

JAN 28 - 1954 TO APR 30 SCRAP BOOK NO 30

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7	Thos Parks - Re Whelden Pot W	41	^{12¢ 51 Bisect} Sam Paige 2¢ 67 Bisect V - 99 R2
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13	E.D. Cole 5¢ 47 Cover To NewBrun.	47	Don Griere His 24¢ 1861 Violet
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JAN. Y 28 - 1954
TO
MARCH 27
1954
Inclusive
No 30

E. L. KEENAN
9 ARDMORE AVENUE
LANSDOWNE, PENNA.

January 21, 1954

Mr. Lester G. Brookman
121 Loeb Arcade
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Brookman:

I have a 10¢ stamp of the 1851 Series to which I would like to call your attention. I have read chapters 12 and 18 of your book very carefully, and also Ashbrook's book "The United States Ten Cent Stamp of 1855-1857".

I am enclosing a photostat of this stamp. A description of it is as follows:

1. It is imperforate.
2. The imprint is Tappan, Carpenter & Co. Bank Note, etc., not Tappan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co., and the imprint is about 2 mm to the left of the stamp, not 3 mm. It might be the missing Plate Two which Mr. Carpenter wrote to the Government about.
3. The side ornaments are cut away as in Type "V".
4. The lower right hand corner is the "A" relief.
5. Although very light the curved line over U. S. Postage is continuous from the left to beyond the center of the stamp, and not broken in center.
6. The frames over the ovals are not cut off at the top but show plainly above the numerals; they are cut off on the sides.
7. The plate guide line on the upper part of the stamp (used to spot edge the relief roll) runs from the left oval top line to the center of the top line. It shows plainly on the stamp itself.
8. The stamp does not conform to any one of the types shown either by yourself or Mr. Ashbrook, but appears to be sort of a missing link.

E. L. KEENAN
9 ARDMORE AVENUE
LANSDOWNE, PENNA.

Mr. Lester G. Brookman

-2-

January 21, 1954

I thought both you and Mr. Ashbrook might be interested in getting this description, and that it might be of assistance to you in reconstructing a plate. I note in Mr. Ashbrook's booklet "The United States Ten Cent Stamp of 1855-1857". there are very few imperforate single copies of stamps with an imprint.

Would like your comments.

Very truly yours,

E. L. Keenan
E. L. Keenan

Enclosure

→ cc - Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
100 Henry Court
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

P. S. - The white blot on the right side of the stamp is due to an imperfection in the emulsion cutting on the photostat negative.

Jan. 28, 1954.

Mr. E. L. Keenan,
9 Ardmore Ave.,
Lansdowne, Penna.

Dear Mr. Keenan:

It was very kind of you to send me a copy of your letter to Mr. Brookman and I sincerely appreciate the favor.

I would like to see the imprint copy and if there is anything unusual about it I will be glad to advise you. If you care to send the copy to me by registered mail at my expense I will return it without delay.

Very truly yours,

E. L. KEENAN
9 ARDMORE AVENUE
LANSDOWNE, PENNA.

February 1, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your letter of January 28. It was a great pleasure to write you about this 10¢ 1851 stamp. Being one of the recognized authorities on stamps, I am only sorry that the letter was addressed to Mr. Brookman and not to you. I am sure that the young lady who wrote it did not recognize the seniority.

I am enclosing the stamp and would greatly appreciate your looking at it and giving me your opinion. It could be that this is a Type V, but it seems to me that the margins are too large for that, particularly the margins adjacent to the imprint, - to me at least who finds it as an imperforate stamp.

You may keep the stamp as long as you want to make whatever studies you would like. I do not think that any of the rest of us can do too much for a gentleman who has been so active and well thought of among philatelic enthusiasts. I remember very well how much 'Gene' Klein thought of you. He was one of my very dear friends and got me interested in stamps originally, but I know this is true also of all other men who really like stamps.

Very truly yours,



E. L. Keenan

Enclosure

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

E. L. Keenan
9 Ardmore Ave.
Lansdowne, Pa.



REGISTERED

225520

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



9 ARDMORE AVENUE
LANSDOWNE, PENNA.



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

E. L. KEENAN

9 ARDMORE Ave.

LANSDOWNE

PA

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Feb. 5, 1954.

Mr. E. L. Keenan,
9 Ardmore Ave.,
Lansdowne, Pa.

Dear Mr. Keenan:

Herewith I am returning the stamp contained in yours of the 1st. I regret very much to state that this is a trimmed copy - perforations removed - of the 10¢ 1857 - Type V. As you are aware, the Type V stamps all come from Plate 2 which was not made until 1859 and no stamps from the plate were ever issued in perforated condition. Because the copy is without any value I am not returning it by registered mail.

Thanks very much for your kind words regarding my philatelic activities. Yes, the late Gene Klein was quite a good friend and I knew him well for many years. He was always most co-operative in assisting me in any way he could in my research work. I learned recently that his widow passed away soon after the turn of the year.

I have kept in touch thru the years with their daughter, Delores, who is the wife of Dr. J. A. Hertz of New York City, who is quite an enthusiastic collector and philatelic student. Mrs. Hertz is carrying on her father's work on the Packet cover.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel C. Paige
45 Bromfield Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Item

Kept

1 10c '51 off cover

FOR YOUR OPINION	
PER QUESTIONS	
MARKED ON SHEETS	

With my kind regards

Sincerely,

Sam Paige

Trale

Paige

2

Charge \$3⁵⁰
—

for photo by
Ultra Trale

Feb. 5, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Paige:

Herewith by return mail the items as
per yours of the 3rd.

I am charging you a fee of \$3.50 plus
return postage.

With regards.

Sincerely yours,



Samuel C. Paige

45 Bromfield St.
Boston, Mass.

February 10, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Please find enclosed my check for \$4.12 covering your fee for the last bit of expertizing you did for me. I am also returning the 10c 1851 together with another similar one which just turned up in another collection, as I thought you might be interested in comparing it.

Trust you will look over my sale catalog carefully when it comes as there may be some items in it which you will wish to examine. I am quite proud of this next auction.

With my best regards, as always

Sincerely,

Sam Paige

Samuel C. Paige

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 *Saml C Page*

45 Bransfield St
Boston 8 Mass

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Feb. 15, 1954.

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



FEB 15 1954

Dear Mr. Paige:

Yours of the 10th received with check for \$4.12 for which please accept my thanks.

The second copy of the 10¢ 1855 is even more of a washed-out appearance than the first one. Even the postmark looks washed out and faded. In the printing, a piece of paper may be too dry to pick up all the ink from a steel or copper plate and a dry print is the result which has white blank spaces but I doubt if any dry prints would be quite like these two copies.

I am enclosing a similar copy from my reference collection. I suppose I have had this stamp for at least 30 years. It always impressed me as unlike an engraved stamp but rather more like a surface print, though I think the lines are a bit too sharp for a lithograph. The paper seems thinner and different from the regular stamps.

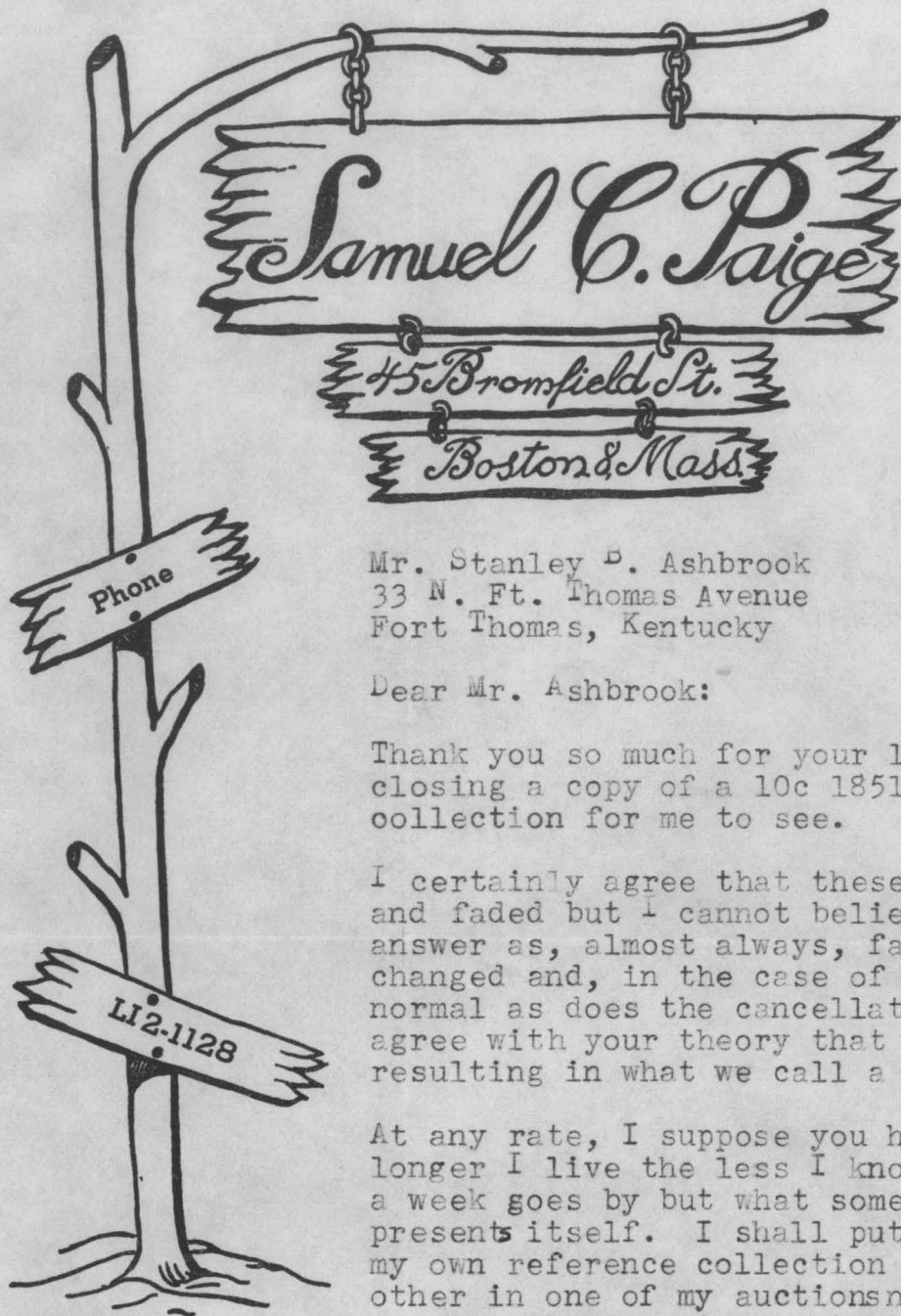
I could plate your first copy.

