are interested in right on up to 1900 but

C. M. PHILLIPS, JR.

*Stamps for Collectors*

Route 1, Box 78

WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

my orders free to one favor the 1920 to 1948 period - it leaves me cold but I have to have the stuff if you going to please these folks -

I today I have included what I call a very fine stamp for your inspection. is this not the special printing? never have I seen such white paper. I paid a good price for it from a Jew in Chicago - but I want to check it to be sure of it -

I hope you and your Ashbrook are well and your son too of course. I guess he is off to school -

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

its seven o'clock a.m. Monday morning. I  
was interrupted last night twice so you  
see I rushed back on the other page.

Will write more later on this week  
remember me to your wife and son if he happens  
to be home - tell him that last Saturday I and two  
of my friends went to Hatchers Lake and with  
fly rods we brought in 48 and threw back over  
a hundred.

Sincerely and cordially yours  
Clare.

May 13, 1953.

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

Dear Clare:

Yours of the 10th received, with the 5¢ Brown. I do not believe that this is S.U.S. #105, but I haven't a copy of the latter for direct comparison, so I am sending it down to Phil Ward and requesting him to compare with genuine copies which he possesses. The re-issues - special printings and such stuff are a bit out of my line. Your copy looks to me like it had been "bleached" - the paper don't look like the real thing to me, so we will see what Phil has to say about it. There is so much monkey-business going on and in so many cases, done in the most efficient manner. Fake perforations - all sorts of repair work - removal of cancelations so that no trace is left - the real "artists" work under the quartz lamp and they strive for perfection, and they come very near to obtaining it. An "authority" in this day and age really has to know his stuff to keep up with them and that statement is a fact, not an opinion. There are a lot of chaps in this game who think they know and class themselves as qualified experts, but boy oh boy, they don't realize what damn fools they are. What is that old saying about - fools venture where angels fear to tread. I probably have the wording all balled up but the truth is there.

Glad you liked the covers as much as we liked the last box of fruit. No Clare, it was not all grapefruit but half and half oranges and the latter were unusually fine - very juicy and sweet. Both were excellent in fact.

Larry Shoemaker an old friend of mine, and his charming wife came thru here last week and we had quite a visit. They were on their way home from the winter in Florida. Larry purchased a lot in Sarasota and is going to build a home. He told me he had met you.

Glad to report that the three of us are all okay but the weather is lousy - dark overcast days - lots of drizzle - and up and down temperature - cold drizzle today and 45 is predicted tonight.

Stan Jr. graduates on June 5th from University of Cincinnati after a five years course in engineering - then he will go into the Service. We may drive down to Charleston, S.C. the latter part of this month if this damn weather ever clears up. We haven't had any spring.

Our regards to Mrs. Phillips and you and of course to the children.

Cordially yours,

Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

# Post Office Department

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

One piece of ordinary mail addressed  
to Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr.  
1616 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia (3) Pa.



THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

May 13, 1953.

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

Dear Phil:

I enclose a 5¢ 1862 Brown canceled in lower left corner. A dealer claims this is the 1875 - #105. My eye tells me that this is not the 105 but a regular stamp that shows monkey-business. The paper looks to me like it has been bleached - It has a gray or bluish look. I haven't a copy of #105 for direct comparison so there is no reason why I should express any positive opinion.

There is no fee involved in this and I am appealing to you just for my own satisfaction, as I am wondering if some fakers are trying to bleach regular stamps and disposing of them as the re-issue on very white paper.

Return envelope herewith.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

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

May 26, 1953

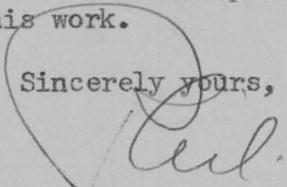
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
P. O. Box 31  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

A I am returning herewith the 5¢ brown of 1861. This, as I stated in my last letter, is not the reissue. I could tell on first look that it wasn't but after glancing at it, it was my opinion that it was a doctored proof for the paper was not similar to the normal stamp. I took it home, compared it with possibly fifty used copies and find that the stamp has been treated in some way for the paper is softer and is, of course, whiter. Of all of my copies, there is not a single one in this shade nor on this soft paper. The usual stamp is much harder. I cannot say as to whether one subjected this to some treatment in order to clean it up or to try and make a special print. The stamp is the real stamp and is not a proof. It, however, has been doctored; whether intentionally or not, I cannot say. The very shade would convince anyone who had ever worked with the reissues that it was not a reprint, hence I cannot believe anyone would endeavor to make such a poor imitation of the rare reprint.

I had lunch with Frank Hollowbush today and he told me that part of Perry's book on Carriers is now in print and he expects to have the completed publication available during June. I offhand asked Frank if he was the angel and he said no but that he was working with Perry on something else in which he was more interested. He tells me that he thinks Jessup furnished most of the money needed in completing this work.

Sincerely yours,

  
PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

# Post Office Department

Received from **STANLEY B. ASHBROOK**

P. O. Box 31

33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.

FORT THOMAS, KY.



One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to

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

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

May 26, 1953.

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

Dear Clare:

Herewith the 5¢ 1863. I quote from Phil Ward's letter, dated May 26, 1953 as follows:

"I am returning herewith the 5¢ brown of 1861. This, as I stated in my last letter, is not the reissue. I could tell on first look that it wasn't but after glancing at it, it was my opinion that it was a doctored proof for the paper was not similar to the normal stamp. I took it home, compared it with possibly fifty used copies and find that the stamp has been treated in some way for the paper is softer and is, of course, whiter. Of all of my copies, there is not a single one in this shade nor on this soft paper. The usual stamp is much harder. I cannot say as to whether one subjected this to some treatment in order to clean it up or to try and make a special print. The stamp is the real stamp and is not a proof. It, however, has been doctored; whether intentionally or not, I cannot say. The very shade would convince anyone who had ever worked with the reissues that it was not a reprint, hence I cannot believe anyone would endeavor to make such a poor imitation of the rare reprint."

Please treat the above as strictly confidential, that is, do not quote Ward's remarks or refer to him in any way as this examination by him was a favor to me. You can inform that owner if you wish that Ashbrook stated this was not the re-issue but the regularly issued stamp.

Clare permit me to warn you in acquiring or handling anything unusual such as the re-issues, special printings, grills, part perfs, imperfs, etc. etc. etc. All such items are being faked by experts who make a living by such crooked work. I beg of you to be very careful because lots of their stuff is extremely careful.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



## Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

May 26, 1953

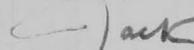
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
P. O. Box 31  
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan,

Thanks for your note of the 21st. No particular reason that you have not heard from me, just nothing new to write about. I talked with Dan about the Sweet collection and he evidenced no desire whatsoever to cooperate. He, of course, sees no reason why Sweet should go to the bother of having his plates ripped up for photographing with no apparent benefit to him. I can't say that this attitude speaks too highly for either of the parties involved. However, I did attempt to point out to Dan that the value of the holdings would be significantly enhanced after the book was published, not only plating the stamps but photographing many pieces in the collection. He did not seem to feel this was of much importance since the plate is available for sale anyway. Of course, at the ridiculous price he is now asking this doesn't mean much. We will just have to sit and wait for an opportunity wherein the loan of the plates might be secured as a reciprocating favor for something that either Sweet or Dan might want from either of us in the future.

I am enclosing a type 4 perforated which appears to me to have a genuine plate crack in the bottom left corner. However, a client of mine has returned it indicating that he plates it as 15LLL which of course according to your book never showed a crack. He therefore concludes that the line has been painted in by an artist faker. Though this could be true I did not buy the stamp as a plate crack myself, but discovered it after buying it as the regular #23. Your opinion would be greatly appreciated.

With kind regards,

ack

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/imm

(over)

P.S. Would you be in a position to render an opinion for me on whether or not some 1880 soft paper bank note re-issues have been reperfed? A client of mine has returned several that I sold him a few months back with his personal opinion that they have been reperfed, though I can see no evidence whatsoever myself and frankly believe he does not have the knowledge himself to detect a good reperf job anyway. However, I need the opinion of a respected third party and I am sure he would not question your opinion. I recognize that sometimes it is very difficult to be sure on reperfing, but believe you will agree this is not one of those cases when you see the stamps.

I forgot to mention that at the last meeting of the N.E. Chapter of the ASDA a resolution was unanimously passed citing unsatisfactory service + opinions from P.F. of late and asking the A.S.D.A. Board to investigate the forming of an A.S.D.A. Expert Comm. The resolution will be discussed at their meeting tomorrow.

Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

# Post Office Department

Received from: STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.

FORT THOMAS, KY.

One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to *Mr. Jack E. Molesworth*

*102 Beacon Street*

*BOSTON (16) Mass.*

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION



May 28, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 1¢ 1857 as per yours of the 26th. I am awfully busy so I did not take time out to give this a careful check-up but off the cuff I can tell you this - the lines in lower left corner are painted - one more suggestion - are you sure this is a Type IV stamp? I suggest you examine the recut lines - They may also be painted. No charge, but if you want an opinion, return the stamp and I will examine it carefully and charge a fee of \$3.50.

I will answer your letter later.

One more word - Re - the 1880 items - a bit out of my line. I will not promise an opinion but I'll be glad to look at them and if I can be reasonably sure one way or the other I will advise you.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

May 28, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Further replying to yours of the 26th and the Sweet 10¢ 1847 plate. I feel quite sure that it is Sweet who is adverse to a loan of his plate for me to photo. I feel certain that Dan would be more than glad to accommodate me if Sweet would listen to reason. I have had this matter up with Dan on numerous occasions in the past. When Mr. Newbury was alive he even offered to post a bond of any sum insuring safe return of the material. The plate is in Dan's custody but he has not the permission of Sweet to part with it.

Do you know Sweet? If so, why do you think he is so unreasonable in this matter? My God, I would think that my reputation would be suffice and that he could depend that none of the material would be harmed in any way. What kind of a person is this Sweet who would be so unreasonable as to refuse such a request?

I was pleased to learn of the action by the N.E. chapter of the A.S.D.A. Please keep me posted and if possible give me permission to quote. I would like to write Mrs. Dale. Someone is putting up the money to run the P.F. Who could it be but her? The only way the Expert Committee can be made efficient is to put some people on the Committee who know something about stamps. Whether they will do so, remains to be seen - They seem to be very much satisfied with their own ability.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

A.P.S.  
S.P.A.  
C.C.N.H.



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

## Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street  
Boston 16, Massachusetts

May 29, 1953

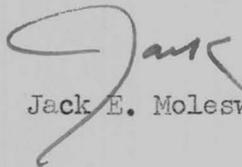
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook  
P. O. Box 31  
33 North Ft. Thomas Avenue  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your prompt reply just received. I am returning the supposed #23 and would appreciate your giving it the full \$3.50 treatment. I had not suspected the lines being painted in at the bottom nor apparently did my client since he made no mention of it. However, after close examination I can certainly see justification for questioning it.

The 1880 items are down for Ustick's opinion and depending on his opinion I may send them along to you and would appreciate your comments if you feel you can be reasonably sure. Enclosed is my check for \$100 covering Special Service for the ensuing year.

With kind regards,

  
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/imm

June 4, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 1¢ 1857 as per yours of the 29th. The stamp is not a Type IV but an "A" relief from Plate 2. The painted lines (recut) at top and bottom are very clever and I dare say would fool anyone who is not a thorough student of the One Cent. I spent a lot of time trying to plate this copy and I compared it with every "A" relief position on Plate 2. There is practically nothing to go by - no plating marks but I am rather positive the stamp is 34 R 2. So many of the "A" relief positions on Plate 2 are impossible to plate in single copies. They have to be tied in with a platable position.

Of course, the "crack" in lower left is a rank fake and the blue ink is not a good match (under the microscope) with the blue of the stamp. However, the blue imitations of the recut lines is an excellent job, but far from perfect. The dead give-away is the thickness of the painted line over the "T" of postage.

Thanks very much for your check for \$103.50.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

May 28, 1953.

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

Dear Phil:

Thanks very much for yours of the 26th with return of the 5¢ 1863. I certainly appreciate your careful appraisal of this item.

