

SCRAP BOOK NO 29 - Nov 16 1953 To Jan 28-1954

1	ECKRUG - 5d 47 Cover To G.B.	35	M.C. Blake Re Rating 1849-1850
2	Dr David Sellers Re Special Prints	36	R.M. Wilkinson Re Contd H.S.P.
3	Jack Molesworth - 19¢ To Rome	37	Millard H Macle Pair 3d 1869 No Grill?
4	" " 3d 61 Pink Pigeon	38	Robt H Schoen Stampless France To N.O.
5	" " \$2.00 Omaha In Cover	39	E.C. Krug Hawaii Cover 2Hd 69 Cover
6	John Pope III Re 10d 47 Bisect	40	Robt A Siegel 1/4 - 12d 51 BISECT
7	Jack Molesworth Re H Covers - 12d 51 Bisect 24d 69	41	Raynor Hubbell Contd Cover Richmond To Texas
8	Morris Fortgang Re - Pl. G. Plating	42	Sidney Hessel TEN And 14d Rate
9	J.G. Fleckenstein - 3d 61 Pigeon Blood 15d 69 -	43	Jack Molesworth 3d Pink
10	Lee Chadwick 5d 47 Plus Swarts FAKE	44	U.S. Express Mail BLUE GRID
11	Jack Molesworth Re 2d 69 Bisect	45	Marcel Levy - 5d Rate To France Sold To Fortgang
12	J.C. Wheat 3d 67 Grill All Over	46	Prescott H Thorp —
13	Mrs Y. Souren Re Knapp Shift	47	
14	E. Perry Re 10d 47 Extended Lines	48	
15	Frank Salichs Re - New York PAID QUARTERLY	49	
16	J.G. Fleckenstein Re - 2 Covers Daniels Sale	50	
17	Dr W.S. Polland Re - China & Japan	51	
18	J.G. Fleckenstein Re Covers Bought From STARK	52	
19	Van Dyk MacBride Re Controversy With Molesworth	53	
20	Lee Chadwick Re Four Singles - 3d 61 And 3 Grills	54	
21	Jack Fleckenstein Re - Sale of His PLATE ONE Ear.	55	
22	" Molesworth Re - 10d 47 - St Louis Bear see page 25	56	
23	Henry Goodkind P.F. Re Jacobs 10d 55 -	57	
24	Henry Macle (Millard Macle) Re - 24d 1869	58	
25	Jack Molesworth 10d 47 Unused St Louis Bear	59	
26	Jere Hess Barr Re 24d Bank Note	60	
27	Gordon Harmer Re - 24d 1861 60A	61	
28	Henry Meyer Re Detroit U.S. Mail Ship	62	
29	J.G. Fleckenstein Re 90d 1869 Two 15d 69 Covers	63	
30	E.C. KRUG Re 4 Covers From PAIGE SALE 12/10-53	64	
31	Mout Neinken Re - 1d 57 Cover 'DUE 1'	65	
32	Morris Fortgang Re Plating Pl. 6	66	
33	W.L. Maude " " "	67	
34	Jack Molesworth 5d 61 BUFF 10d 57.V.	68	

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Saturday P.M. Nov. 14, 1953.
Birmingham, Alabama.

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

Dear Stan,

I have your letter with the Molesworth affair and want to write you more at length my ideas about it. I dont want to bother you about anything while Stan, Jr. is home but this mail brought me this lot from a sale of H.R.Harmer last Monday and I wanted you to see it and if it was good. You may want to photograph it if it is and need not rush there-for to return it. But please advise me so I can pay off Ezra. I sure hope it is good for it is in such nice condition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'E. J. ...', written in dark ink.

P. S. Return postage is enclosed.

Enclosed lot 26- H.R.Harmer Sale 11/9/53- \$84.00

Per Steam via New York



Recd
Hyde Park N.Y.
June 18 - 1850



Black

Black

Miss Maria Brown

Recd
19?

Care of Mess^{rs} Brown Shipley & Co.

Liverpool

England.

C172 | H.R. Harmer sale - Nov 9 1953 - Lot 26 - | See S.B.
Bot By E.C. Krug - \$80⁰⁰ 54 Debit To | No. 29
G.B. Date June 1850 - 1 shilling Due | Page 1

Nov. 16, 1953.

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

Dear Em:

Herewith the 5¢ 1847 cover. It seems that 1847 covers used abroad are becoming more and more appreciated or did the Hyde Park, N.Y. feature cause the competition? Silly to consider, but surely possible.

I signed it on the back. In this case, the encircled "5" was a debit to G.B. plus a cancelation. One shilling (24¢) was collected from the addressee, of which the U. S. share was 5¢. The 5¢ stamp paid nothing as the full rate of 24¢ had to be paid or nothing - It was all or none - no part pay, hence the 5¢ stamp was null and void. If there is a red "19" on the stamp (as described) it was an error.

Stan Jr. is home and we are quite busy.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--DI did

C-172

H.R. Hornum Sale - No 29
Bot by M.C. N. C. N. 1951
Date June 1950 - still 1951
Debit 1953 - Lot 26 -
No. 2005

G.B. Date June 1950 - still 1951
Debit 1953 - Lot 26 -
No. 2005

H. R. Harriet Sale

Nov 9 1953

Lot 26

Y.O.P.
E.C.K.

WATCHES—CLOCKS—DIAMONDS
GIFT JEWELRY, SILVERWARE

WATCH REPAIRING

ENGRAVING

— MARSHALL —
JEWELRY—STAMP & COIN CO.

18½ South Conception Street • Phone 3-7589

MOBILE, ALABAMA

11-13-53

STAMP & COIN COLLECTIONS
BOUGHT & SOLD

COMPLETE LINE OF
COINS & STAMPS

CATALOGS • ALBUMS
& SUPPLIES

Dear Stanley:

Enclosed are two stamps which was
sold to the above firm for the
special printings of 1882.

What are they? I don't think
these are what they have
~~been~~ been represented to be.

The above person is OK.
Please send him a statement
for examination of these
stamps, as a friend of mine
is interested in purchasing
them.

Sincerely
Dave Ellis

MARSHALL
JEWELRY—STAMP & COIN CO.

18½ South Conception Street

MOBILE, ALABAMA



*noted
11-16-53*



REGISTERED
11423

Mr Stanley Ashbrook

P. O. Box 31

Ft Thomas Kentucky

33 North Ft Thomas Ave



Nov. 16, 1953.

Mr. Adrian W. Marshall,
18½ South Conception St.,
Mobile, Ala.

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Herewith the two stamps that were sent to me on the 13th by my good friend Dr. Sellers, with the query if these are S.U.S. #205C and #211D. I have examined these carefully and I am quite sure that these are not the Special Prints as above, but the ordinary and common stamps. However, if there is any question in your mind, may I respectfully suggest that you submit the two items to the

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

There is no fee for the above but you can refund to me the forwarding postage.

Very truly yours,



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 17, 1953

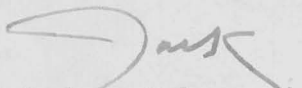
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P. O. Box 31
53 No. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan,

I am enclosing a rather pretty looking cover on which I am rather sure the stamps attached have been added and are not the ones originally used thereon. I would greatly appreciate your examining the cover and confirming this fact and possibly indicating what rate is called for by the markings and address as well as the type of stamp that might possibly have been used hereon originally.

I am enclosing an envelope for your air-special reply.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

Nov. 18, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Your special of yesterday, the 17th, (postmarked 8 P.M.) arrived at 1 P.M. today. I am returning the cover herewith.

First. The use was apparently March 15, 1870 from Baltimore, Md. - On back - New York Mar 16 - The Rome postmark shows "70." None of these markings indicate any change, monkey-business, fixing, or faking, therefore, I assume the use was actually March 1870.

Second. The New York type of marking and wording is correct for that period. The "BR. TRANSIT" and the red "VERVIERS" marking on face prove that the letter was transmitted "Via Closed Mail thru England." There is a faint red "4" on the face which also proves this transit, as well as a rate of 19¢. In other words, on a rate of 10¢, by this route, we retained 15¢ and credited Italy with 4¢.

Third. The official table of Foreign Rates of April 1870, show,

"Roman or Papal States
Closed Mail Via England - 19¢ per 1/2 ounce."

I am sending you herewith two prints greatly enlarged of the rates in effect on April 1, 1870. Note "Roman States." If you would like to have this table - 2 prints - send me your check for \$3.00. In this respect I might add that due to numerous changes in rates in 1870 and 1871, this list is quite valuable.

Again regarding the cover. It certainly does look like someone had monkeyed with the stamps. The 15¢ stamp has a pen mark at upper left, which does not extend into the black border. The stamp also shows black cancels, etc. There are other suspicious things which I am sure that you noted. Inasmuch as the use was March 1870, I doubt very much if Bank Note stamps were used originally as March 15, 1870 would be too early.

For similar 19¢ rates to Italy see Knapp Second Sale, Lots 1740-1770 and 1771. All of these have credits of "4" in red.

The above is the story and I think that you will agree that it would be impossible for me to sign the cover on the back as genuine, that is, that the 15¢ stamp was used originally on this envelope, though I suppose the two 2¢ might have been, but probably not in the position they now occupy.

The following is strictly confidential, so please treat it as such.

#2. Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - Nov. 18, 1953.

I was urged to furnish a photograph of the 90¢ 1861 cover showing the fake perforations at left. Because this cover was loaned to me at my request and in confidence, I refused the request. No prints of this cover have passed out of my hands and none will be given out. I can not offer sounder or better advice than the following - never monkey with a stamp or cover in any way that would change what it was originally. Naturally, this does not apply to the removal of dirt, grease, etc., nor does it apply to restoring an oxidized stamp thru the use of peroxide.

My fee on this cover is \$3.00.

Sincerely yours,

Black
20 MAR 1870



Rev. Dr. S. M. Chastard

Red
Mar 15 1870

American College
Rome

Red
4

Red
"VERVIERS Italy

By Molesworth
see S.B. 29
P. 3

P.D.

MAR 15

Black



Rec'd Dr. S. M. Clark

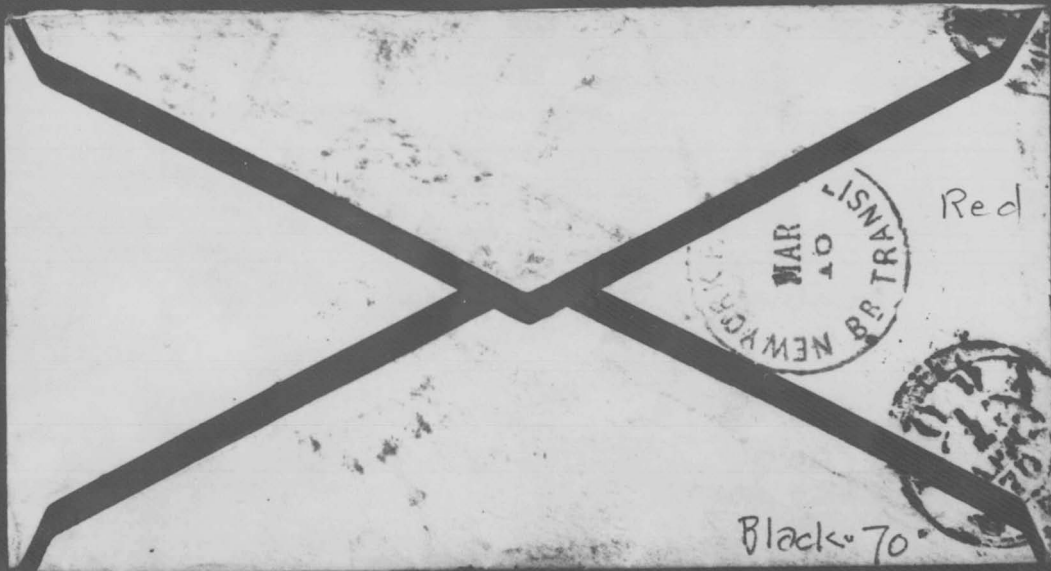
Rec'd
Mar 15 1870

American College
Rome

Rec'd
4

Rec'd
"VERVIERS Italy

By Molesworth
See S.B. 29
P. 3



By Molesworth
See S.B. 29
P. 3

Nov. 25, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. McInroy:

I had a 3¢ '61 cover sent to me today that had been submitted by Molesworth of Boston to a friend of mine. Molesworth had this marked as a "real Pigeon Blood" - price \$75.00. I wonder if this might be the same cover that was in the Herst sale. It is a yellow buff envelope with a 3¢ 61 tied by Connecticut postmark, the last letters of which are "-----BRIDGE CT." and "OCT ? 1861." It is addressed to "WILLIMONTIC CT." There are two half strikes of the postmark. Inasmuch as my opinion was not requested I did not take time out to examine the stamp but it does look like a very nice "PINK."

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 25, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Mr. Edgar Jessup stopped off here today for a short visit on his way home and requested me to return these four covers to you.

I note one is a 3¢ 1861 marked as a "real pigeon blood." This looks a bit familiar to me and I wonder if I have seen it before? By any chance, was this a cover that came up recently in a Herst sale? I do not receive his catalogues.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Jessup.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Enclosed:

3¢ '61 cover	priced	\$75.00
3¢ '57 "	"	25.00
3¢ '57 "	"	15.00
3¢ '57 "	"	25.00
		<u>\$140.00</u>

insured - registered - mail

#64 V.F. - Super Copy of Exceptional Color
A Real Gem! → Net \$75.00

~~THE~~ The Real "Pigeon Blood" Pink

Submitted To E. B. Jessup By
Jack Molesworth As A
Pigeon Blood - Price \$75.00
NO Opinion Given By S. B. A
- Returned To Molesworth
By S. B. A. For Jessup 11/25/53
See 29 - P. 4 - Yellow Butt
Envelope - Oct 61.

Recd. W. B. Lang 5/10/61

Am. 7/10/61
Pings

BRIDGE
N. H.
J. G. Willard
Williamantic

Ch



Submitted To E. B. Jessup By
Jack Molesworth As A
Pigeon Blood - Price \$75⁰⁰
No Opinion Given By S. B. A
- Returned To Molesworth
By S. B. A. For Jessup 11/25-53
See 29 - P. A - Yellow Butt
Envelope - Oct 61.



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 24, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

Enclosed is an interesting cover with a two-dollar Omaha tied thereon. Though I believe that the full town cancel is quite genuine I am rather curious as to the reason for the other parts of a town cancel that show on the same stamp.

If possible I would appreciate your opinion as to whether you feel these parts of the cancel were applied at the same time as the town cancel or whether you feel the stamp had been previously used before being placed and tied on this cover.

While in New York for the A.S.D.A. show I had a long conversation with MacBride and our relations have been somewhat improved to the extent that we have both agreed that our controversy on the auction buying method of "offsetting" is the result of an honest difference of opinion which involves no intent on the part of either of us to cause any reflection on the integrity or personal ethics of the other. He denied any knowledge of and agreed that it was extremely unfortunate that as a result of the request for clarification of the policy which he has filed with the A.S.D.A. someone else has spread malicious and untrue rumors that this policy was used by me in order to buy items for my own stock at a very low price by offsetting bids received on certain lots against fictitious high bids that I did not have. Naturally this is libelous and will be so dealt with once the source is revealed. MacBride mentioned having heard from you about the matter.

Though there is no necessity of your confirming the fact, I now understand that the dealer who originally sent MacBride a copy of my original letter and who has been sending copies around to several people is Ezra Cole. Please keep this reference strictly confidential. I am writing Ezra today to inquire as to his opinions in the matter.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/nmm

Nov. 28, 1953.

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth,
102 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Jack:

I have yours of the 24th and I was pleased to learn that MacBride and you had a meeting and came to an understanding. I was surprised at your reference to Ezra Cole, and I believe that your suspicions are in error. Cole is not the sort of chap who would bother to damage anyone and in my opinion, he would be the last person to go to the trouble to have photostats made, etc., etc., etc. MacBride will confirm my statement that he sent me a photostat of your letter. I made a microfilm of it for future reference and returned it to him. I can assure you that I will keep your letter strictly confidential. As you are aware, Ezra is a very close friend of mine and has been for many years. I simply cannot believe that he would go out of his way to mix in other people's business. I will not mention the matter to him, but, of course, I will welcome word confirming my opinion that your suspicions are totally unfounded.

Re - the \$2.00 Omega cover which I am returning herewith. I don't know what to think of this - It certainly has a very bad appearance, and while it has some bad points, it also has some that are good - Note the "9" in 1901 of the marking that "ties" the stamp. This "9" is totally unlike the "9" in the genuine(?) strike to left of stamp. It looks like someone attempted to tie a used stamp to this cover. If so, he didn't do a real bad job - it could have been worse. If this was a fine stamp and an attractive cover I would make photos by ultra-violet and also thru a red screen, but I don't think the cover is worth the fee I would have to charge you. Without such tests I believe the best that I could do would be to state that I don't like the looks, but I suppose the stamp might have originated and that the P.M. hit the stamps several times to cancel it, thus all the rings at lower left.

With regards -

Yours etc.,



J. S. PAIGE,

PROVIDENCE,

P. O. Box 1182.

R. I.

RARE + undecatalogued

cat. 125.00

By Jack Molesworth - 1/27-53 - Was stamp used
on cover - See S.B. 29 - p. 5 - Brown Built
Envelope - Weston 50 - FB - 1/2 - This 15 1/2 - FB - Yel - 1/10 sec



J. S. PAIGE,

PROVIDENCE,

P. O. Box 1182.

R. I.

RARE + undecatalogued

cat. 125.00

By Jack Molesworth - 11/27-53 - Was stamp used
on cover - See S.B. 29 - p. 5 - Brown Built
Envelope - Weston 50 = FB - 1/2 - This 15 1/2 - FB - Yel - 1/10 sec

29/6

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

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

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

FORMERLY
HAYNES AND KOENIG
TELEPHONE-CENTRAL 0109
CABLE ADDRESS
PATENT

November 27, 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed is a cover bearing a bisected 10c 1847 apparently paying the postage from Ballard Vale, Mass., to Lower Bartlett, N.H. Please let me have your opinion as to whether the bisect "belongs". I enclose another cover which apparently is from the same correspondence, bearing a 5c 1847, which was sent to me with the bisect.

Although the bisect seems to be from the same correspondence as some of those listed by Brookman in his books on 19th century U.S., it is not included in the list, but you may have some record of the enclosed cover nevertheless.

If you will let me know your fee I'll be glad to send you a check promptly.

Sincerely,
John D. Pope III

29/6

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

Dec. 4, 1953.

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

Dear Mr. Pope:

Herewith the two 1847 covers as per yours of the 27th. I have examined the 10¢ split very carefully and I am convinced that it is genuine in every way. I was unable to find anything suspicious and of course the 5¢ cover is excellent evidence of the genuineness of the split. This cover was before the day of the stamp collector and the fixing of philatelic items, hence an item such as this, in my opinion, is of special interest. It was not until late in 1853 that the Postmaster General forbid recognition to portions of adhesive postage stamps.

I have no record of this cover in my files but the "D.F.K." in pencil at right appears to be in the handwriting of the late Judge Emerson, so ~~no~~ doubt it did come from his collection. I have signed the cover on back as follows - "In my opinion this cover is genuine."

My fee for this examination is \$3.50 which includes return postage.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,





580



688



700



742



748



744



751



756



757



784



786



787



759



792



863



838



870



871



902



875



903



898



933



942



934



1084



965



1024



1096



1151



1092



1160



1163

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

CANADIAN STAMPS

744	○	1851	6p grayish purple (2) 3 fine margins, yet a fine copy (Photo)	65.00
745	⊗	1851-55	3p red (4) a very fine looking copy, slight crease, tied to a small neat cover, addressed to London	12.00+
746	○	—	3p red (4) 3 fine margins, close at top fine copy	12.00
747	○	—	3p red (4) Sheet margin at Top, cuts into at left side, yet a very fine copy	12.00
748	○	—	3p red Vertical Pair (4) Superb appearance, tiny corner thin (Photo)	24.00+
749	⊗	—	3p red (4) 4 margin copy tied by a Target Cancel, Superb appearance, tiny scissor cut in Bottom margin, almost invisible, a real fine cover	12.00
750	○	—	3p on Ribbed Paper (4c) 3 large margins just touching at LL corner, yet a fine item	35.00
751	○	—	6p slate gray (5) light crease, a real fine looking copy (Photo)	70.00
752	⊗	—	6p slate gray (5) 3 fine margins, close at B, very fine looking copy, tied to cover, 1 corner of stamp has a slight repair, yet a very fine and desirable cover, cancelled Canada and Montreal in Red and Black Target	70.00
753	○	1855	10p blue (7) skillfully repaired, a very fine looking copy, light cancel	70.00
754	○	—	10p blue (7) slight corner repair, yet a fine looking copy	70.00
755	★	1857	½p rose (8) corner defect yet 4 margined copy, very fine looking	60.00
756	○	—	½p rose (8) almost Superb (Photo)	30.00
757	○	—	7½p green (9) close margins, yet a very fine lightly cancelled copy (Photo)	120.00
758	○	—	7½p green (9) pen cancel, close margins, a fine looking copy	120.00
759	○	1857	6p reddish purple (10) thinned, yet a very fine looking copy, light cancel, Rare (Photo)	200.00
760	○	1859	10c, 2 shades (17) fine to very fine	14.00
761	★	—	12½c green (18) fine, no gum	17.50
762	★	1864	2c rose (20) tiny thin spot in Top margin, no gum, yet a fine looking copy	22.50
763	○	1859-75	Lot of 11 stamps (Bet. 15-27) 4 unused, good to fine lot	69.50
764	⊗	1859-98	7 Covers (15, 38, 39 etc.) fine to very fine lot	—
765	★	1868	1c brown red, brilliant color (22) og very fine	15.00
766	★	—	1c deep orange (23a) perfs touch at top, yet og fine	30.00
767	★	—	2c green (24) no gum, yet a fine copy	13.00
768	★	—	3c red (25) og fine, nicely centered	15.00
769	★	—	5c olive green (26) light cancel, a fine copy	6.00
770	★	—	6c brown (27) no gum, well centered, very fine copy	20.00
771	★	—	12½c blue (28) 2 shades, no gum, fine lot	24.00
772	★	—	15c, 2 Var (29, 30) og very fine	6.50
773	★	1870	3c rose (37a) og almost Superb	13.50
774	★	1888	3c to 50c (41-47) og a fine set	22.75
775	★	1870-98	Lot of 20 stamps incl. 2 Blocks (Bet. 34-86) incl. 36d, 40b, 45 og a fine lot	37.90
776	★	1897	Jubilee Issue ½c to 50c (50-60) og fine to very fine set	20.85
777	★田	—	½c to 6c (50-55) in Blocks of 4, og fine to very fine set	36.40

458th Public Auction

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

Collection of

UNITED STATES
BRITISH EMPIRE



Formed and Sold By Order of Dr. H. R. Robertson, Warren, Penn.

November 12th, 13th, 16th, 1953

Thursday, Friday, Monday, 2 P. M.

AT OUR OFFICE

GREGORY MOZIAN, Auctioneer

VAHAN MOZIAN, Inc.

Est. 1901

505 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Vanderbilt 6-0162

"1901 — Our 52nd Anniversary Year — 1953"



26



27



30



31



36



38



18



44



48



50



51



46



55



67



85



89



112



114



147



155



159



164



165



205



216



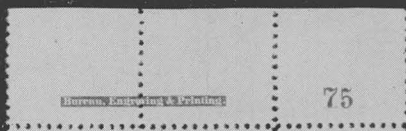
217



218



219



75



246



248



249



458th Sale

229

VAHAN MOZIAN INC

251

FIRST SESSION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, 1953 — 2 P. M.

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

UNITED STATES PROOFS

1	New York Postmaster 5c green (9XTC) with probable Trial canc. very fine looking, sl. corner thin est net 10.00	—
2	1847 5c, 10c on card (3P, 4P) very fine	22.50
3	1851-60 1c-90c on Card (40P-47P) very fine set	39.00
4	1861 1c-90c on Card (63P, 65, 76, 68-74, 77P) 11 Varieties, V fine	43.25
5	1861 5c brown vertical pair on india (76P) very fine, altho top stamp thin	5.00
6	1869 1c-90c on card (112P-122P) 10 Varieties, V fine	45.75
7	1870-71 1c-90c on india (145P-155P) complete set fine to V. fine	38.25
8	1873 Small Die 1c-90c (156P-166P) Complete set of 11, from 1904 Roosevelt Album, V fine	86.00
9	1875-83 V. fine lot on Card (178P, 79P, 205P, 211P)	14.15
10	1887 1c blue on india (212P) V fine looking, wee bit thin Rare	22.50
11	1887-88 2c-90c on Card (213P-218P) V fine	14.75
12	1890-93 Small Die 1c-90c (219P-229P) 11 Varieties complete, from 1904 Roosevelt Album, V. fine	66.00
13	1893 Columbia 1c-\$5 on Card (230P-245P) complete set, V fine	86.50
	complete size 200 X 150mm V. fine & Rare set, Est net 100.00	—
	complete size 200x150mm V. fine & Rare set, Est net 100.00	—
14	Trans-Mississippi Bi-Colored Large Die Proofs 1c-\$2 ((285P-293P) complete size 200 X 150mm V. fine & Rare set, Est net 100.00	—
15	Pan-American Large Die Proofs 1c-10c (294P-299P) Complete, fine to V fine and Rare	135.00
16	Specimens 1895 1c-\$5 (264SE-278SE) 3c has scrape on face, bal. fine to V. fine	115.00
17	— Pan American 1c-10c Specimens (294SE-299SE) V fine set og	75.00

U. S. ESSAYS

18 E	1851 Gov't. & Co. 3c scarlet Die on bond (Br. 33E-CB) very fine & Scare (Photo)	—
19 E	1851 Draper Welsh & co. 3c black Die on bond (33E-Hb) very fine	—

U. S. STAMPLESS COVERS

20	☒ 1845 "St. Augustine FLT" red circle, very fine strike	—
21	☒ 1845 "Bloomingburg, O."str line in black very fine strike & Cover	—
22	☒ 1839 "Warren R. I. Mar. 20" 3 lines in box, black very fine strike & Cover	—
23	☒ Lot of 6 Covers incl. Hale, American Mail Co, Eastern R. R., U. S. Express Mail N. Y., Steam 10, fine to V fine	—

- 24 **Lot of 29 Covers** All different, Mainly from Ind., Mass., N. Y., Ohio, Penn., plus 7 Covers manuscript towns, interesting lot fine to V. fine

NEW YORK POSTMASTER

- 25 ○ **1845** 5c black (9X1) fine looking, tiny nick at R 60.00

U. S. GENERAL ISSUES

1847

- 26 ○ **5c red brown** (1) Superb copy, red grid **(Photo)** 27.50
 27 ○ **5c red brown** (1) very fine, 4 fine margins, red town cancel **(Photo)** 27.50
 28 ○ **5c brown** (1) fine copy, light red grid 27.50
 29 ○ **5c red brown** (1) fine, blue grid margins at L & R, touches at T & B 27.50
 30 ○ **5c red brown** (1) horizontal pair, fine **(Photo)** 82.50
 31 ○ **5c red brown** (1) horizontal pair, red grid, right stamp superb, and left stamp sl. crease **(Photo)** 82.50
 32 ★ **5c brown** (1) 3 margins touches at T, part of fine copy 70.00
 33 **5c red brown** (1) double transfer at bottom line, superb tied with N. Y. red grid. to neat cover 75.00
 34 **5c red brown** (1) with red "5" on pretty cover, stamped Baltimore superb stamp & Cover 45.00+
 35 **5c brown** (1) superb tied with pen cancel to neat cover 15.00+
 36 ○ **10c black** (2) sheet margin at L, very fine, close at T, blue grid. **(Photo)** 90.00
 37 ○ **10c black** (2) fine copy, light red cancel, 3 fine margins, close at B 80.00
 38 ○ **10c black** (2) fine copy, 3 large margins, close at TR corner red grid. **(Photo)** 80.00
 39 ○ **10c black** (2) sl. defect, good copy, red grid 80.00
 40 **10c black** (2) 4 large margin copy, tiny closed tear at B margin, tied to pretty cover with red grid, "U.S. Express Mail, Mass." 100.00
 41 **Diagonal Bisect 10c black** (2a) pen canc. on cover from "Ballard Vale, MS" to Lower Bartlett N.H., together with a 5c on cover from same correspondent (Ex. Judge Emerson Collection) **(Photo)** 750.00

1851-57

- 42 ○ **1c blue Type II** (7) 2 copies, both V fine looking, with minor faults 20.00
 43 ○ **1c blue Type IV** (9) very fine copy, lightly cancelled 7.50
 44 ○ **1c blue Type IV** (9) very fine copy, sheet margin at B **(Photo)** 7.50
 45 ○ **1c blue Type IV** (9) vertical pair, touches at B, top stamp superb 22.50
 46 **3c dull red** (11) block of 4 fine **(Photo)** 40.00
 47 **3c dull red** (11) 4 covers and 3c (26) 4 covers, some are interesting town cancels, fine lot
 48 ○ **5c red brown** (12) fine copy, red town pmk **(Photo)** 70.00
 49 ○ **10c green Type II** (14) very fine copy 16.00
 50 ○ **10c green type III** (15) Superb copy **(Photo)** 16.00
 51 ○ **10c green type III** (15) Superb copy **(Photo)** 16.00
 52 **10c green Type III** (15) 2 large margins, touches at B, tied to cover Sacramento City to Mass 20.00
 53 **10c green Type III** (15) very fine tied with pen cancel to pretty Cover "Folsom City, Cal." to N.Y. 16.00+



270



274



271



273



282



283



285



288



286



299



309



337



340



349



321



348



351



360



362



359



330



355



412



369



375



388



378



382



443



483



461

544

516

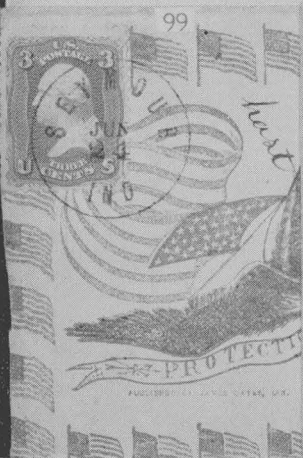


41

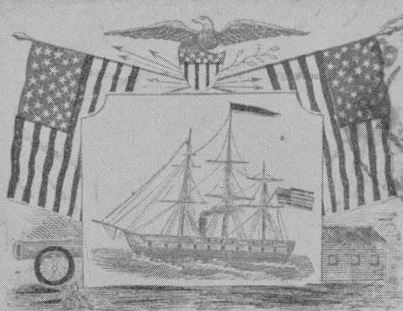


139

*Arthur ...
N. H. ...
N. H.*



99



Our Army and Navy Forever!
Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue!