The postmark on my stamp may be "Washington."

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

RECEIPT OF MAILING
WAS OBTAINED FOR THIS LETTER PER
POST OFFICE DEPT FORM 3817



February 18, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you so much for your letter of February 15th enclosing a copy of a 10c 1851 out of your reference collection for me to see.

I certainly agree that these stamps looked washed out and faded but I cannot believe that fading is the answer as, almost always, fading causes paper to become changed and, in the case of these stamps, the paper looks normal as does the cancellation. I am more inclined to agree with your theory that the paper probably was dry resulting in what we call a dry print.

At any rate, I suppose you have found as have I that the longer I live the less I know about stamps and hardly a week goes by but what some interesting new angle presents itself. I shall put one of these copies into my own reference collection and am tempted to offer the other in one of my auctions next season. It might very possibly be a variety which a specialist would enjoy owning, don't you think?

Will be sending you my next auction catalog around March 1st and, as I wrote you earlier, would appreciate any inspection requests you may care to send me. With my very best regards, as always -

Sincerely,

Sam Paige
Samuel C. Paige

Member

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

Feb. 22, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Paige:

Yours of the 18th received with return of the 10¢ 1855. I am sending this copy to Mr. Philip Rust, who, as you are doubtless aware, is very much interested in the 10¢ 1855. I thought he would like to see this rather unusual variety; and if you put one of your copies in your sale, I will call his attention to it.

You are quite right, the longer I am in this game the more convinced I am how very little I know. Years ago I thought I knew all the answers, but today when someone tells me I am wrong, I don't argue because I know the chances are that he is probably right.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Feb. 22, 1954.

Mr. Philip G. Rust,
Route 5,
Thomasville, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Rust:

Here is a 10¢ 1855 that I have had in my reference collection for many years. It is quite a peculiar looking specimen and in some respects it looks more like a surface print than an engraving. Recently Sam Paige sent me, for a look, two similar copies with the inquiry if I thought they were unusual and any special variety. I believe these three were the only ones I have ever noted. This paper seems quite different from the regular grade.

It was my opinion that this was some sort of a changeling - by which I mean, it was not like this when printed, but after seeing the Paige copies, I wonder?

At any rate, I thought the "variety" might be of passing interest to you. You can return same at your convenience.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

PHILIP G. RUST
WINNSTEAD PLANTATION
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

Feb. 24th. 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

~~+~~ That peculiar looking 10¢ 1855 is at hand, and I'm much obliged to you for the chance to examine it. I have one myself, but it is not such an extreme case as your's. I now have the last word in stereoscopic binoculars (Bausch & Lomb). The third dimension just climbs right out and slaps you in the face. The average engraving looks as though it were moulded with putty and magnification from 10X to 120X. Consequently bear in mind that any comments I make are with the aid of this instrument.

First, the FACTS---

1. The appearance is flat, like a surface print.
2. There is a third dimension, but it appears only on 15-20 diameters magnification.
3. The color tends to be lighter than normal; also yellower.
4. These seem to occur about once in every 100 copies. (I have an "a" relief; your's is "b.")
5. In the copies I've seen there has been a laundering in each case; the india ink of the cancellation has become a light gray!
6. The paper appears "tighter". There was not as much light transmitted thru the stamp as a regular.
7. Onsoaking my specimen in water; it took about 10 minutes to wet thru. This is significant--looks like a casein coating or impregnation.
8. Your specimen soaked up water in more normal fashion; but slower, nevertheless.

Second, the OPINIONS---

1. Except for paper differences the whole business could have been caused by a batch of ink having MUCH less than normal pigment; and thinner in consistency.
2. I am almost sure the stamps are not forgeries; the markings are perfect.
3. I feel sure that there was some experimenting going on---casein coating, different ink mixes, etc. Whether this was done with the boss's permission, or not is immaterial!

This all brings up a fascinating study, and one which is worthy of discussion in your service. Namely the appearance of stamps cleaned 100 years ago for re-use, as compared to some of the funny-looking modern cleaning jobs to make a war scarred veteran appear like

2. Ashbrook 2/24/54

it had been vacuum packed in the post office that long ago, and kept in a dark place. Needless to say, this type of treatment makes the stamp look like what the cat drug in---I'm referring now, to the Nassau St artists' labors.

All these queer looking things that come to your attention, that are for sale, I'd like to acquire for my studies. So, steer 'em my way if you can.

Thanks again for the chance to examine this. I am enclosing it herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Steve-R.

Unmanned
GLOVER ROSE
COTTON CONTENT
U.S.A.

March 7, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Paige:

I sent my peculiar looking 10¢ 1855 to a friend of mine and informed him that a similar copy was coming up in your sale of April 9th. I thought you would be interested in his reply so I am quoting it as follows:

"That peculiar looking 10¢ 1855 is at hand, and I'm much obliged to you for the chance to examine it. I have one myself, but it is not such an extreme case as your's. I now have the last word in stereoscopic binoculars (Bausch & Lomb). The third dimension just climbs right out and slaps you in the face. The average engraving looks as though it were moulded with putty and magnification is from 10X to 120X. Consequently bear in mind that any comments I make are with the aid of this instrument.

First, the FACTS---

1. The appearance is flat, like a surface print.
2. There is a third dimension, but it appears only on 15-20 diameters magnification.
3. The color tends to be lighter than normal; also yellower.
4. These seem to occur about once in every 100 copies. (I have an "a" relief; your's is "b.")
5. In the copies I've seen there has been a laundering in each case; the india ink of the cancellation has become a light gray?!
6. The paper appears "tighter". There was not as much light transmitted thru the stamp as a regular.
7. On soaking my specimen in water; it took about 10 minutes to wet thru. This is significant--looks like a case in coating or impregnation.
8. Your specimen soaked up water in more normal fashion; but slower, nevertheless.

Second, the OPINIONS---

1. Except for paper differences the whole business could have been caused by a batch of ink having MUCH less than normal pigment; and thinner in consistency.
2. I am almost sure the stamps are not forgeries; the markings are perfect.
3. I feel sure that there was some experimenting going on---casein coating, different ink mixes, etc. Whether this was done with the boss's permission, or not is immaterial!"

(unquote)

Sincerely yours,

MAURICE JAMET

timbres anciens

10, Rue d'Alger
PARIS 1^{er}

Opéra 99-46

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

Paris, the 9th of January 1954

Mr Stanley B. ASHBROOK
P.O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
FORT THOMAS, Ky

(Etats-Unis)

Dear Mr Ashbrook,

I thank you very much for your letter of
december 12th.

Will you please accept my most sincere wishes
for a happy new year.

Thank you for your agreement of principal
for the eventual publication in my magazine, of some of your
philatelic articles, provided I shall write to you to inform
you of my choice amongst them, and of your definitive agreement.

I send you by separate mail, two covers for
which I should be glad that you send me separate certificates.
For the cover bearing a pair of the 1851 10 Cents, I think they
are type I and IV se-tenant, the type IV being the 86 LI. I
should be very glad to have your estimation of the real value
of this item. I thank you very much in advance.

In my december sale, Mr Hill obtained a few
lots. Of course, I have accepted that you examine them before
he pays them. They come from the Garnier correspondence in which,
as you know very well, there were a lot of forged covers, but
there were also some genuine, and I think it is the case for this
one.


Awaiting the pleasure of your next letter,
I remain,

Yours faithfully,

MAURICE JAMET

timbres anciens

10, Rue d'Alger
PARIS 1^{er}

 Opéra 99-46

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

Paris, le 7 Janvier 1954

Mr Stanley B. ASHBROOK
P.O. Box 31
33 N. Ft Thomas Avenue
FORT THOMAS (Ky)

(Etats-Unis)

POUR EXPERTISE.-

Une lettre d'Etats-Unis avec une pièce du N°7 (Yvert)
obl. Seneca, à côté PAID 10 en rouge, et U. States en
noir dans un double demi-cercle fermé.
Le timbre est bord de feuille à gauche

Frs:10.000.-

Une lettre des Etats-Unis avec une paire verticale du
N°7 (Yvert), obl. Peoria en noir. A côté cachet rouge de
New-York et petit cachet à date français, rouge, Outre-
Mer Le Havre

15.000.-

Engagement de change N°629403

Jan. 15, 1954.

Mr. Maurice Jamet,
10 Rue d'Alger,
Paris 1er, France.

Dear Mr. Jamet:

I am in receipt of your registered letter of the 9th and also your air letter of the 7th.

The two covers arrived safe and before returning them I would like to inquire if they are for sale and if so, at what price.

I can assure you that both are genuine in every respect. The cover to Canada contains a left sheet margin of the 10¢ 1855, Type II.