The last paragraph of your letter was of special interest and I wish to assure you that I will treat it as strictly confidential and not make any reference to your remarks in any way. I cannot understand the occasion for all the mystery about Perry's book on "Carriers." No one seems to know who is backing it or where the money is coming from. I wrote Jessup several weeks ago and he had no information regarding any feature. If Ed has raised any money or furnished any himself, he has kept it a very dark secret from me. I cannot believe such to be true. Can you imagine Ed contributing money himself for any such a project? When Edgar parts with a dollar he wants at least \$1.10 in return. Perry must have some angel and I wonder if Frank told you all that he knows about the proposition. He knows you have nothing to do with Perry so probably he would not be too free with the facts.

Evidently Perry has written to everyone in philately he could think of, and solicited contributions. For example, Larry Shoemaker was here several weeks ago and told me that Perry wrote him and requested a contribution of \$100.00. Larry don't collect U. S. and hasn't the slightest interest in the U. S. Carrier System.

I have a copy of a letter he wrote Krug, and this in spite of the fact he don't know him personally.

Again thanks.

Cordially yours,

Carl E. Pelander

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

U. S. AND SCANDINAVIA OUR SPECIALTY

545 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 17

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 2-2545

June 15th, 1953

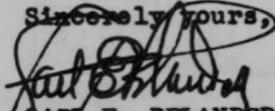
Dr Don H. Silsby  
324-26 Landers Building,  
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

I have just heard from Mr. Thatcher, who accepts your offer on the proof strip. (\$50.00 was)

Kindly make the check payable to Allan Thatcher.

Sincerely yours,

  
CARL E. PELANDER

CEP;e

Check for \$50.00 mailed 6-17-'53

Silsby-

Carl E. Pelander

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

U. S. AND SCANDINAVIA OUR SPECIALTY

545 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 17

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 2-2545

June 15th, 1953

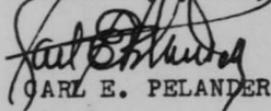
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Kindly make the check payable to Allan Thatcher.

Sincerely yours,

  
CARL E. PELANDER

CEP:e

Check for \$50.00 mailed 6-17-53

Silsby -  
— 8

June 9, 1953

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

My dear Mr. Pelander:

I want to thank you for submitting the 5¢ strip, Lot #72 in your May 1st sale.

In as much as both Ashbrook and Braser agree that this is a Type II proof with projections added I feel that \$100 is too much for it.

I could use it in my so-called "educational collection" but would not pay over \$50 for it.

Advise immediately and I will either return or remit according to your decision.

Resp't yours,

DON H. SILSBY, M.D.

June 9, 1953

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

My dear Mr. Pelander:

I want to thank you for submitting the 5¢ strip, Lot #72 in your May 1st sale.

In as much as both Ashbrook and Brazer agree that this is a Type II proof with projections added I feel that \$100 is too much for it.

I could use it in my so-called "educational collection" but would not pay over \$50 for it.

Advise immediately and I will either return or remit according to your decision.

Resp't yours,

DON H. SILSBY, M.D.

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

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States  
1851. 5¢, red brown, unused strip of three,  
of which a photograph is affixed below -----  
-----  
submitted by --Mr. Carl E. Pelander-----  
and are of the opinion that it is a proof -----  
-----  
-----  
-----

*Thomas S. Murray*

For The Expert Committee  
CHAIRMAN



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

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States  
1951, 5¢, red brown, unused strip of three,  
of which a photograph is affixed below -----  
-----  
submitted by --Mr. Carl E. Pelander-----  
and are of the opinion that it is a proof -----  
-----  
-----  
-----

*Thomas Stearns*

For The Expert Committee  
CHAIRMAN



Carl E. Pelander

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

U. S. AND SCANDINAVIA OUR SPECIALTY

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

June 5th, 1953

Dr. Don H. Silsby  
326 Landers Bldg,  
Springfield, Mo.

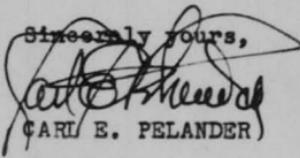
Dear Dr. Silsby:-

I am herewith enclosing the proof strip you requested. Mr. Thatcher requested that I send it on to you. He was as I stated the original purchaser of this strip, last October and paid for it \$110.00. He no doubt bought it for some client of his, who in turn decided to re-sell it, with the result that I re-offered it in my May auction.

Under the circumstances, it is very difficult for me to set a value on this item, but I feel that Mr. T. will be satisfied if you would pay him the \$100.00, which was your bid in the May auction.

Trusting this will be satisfactory, I am,

Sincerely yours,



CARL E. PELANDER

CEP/e

Carl E. Pelander

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

U. S. AND SCANDINAVIA OUR SPECIALTY

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

June 5th, 1953

Dr. Don H. Silsby  
326 Landers Bldg,  
Springfield, Mo.

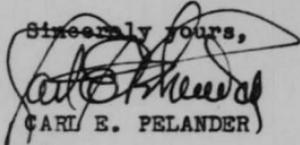
Dear Dr. Silsby:-

I am herewith enclosing the proof strip you requested. Mr. Thatcher requested that I send it on to you. He was as I stated the original purchaser of this strip, last October and paid for it \$110.00. He no doubt bought it for some client of his, who in turn decided to re-sell it, with the result that I re-offered it in my May auction.

Under the circumstances, it is very difficult for me to set a value on this item, but I feel that Mr. T. will be satisfied if you would pay him the \$100.00, which was your bid in the May auction.

Trusting this will be satisfactory, I am,

Sincerely yours,

  
CARL E. PELANDER

CEP/e



November 27, 1939

Dear Mr. Windner,

Regarding the 5c 185B-60 strips which you showed me at Atlantic City, one of these probably came from the top row of plate 2 (type II), but if not, then I think it came from the 7th horizontal row. The other strip must have come from the same plate but I cannot say where.

You are being sent an old sample copy of Pats #35 which you may have and your attention is called to the illustrations on page 1051. Also to page 1048. It is probable that your strips came from reliefs A or C, as on these the colorless loops are practically complete, which is not the case with prints from some of the other four reliefs.

There are enlargements of the tops and bottoms of all six reliefs in Mekeel booklet #39 on the 1857-60 issue which was a reprint of articles I wrote about twenty years ago. I think the booklet sold for about 30c but I have not had a duplicate copy for years. Eugene Klein may have one, or somebody else in Philadelphia.

Take your time about the 9c 1861 strip. I think it will be worth more than \$5.50 before the season is over and you know I don't want you to keep it unless you really want to.

Sincerely,

*Elliott Perry*



SINCE 1915

November 27, 1939

Dear Mr. Windner,

Regarding the 5c 1855-60 strips which you showed me at Atlantic City, one of these probably came from the top row of plate 2 (type II), but if not, then I think it came from the 7th horizontal row. The other strip must have come from the same plate but I cannot say where.

You are being sent an old sample copy of Pats #35 which you may have and your attention is called to the illustrations on page 1051. Also to page 1048. It is probable that your strips came from reliefs A or C, as on these the colorless loops are practically complete, which is not the case with prints from some of the other four reliefs.

There are enlarged <sup>ments</sup> of the tops and bottoms of all six reliefs in Mekeel Booklet #39 on the 1857-60 issue which was a reprint of articles I wrote about twenty years ago. I think the booklet sold for about 35c but I have not had a duplicate copy for years. Eugene Klein may have one, or somebody else in Philadelphia.

Take your time about the 9c 1861 strip. I think it will be worth more than \$7.50 before the season is over and you know I don't want you to keep it unless you really want to.

Sincerely,

*Ernest Perry*



November 27, 1939

Dear Mr. Windner,

Regarding the 5c 1855-60 strips which you showed me at Atlantic City, one of these probably came from the top row of plate 2 (type II), but if not, then I think it came from the 7th horizontal row. The other strip must have come from the same plate but I cannot say where.

You are being sent an old sample copy of Pats #35 which you may have and your attention is called to the illustrations on page 1051. Also to page 1048. It is probable that your strips came from reliefs A or C, as on these the colorless loops are practically complete, which is not the case with prints from some of the other four reliefs.

There are enlargements of the tops and bottoms of all six reliefs in Mekeel Booklet #39 on the 1855-60 issue which was a reprint of articles I wrote about twenty years ago. I think the booklet sold for about 35c but I have not had a duplicate copy for years. Eugene Klein may have one, or somebody else in Philadelphia.

Take your time about the 9c 1861 strip. I think it will be worth more than \$7.50 before the season is over and you know I don't want you to keep it unless you really want to.

Sincerely,

Elliott Perry



November 27, 1939

Dear Mr. Windner,

Regarding the 5c 185B-60 strips which you showed me at Atlantic City, one of these probably came from the top row of plate 2 (type II), but if not, then I think it came from the 7th horizontal row. The other strip must have come from the same plate but I cannot say where.

You are being sent an old sample copy of Pats #35 which you may have and your attention is called to the illustrations on page 1051. Also to page 1048. It is probable that your strips came from reliefs A or C, as on these the colorless loops are practically complete, which is not the case with prints from some of the other four reliefs.

There are enlargements of the tops and bottoms of all six reliefs in Mekeel Booklet #39 on the 1857-60 issue which was a reprint of articles I wrote about twenty years ago. I think the booklet sold for about 35c but I have not had a duplicate copy for years. Eugene Klein may have one, or somebody else in Philadelphia.

Take your time about the 9c 1861 strip. I think it will be worth more than \$57.50 before the season is over and you know I don't want you to keep it unless you really want to.

Sincerely,

Elliott Perry



This is a reduced photo-print of an Ultra-Violet Ray photograph taken by Stanley B. Ashbrook and used by him to expose this fake which is a Type II 5 cent proof with top and bottom projections added, i. e. cleverly painted to produce a fake Type I of 1856. Thin paper has been added to the back to give postage paper thickness. It seems like this has fooled some of the experts. (See the photo-prints below.)

Dark.



This is a reduced photo-print of an Ultra-Violet Ray photograph taken by Stanley B. Ashbrook and used by him to expose this fake which is a Type II 5 cent proof with top and bottom projections added, i. e. cleverly painted to produce a fake Type I of 1856. Thin paper has been added to the back to give postage paper thickness. It seems like this has fooled some of the experts. (See the photo-prints below.)

ht  
-

Owner.....

AT

Lot No.....

72

545 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Carl E. Pelander



Cat. Nos.....

12P

Cat. Value.....

1500.00

Sh. 3 of 12

Proof shp 3, found. card



# U. S. 19th Century Postal Issues

## Fake Five Cent, Type I, 1856 Strip



Proof of the 5 cent, Type II, of the 1857-61 design, probably the 1875 Reprint, with projections added to produce a fake 1856 Type I strip of three.

This is a reduced photo-print of an Ultra-Violet Ray photograph taken by Stanley B. Ashbrook and used by him to expose this fake which is a Type II 5 cent proof with top and bottom projections added, i.e. cleverly painted to produce a fake Type I of 1856. Thin paper has been added to the back to give postage paper thickness. It seems like this has fooled some of the experts. (See the photo-prints below.)

No. 3725 ..... July 21 1952.

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

### EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States 1851, 5¢, red brown, unused strip of three, of which a photograph is affixed below -----

submitted by Mr. Carl E. Pelander -----  
and are of the opinion that it is a PROOF -----

*Thurston*  
For The Expert Committee  
CHAIRMAN



Owner: 47
Lot No. 72

545 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
  
 Carl E. Pelander

St. 3/2/52

Cat. No. 12P      Cat. Value 150.00

*Proof Strip, Found. cert*

**DON H. SILSBY, M.D.**  
**326 Landers Bldg.**  
**SPRINGFIELD, MO.**

JULIUS WINDNER

1728 MARLTON AVE.

PHILA. 4, PA., U. S. A.

July 5<sup>th</sup> 1953

My dear Mr. Ashbrook:

On my return June 30<sup>th</sup> from a four week sojourn to Conn. and Mass. I found among my mail, your letter of June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Why all the fret about that strip??

In my 72 years of stamp collecting, it was always the interest, pleasure and fun that urged me on. That strip provided a lot of fun for me.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook, I admire, yes I revere you, for your accomplishments and what you did and gave to Philately, you are an intense student, which I never claimed, had time or inclination to be.

I acquired the strip in Atlantic City - convention with other material in 1933 or 4.

I would consider myself a criminal cheat, even to think to obtain an un-used strip of three #12 for a nominal sum of money and would think the same of any one else.

In one of your letters to a friend of mine you claimed you examined the strip in question more than a year ago, this strip has never been out of my possession.

So lets quit and forget, there was no  
~~the~~ intend of misrepresentation.

If one wants to be a stickler in the  
use of words, possibly, may mean the  
difference between, painted in, and, drawn in.  
Any way it is a lovely piece to look at.