98

Miss ...

POPE III SEE 29-6

Bollard Vole Mass
Mar 13



7

Bollard Vole Mass
Mar 13 51

Miss Mary Stephen
Lawrence Bartlett
N. H.

By J. D. P.

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

29/6

A407

Bollard Vale Mass
Feb 3



Bollard Vale Mass

Feb 3 (51?)

Miss Mary Stillman
Dedebornton Bridge
N. H.

By JDP

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

29/6

Pullard Salem
Mar 13



Miss Mary Stey + me
Lawyer Bartlett
N. H.

29/6

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

10c diagonal half pen cane on cover from "Ballardvale,
Ms." to "Lower Bartlett, N. H." together with a
5c on cover from the same correspondent,

BZ/S

Mar 13 57

8.7K
Pensions
#600/22

565

Judge Emmerson.
Collection. 6/26/39

Lot 61 (Kelleher) #69 - Greber 8-21-42

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

29/6

Baltim Calms
Feb 3



Miss Mary Stillman
Dartmouth Bridge
N. H.

29/6

PROPERTY OF
PHILATELIC FOUNDATION



Jack E. Molexworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 1, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

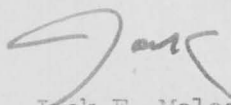
My thanks for sending back the covers which I had sent along for Edgar Jessop's inspection. Though it is possible you may have seen the #64 marked as "real pigeon blood" to the best of my knowledge it did not come from a recent Herst auction, at least I picked it up several months ago and that was not my source.

Many thanks for your comments on the two-dollar Omaha cover. Regarding my reference to Ezra Cole, I wrote him indicating that it had been suggested to me that he was the dealer who originally called my auction policy to MacBride's attention by sending him a copy of my letter outlining this policy (which I assumed had been sent to him by one of his clients to whom it may have been written). He replied that he had heard of the controversy, did see the letter which I wrote, and in his opinion did not agree with this auction policy, though also stated that any objections he had would certainly not be personal. Since he did not deny the suggestion which had been made to me, I assumed that the suggestion was correct. However, as I indicated to him in my letter I was criticizing this action as it would certainly be his privilege to discuss anything of this nature with anyone he desired and I certainly would have no objections. I then asked that if he disagreed with the policy that he be kind enough to outline his reasons, though in answering my letter he did not elaborate. I know that Ezra is a friend of yours and have always considered him to be a good friend of mine and I do not mean to criticize him for any such action. Naturally, if someone were to attempt to use such a policy as this in order to pull business away from him, I can see where he might have just cause for being disturbed. However, as I am writing him, I have no desire whatsoever to compete with him for auction bids and have never solicited a client who I knew used his services other than to state that I would be pleased to be of assistance to them if he at any time was unable to attend a sale in which they were interested. My only interest in executing auction bids is to further my own knowledge of the current interests of my clients which all too often can be determined in no other way, rather than to earn the small agent's commission which I rarely consider to be adequate compensation for the effort involved. I would still appreciate your keeping all above comments as well as prior ones confidential.

Enclosed are four covers on which I would appreciate your opinion and

signature and comments on the reverse if genuine. The Express cover is from the notorious Tandler correspondence and therefore is open to suspicion I do not understand the small piece of 3¢ - 1869 on the large cover but maybe you can explain it. Please return these by registered air mail, special delivery and add the cost to your fee.

With kind regards,



Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mn

Dec. 3, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the four items as per yours of the 1st.

1) 12¢ Bisect. I see no reason to doubt this but here is the story. In August and September 1853, the S.F. office ran out of 3¢ stamps, hence recognized splits of the 12¢. It has been stated that they sold such splits over the counter but this I doubt. When new supplies were received, they refused recognition to halves of the 12¢. Your cover shows such. The "10" on the face meant the bisect paid no rate and hence 10¢ was due (6¢ prepaid - 10¢ unpaid was the rate East in 1853). This mail was by the "S.S. Golden Gate on Sunday Oct. 16, 1853." A Sunday sailing was most unusual.

2) 24¢ 1869 cover - My records show that this office did use a green ink - There seems to be no question but what the use was April 1870, hence I see no reason to doubt that the 24¢ stamp was used originally on this cover. I believe the rate was 9 x 3¢ and the 3¢ was damaged in opening the letter, only a piece of it remaining.

3) 2¢ 1869 Bisect. This is probably genuine as there were a large number of stamp collectors in the late eighteen sixties. If I was sure that St. Louis used this type of killer in Sept. 1869 - or 1870, I would be disposed to express the opinion the cover is genuine. Perhaps some student of St. Louis markings could authenticate the killer. If you wish to return it I will send it over to my good friend Corwith Wagner.

4) I may be 100% wrong but I think this is a fake, that is, the black marking is bad. However, I am no student of Western Express covers and should, therefore, refrain from any opinion. I suggest you send this to Parker of Oroville, Calif. (W. R. Parker) or Edgar Jessup. Either one would be competent to pass on it.

I note your remarks re - Cole and of course I will keep same strictly confidential. I suggest that you have a talk with Ezra and no doubt you could easily come to an understanding.

My fee for the two covers is \$4.00 plus 62¢ postage - \$4.62.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

PAID
DEC 10 1953

Post Office Department

Received from:

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed
Mr. Jack E. Molesworth
to

102 Beacon Street
BOSTON (16) Mass.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Dec. 10, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 8th received with the two covers and check for \$4.62, for which my thanks.

Herewith I am returning the 3¢ 1861 cover with memo on the back. The Portland Exchange marking is rare. It shows a credit to G.B. of 24¢ (1 shilling) to carry the letter from England to China. We kept 21¢ - "Amer. Pkt.," 5¢ "Internal" plus .16¢ Sea.

I will send the 2¢ '69 cover to my friend Corwith Wagner.

Jack, if you have some fine covers no doubt I could sell them provided I could recommend them at the price. In cases where I could not recommend the condition or the price I would advise against the purchase. With these points in mind I would be glad to see anything you care to send me.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 8, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your extremely prompt reply on the four covers recently submitted. I am enclosing my check for \$4.62 plus the #113 bisect that I would appreciate your sending along to your friend, Mr. Wagner. I assume that if he okays the postmark you will be glad to sign the reverse. Advise additional fee and I shall be glad to remit.

I am also enclosing another cover that has little value but which I would appreciate your advising on whether you agree with my deductions as to the rate and missing stamp.

I frequently have on hand as at present nice 19th century U. S. covers of the better grade type with scarce or rare postmarks or stamps and generally in fairly nice condition. I know that you probably have contacts with such people as I lack, such as Krugx and others who might be interested in such items and therefore wonder if you would be interested in having me send along a selection of these for you to try to sell. I would be pleased to allow you a 20% discount from my retail prices which should be quite fair and also give you whatever amount of time you deem necessary to give them a fair try. Let me know if this would be of interest to you.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

*Chas Molesworth
Postage to Wagner
& return*

*36
33
69*

694

Dec. 10, 1953.

Mr. C. Corwith Wagner,
Suite 1834 Boatmen's Bank Bldg.,
314 North Broadway,
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Corwith:

I am enclosing herewith a 2¢ 1869 cover with a half of a 2¢. I dislike such things but my opinion has been asked and I would hate to verify it if anything is wrong. In your opinion, did St. Louis use a killer such as this in Sept. 1869 or the early seventies? I seriously doubt if St. Louis used a time postmark any earlier than 1871 or possibly 1872. I am wondering if you have any data on that point?

By the seventies there were thousands of stamp collections and from the beginning there were always some busy-bodies who tried to make "rarities." I wouldn't pay any real money for such trash as the enclosed and besides such uses were forbidden recognition by the P.O.D.

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

With the Compliments of the Season -

Cordially yours,

114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N. Y.
November 27, 1953.

Dear Stanley:

Many, many thanks for your instructive comments in your letter of Nov. 10th on the various items I had submitted. I should have answered you long before this, but the pre-Thanksgiving rush for paper and twine, not to mention toilet paper, has really kept me busy.

I am returning herewith the card showing the Weill Curl which you noted more than twenty-three years ago. You plated the position as illustrated on this card as 34R9 and I agree. Positions 74R9 and 33R9 also show this curl as you described in your Work Vol. 1 Pg. 290. Position 73R9 and 32R9 in early printings show the tiniest traces of the little semi-circle at left. Inasmuch as positions 34R9 - 74R9 and 33R9 show this curl much as you illustrate it on the enclosed card, is it possible that you made a slight error in your illustration of this curl as shown on same page, figure "E"?

(1) I suspect that the Weill curl is one of the rarest of the Type V plate varieties. In your work you say: "The small object,,,,, must have been very fine..... It is quite doubtful if late printings from these three positions show much evidence of it." How true! Of the literally thousands of Type V stamps I have examined in the past three years, I have only found one example of this variety, a pair which I am enclosing herewith and plates 73R9 - 74R9. I showed you this pair last May after you showed me a print of the Weill curl which plates 34R9. Apparently you had forgotten that this curl shows on three positions and you wrote me in your letter of May 18, in comparing the enclosed pair with the print: "I guess there is no doubt but what the right stamp is the Weill curl, though there are some differences in the two stamps which may be due to plate wear."

(2) Re "A" relief showing curl to left of eye. This variety baffles me and also fascinates me. I am enclosing five strips of three and a single which I have designated "A" - "B" - "C" - "D" - "E" and "F" respectively.

Strip "A" is a grand early impression and shows nice plating marks. The two stamps to right in strip "A" plate with two stamps to left in strip "B" and so we have a reconstruction of four. The single, "F" plates with stamp to right in strip "B". Middle stamp in strip "A" shows a fine horizontal line that begins at ornament "D" and runs through the entire length of Franklin's head and seems to show halfway across head in stamp to right. Recently you showed me a single mounted on a plating card on which you illustrated this curl. This stamp also showed a line in Franklin's head which I illustrated in pencil on your card. I am wondering whether that stamp doesn't plate with one of the stamps in strip "A".

I had already shown you strips "C" and "D", both late impressions and quite poor for our purposes. Strip "E" is also a late impression, but interesting in that stamp to right does not show this curl, indicating that curl first appeared in middle stamp. You will note that the fourteen stamps that show this curl have one thing in common, i.e. they all show a small curl in colorless oval directly under "T" of "Postage". The stamp that does not show curl to left of eye does not show the marking under the "T".

Nov.27,1953

I have tried to match the guide dots in the verticals, but without success. You will note that middle stamp in strip "C" shows four dots at upper right. The earliest use I have seen of this "A" curl is April 21, 1858. This is a circular from Troy to Philadelphia and is lot #189 in the next Siegel sale. I shall go for it definitely. If Plate 5, would this be earliest known use?

Re-- Our reconstruction of three "B" reliefs Plate 6. You write: "I suppose we are right in suspecting that this "strip of three" comes from the left pane of Plate 6, because the single "E" stamp looks like an "E" from the right pane, possibly 41R6..... Too bad we cannot identify this "E" single." End quote. Comparing this "E" relief with 41R6 on negative 4 and with 41R6 in V.S. of three on negative 36 leaves no doubt but that your plating is correct and this "E" relief is 41R6. Note especially the diagonal line between "O" and "S" of "Postage" as shown on negative 4.

(3) Furthermore, several months ago I showed you three singles, reliefs "A", "B" and "D", that I had removed from a cover. The "B" relief plates with middle stamp in our "strip of three" while the "A" and "D" reliefs definitely come from Plate 6. You agreed at the time that this just about proved that the "B" relief was Plate 6 also. I am enclosing these three stamps herewith.

Also enclosed is another "B" same position, an early impression, and a most gorgeous shade of blue. By way of contrast with this blue, I am enclosing a 6 cent Banknote in a rich Indian Red shade. Would you agree with me, Stanley, if I suggested that these two colors are the most beautiful on any stamp issued by this or any other government? Can't locate Indian Red now. it will follow.

(4) Re-- 52L5. Wouldn't you say that the perforations of the "E" and "F" reliefs match perfectly and that the "E" relief plates 42L5? Isn't this a nice reconstruction of four, 42L5 - 43L5 and 52L5 - 53L5? I have just found another copy of 53L5 and now I have three examples of this position.

Re -- Single "D" relief with "doublecurl". Inasmuch as this position shows no side scratches, and ornaments at right are practically complete, this must come from Plate 6? I suspect 8OR6? I suspect Mort's V.S. of three is 8OR6 - 9OR6 - 10OR6?

Thanks for the photo of the H.S. strip of three of the "C" relief. That is quite a smoke screen across upper label of stamp to right. You also show this strip on negative B389. I thought Mort's H.S. of three could be 24L6 - 25L6 - 26L6? Mort suggested the plating and I thought 26L6? plated with 26L6 as shown on negative A300. The plating marks are faint and probably inconclusive? Mort insists he finally found something from Plate 6.

If you didn't read the report of Mort's talk and mine in the Collector's Club Philatelist of November, page 326, please don't; it is that stupid. Mort's constant throwing of bouquets in my direction is very embarrassing. If he thinks I enjoy the odor of these bouquets; I don't, and yet I don't know how to tell him to desist; he is a grand guy, but quite sensitive.

Nov. 27, 1953

I suspect that the dealer who wrote you that "Mort informed him that Plate 6 material was not near as scarce as Ashbrook imagined" was Ward. Mort advised me recently that he was corresponding with Ward re Plate 6 material and that Ward would pay me up to \$50. for my mint block from the left pane. Big deal. Such generosity! If Plate 6 material is not so scarce, why doesn't Mort sell him his mint block of 8 or break it in half? What prompted Mort to comment on the relative scarcity of Plate 6 material? Did he make any extraordinary find lately? Or was his opinion inspired by the progress we made recently without his aid? Let Mort or anyone else find an "A"- "B" pair from the first five or six vertical rows of the left pane. The old proverb still holds true: "A little knowledge is dangerous."

I suppose you have other things to do, Stanley, besides reading this stuff and so I will call a halt, although I have so many interesting? things to show you and I don't know where to begin.

Just one more word. If Jack Molesworth submitted a Type IIIA stamp to you and stated that I plated it as Type IC, Jack was misinformed.

With our best regards,

*P.S. I would be pleased
to receive prints of the Newbury
pane of 90.*

Sincerely,
Morris.

m.

Dec. 9, 1953.

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

Dear Morris:

Now for yours of the 27th. I must confess that I had forgotten all about the three "curls" from Plate 9. It has been a long time ago since I wrote the One Cent Book and when the Weill "curl" came along it did not register at all. Thanks for a second look at your pair of 73R9 - 74R9, which I am returning herewith. The only record that I now have of 73-74R9 is a photograph of Mort's right pane and it is not very good for reference purposes. However, I checked your pair very very carefully and I certainly agree that your pair on card #1 is unquestionably 73R9 - 74R9. I also agree that my illustration in my book on page 290 - Fig. 26E, is not very accurate. Yes, after carefully studying the three curl positions, the Weill single is undoubtedly 34R9.

#2 - Strips A - B - and single F. You certainly have a marvelous eyesight and, of course, your plating of these three items is absolutely correct. I agree that Strip "A" is a beautiful early print. I suggest that for future reference, we call Strip "A" - F1 - F2 - F3 and the "B" Strip - F2A - F3A - F4 and the "F" single F4A. The horizontal line thru head on F2 and half way on F3 is nice. It must have been a very shallow guide line on the plate that soon disappeared. The single that I sent you is the same as your "F1." I am sending it back so you can have another look as the curl is incomplete, and the "curl" on "F1" is partly covered by the cancel.

Again refer to F2 in your "A" strip. Recently you sent me a cover with a top row strip with the "Eye curl." Is the first stamp to left in this strip the same position as F2? I believe this cover was "New Orleans Oct. 12 1857" Correct? It is interesting to note that all "Eye curl" stamps have a small mark under the "T" of postage. I suggest we refer to this as the "T mark."

Your "E" strip is very interesting. The middle stamp in this strip seems to have only half a "curl." It is too bad that this strip is such a late print.

I also note that the middle stamp in the "C" strip shows four dots in the N.E. Corner. This is certainly most unusual and I do not recall that I ever noted such a variety before. If so, I have forgotten.

Re - early date of use of a Plate 5 stamp. I have no record - never recorded any date for this plate. If the order of manufacture was 6, 7, 8, 5 and all were made at about the same time, I suppose we should find uses of Plate 5 stamps in late(?) 1857. We will have to wait for the study of more material to decide a number of questions.

#3 - Re - your "A" - "B" & "D" copies - Your "D" is the small curl in head 34R6. I agree that the "B" stamp is the same position as the middle stamp in your reconstructed strip of three (two pairs). I should be able to locate the positions of this "B" reconstruction.

#2. Mr. Morris Fortgang - Dec. 9, 1953.

Your single "B" relief stamp with the red cancel is indeed a beautiful color. I will see if I can identify the plate later.

I agree that your plating of the two pairs is correct, viz., 42L5 - 43L5 - 52L5 - 53L5 - You have quite a good record of 53L5.

* * * * *

Again referring to your "D" strip. I am enclosing a single which is the same as the center stamp in your strip and proves that the "mottling" (?) on this position is consistent.

I note your reference to the "D" relief "double curl" and the possibility that this may be 80L6. I note your reference to Mort's vertical may possibly be 80R6 - 90R6 - 100R6, but I don't seem to have a record of this strip. However, I will make a further search.

* * * * *

When Mort gets a little further along I believe he will come to the conclusion that Pl. 6 material is really as scarce as we have stated. You have been most fortunate in locating quite a bit of new material but you have been the only one searching for it. That makes quite a difference.

No, Molesworth did not send me a Type IIIA stamp.

I note that you would like to have prints of the Newbury block of 90. I do not recall such a block. Did you mean his large block of 70 from the right pane of Plate 2? (First seven vertical rows of ten)

Incidentally, I probably have some Plate 6 photos which you have never seen, and most of which I have plated in the past. Would you like for me to loan some of these to you to see if you could plate them? If I can locate duplicates I suppose I could let you have such prints.

With best regards to Ann and you -

Cordially yours,

114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N. Y.
December 14, 1953.

Dear Stanley:

Thanks again for your many enlightening comments in your letter of Dec.9. And thanks also for the center line stamp from Plate 11, for which I am enclosing herewith \$20. in cash. I only had two such examples in my collection, 1R11 and 11R11. In order to improve the appearance of 11R11, some dealer (?) reperforated the stamp at left and succeeded not only in beautifying the stamp, but also created a rarity, a perforated center line stamp from Plate 11. (Jack M. believes in improving the appearance of stamps.)

I have noted your suggestions in referring to the "Eye curl" stamps for future reference. If you made prints of any of the "Eye curl" strips, I should like to purchase a set. I am returning herewith your "Eye curl" singles. All quite interesting. If they are for sale, I am interested. I believe I have made some slight additional progress with these "Curls" and I shall report to you shortly.

You write: "Again refer to F2 in your "A" strip. Recently you sent me a cover with a top row strip with the "Eye curl". Is the first stamp to left in this strip the same position as F2?" End quote. Yes Stanley, this "B" strip F2A - F3A - F4 is the very strip that I removed from the cover.

Re -- Plate 6 photos that I have probably never seen.. Yes, I would love to borrow or buy these. Thanks again for your kindness. Meanwhile, I am selecting 20 of my most interesting covers for you to photograph in natural colors. I shall send these off within the next few days. This is an example of what I mean when I say I concede nothing to Chase.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Morris

MORRIS FORTGANG
114 E. 84th
N.Y.C. 28 N.Y.

VIA AIR MAIL



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 North Fort Thomas Av.
FORT THOMAS
Kentucky.

470770

REGISTERED

KENSINGTON CLASS LINE
THE AMERICAN PAPER GOODS COMPANY
KENSINGTON, CONN. CHICAGO, ILL.
No. 25 4 3/8 x 6 1/4



NEW YORK, N.Y.
NOV 18 1953

NEWPORT, KY.
NOV 30 1953
FORT THOMAS BR.

NEW YORK, N.Y.
NOV 28 1953
HILL STA. LENOX

**VIA AIR MAIL
REGISTERED**

NEW YORK, N.Y.
NOV 24 1953
LENOX

NEW YORK, N.Y.
NOV 28 1953
HILL STA. LENOX

NEW YORK, N.Y.
NOV 28 1953
HILL STA. LENOX





U.S. POSTAGE



ONE CENT

U.S. POSTAGE



ONE CENT

U.S. POSTAGE



ONE CENT

A 383

Foulgang

Strip C-

Middle
Stamp

Shows

Four Dots

At N.E.



Postmark: 1876 JUN 17 N

A 383

on Cover

New Orleans Oct 12, 1859

Is first stamp in this strip

F2 ?

144-RED-F128-35 SEC



BY FORGANG, T W O PAIRS MAKE 100
RELIEF B. 2ND. ROW - NOV 1953

B400

"B" Relief
By Fortgang
Reconstructed



3 ITEMS BY M.FORTGANG OCT 1953



AT 14 - F128-RED-35 SEC

A 362

Walter

A 362

Strip "D"

SEE TOP ROW STRIPS SHOWING CURL

1A383



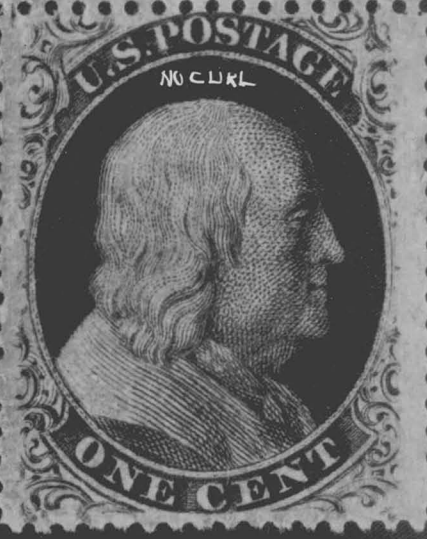
ALL BY M. FORTGANG

A 383

Förlyäng
Stup "D"



↑ SAME AS MIDDLE STAMP IN []



A405

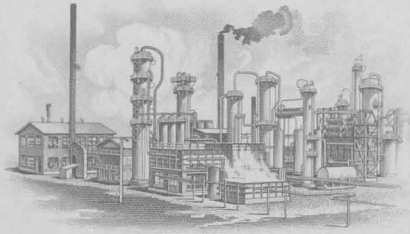
ALL BY
FORTGANG DEC 9 1953
SEE S.B. 29 P. 8

SINGLE TO SHOW
CORREOUS COLOR
THIS HAS RED CANCEL



22

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL *Refining Company* OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.

December 5, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

As suggested in yours of November 25th, I wrote Jack Molesworth and he sent me the the enclosed cover marked "The real pigeon blood pink" priced at \$75.00. Please look it over and if a real "pigeon blood" and you think I ought to buy it at this price, please endorse it on the back as being the real genuine rare pigeon blood pink and I will take it, provided you tell me you think it is worth the price asked, and also let me know your fee for signing same. Or if you could make a profit by buying it yourself through Jack Molesworth and reselling to me, will handle it that way if you tell me how you want it handled.

Jack also sent me some other covers - two grilled which so far as I can detect have not even a trace of a grill - but the only other cover that I thought I "might" be interested in is the other enclosed herewith which you have already signed as being genuine. However, this is supposed to be the rare Type I of the 15¢ 1869 but the stamp is "scrubbed" on the face and the cancellation covers up the type characteristics (he wants \$85.00 for this cover). On the other hand, it has the somewhat scarce French packet boat marking for boat "No.3" but on this point, I recall Harold Stark telling me that the date in the French Packet Boat marking always had to be the same as the New York date - in this case the New York date is NOV 13 while the French Packet Boat marking looks like NOV 12. Would this indicate Zareski? I also note on back of this cover a French receiving marking reading: "PARIS & STRASBOURG 1c" which might be a rare French railroad marking, altho I know little about French markings. Is this a railroad marking? Doc Chase of course would know on this, I'm sure. My main objection to this cover tho is the scraping on the face of the stamp. Tell me what to do on this? I think too that your endorsement on the back ought to state that this is a Type I stamp.

Rene and I would like to have you and Mildred spend New Years with us. How about it?

Regards.

JGF/k
Enc:REG:

Sincerely,

J. G. Fleckenstein.

Dec. 10, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 5th, also copy of a letter I have today addressed to Molesworth which is self-explanatory. With my name on the back of this cover I think it is worth more than \$75.00, because the chances are that few would doubt that I know a "Pigeon" when I see one. This is truly a superb copy and you might go years before you had a chance to acquire as fine a copy. This is one time when Molesworth didn't know enough to charge enough.

Regarding the 15¢ 1869 cover. If you examine the French marking I think you will find that the date is "13" - the same as the New York - "NOV 13." I can see no reason why you should acquire this cover (nuff said). The French marking on back is not unusual.

Thanks Jack for the invitation for Mildred and I to spend New Years with Rene and you. I wouldn't risk driving to Ionia in the winter time as I don't like ice and snow.

Our best to you both.

Cordially yours,

COPY

Oct. 10, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

When Jessup turned over to me the 3¢ '61 Pink cover to be returned to you, it was a dark cloudy day and not adapted to examination of the cover. Incidentally, I was not requested to do so.

My good friend Jack Fleckenstein sent the cover to me and today I made a very careful examination of the cover and have endorsed it on the back as follows, quote:


"This is, in my opinion, the 'real Pigeon Blood Pink.' I have as of this date made a very careful comparison side by side with my reference copy.

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
Dec. 10, 1953"

(unquote)

It is seldom that a new copy of this rare tint shows up. No doubt you will be pleased to know that your opinion of this stamp is correct. Very few dealers know a Pigeon when they see one.

Sincerely yours,



Copy to
J.G.Fleckenstein

COPY

**FRAGILE
KEEP DRY
NOT BEND**



**PHILATELIC
CANCELLATION
REQUESTED**

FROM
MINT SHEET BROKERAGE CO.
Rossmoyne ~~Suite 709~~ Ohio
~~18 East 4th Street~~ **CINCINNATI, OHIO**

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

CONTENTS MERCHANDISE. POSTMASTER: THIS PARCEL MAY BE OPENED
FOR POSTAL INSPECTION IF NECESSARY. RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED.

GRAYARC CO. N. Y.

INSURED
No. 2727



Dec. 8, 1953.

Mint Sheet Brokerage Co.,
8470 Blue Ash Road,
Rossmoynne, Ohio.

Dear Lee and Warren:

Herewith the items that you sent me
recently with the exception of the 5¢ 1847 cover
which I will forward to you later this week.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

5447 plus Swarts Local
belongs to Lee Shadwick

Dec. 4, 1953.

Mr. Elliott Perry,
Box 333,
Westfield, N.J.

Elliott:

Here is a cover that I thought you would like to see and if you would like a photograph front and back, I will send you a print. I believe this is a new discovery, at least that is what the owner informed me. The print of the 5¢ New York came in today. Is it my understanding that I can retain this print or would you want it returned, and incidentally do you believe the old story that this plate was made in 1862? That statement I seriously doubt.

I will forward to you on Monday another lot of 20 copies of the 10¢ 147.

Yours etc.,

Dec. 10, 1953.

Mr. Elliott Perry,
Box 333,
Westfield, N.J.

Elliott:

Thanks for return of the Swart's cover. I made photos front and back and I will send prints to you. I agree with you 100% that this was originally a stampless. I never saw a cover on this route with a stamp canceled by pen though this could have happened. However, I think the red "5" was applied by the Route Agent and indicated an unpaid letter. I assume that the person who mailed the letter paid Swarts in cash, and that there was no Swarts stamp on the F.L. The 5¢ '47 looks to "worn" for a use in June 1849.

More later on the 5¢ New York reprint plate. I wonder if this was the original plate made in 1845 but never used? Could be.

Yours etc.,

Copy
A

The 5c 1847 plus Swarts cover is enclosed. I don't like it. In my opinion it went thru the mail as a stampless cover. There is good reason to believe that Swarts delivered mail direct to the steamboat wharves, probably to catch a mail which had already pmks closed at the Post Office, or for a similar reason. Hence the are probably all correct. But I have grave doubts that either the 5c '47 or the genuine Swarts stamp was used on this cover.

Yes, if you photograph it I would like a print. The back could be turned up so the face and backstamp are all shot at once. The backstamp is the second example of the D1 postmark, that is, like D1 but with "DIRECT TO" in (nearly) Direct capitals. Evidently the color was changed from dull orange to a deep red between May and June in 1849.

From Elliott Perry
Letter
Dated
Dec 7 1953

*(second variety
of dc)*

As ever,

Elliott Perry

Form 3817
Rev. 9-37

Post Office Department

STANLEY B. SHIBROOK

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to Mint Sheet Brokerage Co
8470 Blue Ash Road
Rossmoynne

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Dec. 10, 1953.

The Mint Sheet Brokerage Co.,
8470 Blue Ash Road,
Rosslyn, Ohio.

Dear Lee and Warren:

Herewith the 5¢ 1847 cover which I sent to Elliott Perry of Westfield, N.J. for his opinion. Perry is our foremost student of U. S. Locals and as you know, a very careful student. I quote as follows from a letter received from him today:

"The 5¢ 1847 plus Swarts cover is enclosed. I don't like it. In my opinion it went thru the mail as a stampless cover. There is good reason to believe that Swarts delivered mail direct to the steamboat wharves, probably to catch a mail which had already closed at the Post Office, or for a similar reason. Hence the pmks are probably all correct. But I have grave doubts that either the 5¢ '47 or the genuine Swarts stamp was used on this cover."

I agree with Perry as there are several things about the cover that are quite questionable. For example, it was the custom then as well as now to put stamps in the upper right corner. Second, this was mailed direct with the mail clerk and the red "5" indicates the postage was not paid, hence 5¢ due. Perry is of the opinion the Swarts stamp is genuine but I questioned it. He may be right. Also the mail clerk on this route would hardly have canceled the 5¢ stamp with pen and ink.