The other cover shows the 20¢ rate to France by the Havre Line (American Packet) in March 1856. The stamps paid the postage to the French frontier and 6 decimes were due from the addressee for the French internal. I merely mention these features to show that all markings are in accord. The pair of stamps are what we call a "combination" of Types IV and I. The top stamp is, (as you stated) a Type IV, plate position 86L1, and the bottom stamp is a Type I, 96L1. As you are aware these two positions were the only ones on the plate that gave such a combination in a pair.

I note that you would like to have my opinion as to the value of these two covers. I am always pleased to express an opinion on stamps or covers but always decline any expression on values. Everybody has a different idea and on that subject I am no authority. If the covers are not for sale, kindly advise me whether you wish me to sign them on the back as genuine.

Up to this writing I have not heard from Mr. Hill regarding purchases in your December sale. I believe he intends to depart for the Continent at an early date.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

MAURICE JAMET

timbres anciens

10, Rue d'Alger

PARIS 1^{er}

Opéra 99-46

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

Paris, the 4th of february 1954

Mr Stanley B. ASHBROOK
P.O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, Ky

(Etats-Unis)

Dear M Ashbrook,

Thank you very much for your letter of january 15.

I apologize for the long delay of reply, but I was in the expectative about a nice collection of U.S. from which I first sent you the cover you received bearing the pair of the 10 Cents.

I finally made an agreement with the collector, and I shall have the collection on sale in my next auction sale, at the end of march or beginning of april. I am very sorry to say that the cover you have in hand is not to be sold now, but only in my next sale. Of course, I shall send you a catalogue.

In a few days, I shall send you other covers belonging to the same collection. There are some very interesting items, and I should be very glad if you could sign them and give me some explanations about them. I think they are all genuine, but if I am wrong I should be very happy to have the opportunity of learning something.

I would have appreciated your estimations, in view of putting them in my catalogue. If you have an idea of the value of the covers I am sending you, I should be very grateful to have it, and I thank you very much in advance.

Concerning the cover bearing a 10 Cents green, sheet margin, I had it in stock and I sold it lately. I always counsel my customers to take your advice for the U.S.A. items they buy. It can only be a good thing and stop some unscrupulous sellers. If you are well known here as an opponent of Zaresky, I am sure it could stop some swindling.

Awaiting the pleasure of your next mail, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice Jamet

Feb. 9, 1954.

Mr. Maurice Jamet,
10 Rue d'Alger,
Paris 1er, France.

Dear Mr. Jamet:

Herewith I am returning the two covers that you sent to me under date of January 7th last. I have endorsed each one on the back. My fee for the two is \$5.00.

I always refuse to express an opinion on values but in this case I will make an exception. If these two covers were offered in a New York auction I believe that the single would bring approximately \$50.00 and the pair \$150.00. Because the latter is cut rather close it might not realize so high a figure.

I will be pleased to examine any further items that you care to send.

I might add that covers showing the 20¢ rate to France are quite uncommon.

My kindest regards .

Sincerely yours,

- A Type II - from Plate 2 - Positions 81R2 - 82R2 - balls added to the scrolls and painted in several places - cancel cleaned.
- B A Type II - from a bottom row position with Type I features "painted" balls and full curves added.
- C A Type IV stamp from top row Plate One Late - Painted at top and bottom - a poor job
- D "F" Relief 91R4 - Type IC - uncatalogued - a very fine example of this type - See Ashbrook Vol. I, page 236 - Fig. 20J which illustrates this position 91R4 From bottom row right pane - Plate 4.
- E "E" Relief - Type IC - uncatalogued - See Ashbrook Vol. I - page 237 - for illustration of a similar stamp
- F This was a Type III - Painted and converted into a Type IA - This is an "F" Relief from the 6th row of Plate 4 - right pane - Plate Position 59R4 See Ashbrook Vol. I - page 242 - Fig. 20V - for a drawing of 59R4 and Fig. 20W on page 243 for a photograph of 59R4
- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| G | Type I
Pl. 2
"A" Relief | Type II
Pl. 2
"A" Relief | Type II
Plate One Early
"B" Relief
Small Boston PAID in grid |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
- H Type II
Plate 4
Top row only
- I Type II
Plate One Early
"A" Relief
- J Type II
Erasure made at bottom to produce break in bottom line to convert stamp from a Type II to a Type IIIA
- K This strip was Type IV - Erasures made of top and bottom lines and some paint work - This strip came from 36L1L - 37L1L - 38L1L See Ashbrook Vol. I - page 160 for illustration of these positions
- L Type IV
From Top Row
Right Pane
Plate One Late



THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-5667

February 3, 1954

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ELLIOT G. CORIN
ASSISTANT TREASURER
WINTHROP S. BOGGS
DIRECTOR
ETHEL HARPER
ASS'T TO THE CHAIRMAN

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

Dear Stan:

I take the liberty of enclosing some 1¢ 1851s from the Luff Collection together with the notes appended to them. I would appreciate your comments thereon. I am at present engaged in rearranging the Luff U. S. as a reference collection rather than that of a catalogue editor. This will make it easier to use for expertizing as all the pertinent material will be together.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

Winthrop S. Boggs
Director

wsb/1
encl.

Feb. 9, 1954.

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

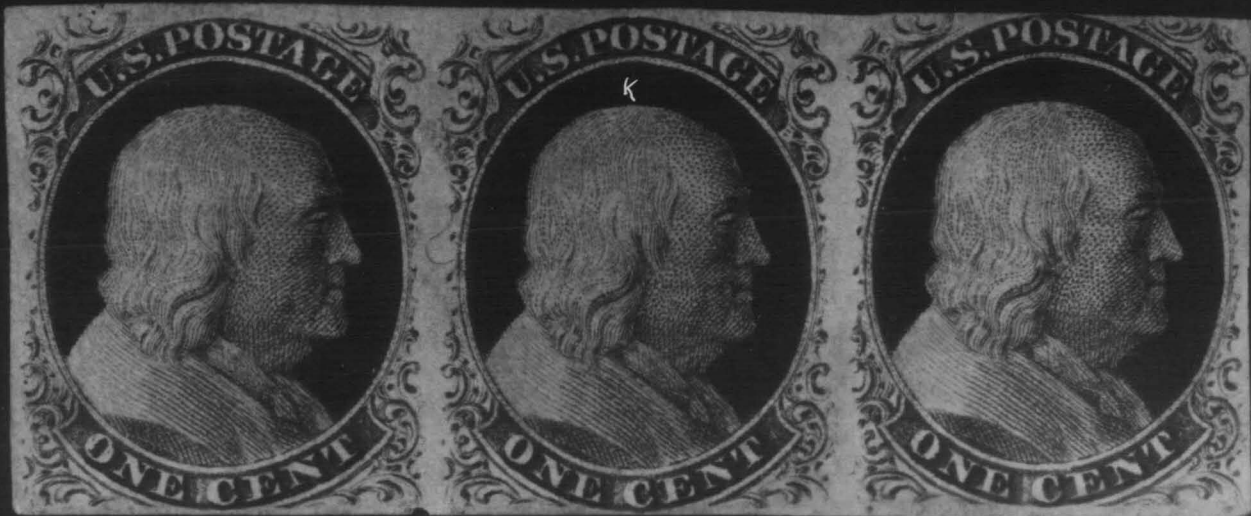
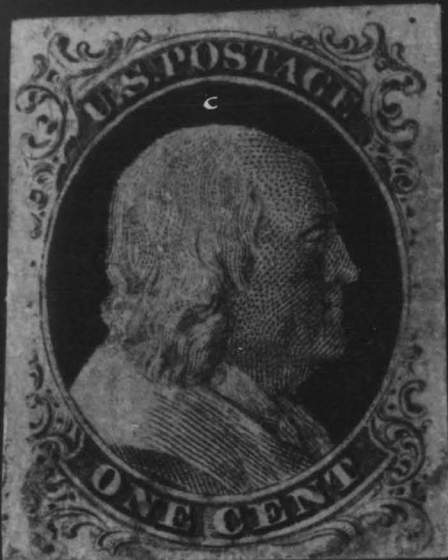
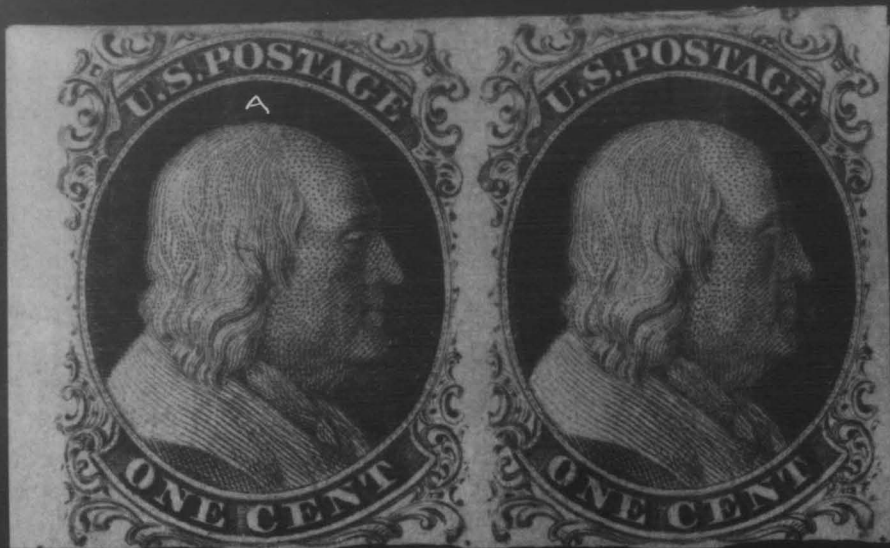
Attention: Mr. W. S. Boggs

Dear Win:

Herewith the One Cent 1851 as per yours of the 3rd with full notations on each. This is the biggest lot of faked One Cent that I have seen in a long time. Years ago there was a lot of paint jobs and erasure copies but we don't see much any more - perhaps the most that turns up is cleaned with fake gum and occasionally a reperf.