In case we should meet again,  
we will have something in common  
to talk about.

I am very respectfully

Yours

Julius Windner

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

July 7, 1953.

Mr. Julius Windner,  
1728 Marlton Ave.,  
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Mr. Windner:

I have carefully noted the contents of yours of the 5th. I have no recollection of ever seeing the faked strip until it came up in the Pelander sale last October. I understand that it sold at that time at over \$100. I believe that if this item had been honestly and properly described as a fake that you would <sup>not</sup> have received any such a price. I do not blame Carl Pelander because I am aware of the fact that Carl is not an authority on U. S. stamps or covers. I think that if you had given him the proper explanation as to the nature of this item that he would have so described it in the sale. I doubt if I have any desire to meet you in the future as I endeavor to have contacts only with people in whom I have perfect faith.

Sincerely yours,

COPY

DON H. SILSBY, M. D.

324-326 LANDERS BLDG.  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

June 26, 1953

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

My dear Stan.:

At long last the fake 5¢ 1856 strip is now in my collection. I am enclosing for your information letters, photos, etc. pertaining to it which are self-explanatory.

You will note there are two prints of the photo of your ultra-violet ray photograph. I enclosed these for they are from different negatives. The photographer was striving to get prints that would bring out the ultra violet ray characteristics. He made four negatives. The two enclose are, I think, the best.

I am also enclosing the negative of the album page which I have made up for this item, thinking that you might like to send copies to some of your interested Special Service subscribers as it shows the Foundation certificate and the Pelander auction slip on which it was mounted when I received it.

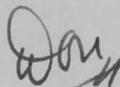
You are to keep all photo prints and the negative.

I can change the album page if you think any changes should be made in it.

I hope this finds you and Mildred in good health and happy. We were pleased with the note from Stan., Jr. Everything is going along about as usual here. We are expecting to take our vacation some time in September.

Lela says, "Give Mildred and Stan my love", and that goes for me, too.

Cordially,



July 6, 1953.

Dr. Don H. Silsby,  
324-26 Landers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

I was pleased to receive yours of the 26th and to note that you landed the 5¢ strip. I thank you very much for the photographs and they will be quite an addition to my record of this item.

No doubt Thacher of Harmer, Rooke bought this in the first sale for some client who probably refused to take it. Your album page is perfectly OK.

Stan Jr. is due to leave Friday night for Newport, R.I. and we are all busy preparing his leave.

We all send Lela and you our fondest regards.

Cordially yours,

July 6, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

We returned Friday night after quite a nice little vacation.

Trust that you all had a good rest and an enjoyable time.

The following is confidential - Regarding the 5¢ '57 proof strip - My good friend Doctor Silsby wrote Pelander and inquired if the present owner of the strip would sell it to him for his fake collection. Pelander replied that he knew the buyer and would be glad to submit a bid. The Doctor stated that he would pay \$50.00 for it. It seems that Pelander submitted the bid to Thatcher and same was accepted. I still think that there was some funny business about this item because neither Gordon or Thatcher would have stood for a \$50 loss. Maybe you can get the real dope sometime. At any rate, the item is now in the Silsby Collection. In the October sale the Doctor bid \$100 for the strip.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

CLARENCE W. BRAZER

Philatelist

U. S. ESSAYS & PROOFS

EXCLUSIVELY

415 Lexington Ave., N. E. Cor. 43d St.

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMBER

Collectors Club—Past Governor  
American Philatelic Society  
Society of Philatelic Americans  
Essay Proof Society—Director

New York 17, N. Y.

Tel. Vanderbilt 6-1777

June 9, 1953.

Dear Stanley.

Please pardon delay in reply to yours of May 25, for which I thank you. I have been so busy that I have not had time to go down to the Collectors Club to place the strip of 3 of the 1856? proofs under the lamp, so upon receipt of your letter I phoned Boggs complaining that the Foundation Certificate stated it was a proof and no mention was made of Type II with lines drawn in, as you stated (painted). As a draftsman you no doubt know these lines cannot be "painted" with a brush, but must be drawn with pens, a ruling pen for the straights and free hand pen for curves. I think we should not continue to use words that were used formerly "by those who did not know." Boggs said he knew what you did and I should return the strip to Belander, which I did. The Foundation has been very careless in its certificates! I sent them a Canada 12p on India paper to which possibly some stiffening such as starch had once been added but was entirely removed when sent them, and they certified it is "a manipulated Proof" whatever that means. I withdrew

some time ago from rendering decisions for which others took credit and signed their names without credit to me.

I believe the most dangerous "fakes" of stamps are made from proofs, and as I have the most complete reference collection of U.S. proofs, they would be very valuable for comparison. I have also studied many of them and can tell wherein they differ from the stamps. But I am sore about the Foundation's treatment of "dealers". There are bad dealers and bad collectors, but every man, in America at least, should be taken on his own character and reputation as a man and gentleman, and not looked down upon because he sells stamps instead of pines, etc!

There are proofs of the 1856 Type I on stamp paper that I believe were included in the set of 9 or 10 <sup>trial copies</sup> for which the T.C. & Co. letter was published in the *Sterimetz Miscellany*. I now have 3 of these which under the quartz lamp are very orange-brown altho appearing red-brown to the eye. The type II proofs on this strip appear more orange-brown. I have a large block of the type II on India paper but have not yet accounted for it on stamp paper! Will have to study the papers under the quartz lamp.

Cordially.

Blaraine

June 22, 1953.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazer,  
415 Lexington Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Thanks very much for yours of the 19th.

I agree with you 100% about the Expert Committee of the P.F., although they state that their errors have been comparatively few and far between, I do not think this is in accord with the facts. I think most everybody has had serious causes for complaint. I have given the Committee my whole-hearted co-operation because I have believed that it was much better to try and improve the personnel of the present committee rather than not to co-operate or to do anything that would discredit the committee. I believe firmly that we need a recognized committee in this country but I also believe that it should not be composed of people who have practically no knowledge whatsoever of philately. I have urged that dealers of the highest standing be appointed as regular members of the Committee. I do not think it is fair to ask a dealer to serve as a consulting member. If a dealer is not worthy to be elected a full member of the Committee then there is a question in my mind if he should serve at all. I have no patience whatsoever with any imitation of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. Such stuff has no place whatsoever in this country.

I have carefully noted your remarks about the Pelander proof strip. I have always used the word "painting" as it is a term that has been handed down. The fact is I had never given much thought how paint jobs were done, whether by a fine pen, ruling pen or fine brush. Perhaps I can get some information on such methods from a good friend in Paris. Years ago I remember the late Arthur Hinds showing me a paint job of a very rare Mauritius stamp. The original was from a copper plate and I made an enlarged photograph of the fake. Surely this must have been done by very fine brushes.

Again referring to the Pelander strip. As I recall, this item was in a shade that resembled the color of the stamp and was not a yellowish brown like the proofs of 1875. If you have a catalogue of the Chase Sale by Kelleher, held May 22, 1925, notice the description of Lot 872. This lot read as follows: "Superb horiz. pair of ORIG. PLATE PROOFS on India paper from Plate 2. These date back to the time that stamps were current and can be told from later proofs by the color. Extremely rare." (unquote)

I am wondering if you have ever seen a Plate 2 plate proof that would meet this description. This Chase pair is the only one that I can recall having seen.

#2. Mr. Clarence W. Brazer - June 22, 1953.

Do you think that by any chance the Pelander strip might be one of such originals on India paper with paper added at the back and the projections painted or as you think added by pen.

One more thing regarding this strip. Naturally the engraved lines are in relief, whereas the added projections are flat. I don't see how this point could have fooled anyone. This strip was put into a Pelander sale last October by Joseph Windner of Philadelphia. He assures me that it was sold at that time and not turned back to him. It seems that it was put into the last Pelander sale by Allan Thatcher. It seems to me that there was a lot of funny-business on the part of all concerned.

The Philatelic Foundation submitted the proof to me in July of last year and I informed them at the time that it was a backed-up India proof with painted projections. You are aware of the wording of their certificate. No mention was made of the painted projections and the only inference that I could draw was that doubted my assertion that the projections had been added. Incidentally I found that they frequently ask the advice of authorities who are supposed to know, and then use their own judgment in issuing certificates.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

COPY

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

COPY

May 25, 1953.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazier,  
415 Lexington Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Thanks very much for yours of the 22nd.

Re - that painted strip. It was submitted to me by the P.F. Committee about a year ago and I informed them at the time that it was an india proof, backed up (thin paper on back), with painted projections from Plate 2.

The color was more like the red-brown of the stamp but I assumed that the faker had chemically changed the color from the 1875 yellowish brown to a reddish brown. I felt sure the strip was an 1875 printing. I even plated the strip as L 2 - 2R2 - 3R2.

On July 21, 1952, the P.F. issued their certificate #3785, to Pelander, stating that in their opinion it was a proof. No mention was made it was a paint job or a backed up 1875 proof.

On the strength of their certificate, Pelander entered this in his sale of October 16-17-18, 1952, and described it as follows:

Lot 240 - "12 P - 5¢ proof strip of 3, possibly 30 with the projections superbly painted in. Foundation certificate. V.F." (unquote)

I never could figure out what Pelander meant by "possibly" when it was quite obvious that the painted projections were flat surface whereas the lines of the design were intaglio engraved. I was rather surprised to see this strip come up again in Pelander's sale of May 1st-2nd last, and to be absolutely sure it was the same strip, I had Carl send it to me. Of course, it was the same as I made a very fine photo of it a year ago by ultra-violet light. In the last sale Carl made no mention that the thing was a paint job but as an unrecorded proof, giving the impression it was a genuine Type I proof strip of three. Naturally no such an item is known or recorded. The catalogue value which he quoted surely gave the impression that this was a proof strip of three of Type I from Plate One.

I understand that Carl had a letter from Elliott Perry about the strip but I have no information as to Perry's remarks.

I think that Carl is subject to criticism for his effort to sell this fake on two different occasions. If he was not sure as to its exact status he should have found out before he offered it. I also think that the P.F. Expert Committee should be severely censured for issuing a certificate such as #3785 in which no hint was given as to the true nature of this fake, especially in view of the fact that they were in possession of the facts regarding it. I think that

2. Mr. Clarence W. Brazor, May 25, 1953.

you will agree that there is quite a difference between a genuine proof and one which has been faked to appear as something entirely different from its original status.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,  
**STANLEY B. ASHBROOK**

B C C

May 30th, 1953.

Mr. Julius Windner,  
1728 Marlton Ave.,  
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Mr. Windner:

Will you be so kind as to inform me if Lot 240 in the sale by Carl Pelander on Oct. 16-17-18, 1952 was your property? This was described as "5¢ proof strip of 3, possibly #30 with the projections superbly painted." In other words, a plate proof of the 5¢ 1857 - Type II, Plate 2, with painted projections, making a Type I out of a Type II. This same strip again appeared in a sale by Pelander on May 1-2, 1953, Lot 72. May I inquire if the strip belonged to you at the time of this last sale. I will greatly appreciate any information you can give me on this strip.

I understand the lot was accompanied by a letter from Elliott Perry. Can you give me any information on this point?

Sincerely yours,

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

COPY

May 30th, 1953.

Mr. Julius Windner,  
1728 Marlton Ave.,  
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Mr. Windner:

Will you be so kind as to inform me if Lot 240 in the sale by Carl Pelander on Oct. 16-17-18, 1952 was your property? This was described as "5¢ proof strip of 3, possibly #30 with the projections superbly painted." In other words, a plate proof of the 5¢ 1857 - Type II, Plate 2, with painted projections, making a Type I out of a Type II. This same strip again appeared in a sale by Pelander on May 1-2, 1953, Lot 72. May I inquire if the strip belonged to you at the time of this last sale. I will greatly appreciate any information you can give me on this strip.

I understand the lot was accompanied by a letter from Elliott Perry. Can you give me any information on this point?

Sincerely yours,  
STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

COPY



P.F. #3785 Dated July 21 1952

QUARTZ

Neg B174

PHOTOGRAPH No 55  
OF  
ASHBROOK SERVICE

This Photograph  
Was Made By  
ULTRA - VIOLET  
RAY  
By Stanley B. Ashbrook

April 24, 1953.

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

Dear Carl:

I just received your catalogue of sale of May 1 and 2 next.  
It was evidently held up in the mail somewhere.