I would like to add this cover to my "fake" cover collection and will gladly pay you any price you care to charge for it.

For the examination of this and the other items that you sent me, I am charging you a fee of \$10.00 which I trust you will find satisfactory.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Insured

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE



APS
BIA
NPS
SPA

ORIGINATORS of
STAMP MARKET

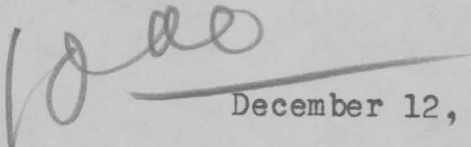


The BID and ASK
Established 1936

8470 BLUE ASH ROAD

ROSSMOYNE, OHIO

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763



December 12, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for the recent work and particular your work and statement on the Swarts local.

We have forwarded your letter together with the cover to the owner, Mr. Anderson of Jamestown, New York, and ask that he respond directly to you about it. Both covers were his and the off-cover stamps were ours so the decision, including price, would have to rest with him and it probably will be easier for you both to do business direct.

Enclosed is our check in amount of \$10.00 which certainly is reasonable, and we really appreciate your time and effort on this material as it now is in shape for us to sell.

Kind regards,



Lee Chadwick

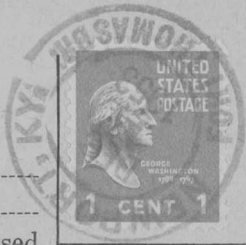
LC:ta

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

Dec. 14, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 2¢ 1869 "split" cover. I quote as follows from a letter dated Dec. 11th from my good friend C. Corwith Wagner of St. Louis, quote:

"I have no faith in 'splits' and never have had - therefore I have none in my collection. The St. Louis postmark in use in 1869-70 was a circle - 26 MM - with the letters in St. Louis 5 MM high. The St of St. Louis was used both ST and St. From some time in 1871 and thereafter as late as 1877 St. Louis had a great many "fancy" killers - "Suns" Eagles, Stars, Crescents, Checkerboards, and what have you. The first example I have of the type of PM as used on your cover is Nov. 24, 1877. This particular PM was not used extensively or with regularity. Your PM is 27½ MM & the letters are 3 MM high. St. Louis used a similar PM but the circle is 28 MM and the letters are but 2 MM high and somewhat thicker. I have no record whatsoever of a 'killer' in any way similar to the one on your cover.

I am no expert on matters of this kind or type - but my judgement is that the item is not good. The thing I don't like is the difference in the color of the stamps - a light shade and the split is the very dark shade. Also why a PM of 1876-7-8 on a 1869 stamp? I believe that the earliest PM showing time in it that I have is in August or Dec 1875."

I might add that Mr. Wagner is our foremost authority, in my opinion, on St. Louis Postal History and postal markings and this also includes the State of Missouri.

I note that my friend believes that this postmark was 1877 or later which might indicate that this was "fixed" by some stamp collector or dealer. Surely there was no need to use a 2¢ 1869 bisect in 1877 as there must have been plenty of 1¢ stamps on sale at the St. Louis P.O. If the thing is genuine, then in my opinion, it was a prepared item-an illegal use that got by the postal clerks. In other words, a freak. Bisects or splits, or halves of stamps should not have any standing unless they are in the provisional class, that is, no equal values available at the local post office.

No fee on this cover but you can reimburse me for the postage to and from Wagner of 69¢. Incidentally, Mr. Wagner was in an auto accident recently and is laid up at home with a broken leg.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

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

DECEMBER 11, 1953. 8:00 P.M.

MR. STANLEY B. ASHBROOK,
P.O. BOX 31,
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY.

DEAR STAN:

YOUR NOTE OF DECEMBER 10TH CAME TO HAND THIS AFTERNOON. I WAS INVOLVED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT ON NOVEMBER 27TH - AND SUSTAINED A BROKEN RIGHT LEG - AND AS A RESULT I AM CONFINED TO MY HOME. MY MAIL IS BROUGHT OUT TO ME LATE EVERY AFTERNOON - SO YOUR LETTER WAS NOT IN MY HANDS UNTIL ABOUT 6:00 P.M. THIS EVENING.

A I HAVE NO FAITH IN "SPLITS" AND NEVER HAVE HAD - THEREFORE I HAVE NONE IN MY COLLECTION. THE ST. LOUIS POSTMARK IN USE IN 1869-70 WAS A CIRCLE - 26 MM - WITH THE LETTERS IN ST LOUIS 5 MM HIGH. THE ST OF ST. LOUIS WAS USED BOTH ST AND ST. FROM SOME TIME IN 1871 AND THEREAFTER AS LATE AS 1877 ST. LOUIS HADA GREAT MANY "FANCY" KILLERS - "SUNS" EAGLES, STARS, CRESENTS, CHECKERBOARDS, AND WHAT HAVE YOU. THE FIRST EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF PM AS USED ON YOUR COVER IS NOV. 24, 1877. THIS PARTICULAR PM WAS NOT USED EXTENSIVELY OR WITH REGULARITY. YOUR PM IS 27½MM & THE LETTERS ARE 3MM HIGH. ST. LOUIS USED A SIMILAR PM BUT THE CIRCLE IS 28MM AND THE LETTERS ARE BUT 2MM HIGH AND SOMEWHAT THICKER. I HAVE NO RECORD WHATSOEVER OF A "KILLER" IN ANY WAY SIMILAR TO THE ONE ON YOUR COVER.

I AM NO EXPERT ON MATTERS OF THIS KIND OR TYPE - BUT MY JUDGEMENT IS THAT THE ITEM IS NOT GOOD. THE THING I DONT LIKE IS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE COLOR OF THE STAMPS - A LIGHT SHADE AND THE SPLIT IS THE VERY DARK SHADE. ALSO WHY A PM OF 1876-7-8 ON A 1869 STAMP ? I BELIEVE THAT THE EARLIEST PM SHOWING TIME IN IT IS IN AUGUST OR DEC 1875.

That I have

I MUST CONFESS STAN THAT MY ST. LOUIS "RECORDS" AFTER 1865 ARE NOT IN VERY GOOD ORDER. A FEW LOCAL COLLECTORS, INCLUDING MYSELF, ARE RIGHT NOW TRYING TO GET ORGANIZED AND LIST AND CLASIFY ALL ST. LOUIS MARKINGS - AND WE HOPE TO COVER THE STATE OF MISSOURI AS WELL. I HOPE THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE OF SOME HELP.

OUTSIDE OF MY BROKEN LEG - ALL GOES WELL - I HOPE THE SAME HOLDS GOOD FOR YOU AND YOURS. WITH KIND PERSONAL REGARDS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE COMING HOLLIDAY SEASON, I AM

CORDIALLY YOURS,

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



C.S.A.
A.R.A.
B.N.A.P.S.

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 17, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your efforts on the 2¢ 1869 "split" cover. Mr. Wagner's comments are quite interesting and certainly serve to throw sufficient suspicion on the cover to make it extremely doubtful as an item. Just to see what happens I am sending it along to the **A.P.S.** Expert Committee and will let you know what they conclude on it. Enclosed is a dollar to cover your postage expenses on the item.

I trust that you have received my two cover shipments by now and will look forward to your comments concerning them.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

JAMES CLEMENTS WHEAT
INDUSTRIAL BROWNHOIST CORPORATION
BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Nov 25th 1953

Mr Stanley Ashbrook
Ft Thomas Ky

Dear Mr Ashbrook —

I wrote you last year about 34 1861's on cover that I would appreciate greatly your marking which are the true "pink" of #64.

I had to leave town for a prolonged trip and didn't contact you about sending them after I returned. I like to send them now if it is convenient. During the first week of December — or when you say.

Also I would very much like some help as to whether a #79 belongs on the cover to which it is now attached. It is stuck on the nose with a lovely shield cancellation but not tied. A New York dated marking appears on the cover. Perhaps you will recognize the shield as a NY marking — or possibly otherwise. Herst-Zarecki don't list this.

I would appreciate any advice about this last problem — who might help me if you are not sure about the answer.

I shall appreciate hearing if you can look at these soon.

Very sincerely
J C Wheat

PS - I am a general cover collector - trying to get a representative one from each stamp-issuing authority. So I am spread out very thin, but enjoying my project. But you will understand that I have to ask help from specialists from time to time - but the covers are usually very interesting.

Dec. 1, 1953.

Mr. J. C. Wheat,
Bay City, Mich.

Dear Mr. Wheat:

Replying to yours of the 25th, I will be glad to look over the two items and I will charge you a fee of \$3.00 each if you wish me to give a signed opinion on the back of each.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 7, 1953.

Mr. J. C. Wheat,
2222 Carroll Park,
Bay City, Mich.

Dear Mr. Wheat:

Herewith the two 3¢ 1861 covers as per yours of the 3rd. I regret to state that neither stamp on the covers are the Pink. In all probability both stamps were used originally on the covers.

I am holding the other cover as I wish to make a careful examination of the grill because, in my opinion, the stamp was not used originally on the cover. I believe that the original stamp was removed and this copy substituted, and this raises the question - for what purpose? That is the point I wish to investigate.

Sincerely yours,

Post Office Department

Received from: STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.

FORT THOMAS, KY.



One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to J. C. Wheat

2222 Carroll Park

Bay City Mich

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Oct. 11, 1953.

Mr. J. C. Wheat,
2222 Carroll Park,
Bay City, Mich.

Dear Mr. Wheat:

Herewith your cover with the 3¢ 1867 grill. I have made a very careful examination of this cover and it is my opinion that the stamp is a genuine copy of the 1867 "grilled all over." S.U.S. No. 79, but that it was not used originally on this cover, a folded letter.

My fee for this opinion is \$3.00.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 7, 1953.

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

Dear Les:

Hello stranger - how are you? Are you ever coming down and pay us a visit?

Les, here is a cover submitted to me for an opinion and I am charging the owner three bucks. It is my opinion that this stamp was not used on this cover originally - and this makes me wonder if the stamp itself is genuine? I suppose it is, as I do not recall any fake grills all over but this means nothing as all I know about grills could be told in darn few words. Why would anyone remove a common 3¢ 1861(?) and substitute this copy? Well, perhaps it has a tear, crease, thin spot or some defect and besides, it is said, that this stamp is more rare on than off.

I sent Henry some color slides which he will show to you and also a photo of Stan Jr. in his graduation uniform.

I enclose stamped envelope for return.

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

Ernie and Marie will spend a day with us in a couple of weeks.

Regards.

Yours as ever,

JAMES CLEMENTS WHEAT
INDUSTRIAL BROWNHOIST CORPORATION
BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

December 3, 1953

Mr Stanley B Ashbrook
Ft Thomas Ky

Dear Mr Ashbrook

Thanks for your letter of Dec 1.

I am enclosing the 3¢ gilled
all-over cover and 2 - 3¢ "pink" covers (I hope).

I should like very much to have your
signature on them in pencil if you think they
are what they should be in all respects. I hope
you will recognize the cancellations on the two
NY covers as ones that were used in that
city about the time -

Yours sincerely

J C Wheat

Be sure to let me know the cost of your insurance
for the return shipment - and I will refund
it with the fees - and very much appreciate
your help and courtesy.

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

J. C. Heath
2222 Carrull Park
Bay City Mich

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

HOLD

From J C Wheat
2222 Carroll Park
Bay City Mich



AIR MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL



Mr Stanley B Ashbrook
PO Box 31
Ft. Thomas
Ky.

From

J C Wheat Bay
2222 Carroll

City Mills
Park

JAMES CLEMENTS WHEAT
INDUSTRIAL BROWNHOIST CORPORATION
BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

December 16, 1954

Dear Mr. Arkh took -

I wonder if you remember whether any features besides the gradations of the pink shade determined whether the NY cancelled "near pink" on the patriotic cover was not the real thing.

Was the paper not correct?
Or something besides?

I am enclosing the fee suggested which is very reasonable indeed for the help you have given me.

I don't suppose you were able to decide why the 3¢ "grilled-all-over" was put on a cover where it didn't belong? That cover is not mine. I shall try to get permission to remove the stamp and then will see if it has a thin spot.

I am enclosing stamped envelope and if there is anything more you can tell me in answer to above queries I shall be very greatly obliged.

Yours very sincerely
J C Wheat

Dec. 20, 1953.

Mr. J. C. Wheat,
Bay City, Mich.

Dear Mr. Wheat:

Replying to yours of the 16th, I doubt if I can add much to mine of the 7th re - the two 3¢ 1861 covers. While the real Pink is very often hard for many collectors to distinguish from the Rose, it is really a very distinctive color and when a real pink is laid side by side with a Rose or such items as rosy pinks, near pinks, etc. - the difference is quite obvious. It is the tint that determines the stamp rather than paper or where copies were used or on what kind of envelopes.

You are perhaps aware, there is a color even more rare than the Pink. It is what we call the PIGEON BLOOD PINK. Such items bring from \$100 to \$150, according to condition.

People who tamper with covers might be called "fixers." I suppose it would be in line for such a person to remove an ordinary 3¢ 1861 from a cover and attach a 3¢ 1867 "grilled all over." I suppose the object would be to enhance the value, though it could be to cover up some defect in the substituted stamp.

May I thank you very kindly for your check.

With the Compliments of the Season

Very truly yours,

X11/7/53

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Going through the papers of my deceased husband, Y. Souren I have learned how much work and study you put in the effort to establish the truth about the 10c. 1847 "Knapp Shift" long before my late husband put the same stamp through his laboratory tests and published his findings in his "Philately of Tomorrow" which seemed to settle the controversy beyond any doubt.

However, as you can see by the enclosed photost. copy of the certificate, Foundation does not agree neither with yours nor with Mr. Souren's findings.

Although it is a known fact that the pronounced judgement of the Foundation is not infallible. - they assuredly told me that any disputable stamp can not be sold without their certificate.

In this case I naturally can not accept nor comply with their verdict and I am sure if Mr. Soreau was living he would challenge them, but in liquidating his Estate I have to sell the stamp and sell it only as a genuine shift.

In view of all this I thought you would be the right person for me to apply regarding the genuineness

of the stamp; perhaps you might
even sell it for me to someone who
does not doubt its genuineness.

I will greatly appreciate
your reply. Hoping this letter
will find you in good health -

Sincerely yours

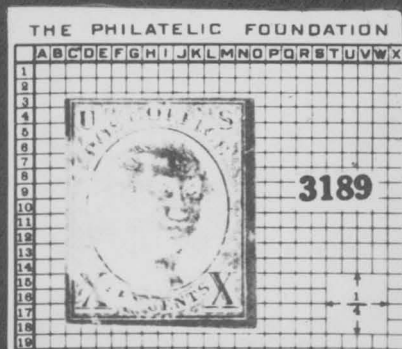
W. Souren
40 East 75 St.
New York 21, N.Y.

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

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States
1847, 10¢, black, cancelled, the so-called
"Knapp Shift", of which a photograph is
affixed below -----
submitted by --H. R. Harmer, Inc. -----
and are of the opinion that ~~it is~~ the so-called "Shift"
is fraudulent -----

Theodore Steiner
For The Expert Committee
ch.



Dec. 12, 1953.

Mrs. W. Souren,
40 East 75th St.,
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Souren:

I have yours of the 7th enclosing a photostat copy of the Foundation certificate which I am returning herewith.

I appreciate your kindness in offering to put the stamp in my hands for sale but in case I would offer it to any collector he would have to be informed of the certificate issued by the Expert Committee. I seriously doubt if anyone would be willing to pay much of a price under such circumstances.

It is my recollection that I never stated outright by written word or mouth that the stamp was fraudulent or was genuine. I may have given the impression at times that my opinion was that it was good, also that it was not, but in both cases it was for the purpose of further research work.

Mr. Knapp, up to the time of his death, was positive the stamp was genuine. Other students of the 10¢ 1847 pronounced it a fake, including the late Frank Sweet, Elliott Perry, H. R. Harmer and others.

Your late husband is on record as of the opinion it is genuine, and this was shared by several New York dealers at the time.

So much controversy surrounds the stamp that I now wonder if its real value is more in the fact that it is the famous "Knapp Shift" rather than the variety claimed for it.

Sincerely yours,

Copy To L.G. Brookman

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

Dec. 8, 1953.

COPY

Mr. Elliott Perry,
P. O. Box 333,
Westfield, N.J.

Elliott:

Thanks very much for the data on Harnden. I want to loan this to Maurice Blake and as soon as he returns the sheets from "Pats" I will return them to you.

The question came up because of a cover that belongs to Blake, photograph of which I enclose herewith. The letter inside is dated Cambridge, Mass. Dec. 30, 1847, and the blue postmark on face is the same date. It shows "Way to Boston" and also "Way 6" - also a "Paid" of "H & Co" (Harnden & Co.) The London p.m. is "Paid." I assumed that this was sent unpaid "Way 6" to Boston, and that office turned it over to Harnden who paid the "Way 6" and then one of their messengers carried it to London and placed it in the British mail, prepaying the postage. The London p.m. is "Paid." I regret this photo print is so poor. There is no evidence that I can see to indicate how the writer paid Harnden. What struck me as very unusual was the fact (C) that the Boston P.O. turned this letter over to Harnden to convey to London and how did they know that the writer wanted it prepaid?

Keep the photo for your files if you wish.

Yours etc.,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

COPY

December 10, 1953



Stan;

Yours of the 8th and also the registration data came today.

One of the first facts discovered in the 10c 1847 plating was that extended frame lines were practically always constants if vertical and were not constant if horizontal. I do not know the reasons for the horizontals other than that they were done in the printing. I never asked any of the Bank Note people about them. We have worked on many engraved plates of Central and South American countries which were made in the 1860s and 1870s and perhaps later and I do not recall having seen such printing peculiarities on any of them, and doubt if any were found on any stamps from Grieg's C.D. Post plate, either the original THREE CENTS plate or the later TWO CENTS plate, or on the U.S.C.D. Post plate. Your idea seems to be as good as any.

Regarding the Harnden cover, John and I will have to chew on this. Many Harnden covers were examined for the Harnden Chapter in the Independent Mails book and I do not recall that any of them were WAY covers, or were from so near to Boston.

Maurice Blake probably has the Harnden data. He is serving on the Editorial Committee for the Carrier Book and has been a big help, especially by rewriting the Boston Chapter and in many other ways.

"Greenback" covers; Bob Chambers may have been the first to do much study of these. Years ago he sent me considerable data, but if it was printed I do not recall when or where. I do recall him telling me that he could not reconcile the depreciated currency rates in the postmarks with the price of gold at the same dates. I wondered if the P.O. Dept. set a rate which held for perhaps a week or longer instead of trying to follow the daily fluctuations of the gold market. Bob's notes may be here.

It occurs to me that the fluctuations from May 1864 reflect the progress of the war, in Virginia and in Georgia, to a considerable extent. Of course there were other factors.

If the Harnden data from the Pats is of any use to you, keep it.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eratt Perry".

PAID

1

TRU

AN A

on 14

Type 5 perf

FRANK J. SALICHS

~~21 MAIDEN LANE~~

61 Broadway

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

December 1st. 1953

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
H. Thomas,
Kentucky -

Near Mr Ashbrook -

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Mortimer Rainken and Morris Fortgang regarding a cancellation they saw on a 1¢ Blue Type V perf. in my collection -

Both of them were unable to make anything of it. I have looked through your book and could not find anything like it - I have reproduced the cancellation as best as I could on the enclosed -

I would appreciate hearing from you whether this cancellation is familiar - If you would like to examine the stamp I could send it to you for inspection -

Yours very truly
Salichs

Sale By Bruce Daniels

Nov 5-6 - 1953

Bought By J.G. Fleckenstein

Lot 479 in Daniels Sale

3461 From Nest Thompson
Ct Oct 8 1861.

This is not a PINK
but an "Early Rose of
1861" with a trace of

Sale By Bruce Daniels

Nov 5-6 - 1953

Bought By J.G. Fleckenstein

Lot 479 in Daniels Sale
3461 From Nest Thompson
Ct Oct 8 1861.

This is not a PINK
but an "Early Rose of
1861" with a trace of



Mr Michael Kinsey
Ball House
West.

85 apt

Hiram Foot Charles A. Vayro,
and Richard C. Kimball.

(44)

Depositors of Hiram Foot
John H. Bulger
Washington R. Nichols
John W. Arnold

J. C. White
Notary Public

Filed May 30th 1871
J. C. Lucas
en

U-71
2-15-70 Grilled



Clerk of Court of Common Pleas
Huntington County
Huntington
Indiana.

Sale By Bruce Daniels
Nov 5-6 - 1953
Bought By J.G. Fleckenstein

Lot 598 in Daniels Sale
Paris 15th 1870 plus 3rd
from New York Mar
27 - 1871. In my
opinion this pair
does not show any
trace of a gulf.
J. G. Fleckenstein

STATE OF KENTUCKY
P. O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.

NOV 13 1953

Sale By Bruce Daniels

Nov 5-6 - 1953

Bought By J.G. FiedKenslein

Lob 598 in Daniels Sale
 Pair 15¢ 1870 plus 3¢
 from New York Mar
 27 - 1871. In my
 opinion this pair
 does not show any
 trace of a gulf
 from Missouri

STEVENS & BROWN
 P. O. Box 31
 33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
 FORT THOMAS, KY.

NOV 13 1953

35 Cent
 Museum Book Supply & Paper
 Co. and Richard G. Knickerbocker

Department of Social Science

University of Chicago

Chicago, Ill.

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White

White





Mr Samuel Hill

San Francisco

Montgomery St - South California





Mr Samuel Hill

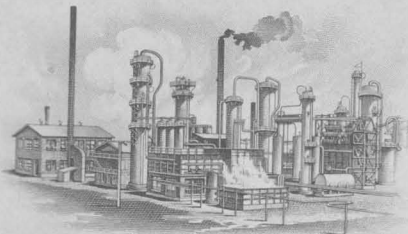
San Francisco

Montgomery St - South California



A Dark BLUE ENVELOPE
By Dr W.S. Pollard 11/17-53
On Back - May 31-72 - The
S.F. P.M. Is May 15 - Oval Is
In The Usual Magenta -
S.F. P.M. In Black
Weston - 50 Minus = 1/12 - This
@17³4F8-1/21 - 1/10 NOV 24 1953

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.

December 12, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your registered which arrived this AM. Was glad to get the "pigeon Blood" pink on cover and appreciate your advice on same. You did not indicate what fee I owe you for signing this cover - drop me a line on this or will have to guess at it.

Am enclosing two covers I got from Harold Stark just before he passed away, neither of which I was happy about. The cover with the 3¢ - 24¢ and 30¢ which he had written up as being all grilled were sent to Brookman who signed cover on reverse saying the 3¢ and 30¢ are grilled but the 24¢ is not grilled. I took this cover back to Harold who said he had examined it carefully under the binocular microscope and he was equally positive all three stamps are grilled. Will you check it and if you are of the opinion the 24¢ is also grilled, please sign it saying all three stamps are grilled and erase Brookman's notation.

The other cover I got from Harold is one he sold me as being the "red brown" Scotts new #28 - old number 46. Is this really a red brown or just the ordinary brown Type I? If the real red brown, please sign it on back as being a genuine #28 "red brown" - on other hand if you decide it is just the common brown, sign it as such, if genuine useage. Used to Spain.

I am also enclosing one of my own covers I have had a long while - a 5¢ Type II on cover used to Spain same as the one described in paragraph above, and I wonder WHY one cover has the Spanish marking "8Rs" while the other has the Spanish marking "4Rs"? Also note both covers went from New York via British Packet. Was there a difference in weight that accounts for this? This cover with the 5¢ Type II was used in March 1861 - is there any chance this could be the rare "orange brown" Scott's #30? If so, it would be a rare cover indeed, and if so, would sure like to have you sign it as such. Frankly I can't tell a brown from an orange brown and perhaps March 1861 would be too early for the orange brown anyway but thought it worth checking as the color sure looks different to me from some other Type II 5¢ browns I have.

Regards, and let me know what I owe you for this service.

Sincerely,

JGF
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/
Enc-REG©

Dec. 15, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Replying to yours of the 12th. First, the Cincinnati cover with the 24¢ - 30¢ and 3¢. I have never claimed any knowledge of grills, hence any opinion that I would express on that subject would not carry much weight. I have been more or less familiar with Brookman's work on grills for many years back and I regard Brookman as a very careful and keen student. I firmly believe that he is better qualified to express an opinion than our valued friend, the late Harold Stark. I examined the 24¢ stamp on this cover and frankly I failed to see any real trace of a grill. Therefore, I believe that Brookman's opinion is undoubtedly correct.

Re - the cover with the 5¢ Type I of New York July 4 - This is the Type I Brown and I have endorsed same on the back. Harold was not good on stamp colors and I often found him in error, especially on items he has purchased before I became acquainted with him. Your cover of "Mar 5" to Spain has a copy of the Type II Brown (Plate 2) and I have endorsed same as such on the back. The S.U.S. gives May 1861 as the earliest known Orange Brown which is from my records, same being a Newbury cover.

France and Spain rated by the quarter ounce or rather by $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes which was approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce as I explained in my December 1st Service Issue. On a letter not over $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes, the sum of "4R" was due in Spain. Over $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes but not over 15 grammes, the sum of "8R" was due. I believe the "R" was "Reales."

I am enclosing herewith some 5¢ 1857 colors, viz:

5¢ Brown Type I - H. Pair
5¢ " " I - Single
(very white paper)

5¢ Indiana Red which the S.U.S. calls Henna - Type I
5¢ Orange Brown Type II

I regret that I cannot lay hands on a Type I Red Brown at present. However, a Red Brown is close to the Henna and you can see that the Brown stamp on the "Jul 4" cover is nothing at all like this Henna copy. Remember a Red Brown must show Red.

How about a fee of \$15.00 for the last two sendings - 3¢ Pigeon and the enclosed.

Jack, what you should have is a copy of the Ridgway book. It is very rare and hard to find, but I am on the track of a copy that I may be able to obtain for you @ \$50.00. It is in "mint condition."

With Christmas Greetings - Cordially yours,

Dec. 15, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - my letter to Harold written back in 1944. At that time, I referred to the 5¢ payments as "Ship to Shore" and "Shore to Ship" but I have long since ceased to use that old term which is technically incorrect. When 5¢ was paid, or collected, under the terms of the U.S.-British Treaty, the correct term was the U. S. Internal. This was different from a "U.S. domestic" as it was a Treaty rate.

Yours etc.,



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

September 29, 1953

I presume that you have received the catalog for the Fox sale of the MacBride Confederate collection scheduled for October 20th, and believe you will agree that it contains a wealth of scarce and interesting material, some of which I presume will be of interest to you. If you have not received a catalog, please advise and I shall have one airmailed to you.

As usual, I shall be attending the sale in person and will be acting not only on my own behalf but also as the agent for a large number of Confederate specialists. I would be very pleased to execute any bids that you may have if you do not expect to attend the sale in person and believe that I can probably save you more below your top bid than if they were sent in by mail or executed on the floor by some other agent. This is due to the fact that I shall be representing a great many if not the majority of the Confederate specialists in the country and that I follow a policy of offsetting bids such that I do not bid one client, whom I am representing, up with the bid of another. In other words, I execute only the top bid received on any one lot, eliminating the competition of any other bids on that same lot and often therefore buying that lot below the second high bid which I may have from another client, or below what I would gladly pay for it myself for stock. You must naturally trust to my integrity to execute your bid with absolute fairness and honesty.

If you would like to have me act as your agent at the usual 5% commission rate based on total purchases with no charge if nothing is purchased, I urge you to send your bids along as soon as possible. If your bids are received in time I shall be pleased to notify you if at the time of receipt I have a higher bid on any of your lots so that you may have the opportunity of shifting the bid to some other lot if you so desire. I shall be pleased to accept "Buy" bids if received at least one week before the sale. In the case of duplicate "Buy" bids on the same lot this will give me time to request a definite upper limit from both bidders. I believe it apropos to also mention that by bidding through me the competition of my own bids is eliminated which is a highly significant factor as I am currently the largest professional buyer of Confederates at auction.

Though I suggest that you write Mr. Fox and request on inspection any lots which are of special interest, I shall be pleased to examine for accurate description any lots which you have not had the opportunity of examining yourself. Examination will not be made unless specifically requested. If

there are a number of lots which you would like but are hesitant about bidding on due to the fear of spending a larger total amount than desired, merely mention that you would like to limit your total purchases to a certain amount and I shall cease to execute bids after that sum has been purchased. I am enclosing a stamped reply envelope and hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Jack E. Molesworth

JACK E. MOLESWORTH
102 Beacon Street
BOSTON (16) Mass.

Oct. 27, 1953

Mr. V. D. MacBride
744 Broad St.
Newark 2, N.J.

Dear MacBride:

I appreciate very much your taking the trouble and having the consideration to write me direct concerning your understandable disapproval of my bidding policy when acting as agent for others at auction, as I know some would have mouthed their criticism behind my back without having the courage to confront me directly. Since this policy naturally reduced some of the realizations in the sale of your own material last Tuesday, I believe you are entitled to an explanation which I am happy to submit.

First let me emphasize that my policy of "offsetting bids" has been followed for some time, has been completely explained by every client whom I represent at auction without a single dissent to date, and was not conjured up especially for or was used solely at the sale of your collection. The policy is public knowledge and I have freely expressed it and explained it to anyone indicating an interest or to anyone whose bids I have solicited as was the case in the letters written with respect to your sale which you referred to. There is nothing illegal, immoral, or unethical about this policy and I do not believe your suggestion in this regard has any basis in fact.

As an agent I act for and bind the principal the same as if were there in person. Since, as in the case of your sale, I may at times be acting for as many as a dozen or more bidders in one sale, I feel an obligation to consolidate those bids as if they were my own and under such reasoning cannot condone bidding myself up. Naturally this policy is not the one often followed by other agents who frequently buy a lot for one price and then ask the auctioneer to raise it to a higher figure so that the realization will exceed a second high bid they may have on the same lot, and their method is obviously the easier one that increases their own commissions to the detriment of the principal they are representing. Also just as obviously on occasion the realization is lowered and the owner and auctioneer receive less, but likewise my commission is also cut accordingly. However, I am not the agent of the owner or auctioneer, but rather the agent of the buyer and am acting in his best interests. If they happen to conflict with that of the auction house or owner of the material offered that is merely one of the many risks of the auction business for them. Naturally if you or any other prospective bidder does like or approve of this policy there is no necessity of their sending me their bids.