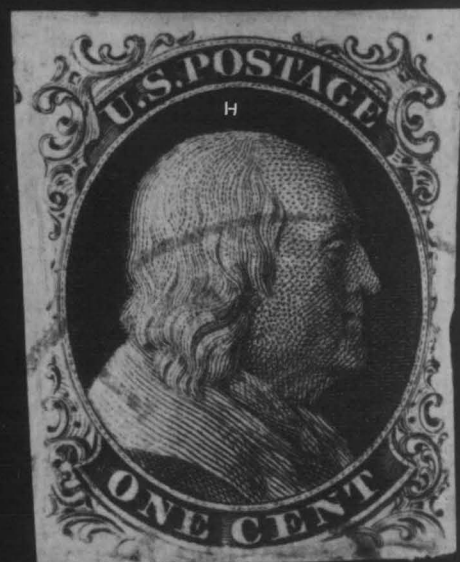
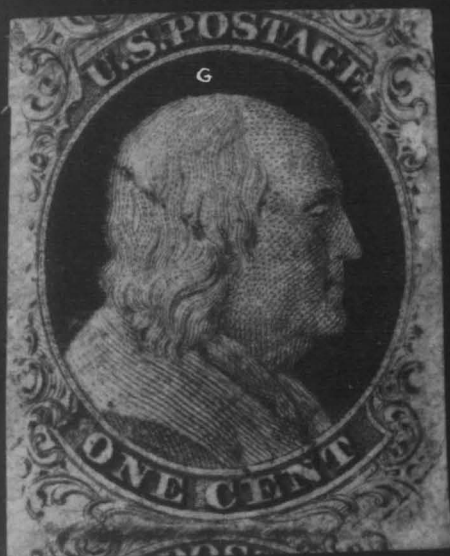
My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,



A455

14
RED
F128
34
SEC



A456

L4
F12
RED
34
SEC

BEN E. RUTMAN
2087 Pinehurst Ave.
St. Paul 5, Minn.

Feb 8, 1954

Mrs Stanley Blackbrook
St Thomas, Ky.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing herewith a cover bearing a 3¢ 1869 stamp and postmarked from a Michigan town dated March 12th 1869, which I would like you to examine and certify as to its authenticity.

I bought this cover at one of Mr Robert A. Siegel's auctions after reading about this particular cover in an article by Mr Harry Konwiser, which I also enclose.

After buying this cover, I wrote to Scotts Publications as to changing earliest date known of said stamp in their catalog.

They wrote to me suggesting that I send this cover to you for your okay after which they would change the earliest date known of this cover in the catalog.

I am also enclosing their letter to me and also an article which appeared in their Seattle Journal about this cover.

Therefore I will appreciate it very much if you will examine the enclosed cover and return same to me with your decision.

I am enclosing \$1.00 in currency for return postage. I will also send you my check for your fee in this matter upon receipt of your invoice.

Very truly yours,
Ben E. Rutman

Feb. 11, 1954.

Mr. Ben E. Rutman,
2087 Pinehurst Ave.,
St. Paul 5, Minn.

Dear Mr. Rutman:

Herewith I am returning the 3¢ 1869 cover contained in yours of the 8th. I made a very careful examination of this item and in my opinion, this 3¢ stamp was not originally used on this envelope.

I believe if you will examine the stamp carefully, you will find that it had a black cancelation before the blue was applied - further the blue ink on the stamp is different from that of the postmark. Evidently someone removed a stamp, possibly a 3¢ 1861.

Incidentally, the year logo is not legible and the only reason to infer it might be 1869 is the presence of a 3¢ 1869 stamp, so the year could have been very much earlier and surely was.

There are no records that I have ever heard of to indicate any of the 1869 stamps were sent to any post offices as early as February of 1869. To assume that any supplies were sent that early to some small Michigan Post Office seems most unlikely. One wonders why a person would remove, say a 3¢ 1861, and substitute a 3¢ 1869 on a cover such as this. Just monkey-business, no doubt.

There is no fee for the above.

Sincerely yours,

Feb. 11, 1954.

Mr. James B. Hatcher,
% Scott Publications, Inc.,
580 Fifth Ave.,
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hatcher:

Re - Early date 3¢ 1869.

On June 4th, 1952, you addressed a letter to Mr. Ben E. Rutman of 719 Marshall Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn., regarding a cover with a 3¢ 1869 and seemingly used from some town in Michigan on March 1, 1869. You suggested to the owner that he submit the cover to me.

I am sure you will be interested to learn that he sent the cover to me this week and in my opinion, the 3¢ stamp was not used originally on this cover. Apparently someone removed a stamp, possibly a 3¢ 1861 and substituted a 3¢ 1869. The year date looks like 186? and the only reason to suspect it was 1869 is the presence of the 3¢ stamp. I suppose the envelope could have been used as early as 1861.

One wonders why some people do such things.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

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*

February 15, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for sending us the report on Mr. Rutman's allegedly early-date cover of the 3¢ '69. I am glad he did submit it to you and that you were able to put the finger on its fraudulence so easily.

Sincerely,

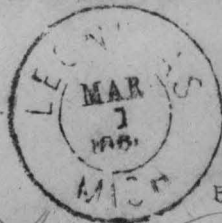
SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

James B. Hatcher

James B. Hatcher

JBH:lbf

B4461



Blue

Welson A. Kingsley Esq.
Great Valley,
Cattaraugus Co.
New York

Submitted By Ben E Rutman St Paul Minn For Examination
Feby 11 1954. Question Is This An Early Use of Mar
1-1869. Answer No, Stamp Was Not Used on
This Cover Originally See S.B. 30. Page

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.

February 5th, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

E. N. Sampson sent the enclosed cover to me. He wants \$45.00 for it. I think the price is high. The reason for my interest is because I have never seen the use of the 10¢ stamp to Denmark. In fact, I never remember seeing a 1¢ 1851 or 1857 used to Denmark. What do you think about it?

I am enclosing herein a check for \$5.00 to cover back and forth postage for the last few months, and I would also appreciate your sending me about ten plating cards.

I received the block this morning, and the face of it looks lovely. I also received the photographs from plate 7, but I haven't had a chance to look at them yet.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Mort

MORTIMER L. NEINKEN

MLN:HL
ENC.

Feb. 11, 1954.

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

Dear Mort:

Herewith the cover to Denmark as per yours of the 5th. Of course, covers to Norway, Sweden and Denmark are very scarce, and I suppose this one would especially appeal to a collector of California items. A cover from California to Denmark as early as 1859 is undoubtedly scarce. This went by Bremen or Hamburg mail and the rate is O.K. These are the good points. The cover is not pretty and the New York postmark is very faint. I don't believe this would be a good investment @ \$45.00. I don't believe it would bring such a price at auction, still it might. Numeral cancels on the 10¢ are darn unusual as you well know but are they worth \$20.00 each?

Thanks very much for the check for \$5.00.

I am sure you will be pleased to know that Jessup sent me the old Chase cover with the block of ten of the 1¢ 1857 which we figured was 1L7 - 5L7 - 11L7 - 15L7. I am today making a photograph and will send you a print later.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

127-
Via New York & Hamburg



H. V. Ueberhorst Wro
a.



Burg auf der Insel Fehmarn
Herzogthum Schleswig
Denmark

See S.B. 30. p. 6. Cover To Denmark By Neinkon
Feb'y 11 1954 -

B 445

B 445

Jan. 17, 1954.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for yours of the 6th & 13th. I only received the "Times". I have tried to purchase sets but simply could not. Will let you know if I find more.

Thanks also for the copy of your Special Service. I found it fascinating.

Re "Philatelic Americana", I have never seen a Columbia, S.C. cover with the year date "1860". However, I enclose a 'stat of a Charleston which you are welcome to keep, if you wish. On the cover the year is a little clearer. I also have a Feb. 4, 1861, Charleston.

I once had a cover clearly postmarked "Memphis, Tenn. JUN 8 1861" & my wife threw it out during a housecleaning before I could get a picture of it. That is one reason they are rare.

Earl Antrim asks about your reference on page 52 of the "Stamp Specialist Emerald Book" (No. 16, 1946) to the Whelden Provost Marshal marking at Norfolk, Va. being a "civilian" cover & not a "prisoner of war" cover.

I have one & had told him I thought it was a "prisoner" cover.

My reasons were:

1. On page 168 of the 1945 catalogue, Dietz lists the Washington and Norfolk Provost Marshal markings as "prisoner" markings.
2. Mac gave me this 'stat of a Washington P.M. marking, which is obviously not a flag-of-truce cover. You can keep it if you wish.
3. I have a folded letter from a civilian in Norfolk, written to his agent in Richmond in 1864, (in which he describes the operation of flag of truce mail), which does not bear this mark of the Norfolk P. Marshal.
4. I have a cover from Carthage, Tenn. to a Confederate prisoner at Point Lookout, Md., which was endorsed "Approved, W.C. Bandy Lt. & Provost Marshal, Carthage, Tenn." after the war was over (6.14.65). I have seen hundreds of covers from U.S. points to Point Lookout but no other one endorsed by a provost marshal. I thought this was from a prisoner in the provost marshal's guardhouse at Carthage, & that all other "Provost Marshal" covers were likewise from prisoners in local military jails. Certainly only prisoner mail would be censored two months after April 9, 1865.
5. I have a cover from a Federal soldier-prisoner, postmarked "Banks Division", addressed to Philadelphia, endorsed by a provost marshal. Since I have never seen another like it, it also confirmed my thought that provost marshals

approved of prisoners' mail only. The regular examination of flag of truce mail was, I understand, at Fortress Monroe or Richmond. Only prison camp mail & provost marshal markings appear on covers at point of origin.