Will you please send me the following lots by air-mail,  
registered - special delivery. I will return them immediately by return  
mail so that they will surely reach you before the sale.

Lots 46 - 47 and 72.

Thanks very much.

Cordially yours,

April 27, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

Re - Pelander sale next Friday, May 1st - and Lot #72 - I suspect the P.F. has made another error. This strip of three is a proof from Plate 2 - all were Type II - a proof struck in 1875 - The top and bottom projections are painted. The P.F. sent this to me some months ago and I gave them the facts. Carl had it in a former sale.

This past week I had Carl send it to me but he omitted to send me the P.F. certificate. Probably on purpose. I don't know what he means by "unrecorded." I think he gives the impression this is a plate proof from Plate One.

Ez, please investigate this for me and obtain for me the exact wording of the P.F. certificate, also the number of it and the date. I must know if the P.F. thought all three stamps are from Plate One and that all are Type I. If so, I intend to raise hell and I mean hell. Bear in mind that there are no plate proofs in multiples known from Plate One. If you can't go into Carl's office and see the P.F. certificate, call him up and have him read it to you - also who signed it.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

April 27, 1953.

Dr. Don H. Silsby,  
324-26 Landers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

Further referring to Lot 72 in the Pelander Sale of next Friday, May 1st. I had Carl send the lot to me because what I wanted to see was the Philatelic Foundation certificate but he failed to include it with the strip. It is the same strip as my Service photo No. 55. I don't understand what he meant by "unrecorded" - I may be wrong but I think his auction description is very misleading - He certainly gives the impression that this is a plate proof of the Type I - no indication it is a faked Type II. This suggests that the Expert Committee was fooled and gave out a certificate that the strip is a genuine proof of Type I from Plate One. As no multiple proof from Plate One (Type I) is known, this may account for Carl's "unrecorded." I am having Ezra Cole make a thorough examination for me. I will advise you later. If this was actually sold in an earlier Pelander sale why is it again offered?

Best wishes -

Cordially yours,

April 30, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

Thanks very much for yours of the 28th re - Lot 72 in the Pelander sale. I sure would like to have copies of the letters from Brazer and Perry. I wonder if they think that this is a proof from Plate One? If so, it surely would be a laugh. When the P.F. sent this strip to me last summer I gave them the Plate 2 plate positions. The strip is easily plated, as I have photographs of both panes of Plate 2.

I have Perry's Pat No. 35 of March 1938 and there is nothing in it that has any direct bearing on this strip of proofs, except some illustrations of some 5¢ Plate 2 reliefs.

Pelander's description certainly applied to a proof strip of three from Plate One because he stated, quote:

"Normal stamps would cat. \$1500.00."

A strip of three of the 5¢ 1856 Type I is quoted in the S.U.S. @ \$1500.00 unused.

What I would like to know is this - Did Brazer and Perry believe this was a genuine Type I proof? Can you find out?

Regards.

Yours etc.,

April 30, 1953.

Dr. Don H. Silsby,  
324-26 Landers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

Re - Lot #72 in the Pelander sale. The following is a letter that I received today from Ezra Cole in reply to mine requesting him to obtain for me the wording of the P.F. certificate:

"Re: Lot 72 in the Pelander sale.

I phoned him and asked him to read me the certificate over the telephone and this is an exact quotation:

Certificate No. 3785, dated July 21, 1952

"We have examined the attached item, a U. S. 1851 5¢ red brown unused strip of three of which a photograph is attached below, submitted by Carl E. Pelander and are of the opinion that it is a proof."

This certainly is an ambiguous certificate which does not mean a thing but it certainly does lead one to believe that this is a proof from Plate I, the first plate, rather than the second plate. Carl gives no catalogue number. I do not know whether ~~it~~ is at fault on this. He told me over the telephone that there is a letter from Brazer with it and he says it is a stamp or something. Heaven forbid! I think he also has a letter from Perry about it and he says to see Pat Paragraphs, the issue of March 1938, No. 35. There is something about the 5¢ stamp in this but I cannot translate Perry into English."

(end of quotation)

It looks to me like most everyone concerned is careful not to mention the paint job on this proof. Mention of such would naturally scare some buyer who had the false idea that this was a plate proof of Type I stamps.

I even gave the Expert Committee the plate positions on Plate 2 of this strip but I suppose they thought I was mistaken.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

CARL E. PELANDER

545 FIFTH AVENUE

● TEL. MURRAY HILL 2-2545 ●

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMO:

Dear Steve.

Try and reach there  
right back as it is too  
close to the sale

Regards

Carl

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

May 4th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

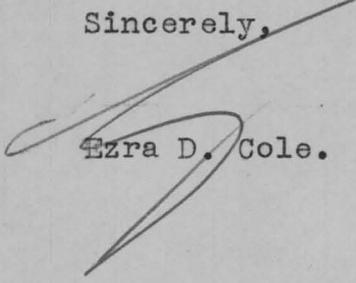
Yours of the 30th. I went away fishing and did not get to the Pelander sale. However I had a friend of mine go there and will try to find out who bought lot 572 and how much it brought.

Personally I think Pelander is all confused too. He knows nothing about U. S. stamps - he does not pretend to - so he just wrote up that description as best he could. I think it is misleading but I do not think it is an attempt to defraud anyone. The root of the trouble of course lies with the Foundation again. I finally heard on that 30¢ stamp and it is alright, and I guess has a certificate with it now.

Back to Pelander again. I did not see those two letters he told me about. I suppose I should have read them.

Went fishing as I said and I had a rotten cold when I started and I even have a worse one now.

Sincerely,

  
Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

**EZRA D. COLE**

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

April 28th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Re: Lot 72 in the Pelander sale.

I phoned him and asked him to read me the certificate over the telephone and this is an exact quotation:

Certificate No. 3785, dated July 21, 1952

"We have examined the attached item, a U. S. 1851 5¢ red brown unused strip of three of which a photograph is attached below, submitted by Carl E. Pelander and are of the opinion that it is a proof."

This certainly is an ambiguous certificate which does not mean a thing but it certainly does lead one to believe that this is a proof from Plate I, the first plate, rather than the second plate. Carl gives no catalogue number. I do not know whether he is at fault on this. He told me over the telephone that there is a letter from Brazer with it and he says it is a stamp or something. Heaven forbid!

I think he also has a letter from Perry about it and he says to see Pat Paragraphs, the issue of March 1938, No. 35. There is something about the 5¢ stamp in this but I cannot translate Perry into English.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

May 11, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

Thanks for yours of the 8th with the data on the Pelander and Heiman sales. I note the Pelander proof brought \$105.00. If the thing is not a paint job - then \$105.00 was a very great bargain - If it is a paint job - then someone got badly stung. I don't intend to ask Brazer what he thought about it and of course I have no way of finding out what Perry's opinion was. In both cases it would be inconceivable to me that either one considered it was from Plate One.

Re - the Heiman sale - Some of the prices were surprising.  
Thanks.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

May 20, 1953.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazer,  
415 Lexington Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Re - Lot #72 in the Pelander Sale - May 1st last. I examined this item and plated it as 1, 2, 3R2 - a Type II plate proof with painted projections. I understand that you bought this lot. May I inquire if you had occasion to differ from my opinion?

Stamped addressed envelope herewith.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

May 20, 1953.

Dr. Don H. Silsby,

324 - 26 Landers Bldg.,

Springfield, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

I have just learned that Clarence Brazer bought Lot 72  
in the recent Pelander sale and paid \$105.00. I wonder why?

Sincerely yours,

May 25, 1953.

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

Dear Ezra:

Yours of the 22nd received.

Here is the letter from Clarence which note and return, and please treat as strictly confidential. What I would like to know is - what was in the letter by E. Perry? Here are a few remarks in reference to the letter of Clarence.

First, one would not need a lamp to determine that the projections are painted. Intaglio engraving stands out in relief from the paper whereas painted lines are flat. All one had to do was to hold this strip on a level with the eye against a good light. Brazer is right about one thing - the color was not the usual yellow brown of the 1875 print but more like the red brown of the stamp. I did not know how this happened (when I examined the strip) because I have never seen an 1875 India proof in the same color as this strip. I concluded that some clever faker probably changed the color from the yellowish to a reddish.

Re - the Foundation certificate. When this strip first came up in another Pelander sale the P.F. sent it to me. I explained exactly what it was - a backed India proof with painted projections and I even gave the Committee the plate positions, viz., 1R2 - 2R2 and 3R2. I assume that they doubted my opinion about the paint job and relied upon their own that the projections were not painted. If my assumption is correct then here is a very glaring example of some people with damn little experience and knowledge, doubting the opinion of one who is supposed to know a paint job when he sees one. Just imagine issuing a certificate on this item and not even mentioning the fact it is a paint job. And one more point, Pelander had no justification for trying to sell this fake on two different occasions after he had been informed it was a paint job.

If you want to use any of the above in showing up the inefficiency of the Committee, go ahead and I'll back you to the limit.

One more point - From Brazer's letter I assume that he did not think that this was on India - with a backing - but rather on "STAMP PAPER" - that is, when he made the examination in 1940. What do you think?

Again re - the 90¢ 1860 Ocean Mail. The only way that I know of to definitely determine whether the marking is genuine or bad would be by the ink. How could that be done by comparing with genuine copies that you own? After what I have seen in recent years of faked cancels on off cover stamps, I am going to be extremely careful in giving my okay on any such items. I will leave that kind of work up to a class of experts such as comprise the P.F. Committee.

#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - May 25, 1953.

Re - the "Boston Br Pkt RAID." I would be willing to bet that off cover copies with this particular marking are fakes and made by Zareski.

Again the 90¢ 1860 Ocean Mail. Note Heiman sale of June 11th, Lot 78 is almost a duplicate strike of the 90¢. This 10¢ stamp could have been a pencanceled copy - What a cinch for a Zareski to make. I sure am not going to okay his work if I can avoid same.

Re - the Pony cover - I think the worst feature is the absence of a U. S. postmark, however, one thing is sure, the blue oval that ties the two Pony stamps is absolutely genuine - in my opinion. This was not a cover, i.e., not an envelope but a wrapper, so perhaps a part that is missing, may have had another 10¢ stamp and a postmark. I sure would hate to invest \$1,250.00 in such an "incomplete" item. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. Is that the correct line?

If Mrs. Sale sends me her two covers I will advise you.

I have recently made some fine color photographs of covers. If you have any real rare covers you would like photographed in color send them on.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--I hope you get Lot 137 in Siegel sale on the 27th. I'll bet this is a fake, "ON A PIECE."

Capu

Penh

Mrs John Dale

Essex D Cale

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

COPY

COPY

May 25, 1953.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazor,  
415 Lexington Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Thanks very much for yours of the 22nd.

Re - that painted strip. It was submitted to me by the P.F. Committee about a year ago and I informed them at the time that it was an india proof, backed up (thin paper on back), with painted projections from Plate 2.

The color was more like the red-brown of the stamp but I assumed that the faker had chemically changed the color from the 1875 yellowish brown to a reddish brown. I felt sure the strip was an 1875 printing. I even plated the strip as 1 2 - 2R2 - 3R2.

On July 21, 1952, the P.F. issued their certificate #3785, to Pelander, stating that in their opinion it was a proof. No mention was made it was a paint job or a backed up 1875 proof.

On the strength of their certificate, Pelander entered this in his sale of October 16-17-18, 1952, and described it as follows:

Lot 240 - "12 P - 5¢ proof strip of 3, possibly 30 with the projections superbly painted in. Foundation certificate. V.F." (unquote)

I never could figure out what Pelander meant by "possibly" when it was quite obvious that the painted projections were flat surface whereas the lines of the design were intaglio engraved. I was rather surprised to see this strip come up again in Pelander's sale of May 1st-2nd last, and to be absolutely sure it was the same strip, I had Carl send it to me. Of course, it was the same as I made a very fine photo of it a year ago by ultra-violet light. In the last sale Carl made no mention that the thing was a paint job but as an unrecorded proof, giving the impression it was a genuine Type I proof strip of three. Naturally no such an item is known or recorded. The catalogue value which he quoted surely gave the impression that this was a proof strip of three of Type I from Plate One.

I understand that Carl had a letter from Elliott Perry about the strip but I have no information as to Perry's remarks.