Though there is no law which prevents or makes it extra legal for buyers at a public auction sale to combine to their best advantage, I would hasten to agree that if more than one agent were to combine with another or two, all representing several collectors, we might have a case of collusion which would seriously hurt the sale of the material. Naturally such a policy carried to this unrealistic extreme might be subject to justifiable criticism on an ethical or moral ground, but not on a legal one. However, I would never myself enter into such a combine obviously designed to injure the owner rather than to further the interests of the principals that I may be representing as agent. There is a definite line of distinction. As a case in point, an effort was made to form such a combine for the H.R. Harmer sale of the Finney collection with the sole purpose of injuring the owner, but the effort failed primarily because I would have nothing to do with it though I was approached and urged to join the combine. Since I was informed when approached that others including yourself had agreed to enter this combine it would appear that you have a system of double standard, one when your collection is sold and another when someone else's is offered. However, this is your business and not mine and I mention it only to

#2.

emphasize the point that in at least this one past incident you yourself condoned an auction buying method which I consider far more reprehensible than any I have ever even considered.

I hope that the above detailed explanation will suffice, I, of course intend to continue this policy of auction bidding as I have in the past until that time when those I represent may request other methods. I am their agent to command and within the limits of the law and ethics shall do as they suggest. Since it is probable that you have mentioned your personal feeling against my auction policy to some of your friends, I would appreciate and believe I am entitled to a list of their names so that I may send them a copy of this letter explaining my policy so that there may be no misunderstanding.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Jack E. Molesworth

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

November 4th, 1953.

American Stamp Dealers Association,
65 Nassau Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

Via Registered Mail

Attention: Mr. Peter G. Keller, Executive Secretary.

Gentlemen:

As a collector of long experience and, I believe, substantial standing, I wish to respectfully submit the following matter for the careful consideration of your Association.

On October 20th last, John A. Fox, a member and an officer of your organization, offered at public auction at the Hotel Astor in New York City, my collection of stamps and covers of the Confederate States of America. On the day before the sale I was told of certain letters which Jack E. Molesworth of Boston, Massachusetts, also a member of your Association, had sent to clients of his a short time previously referring to the then forthcoming sale of my collection. A photostat of one of these letters, dated September 29, 1953, with only the name and address of the person to whom it was sent deleted, signed by Molesworth, is attached hereto. (Exhibit A). I have since seen the recipient, who acknowledged the receipt of this letter, and I also have since been shown the original of another such letter, substantially a duplicate, which was written by Molesworth to another collector. In these letters he offers to act as an Agent and solicits bids on what I believe to be an improper, unethical and possibly illegal basis.

On October 22nd, I wrote Molesworth fully setting forth my views, and I attach a carbon copy of my letter hereto (Exhibit B). A photostatic copy of his reply, dated October 27, 1953 is also attached hereto, (Exhibit C). Finally, a carbon copy of my reply thereto, of today's date is attached hereto (Exhibit D).

The matter is thus fully presented for your consideration, as are the arguments, both pro and con, as set forth in the correspondence. I believe this to be an important case and that your decision thereon will have great impact on the future relationship between dealers, auctioneers, and agents, and their standards of conduct, with collectors in the future. May I please be advised thereof at the earliest practicable date?

Very truly yours,

MacB/HK

c.c.:

Jack E. Molesworth.

October 22nd, 1953.

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

Dear Molesworth:

It is with considerable reluctance that I write you in this matter. Nevertheless, I consider that it is both my duty to do so, and because it may serve as a warning and keep you out of serious trouble.

I have been shown two of the letters dated September 29th last which you apparently sent to a number of Confederate collectors. In them you referred to the then pending Fox sale of my Confederate collection, and solicited commissions to handle bids as an agent. While there was nothing improper about that, your offer to "office bids" from your clients, is in my opinion, both improper and unethical.

You state that you "do not bid one client's bid against another's bid", that you "execute only the top bid" and "eliminate the competition of any other bids" and "often therefore buying the lot below the second high bid" which you may have received from another client. I wonder if you realize the unfairness and perhaps the illegality of such a course of action? As an agent you are actually acting in a fiduciary capacity, and yet by pursuing this course of action, you endeavor to entirely eliminate any under-bid you may have and thus give the top bidder an advantage to which he is not entitled.

As an agent, you actually represent all of the above bidders who trust you with their commissions, exactly as if they were physically present at the sale. Therefore, I certainly do not believe you have any right to eliminate the bid which the second bidder would have made had he been present, and which therefore the top bidder would have been required to exceed. Indeed, I should think you would find it most difficult to explain to such a second bidder why he did not receive a lot which was sold at a price under his bid.

The result to the owner of the lots being sold, and to the auctioneer entitled to his commission, would obviously be most unfair. Carried out to a theoretical conclusion, such a procedure could be developed by collusion with other agents and bidders, for instance, so as to nullify the results of an auction which properly, and I believe legally, must be conducted as a free and open competition between bidders.

I have taken it upon myself to write you in this matter, because you specifically asked for such bids at the sale of my collection, whereby I might have been, or may have been, harmed thereby. I concede that you apparently were the largest buyer at that sale, and while I am grateful for that, the propriety of the policy, as expressed in your letter, remains most questionable. I suggest that a full explanation and some assurances as to your future intentions, be provided me promptly.

Very truly yours,

Paul H. MacBride



Jack E. Moleworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

October 27, 1955.

©

Mr. V.D. MacBride,
744 Broad Street,
Newark 2, N.J.

Dear MacBride,

I appreciate very much your taking the trouble and having the consideration to write me direct concerning your understandable disapproval of my bidding policy when acting as agent for others at auction, as I know some would have mouthed their criticism behind my back without having the courage to confront me directly. Since this policy naturally reduced some of the realizations in the sale of your own material last Tuesday, I believe you are entitled to an explanation which I am happy to submit.

First let me emphasize that my policy of "offsetting bids" has been followed for some time, has been completely explained and accepted by every client whom I represent at auction without a single dissent to date, and was not conjured up especially for or used solely at the sale of your collection. The policy is public knowledge and I have freely expressed it and explained it to anyone indicating an interest or to anyone whose bids I have solicited as was the case in the letters written with respect to your sale which you referred to. There is nothing illegal, immoral, or unethical about this policy and I do not believe your suggestion in this regard has any basis in fact.

As an agent, I act for and bind the principal the same as if he were there in person. Since, as in the case of your sale, I may at times be acting for as many as a dozen or more bidders in one sale, I feel an obligation to consolidate these bids as if they were my own and under such reasoning can not condone bidding myself up. Naturally this policy is not the one often followed by other agents who frequently buy a lot for one price and then ask the auctioneer to raise it to a higher figure so that the realization will exceed a second high bid they may have on the same lot, and their method is obviously the easier one that increases their own commissions to the detriment of the principal they are representing. Also, just as obviously on occasion the realization is lowered and the owner and auctioneer receive less, but likewise my commission is also cut accordingly. However, I am not the agent of the owner or auctioneer, but rather the agent of the buyer and am acting in his best interests. If they happen to conflict with that of the auction house or owner of the material offered that is merely one of the many risks of the auction business for them. Naturally, if you or any other prospective bidder does not like or approve of this policy there is no necessity of their sending me their bids.

Though there is no law whatsoever which prevents or makes it extralegal for buyers at a public auction sale to combine to their best advantage, I would hasten to agree that if more than one agent were to combine with another or two, all representing several collectors, we might have a case of collusion which would seriously hurt the sale of the material. Naturally such a policy carried to this unrealistic extreme might be subject to justifiable criticism on an ethical or moral ground, but not on a legal one. However, I would never myself enter into such a combine obviously designed to injure the owner rather than to further the interests of the principals that I may be representing as agent. There is a definite line of distinction. As a case in point, an effort was made to form such a combine for the H.R. Harmer sale of the Finney collection with the sole purpose of injuring the owner, but the effort failed primarily because I would have nothing to do with it though I was approached and urged to join the combine. Since I was informed when approached that others including yourself had agreed to enter this combine, it would appear that you have a system of double standards, one when your collection is sold and another when someone else's is offered. However, this is your business and not mine and I mention it only to emphasize the point that in at least this one past incident you yourself condoned an auction buying method which I consider far more reprehensible than any I have ever even considered.

I hope that the above detailed explanation will suffice. I, of course, intend to continue this policy of auction bidding as I have in the past until that time when those I represent may request other methods. I am their agent to command and within the limits of the law and ethics shall do as they suggest. Since it is probable that you have mentioned your personal feeling against my auction policy to some of your friends I would appreciate and believe I am entitled to a list of their names so that I may send them a copy of this letter explaining my policy so that their be no misunderstanding.

Yours sincerely,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/m

Via Registered Mail

Newark 2, N. J. November 4th, 1953.

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth,
102 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Via Registered Mail

My dear Molesworth:

Receipt of your letter of October 27th is acknowledged. I regret to state that I wholly disagree with, and disapprove of, what you have to say therein.

Your defense of your policy of "offsetting" bids fails to change my opinion that it is entirely unethical and that it may be illegal. In your letter you make the admission that "this policy naturally reduced some of the realizations in the sale of your own material last Tuesday", and I have certainly thus been injured thereby. As there is no reason I can think of as to why I should suffer harm at your hands for the benefit of your clients, I propose to take steps to recover the damages you admit causing, and to prevent their recurrence in either my case or that of others.

To that end I am submitting, by means of a letter of which I enclose a copy, the case to the American Stamp Dealers Association, of which I understand you are a member, and thus a subscriber to its high principles of conduct. I assume you can have no objection to this matter being examined by that experienced group of men who like you are professional dealers. I have respect for their ability and fairness, and if they approve of the course you have followed, and which you say you intend to follow in the future, I probably will take no further action in the matter. However, if that body holds, as I believe it must, that you have been guilty of unethical practice, I shall then give you an opportunity to make restitution for the losses you have caused me. Failing in that, it is my intention to present the facts to my attorney for advice as to whether an illegal act has been committed, and if so, he will be instructed to institute a suit at law to recover damages from you.

Finally, let me say that I deeply resent your effort to defend your improper conduct by reference to some supposed part I played in a "combine" which you say was formed to bid at another

auction sale "with the sole purpose of injuring the owner" of the collection to be sold. I did not join any such "combine", if indeed it ever existed in fact. Your statements about it, apparently based solely on hearsay "information" you say you received, and particularly those to the effect that I thus have "a system of double standards" and "condoned an auction buying method * * * far more reprehensible", are gratuitous and in my opinion, slanderous.

Very truly yours,

MacB/HK

c.c.i

American Stamp Dealers Association.

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE

A P S
B I A
N P S
S P AORIGINATORS of
STAMP MARKETThe BID and ASK
Established 1936

8470 BLUE ASH ROAD

ROSSMOYNE, OHIO

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763

December 14, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

Am enclosing a few more items I pulled out of one of the collections today. If you simply will write "yes" or "no" under each item it will suffice, although any side comments if "no" would be appreciated.

I am doubtful re the #99 as somehow it doesn't look good to me; the 3¢ pink looks close to being pink but I always doubt my judgment on these and the #100 & #101 appear to me to be genuine enough, even though not very desirable copies.

At any rate, would appreciate your checking these for me and returning at your convenience.

Kind regards from us both.

Sincerely,

Lee Chadwick

LC:ta

Dec. 17, 1953.



Mr. Lee Chadwick,
% Mint Street Brokerage Co.,
8470 Blue Ash Road,
Rossmoyne, Ohio.

Dear Lee and Warren:

First I want to thank you both for sending me the nice little Christmas remembrance. I am sure that you recall that I like "Bourbon" and prefer it undiluted. It really is the safest way to get rid of it, provided one don't get right out in the center of the ring and try to slug it all out. I assure you that I will make good use of this handy little gadget and if you will drop over sometime I will be glad to use it on a bottle of old Grand Dad.

Also may I thank you very kindly for yours of the 12th with check for \$10.00.

I will be pleased to hear from Mr. Anderson regarding the Swart's Local. I have an idea that I know who made that cover but he has been dead about fifteen years, so I will let him rest in peace. It would have been right down his alley.

Herewith the four items as per yours of the 14th and here are some remarks -

Re - the 24¢ marked #99 - A genuine copy of the 24¢ 1867 in mint condition, (unused - o.g.) is quite a rare stamp. Probably more rare than the \$100.00 quotation indicates. Your copy has fake gum and the chances are that the grill is a fake though I am no authority on punches in paper. If you believe there is a chance that this copy may be #99, then I suggest you send it to Lester Brookman of Minneapolis, whom I regard as our foremost authority on grills.

Re - the 30¢ marked #100? I suggest you send this to Brookman. I don't like it but my opinion is valueless.

Re - the 90¢ marked #101? Same as above.

If I bought and sold U. S. stamps with "grills," I wouldn't buy a single copy that had value unless it had been okayed by a recognized authority and this also applies when selling such items. "Punches in paper" are very easily counterfeited and it takes a real student who knows grills to distinguish the good from the bad.

Regarding the 3¢ 1861 - marked 64? This is not the Pink but a common rose.

Mr. Lee Chadwick - Dec. 17, 1953.

There is no fee on the above.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS to you both.

Cordially yours,

QUEEN CITY STAMP CO.

8470 Blue Ash Rd.
Rossmoynne, Ohio

SYcamore 5763

"A Good Name Since 1890"

1/23/54

Dear Stanley:

Just a note of thanks on the Sc#11, which arrived "back home" earlier this week.

Also thought you'd be interested in knowing that Les Brookman okayed the three grilled items.

These ran in the last issue of the Bulletin but failed to draw any interest.

Best regards,

hee

Dec. 17, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 15th came today. Very good time considering the way the mail is jammed with Xmas cards.

Re - your Plate One Early. I am a bit doubtful if my friend would be interested because there are so many missing positions. You must have a lot of covers with positions you lack on the plate. Why not include such, and I will remove them and put them on the plate?

His real interest is in the 10¢ 55-57. For some reason he likes that stamp and has gone ~~more~~ into the plating than in that of the One Cent. I suggest you send your reconstruction to me with as many covers as possible with missing positions. I will send the lot on to him and perhaps we can make a deal.

Why don't you go into the plating of some other plate if you dispose of your Plate One Early. For example, the 12¢ 1851 plate One or if you want to make up a real job - why not the 10¢ 1847? If you will fly down here and spend a little time with me I will show you how you could do either plate.

Re - a trip to Ionia. Thanks a million but I wouldn't risk a trip in winter. We plan to drive down to Lexington to spend Xmas with Elliott's family - Stan Jr. will not be home - but he hopes to get a five days leave for New Year's and if successful he will get home on Dec. 29th. His ship is stationed at Norfolk and is getting prepared for a seven months world cruise starting early in April.

Mildred is writing Miss Rene today.

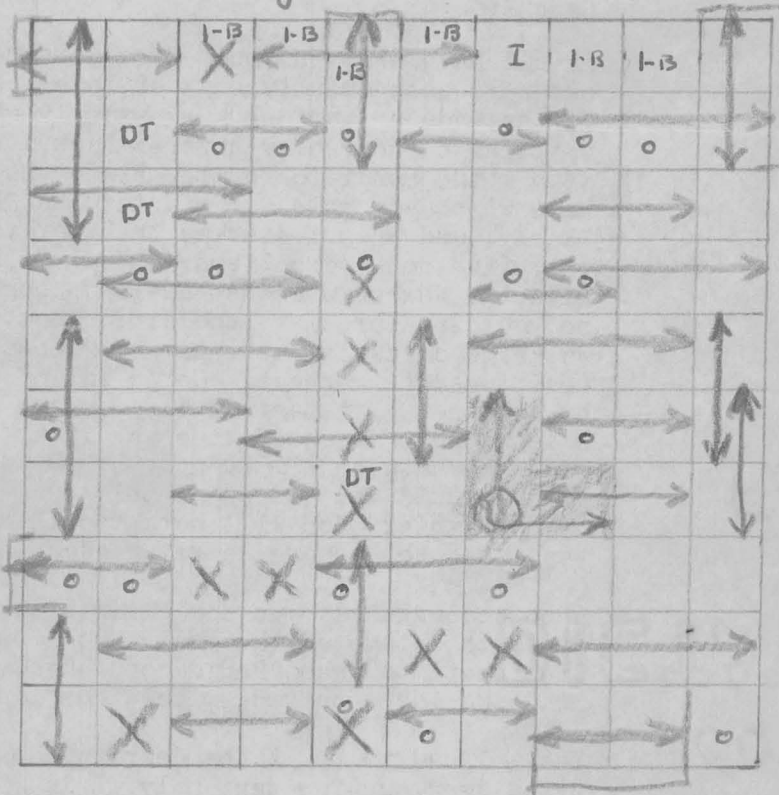
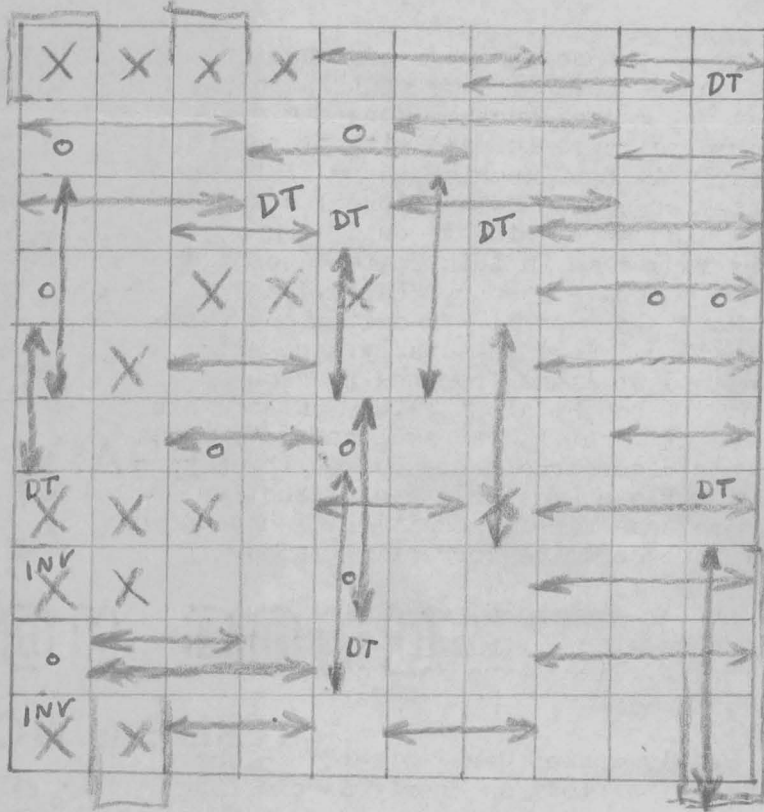
Our best to you both and the girls and may you all have a Very Happy Christmas.

As ever yours,

Blue X - singles
 Red - - - Hor multiples
 Green | - Vert multiples

Left Pane

Right Pane



o - means Type III-A

Missing positions

Left Pane

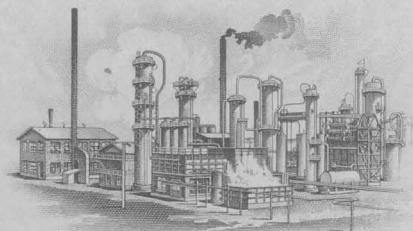
- 25 - 32 - 37 - 52 - 56 - 58
- 64 - 73 - 74 - 76 - 77 - 86 - 87
- 95 - 98 - 99

Missing Positions

Right Pane

- 7 - 8 - 9 - 12 - 26 - 27 - 30 - 36
- 62 - 66 - 78 - 79 - 80 - 100

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.
December 15, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

Should have written you before this re my Plate One Early reconstruction but have been awfully busy of late. So on the reverse side of this sheet, I have made a chart showing exactly what the reconstruction consists of, omitting of course my covers which I would not care to part with at this time. Stan - the condition of the Plate One Early is far superior to my Plate One Late which you sold. I started the "Late" of course long before I started the "Early" and when I started the "Early" I made up my mind I would take only very fine to superb items, and there are many such in this plate - not junk like the Newbury reconstruction - perhaps you have seen my "Early," and if so you can appreciate the difference. Mort has seen it - had it about three weeks to check against his own reconstruction. Feel reasonably sure all positions are correct. Got a lot of the nicest items from the Emerson sale by Kelleher - in fact as you perhaps know, I bought about \$2,000 out of this sale alone. Its hard to check it up carefully but as far as I can determine, I've got between \$3,500 and \$4,000 in this reconstruction. Do you think your friend would want to spend this much for a Plate One Early reconstruction such as this? You will note too there are some missing positions I have never been able to acquire as being such that same could be correctly plated.

When we suggested you and Mildred come up for a weekend, we didn't mean to drive this time of the year. Come on the airline - you can fly direct from Cincinnati to Grand Rapids on Lake Central Airlines, and Rene could meet you in Gd Rapids - only 32 miles from Ionia.

Yes - I had to shoot the deer, altho I really wanted Rene to get it - she takes deer hunting seriously while I think its about as sporty as shooting a car in a farmers back pasture.

Saw Charlie Shierson last week. He is still as interested in covers as ever but says he has got to get someone to mount and write up his accumulation. Perhaps he has mentioned this to you.

Hope the drawing on back of this sheet makes sense. Its about the only way I know to show the positions. Regards to all.

Sincerely,

J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/

Dec. 20, 1953.

Mr. Henry M. Goodkind,
The Philatelic Foundation,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Henry:

Here is P.F. certificate #3987, dated Dec. 8, 1952. Also the stamp - a 10¢ 1855. You will note that the certificate certifies that this is not #13 but a genuine copy of #15, etc. Will you please have the Committee cancel this certificate and issue a new one? To make such a statement that this stamp is not #13 is positively silly and to declare it to be #15 is equally as absurd.

This is a 10¢ 1855 - Type I stamp, S. U. S. #13. It certainly is not the Type III #15. If the Committee cannot tell the difference between these two types of the 10¢ stamp, my God how could they be expected to pass on any covers or stamps. I would imagine that Theodore would be ashamed to have his signature attached to such a certificate.

This stamp and certificate have been exhibited at various stamp meetings, so I have been informed, to demonstrate the total inefficiency of philatelic experts. I persuaded the owner to let me have both so that this grave error could be erased. I suggest that the new certificate be made out to me.

The certificate states that the stamp has an "ironed out crease." I put this copy in tetrochloride and failed to find any sign of a crease, hence it is my opinion that this statement is also in error.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

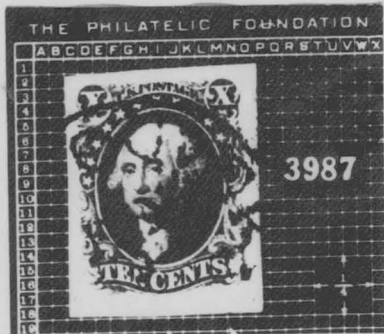
THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
22 EAST 35TH STREET
NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the attached item a United States
1851, 10¢, green, cancelled, of which a photo-
graph is affixed below -----

submitted by -- Mr. Walter Senchuk -----
and are of the opinion that it is NOT #13 but a genuine
copy of #15 with ironed out crease -----

Theodore S. Hanway
For The Expert Committee
CHAIRMAN



*f*rom the desk of

Millard Henry Mack

Thanks very much

Sincerely

Millard H. Mack
3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati 29, Ohio.

Millard Mack
3930 Red Bud
Cin 29, O.



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

REGISTERED
NO. 29177

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

MILLARD HENRY MACK
3930 RED BUD AVENUE
CINCINNATI 29, OHIO





Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 14, 1953

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

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your two letters of the 10th. I was very happy to see that you confirmed my opinion on the "Pigeon Blood Pink" and from my experience with them would agree that same is a rare item. Though I knew that Jack Fleckenstein needed a nice #64 on cover I did not send this to him when first acquired as I doubted that he would care to go \$75 for it. However, as a result of your comments he may keep it.

Enclosed is a U. S. #2 that I bought at Heiman's last sale as being unused. I am always inherently suspicious of these but could see nothing under my lamp indicating cleaning but still sent it along for Usticke's opinion as a double check. He replied that though he could see nothing under the lamp, he felt sure it had been cleaned. I would, therefore, appreciate your opinion on the item.

If time permits today I shall send along a few interesting covers that you might be able to sell. There will probably be some included that you do not feel you can sell or on which you might not care to ask my price so I suggest that you merely send these items right back and concentrate on those you feel there is a chance you can move.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

P.S. Enclosed is what I believe is an extremely nice St. Louis Bear cover with a 5¢ On Pelure Paper. I believe I have a client for it but would like for you to examine and sign the back before sending to him. Though the ink showing through from the reverse makes it look as if it were lightly tied, I don't believe it has any of the cancel on the stamp extending to the cover.

Dec. 18, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 14th with the "uncanceled"
10¢ 1847 stamp. I would be greatly surprised if this is
not a cleaned copy, however, to be sure, I will have to
make a photograph by ultra-violet. If it has been cleaned
the photo should show what is not visible to the eye under
the lamp. I will not be able to return the stamp to you
until tomorrow.

Herewith I am returning the cover with the 5¢
St. Louis bear. In my opinion, someone has done something
to this cover - moved the stamp or added a stamp to a pre-
paid stampless cover. Under the circumstances I would pre-
fer not to express any opinion on the item.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Dec. 19, 1953.

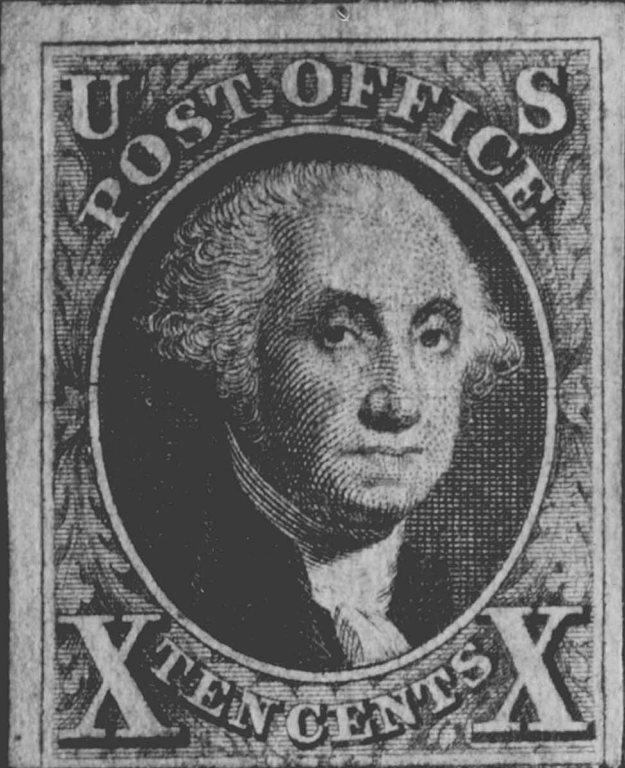
Mr. Jack E. Molesworth,
102 Beacon Street,
Boston 16, Mass.

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 10¢ 1847. My negative
by ultra-violet fails to show any sign that I can
detect of a cancel removed but the paper indicates,
in my opinion, that it has been chemically treated.
Perhaps when I make a print from the negative
something may show up.

With regards -

Yours etc.,



BY QUARTZ AT 12³/₄
1867-15 MEN
SEE G 181
BY MOLES W 182

C182

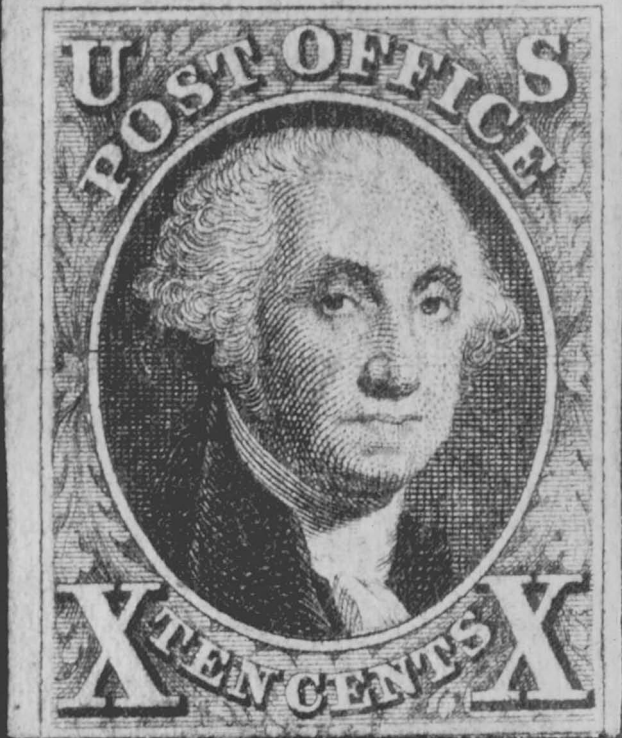


SEE .S.B. 29 - P.22

SEE C182 BY QUARTZ · DEC 18 1953

AT 12³/₄ - RED F128-60 SEC-

BY MOLESWORTH - IS THIS UNUSED? C181



SEE S. B. 29
BY MOLESWORTH - BY QUARTZ C181
FGA - NO FIL 20 MIN AT 12³/₄

3

JERE. HESS BARR

11 HOWARD STREET

WEST LAWN, PENNSYLVANIA, U. S. A.

December 21, 1953.

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

Dear Stan :

I have just received your letter of the 17th and I heartily agree with your comments. Rarely do the people who read stop and think how much work has been put on getting such an article together.

Now maybe Shaner and I have erred in not writing you about your article on the 90¢ stamps but the fact is that the edition is almost entirely sold out; we have less of this book on hand than any other of our recent books. It has proved our "best seller" and Shaner and I have often remarked that your article is largely responsible for the demand. Maybe we should have told you this long ago but "better late than never."

I of course thought a lot of Eugene Klein and as I mentioned I often tried to get him to let me write about his experiences but we never got to it. He, of course, kept his hand on Congress matters until his death altho I often wanted him to incorporate; I was afraid that sometime we might be confronted with a lawsuit as individuals and after his death Judge Caldwell and Sol Glass and I took up the matter and got a federal charter and we enlarged the number of our Council from half a dozen to eighteen. Last November I asked to take a lesser active part and am now Treasurer. We closed the year with all bills paid and a little balance and that's good as we were several hundred dollars in the hole at the beginning. But our books are selling well and we get many orders for the older books. We print copies of the Index which helps the sale.