I also have a cover endorsed by two Confederate "A. A. G.s". I have been supposing it, too, was from a soldier under field arrest. The postmark is a grid on an 1863 10¢ blue. I have never seen but one other cover endorsed by an "A. A. G." & it was approved by only one. My writer must have been in really serious trouble.

The "Wheldens" (Norfolk) seem to be quite rare. Larry Tchenfield had a small one, & I never heard of another large one, besides mine, other than the one you illustrated. Mine has had a Union stamp removed, presumably to put on another envelope, in accordance with the rules. The Confederate stamp is postmarked Richmond.

I imagine a great number of people in Norfolk wrote to persons in the South - my letter indicates it was an easy matter - and I have thought that the scarcity of "Wheldens" was because so few people were prisoners in the Provost Marshal's jail.

I am extremely interested in the reasons for your indicating they are civilian f. o. t. covers, as mentioned in your article. The above are only my deductions - I am open minded on the subject.

Thanking you for your kind consideration, & trusting that the above will be of interest, I am

Sincerely,

Thos. Barks

PRESIDENT
RAYNOR HUBBELL
BOX 573
GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

GENERAL VICE-PRESIDENT
VAN DYK MACBRIDE
744 BROAD STREET
NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

SOUTHERN VICE-PRESIDENT
GEORGE N. MALPASS
5401 — 9TH STREET NORTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.



HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT
AUGUST DIETZ, SR.
109 EAST CARY STREET
RICHMOND 19, VIRGINIA

TRANS-MISS. VICE-PRESIDENT
HARRIE S. MUELLER
1505 PARK PLACE
WICHITA 4, KANSAS

NORTHERN VICE-PRESIDENT
STANLEY ASHBROOK
33 NORTH FORT THOMAS AVE.
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY

SECRETARY-TREASURER
T. W. CRIGLER, JR.
MACON, MISSISSIPPI

Dear Stan - Glad to get yours of the 24th. This subject of "Wheldon" has been all around the burn. I had a letter from Pauls almost identical with the one I return herewith and I wrote him fully. Before that he put the question to MacBride and he wrote Tom. I sent out a prompt to my letter to Pauls - which letter he will be glad to send you - as he already sent it to Mac for reading. In brief the "Wheldon" cover I said could be either P. of W. or F. of T. but now Prison Covers in the sense that Fort Delaware is. The P. M. run a jail not a prison and both suspicious civilians as well as P. of W. could be detained there - but P. of W. were now confined there. The absence of the P. of W. name and rank (as per regulations) on these covers would lead me to believe that the ones I have seen are F. of T. But ask Tom to send you my letter.

Am having fun and enjoying my leisure. My interest in stamps is high.

Best to you and Wheldon

Harry.

Jan 29/54

Postage Stamps for Collectors

TELEPHONE
LAKELAND 8-8331

EXPRESS OFFICE
PEEKSKILL, N.Y.



*Herman Herst. Jr.
Shrub Oak, N.Y.*

Dear Stan:

Just so you can protect yourself, in case you should be offered some of these items, I wanted to call your attention to the fact that a substantial quantity of Tracy covers is on the market with forged postmarks. I have been offered quite a number of these, 24 of them in fact, of which no less than 16 are definite counterfeits, and two additional ones are somewhat doubtful.

These are all different, on different types of stamped envelopes, and while some of them bear only Tracy hand stamps of various towns, others bear the Tracy markings in connection with Wells Fargo postmarks.

These are offered by a member of the APS and the Western Cover Society. I am returning the entire lot to him, having photographs made of them, so that they will be on record. If you would be interested, as soon as the photos are ready, I would be glad to send you a set so that you can perhaps reproduce them for your own records. I would want the originals returned to me.



A.P.S.

YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN THE BUSINESS

S.P.A.

Fortunately, the fakes are not too well made, and they can easily be told by the differences in the formation of the letters, as well as the ink used. In addition to the markings themselves being faked, several covers on United States stamped envelopes exist with the frank itself also forged. I just wanted to let you know.

Pat



Shrub Oak, N.Y.
Feb. 1954.

Dear Stan:

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(signed) Pat.

COPY

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Feb. 1954.

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(signed) Pat.

Postage Stamps for Collectors

TELEPHONE
LAKELAND 8-8331

EXPRESS OFFICE
PEEKSKILL, N.Y.



*Herman Herst. Jr.
Shrub Oak, N.Y.*

Thank you, Stanley, for your letter. I have not yet obtained the photos on the Tracy covers, as they are being made locally, and they don't give quite the service they do in the city. I did have to return them to the owner promptly so I did not have the chance to go to New York where they could be taken care of.

Confidentially, they were offered to me by Mr. R. E. Manson of Salem, Oregon.

I know the full story of the Levy covers. I have been trying to establish a connection between the two. I would not be surprised if there was one. My last message with Manson was to the effect that he had been swindled on them, but the people he mentioned in the Bay area as having send them to him are all fine, reputable collectors, and I am certain that they could not have been the source. As soon as I get the photos, I will send them along and I have made notes as to the colors of the postmarks, and which ones are good and which ones are not. My reason for mentioning the lot to you is that since you advertise for Western covers, I thought that these might some time come your way. I am



A.P.S.

YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN THE BUSINESS

S.P.A.

certain that if I were not familiar with Tracy covers, and if I did not have my own extensive collection of them for comparison, I might have been taken in on some of them.

Pat

Thank you, Stanley, for your letter. I have not yet obtained the photos on the Tracy covers, as they are being made locally, and they don't give quite the service they do in the city. I did have to return them to the owner promptly so I did not have the chance to go to New York where they could be taken care of.

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Feb. 9, 1954.

Mr. Herman Herst, Jr.,
Shrub Oak, N.Y.

Dear Pat:

Thanks very much for yours of the 5th. I appreciated same very much. Personally, I do very little in Western Franks. Never collected them years ago when I was an amateur, and in my time I have handled very few. I always considered that they were a field all there own and that if one went after them in a serious way he wouldn't have much time for any other specialty.

Several years ago there was a chap out in San Francisco who got rather busy producing fake express markings but I never heard that he manufactured any Tracy items.

Pat, I would be more than pleased to see the set of photographs and I will take good care of them and return them promptly.

Also if you could give me the name of the party who sent the covers to you, I will treat same as strictly confidential and not abuse the information in any way. I would like to know if there is any possible connection between the fakes of several years ago and the present ones. The chap who was doing the work was Nat Levy. Ever hear of him? I have my suspicions about several in the San Francisco area.

Again thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Feb. 9, 1954.

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup,
% Marchant Calculators, Inc.,
1475 Powell Street,
Oakland 8, California.

Dear Edgar:

Here is a letter I received from Pat Herst. Please treat it as strictly confidential and return to me. Make a copy if you wish. While he didn't state these were from the San Francisco area, I suspect that is where they came from. I have asked Pat to please give me the name of the person who sent them to him. Is this new to you? Please let me know. I haven't mentioned this to anyone but you. I wonder if Dr. Pollard is aware of these fakes. If his photo prints are good I will probably make photographs of them.

Last week I sent you an Air Special requesting a loan of your 1¢ 1857 cover from the Emerson Sale - block of ten. I am awfully anxious to see that cover and do hope it is on the way.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Feb. 15, 1954.

Mr. Herman Herst, Jr.,
Shrub Oak, N.Y.

Pat:

Yours of the 11th received. I suppose you noticed the ad of R.E.Manson on page 332 of the current A.P. I have no recollection of ever having any correspondence with such a person, but I note he is A.P.S.19459. In the A.P.Directory his address is given as Springfield, Ore. The A.P. ad gives Eugene, Ore, and your letter gives Salem. Looks like he gets around.

My advertisement for "Westerns" had in mind, Pony covers, Overland Mail, Stage Coach, Via Nicaragua, California towns, etc., etc. Of course, Express Franks are considered a part and parcel of "Westerns" but they are really a separate and distinct specialty, in my opinion.

I wonder if you have had any correspondence with Dr. Pollard or Edgar Jessup on these Tracy covers? Both, as you know, are very active in Express covers.

I will be interested in seeing the photos and will return them promptly.

I have long had a suspicion that there was another person in the Bay Area who was equally as bad as Levy but it was nothing more than a hunch. I believe that Levy is more of a plain damn fool than an outright crook.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Postage Stamps for Collectors

TELEPHONE
LAKELAND 8-8331

EXPRESS OFFICE
PEEKSKILL, N.Y.



*Norman Herst. Jr.
Shrub Oak, N.Y.*

The party who sent the Tracy covers does indeed move around but I think that this is because of his job, for I understand that he is a lineman with an electrical company. He has assured me that he bought them in good faith, something that I must admit seems difficult to understand. Anyone who had any experience with these, and he claimed to have, would have recognized the bad ones.

I have not been in touch with anyone in the Bay area on them as I prefer to let matters take their course for the moment. I did write Clifford and he will no doubt mention it in the next issue of the Express. The fat should then be in the fire and the letters should start going back and forth. My principal interest now is in warning the trade in case they get panicky and start to dump them.

I have not yet received the photos from the photographer but when I do, I will let you borrow a set.



Pat

A.P.S.

YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN THE BUSINESS

S.P.A.

Postage Stamps for Collectors

TELEPHONE
LAKELAND 8-8331

EXPRESS OFFICE
PEEKSKILL, N.Y.