I think that Carl is subject to criticism for his effort to sell this fake on two different occasions. If he was not sure as to its exact status he should have found out before he offered it. I also think that the P.F. Expert Committee should be severely censured for issuing a certificate such as #3785 in which no hint was given as to the true nature of this fake, especially in view of the fact that they were in possession of the facts regarding it. I think that

#2. Mr. Clarence W. Brazor, May 25, 1953.

you will agree that there is quite a difference between a genuine proof and one which has been faked to appear as something entirely different from its original status.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours  
**STANLEY B. ASHBROOK**

DON H. SILSBY, M. D.

324-326 LANDERS BLDG.  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

May 25, 1953

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

My dear Stan.:

I want to thank you for keeping me posted on your efforts to nail down that 5¢ 1857 proof strip for just what it is. I am now waiting anxiously to know how Brazier will answer your letter.

I note that he bought the strip for \$105. I bid \$100. I want it to exhibit as a FAKE.

When Pelander had this strip up in his October auction I bid \$100 then. I had Hugh Barr place this bid for me. I am enclosing his letter to me regarding the sale. I do not know Mr. Barr and just picked him at random as I knew of no other at that time. Next time I will try to get Ezra Cole to do my buying.

You wrote about this strip in your Special Service last September. Why don't you bring the story up to date in your Special Service? It would make interesting reading.

We expect to take our vacation sometime in September or October this year. Have no idea yet where we shall go. Will try to get up your way before the year is out.

It will not be long now until Stan, Jr. graduates. Tell him that I congratulate him on his accomplishment. I know you are proud. You should be. I can well remember how I felt when I watched Don, Jr. get his M.D. degree at Washington University back in 1932.

Lela says, "Give Mildred and Stan my love", and this goes for me too.

Cordially,

*DM*

Not dictated.

C O P Y

H U G H C. B A R R, Inc.

Auctioneers and Appraisers of Rare Postage Stamps

13 PARK ROW ..... NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

October 21, 1952.

Dr. Don H. Silsby,  
324 Landers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Dr. Silsby:

Sorry to say, you did not obtain the strip of 5¢  
1851 Proofs in the Pelander Sale. It sold for \$110.00 and I  
was advised by Mr. Pelander after the Sale that he had a bid  
of \$180.00 on it.

Personally, in my opinion this was an absurdly  
high price, as your bid of \$100.00 was very liberal, and I  
think it would have been unwise to go beyond this amount.

If at any time in the future I can be of service to  
you I shall be glad to do so.

Very truly yours,

(signed) H. C. Barr  
HUGH C. BARR, Inc.

C O P Y

HUGH C. BARR, Inc.

Auctioneers and Appraisers of Rare Postage Stamps

13 PARK ROW ..... NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

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If at any time in the future I can be of service to  
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Very truly yours,

(signed) H. C. Barr  
HUGH C. BARR, Inc.

May 27, 1953.

Dr. Don H. Silsby,  
324 - 26 Landers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

I had a nice letter from Brazer stating that I was right that the strip was a paint job and that he had returned it to Pelander. I sent his letter on to Cole so that he could show it to members of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation. I am enclosing copy herewith of my letter to Brazer and later I will send you a copy of Brazer's letter.

I sent Mrs. John Dale a copy of my letter to Brazer. As you probably know, she was Louise Lichtenstein, daughter of the late Alfred Lichtenstein, who was the founder of the Foundation. Alfred was supposed to have endowed the Foundation with half a million dollars but he died suddenly of a heart attack on a Fifth Avenue bus a few months before the 1947 New York International Show. I suppose Mrs. Dale is providing the money to keep the Foundation alive. I have been using every effort at my disposal to persuade her to revamp the Expert Committee and put some people on the Committee who have some knowledge of philately. The present crowd have made so many errors it is pitiful.

Doc if I were you I would not invest as much as \$100 in that fake strip. Why don't you write Pelander and tell him that I suggested that you do so. Inform him why you would like to have it - that you frequently exhibit at shows and that you would like to show it as a fake. I have the name of the man who owns it and he has several more. I intend to write him and inquire why he would attempt to sell a fake without explaining its true character. This man is rather prominent and I intend to make him do a bit of squirming. I have been gathering all the facts in the case for the purpose of giving it full publicity in my June 1st Service Issue.

Confidentially don't do any business with Barr. Nuff said. Write Ezra Cole and tell him I told you to do so. Ezra is thoroughly honest and I will vouch for him 100%. Inform him that you are one of my most valued of friends. I will also write him. I know Ezra would go far out of his way to do a favor for a friend of mine.

Stan Jr. will graduate from the University of Cincinnati on June 5th. Last winter he made application for officer's training in the Navy. He took all the exams and passed all with high grades. Several weeks ago, he received word he had been accepted, and yesterday he was sworn in. He is due to report at Newport, R.I. on July 12th. He will undergo a rigid four months course and be

#2. Dr. Don H. Silsby - May 27, 1953.

commissioned an ensign. Then he will be in for three years. How we will manage to get along without him, I really do not know.

We do hope that we can see Lela and you this summer. We plan to drive down in September to Newport and then pay Charroll and Jean Chase a little visit.

Mildred and Stan join me in love to Lela and you - our very best to you both.

As ever yours,

May 27, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

Further referring to the 5¢ '57 proof strip. My good friend Dr. Silsby bid \$100.00 for this fake in the Pelander sale. It seems he bid thru Barr. He sent me Barr's letter and here is a copy which please destroy. I advised Doc to send all his bids to you in the future and he agreed to do so. He is a very close friend of mine so please take special care of him.

What do you think of Barr's statement that Belander had a bid of \$180.00? If he did why did Brazer get it for \$105.00? Would you infer Brazer gave Pelander a limit of \$180.00?

Brazer mentioned the owner of this strip. I believe I will write him and inquire why he tried to sell a fake paint job on two occasions, and that I intend to publish the facts regarding this shady transaction and give names.

What do you think?

Yours etc.,

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

May 20, 1953.

COPY

Mr. Clarence W. Brazer,  
415 Lexington Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Re - Lot #72 in the Pelander Sale - May 1st last. I  
examined this item and plated it as 1, 2, 3R2 - a Type II plate proof  
with painted projections. I understand that you bought this lot.  
May I inquire if you had occasion to differ from my opinion?

Stamped addressed envelope herewith.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

COPY

CLARENCE W. BRAZER

Philatelist

U. S. ESSAYS & PROOFS

EXCLUSIVELY

415 Lexington Ave., N. E. Cor. 43d St.

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMBER

Collectors Club—Past Governor

American Philatelic Society

Society of Philatelic Americans

Essay Proof Society—Director

Tel. Vanderbilt 6-1777

New York 17, N. Y.

May 22, 1953

Dear Stanley.

I bought the Pelander Lot 72 on May 1 as a proof of the  
<sup>(1856)</sup>  
1851, 5c red-brown with as certified by the Philatelic Foundation,  
but with privilege of return if found to have the projection lines drawn,  
not engraved. Am greatly surprised when I phoned Wm. Boggs  
to find out he knew it was as you say. Why the certificate  
made no mention of the faking of a 1851, 5c red brown, is  
most misleading and shakes faith in the Foundation.

Julius Windner from whose collection this was sold about  
a year ago by Pelander, tells me he had two strips of this and still  
has one! He sent me one of these strips in Feb. 1940. I did not  
then, <sup>or now</sup> have access to a violet ray lamp, but wrote him "no type I  
know are known in this color on stamp paper". "This is the color  
of the stamp and the impression is much clearer than any of the trial  
colors on stamp paper in my reference collection".

I have returned this strip to Pelander. Cordially yours. Clarence

COPY

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

COPY

May 25, 1953.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazer,  
415 Lexington Ave.,  
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Thanks very much for yours of the 22nd.

Re - that painted strip. It was submitted to me by the P.F. Committee about a year ago and I informed them at the time that it was an india proof, backed up (thin paper on back), with painted projections from Plate 2.

The color was more like the red-brown of the stamp but I assumed that the faker had chemically changed the color from the 1875 yellowish brown to a reddish brown. I felt sure the strip was an 1875 printing. I even plated the strip as 1R2 - 2R2 - 3R2.

On July 21, 1952, the P.F. issued their certificate #3785, to Pelander, stating that in their opinion it was a proof. No mention was made it was a paint job or a backed up 1875 proof.

On the strength of their certificate, Pelander entered this in his sale of October 16-17-18, 1952, and described it as follows:

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I never could figure out what Pelander meant by "possibly" when it was quite obvious that the painted projections were flat surface whereas the lines of the design were intaglio engraved. I was rather surprised to see this strip come up again in Pelander's sale of May 1st-2nd last, and to be absolutely sure it was the same strip, I had Carl send it to me. Of course, it was the same as I made a very fine photo of it a year ago by ultra-violet light. In the last sale Carl made no mention that the thing was a paint job but as an unrecorded proof, giving the impression it was a genuine Type I proof strip of three. Naturally no such an item is known or recorded. The catalogue value which he quoted surely gave the impression that this was a proof strip of three of Type I from Plate One.

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#2. Mr. Clarence W. Brazer, May 25, 1953.

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With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

DON H. SILSBY, M.D.  
324-326 LANDERS BLDG.  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

June 2, 1953

Stanley B. Ashbrook  
Fort Thomas, Ky.

My dear Stan.:

You have sure done a fine job on this 5¢ fake strip.

I am enclosing your "copies" of letters written, also the one you received from Brazer.

I am also enclosing a letter just received on this morning's mail from Pelander. Who is this Allen M. Tatcher? Why does he not return it to Pelander for it was certainly not correctly described in October sale?

This whole thing is quite a mess. Looks like all three, Windner, Boggs and Pelander, had a hand in this.

Thanks for keeping me posted. I'll be looking for your June "Special Service".

Lela joins me in sending love to all.

Cordially, "DHC"

Don H. Silsby

June 3, 1953.

Dr. Don H. Silsby,  
324-326 Landers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Missouri.

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for yours of the 29th with check for \$100.00 for my Special Service. I am enclosing receipt herewith.

The June 1st Issue was mailed yesterday so no doubt you have it by this time and have noted the complete story on the faked proof strip.

Your air special came at noon today and I am returning the two copies herewith. The correct name of Tatcher is Allan M. Thatcher. He is the 19th U. S. "Expert" in the New York Office of Harmer Rooke & Co. I don't know whether Pelander is telling the truth or not, neither can I imagine why Thatcher would buy this strip. If he bought it last October why did he keep it? And if he kept it why did he try to resell it on May 1st last? Unless someone could give me sensible reasons and proof, I wouldn't believe a damn word. This could be a trick to make you or someone else pay a high price. In other words, if Thatcher did buy it last October then he would want his original cost and perhaps a profit.

I do not know whether the thing is one of the original Plate 2 proofs or a chemical changeling of the 1875 printing. If it is an original of 1860 then some fool faker spoiled a rare proof. I am no student or authority on proofs. Strange that Brazer, who acknowledges that he is an expert did not comment on this angle in his letter to me. Perhaps he did not care to inform me as he might have had a hope of getting the thing at a cheap price. Just bear in mind that there are a lot of chaps in New York who would steal anybody's last dime. Steer clear of that Barr outfit, it is merely a front for Usticke who runs Stanley Gibbons, Inc. of New York. I would not trust any of that crowd as far as I could toss a bull by the tail.

Mildred joins me in our very best to Leña and you.

Cordially yours,

Don H. Silsby, M.D.  
326 Landers Bldg.  
Springfield, Mo.

COPY

May 30, 1953

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

My dear Mr. Pelander:

I am writing you about the 5¢ red brown proof strip of 3 which was in your May 1st and 2nd Auction as Lot #72. A year ago, before your October sale, Stanley Ashbrook wrote me about the strip and sent me a photo of it. I told him at the time that I would like to have it for my reference collection. We talked it over again when I spent a few days with him at the time of his last birthday (last fall).

I received a letter from him yesterday stating that Clarence Brazer had returned the strip to you. He also stated as follows: Quote, "Why don't you write Pelander and tell him that I suggested that you do so. Inform him why you would like to have it - that you frequently exhibit at shows and that you would like to show it as a fake." un-quote.

If this strip can be secured at a reasonable price please advise me.

Resp't yours,

Don H. Silsby, M.D.

Don H. Silsby, M.D.  
326 Landers Bldg.  
Springfield, Mo.

COPY

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

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If this strip can be secured at a reasonable price please advise me.

Resp't yours,

Don H. Silsby, M.D.

COPY

June 1st, 1953

Dr. Don H. Silsby,  
326 Landers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Doctor Silsby:

I have your letter of May 30th, regarding the proof strip of the 5¢ brown, but since it was returned to me by Mr. Brazer, I in turn sent it back to the original owner, Mr. Allan M. Tatcher, who purchased it at my sale in October 1952.