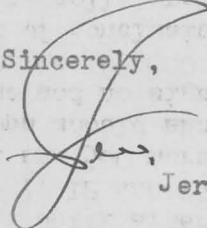
I have been working on the 24¢ Continental and have gotten together a lot of information; I now have five covers with 24¢ stamps used AFTER May 1 1875 and I hope to be able to prove that the Stamp Agent issued about 150,000 of these stamps to Post Offices, early in 1875. Scott lists the 24¢ stamp only known "grilled" but these grilled stamps were not prepared by Continental until after June 1876 and they printed 1,000 of each value, both current and the 2, 7, 12 and 24¢ then NOT current. Then Continental printed 10,000 for the 1876 Centennial and 500 more on soft paper in 1880. Brookman in the new Minkus catalogue says the stamps should show "worn plate" but my copy of the special printing for 1876 shows every fine line and no signs of wear. Whether I can bridge the gap between my five 24¢ covers and the 365,000 printed in early 1875, remains to be seen. I have some facts but also a lot of conclusions which seem logical but may not be conclusive evidence. I have been seeking collateral information; the N.Y. Public Library which frequently helps me in problems, failed in answering a question and I have written to Herbert Brownell to see if his Dept. can find the answer. I hope I can have something for the 1954 Book; maybe not that soon !

I think your efforts and studies have all been appreciated by collectors for years even though sometimes we overlook writing a note of appreciation. My article on the Ionian Islands in Gossip brought me a threat of a lawsuit from a Paris man who thinks I quoted him without permission; my son in law who is an attorney advises me to not replay to a nasty letter. So sometimes it's appreciation and sometimes you get a kick in the pants. But maybe it's better to be criticized than ignored. Take your choice !

I hope that you and yours will have a very Happy Christmas and that the New Year will be also a happy one.

I have just returned from a month's stay in the hospital. I had some infected teeth out and bled considerably and after I got home had to go back with nose bleeding. The doctors finally found my trouble and I am back home recuperating and getting back my strength. I had to have a blood transfusion and two nurses and plenty of injections and pills...and a month's stay in the hospital does not help your bank account either.

My best regards.

Sincerely,


Jere. Hess Barr.

American Philatelic Congress, Inc.

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

First Vice President
JOHN D. POPE, III
4 Street James Ct.
Webster Groves 19, Mo.

Congress Editor
LT. COL. JAMES T. DEVOSS
Route 2, Box 449-A
Alexandria, Va.

FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, JR., WASHINGTON, D. C.
DR. CARROLL CHASE, MILFORD, N. H.
BERNARD DAVIS, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
SOL GLASS, BALTIMORE, MD.
DR. CLARENCE HENNAN, CHICAGO, ILL.
MRS. S. F. SHARPLESS, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
JOHN W. STOWELL, FEDERALSBURG, MD.
DR. H. K. THOMPSON, BOSTON, MASS.
JULIUS WINDNER, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

COUNCIL

JERE HESS BARR, WEST LAWN, PA.
JAMES T. DEVOSS, ALEXANDRIA, VA.
JOSEPH A. HERBERT JR., WASHINGTON, D. C.
VAN DYK MACBRIDE, NEWARK, N. J.
CATHERINE L. MANNING, ARLINGTON, VA.
JOHN D. POPE, III, WEBSTER GROVES, MO.
STEPHEN G. RICH, VERONA, N. J.
JAMES B. SHANER, SR., KUTZTOWN, PA.
GEORGE T. TURNER, JACKSON HEIGHTS, N. Y.

Second Vice President
MRS. CATHERINE L. MANNING
1621 North Taylor Street
Arlington, Va.

Secretary-Ass't. Treasurer
JAMES B. SHANER, SR.
426 W. Main Street
Kutztown, Pa.

Treasurer
JERE. HESS BARR
11 Howard Street
West Lawn, Pa.

January 20, 1954.

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

Dear Stan :

I have your letter of the 18th this morning. I also find Maurice Blake well informed; his book on Boston marks is certainly a valuable reference work. I have been able to establish some dates by referring to his Boston Paid marks.

I am still working on the 24¢ Continental. There are several questions I am trying to answer. Luff refers to a "stamp cleaning suit" in June 1876, AFTER which Continental prepared 1,000 each of the small square grilled stamps, including the 24¢. I have been trying to get the actual date of this suit without any success so far. The Archives Dept. at Washington are looking it up for me.

The Stamp Agent ordered the first printing of both the 30¢ and 90¢ Continental in 1874; and the 24¢ stamps were delivered in 1875. I would like to find out if the Stamp Agent ordered the three values AT THE SAME TIME, but that the 30¢ and 90¢ were delivered in 1874 and the 24¢ in 1875.

From Luff's figures as I analyze them, the deliveries of all three values fell off from the average in late 1874, but apparently rose in 1875 AFTER Continental delivered the three values of stamps. I think the reason for the Stamp Agent ordering them was that a shortage had developed. Of course, while the 24¢ was discontinued after July 1st 1875, the 30¢ and 90¢ continued to be issued to P.O.s and even in 1890 there were still printing these two values.

All of my 30¢ on Bissell covers and otherwise which I have identified as Continental were used in 1875; I have no 90¢ Continental on cover, but as you know have the later issues, both rose carmine and purple on large pieces of wrapping paper.

I also asked the Archives Bureau whether they could establish the actual date when Continental delivered the 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢ stamps; it might barely be possible that all three values were issued BEFORE Jan 1 1875, as I have a very unusually bright shade of 24¢ used on Bissell Dec 21 1874, but of course have so far classed it as National.

I have three of the New York City covers with hand-stamped NEW 1.10 YORK in red; have you ever seen 2.20 or 3.30 or 4.40 in a handstamp from New York? I would guess that they may exist. Boston of course marked theirs with crayon and I have covers from Boston with 110, 220 and 330.

I have one cover from Boston which, however, went to New Bedford, Mass., was postmarked there one day later, and went to London, where is has the LONDON PAID. This went to the Celebes Islands. I found out thru the Boston Library that the Bark

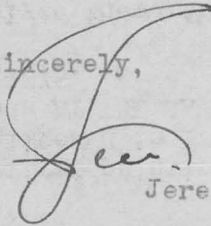
"Avola" was a small bark of New Bedford registry. New Bedford was a center of the whaling industry at this time.

If I can help you any time in your study of postmarks let me know and I will take time to check my material for you.

Did I tell you; I now have exactly 25 Bissell covers; both the earliest and the latest I have been able to find. I recently got one mailed Jan 4 1876, which is later than I mentioned in my article.

To-morrow I will be 78 and have gotten back most of my strength; I am still with too many white corpuscles and a new set of teeth which require considerable manipulation. I got a letter from Joe Herbert at Washington; one paragraph about Congress, and the balance of a long letter instructions as to how to handle a lower plate. Joe has one and has had considerable difficulty adjusting himself; fortunately mine seems to fit perfectly for which I am very thankful.

Sincerely,



Jere. Hess Barr.

American Philatelic Congress, Inc.

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

First Vice President
JOHN D. POPE, III
4 Street James Ct.
Webster Groves 19, Mo.

Congress Editor
LT. COL. JAMES T. DEVOSS
Route 2, Box 449-A
Alexandria, Va.

FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, JR., WASHINGTON, D. C.
DR. CARROLL CHASE, MILFORD, N. H.
BERNARD DAVIS, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
SOL GLASS, BALTIMORE, MD.
DR. CLARENCE HENNAN, CHICAGO, ILL.
MRS. S. F. SHARPLESS, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
JOHN W. STOWELL, FEDERALSBURG, MD.
DR. H. K. THOMPSON, BOSTON, MASS.
JULIUS WINDNER, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

COUNCIL

JERE HESS BARR, WEST LAWN, PA.
JAMES T. DEVOSS, ALEXANDRIA, VA.
JOSEPH A. HERBERT JR., WASHINGTON, D. C.
VAN DYK MACBRIDE, NEWARK, N. J.
CATHERINE L. MANNING, ARLINGTON, VA.
JOHN D. POPE, III, WEBSTER GROVES, MO.
STEPHEN G. RICH, VERONA, N. J.
JAMES B. SHANER, SR., KUTZTOWN, PA.
GEORGE T. TURNER, JACKSON HEIGHTS, N. Y.

Second Vice President
MRS. CATHERINE L. MANNING
1621 North Taylor Street
Arlington, Va.

Secretary-Asst. Treasurer
JAMES B. SHANER, SR.
426 W. Main Street
Kutztown, Pa.

Treasurer
JERE HESS BARR
11 Howard Street
West Lawn, Pa.

January 25, 1954.

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

Dear Stan :

I have yours of the 23rd this morning. I am aware that Souren claimed to have solved the problem. However, since he listed a 24¢ Continental as genuine on a cover in the Knapp sale dated Dec 1874 (prior to the stamps being printed) he certainly is not to be trusted as to his conclusions. I myself think that if we find the solution, the stamps will NOT be found with silk or fibre threads.

I have samples of the horizontal and vertically ribbed paper and the double paper used by Continental. The ribbing is very difficult to see but can be detected. It is quite different from the ribbing on the Lombardy-Venetian stamps which can be seen with the naked eye without a glass. But then this ribbing was done by a hot roller to dry the stamps.

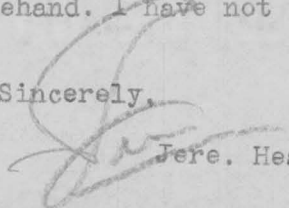
I am glad to know that you have a N. Y. cover with red pencil 220 over 2; this disposes of the likelihood of a hand-stamp 2.20. New York used the mark 1.10 in different forms at least until 1880 as I have two covers of 1880 with double-circles with 110 in the right hand circle. These are both from New Bedford, Mass. to St. Helena.

I have been in touch with Don Heath; we have had some correspondence about the Bissell covers and my article. He is a Congress member and got our 19th Book.

I have seen only one Bissell which is not good; it had two 10¢ and a 1¢, marked with a double rate; evidently the 24¢ stamp was missing and someone put a 1¢ stamp on the letter to fill in the empty space. It was offered to me for \$10.00 but I returned it. Perry I think claims to have seen a 90¢ used instead of a 6¢ but I have not seen this cover. Bartels ads mentioned only one 90¢ stamp; I have this cover and you have photographed it.

I am trying to find the exact date when ~~Continental~~ the Stamp Agent ordered the 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢ from Continental; secondly, when the stamps were delivered to him; and third, the exact date of the Stamp Cleaning Suit referred to by Luff, after which the small Continental grills were prepared...presumably after June 1 1876. I have been referred to a Washington lady whom I am told is familiar with the archives at Washington and has done some research along stamp lines for Essay-Proof. I have written to her to find out about the cost; I don't want to stick my neck out for a big bill without knowing it beforehand. I have not yet heard from her giving me an estimate of the cost.

Sincerely,


Jere. Hess Barr.

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUES
ALBUMS AND BOOKS



580 Fifth Avenue
New York 36, N. Y.

PLAZA 7-4883-4-5

GORDON R. HARMER, *President & Treasurer*

December 21, 1953

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

Dear Stanley:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 17 and I am only too delighted to send you the Specialized Catalogue with our best compliments and thanks for your kind assistance.

I will certainly take up the matter of the #60a and will let you know what I find out about it.

With best wishes for the Holiday Season, I am

Yours sincerely,

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.


GORDON R. HARMER

GRH:JK

**HOBBY
INTERESTS**

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

Henry A. Meyer

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT • CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

RESIDENCE 516 READ STREET
TELEPHONE 5-6380

EVANSVILLE • 11 • INDIANA

**PHILATELIC
LINES**

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

Sept. 6, 1953

Dear Stan:

There hasn't been anything lately with which I needed to pester you, but now something has again come up. Walter G. Moore, a professor of biology at Loyola University in New Orleans, has sent me some supposed Great Lakes steamboat mail covers which I am positive are fakes. I am so reporting them to him. I enclose a copy of my letter to him, and a print of each cover. Keep them for your files. If he then writes to you, you have the background so that you will know better whether you care to see them. I have been very busy all summer on research, but not along philatelic lines. Our school is getting ready to celebrate its centennial this year, and I have been getting all references to its founding and its early years from the newspaper files of those years, and from the ancient minutes of the Board of Education. The old Evansville Directories (published by H. Thornton Bennett, who published the old Covington-Newport Directory which you once loaned me) helped a lot, too.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

**HOBBY
INTERESTS**

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

Henry A. Meyer

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT • CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

RESIDENCE 516 READ STREET
TELEPHONE 6380

EVANSVILLE • INDIANA

**PHILATELIC
LINES**

OHIO & MISSISSIPPI RIVER
PACKET COVERS
GERMAN POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY
& NAPOLEONIC COVERS
CAPE TRIANGLES
EARLY BRAZIL
HAWAII

Sept. 6, 1953

Prof. Walter G. Moore,
5231 S. Derbigay St.,
New Orleans 15, La.

Dear Prof. Moore:

Thank you for letting me study the two Great Lakes covers. Since my school begins again Tuesday, I want to start these back to you, together with my report on them, during the short free time still available.

I dislike very much to be the bringer of bad news. Some people enjoy that distinction; but I always regret the necessity of telling a correspondent something unfavorable about his covers. However, it is best that you know the truth. I have no hesitation in declaring the straight-line marks on these covers bogus. They purport to be marks which in reality never existed. When I make such a statement, I must give you my reasons:

(1) There were no official U.S. mail ships (operating under P.O.D. contract) on the Great Lakes, especially to Green Bay, in 1832 and 1834. There were contract routes on Lake Erie, and also from Chicago to Michigan, in 1845; but I find none as early as 1832 and 1834. Letters were carried that early on the lakes, but they were carried "out of the mails" in charge of the captain, and were marked "SHIP" or "STEAMBOAT" or "STEAM." Fred Schmalzriedt of Detroit has some covers showing such usage; so does Tom Blinn of Detroit.

(2) The ink with which these marks were struck is modern rubber-stamp ink, which did not come into use until in the late 70's or 80's.

(3) The type with which they are printed is rubber type, set in a wooden groove holder, such as were sold at the dime stores around Christmas time 40 years ago. They can still be had (at a higher price) from rubber stamp stores.

There is quite an array of these bogus marks in circulation. Those I can recall at this time are the following:

(1) "NEW ORLEANS & CAIRO/WEEKLY MAIL" and (struck separately, but in same type) "STEAMER TRAVIS" (a boat which never existed). These are in straight lines.

(2) A large circle containing the words "NEW ORLEANS/CAIRO" around the circle; in the middle, "STEAM/BOAT" and date. This mark has come to me from two different sources, one in Cleveland, and one in Texas. The letter is going the opposite direction to that which it would take by this route; it was going from Louisville to Pennsylvania.

(3) A straight-line mark, "WAY/2" (which is impossible) in black, a dull gray-black from a dry pad, on 3c 1857 covers. These have come to me from three different sources. The town mark is Carrollton, Miss.

I just had a disturbing thought. If we could trace every one of these bad covers back to its origin, I wonder if we might get back to the Pelletier stock. Eugene Klein thought he had all the Pelletier fakes listed, on the last page of his "U.S. Waterways Packet Markings." But nobody ever is sure that his list is absolutely complete, so he may have missed the Travis; and he would not have bothered with marks (2) and (3) and your marks, even if he had known about them, because he was listing only marks containing a boat's name.

When I tell you that your covers have fake markings, I ought to offer you corroboration. Have you ever corresponded with Stanley B. Ashbrook? He and I are long-time friends, and he has been a wonderful help to me in my studies. I always go to him with my toughest cases. He keeps a file of all odd or curious covers which come to his notice, for future reference. Eventually his files will be taken over by the Philatelic Foundation, but we all hope not for many years to come. I think Mr. Ashbrook would like to see these covers, and if he gave the same verdict, you would feel more like accepting the fact. His address is:
Stanley B. Ashbrook, 33 N. Fort Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.
If you have not corresponded before, you can introduce yourself to him as one of my new correspondents.

If you have any further covers with marks indicating or suggesting steamboat usage, I would like to see them. I might have better news for you another time.

Yours sincerely,

Henry F. Meyer

Black

Clearcopy Onion Skin

MADE IN U.S.A.

Sept. 20, 1953.

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

Dear Henry:

I have been down East on a little vacation and on my return yesterday I found yours of the 6th to which I will reply later. I note the photographs which you sent and can assure you that the Detroit markings are a fake. I have a record of other examples.

I trust that you have been well and have had a nice summer.

Sincerely yours,

From Mr. Seward.

Recd. Aug. 16. 1832.

Ans. " 17. "

" Sep. 25. "

US

DETROIT

7 7 B

Rev. Richard L. Cadle

US

MAIL-SHIP

Green Bay

Michigan

NEW YORK
27

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

Boagus.

Red N. Y. town mark,

Red No. "25."

"U. S. Mail-Ship/Detroit"

56 x 13 mm. in modern
purple rubber-stamp ink.

1832. No contents.

Prof. Walter G. Moore of
Loyola Univ., N. O.

3 MAIL-SHIP
DETROIT

Rev. R. F. Cadd

Green Bay Mission

M. T.

For by Mr. Tolson.

Bogus.

1834, from Fort Winnebago
to Green Bay Wisconsin.

No postal markings whatever.

"U. S. Mail - Ship / Detroit"

56 x 13 mm., in modern light
blue rubber stamp inks

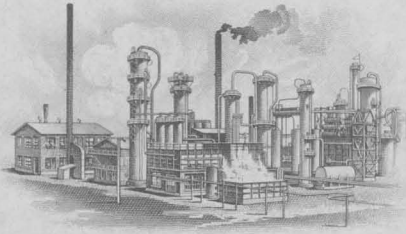
Prof. Walter G. Moore, of
Loyola Univ., N. O.

HENRY A. MEYER

516 Read St.

Evansville 11, Ind.

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.

December 26, 1953.

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

Dear Stan:

Got your nice letter this AM and glad you liked the apples. Hope they arrived in good condition - some did'nt.

Again I need your help and advice. Am enclosing two covers - both 15¢ 1869 Type I - sent me on approval. The one not tied is priced @ \$65.00 and marked insufficiently paid - black "16" decimes due, and French Packet Boat #2 marking in red - evidently double weight (more than $\frac{1}{4}$ oz) hence the blue "2" in crayon altho the black New York "6" indicates New York passed it as being within the $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Since not tied, is it worth the \$65.00 price - it would always be questioned by any potential buyer.

The other 15¢ 1869 Type I cover is tied to folded letter and dealer wants \$85.00 for it.

I need this stamp on cover but the question is - are either worth the price asked? Give me your opinion Stan, and if you think I should buy either, please endorse the one you think I should purchase on the back with your opinion and signature. If you think I better wait for a better cover, just tell me so.

Am also enclosing a 90¢ single 1860 without gum which I got in a recent auction. Is it good or is it a backed up proof or perhaps a thinned down cardboard? It looks sort of screwy to me - not like some other known genuine copies I have of the same stamp but got it cheap enough at \$29.75 which makes me wonder. The paper looks peculiar and fuzzy. Is it OK?

Regards.

Sincerely,

Jack
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/
Enc:REG:

Dec. 30, 1953.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 90¢ 1860 and the two covers.

Re - the former, the stamp is okay - an unused copy without gum, but the reason you obtained it so cheap was because of the ragged perfs at top. The stamp was illustrated and described as "F" or fine. I believe such would not be an exaggeration. I feel sure that you did not pay too much though I would rather pay full cat. for a V.F. o.g. copy. The investment value might be higher.

Re - the two covers. The one with "Insufficiently Prepaid" was prepaid at 15¢, but it required 30¢, hence was rated as entirely unpaid with 30¢ due or "16" decimes in France. Who can say whether this particular stamp was used on the cover? There is no proof one way or the other, hence the value of the cover is in the stamp itself, that is, the same as if it was off the cover. The stamp is a Type I but close at right so I doubt if it is worth full cat. providing it is sound, that is, no thin spot, etc., etc. This cover could have had a 15¢ Lincoln. Such a cover cats. @ \$15.00, so you can see why the Zareski's do such things. Naturally I could hardly sign this as genuine. Whoever offered this to you should have stated ; Questionable - offered only as is." Inasmuch as the letter went by French Packet our only share of the rate was our internal or 2 x 3¢ - thus the black debit to France of 6¢. The dates "69" appear to be okay so apparently this actually was a use from New York on June 26, 1869.

Later

The above date is okay as I have a record and photo of a genuine cover by French Packet on June 26, 1869. It was from New Orleans and had a Type I - addressed to Paris and it was also short paid. What a coincidence? Regarding the cover to Bordeaux. This went to England from New York by American Packet, hence the rate was 15¢ per 1/4 oz., and our credit on such to France would be 6¢ - in red.

Later

My records show there was a sailing via American Packet on Sept. 2, 1869 from New York, a ship via the Bremen Line, hence I assume the 1869 date is correct. This narrows the authenticity of the cover down to "Did this stamp originate" on this cover? Who can say positively? Covers from the "Carrierre" correspondence have been faked but of course a lot are genuine. This cover could be good but I couldn't state that it is and I doubt if anyone else could with any degree of certainty. Under such circumstances, I don't believe you would care to buy the cover.

#2 - Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein - Dec. 30, 1953.

How about a fee of \$5.00 for the above.

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 6, 1954

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

Dear Em:

Herewith the four covers as per yours of the 29th. Some comments follow:

Re - the cover to Peru. The rate in 1864 was 22¢ per 1/2 ounce. It appears that this weighed over 1/2 oz. and that we had to pay the British 24¢ to carry the letter from Panama to Lima. Thus the blue "2" (double rate) and the crossed out 12 credit and one in red of 24. We collected only 22¢ and paid G.B. 24¢. It was either this or send the letter to the D.L.O. (Dead Letter Office) in Washington. No evidence as to who mailed the letter. The "12" was applied at New York but I have an idea the correction was made at Panama City. This is too early to help on my cover of 1870.

10¢ 1869 rate to France - November 1870. This is the 10¢ rate to France Via Great Britain - with a credit to G.B. of 6¢. This is the most common rate of that period (to France). Everything is okay. London and French postmarks are regular. The Franco Prussian War was being fought at that time. I am sure you have seen similar covers with the 10¢ bank note - See Knapp second sale.

Pair 5¢ Red Brown - What a postmark? I am wondering if it is "PESCADERO CAL?"

1¢ 1869 - I suppose that this was an unsealed circular - If it had been a "Drop" it could have been sent sealed.

Again re - the cover to Barcelona as pictured in GOSSIP. Under separate cover, I am sending you nine (9) photo prints of covers from the same correspondence which please return at your convenience. I don't seem to have any memos on the prints as to who loaned these to me but as I wrote you yesterday, I believe it was Win Boggs. (Not recently but several years ago). I have been studying some of these covers and I doubt if I would have any trouble doping out the rate. However, they are all very complicated as our share was figured in ounces whereas Spain rated in grammes. I put one print in an envelope - It shows 55¢ or an overpay of 1¢ as the rate was 20¢ U. S. from Habana plus 34¢ to Spain Via England (October 1874). These covers were a very valuable find, as the combination of Cuban and U. S. is most uncommon.

Regards -

Yours etc.,

Champion Pants

Manufacturing Co., Inc.



SALES OFFICES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

FORTY-NINE WEST TWENTY-THIRD STREET • NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS, CHAPANTS, N. Y.

December 29, 1953

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

Dear Stan:

In going through my collection, I found this cover, which I have had some time.

I plated the stamp, and it is 3-R-10. Please note the date on the cover. The only way I can dope it out is that there was a circular enclosed in the envelope, and it was sent unpaid, and that the envelope lay around the post office in Candia, New Hampshire for months before somebody picked it up and paid the one cent which was due. Would you have any information as to whether or not Candia, New Hampshire used the blue grid cancel at that time?

Any comments which you make on this cover would certainly be of interest.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Mort

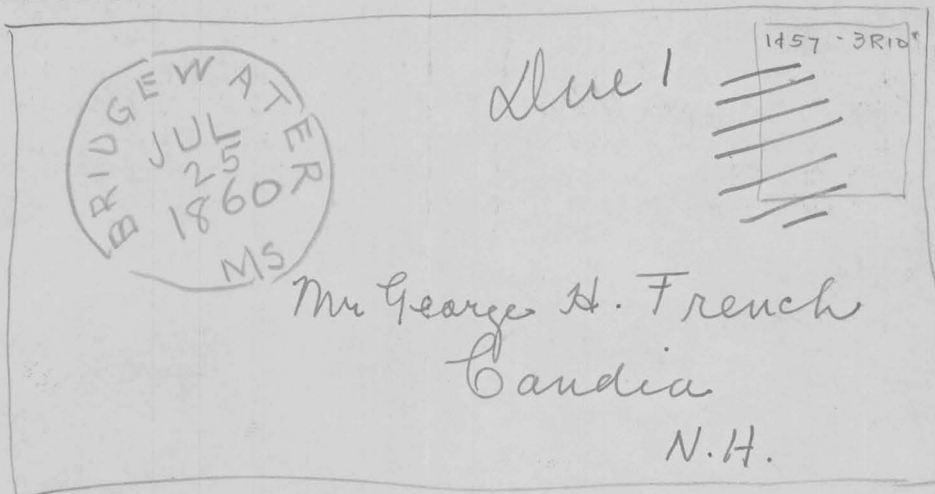
MORTIMER L. NEINKEN

MLN:dw

Encl.

Diagram of Cover
As Above -
Red postmark
Blue Grid Ties Stamp

Sent Unsealed



Jan. 8, 1954

Mr. Mortimer L. Neinken,
49 West 23rd St.,
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Mort:

Herewith the 1¢ 1857 cover as per yours of the 29th. I have examined this very carefully and am of the opinion that the item is genuine in every respect. I believe that this stamp was actually used on this cover as we see it with an unusual type of grid in blue. I also confirmed the plating of the stamp and it is unquestionably from the top row of Plate 10, and is surely 3R10. I note the use is Bridgewater, Mass. - JUL 25 1860, and this is really sensational, because my previous record of a Plate 10 stamp was NOV. 30, 1860, a cover that belongs to you. Previously, my earliest had been Dec. 21, 1860, the date listed in my One Cent book. To set an early date of use back from November to July is surely something that seems impossible, but, of course, canceled copies from Plate 10 may be much scarcer than we think. This early use made me very suspicious of the cover but after a very careful examination I am convinced it is genuine in every way. I regret that I have no record of the grids that were used at Bridgewater, Mass. in the summer of 1860, but I feel satisfied that the stamp was applied before mailing and was canceled at the Bridgewater office. I admit that a red postmark and a blue grid as late as the year 1860 is most unusual and especially so on a piece of mail such as this.

Now for the explanation of the rate and the "Due 1." Your theory is not according to any custom that prevailed years ago or since to my knowledge. I refer to any postage due piece of mail. You suggested that this letter(?) might have been sent entirely unpaid and that eventually someone in the Candia, N.H. post office applied a 1¢ stamp and it was canceled there. No such a practice prevails today and I doubt if it ever did. That is, the practice of putting a stamp or stamps on a postage due letter to pay the deficient postage. I especially mention this because on several occasions in the past such procedure was mentioned to me as the solution for postage due mail.

I note that your envelope was sent unsealed, hence must have been a piece of circular mail from Bridgewater, Mass. to Candia, N.H. and for a single rate would have required only one cent postage. Note:- the single rate because evidently this was a double rate, hence required 2¢. Now in the case of unsealed circular mail a double rate referred to enclosures rather than weight. For example, one circular was a single rate, but if you enclosed two circulars it was a double rate, etc., etc. Regarding weight, 3 ounces were permitted, but it had to be a single circular, newspaper, or "other article of transient matter."

I think the above is the explanation of your cover, as I have several or more examples of 2¢ circular rates with pairs of the 1¢ 1857 in my reference collection. On several occasions in the past such items have been submitted to me with the query - why the 2¢ rate? The sender of your cover enclosed two circulars and put on the envelope a 1¢ stamp. The postal clerk at either Bridgewater noted the two enclosures and thus rated the item as "Due 1." This is rather interesting

#2. Mr. Mortimer L. Neinken - Jan. 8, 1954.

but the real feature of this cover is the extremely early date. Little did I ever suppose that stamps from Plate 10 were issued so early.

The Regulation pertaining to such circular mail is in the 1857 P.L. & R. - under "Regulations, page 54, Sec. 119," quote:

"Unsealed circulars, advertisements, business cards, transient newspapers, and every other article of transient printed matter, (except books and packages of small publications, as above,) not weighing over three ounces, sent in the mail to any part of the United States, are chargeable with one cent postage each, to be prepaid by postage stamps. Where more than one circular is printed on a sheet, or a circular and letter, each must be charged with a single rate. This applies to lottery and other kindred sheets assuming the form and name of newspapers; and the miscellaneous matter in such sheets must also be charged with one rate. A business card on an unsealed envelope of a circular subjects the entire packet to letter postage. Any transient matter, like a circular or handbill, inclosed in or with a periodical or newspaper sent to a subscriber, or to any other person, subjects the whole package to letter postage; and whenever subject to letter postage from being sealed or from any cause whatever, all printed matter, without exception, must be prepaid or excluded from the mail. It is the duty of the postmaster at the mailing office, as well as at the office of delivery, carefully to examine all printed matter, in order to see that it is charged with the proper rate of postage and to detect fraud. At offices where postage stamps cannot be procured, postmasters are authorized to receive money in prepayment of postage on transient matter; but they should be careful to keep a supply of stamps on hand."

With regards -

Cordially yours,

114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N. Y.
December 27, 1953.

Dear Stanley:

I was never more pleased than I was today when I received your Plate 6 photos. I anticipate quite a bit of pleasure from these historical prints and they have already produced some results.

I am enclosing herewith eight 1¢ type V stamps, three singles, a vertical strip of three and a vertical pair, and I have numbered these from one to five. I found these stamps among a lot of twenty Type Vs which I obtained at the recent Siegel sale. It is obvious, of course, that all these copies came from the same sheet of stamps.