*Norman Herst, Jr.
Shrub Oak, N.Y.*

I don't believe that your Slave notice is a fake. I think it is more likely that someone has turned up a batch of these, although how many, I cannot say. As I told you, I bought mine from Siegel in Houston, paying \$15 for it. About a month ago, Bob told me that he had obtained another one which he sold at auction, but I don't know how much it brought. I thought at first that this might have been the one that you purchased, but from your letter I see that it wasn't. It would indicate though that there are at least three of them around rather than two.

I have been so occupied with business and with Mrs. Herst's illness that I have not had the opportunity to complete my notes on those fake Western covers. I am enclosing the photos as well as the notes that I made from the covers themselves, giving the colors of the markings and my own ideas as to their authenticity or otherwise. No doubt you will be able to match up the photos with my sketches and get the information that you want. As you probably know, the party from whom I obtained them has since been peddling a good many California fake covers too. Just who is making them, I don't know, but it would certainly seem that the situation bears careful study.

over



A.P.S.

YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN THE BUSINESS

S.P.A.

Thanks for the photo of your Slave
notice, and I think you will agree that
it is identical with mine. I still am
reasonably certain that all of these are
genuine.

Pat





THIS SIDE OF CARD FOR ADDRESS

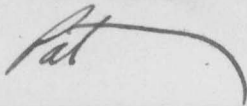
Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 N. Ft. Thomas
Ft. Thomas Ky.

May 26, 1954.

I just had a flash from the West Coast advising that they now have a confession on those fake Express covers, and that the fake covers, the dies, have been destroyed, after first having made impressions of them for the future. The guilty party seems to be the one whom I originally suspected. I am glad to know that the matter has been cleaned up, but I don't agree with the opinion that I had from my friend that they are going to let the matter rest, and not take any criminal action. I certainly think that some legal action should be taken, to show people that this sort of business cannot be condoned.

HERMAN HERST, JR.

SHRUB OAK, NEW YORK

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Herst', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Feb. 15, 1954.

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

Dear Ezra:

Thanks very much for the photograph. I will have it framed and hang it in my den. Doc Sneller is quite a photographer. I have visited him at his home in Peoria - Also quite a character.

Also thanks for a look at the 5¢ '47 cover which I return. I made a photograph but I do not believe this is a consistent plate variety. I enclose a photograph of 10L1 which shows a dot in "U" but I have never seen another 10L that shows this dot. In the Eno sale of February 1950 there was a pair with one stamp described as a dot in "U." I had an idea it was another ink variety and not consistent. Steve Brown had a single that showed a sort of blurr in the "U" and I found another stamp which shows much the same and which I believe came from the same position. Even if there really is such a variety as the enclosed I doubt if it would justify a listing in the S.U.S.

Re - the 1847 cover you bought for En, some time in the near future I will give you the dope on it.

Mildred and I were pleased to learn that Jean is better. Give her our love.

I met Mrs. Konwiser once, some years ago and she seemed to be an awfully nice character. I was sorry to learn she is so ill.

Re - color slides. I will have some more to show you in the near future. I send the films to Rochester where I get much better finishing and quick service. They have been most co-operative. I sent a film recently on a Saturday and got the slides back the following Thursday. Yes, Ted Gore is very much interested and I recently made some slides for him. I will show several of them to you. He has a very fine example of the 5¢ '57 Henna - as fine a color as I have ever seen, also as fine a 5¢ '57 Orange Brown, as they come. Also a most exceptional 24¢ '61 Violet. I suppose you obtained all of these for him.

Re - that 12¢ quarter bisect. There were certain features about this item that I thought made it most improbable that it was bad. I figured that to be bad the postmark had to be a fake and this did not seem possible.

Re - yours of the 9th and prices of the Harmer Rooke and Fox sales. I get all the former but seldom get the latter. I would like to have the Fox prices if not too much trouble.

With regards -

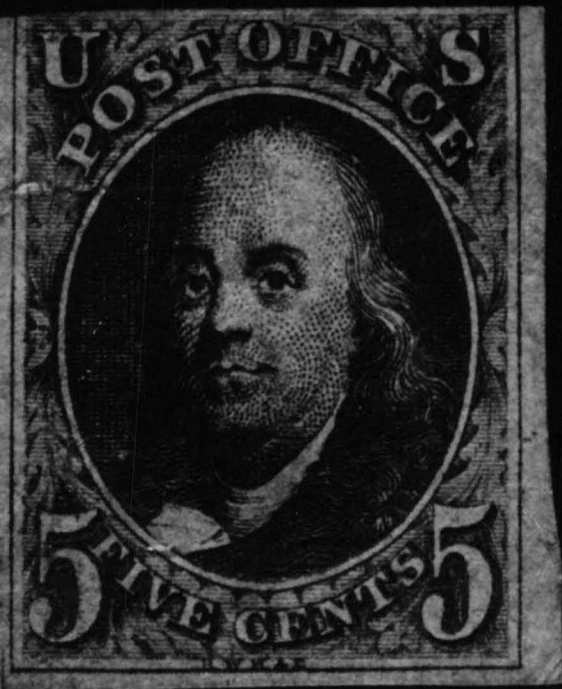
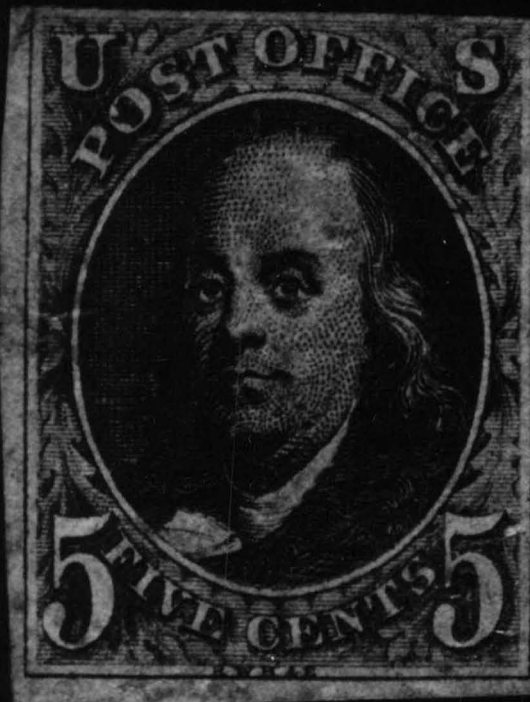
Yours etc.,



DOT IN "1" BY COLE-13-GREEN 65 C. 193

BY GUENTER Z LAHP AT 13-FC4 30 MIN

LOT # 13
SCIENCE K
SALE BY HARMER BROOKS OCT 17 1955



BY GUENTER

3451

NEAL J. GRABERT
615 SOUTH NORMAN AVE.
EVANSVILLE 14, INDIANA

February 4, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your comments on James Taylor were very interesting and it brought to mind an old promissary note I have somewhere in my material, signed by Zachary Taylor. I believe the date was somewhere about 1830 or 40's in Louisville, Ky.

I am enclosing my Way cover for your inspection and wondering where you gained the impression it was an orange-brown, was it by chance noted on the reverse of the photo? I did not think it was this shade.

My penmanship probably led you to mis-read the "Bostona Way" as a Boston Way. At any rate if you still want a look see at the cover I'll send it on.

Regarding the color slides I think I have made for myself a real connection in this respect. A very promising young and ambitious photographer has been doing these for me. I purchased some equipment for him for this express purpose and his fee to me for all my slides is the unbelievable price of 50 cents each. He furnishes all the film and flash bulbs for the job.

Under separate cover I am mailing the slides of my Way and Territorial collections. Incidentally there are some slides of borrowed covers, not too many though. I want your comments on the color and background of these slides. As an after thought I will include several of the covers so you may compare the color, with that on the slide. They are all True light, in other words he shot them on a table by a window on a sunny day. On several he made flash shots for comparison. You will find some duplicates in the middle section and any you want just take them out and for goodness sake do not worry about reciprocating for them as they are probably some he did not charge for.

Kindest regards,

Neal J. Grabert

Feb. 9, 1954.

Mr. Neal J. Grabert,
615 South Norman Ave.,
Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Grabert:

Herewith I am returning with many thanks the covers contained in yours of the 4th. I certainly appreciate your kindness. I am also in receipt of the color slides and have gone over them with a great deal of pleasure. Your friend certainly obtained fine results and I extend him my compliments.

In the very near future I will send you some slides that I made and perhaps your friend might be interested in seeing them. Our mutual friend Henry Meyer is quite a photographer and I am wondering what he thinks of your slides. I also wonder what projector you use and if you use magazine holders for rapid viewing? I can hardly think of a better way to give a talk before a philatelic society than to use a projector and colored slides. I also wonder what outfit your friend uses? Perhaps he would be interested in what I use. I have a Leica and I use a Leica Focalslide with extensions. I haven't done much as yet with cover and stamp color work as I am just experimenting. I also use flood lights rather than natural light or flash. Also have a Contax 35 MM but I haven't used it for any philatelic work.

Herewith I return the print of your "STAPLETON N.Y." cover. I wondered if the stamp was an "Orange Brown" by the memo on the back - "3¢ OR. BROWN."

Yes, I got the impression that "Bostona" Way was "Boston Way."