I am forwarding your letter to Mr. Tatcher and no doubt he will contact you directly.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Carl E. Pelander.

COPY

June 1st, 1953

Dr. Don H. Silsby,  
326 Landers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Doctor Silsby:

I have your letter of May 30th, regarding the proof strip of the 5¢ brown, but since it was returned to me by Mr. Brazer, I in turn sent it back to the original owner, Mr. Allen M. Tatcher, who purchased it at my sale in October 1952.

I am forwarding your letter to Mr. Tatcher and no doubt he will contact you directly.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Carl E. Pelander.

June 3, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

Re - the proof strip. I sent you a copy of my June 1st Service Issue with a set of photo prints.

Today I received a letter from Dr. Silsby stating he wrote Pelander about the strip, and he enclosed Pelander's reply. This letter stated that Allan M. TATCHER (surely meant to be Thatcher) bought the strip in the October sale. That Brazer bought the thing in the May sale, and returned it and he then returned it to Thatcher. Also that he was returning the strip to Thatcher. Do you believe all this? Can you ask Thatcher about it? Why did he buy it last October and why did he again enter it in the May sale? Lots of funny business going on. If Thatcher writes Doc Silsby I will advise you. Looks like a cooked-up game to make Doc pay the sales price for a fake.

I have not had any reply from Julius Windner. The fact ~~he~~ he may be dead as he was an old man and I seem to recall I noticed where he died about a year or so ago. I remember talking to him at the 3¢ '51 show in Philadelphia in July 1951. If you are on good terms with Thatcher see if you can get some dope.

The shade of the strip is not like the 1875 proofs and I was bothered as to whether it was a strip of the originals but came to the conclusion it is a chemical changeling from a yellowish brown to a red brown.

I note that you are going up to the two Boston sales. I sent for some of the lots from both several weeks ago. The 6-7R1E etc. were Chase items years ago. They were in the Chase sale in May 1925. The 7 is badly cut.

Okay on the Siegel 10¢ Boston Pkt. The photos will serve my purpose - make a note of the following - See if you have any covers with any of these Boston markings on the back of the cover. If so loan them to me. It is a common back stamp to the P.F. and ~~if they consent to me~~ I would report that I could not give a definite opinion but I am highly suspicious. I think these fakes (?) started to come out in the early thirties. I doubt if you will find any singles listed in auction catalogues before that period. I suspect Hale, but Zareski may be responsible.

Re - the A.S.D.A. You mentioned they are shy on guts - not only on guts but also not at all inclined to censor any crooked stuff by friend or foe.

Stan Jr. graduates Friday night. He was sworn in the Navy last week. He will go to Newport, R.I. in July for officers training and will graduate there and be commissioned an ensign (same rating as Annapolis).

Would like very much to have Dan's prices.

Regards -

Yours etc.,

# EZRA D. COLE

*Rare Postage Stamps*

NYACK . NEW YORK

*Commissions . Appraisals*

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

May 29th, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

Yours of May 27th. Gradually we are putting together all the pieces of the picture puzzle on that 5¢ strip. Undoubtedly both of us were thinking about the same thing for our letters crossed in the mails. I agree with your conclusions and I think the owner of that strip is "the nigger in the woodpile" for he is the guy who is really trying to palm off something.

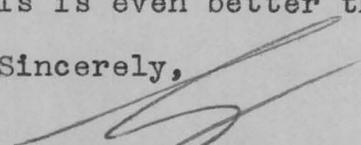
With reference to the Barr letter. He never went near the sale. He is a very old man. I don't even believe he spends all his time in his office. He gets some stamps from his old customers and old friends but mostly it is material which Gibbons gets and gives him to put in auction. Some of the stamps are Gibbons' own stamps. Usticke is smart you know. He will not run his own auctions so he has Barr, but it is really one and the same company.

You can write Dr. Silsby and I certainly would be very glad to help him. While I cannot go to every sale I do go to most of them, and even if I do not go there myself I look at the stamps, have someone else on the floor bidding for me and I do not do it over the telephone as Barr apparently does.

I need not write you that any friend or client of yours will get just as good treatment as possible. I cannot perform any miracles and it is real favor for I do not make any money at all executing these bids at sales.

You can quote me as writing you as follows: Without any false modesty I have bought more stamps at auction than anybody else that ever lived. Anybody who bids by mail at any sales is either just a sap or cannot do anything else. That as far as I know the only honest auctioneer died some time ago, and that was Percy Doane, and the only way to stand half a chance is to either go to sales yourself (and sometimes collectors do very badly I might add when they go there) or have an agent at the sale representing them. Over a very long period of time I am sure this is even better than a collector buying the stamps himself.

Sincerely,

  
Ezra D. Cole.

COPY

HUGH C. BARR, Inc.

Auctioneers and Appraisers of Rare Postage Stamps

13 PARK ROW ..... NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

October 21, 1952.

Dr. Don H. Silsby,  
324 Landers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Mo.

Dear Dr. Silsby:

Sorry to say, you did not obtain the strip of 50  
1851 Proofs in the Pelander Sale. It sold for \$110.00 and I  
was advised by Mr. Pelander after the Sale that he had a bid  
of \$180.00 on it.

Personally, in my opinion this was an absurdly  
high price, as your bid of \$100.00 was very liberal, and I  
think it would have been unwise to go beyond this amount.

If at any time in the future I can be of service to  
you I shall be glad to do so.

Very truly yours,

(signed) H. C. Barr  
HUGH C. BARR, Inc.

How would  
He know  
He would  
WENT  
NEAR  
THERE

COPY

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. BOX 31

33 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.

FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY

May 27, 1953.

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

Dear Ez:

Further referring to the 5¢ '57 proof strip. My good friend Dr. Silsby bid \$100.00 for this fake in the Pelander sale. It seems he bid thru Barr. He sent me Barr's letter and here is a copy which please destroy. I advised Doc to send all his bids to you in the future and he agreed to do so. He is a very close friend of mine so please take special care of him.

What do you think of Barr's statement that Pelander had a bid of \$180.00? If he did why did Brazer get it for \$105.00? Would you infer Brazer gave Pelander a limit of \$180.00? *NO*

Brazer mentioned the owner of this strip. I believe I will write him and inquire why he tried to sell a fake paint job on two occasions, and that I intend to publish the facts regarding this shady transaction and give names.

What do you think?

Yours etc.,  
*[Signature]*

*I DON'T BELIEVE  
IT*  
*O.C.*  
*He is THE  
ONE TO  
BLAME*

240 P 12P 5c proof strip of 3, possibly # 30 with the projections superbly  
painted in. Foundation Certificate, v. f. (Photo) — 3

276 ○

20

— three shades and cancels, looks fine but with minor faults

(Photo)

85.00 +

37.50

1

3

JULIUS WINDNER  
1728 MARLTON AVE.  
Phila. (4) Pa., U.S.A.

H O T E L S T A T L E R N E W Y O R K

June 8<sup>th</sup> 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

In answer of Yours of the 30<sup>th</sup> inst, the strip of 3-5 cent proof was my property up to the Oct. sale, when my ownership ceased.

If You remember at the 1851 Convention in Phila. You had this strip and some other items in Your hand, but You showed no interest and had no comment.

Your letter covers practical all I know of the item.

Very respectfully  
Yours

Julius Windner

June 16, 1953.

Mr. Julius Windner,  
1728 Marlton Ave.,  
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Mr. Windner:

May I thank you very kindly for yours of the 8th. I was rather surprised to learn that you showed me this strip of Philadelphia in July 1951. Are you sure of this? I recall you introducing yourself to me and reminding me that you loaned me a copy of the Atherton Shift back in the 40's but I do not recall that you showed any items to me at Philadelphia in 1951. Is it not possible that you have me confused with someone else?

May I also inquire why Pelander used the word "possibly" in describing Lot 240 in his October Sale? Were you not aware at the time this lot was offered that it was a proof from Plate 2 of the Type II with painted projections? May I also inquire if you were aware that this item consisted of two pieces of paper? In other words, the thin india proof had a piece of paper pasted or cemented to the back. May I also inquire if you have any recollection where you obtained this piece? I am enclosing stamped envelope for reply.

Sincerely yours,

WARREN P. WARE  
1862 FOSTER AVENUE  
MEMPHIS 14, TENN.

5-20-53

Dear Mr Brooks -

In "Confederate Corner" of "W. P. 3"  
of 12/1/51 by Col. Raynor Hubbell regarding  
Confederate Scotts #8XU1-Austin, Miss  
he said that the only copy known  
was found by you in 1925 & now in  
c.d. of Col. Gene Wenzelkubler Jr.

This "heart town" is only about 50  
miles from here - I think that years ago  
it was quite a town & county seat of TUNICA  
County.

While I don't expect to locate any of  
the envelopes, I'm just wondering how  
& where you located the one you found  
and whether other copies are known -

Will appreciate your kindly writing  
me briefly -

Thanking you very much,

Sincerely,  
Warren P. Ware

A.P.S. 12611

S.P.A. 7632

C.2. Study Group #15

Dear Stan:

Would you be kind enough to answer this for me? If so I would appreciate it. The past few weeks I am having much difficulty in reading anything and have practically given up all correspondence. I go to my office but can't do much there. Then I go home and putter around the garden. In fact it is slow and difficult to even type this note.

I have no record of where this cover came from. Without doubt I asked if the sender had other similar covers to send me. It came from that advertising in southern religious papers which I used from about 1919 to 1930, or perhaps even later. I do recall, however, how John Hall turned up his nose at this rarity, making the remark to you, "fake," when as a matter of fact he had never seen it before, consequently I knew nothing about it at all. The Scott listing was made from this cover, an original find made by me, and in my opinion is, without doubt, the only existing example of this Confederate provisional. In selling this, and other unique things, I suffered pangs of regret. But it seemed the only sensible thing to do, Craig taking no interest in my material. I wonder what is going to become of the Patriotics which Stark bought.

*Gene - Doc*

June 3, 1953.

Mr. Warren P. Ware,  
1862 Foster Ave.,  
Memphis 14, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Ware:

My good friend Mr. Harold C. Brooks forwarded to me your letter of the 20th with the request that I reply for him, as he is laid up at home and unable for the time being to attend to any correspondence.

Regarding the Confederate Austin, Miss. P.M. Provisional. When I sold the Brooks collection of Confederates at private sale in 1949, I sold the "Austin" to Eugene Wulfekuhler, Jr. About a year ago the latter collection was placed on the market and at the present time I do not know who owns the Austin cover. At the time I sold the cover to Mr. Wulfekuhler I advised him to buy it as I was of the opinion (and I still am) that the item was genuine in every respect. As far as I am aware it is the only one known - Mr. Brooks never heard of another nor have I ever heard of any student of Confederates who had knowledge of a second cover.

About twenty-five years ago Mr. Brooks conducted quite an extensive advertising campaign in southern religious papers for old Confederate covers and from some such source he purchased the cover. I recall at the time that I sold his collection that he informed me that he had no recollection from whom he obtained it and that he doubted if he still had files of correspondence going back as far as the early nineteen twenties. The listing in the Scott catalogue is from this cover.

I believe that the above is about all the information that I can furnish and I seriously doubt if Mr. Brooks could add anything.

Sincerely yours,



## Jack E. Molexworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

June 3, 1953.

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

Dear Stan,

I finally heard from Usticke who had been out of town and he confirmed my own opinion that neither of the enclosed Special Printings have been reperfed. I'm not sure my client will be willing to accept his opinion, so am sending them on to you and will greatly appreciate it if you can render an opinion also. I'm sure he would not question your opinion.

My client feels from his own examination, some months after purchase, and apparently not from having consulted any other expert that the 7¢ one has been reperfed on the left and the 15¢ on the right. There is no need therefore to make any special comments except on these two sides. It is apparent that the perfs are a bit uneven on these two sides and such is doubtlessly the reason for my client's opinion. However, from my experience it is the clean cut evenly reperfed sides that are most likely to have been reperfed as the present day reperfer does if anything a better job often than the gov't., at least as far as making clean and even perfs goes.

If you should not feel sure enough to render an opinion I shall of course understand but will appreciate any comments, conclusive or otherwise that you can make.