1. This copy plates with S.C.L. 1 and is 91L6.
2. This copy plates with F.A.H. 4 and is 84L6.
3. This copy is a "D" relief, which I have been unable to plate.
4. The "F" relief plates with the Richey 51L6 imprint copy and so this strip plates 31L6 - 41L6 - 51L6. This gives us two new positions on this pane. 41L6 shows nice plating marks.
5. I have been unable to plate this pair, Reliefs "D", "E". (Note the "S" curl in "D" relief, directly under the "E" of the Plainfield postmark.) It plates either 32L6 - 42L6, or 33L6 - 43L6, 34L6 - 44L6 or 76L6 - 86L6, and I suspect the latter is correct (?) and here's why:

Please note the large margins at top and bottom of 91L6. It may be that the perforating machine was reset (?) for this row. At any rate, we see part of the adjoining stamp, Relief "E" at top. A similar part seems to be missing in the "E" relief in the vertical pair. However, all this, of course, is mere conjecture.

Re-- Eye curl "A" stamps. I suspect that these surely (?) come from plate 7 (?).

6. Here is a perforated copy from the right center line and this could be 1R7. Note how close to the center line is the guide dot of 10L.

7. Here is a copy on cover of 10L7. Need we say more? Furthermore; 3R7 in the Ackerman Block shows the "T" mark and the "Eye Curl".

8. The middle stamp in this very poor strip seems to plate with 3R7 in the Ackerman block and strip plates 2R7 - 3R7 - 4R7.(?) It seems logical to suppose, does it not, that the first three "A" positions in the right pane and probably most if not all "A" positions in the left pane of Plate 7 show the "T" mark and "Eye curl". I hope to report more progress shortly.

29-32

Dec.27,1953

-2-

9. Here is a print that you just sent me. This print had been made many years ago, long before you suspected that transfer roll No.4 was used to enter part of Plate 6. This "B" relief plates with center stamp in our reconstruction of three and it's amazing that you should have suspected at that time that this was a plate 6 stamp.

I am happy to report that beginning Jan.4 I shall have more time to devote to stamps. For the past six years I have been assisting Joe Franklin in writing the scripts for his five T.V. and six radio shows weekly. I have finally induced Joe to get himself a new assistant.

Thanks again for showing me these Plate 6 photos. Enclosed herewith is my check in the amount of \$50. in partial payment of the postage and stationery and other expenses you have incurred in replying to my letters.

Anne joins me in wishing Mildred and Stan.Jr. and you a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Morris

114 East 84th Street,
New York, Dec.31, 1954.

Dear Stanley:

I am enclosing herewith two covers, one bearing a "D" relief imprint that plates 4OR6 and the other a vertical strip of three that plates 4OR6 - 5OR6 and 6OR6. I think these are gorgeous items, but unfortunately they do not belong to me. I must return them at once, so please photograph the covers and return them to me at your very earliest convenience.

The other day, I sent you a vertical strip of three that plates 31L6 - 41L6 - 51L6 and by coincidence here is another vertical strip from the other extreme end of the plate. (R.R. Cover) } Refers
To 4OR
5OR
6OR

I suspect this letter was written by someone connected with the Rutland and Burlington Rail Road and delivered to H. L. Sheldon who was station master and also postmaster at Middlebury, Vt. (?) NOT P.M.

The single "D" relief shows quite a nice part of the "Boston" imprint. The owner of the covers does not know the plate positions of the stamps and I definitely shall not advise his or his agent. These covers will probably come up at auction within the next month or two and of course I shall try for them.

Negative 7 shows a horizontal strip of three, J18 - J19 - J20. J20 plates with 5OR6 and so this strip plates 48R6 - 49R6 - 50R6. This gives us a new position, 48R6.

Stanley, if you ever get the time, please supply me with a new print of Negative 7. My print had been either under-exposed or under-developed and does not show the plating marks to best advantage. I am enclosing herewith two examples.

As per your instructions, I am keeping Mort advised of our progress. He is so determined to prove his contention that Plate 6 material is not scarce that he has been combing the collections of most of his good friends, but the poor fellow has come up with nothing new as yet.

Abe Rubel, Jr. died Monday, Dec.28.

With our best regards,

Sincerely,

Morris

Jan. 6, 1954.

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

Dear Morris:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of your two registered letters.

Thanks a million for the check about which I will write you later.

Stan Jr. was home last week from Tuesday to Saturday and this together with the Xmas holidays put me far behind in all my work. I will get at your two letters within the next few days. I believe that Mort is away but if not please phone him that I will attend to the photographs that he wishes very shortly. Mr. Maude sent me a number of pieces to photograph and these will also have my attention just as soon as possible.

Mildred joins me in the Best of Wishes for the New Year to Ann and you.

Cordially yours,

Jan. 7, 1954.

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

Dear Morris:

Here is a letter from Mort together with a copy of my reply. Later I will send you a photo print of the cover but in the meantime I drew a diagram of it on Mort's letter. Quite a nice discovery.

Regards.

Hastily,

Jan. 8, 1954.

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

Dear Morris:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 31st. I ran out of photo plates and had to wait until a fresh supply was sent over to me. I am sorry about the delay and trust it did not embarrass you. I am photographing the Maude material and will return it to him tomorrow.

Regards.

Hastily,

Jan. 11, 1954.

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

Dear Morris:

Kindly refer to yours of the 31st, first paragraph. The single imprint on cover was 5OR6, not 40. Of course, you knew this but made a typographical error in your letter. When I returned it on the 8th, I had photographed it with your memo as 4OR6 but had not checked it. I will correct the memo on my negative.

The cover (R.R.) with the vert. 4OR6 - 5OR6 - 6OR6 was certainly a superb item. The year of use was 1858. In 1857 and 1859, the postmaster was William P. Russell. I haven't an 1858 list.

In the 4th paragraph of your letter you also mentioned the 5OR6 imprint as a "D." This just for the record.

I do hope that you succeed in acquiring both covers.

Re - the 5th paragraph of your letter, you stated that J20 plates with 4OR6, but you meant 5OR6 and you are quite correct in stating that this strip is 48R6 - 49R6 - 5OR6. Fine work Morris as the J 18 strip is heavily canceled. Inasmuch as I had no previous record of 6OR6, your plating gives us two new positions, viz., 48R6 and 6OR6. Fine work.

As per your request, I made a new print of Jefferys negative No. 7 and enclose it herewith together with return of the prints that you sent me.

I note that you are keeping in close touch with Mort. I hope he is right on his theory that Pl. 6 material is not scarce. If he is right then we should be able to complete the plate.

I was so sorry to learn that Abe Rubel passed away, but I suppose he was lucky to have lived as long as he did with cancer.

As promised, I am now enclosing a print of Mort's cover with the "Due 1." I will welcome your comment on the letter that I wrote him. The tracing under the stamp is mine and is not on the cover. Quite a nice item. The stamp is 3R10 as Mort stated.

I also enclose copy of my letter to W. L. Maude.

Now for your letter of Dec. 27th - I will use the same numbers as the ones you used in your letter.

No. 1 - Quite correct - this is 91L6.

No. 2 - " " - " " 84L6.

#2. Mor Morris Fortgang - Jan. 11, 1954.

No. 3 - Being a Type V copy, and hence not supposed to come from Plate 6, I have nothing that I know of to tie it to. I have marked it as Position ? in the left pane of Plate 6.

No. 4 - Your plating of the 51L6 in this strip was very clever. I believe that Mort now owns the Richey imprint copy. Correct? This strip, as you stated, gives us two New positions - 31L and 41L. Very, very fine.

No. 5 - Vertical pair - Plate 6 (left pane) - Relief "D" & "E." The "D" is a "Va" and the "E" is a cross between a V and Va (This for my record). I have noted your remarks re - probable positions, also noted the small head curl in the top stamp. Too bad the pair is so heavily canceled.

Eye Curl - Top row - "A" Reliefs.

No. 6 - I note you think that this copy is 1R7. Perhaps you are right but I am not quite sure as the impression is not good. I enclose a photo print of a strip of 1R7 - 11R7 - 21R7. Please return this as it is from my files and made in 1938. Your 1R seems to match this.

No. 7 - Cover with a single marked as 10L7 (nice dot in "A"). No doubt this is 10L7 and I note it has the "eye curl." Also I note that 3R7 has an "eye curl," something I never noted before. I do not know what the answer is to the mysterious "eye curl" but you will note that the strip herewith of 1R7 etc. don't seem to show the "eye curl." I have examined my record of what few positions that I have of the top row of the left pane of Plate 7 and none of them show the "curl."

No. 8 - I fail to find any plating marks to tie this in with 3R7 and 4R7, hence doubt very much if this is from the top row of the right pane of Plate 7. Further, study and material will probably give us the answer.

No. 9 - I return the photo print of the Lyons. I don't think that I ever plated the stamp and note that you located it as the center stamp in the second row floating reconstruction of three, which I have compared and found to be absolutely correct. There is no date on the print in my files so I have no idea when it was made. Incidentally J44 on Plate 12 is a bit similar and may be near by.

I note that beginning Jan. 4th you are to have more time to devote to stamps which is fine indeed.

And now Morris, permit me to again thank you most kindly for the check for \$50.00. I do appreciate your kindness I can assure you. Things have not been so good for the past several months. December is always a blank so far as any income is concerned. In addition, my first floor apartment was vacated very suddenly Jan. 1st.

Stan Jr. was home last week for New Years and don't expect to get another leave before his ship leaves for the Far East early in April. He is very enthusiastic over his new life, likes his ship, his captain and his fellow officers. I believe he will make a good and valuable officer and he has the faculty of getting along with people.

#3. Mr. Morris Mortgang - Jan. 11, 1954.

I will send you some prints this week.

Mildred joins me in best wishes to Ann and you and any time you both can fly out and make us a visit you will be most welcome.

Cordially yours,

114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N. Y.
Jan.20, 1954.

Dear Stanley:

First, a word re your letter of Dec.23. You write:"Later on I may let you have some of my Plate Eleven copies hoping that you will in time carry on the work of Plate reconstruction." I was deeply touched by this statement.

Although I have been concentrating at the moment on Plate Six, I have not neglected any of the One Cent Plates. More Anon. I have quite a few Plate Eleven stamps, but other than a mint block of four, 81L11- 82L11- 91L11- 92L11, and several pairs, I can show only singles. Mort has three blocks of four in his collection, which is always at my disposal as a source of reference material. Many Plate Eleven stamps show some plating mark(s) and I have been illustrating these on plating cards. One of the difficulties I have encountered is in obtaining duplicates of the same position in order to prove the plating marks. Therefore I was quite delighted when you sold me recently the right center line copy, inasmuch as I had a copy of this position which shows nice plating marks. This stamp cannot plate 91L11, as you suggest, as we can see at bottom the top line of adjoining stamp. Furthermore, Plate Eleven bottom row "B" reliefs are, as a rule, slightly different from the "B" reliefs from the body of the plate. The sweep of the outer line of the right plume seems to be somewhat longer. I am enclosing herewith the two Plate Eleven stamps.

Re -- Mort and Maude. I have never spoken to Maude; in fact I have never met him. Mort phoned me one evening last December to come over and see Maude's collection of the 1¢ Type V on cover. I noted that the collection consisted mainly of mediocre items, but two covers were outstanding. One was the Portland cover and another bore a really early impression of a strip of three from Plate Six, 24L6- 25L6- 26L6. I suspect the four cent rate cover to Spain which you thought had been faked is genuine in every way, inasmuch as I have a cover in my collection which could be a replica of this one. It was at this time that Mort showed me the remarkable July 1860 Plate Ten cover. He had been searching for top row "Eye" curl stamps when he stumbled across the Plate Ten. This is the first tangible results the eye curls have given us.

Re -- Mort's Early Use from Plate Ten. "Sensational" is the word. Finding the unexpected is what makes our hobby so fascinating. Nevertheless, Stanley, I don't suppose you should be so greatly surprised at this early use. In your letter to Mort you write"Little did I ever suppose that stamps from Plate 10 were issued so early."

If you will refer to your Work, Vol.1, Pg.297, you will note that you anticipated such early use, or even earlier. You write: "It is entirely possible that Plate Ten was made at a much earlier period than any actual evidence we have indicates.

"Plate Three of the 12¢ 1857 was made in the Spring of 1860, our earliest record of use of such a stamp is June 1, 1860. The imprint used on this 12¢ Plate was of the "Second Type"

Jan. 20, 1954.

-2-

"If Plate Ten was made in the Fall of 1860, it is indeed strange that the old imprint roller was used instead of the new one."

Inasmuch as the old Imprint Roll was used on Plate Ten, Mort's discovery makes it appear quite probable that this plate was made even prior to the 12¢ Plate Three.

Most all Bridgewater postmarks that I have seen indicate that their postmaster(s) appeared partial to red.

Lot #162, in the Fox sale of Feb. 11, is a lovely cover showing the postmark of Bridgewater Ms. in red and a blue grid which ties a 3¢ 1857. Both markings are very, very similar to those on Mort's cover. Unfortunately the year date is not clear, but it could be 1860(?). Perhaps the color of the 3¢ stamp may provide a clue. This cover is illustrated.

Thanks for showing me that block of 14 from the right pane of Plate 12. This block shows quite an early impression and several unusual double transfers including 74R12 which you illustrate in your Work. I have in my collection a similar block 71R12 to 74R12 81R12 to 83R12 and 91R12 to 93R12, catalog photo enclosed. After I acquired this block, I learned that Mort was also interested in it. I shall show him your wonderful block just as soon as he returns from Florida. He has extended his stay there several days because his younger brother, who lives there, had recently suffered a heart attack.

I am returning herewith Mort's letter re the early use of the Plate ten. I am sure you have reserved a page in your Scrap Book for this letter.

I am enclosing also the photo of the V.S. of three, 1R7 - 11R7 - 21R7. This is really a lovely strip. 1R7 shows the "T" mark and the "Eye" Curl. I have a strip of three, 8L7 - 9L7 - 10L7, each stamp showing the characteristic "T" mark and "Eye" Curl, but I shall withhold my report until I have made more definite progress.

Re -- Our floating reconstruction of three "B" reliefs. The stamp to right plates with 16L6, shown on negative 12, and the reconstruction plates 14L6 - 15L6 - 16L6. This gives us two new positions on the left Pane of Plate Six. I am enclosing this reconstruction for verification, altho I believe you have photos of these stamps. Altho 14L6 is a late impression, it shows recognizable plating marks.

Re -- Negative 31. ERJ5 - ERJ6 plates 2R8 - 3R8.

Re -- Plate 6 photos that you loaned me. I have plated most of these prints from memory. However, several are unfamiliar and I shall check these within the next few days. A number of these prints are collector's items, especially those you used to illustrate your Work.

Thanks, Stanley and Mildred, for your very kind invitation to visit you. Ann joins me in promising you we shall fly (?) out at the earliest possible moment. With our best regards,

Sincerely,

Morris

114 East 84th St.,
New York 28, N. Y.
January 30, 1954.

Dear Stanley:

Thanks for the 5¢ rate cover showing a use during the French Treaty period. I am highly pleased with this cover and enclosed is my check in the amount of sixty-five dollars in payment.

I realize you are busy at the moment getting out your Service and so I shall be brief.

I have just stumbled across a reconstruction of seven from the right pane of Plate Six.

The print enclosed herewith shows three singles, which we shall call X1 - X2 - X3, Relief "F" bottom row. It is probable that these three stamps were originally a horizontal strip of three.

Please refer to pair, J29 - J30 on Negative 7. (this was quite a lucky negative) X1 plates with J29; X2 plates with J30.

Now refer to vertical strip of three FAH 21, 22, 23 shown on Negative 24. X2 and J30 plate with FAH 23 and we have a reconstruction of four. X3 plates with bottom stamp in Mort's vertical strip of three, Reliefs "D", "E" and "F", the strip in which the "D" relief shows the double curl. (I am plating this from memory, I haven't a print of Mort's strip, altho I wish I did.) And so we have a reconstruction of seven.

I suspect this reconstruction plates 79R6 - 80R6, 89R6 - 90R6 and 98R6 - 99R6 - 100R6. Of course, we have no definite proof of this plating; it is possible (?) that this reconstruction can come from one vertical row to left.

Now back to the left pane of Plate Six. F.A.H. 28, Negative 25 plates 16L6 and F.A.H. 27 is an "A" relief and probably comes from the first six rows of this pane. Too bad these two singles weren't a pair. You probably have several reconstructions of "A" reliefs and F.A.H. 27 may provide a clue as to which reconstruction comes from the left pane of Plate Six.

Re Eye curls --- J.G.F. 2 Negative 15 shows "Eye" curl and "T" mark and plates 9L7.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

P.S. Tonight I visited Mort and found I was lucky; X3 plated with the "F" relief in his vertical strip.

Enclosed also is the Maude strip of three showing a nice, early impression of 24L6 - 25L6 - 26L6. I don't think Maude or Mort noticed this plating.

Feb. 4, 1954.

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

Dear Morris:

I have been swamped with work of late and had to lay aside your letter of the 20th until I could get a breathing spell. I now have it before me and will attempt to reply.

Yes, I have it in mind to turn over to you what I have in Plate Eleven but I fear you will be disappointed as I never had a great deal years ago, and what I had has been much depleted thru the years by this one or that one picking out various items. Chase never had very much and in the sale of his collection in 1925, there were only 12 lots listed under Plate Eleven though there might have been other items in different classifications, cancels, etc. Glancing at the old catalogue of his sale I note he had an unused block of four. I probably have a photograph of it somewhere. I also note a single copy canceled Jan. 19, 1861 was described as the earliest known use of a stamp from this plate. The earliest now is Jan. 12, 1861. However, "earliest known" back in those days were eagerly sought after and that single sold @ \$56.00; as compared to the unused block which only brought \$32.00. Just imagine.

You are quite right about the Plate 11 center line stamp that I sold you and which I return herewith. Of course, this is not a bottom row or 91R2 - Bottom row stamps are, as you stated, slightly different. I enclose seven copies herewith on cards from my files. Look these over and return at your convenience. You will note that I have 100L11 and 91R11, two nice stamps.

Thanks Morris, for calling my attention to the remarks in my book on the early date of use of Plate 10 - Imprint, etc. I don't suppose I have read the Plate 10 chapter since I wrote it back in 1936-1937. At that time, I was doing nothing else but work on the One Cent plates and living with them 24 hours a day, day in and day out, I had many details at my finger-tips that have since been forgotten. In other words, I am rusty - very rusty - on One Cent plating and besides, I am not as young as I was in the middle thirties. Stamp work that came easy in the twenties and thirties don't come so easy at present. Look how keen you are on spotting plating marks, you may be just as keen at 75 but the chances are you might not. Maybe that is an exaggeration as Chase seems just as keen today on the 3¢ '51 plates as he was 30 years ago. However, he is one in a million.

Going back to the style of imprint used on Plate 10 and the style used on the 12¢ Plate 3, the case I put up was not bad so it is possible that the two plates might have been made in the spring of 1860, with the 1¢ Plate 10 being made before the 12¢ Plate 3.

Re - Lot #162 in the Fox Sale for the 11th. Please tell Mort to buy this cover so he can include it as a mate to his 1¢ cover. Tell him not to let it get away.

#2. Mr. Morris Fortgang - Feb. 4, 1954.

Re - your block of 10 from Plate 12 (Illustration herewith). I had forgotten about this, but I noticed it in the auction catalogue, clipped the illustration and put it in my Plate 12 file. Then forgot about it. I note it was Lot 793 in the Laurence Sale of Dec. 11, 1953 and sold @ \$280.00. Right?

Mort returned the Plate 12 block to me and I removed the gum and mounted it for him and it really looks very beautiful.

I sent Mort from my files what photographs that I have from Plate 7 left pane. I believe I instructed him to let you see them before he returned them. If not, you can remind him to do so.

Re - our floating "2B" reconstruction of three. You are absolutely correct. This is 14L6 - 15L6 and 16L6. Fine work. This gives us two new positions and completes seven positions in the 2nd row. In addition, we now have all but three of the Plate 6 "B" positions.

I am enclosing seven photographs and plating cards of seven "B" items which I have attempted to plate. Perhaps you can locate them.

I return your two pairs 14-15 and 15-16L6. Yes, I have very good photos. Did I send you prints? If not, let me know.

Re - negative #31. Sometime ago I discovered that the Jacobs pair of ERJ 5 - ERJ 6 was 2R8 - 3R8 - also that ERJ 12 is 7R8 - also that J58 on negative 19 is 3R8. I may have some more tops that I thought were Plate 6 that turned out to be from Plate 8.

Now for yours of the 23rd. I made a further search for the negatives of the left pane of Plate 9 but failed to locate them. However, I still have quite a few old negatives to go thru and I will make another try soon. I also note that you would like to have prints of both panes of Plates 8 and 10. I can't tell you whether I have any duplicate prints on hand or not or whether I have any memos as to where the old negatives are. I will keep your letter before me and will make a search. Keeping track of reference material is my biggest problem.

I believe that I thanked you for the check for \$10.00, but if not - thanks. Also consider it pay in full for that batch of prints, as you sent me a check for \$50.00 not long ago, and I didn't intend to make any charge.

Now for your letter of the 30th, enclosing check for \$65.00 for the cover to France. Thanks very much. I may use the cover in my March Service Issue. I am wondering what you thought of the color slides I sent you. Morris, there is no question but what color slides of your covers are wonderful to have and show - You can buy a projector and a screen - ones that are portable and you could give talks with them before the C.C. or other stamp clubs. An outfit would cost you less than \$100.00 and it would afford you a world of pleasure. You don't need to

#3. Mr. Morris Fortgang - Feb. 4, 1954.

confine it to stamps as you can buy wonderful color slides of most every scenic spot in the U. S. I will give you good advice what and where to buy if you consider seriously.

Re - the print of the three trimmed "F" relief singles which I return herewith. Before noting the remarks in your letter, I have an indistinct recollection that I wrote you about these three singles some time ago and mentioned that ~~one~~ of the three had a dash in the "A" of postage and that it was the same as the bottom stamp in Mort's "D" "E" "F" strip, thus proving that Mort's strip was 8-9-10, rather than 4-5-6. I note that you would like to have a photo of Mort's strip, so I am sending you a very fine print under separate cover by Air Mail. With it I am including a print of Mort's 94-95-96L6 and your 5-15R6 as these were on the same negative.

Now for your letter. You are absolutely right J29 and J30 are the same as the two trimmed "F" copies which you call XI and X2. I suppose there is little doubt that X3 is the position to the right of X2. You are also right in your plating of FAH 21-22-23 (Negative 24) - FAH is the same as X2 and, of course, J30. Fine work. This gives us a reconstruction of seven positions which I note you suspect may be as follows:

79R6 - 80R6
89R6 - 90R6
98R6-99R6 -100R6

Or it may be one vertical row to the left. I suspect it is probably the latter, rather than that Mort's strip is a center line strip.

Later

Searching my records I find that I tied together J29-J30 to the FAH vertical. I must have done this some time ago but I did not note that J29-J30 was the same as X1 - X2. I photographed FAH 21-22-23 way back in 1937, then borrowed it again several years ago and photographed it. Re - FAH 28, negative 25, I had plated this as 16L6.

Re - FAH 27, I have not been able to plate this but I have it marked as a duplicate of F.I. on Negative 15. Both have a dot in "N" (Cent).

Re - JGF 2, negative 15, I note you think that this is 9L7. I will make a memo to that effect and if possible, will confirm later.

Congratulations on the Maude strip, and its identification as 24L6 - 25L6 - 26L6. I don't think that Maude does any plating himself though I think he would like to if he had enough material.

I believe this brings me up to date with you.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

U.S. POSTAGE



FIVE CENTS

U.S. POSTAGE



FIVE CENTS

U.S. POSTAGE



FIVE CENTS

3126

4126

5126

AH17

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

(4)

U.S. POSTAGE



ONE CENT

9626

A417

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

①





PI 6
Position

AH17

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

3



NO. 5



NO 6

HIS LETTER 12/27-53-SEE SB 29

J 423

Mr. Morris Lurgang
114 East 84th Street
NEW YORK (28) N. Y.
JAN - 8 1954

6

SEE SB 29 P.32
COVER



1027

L

7

B 423

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

JAN - 8 - 1954



Is This Top Row

Pl. 7?

A 417

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

8

8

U.S. POSTAGE

50 R6

M.F.

50R6
50R6

ONE CENT



See
on

4050
4500

Black

MIDDLEBURY
VT.
JUL 23
1858



WILLIAM L. MAUDE
74 BEVERLY ROAD
UPPER MONTCLAIR, N. J.

Sunday. Decr 27th 1953.

Dear Mr Ashbrook,

Both Mr Neinken and Mr Fortgang have been going my collection of Covers and loose stamps - the One Cent Blues of 1857 - and have asked me to send you the enclosed six covers and two vertical pairs for photographing.

Would you please be good enough to send three prints of each to me - one for Neinken, one for Fortgang and the other for my use - together with your bill for all charges, including return postage etc.

Mr Neinken has visited me at home three times and I greatly enjoy his visits and both he and Mr Fortgang seem to be making great strides with their plating projects and of course I am happy to be able to produce anything that may be of interest to them.

Your kindness in this matter will be greatly appreciated by all three of us.

With every good wish for your Good Health and Happiness during the coming New Year,
Cordially,

William L. Maude

Stanley B. Ashbrook Esq;
Fort Thomas. Ky.

Jan. 6, 1954.

Mr. William L. Maude,
74 Beverly Road,
Upper Montclair, N.J.

Dear Mr. Maude:

Your registered letter of the 28th was received and the items will have my attention within the next few days, and will be returned to you. The Xmas holidays put me far behind in my work, hence this delay.

With every good wish for the New Year -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 9, 1954.

Mr. Wm. L. Maude,
74 Beverly Road,
Upper Monclair, N.J.

Dear Mr. Maude:

Herewith I am returning the 17 1857 items as per yours of Dec. 27th, six covers and two vertical pairs. I made enlarged photographs of each item with the exception of the cover to Spain with the block of four. I suppose Mr. Neinken wished a photo of this because of the date of use, but I have noted this week that he has in his collection a cover with a stamp from Plate 10 used from Bridgewater, Mass. on July 25, 1860, the earliest use now known of a stamp from that plate.

In the very near future I will send you three prints of each item. Your little cover from Portland is quite a gem.

My good friends, Fortgang and Neinken have been doing a fine job of turning up a lot of new material from the Type V plates and I hope that we can eventually complete Plate 6 and the left page of Plate 7, as well as get a better knowledge of Plate 5, though I have little belief that we will ever get very far with any reconstruction of that plate.

I trust that you have fully recovered your health and wish you everything good for the New Year.

Cordially yours,

Copy to
M. F. Fortgang,
M. L. Neinken.

Jan. 19, 1954.

Mr. William L. Maude,
74 Beverly Road,
Upper Montclair, N.J.

Dear Mr. Maude:

Under separate cover by first-class mail, I am forwarding to you three sets of photographs of the 1857 items. The charge is \$3.00 per set or \$9.00.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Post Office Department

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed
to William L. Maude
74 Beverly Road
Upper Montclair N.J.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Jan. 29, 1954.

Mr. William L. Maude,
74 Beverly Road,
Upper Montclair, N.J.

Dear Mr. Maude:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 24th enclosing check for \$9.00 for the photo prints for which kindly accept my thanks.

Herewith the Type V cover which you enclosed with the vertical pair of reliefs "E" - "F" plus the single "B." Re - the latter stamp, this is quite a poor rough impression but the "scratches" at lower left seem to match those of 11R10. I will make an enlarged photo and no doubt the latter will prove the plating correct. It also may enable us to locate the pair which surely came from the same pane.

I note that you thought the date in the postmark was Feb. 14, 1860. However, I believe if you will examine same carefully, you will find it is SEP 14, 1860.

We set the earliest use from this plate back from Nov. 30, 1860 to July 25, 1860 only recently, so you see a September date fits in very nicely. I feel quite sure that this plate was not made as early as February 1860.

Prints will follow shortly.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,



Jack E. Malesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

January 6, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for the photo print on the #2 for which I enclose \$2.00. I also acknowledge receipt of your returns on the covers and though I am sorry you did not have time to do anything with them I understand your situation. However, it would have been quite all right for you to have held them until the first of the year as they have been the rounds of my clients and I have no urgent need for them. Would you like to have me return all or part of them now or later? I appreciate your note regarding Rust's reaction to the 10¢ - 1847 cover. I am sure he would be glad to have it at the \$500 price were it not that he knows I purchased it in Daniel's last auction for \$270 which I considered a real "sleeper" price. He bid in the same sale but apparently overlooked this item and is therefore reluctant to pay what the cover is really worth since he probably feels that if he had bid on it in the auction he could have gotten it for much less which is not completely true as I would have bid it up to around \$400 myself before dropping out.

I am enclosing the following for your inspection, comments, etc.: #58 cover - I can find no record in your book or Jarritt of this type of Paid Ten cancel. Is it rare?; #67 - strip of 4 on face of cover - one of your service articles mentions only a couple of these known to exist, is this one of them or a third? can you sell it?; #35 mint with full side ornaments and balls - I can find no mention of this variety in your 10¢ book. Are you aware of it?; #8 - would appreciate your plating this if possible as I have a client who may need the position; card of three #8a's*(?) - would appreciate your typing and if at all possible plating each of these for the same client.

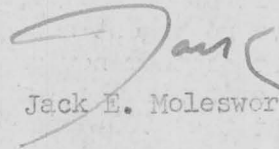
I have several times mentioned how handy an index would be to your special service and as a case in point recently had occasion to try to determine the various rates on "Prussian closed mail" several articles on which I recall having seen in your service. However, after spending about one-half hour checking through it I was able to find only one of them and not the one desired. The value of past issues of the service is becoming considerably lessened by the large volume of material and our

* All From Same Cover
may be consecutive positions?

inability to locate for reference articles that are pertinent to questions but that come to hand in the course of our day to day business. I would again therefore urge that you compile some sort of index in the near future, if at all possible. I am also wondering if you have considered publishing a table of contents* for say each year's issue as such would be sufficient to find most anything desired in much less time than sorting through each separate article. I could naturally do this myself and probably will the first chance I can find some spare time though I can't recall having had any spare time during the past five years!

Wishing you and yours the best for the New Year;

With kind regards,



Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

*just chronological 1350 of titles
of 2 articles in each 1354c.