Again re - the making of color slides. I may be wrong but I believe that your friend will obtain just as good results in using flood lights as he does with flash or sun and, of course, by flood is so much less expensive. I compared your covers with the slides, also noted the "stops" and "time" he was using. I use a Weston Exposure meter and generally the "F8" stop. My exposures range from 1/20 second to 1/30. I am very apt to get an over-exposure at 1/10. I am enclosing herewith a slide made at F8 - 1/15 second - You will note this was over-exposed and 1/30 would have been much better. This slide was made to show a rare color of the 3¢ 1861 - a shade that was used in 1863 and what I call the "Indian Red." In addition, this cover shows a rate to France of 15¢ paid by five 3¢ stamps (unusual) plus a 1¢ 1861 to pay the carrier fee to the N.Y. P.O. I have special device for very fine focusing.

I will return the slides within the next few days and again my I express my sincere appreciation for your kindness.

#2. Mr. Nel J. Grabert - Feb. 9, 1954.

One more word. I am wondering if you have ever had any correspondence with Dr. Arthur W. Davis of West Medford, Mass? He has quite a fine collection of "Way" covers. He is a professor at M.I.T.

Cordially yours,

January 29, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

I ran across this cover the other day and thought you might like it. Or, if you do not want it I know you have a friend across the river who may. Written from Newport, Ky. and mailed in Cincinnati via Marietta. Rather unique isn't it? My compliments. Also enclosing a photo of another unusual Way Cover I thought you might like to see. I just added this to my Way collection.

I managed to get the Railroad Way -
The Boston Way and am still looking
for the Maxwell Way. If ever you
find one for sale I would appre-
ciate your letting me know.

Incidentally, I have about 35 or 40
beautiful colored slides of "Way" scenes &
if you would like to see them I'll
mail them to you. I have a photogra-
pher do them for me here.

Kindest regards

Max Foster

Feb. 3, 1954.

Mr. Neal J. Grabert,
615 S. Norman Ave.,
Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Grabert:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the 1811 cover mailed from Cincinnati. I note that the letter is signed by James Taylor who was one of the earliest settlers of Newport. The old Taylor mansion still stands. He was born in Virginia in 1769, and came to Kentucky in 1792, made a fortune buying and selling Revolutionary Land Warrants. His father was a first cousin to Gen'l Zachary Taylor. He became one of the largest land owners in the West. He died in Newport in 1848.

I really don't know when post offices were established at Cincinnati, Newport and Covington, so I suppose it would be a good thing if I found out. I am disposed to think that there was not an office in Newport as early as 1811. Incidentally, Taylor was quite prominent in the War of 1812.

Re - the photo-print that you sent me of the Stapleton, N.Y. cover. This looks most too good to be true. I note the stamp is an Orange Brown. Is this supposed to be a First Day July 1, 1851? If you would like for me to have a look at it I will be glad to do so - If the S.L. marking is genuine, it is indeed a most unusual and rare cover.

You mentioned you acquired a Boston Way. I don't recall this and wonder if I have seen it? I surely will advise you if I ever run across a Maysville Way.

I was much interested in your mention of colored slides of covers. I have been experimenting a bit along this line myself and have had some fairly good results. I would be delighted to see your slides as I have a projector and screen. What does your photographer charge you to make them?

I appreciate your kindness in sending the Taylor cover to me and I will try to reciprocate.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

Form 3813-P—Rev. 2-51

RECEIPT FOR INSURED PARCEL

Addressed for delivery at

No. _____

Evansville

(Post office of address)

WRITE PLAINLY

(State)

Postage *29* cts. Special handling _____ cts.

Insurance fee *20* cts. Return receipt _____ cts.

Special delivery _____ cts. Restricted delivery _____ cts.

Fragile _____ Perishable _____

Other endorsement _____

SENDER.—Enter name and address of addressee on other side and read information regarding endorsements and indemnity.

POSTMASTER,

By _____



Feb. 16, 1954.

Mr. Neal J. Grabert,
615 S. Norman Ave.,
Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Grabert:

I am today returning to you via insured post the color slides and I do most sincerely thank you for your kindness in the loan. I enjoyed looking at these very much.

I borrowed one slide that I wanted to show a Detroit friend. This was of a Detroit cover and I will return it to you later.

I certainly appreciate your kind offer to present me with any of the duplicates that I cared to retain.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

RAYMOND H. WEILL CO.
ROGER G. WEILL - RAYMOND H. WEILL

Philatelic Dealers

MEMBERS
AMERICAN STAMP DEALERS ASS'N
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
SOCIETY PHILATELIC AMERICANS
COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK
BRITISH PHILATELIC ASS'N, LTD.

407 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.
February 17, 1954

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

What do you think of the enclosed Revenue invert ? It looks perfectly good to us but before buying it we would like to have your opinion. Do you believe it is a genuine invert and sound ? We are including a copy of the normal stamp for comparison.

Souren had a bunch of faked inverts. The original head was bleached out by chemicals and a new head printed in, of course, upside down. We imagine the color of the silk threads would have been altered by the chemicals.

Please return as soon as you have formed an opinion as the stamp was sent us on approval. It is owned by Frank M. Morgan, Clark School, Hanover, N. H. Please include bill for expertizing.

Sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

by *Raymond*

RAYMOND H. WEILL CO.
ROGER G. — RAYMOND H. WEILL
407 ROYAL STREET. NEW ORLEANS 16



AIR MAIL



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 No. Fort Thomas St.
FT. THOMAS, KY.



Feb. 21, 1954.

Mr. Raymond H. Weill,
407 Royal St.,
New Orleans 16, La.

Dear Raymond:

Herewith the two Revenues as per yours of the 17th. These are a bit out of my line, but nevertheless I made a very careful examination of the invert under my binocular microscope and in my opinion, it is unquestionably genuine. I failed to detect anything that was at all suspicious. I am well aware of the fact that years ago some faked inverts came on the market and they were at the time considered so very clever that they puzzled many of the Eastern dealers. Elliott Perry paid me a visit along about February 1936 and he had three or four of the fakes with him and I remember studying them under a glass with him. However, as I recall, when the fakes were laid side-by-side with a genuine Washington head, the difference was obvious. I made some notes regarding them at that time, hence I am not relying entirely upon my memory. I believe Perry obtained his specimens from someone in Cleveland and they were loaned to him for examination. According to my notes, they were given to Perry by a man named Henn, and according to Perry, Henn was very cagey and non-committal about where and from whom he obtained them but Perry seemed to be well satisfied in his own mind who it was who made them. Perry believed that Henn acquired them along about 1915 and that the man he had under suspicion had been dead quite a few years. (This was 1936). I quote from a letter that Perry wrote me at the time:

"A wonderful job and no mistake. The new portrait is marvelously like the original."

This would indicate that the head had been copied from the original and not produced thru a photographic process.

No doubt you recall Von David. According to my notes Von David showed up in Cincinnati late in 1937 and he had some of these fake inverts for sale. It is my recollection that they belonged to him. I believe he asked me to look them over but I refused to as revenues were not in my line and I wanted no part of expressing an opinion on something with which I was not thoroughly familiar. No doubt Von David and Souren got together and made a deal. It seems that George Sloane got hold of some of the Henn specimens and he made a very careful examination. According to my notes Perry stated that it was Sloane who discovered that original heads had been bleached out and "new heads" printed in upside down. In Perry's words - "Apparently engraved forgeries almost identical with the originals."

I note that Henn's name was Ralph Henn. I also note that Percy Doane, Sloane and Perry examined the three that Perry had under Max Ohlman's violet-ray machine and it showed traces of the original heads on the back of the stamps.

#2. Mr. Raymond H. Weill - Feb. 21, 1954.

Under my binocular I compared the two heads on your two stamps side-by-side, line for line, and failed to detect any difference. I do not think it would be possible for even the most skilled engraver to make a copy line for line. A copy could be made thru photography but even such reproductions such as Sperati turns out, can easily be detected by a trained philatelic eye.

To be absolutely sure I made enlarged photographs by ultra-violet and such photographs should show up anything that might be wrong.

I would prefer not to render a final decision until after I have developed my negatives, and pending same I request that you treat this letter as strictly confidential.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

(30-11)

Feb. 24, 1954.

Mr. Raymond Weill,
407 Royal St.,
New Orleans 16, La.

Dear Raymond:

Herewith four photographs of two sizes. On
one of the small prints I have signed as follows:

"In my opinion this \$1.00 Revenue is
genuine in every respect.

Stanley B. Ashbrook
February 24, 1954."

I believe that you will agree that these photographs
speak for themselves and prove that the Invert is gen-
uine in every way.

My fee for this examination, photographs, etc.
is \$7.50.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Feb. 24, 1954.

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

Elliott:

Yours of the 18th received.

My friend is a bit fussy about condition which was the reason he returned the single copy of the 10¢ that I sent back to you yesterday. However, if you wish to send on the two margin copies I will be glad to submit them to him.

Thanks for the additional memo on registered mail.

Years ago we had some correspondence on the fake Revenue Inverts that were the property of Ralph Henn. Was Henn from Cleveland? I recall that you had a pretty good idea who made the fakes. Is that true? Do you remember if they were all the dollar value? Recently I made some large size photographs of a genuine dollar invert laid side-by-side with a copy of the regular stamp to show that the genuine invert was the same head as the regular stamp. If you would like prints I will be glad to send you some with my compliments.

Yours etc.,

See Pats # 43



February 26, 1954

Stan;

I am very pleased to have the photos of the Phila. carrier items. The part of the Philadelphia Chapter to 1851 was done last year and the very complicated 1851-63 section is now nearly ready to be submitted to Maurice Blake. The red star on the 3c 1851 cover is believed to indicate a collection fee prepaid to a carrier in cash. The few covers which have been noted do not indicate this happened often, or over a very extended period. Unless you wish otherwise proper credit will be given you for the photos.

Ralph Henn lived in Cleveland. His family owned a large factory that made machine tools there which I was told they sold for 25 millions. The first invert was shown me by Henn in Whittaker's office. It was a magnificent \$1 green and black. Something about it looked odd and after a long soak I peeled off the inverted medallion. Apparently it was india proof reduced to a thin film. The portrait was genuine. Henn had either bought it or intended to.