With best wishes,

June 4, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two stamps as per yours of the 3¢d - the 7¢ and 15¢ - I have examined these very carefully under my binocular and while I am no authority on late material I see no occasion to question the perforations on these two stamps. I would accept them without question. If any reperfer can turn out such a perfect job then his stuff is just as good as the genuine. I seriously doubt if that is possible.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

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

May 20, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

I have been in New York attending the Lagerloef-Harmer sales and just got back Monday. I had to go to the Mountains yesterday to see if they have completed the work on my lodge, hence this is the first full day I have been in the office for a week.

In regards to the 90¢ block from Lozier's collection, I, too, saw Joe at the 1947 New York Show and when he walked into my booth I immediately called him by name, which greatly surprised him. He said he had walked around and had only seen about two or three people who recognized him. He spent over an hour in viewing my collection and noted with great interest that many of my choicest blocks were marked "Ex-Lozier". He is down in Florida and I wrote him one or two letters but have not heard from him lately. You know I sold most of his stamps and of those that Scott bought, I sold 90 per cent of those to Sinkler. Joe in his earlier days was a playboy and spent most of his fortune. Luckily he he put a lot in fine stamps so that every time he needed \$3,000 or \$4,000 he would phone me, I would go over and pick out what I wanted from his collection and hand him a check. Sometime I would send him a check in advance and later go over and pick out what I wanted. He was one of the early block collectors and at one time owned both of the 2¢ 1901 inverted center blocks. I sold one of them for him and I think Ed Stern got the other one. I, however, later sold the first block to Sinkler and from his collection it passed to Souren. The second block is now in my collection and will be illustrated in the new article which I mentioned to you. I have been quietly told that I could mention in my column that such an article would appear but I was told not to mention the paper. I can incidentally tell you, for I know it will go no further. The story is going to appear in "Life", which means a three million circulation and should make some new stamp collectors. I loaned them about eight pieces for photographing and they have assured me that they will use at least two of them and possibly more. They had one or two late things, such as a block of the \$5 Columbian. They were trying to locate a plate block and if they could do this, they would give the other man credit rather than me. I can understand why this would be the case for as far as I can learn, no other professional has been invited to show his stamps. They covered Europe and South America for rare foreign pieces. I do not believe Caspary would loan them a single thing for I can understand why he does not want his name in print.

As to the pane of 12¢ 1860 in the Jefferys collection, they have just rearranged the collection in beautiful frames made especially for Jefferys' stamps. One big outstanding frame shows a photograph of Jefferys and three or four permanent exhibits and this includes the complete sheets of the 1851 3¢ and the 1860 12¢ along with his reconstructed plates II and IV 1¢ stamps. They just put these in

possibly three weeks back and as they are written up and the spaces filled, I do not feel that I would want to ask the Director of the Museum to tear down the frame. I could easily go over his head if he refused but I would not want to do this. Later on, I will take the subject up with him when we are talking about the stamps and see if I cannot pull it out. Sorry you did not take this up with me when you got the plate<sup>3</sup> HH stamps. I then had it in my possession and could have sent it to you without any trouble whatsoever.

As to your 5¢ stamp, I can tell you in advance this is not a reprint but I want to take it home and compare it for shade with some of the normal stamps to see if they have tried to change the color or not. On first glance I thought it was a proof but want to examine it more carefully before definitely saying yes or no. I will take this home over the weekend, when I have the daylight to work with, and will return it to you Monday with definite information. I want to make up my mind as to whether someone is endeavoring to make up new issues. I cannot believe this to be the case for anyone would be very foolish to buy them without knowing what he was getting and I have as yet to see a good imitation.

Sincerely yours,



PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

Hunt Club Board  
HAS CONTENT

May 22, 1953.

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

Dear Clare:

The box of fruit came in by express yesterday afternoon in fine shape. Thanks very much.

My friend Ward has been away on a trip. I quote from a letter received from him today:

"As to your 5¢ stamp, I can tell you in advance this is not a reprint but I want to take it home and compare it for shade with some of the normal stamps to see if they have tried to change the color or not. On first glance I thought it was a proof but want to examine it more carefully before definitely saying yes or no. I will take this home over the weekend, when I have the daylight to work with, and will return it to you Monday with definite information. I want to make up my mind as to whether someone is endeavoring to make up new issues. I cannot believe this to be the case for anyone would be very foolish to buy them without knowing what he was getting and I have as yet to see a good imitation."

When he returns the stamp next week I will have a definite and positive opinion for you. To be absolutely sure on such items one has to make direct comparison. Please keep this strictly confidential as his examination was a favor to me alone.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

May 22, 1953.

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

Dear Phil:

Yours of the 20th received.

I was surprised to learn that "Life" was to be the medium. It will be marvelous propaganda. You can depend on my keeping it 100% confidential. I can appreciate why Caspary does not want any publicity of any kind. If he has ever loaned anything he owns for study purposes I have yet to learn of it. I once asked him to loan me a 1¢ 1851 double transfer and he turned me down. Stated he had paid Kleman \$3.00 for it. People are funny is no over-statement, especially "stamp collectors."

Okay on the Plate 3 pane in the Jefferys collection., For the good of philately this should be photographed for the record and made available for future students.

I made a large photograph of your 10¢ '55 plus 5¢ '56 cover. Would you like to have a print? I am never to mention this cover in any way without your permission but I wish you would remove the 5¢ stamp and give me permission.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

This Was Sent To Me By Alex Dumas - 6/4-53  
His Address 165 Commonwealth Ave  
Boston 16 Mass See S. B. 27 - p. 56

BB12

Photo Print By Molecules North - Good Rate  
6x15 & 6x17 6x34 = 184 - 1 AM. PKT.



## Jack E. Molexworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street  
Boston 16, Massachusetts

June 2, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

In reply to your letter of May 28th, though it may be true that Sweet is adverse to loaning his plates to you, it is my opinion that Dan could easily influence him to do so but Dan does not care to put himself out personally. I may be wrong in this opinion, but from my knowledge of Dan's relationship with Sweet and the conversation which I had with Dan no other conclusion is justified. I do not know Sweet personally. There is no question about your reputation or the plates being damaged, but rather I feel they just do not want to bother with the matter.

At the April meeting of the New England chapter of the A.S.D.A. we passed the following resolution:  
"RESOLVED: That in view of numerous recent cases wherein the Philatelic Foundation has allegedly rendered seriously erroneous opinions on items submitted for their opinion by members of the N.E. Chapter of the A.S.D.A. and on the whole evidenced little inclination to correct these mistakes when called to their attention, thereby causing extreme embarrassment to, unjustified reflection on the integrity of, and serious financial loss to the dealers concerned, the N. E. Chapter requests that the Board of Directors of the national association investigate the possibility of forming an A.S.D.A. Expert Committee to pass on U. S. and Confederate stamps, it being felt that the Friedl Expert Committee adequately covers the Foreign field."

It is quite all right for you to quote this to Mrs. Dale if you so desire as it is public knowledge and was supposed to have been published in full in the report of our meeting which is regularly sent to the "Stamp Wholesaler" as well as to the "Stamp Bulletin", but both edited it and merely made a comment about a resolution being passed asking the National Chapter to look into the possibility of establishing an expert committee.

Apparently this resolution was discussed at the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the A.S.D.A., but from a conversation which I had with John Fox over the phone last night the A.S.D.A. had apparently been attempting to improve the situation with the Foundation on their own hook for several months. Anyway, they have now apparently received the

agreement of the Foundation to using a formal dealers' advisory committee appointed by the A.S.D.A. to assist them in rendering their opinions. What good such a committee may do is yet to be seen. However, I have some doubts since Fox mentioned that they were currently submitting items to him for his opinion which as I have previously indicated in my opinion could certainly not be considered an expert one as evidenced by the many mistakes which are made in his auctions with respect to the repairing, re-gumming, reperfing, fake coils, #519's, etc. I sincerely hope that this step will result in an improvement.

I am enclosing the photo just received from abroad of what would be a very rare item if it is genuine. Though I know you cannot render an authoritative opinion without examining the item I would appreciate any unofficial comments you might make with regard to the consistency of the visible markings and the 90¢ rate.

With best wishes,

*Jack*

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

P.S. Just rec'd enclosed 9X1 from your neighbor, Mint Sheet Exchange Co. It looks like a speck to me but on much better paper than others I've seen. Is he improving his work? They advertize it as genuine.

June 5, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks very much for a look at the 30¢ 1869 cover. While it is very difficult to judge a cover by a photograph, it is possible that this cover could be genuine. I doubt if it originated in China or Japan but possibly at Honolulu and was brought into San Francisco for mailing by one of the American subsidized mail ships. In the event that you can lay your hands on this cover I would like very much to see it and if possible to purchase it, provided it is genuine.

Thanks very much for the further information regarding the Resolution. I intend to send a copy of this to Mrs. Dale, although I have about given up hope that the members of the Expert Committee will take any steps that would actually improve existing conditions. I don't know anything about foreign stamps, hence not in a position to judge whether any members of the Committee have any such knowledge, but I do know one thing, none of the members on the Committee have any actual knowledge of United States stamps or covers, and it is perfectly ridiculous for them to attempt to pass on such items. I have strongly urged them to put some people on the Committee regardless of whether they are private collectors or dealers who do have sufficient knowledge about U. S. stamps to at least give some sort of a sensible opinion. I think any member should realize this, but evidently they don't. I also think

#2. Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - June 5, 1953.

that any dealer would be foolish to serve as a consulting member. If he wasn't good enough to be elected a full-fledged member then he shouldn't serve. Keep me advised of any new development.

No fee on the 5¢ New York.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

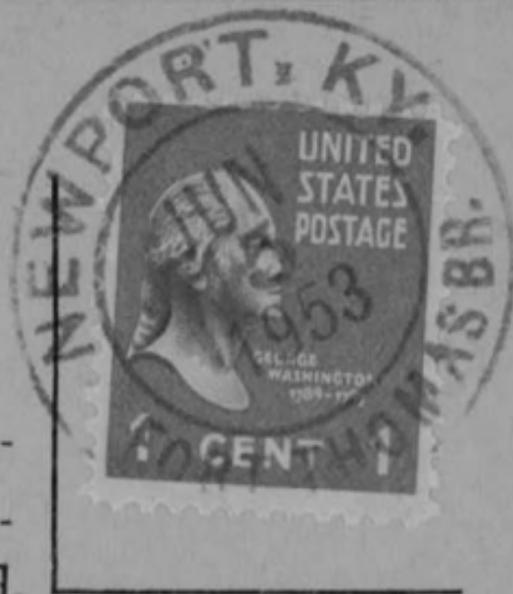
Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

# Post Office Department

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

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

One piece of ordinary mail addressed  
to *Mr. Jack E. Molesworth*  
102 Beacon Street  
BOSTON (16) Mass.



THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

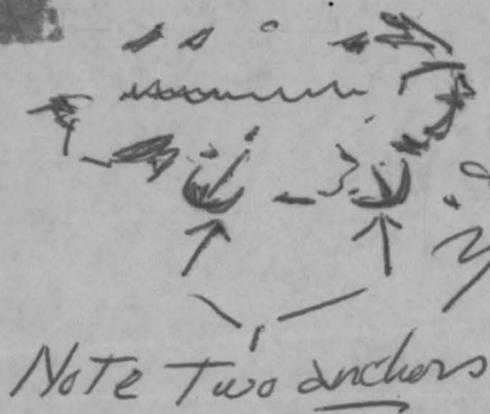
June 5, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 5¢ New York as per yours of the  
2nd. This is a Sperati counterfeit. It is his imitation  
of Plate position #29. I am including for your files  
an enlarged photograph of one of these Sperati fakes.  
The paper is not like the original. The engraving is not  
the same and the ACM is generally a very poor imitation  
of the genuine.

Sincerely yours,



Note two anchors

on Page 94 Dietz 1945  
you will see Galveston, Texas  
& without question some  
"Yankee" soldier picked up this  
hand stamp & tried to put  
his own name in the  
center, instead of PAID,  
as it was typeset - Page  
114 Dietz. His name,  
as far as I can figure,  
was Peter Glasdorn  
& a typical name of  
German town Ohio.

165 Corn' Hill. Av.  
Boston 16, Mass  
6/4/53

Dear Mr. Ashbrook-

I am enclosing a cover that seems to have the Galveston, Texas Confederate provisional. Although this impression seems larger, it could be the type of ink used.

The original hand-stamp is probably resting in Ohio, possibly German Town.

I thought you might have a client in that section who could enjoy a little research.