Jan. 9, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 6th received.

Re - the 10¢ '47 strip. When I sent it to Mr. Rust, I had no idea where you obtained it or what you paid. In fact, the latter would not have been of any interest to me whatsoever, I didn't know whether or not you had shown it to Mr. Rust but because he is forming a reconstruction of the plate I sent it to him as I considered your price very fair. If a strip of 10¢ '47, that is, in good condition is not worth \$500.00 in present day dollars then my over fifty years in philately has taught me very little. Just because you got a bargain in your purchase of this strip does not mean that it is not worth all of \$500.00. Of course, it is none of my business but I do think it is a bit unfortunate that the investment value of an item such as this is not better appreciated. I wonder if many realize that there are relatively few strips of three of the 10¢ '47 in existence today. I did not consider the strip as fine but the condition is certainly not bad and could surely be classed as "good."

Herewith the items which you enclosed - comments follow:

10¢ 1861 - Type I - on cover. This was a cover that belonged to Gibson. The pencil notation on face is mine and made years ago when it was in his collection and I photographed it. The red marking was an "Exchange Office" marking, that is, one that was applied at the U. S. office where mail was exchanged with Canada. This particular circular type was used at either Chicago or Detroit and the chances are it was the latter. Inasmuch as it was U. S. applied, I don't suppose it is in the Jarrett book. Such markings were specified in the U. S. - Canadian postal treaty of the period. There are a number of different types as you are well aware. Some are rare, depending on the volume of mail that passed thru a particular office. I never attached much importance to them except as a decoration to a cover. Perhaps at times a stamp got hit with one of the stampers and such errors could add value to a stamp or cover. There was quite a nice article on these markings in the A.P. of December 1929 - Vol. 43 - No. 3 - pages 95 to 108. Looking this up I note he illustrates this marking and lists it as Jarrett's #499. He gives it as the "Port of Entry" as Toronto, but the author did not state where it was applied. The author was Edw. J. Bernstein but I never heard of him. I note that Jarrett's #499 does not refer to this type. I doubt if this marking can be considered as rare. Souren paid \$110.00 for this cover in the Gibson sale. Ward described it as a "scarce post-mark." I suppose he referred to the Fort Madison, Iowa. At that sale I bid \$100 for the cover for Saul Newbury. I think you can raise your price enough to pay my fee on this lot.

#2. Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - Jan. 9, 1954.

5¢ 1861 Buff - Vertical strip of four. This item has come up in the past in a number of sales. For example, it was Lot #137 in the Clarence Eagle sale by Morgenthau on April 4-10, 1923. I have no record of the price realized. Old "J.C." described it as, "Two of the stamps defective." I think I might be able to place it but everything considered I doubt if I could ask \$150.00, as its value is only as an off cover vert. strip of four pencanceled. This was originally a double 15¢ rate to France with 30¢ paid. Send it back if you can make a fair price.

10¢ 1857 - Type V. This is a painting - the side ornaments have been painted. The "artist" evidently attempted to make a Type I rather than a new variety of Type V. I suppose such work is done in Europe rather than in this country. Some of his "additions" are rather good - others are very poor. In all not a bad job and what the "artist" needs is a bit more practice.

1¢ 1851 - Plate 4 - Relief B - Type III - S.U.S. No. 8 - plate position 1514 - See Ashbrook book Vol. I - Chart page 234.

1¢ 1851 - Three singles from Plate 4 - I marked the types of these on the back. Two of the three are cut into, hence are was types. The condition of these (all three) is so poor, they are not worth fee for the time it would take me to plate them. The best of the three seems almost devoid of any identifying marks.

My fee for the above is \$7.50.

Re - an Index for my Service, you are quite right, an Index is needed and no one needs it any more than myself. I have intended to get around to this for some months past but have never been able to spare the time. I will do so in the very near future.

With best wishes for 1954 -

Sincerely yours,

Jan. 12, 1954.

Mr. R. M. Wilkinson,
Box 129,
Shelby, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

Replying to yours of the 9th. It is my guess that the cover is a Confederate stampless and was probably used on Oct. 23rd, 1861. Weston, Va. is now West Virginia - and the county seat of Lewis County. The cover is addressed to Beverley, Va. - This is a small town about 25 miles east by south in Randolph County. I am, of course, assuming that both towns were in Confederate hands in October 1861, though it may be doubtful if they were in later months. I assume the Weston office did not have a supply of Confederate stamps as early as Oct. 23, 1861, hence handstamped his cash or charged mail as "Paid" and in this case neglected to mark the "5" evidently paid. If my guesses are correct, then this is a Virginia handstamped Paid and in my opinion has little if any value, unless, of course, someone was seeking a Weston, Va. handstamped Paid of Weston, Va.

If you wish, you could send a print to August Dietz and inquire if he cares to list this as a Virginia "H.S.P." in the new Confed catalogue he intends to publish. However, please don't mention my name or quote me as I am not on speaking terms with Dietz.

Under separate cover I am sending you a sample copy of my Jan. 1st Service Issue, which has some material on Confederates.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

MILLARD H. MACK
SPECIAL AGENT

W. J. MACK
GENERAL AGENT

1204 CAREW TOWER
TELEPHONES { MAIN 2814
AV 4061

CINCINNATI 2, OHIO,

Thursday
January 14, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a single copy and a pair of the 3¢ 1869 stamp. The stamps do not have a grill. At least it is not evident to my eyes.

Could you tell me whether these are S.U.S. #114 without the grill, or S.U.S. #114 with the grill pressed out, or perhaps S.U.S. #125?

I would appreciate this very much and if they are #114 without grill or #125 I would appreciate your signing them. Please let me know what your fee is and I will remit same immediately.

Many thanks for all your help.

Cordially yours,

Millard H. Mack

3930 Red Bud Avenue

Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Jan. 15, 1954.

Mr. Millard H. Mack,
3930 Red Bud Ave.,
Cincinnati 29, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the pair and the single of the 3¢ 1869. In my opinion, both items show traces of the grill and it is possible that someone may have soaked these in very hot water and then tried to iron out the grill. Under my binocular microscope traces of the grill are quite noticeable. I suggest you hold the items on a level with your eye against a strong light. There are people who try to make varieties of stamps, sometimes for gain, sometimes for the pleasure(?) of such monkey-business.

The S.U.S. lists certain values of the 1869 issue "without grill - o.g." - and prices them only as unused. In my opinion, such items are "Essays" - not postage stamps and never issued. Personally I do not believe that such trash should be included in the catalogue. In short, if a collector wants a 3¢ 1869 "without grill" he should only accept the "Essay" and of course a certificate of genuineness. Personally I would care for one otherwise - that is, used.

There is no fee for the above.

I am wondering if you have a copy of the Luff book on 19th U.S.? I have a copy for sale.

Sincerely yours,

Jan. 28, 1954.

Mr. Robert H. Schoen,
Thomas Township,
Saginaw R 5, Mich.

Dear Mr. Schoen:

Herewith the stampless cover as per yours of the 26th. This letter was forwarded under the terms of the U. S. - French Postal Treaty of 1857 - effective April 1, 1857 - Mail could be sent paid or unpaid, but no part payments were permitted. The rate was 15 ¢ per 1/4 ounce in the U. S. and 7½ grammes in France. The rate was divided between the two countries according to the transmission across the Atlantic. This feature is rather complicated and I will not go into it here except as it pertains to your cover. Unpaid mail was generally marked in black - prepaid mail in red.

Your cover, a folded letter, was forwarded unpaid from Havre by the S.S. Fulton, an American Mail Ship. The letter did not weigh over 1/4 ounce when it reached New York, hence the foreign division of that office handstamped it in black with "15" or 15¢ due at New Orleans from the Addressee. All the French P.O. did was to place it aboard an American Mail Ship, hence their share of the rate was only 3¢ per quarter ounce. This charge or debit to the U.S. P.O.D. was handstamped at Havre as a "3" - that is, 3¢ in U. S. currency. Debits and credits were marked in dollars and cents under the Treaty.

The letter was at first, thru error, handstamped at Havre with a "6," but because of the error it was crossed out. This marking should have been an "8," as the French rate was "8" decimes to the U.S. or approximately 15¢ U.S. - A decime was a tenth of a French franc. The double circle French postmark under the New York probably reads as follows:

EF - UNIS - SERV - AM. D"

15

OCT

60

HAVRE

The Fulton was a rather slow ship but the letter though written on Oct. 10th, was instructed to be held for the Fulton which doubtless sailed for New York on Oct. 15. Had the sender prepaid this letter, then there would have been a credit to the U.S. P.O.D. of 12¢. However, had it been sent unpaid and across channel to England and carried over by a British Cunard Mail Ship to Boston or New York, the debit would have been 12¢ instead of 3¢. By that transmission our share would have been the U.S. internal under the treaty of 3¢ per 1/4 oz. Not the U.S. domestic which was 3¢ per 1/2 oz.

#2. Mr. Robert H. Schoen - Jan. 28, 1954.

My fee for the above analysis is \$2.50.

Sincerely yours,

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.

Thursday A.M. January 28, 1954.

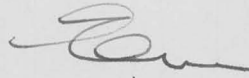
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
33 No Ft Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

Here are two covers I want your opinion about, please. I have just come back from New Orleans to hold our annual stockholders meeting. While there I went by Raymond Weill's. I bought this cover from Hawaii. What do you think of it and do you think it O.K. and genuine?

This other cover from Sam Paige speaks for itself. I found this letter from him and submit it to you just as it came to me. No doubt the cover is genuine since no faker would produce such a piece of tripe. I thought maybe you would like to photograph it while I had it. Maybe I should give him a few dollars for it just as a reference. What is your advice?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the name 'Sam' or similar, written in dark ink.

Jan. 29, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Your Special came at noon today. The Hawaii cover perfectly good in every way and I have signed it on the back. 5¢ Hawaiian - 2¢ Ship and 10¢ from S.F. to the East. Too bad the red Honolulu is so faded, and I might add, the San Francisco also.

The 24¢ '69 cover is also okay. The official rate table for September 1870 gives - To Mauritius - by British Mail Via Marseilles - 24¢ per 1/2 ounce. Our share was but 4¢ and the British charged 20¢ out of which she probably paid France 8¢ for French transit to Marseilles. What a shame this is so badly damaged, but practically the whole story is here. The owner surely should not expect to receive much.

Regards.

Hastily yours,

This

Came up in A

Sale By

Robt Siegel

June 16 1954

Lot 141

Evidently

Withdrawn

ROBERT A. SIEGEL

POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONS

APPRAISALS

WANT LISTS

TELEPHONES

MURRAY HILL 2-4309
WHITE PLAINS 9-5837

505 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Jan. 28th

Dear Stan:

Enclosing a cover for your
opinion. Kindly send bill for
service when returning the cover.

Do you happen to have available
a decent 1c 1851 type I off cover?

kindest regards,

Bob

Jan. 30, 1954.

Mr. Robt. A. Siegel,
505 Fifth Ave.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Bob:

Herewith the 12¢ Bisect cover as per yours of the 28th. I have known of this cover for a number of years and have a photograph of it in my files. It was written up and illustrated along in the middle nineteen thirties by Konwiser in "POSTAL MARKINGS" and the statement was made it had been offered to Nicholas Sanbria by a stamp dealer in Pennsylvania. From some notes that I have it seems probable that someone sent the cover to me for an opinion, and that I examined it carefully and was of the opinion it could be genuine. In other words, I didn't condemn it and see no reason to do so at this time. Back in the nineteen twenties I didn't take time out making a minute record of everything that was submitted to me.

I don't know what sort of postal markings were used at Geneva, N.Y. but this type with "3 PAID" was a type in general use between 1851 and 1856 - a period when the paid rate was 3¢ and postage could be paid by cash or charge, that is, without stamps. Assuming the use was between 1851 and 1856, a use of a target killer would be most unusual and especially a small type such as this. Targets did not come into use except in isolated cases until 1859 and later.

Another point. Because the San Francisco Office ran out of 3¢ adhesives in August and September 1853, splits of the 12¢ were permitted to pay the 6¢ rate to the East, but the Department at Washington frowned on the practice and in the fall of that year, the Postmaster General issued an order forbidding the use of pieces of postage stamps.

Some years ago a descendent of a former New England postmaster presented me with an old stamper made from boxwood of a target killer which I believe was a standard type use in the sixties. I am enclosing an impression. You will note that this is smaller than the strike on the cover (15 MM Vs 17 MM).

The S.U.S. lists as 17B "Quarter used as 3¢ on cover." I am of the opinion that this listing was not from this cover but rather from a cover with a quarter of a 12¢ that came from the Carroll Buchanan find. This latter cover was well known to Chase and me way back in the middle nineteens and long before I ever heard of this Geneva cover.

To sum up, the cover has every appearance of being genuine, but lack of some positive evidence, it would be impossible for me to certify that it is genuine.

#2. Mr. Robt. A. Siegel - Jan. 30, 1954.

If you are sufficiently interested it might be a good thing to have someone go to the New York Library and look up the old directories and learn in what years John P. Messerve was located at 20 John St. If perchance you obtain the information will you advise me as I would like to have it for my files.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

ROBERT A. SIEGEL

POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONS

APPRAISALS

WANT LISTS

TELEPHONES
MURRAY HILL 2-4309
WHITE PLAINS 9-5837

505 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

February 9th, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for report on the 12¢ cover sent you. As soon as I get an opportunity, will see if we can locate information you suggested at our library. I am enclosing my check for examination.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,


ROBERT A. SIEGEL

RAS mcg
enc.

Jack F. Molesworth - 102 Beacon Street - Boston 16, Massachusetts

August 2, 1954

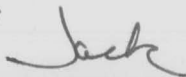
Dear Stan,

I trust will recall or can look up lot #141 from Siegel's June 16th, 1954 auction which was photographed on the front cover. It was described as having a PF certificate but apparantly withdrawn just prior to the sale when the PF withdrew their certificate.

The Party who uplaced it in the sale and still owns it has just sent it along to me for my possible purchase. He mentions that you had seen it, tho I note that you have not signed the reverse. The owner claims that the PF gave no reason for withdrawing their certificate which sounds a bit odd. I would greatly appreciate your letting me know what your opinion was on the cover and if it was favorable, would you agree to sign the reverse. Hastily & with kind regards,

P.S. Please send along a copy of your

booklet showing earlist know CSA
usage etc.



JACK E. MOLESWORTH

102 Beacon
BOSTON 16, MASS.



VIA AIR MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY

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

Aug. 4, 1954.

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth,
102 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Jack:

Re - your card of the 30th. Because I saw the 12¢ '51 cover certainly does not mean that I considered it good. I have known of this item as far back as 1936 but I never gave it my okay. Bob Siegel sent it to me last January and I wrote him regarding it. In my letter to him the best that I had to remark about the cover was as follows, quote:

"To sum up, the cover has every appearance of being genuine, but for lack of some positive evidence, it would be impossible for me to certify that it is genuine." (unquote).

I recall that I had some correspondence with Ezra Cole regarding the cover and he was positive that the cover was a fake, in fact, he stated that someone in New York had told him it was known where this cover came from and that it was the product of a known faker. Of course, Jack, this could have been a stampless cover of the period 1851-1856, and the postmark would have been sufficient to denote the payment of postage.

Another point that may be bad is a target.

My advice to you is - don't put any money in this item.

Sincerely yours,

Again re - the Geneva, N.Y. cover. I have no fault to find with your remarks. I do believe it is possible that the thing could be good and had no rate stamp and nothing but the postmark to indicate payment (3 PAID) then the use must have been prior to Jan. 1, 1856, and it seems unlikely that a target was used there so early - still it could have been.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

J.B.A. Wrate Cole May 31
1954

B432



John P. Messervey, Esq.
20 John Street
New York
City

GREEN
F120
12 SEC

B432 By Roth A Siegel For Opinion
Jan 30 1954 - seal
S.B. 29 p.40 - Butt Envelope -
Sealed on Back with Red Water
- No Writing - No Marks - No Evidence
of year Use

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

Jan 29 / 1954

Dear Stanley
I want to know whether
I am correct in the way I
figure out the enclosed. -

From the letter I assume
it was written in Richmond
VA 13/1863 where the work was
visiting. Had been in Reagan's
office. Met a Capt Lynch
"who takes this letter to you"
(James M. Moody Fairfield
Free Stone County Texas) Capt
Lynch had been 16 days in
gathering from Texas to Richmond.
Got across the Mississippi
by swimming it with a cork.
I figure that Capt
Lynch carried this letter to

(?)

Shravayana, and then
 mailed it. Now after
 he got in to Shravayana
 why 20th from there to
 the Texas points? Why
 not 10th & 7th
 I find the latter quite
 interesting.

Must have been a
 such man to want to have
 a man in Texas speculate
 in 100,000 worth or more
 of cotton to get from Texas
 to Mexico & then shipped on
 a British or French boat -
 Change me with what
 you wish. I always am
 anxious for better information
 about such things.

Send me some more
stamps if you have
them.

Yours
J. J. J.

Jan. 30, 1954.

Mr. W. L. Moody III,
American National Life Ins. Co.,
Galveston, Texas.

Dear Mr. Meedy:

Recently I was shown a Confederate cover - a blue F.L. which contained a rather interesting letter.

I am wondering if you ever heard of the writer or of the addressee?

I am enclosing a copy herewith.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Post Office Department

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed
to Raynon Hubbell

Box 573

Griffin Georgia

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Jan. 30, 1954.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,
Box 573,
Griffin, Ga.

Dear Raynor:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 29th. Your analysis of the cover was quite correct. Apparently there was no enclosure and 10¢ should have been sufficient to carry the letter from Shreveport to its destination. This was October 1863 and the "Express Mail" (40¢ in postage) was in operation at that time. A letter could have been placed in the Richmond P.O. and had a good chance to get across the river and to Texas address. Yes, I agree that the writer must have been a man of wealth - I suppose his name was

James Thomas, Jr.

I made a copy of the letter and I am sending it to my old friend W. L. Moody of Galveston with the inquiry if he knows anything about Thomas or James H. Moody. Hold the F.L. until I hear from him. Maybe the addressee was an ancestor and maybe he would like to have the item.

If it had 40¢ in postage it might show some relation(?) to a Trans-Mississippi Express Mail but as it is, I doubt if it can be considered other than a 10¢ overpay and a letter that was carried privately from Richmond to Shreveport and there put in the Confederate mail.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Confederate cover

A blue folded letter with a horizontal pair of C.S.A. 10¢ 1863 - S.U.S. No. 11 -
10¢ Blue Type I with following address:

Mr. James H. Moody
Fairfield
Freestone County
Texas

The letter inside was as follows:

Richmond Octo 13/1863

Mr. James H. Moody,
Fairfield
Freestone County
Texas.

Dr. Sir:

You know I have been residing in Danville, Va. with my family for some time. I am here on a visit and met at Judge Reagans office this morning Captn Lynch, (Frances J. Lynch) who takes this letter to you. He tells me he is 16 days getting here and says the cotton is selling at or near Brownsville at 30 to 33cts per lb. in Gold. Judge Reagan is the Postmaster Genl from Texas and says Captn Lynch is a reliable man and can give me all the information I wish. Captn Lynch says he swam the Mississippi on a mule to bring dispatches. He says he could get Tobo to Texas and that there is a great abundance of cotton in Texas - that near shipping ports it sells high but out in interior it is comparatively low. Now I have not heard from you for a great while although I have written to you several times. Have not your letters here that I could refer to or the copies of those I wrote, they are all in Danville. The last letter I got was written I think by your brother. It seems to me it was almost one year ago. He said you were quite sick and had been for some time. I remember that the last letter I had, whether from you or him, you stated in it that you expected and intended to get my cotton to market that is to Brownsville with some Mexican expedition. Now I feel perfectly satisfied that you have done what you considered was best for my interest, still I am anxious to know whether you have sold it for gold which I hope you have done or whether you shipped it or whether you have it still in Freestone County. You know my greatest wish was to get it to John J. Gilliat & Co. Liverpool in English or French ships and I had supposed if you could get it down to Brownsville you could then ship it from Mattamoras in English or French Bottoms and it would be safe. I hope the one or the other is done. You know if you have rec'd my letters that I have been anxious to get manuf. tobo. to you. I am still anxious to do so if it could possibly be done. Captn Lynch says if he was not in Service he could it it across to Texas. Now if you could or in connexion with him arrange to receive it on this side of the Mississippi at some point named I think I could get it to you. Still I think in the present state of things it would be a hasardous business. If this cant be done still I should like to get 100 or \$200,000 to you and have it laid out in cotton and get it out at Mattamoras. There are persons constantly coming over from Texas and I wonder I have not rec'd a letter or letters from you.

If I could find a man I could trust to go directly over to you I should send him with money for you to operate for me. We are selling good and fine Tobo. here now at from \$3 to \$4 and some higher - I sold a short time since 5 HBDS of Leaf Tobo, not manuf'd but in hogshheads as the planters put it up at an average of \$4.27 per lb. One of them sold at \$6.05 per lb., that is for \$6,000 for 1000 lbs of leaf tobo. It was very fine but it was the highest price that Leaf ever was sold at before. If you can chalk out any plan by which I can get the tobo. to you or can get money to you to operate for me, please let me know just as soon as you can and I will carry it out. I have just rec'd a letter from O. Tate of Lynchburg formerly but who has been living a long time in N.O. in Tobo. business. He wishes me to put in a large amt of money and let him go by way of Nassau to Mattamoras and buy cotton largely and ship to Europe. I prefer entrusting all my interests in Texas to you.

I hope to hear from you

Yours very truly

James Thomas

Captn Lynch says if you will write to me and send the letter to him as follows

#2.

Capt Frans. J. Lynch
Shreveport, La.

and also a copy of it in another envelope -----
to him at Houston he will -----
----- it and forward to me

J.F.Jr.

Confederate cover

A blue folded letter with a horizontal pair of C.S.A. 10¢ 1863 - S.U.S. No. 11 -
10¢ Blue Type I with following address:

Mr. James H. Moody
Fairfield
Freestone County
Texas

The letter inside was as follows:

Richmond Octo 13/1863

Mr. James H. Moody,
Fairfield
Freestone County
Texas.

Dr. Sir:

You know I have been residing in Danville, Va. with my family for some time. I am here on a visit and met at Judge Reagans office this morning Captn Lynch, (Francis J. Lynch) who takes this letter to you. He tells me he is 16 days getting here and says the cotton is selling at or near Brownsville at 30 to 33cts per lb. in Gold. Judge Reagan is the Postmaster Genl from Texas and says Captn Lynch is a reliable man and can give me all the information I wish. Captn Lynch says he swam the Mississippi on a mule to bring dispatches. He says he could get Tobo to Texas and that there is a great abundance of cotton in Texas - that near shipping ports it sells high but out in interior it is comparatively low. Now I have not heard from you for a great while although I have written to you several times. Have not your letters here that I could refer to or the copies of those I wrote, they are all in Danville. The last letter I got was written I think by your brother. It seems to me it was almost one year ago. He said you were quite sick and had been for some time. I remember that the last letter I had, whether from you or him, you stated in it that you expected and intended to get my cotton to market that is to Brownsville with some Mexican expedition. Now I feel perfectly satisfied that you have done what you considered was best for my interest, still I am anxious to know whether you have sold it for gold which I hope you have done or whether you shipped it or whether you have it still in Freestone County. You know my greatest wish was to get it to John J. Gillist & Co. Liverpool in English or French ships and I had supposed if you could get it down to Brownsville you could then ship it from Mattamoras in English or French Bottoms and it would be safe. I hope the one or the other is done. You know if you have rec'd my letters that I have been anxious to get manuf. tobo. to you. I am still anxious to do so if it could possibly be done. Captn Lynch says if he was not in Service he could it it across to Texas. Now if you could or in connexion with him arrange to receive it on this side of the Mississippi at some point named I think I could get it to you. Still I think in the present state of things it would be a hazardous business. If this cant be done still I should like to get 100 or \$200,000 to you and have it laid out in cotton and get it out at Mattamoras. There are persons constantly coming over from Texas and I wonder I have not rec'd a letter or letters from you.

If I could find a man I could trust to go directly over to you I should send him with money for you to operate for me. We are selling good and fine Tobo. here now at from \$3 to \$4 and some higher - I sold a short time since 5 HHDS of Leaf Tobo, not manuf'd but in hogsheads as the planters put it up at an average of \$4.27 per lb. One of them sold at \$6.05 per lb., that is for \$6,000 for 1000 lbs of leaf tobo. It was very fine but it was the highest price that Leaf ever was sold at before. If you can chalk out any plan by which I can get the tobo. to you or can get money to you to operate for me, please let me know just as soon as you can and I will carry it out. I have just rec'd a letter from O. Tate of Lynchburg formerly but who has been living a long time in N.O. in Tobo. business. He wishes me to put in a large amt of money and let him go by way of Nassau to Mattamoras and buy cotton largely and ship to Europe. I prefer entrusting all my interests in Texas to you.

I hope to hear from you

Yours very truly

James Thomas

Captn Lynch says if you will write to me and send the letter to him as follows

#2.

Capt Frans. J. Lynch
Shreveport, La.

and also a copy of it in another envelope -----
to him at Houston he will -----
----- it and forward to me

J.T.Jr.



AMERICAN NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.

W. L. MOODY, JR., PRESIDENT

~~GALVESTON, TEXAS~~

W. L. MOODY, III,
VICE PRESIDENT

126 Bushnell Place
San Antonio, Texas
February 17, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

It was good of you to think of me and send me a copy of the letter to J. H. Moody at Fairfield, Texas.

The addressee was my great uncle and, though I have heard many stories about him and the family life at Fairfield, he died before I was old enough to remember him.

If the letter is available and not too costly, I would like to have it as an interesting family item. Anyway, I greatly appreciate your bringing it to my attention.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


W. L. Moody, III

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

Feb. 24, 1954.

Mr. W. L. Moody III,
126 Bushnell Place,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Mr. Moody:

I have yours of the 17th and have written the owner of the cover that I would like to acquire it. I will advise later if he is willing to sell it.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

(29-41)

Feb. 24, 1954.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,
Box 573,
Griffin, Ga.

Dear Raynor:

Re - mine of the 30th, I had a letter today from my friend W. L. Moody who stated that the J. H. Moody was a great uncle and that he would like to acquire the cover.

If you care to dispose of it, put a price on it and I will be glad to submit it to him.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

(29-41)

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

Dear Stanley,

Please refer back to that very interesting letter from Richmond Oct. 13, 1863 by the Danville man. James Thomas, to James H Moody, Fairfield, Texas which we think was carried from Richmond by a Capt Lynch back across the Mississippi and put into the mail at Shreveport (See my story in weekly Philatelic Gossip June 5th, 1954. Page 442).

Now please tell me what you think of the possible correctness of my theory about the enclosed cover which had two bisected halves of 20¢ green.

You will recall that Capt Lynch who on the trip East from Texas had got across the Mississippi by swimming on a mule, met this man Thomas in Reagan's office. Could the enclosed cover have made the same kind of trip by the same man? And could this be a cover addressed by Reagan himself to a relative of his "Col W. D. Reagan"? The writing of the name Reagan on the cover is just like R in Reagans own writing. And again we have 20¢ postage (2 halves of 20¢ stamps) with again the same Shreveport post mark. It might even have been carried by the same "mule rider". How about Reagan taking advantage of the oppoetunity and getting a letter of his, out to this Col W. D. Reagan in Arkanas and the messenger putting both and possibly other letters into the Corfederate mail at Shreveport?

And how about the bisects-? A faker would not have fixed up a job like this. Col Reagan when he got the letter from John Reagan tore the end of the envelope and one of the bisects. Does that make sense?- But why 20¢ from Shreveport as also on the Moody letter, also posted at Shreveport.

Sincelly,

June 9, 1954.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,
Box 573,
Griffin, Ga.

Dear Mr. Hubbell:

Herewith the cover with the two halves of the 20¢ green, postmarked Shreveport, La., and addressed to Col. W. D. Reagan at Washington, Ark. The theory that you advanced in your letter may be, for all we know, perfectly true, it may have been addressed by Judge Reagan to a relative of his same name. And it could have been carried from Richmond, privately and mailed at Shreveport, but as far as I am aware there is no evidence.

In my opinion, the cover is genuine in every respect but all the evidence that we have seems to point to the possibility that whoever mailed the letter at Shreveport (date not known), did not have any 10¢ stamps but did have a supply of the 20¢ green, which ~~had~~ had cut in diagonal halves. Inasmuch as two of these were placed on the letter, I assume there were enclosures which caused a double rate of postage (2 x 10¢).

I have referred to your article in GOSSIP of June 5th, 1954 and also the correspondence that we had last January.

No fee.

Sincerely yours,

(29-41)

June 7, 1954.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,
Box 573,
Griffin, Ga.

Dear Raynor:

Yours of the 2nd received with check for \$2.25 for a copy of my Confed booklet. Thanks very much. I am forwarding same today under separate cover.

I also acknowledge receipt of the cover with the Confed 20¢ green. This seems to be a rather interesting cover and I would like to hold it a few days and look it over carefully when I have more time than the present.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

CONFEDERATE CORNER



By
**Raynor
Hubbell**
C.S.A. #496

Recently I handled a most remarkable Confederate folded letter with simply a pair of C.S.A. 10c 1863 (Scott Confederate No. 11 of the blue shade, Type I) with the following address:

Mr. James H. Moody
Fairfield
Freestone County
Texas

Only the contents of the letter show its nature, but the implications of the stamps and the letter itself are so suggestive and interesting and throw so much light on the dramatic story involved that the whole letter must be quoted. The letter was entrusted to this Capt. Lynch on the hazardous trip from Richmond to and across the Mississippi and posted by him at Shreveport, La., when he got there to go on in Confederate mails to Mr. Moody at Fairfield, Freestone County, Texas. In other words, this is a trans-Mississippi piece of mail carried personally from Richmond, dated October 13, 1863, and somehow he got it to Shreveport and got it into the Confederate mails there. On this trip from Texas the other way, before he met this man Thomas, in Reagan's office in Richmond, he "swam the Mississippi on a mule." I wonder how he got across with this letter he was carrying on the return trip? All kinds of adventures are to be imagined. The little folded letter is nothing pretentious; nothing to make an impressive picture for WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP readers. Simply a pair of Confederate stamps, faintly postmarked Shreveport. But what a story of an undoubtedly rich speculative Southern man, able to talk about sending on a hundred thousand or two hundred thousand dollars to be used in the hazardous business of buying Texas cotton and getting it to Mexico to be shipped in French or British boats to England.