With kind regards,  
Sincerely,  
Alex Dupras

Form 3817  
Rev. 9-37

# Post Office Department

Received from:

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to Alex Dumas  
165 Commonwealth Ave  
BOSTON (16) Mass

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

June 7, 1953.

Mr. Alex Dumas,  
165 Commonwealth Ave.,  
Boston 16, Mass.

Dear Mr. Dumas:

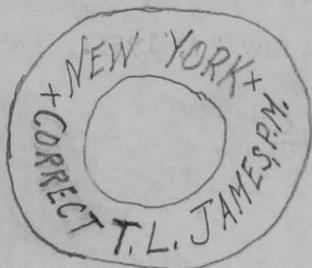
Herewith your 3¢ 1861 cover as per yours of the 4th. I agree that the marking does resemble the Galveston PAID. I have seen covers of Galveston with this marking that were used in 1860 but I have no record of any covers of the Confederacy, but no doubt Dietz recorded such.

Probably this was a stock stamper supplied to postmasters so a Federal soldier might have picked it up in most any Southern office.

Thanks for the look.

Sincerely yours,

(27-56)



Postmark in double  
line circle.

T.L. James was

New York Postmaster  
from Feb. 17, 1873 to Feb. 1, 1881.

The cancellation is on  
a U.S. #55-90¢ coming  
and very off stamp struck  
on stamp except for  
the word "Correct" of which  
the last four letters  
"RECT" appear on stamp.  
Do you think I am  
correct in assuming  
the word is "CORRECT."

Do you think the  
word "CORRECT"  
indicates that  
the rate was correct.

Have never before  
seen a Postmaster  
postmark on a  
90¢ stamp.

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK  
P. O. BOX 31  
33 NORTH FT. THOMAS AVENUE  
FORT THOMAS, KY.

May 27, 1953.

Kindly see course.

To Mr. M. HUBERT JUDD

DALTON, GEORGIA

Subscription to

ASHBROOK SPECIAL SERVICE

Series 1953 - 1954

From June 1, 1953 to June 1, 1954 ..... \$100.00

Just back from Watts Barr which  
is more noted for its fishing than  
drinks. Pleased to note you are going to  
continue your "Special Service." Just about  
100% of the information in some is new  
to me. Enclosed please find check. With my best wishes,  
Sincerely,  
M. H. Judd

June 8, 1953.

Mr. M. Hubert Judd,  
Dalton, Ga.

Dear Judge:

Thanks very much for yours with check for \$100.00 for the 1953-1954 "Service." Receipt is enclosed herewith.

I never heard of Walt's Barr but I do trust that you had a lot of good fishing and an enjoyable time. I was indeed pleased that my Service Issues have proved interesting to you.

Regarding the New York postmaster marking. I believe that a number of the large cities had stampers that were used on post office reports that were sent to Washington. I have noted one reading, "P.O. Business" with the name of the P.M.

I enclose a strike from an old stamper that came out of an office up in Maine. The "Allen" must have been the P.M.'s name and he probably used it to stamp reports that he had approved. This is a wooden stamper hand-cut in box-wood.

It does seem odd that the New York marking was used to cancel a 90¢ stamp but no doubt it was on a heavy piece of mail that the P.M. himself canceled. I agree that the word was probably correct. If you care to send the stamp to me I will photograph it and give it some publicity in STAMPS, provided you have no objection.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

RAYNOR HUBBELL

SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



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

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

Please  
Return to  
Raynor  
Hubbell  
P.O. Box 573  
Griffin, Ga.

Oct 19<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mr. Pophrook -  
Referring to the enclosures,  
I asked to see this stamp and  
have promised to return it  
immediately.

But before taking any  
action towards a possible  
bid I would like <sup>you</sup> to pass  
on it as you wish.

I am under obligation and  
promise to return it quickly to  
Mr. Russell.

How about keeping  
my promise by asking you to  
send it to Registered Air Mail  
Special Delivery direct to  
Mr. Russell for letting  
me have the benefit of

Your examination surely  
to me?

will appreciate and  
pay any fee - including  
a letter - advice - I  
guess - appears

Quarrell

**WILLIAM J. RUSSELL**

58 W. Raymond Avenue

Roosevelt, N. Y.

Feb. 25th

Dear Mr. Hubbell

Mr. Gustave Fabian of Hempstead has informed me that you would like to see this item.

At this time I have four worth while bids on this item and will be very thankful to you for your bid.

Very truly yours

*Wm. J. Russell*

Wm. J. Russell

MAIL SALE # 1

NASSAU SUFFOLK PHILATELIC ALLIANCE

MAIL SALE # 1

FEB 23, 1953

FEB. 23, 1953

THE RULES COMPLETE

THE RULES

SATISFACTION

COMPLETE

SATISFACTION

SEND BIDS TO

Alliance Auctions 58 West Raymond Ave. Roosevelt L.I. N.Y.

See the lots in this sale at the JAN. and Feb. Roundups

We will conduct more of these mail sales if you collectors show you want them by your bids in this sale. These sales are open to any member in the alliance

UNITED STATES STAMPS

Table with columns: LOT#, CAT., GIBBONS, LOT#, CAT., GIBBONS. Lists various stamp lots with descriptions and prices.

BALANCE OF LOTS ON NEXT PAGE

Table with columns: LOT#, BID, LOT#, BID, LOT#, BID, LOT#, BID, LOT#, BID. A grid for recording bids.

NAME

ADRESS

Handwritten notes and signatures in the top right corner, including '19/3/53' and '30 Reg 200/2'.

MAIL AUCTION ---- NASBAU SUFFOLK PHILATELIC ALLIANCE SALE # 1 MAIL AUCTION

Lots can be seen Bids close FEB. 23 1953  
 at JAN. AND FEB roundups AT ROUNDUP

LOT #		CAT.	LOT #	CAT.
39	Philippines #226,230,240 M/U G/VF	.80	76	Natal #17 mint (no Gum) VG 10.00
40	" #229 used vg	4.75	77	Newfoundland #20 used VG 10.00
41	Philippines #230 mint Fine	1.00	78	" #40 used Fine 1.50
42	" #234 mint Fine	3.25	79	" #26 space filler used 15.00
43	" #279 used VG	2.25	80	" #51 mint VG 2.50
44	" #289A used VG	1.35	81	" ERROR #87D used thin F. 7.00
45	" BLOCL #289C used Fine	12.50	82	" Perf. 13 1/2 #257A mint VF 3.50
46	" BLOCK #289D used Fine	17.50	83	" #196 mint fine .60
47	" #394 used Fine	1.35	84	" #245,46,47,48 mint VF 1.40
48	" #424 mint VF	1.75	85	" #262,63,64,65 mint VF 1.80
49	" # E4 used VG	4.50	86	" Block #251 used VF 1.40
50	" # O2 used Fine	1.10	87	Romagna #8 thin Fine 75.00
51	Bulgaria #B11 mint VF	1.25	88	Romania #B40 mint VF 1.50
52	Cape of Good Hope #2 used VG	12.50	89	Seychells #49 mint VF 1.00
53	Cook Islands #54 mint VF	1.25	90	Sierra Leone #6A used VG 3.00
54	Danzig #78 used Fine	2.25	91	So. West Africa #81 mint Block 8 #3
55	" #198 used VG	2.50	92	Switzerland #8 used Fine 4.00
56	" #047,048 mint VF	4.25	93	" #10 used VG 5.00
57	" #051 mint VF	4.50	94	" #11 used VG 30.00
58	" #052 mint VF	10.00	95	Union So. Africa #22 mint Block 8 #54
59	Denmark #20 used VG	5.00	96	Victoria #1 thin fine used 15.00
60	" #32A used Fine	4.00	97	" small thin #2 used VG 10.00
61	" #34A used Fine	3.00	98	30 U.S. stamps 1912-34 cat over 2.00
62	Fiji Islands #39 used Fine	2.50	99	41 France " " 2.50
63	Finland #8 used VF	5.00	100	48 Great Britain 10 Shelling ETC 4.00
64	" #9 used VF	1.00	101	40 Italy cat over 2.00
65	" #10 used VF	1.50	102	73 Switzerland " " 2.00
66	FRANCE #2 used FINE	50.00	103	473 mixed US Precancels on paper ???
67	" #40 used VG	10.00	104	932 " US " " " ???
68	Gibraltar #99 used VF	1.50	105	1660 " US " " " ???
69	Hamburg #23 used VG	3.00	106	1000 mixed US COMM. used ???
70	Hongary #528 mint VF	1.25	107	1000 US #220 used ???
71	" # B94 mint VF	1.00	108	100 A.P.O. Covers ???
72	" #B97 mint VF	1.25	109	150 OLD post cards WITH STAMPS ???
73	" # B113, B122, B130 mint VF	1.30	110	20 copys Bermuda #120 fine used \$8
74	Lagos #7 used Fine	3.50	111	10 " #102 " " 12.50
75	Lagos SPECIMEN #47 VF	??25.00	112	20 " Jamaica #120 " " 8.00

BID ANYTHING YOU WISH BUT BID BID BID BID BID BID BID BID BID BID

Mail your bids at once NAME ..  
 ALLIANCE AUCTIONS 58 W. RAYMOND AVE ROOSEVELT L. I. NY Address.....  
 Mail your bids at once

Lot#	BID								
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## RAYNOR HUBBELL

SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS

220 EAST POPLAR STREET ★ GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

March 5/1963

Dear Stanley,  
I have the enclosed  
from Gustav Fabran. Mr.  
Russell did not send  
this stamp to me for my  
opinion but for a bid  
and with the statement that  
some good bids should  
had been made on it. I  
wanted your opinion before  
bidding on it and so pass  
it to you.  
I have had some  
friendly dealings with  
this man Fabran who  
as I understand it was

Conducting this only  
I never heard of  
this man of course  
before.

I do not see myself  
at all as an expert

I am very glad I did  
not rely on my own  
judgment but passed  
it to you for advice before  
bidding. I don't see  
how any thing could  
have been more proper.

Yours  
J. J. J.

Feb. 20, 1953.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,

Box 573,

Griffin, Ga.

Dear Mr. Hubbell:

Please note copy of letter herewith. The country is full of gyp-artists like this fellow and while we can do very little to stop them we can at least throw a scare into them once in awhile.

This thing is so rank it actually smells.

Kindest regards -

Yours sincerely,

Feb. 20, 1953.

Mr. Tom Crigler, Jr.,  
Macon, Miss.

Dear Mr. Crigler:

Please note copy of letter herewith. I thought that you would like to use this in your next Bulletin. The country is full of gyp-artists who are using the U. S. mail to defraud collectors and while we are unable to do much about it, we can at least make some effort. It is very unwise for a collector to have any dealings with some fly-by-night who can furnish no references or is not a member of any philatelic organization. In many cases the buyer is much to blame, and will throw caution to the wind in a crazy desire to get a rare gem at a mere fraction of catalogue value.

Perhaps the worst evil in U. S. philately is the bedroom "auction" or so-called "Mail Sale." I wonder if anyone who bids at such "sales" realizes that every card is stacked against him and he hasn't a chance of a fair deal.

Sincerely yours,

# THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-5667

WINTHROP S. BOGGS, DIRECTOR

June 9th 1953

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A. H. WILHELM

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

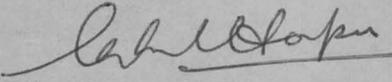
The Foundation Expert Committee  
would appreciate your valued opinion on the enclosed  
item no: 4304.

If you could let us have it back  
by the morning of June 17th we would be most grateful.

Thank you very much for your  
co-operation.

Sincerely,

The Philatelic Foundation

*for.*   
Winthrop S. Boggs,  
Secretary of the Expert  
Committee.

" Parker says also, that the  
Blach & Co Paid 5<sup>00</sup> are fakes These come  
in red, black and green and are carefully  
printed in the left upper corner. Most

Oct 1  
1952

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

ALBERT BUILDING  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

of these come from the Crocher collection. Edgar has several of them. Parker and Phillips have never found any reference to this Express in their studies. And why Paid 5 - this never was an Express rate, or a post office rate of the time; that this Express was supposed to exist 1852-1853. Now I own lot 46, and with a microscope it is easy to see that this frank was put on over the ink of the addressee. Since all of these are franked in exactly the same place on the envelope, it is hard to explain how this could occur after the envelope was addressed and given to Wells Fargo. I suspect these were made a long time ago and have come to be accepted, because of association with good items in experts collections.