Those of us who have read the exploits of the "Alabama" of the Confederate Navy know that when the Alabama captured and destroyed ships they examined the papers of the captains to determine the owners of the cargos and destroyed some of them "suspected" of Southern ownership,

even if the papers claimed foreign ownership. Is not this letter of extreme interest? One point about it for consideration is the fact that it has twenty cents postage—two Confederate ten cent stamps. There is only this point that is not quite clear. The Confederate postage on a letter from Shreveport to this point in Texas at the time would have been ten cents. Twenty cents in Confederate stamps was provided. There might have been an enclosure making 20-cents necessary, but there is no intimation of that. If the letter had been put into the Confederate mail at Richmond to make the trans-Mississippi trip, the postage would have been 40-cents, but the letter would indicate that Captain Lynch made the trip carrying the letter and posted it when he got to Shreveport. The stamps have a faint Shreveport postmark. But the letter did make the trans-Mississippi trip, possibly in a more dramatic way than what we would call a trans-Mississippi letter. The letter itself must be quoted in full, and it surely throws a wonderful light on postal and business affairs of the times.

Richmond Octo 13/1863

Mr. James H. Moody,
Fairfield
Freestone County
Texas.

Dr. Sir:

You know I have been residing in Danville, Va. with my family for some time. I am here on a visit and met at Judge Reagan's office this morning Captn Lynch, (Frances J. Lynch) who takes this letter to you. He tells me he is 16 days getting here and says that cotton is selling at or near Brownsville at 30 to 33 cts. per lb. in Gold. Judge Reagan is the Postmaster General from Texas and says Captn Lynch is a reliable man and can give me all the information I wish. Captn Lynch says he swam the Mississippi on a mule to bring dispatches. He says he could get to go to Texas and that there is a great abundance of cotton in Texas—that near shipping ports it sells high but out in interior it is comparatively low. Now I have not heard from you for a great while although I have written to you several times. Have not your letters here that I could refer to or the copies of those I wrote, they are all in Danville. The last letter I got was written I think by your brother. It seems to me it was almost one year ago. He said you were quite sick and had been for some time. I remember that the last letter I had, whether from you or him, you stated in it that you expected and intended to get my cotton to market that is to Brownsville with some Mexican expedition. Now I feel

perfectly satisfied that you have done what you considered was best for my interest, still I am anxious to know whether you have sold it for gold which I hope you have done or whether you shipped it or whether you have it still in Freestone County. You know my greatest wish was to get it to John J. Gillist & Co., Liverpool in English or French ships and I had supposed if you could get it down to Brownsville you could then ship it from Mattamoras in English or French Bottoms and it would be safe. I hope the one or the other is done. You know if you have rec'd my letters that I have been anxious to get manuf. tobo. to you. I am still anxious to do so if it could possibly be done. Captn Lynch says if he was not in Service he could get it across to Texas. Now if you could or in connexion with him arrange to receive it on this side of the Mississippi at some point named I think I could get it to you. Still I think in the present state of things it would be a hasardous business. If this can't be done still I should like to get 100 or \$200,000 to you and have it laid out in cotton and get it out at Mattamoras. There are persons constantly coming over from Texas and I wonder I have not rec'd a letter or letters from you.

If I could find a man I could trust to go directly over to you I should send him with money for you to operate for me. We are selling good and fine Tobo. here now at from \$3 to \$4 and some higher—I sold a short time since 5 HHDS of Leaf Tobo., not manuf'd but in hogsheads as the planters put it up at an average of \$4.27 per lb. One of them sold at \$6.05 per lb., that, is \$6,000 for 1,000 lbs. of leaf tobo. It was very fine but it was the highest price that leaf ever was sold at before. If you can chalk out any plan by which I can get the tobo. to you or can get money to you to operate for me, please let me know just as soon as you can and I will carry it out. I have just rec'd a letter from O. Tate of Lynchburg formerly but who has been living a long time in N. O. in Tobo. business. He wishes me to put in a large amt of money and let him go by way of Nassau to Mattamoras and buy cotton largely and ship to Europe. I prefer entrusting all my interests in Texas to you.

I hope to hear from you.

Yours very truly

James Thomas

Captn Lynch says if you will write to me and send the letter to him as follows

Capt Frans. J. Lynch
Shreveport, La.

and also a copy of it in another envelope to him at Houston he will it and forward to me. (Where blank spaces occur the letter is badly stained.)

J. T. Jr.

Issue June 5 1954

The stamps will be released for sale on June 1, 1954.—*Courtesy of Crown Agents Stamp Bulletin.*

LEBANON—Date of issue April 23, 1954. Identification of issue. Official opening of Beirut International Airport. Ceremonies headed by H. E. Camille Chamoun, President of the Lebanese Republic inaugurated ultra-modern airport buildings of Near East's largest and most up-to-date airport in Beirut suburb of Khalde, serving 29 major airlines, with 62 flight movements daily, 22,000 passengers monthly.

Khalde Airport Scene, 10 pi. dark rose and carmine.

Khalde Airport Scene, 25 pi. dark blue and blue grey.

Khalde Airport Scene, 35 pi. dark brown and yellow brown.

Khalde Airport Scene, 65 pi. grey green and olive green.

REMARKS: Plus an additional 1,000 presentation sets and 500 imperforate ones. Stamps are horizontal rectangles 24x40 mm. in size and are perforated 11½.

Designed by P. Koroleff, printed by the Catholic Press.—*Courtesy of Baroody Stamp Co., Ltd.*

SYRIA—Date of issue: due in May, 1954. Identification of issue: New definitive regular and air showing symbolic bases of the Syrian people and country.

(Regular):

Allegory representing labor (inscribed "Wealth is the result of work"), 1 pi., 2½ pi. and 5 pi. Syrian family group (Inscribed "The family is the basis of the nation"), 7½ pi., 10 pi., and 12½ pi. Symbols of industrial progress, 20 pi., 25 pi., and 50 pi. Post Telegraph and Telephone Building at Hama with new P. O. Insignia, 5 pi., 10 pi., and 15 pi.

(Air):

University of Syria (Inscribed "Our reliance for the future"), 30 pi., 35 pi., 40 pi., 50 pi., and 70 pi. Colors of stamps not yet available.—*Courtesy of Baroody Stamp Co., Ltd.*

VATICAN CITY—According to Vittorio Lo Bianco, Inc., of New York, the forecast new issue for the "Anno Mariano" has been delayed and will not be out before June.

For May, instead, is in program the issue of a set to mark the canonization of Pope Pius X. No details about the number of values, face and designs are available as yet. Pope Pius X was honored in 1951 with a set of four values to commemorate his Beatification.



A complete set of the imperforate U. S. Columbian issue in pairs are in the B. K. Miller collection. This collection has long been housed in the New York Public Library.

for June 5, 1954

Nyasaland Booklets

2/-6d & 5/-

Both \$2.85

FRANK B. JANCOWSKI

3588 Frederick St., Detroit 11, Mich.

JAPAN MINT SHEETS

2448a Trade Fair imperf sheet of 20

2456 Youth imperf sheet of 10

BOTH: \$1.25

WARD R. CHAPIN

9130 Winthrop Avenue, Detroit 28, Michigan

YOUR CHANCE!

If you don't receive Long's Mail Auction Catalogs regularly you may be missing a fine chance to buy interesting and unusual stamps and covers at your own price. Send a postal card today and ask for your FREE copy of the current Sale!

ELMER R. LONG 112 MARKET ST. HARRISBURG, PA.

SUBJECT MATTER OF PHILATELY

A Checklist of Stamp Designs—92-page book by Phebe Booth—\$1.00. Supplement—\$1.00.

THE GOSSIP PRINTERY, Holton, Kansas

Give The Ideal Gift

The famous "Penny Black" First Postage Stamp Jewelry



Cuff Links Sterling silver ---\$8.00
Tie bar, Sterling silver ---- 8.00
Key Chain, Sterling silver -- 8.00
Earrings, Sterling silver ---- 8.00

Please add 10% Federal Tax to the above price.

*Encased in handsome jewelry bag of suede. Place your order today.

C. D. Brower, Jr.

P. O. Box 57

STURGEON BAY, WISCONSIN

APPROVALS

FINE STAMPS—PROMPT SERVICE
LOW PRICES

If you are tired of getting "standardized" or "factory-built" Approvals and would like something better at no higher prices, send for ours and notice the difference.

SHIRLEY JASON Inc

505 5th Avenue New York 17 N Y

80c U.S. AIR C46 ----- \$.45

A. F. SIMIONESCU, Hackensack, N. J.

ALCOVA CIGARS

1. Hand Made—6¼" Long
2. All Long Havana Tobacco
3. Light Havana Wrappers
4. Mild—Cellophane Wrapped
5. A real 30c value—SPECIAL \$7.00 per box of 50, postpaid.

GEORGE RITTER

Box 8155 Tampa 4, Florida

Super SUPER BARGAIN in COLLECTIONS

of all countries. Today you have the opportunity to purchase some of our fine, high standard collections at the lowest price on the market.

2,000 W. Wide \$ 2.75	75 Israel ---\$ 5.45
5,000 Ass'tment 8.95	1,000 Italy --- 15.95
10,000 All Diff. 32.75	1,000 " & Col. 9.75
10,000 Mtd. in	500 Jugoslavia 5.95
Books --- 35.95	2,000 L. Amer. 15.95
20,000 in 20	3,000 L. Amer. 37.50
Books ---119.75	150 Latvia --- 4.95
800 Argentina 15.95	125 Liechtenst. 5.90
1,000 Argentina 35.95	200 Lithuania - 7.95
250 Belg. Col. 8.45	300 Luxemb'g. - 6.95
2,000 Brit. Col. 21.85	150 Monaco --- 3.45
1,500 China	1,000 Netherl.
Mtd. --- 10.45	& Col. --- 16.45
300 Congo Bel. 21.88	200 Panama - 13.75
200 Curacao - 17.45	400 Paraguay - 9.80
400 Dutch Ind.	200 Philippines 8.25
& Indon. - 8.90	400 Poland -- 4.15
300 Denmark. 3.85	1,000 Port. Col. 16.45
400 Egypt	1,000 Rumania. 13.95
(Scarce) - 21.95	500 Russia -- 9.45
800 France	200 Saar --- 7.40
Mtd. --- 13.75	300 San Marino 7.40
2,000 Fr. Col. - 18.45	400 Spain --- 3.35
1,500 Greater	150 Surinam - 9.85
Germany - 6.35	300 Switzerland 3.95
200 German	100 Trieste
Colonies - 21.95	(Rare) -- 3.69
500 Greece -- 9.95	150 Trieste -- 9.45
250 Haiti --- 16.75	400 Uruguay - 6.45
150 Iceland -- 6.75	200 U.S. Com. 2.95
	150 Vatican - 6.90
	300 Venezuela. 9.95
New Line in	
Topicals:	
100 Animals or Birds, each	1.25
100 Horses or Flowers, each	1.35

Direct Importer. No extra expenses, we mail anything free in U. S.

Sorry no approvals.

ASK FOR FREE COLLECTIONS PRICE LIST.

DENA Stamp Store
760 Market Street
San Francisco 2, Calif.

NETHERLANDS - USED

All the following beautiful Semi-Postal sets are priced at ONE-THIRD of Catalogue—OR LESS.

B1/3 -----\$.10	B37/40 -----\$.35	B70/71 -----\$.20	B98/102 -----\$.25
B4/5 ----- 1.15	B41/43 ----- .50	B72 ----- .05	B103/107 ----- .25
B6/8 ----- .30	B44/47 ----- .45	B73/76 ----- .80	B108/12 ----- .20
B9/11 ----- .30	B48/49 ----- 1.10	B77/80 ----- .50	B113/17 ----- .30
B12/15 ----- .50	B50/53 ----- 1.00	B81 ----- .25	B118/22 ----- .25
B16/20 ----- .80	B54/57 ----- 1.50	B82/85 ----- .40	B123/27 ----- .20
B21/24 ----- .35	B58/61 ----- .80	B86/89 ----- .35	B128 ----- .10
B25/32 ----- 1.20	B62/65 ----- 1.00	B90/93 ----- .20	B129/33 ----- .15
B33/36 ----- .35	B66/69 ----- .80	B94/97 ----- .25	B134/38 ----- .10

All stamps in very fine condition. Money refunded if not completely satisfied. Kindly send your want-list for Austria, Belgium, Danzig, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Memel, Switzerland, Saar.

HELMUT STUEMPEL

85-21 168th Street

Jamaica, L. I., N. Y.

SIDNEY A. HESSEL
NETTLETON HOLLOW
WASHINGTON, CONN.

9 Jan 54

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Away back in Feb 1949 I showed some of my Confed material to Van Dusk Mac Bride. Apparently he communicated with you at the time and I shortly thereafter heard from him that you would like to see and photo three of the items.* I promptly yanked them out of the collection which I keep in a vault in N.Y. and equally promptly misplaced them though I felt confident they were in a "safe place" somewhere among other papers. In the interim I have moved from Woodmere L.I. to the above address and in sorting out some papers for storage here they did turn up some months ago.

I wonder if you would still care to have them sent on. If so I will be pleased to oblige and in any event I

ask your Acquaintances for my lapse.
They will

- 1) TEN cover cancelled Charleston
Feb 28, 1863!
- 2) Folded circular 10¢ blue and
pair of 2¢ Red Beams
- 3) 10¢ fromeline cancelled April
25, 1863

* Perhaps he did not communicate,
merely suggested I send them on. In any
event have they interest to you now, or
could you possibly even have seen
them before? with you

With best wishes for 1954,

Sincerely

Sidney Attersee

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31
FORT THOMAS, KY.
Jan. 18, 1954.

COPY

Mr. Sidney A. Hessel,
Nettleton Hollow,
Washington, Conn.

Dear Mr. Hessel:

Yours of the 9th received and I thank you very much for your kind offer to loan me for recording the items mentioned. I can assure you that I will be pleased to see them.

I have a faint recollection that Mr. MacBride wrote me that he had suggested to you that I would be interested in seeing some Confederate items, but I evidently heard no more.

I can hardly imagine a "TEN" canceled as early as Feb. 28, 1863 as we feel quite positive that the stamp was not issued until April of 1863.

Re - the Frame Line of April 25, 1863, I believe that you loaned this cover to me some years ago and I made a photograph of it, so it will not be necessary to send it, but I would like to see the "TEN" and the other cover.

Again thanks very much.

Sincerely yours,

Stan -
Thanks, - I wrote him along
the same line, - doubting the
date on the "TEN", + urging him
to send to you. If you get,
would like copy your opinion,
photo, etc.
Hartley
Mac

1/20/54

SIDNEY A. HESSEL
NETTLETON HOLLOW
WASHINGTON, CONN.

26 Jan 54

Dear Mr. Adcock,

Finally getting around to
mailing these!!

Kindest regards,

Sid Hessel

Feb. 1, 1954.

Mr. Sidney A. Hessel,
R. R. #1,
Washington, Conn.

Dear Mr. Hessel:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the two Confederate covers which I am returning herewith.

Regarding the "TEN." - By no possible chance could this use have been in February 1863, in spite of the fact the year logo looks like 1863. This use was undoubtedly 1864 because the day logo is "29" not 28, hence a leap year and 1864. The color is extremely pale and not like the early "Milky Blue" shade.

There don't seem to be any apparent explanation for the 14¢ rate on the other cover. If there was only one 2¢ stamp and a 10¢ stamp we could theorize that a 2¢ stamp was put on first to pay the printed circular rate and later the Treasurer of the "Wayside Home" added a message in manuscript, thus requiring a first-class rate of 10¢. But the question arises - why 4¢ in the first place. This was September 1864 and the end of the Lost Cause was drawing near. A 2¢ postage stamp had little if any value at that time, so I don't suppose it made much difference whether a person used two or more where only one was required by law.

It was nice to see these two items and I appreciate your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

B439

Very Pale TEN -
FEB 28 1863

Logo is surely
was 1864

A Leap Year
Sidney A. Hessel, R.R. 1. Washington Ct.

- Date Appears to be
But The Day
Proving The Year
Property of

January 30 1954.

Stanley B. Ashbrook

B438 Printed Circular Dated
Charleston Sep. 8. 1864.
Has Written Message At Bottom
Double Circle p.m. on 2¢ and 10¢
is "10 SEP". No Apparent Explanation
For The Extra 4¢. Property of
Sidney A Hessel, R.R. 1 - Washington Conn
January 30 1954. Stanley B Ashbrook



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

1-30-54

Dear Stan,

Enclosed is what the last Barr auction called a 3¢ Pink. It didn't look like a real pink to me so I sent it to Ustick for an opinion to see what he would say and he said "Yes, a genuine Pink", but Barr is his subsidiary so guess that could be expected. However, would appreciate your comment on it anyway.

Also enclosed (spelled it right the second time) is a copy of my lawyer's legal opinion on the "offsetting" auction practice which the ASDA lawyer had examined and rendered an adverse opinion. After reading my lawyer's letter and receiving Graham's reply to him, it appears that he rendered the opinion more to please someone more influential in the ASDA than I rather than as an unbiased examination of the law on the subject. The reply from him was rather weak and claimed practice still illegal since I had "corrupt intent and fraudulent purpose" something that contradicts comments in his first letter indicating that he was sure I would not have used the practice had I known it was illegal per se and therefore unethical, etc. It will be interesting to see what they do now.

Please return the enclosed copy when you are thru perusing it. MacBride has a copy, tho o.k. for you to show or send it to anyone if you feel it appropriate and in my best interests.

With kind regards,

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

Feb. 1, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 3¢ 1861 as per yours of the 30th.
To identify same I am attaching herewith a tracing of the
cancelation.

This stamp is not the S.U.S. #64, the Pink. It
is what I call an early 1861 Rose, by some called a "near
Pink," or a pale pinkish rose. Copies of the 3¢ are some-
times sold as the S.U.S. #64 commercial Pink, but this
stamp has so little pink in the tint I doubt if it could
be put under any #64 classification.

Sincerely yours,

January 22, 1954



Stan;

I have to go to New York today and the 10c 1847s will be returned early next week. No express service here on Saturdays.

The stamp #126 (on cover) is from the same position as stamp #102. John has made a partial identification which indicates both copies are from an earlier state of the plate than are any prints we have. He is making another check.

Stamp #121 (on cover) is also giving trouble. I do not recall having seen this cover, or any similar. New York to Portland with red N.YORK - U.S. Express Mail - June 1849 - and the stamp cancelled with a blue grid. Where? At Norwich or on the Norwich & Worcester R.R.? Neither seems probable.

Two boat trains left Boston each afternoon (except Sundays). One connected with the Stonington boat for New York by way of Providence; the other went via Worcester and Norwich to connect with the Norwich boat for New York. Eastbound boats left New York in the afternoon and connected with the two trains which arrived in Boston the next morning.

Much of the time the U.S. Express Mail service was on the Providence route and the Stonington boats, and the Worcester-Norwich route was an alternate, always available but less frequently used. Just how frequently it was used has not been determined to my knowledge.

There was Route Agent service on the Worcester & Nashua R.R. as early as 1849, but no R.A. or R.P.O. service from Nashua to Portland until much later. Therefore the letter went to Portland via Stonington boat, Providence and Boston, or via Norwich boat, Worcester and Boston, and the blue grid was applied either on arrival at Portland, or en route. So far as I recall Boston, Providence and Worcester did not use blue grids.

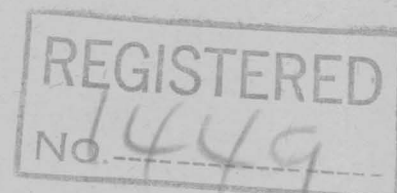
The possibilities seem limited to what happened after the letter was taken off a Long Island Sound boat and before it reached Providence or Worcester, or after it arrived at Portland. Except the latter possibility, the only use of blue for pmk and/or grid is on the Norwich & Worcester Railroad.

My greatgrandfather may have received such a letter addressed to him at Webster, Mass., but I would reckon the chance of an 1847 stamp not being cancelled by the U.S. Express Mail Agent on any letter that went via the N. & W.R.R. as being hardly a thousand to one.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elliott Perry".

Jan. 28, 1954.



Mr. Philip G. Rust,
Route 5,
Thomasville, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Rust:

Herewith Lot #7 which came in from Perry late yesterday afternoon (Wednesday). I quote from his letter dated Jan. 25th as follows:

"Lot #7 of the 10c 1847s starts back to you by express collect at \$2,200 today.

#121 56L	#122 42,43R	#123 88,89L	#124 34L	#125 55R	#126 5L	#127 15R
#128 96R	#129 22R	#130 6R	#131 68L	#132 47L	#133 7 & 17L	#134 82R
#135 86R	#136 55R	#137 91R	#138 58R	#139 27R	#140 17R	

Apparently stamps #102 and 126 are from an earlier state of position 5L than other copies we have seen. At least they seem to fit better there than anywhere else.

Stamps #121 and 124 agree with the positions stated quite well; #131 and #138 less so, but better matches were not found and there is a good chance they are correct. Positive identification of the other items. The fee is \$38.33."

I note that he now thinks that #102 is probably 5L and that it is apparently the same as #126. I checked these two and he seems to be correct - do you not agree? However, both seem different from 38 which he plated as 5L and quite correct. I checked his 121-124-131 and 138 carefully and I had no reason to question these positions. I wondered about #132. He plated this as 47L but I wasn't so sure. You might bear this in mind. I was also a bit puzzled about #134. What do you think? Also #127?

I note that this lot consisted of a total of 23 with the score as follows:

New positions 12
Duplicates 11
23

#2. Mr. Philip G. Rust - Jan. 28, 1954.

I believe your total so far is as follows:

Plated positions left pane	48
" " right "	<u>57</u>
Total	105

This is certainly a very high average. My figures may not be absolutely correct as they are from a memorandum.

I have not had any word whatsoever from Kelleher.

Regarding cover #121 - This was from New York in 1849 and the postmark is that of the "U. S. EXPRESS MAIL - N. YORK." Never before have I seen a U. S. Express Mail cover with a stamp tied by a blue grid, therefore, I question whether this stamp originated on this cover. I believe that it is possible that this cover had a 10¢ stamp that was pencanceled and some faker removed it and substituted this copy with a blue grid. It was over 300 miles by the mail route from New York Via Boston to Portland so a 10¢ rate was required. I inquired of Perry if he had ever seen such a cover as this and his reply was no.

With best of wishes -

Cordially yours,

January 29, 1954



Stan;

Check \$38.33 received and thanks for your promptness. I have very few 10c 1847s but shall submit any I think may measure up.

I suspected something might be wrong with the blue grid on the U.S. Express Mail cover from New York to Portland, but saw no definite evidence and am not inclined to condemn anything merely because it does not happen to agree with my information.

The rate could not have been less than 10 cents. By rail it is 240 miles from New York to Boston via New London & Worcester, 232 miles via New Haven, Springfield and Worcester, about 220 via Providence (Shore Line), and the shortest route (the "Air-line") via New Haven, Middletown, Willimantic and Blackstone is 212 miles. Through trains on the last started in the 1870s as I recall .

New York to Portland via "State of Maine" express through Worcester, Nashua and Dover is 343 miles - eight miles longer than via Shore Line thru Boston. Boston to Portland is 115 miles via the old Boston & Maine line thru Haverhill and Dover, and three miles shorter via the old Eastern R.R. thru Salem. The last two lines used the same tracks from North Berwick, to Portland - 37 miles. There is not, and never has been, a mail route from New York to Portland as short as 300 miles, except today by airplane, (possibly).

Most of the U.S. Express Mail covers I have seen do not seem open to question, but I have seen a few that did not agree with any information I had, and yet seemed quite authentic. Perhaps they were put on the wrong Sound steamer in New York.

Paris - France. Jan. 15th 1953

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

Enclosed an item offered by
a fellow at our sale service - If
interesting for a One cent specialist,
please sell it at the best you may.

Sincerely yours.

M. Levy

Jan. 28, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Levy:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of Jan. 15th with the 1¢ 1857, Type IV cover - 5¢ rate - from Charleston, S.C. on Jan. 8, 1858 to Nantes, France. A Garnier cover. 5¢ payment not recognized and rated as entirely unpaid. I will dispose of it for you and report later. No doubt you wish me to remit to Dr. Polland.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 28, 1954.

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

Dear Morris:

Both of your letters received and I will write later. I am trying to get my February Service Issue out and this one is rather large and quite a bit of photo work.

Here is quite a valuable cover, a pair of 1¢ 1857 - Type IV on cover. You will note this was from Charleston, S.C. during the Treaty period - January 1858. The sender forwarded it with a payment of 5¢ and Boston let it go thru that way. They should have rated it as entirely unpaid with 3.0¢ due in France and a debit to the French P.O. of 2 x 3¢ or 6¢. Britain also rated it as a 5¢ U.S. rate that was of the period Jan. 1, 1857 to April 1, 1857 - But when it got to France it was rated under the Treaty as "entirely unpaid" with 2 rates of 8 decimes due or 16 decimes (about 30¢ U.S.). This is really most unusual as the marking "G.B. 1F 60C" should not have been applied to any letter from the U.S. to France Via G.B. after March 31, 1857. The U.S.-French Treaty went into effect on April 1857. I am asking \$65.00 for this most unusual cover. If not interested will you please send it to Mort as he might like to have it.

I may use this in my March 1st Service.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Feb. 3, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Levy:

Referring to yours of the 15th and the cover you enclosed. I have sold the cover @ \$65.00, less 20% or \$52.00 net to you. Should I forward check to our mutual friend Dr. Polland? I will hold same pending instructions.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,



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

Fort Thomas. Ky.

U. S. A.

BACK - 54 Covert To Nantles - Pair Id 57 - IV
FROM CHARLESTON S.C. JAN 8 - 57

TREATY PERIOD. CHARLESTON, S. C. JAN. 8th 1858
On Back, BOSTON BR. PKT, 13 JAN. '58. (Wednesday)
LONDON, JA 25-58 - PARIS, 26 JAN. 58. NANTES, 27 JAN.
Pair 14 1857, Type IV, 27L1, 28L1. By CUNARD
'NIAGARA', 54 PAY, DISREGARDED - DOUBLE
RATE OF 2 x 8 Decimes DUE AT Nantes.

PRESCOTT HOLDEN THORP

NETCONG, NEW JERSEY

Sept 3, 1953

Dear Stanley;

Well! thank you for all of those nice things you have to say about me in both your letter and your "Special Service." I am very pleased, of course, although quite probably much of this high praise is quite underserved. Actually, Stanley, I have never claimed to be an authority on anything, and I'm probably not much of a "student". Just happens that I have an inquiring mental apparatus and little things I've read here and there clutter up my brain until suddenly, something happens to put some meaning into them and help me arrange a syllogism.

Very often such "if this be so, then that must follow which proves such and such" stringing together of isolated facts or theories gets me into plenty of trouble. Trouble is always to keep out of ones mind a desired conclusion.

However, my article in EPJ stirred up quite a bit of interest (which, of course it was intended to do) and among other things I was invited to consider for a moment all of the thousands of envelopes I have seen and recall if there were even as much as one percent of the total showing usage of express companies.

That question rang a bell and started me searching both memory and references with the following rather interesting, even startling, I think, results.

First how many envelopes were issued each year by Nesbitt. In the Postal Gazette Quackenbush quotes some interesting figures as published in the "Post" (I don't know what "Post" but I assume the New York Post).

This indicated that Nesbitt's output in (1860) had declined sharply because of the war. Whereas prior to the advent of the war his output would have run about thirty million the war had cut it down to around 28 million.

The Nesbitt firm had estimated its own output at "32 Or 33 million" per year.

Keep your friends, both new and old - the first are silver, the last are gold.

PRESCOTT HOLDEN THORP

NETCONG, NEW JERSEY

—*—

Now it is safe to assume that by 1863 Nesbitts output of envelopes would have been curtailed even more by the war so, perhaps, the annual production in 1863 might have been around 25 million.

Quoting from Bertholds Handbook of the Wells Fargo franks, we learn that in 1863 Wells Fargo alone were purchasing (in 1863) over two million stamped envelopes and, of course, at this time there were perhaps two hundred Express Companies also using envelopes. Thus, perhaps, the express companies were using some several million of the 25 million envelopes being produced.

But this is not all. Of all of the early Nesbitts I have seen (perhaps ten or fifteen thousand) it occurs that perhaps as much as one-half of them, or even more, had been carried outside of the mails on Mississippi river packets. This would be evident, not from cancellations but from pin holes in the envelopes indicating they had been pinned to waybills or consignments or something of that nature. The pitfall in this sort of reasoning is that most all of the Nesbitts in quantity I have seen - or anyone else for that matter - would have been from the Carroll Hoy find.

However, I think it fairly obvious that the usage of Nesbitt envelopes "outside of the mail" was a far greater porportion of the total manufactured than at first would seem evident. Offhand estimates of as little as one percent seem at first logical for express company usage. Carefull investigation would indicate - to me - that as much as fifty percent, perhaps more, would be nearer the truth for carriage "outside of the mails."

Someday, someone, is going to produce a study of all sides of the philatelic gem. Presently the subject has been seggregated. Great studies of adhesives, further studies of Western Franks, much argument about envelopes. These thre things are ~~anssing them~~ but facets of a single jewel. Each of us in his own field (and I do not excluded myself) sees his own facet and only dimly precieves the other.

The older I grow the more cautious I become. Black is never black, white is never white. But I do believe

Keep your friends, both new and old - the first are silver, the last are gold.

PRESCOTT HOLDEN THORP

NETCONG, NEW JERSEY



we may have put to rest the arguments about why envelopes were first issued. Yes, I was one who took exception to your opinions in the matter and even carried on a running controversy with you in STAMPS some years back. The facts you marshalled convinced me beyond any reasonable doubts.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Pep'.

Pep

Sept. 8, 1953.

Mr. Prescott H. Thorp,
Netcong, N.J.

Dear Prescott:

Your letter of the 3rd received.

We are leaving tomorrow for New England
for a little vacation and will be gone about 10 days.
I will write you after my return.

With regards -

Cordially yours,