Later Henn's collection contained all the known inverts (the 5c proprietary was not then known) - at least he said so, but he would never show them. There was a story that they came from a trunk full of old papers Henn bought and which had been found in New England - Hartford, Conn., as I recall. I heard Henn sold his revenue collection to Ward, but I do not know what became of the inverts.

X
A collector in Cleveland whose name I do not recall had several inverts and was a friend of another collector - a lawyer named Russell Bleecker. The inverts were shown me and Bleecker took me to the Police Dept. in Cleveland where we tested them with the violet ray and high powered comparison manuscript, but did not discover what was wrong with them. I took them to New York, made another test and discovered why the test in Cleveland had failed.

I do not recall whether the inverts had come from Henn, or how we knew they were the same sort that Henn had, or had reason so to believe.

Henn would not say from whom he bought the inverts, but I knew he had bought other stamps from a dealer (since dead) who had been in trouble with the government for making and/or selling stuff that was less than legitimate, and was satisfied in my own mind that the inverts came from him.

Very careful examination showed the inverted portraits on the stamps which were studied in Cleveland were not exactly like the genuine stamps, but the slight differences were not easy to see because the heads were usually too blunry. There was a \$1 green on which the head was shapper than was found on any genuine stamps.

Large collections of proofs were examined but I was unable to find the identical portrait that was on the stamps which were examined at Cleveland. I SUSPECT the portrait was not a counterfeit,



but was printed from a Butler & Carpenter die which was sold with other lay-downs, vignettes, etc. when the Philadelphia Bank Note Co. went out of business, or from some similar source. If my suspicion is correct perhaps a document on which the head was used may eventually be found, with an imprint which will reveal the source.

Another possibility is that it was an original for the revenue stamps, wasn't satisfactory, and was replaced by another, ~~and~~ never was used, and so never will be found on any printed paper. The differences are so slight that this possibility seems very improbable.

Yes, I would ^{like} ~~like~~ to see the enlarged prints you mention.

The corner copies of the 10c 1847 were where I thought they were and will be sent. If they interest your customer O.K. and if not that is also O.K. If I sell them the money will probably be spent for photos for the Carrier Book, or one of the other books which are to follow it, "if and when."

Russell Bleecker had a cover with a 24c 1861 violet and a 1c 1861, probably used to England. I haven't seen it since but would like to as I have very few covers going abroad with 1c postage used for a carrier fee. (I mean photos - I myself have no such covers).

Arthur Hall phoned in the middle of this letter. He has had several operations since he retired about four years ago but recovered well from the last one. He does some part time work for one of the town services, (building inspection), fishes whenever there is any nearby, works some on stamps, and belongs to the Old Guard. Enough interests to keep him busy and contented.

As ever,

X
*Enlargements of four heads shown
- Oato #43. \$1.00, 30¢ and
two low values. All taken from
the Cleveland stamps. I have
seen no other copies.*

Feb. 21, 1954.

Mr. H. P. Atherton,
5 Yale St.,
Holyoke, Mass.

Dear Erby:

Re - Revenues. As you are aware, Revenues are quite a bit out of my line, so I am appealing to you for a bit of information. Have you any facts on the \$1.00 Inverts that turned up along in the middle and late nineteen thirties? I believe they came from a chap named Ralph Henn. Did you live in Cleveland? Von David had some that were supposed to be the Henn fakes, also Souren had some years ago that were supposed to be from the same source. Have you any photographs, etc.?

My best regards -

Cordially yours,

H. P. ATHERTON

5 YALE ST. :: HOLYOKE, MASS.

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

Feb. 26, 1954.

Dear Stanby, ...

Acknowledging your esteemed epistle of 22th, re
Rev. Inverts. "Even a blind pig ruts up an acorn now 'n then",
(from an old French adage) - I'm no connoisseur on Inverts.

Couple years ago, bought a NICE Rev Colln of a friend
in Hartford. In it were six Invts of the .50¢ 2nd Issue; but
no other 2nd invert - except some 2¢ various singles.

Have heard rumbles of fake Invts. The old 1920 gang, Dan
Kelleher, Judge RSE and others knew this stuff, and probably
Dan is the man for you to contact. I do not recall man named
Henn at all. I did know Mr. Beals of whom RSE bought that mar-
velous hor pr 5¢ Prop on GREEN paper (Ward might say Violet)
It is the nicest rev item I ever saw. I attended the signing
of the check which paid for it. Everyone was happy that day.
Nah, I never lived in Cleveland. Never spent a nickle with
Von David, tho saw many of his "wares". Nuf sed here.

Yeah, got a couple photos, which may interest you
and you may keep them. The 6¢ Prop is beautifl OSGOOD blue
canc, and Bruce sold it in his Auction @ \$430.-- which "They
Say" is Tops for auction price.

H. P. ATHERTON

5 YALE ST. :: HOLYOKE, MASS.

My other good 6¢ Prop I sold abt 4 years ago for 400\$ privately. It was also an Osgood, circular cancel. The copy at r. on photo had no back, or as B L Drew would describe it in Auction Cat "Paper thicker in spots, than in others." (means thin.) It sold privately @ 60.--, and is probably "rebuilt" by now!

I also encl my photo of the First "cross gutter" 5¢ '47. Doc was offered 700\$ for it when found; but he kept it, finally taking 400 as I recall. You will have data re 2nd copy. This was on cover, and I soaked it off as it looked as tho it had part of sheet margin with the now well known result. I hinged it back on the cover.

Think I sent you copy of my strip o 3 Inv 50¢ 2nd issue once before, for your record; but you did not enthuse. I DO! A strip o 4 is in Morton Joyce colln a friend tells me, who saw it there; but that strip is over cancelled and un handsome he said, a messy one. Was offered 285 for this, and may sell it some day as I have no use for it.

"And that's my story for tonite kiddies." (Radio talk)

Stan, how is my old friend Sam Richey "L 19" ?
I had but few short chats with him; but I am very glad that I ever met him, and always look back on those days with great pleasure. I class him with Dan Hammett who was also "TOPS" with me. Say "Hello" to him, and does he still "Roll his own?"

BUSINESS --- Have you any Rev MULTIPLES? 1st Issue IMPF *only*
and then I'll bother you no more. Or could you dig up some? There is a most beautiful colln of these with a friend who "WANTS MORE"

Sinc'y 'erb. *X*

March 2, 1954.

Mr. H. P. Atherton,
5 Yale St.,
Holyoke, Mass.

Dear Erby:

Thanks a lot for yours of the 26th. Since writing you, I have noted that Perry referred to the counterfeit inverts of the second issue in his "Pats #43." Have you a file? I rather that he thought it possible that a faker bleached out heads on regular stamps and printed in, upsidedown, original dies of Toppan, Carpenter that had not been used. Maybe it was an original lay-down or duplicate die. I don't think Perry was quite sure. Someone had obtained possession of the old die, when the old company went out of business. I suppose it could have been a discarded die that was never used, or a lay-down, or perhaps a transfer roll. I gather that the die(?) the faker used was almost an exact copy, line for line, with the engraving used for the issued stamps. I don't know if I have the story correct or not but it seems that the counterfeits were considered very clever. I am enclosing a photo print for your files that I made of two copies that were submitted to me, one an "invert" - the other a regular stamp. I made quite a study of the "invert" - also several photographs by the "ultra-violet rays." You will note that there isn't the slightest evidence of any bleaching or monkey-business of the "invert", hence I pronounced it genuine. Perhaps that crook over in Paris could make an invert and not leave a trace. You know he bleached out British stamps and printed on the paper his counterfeits. His bleaching process left no trace. Thus his fakes were on genuine paper, with genuine perfs and watermarks. The only difference was that his bleached specimens lacked the genuine sizing.

If it ever gets to the point where fakes cannot be distinguished from the genuine by the most competent of students what is to become of philately? Maybe you and I won't be around when that happens so we shouldn't worry.

Erby, I am returning herewith the prints of the revenue items because you sent me similar prints about a year ago and I have them in my files.

Thanks Erby for the photo of the 5¢ '47 gutter copy. I suppose this is the one that Kelleher sold to Sweet. I suppose it is still in that collection. The Emerson copy was superb and from the left pane. I believe only two are known.

That was a nice comment you had on Sam Richey. Yes, he is still active in business but clear out of stamps. I have an idea he takes quite an interest in autographs. At one time Sam loved stamps but he wasn't over-particular about condition. Every time Jacobs would come to Cincinnati he complained about Sam's "condition" - in the end Sam got thoroughly disgusted and sold everything, stating he liked interesting covers - covers with stories to tell, regardless of condition and that he got tired of being told he didn't have sense enough to collect in a sensible manner. Condition cranks are one of the worst damn pests that we have in philately.

#2. Mr. H. P. Atherton - March 2, 1954.

I regard Sam Richey as one of the finest characters I have ever known - a gentleman in every sense of the word and as straight as a string. If every human being was like Sam this would be an ideal world - wouldn't be any use in trying to go to heaven as it would be good enough here. Dan Hammatt was an awfully nice chap but he was never in Sam's class. Sam would never do what Dan did.

Yes, I think Sam still rolls his own. Erby you and I have known a lot of swell guys in this game, great friends who have passed over the river from which there is no return. We have also known some 18K S.O.B.'s - some who are no more, thank God, as well as some who are still around.

Erby I haven't a thing in revenues and don't know of any that are for sale.

With all good wishes -

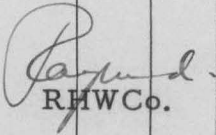
As ever yours,

RAYMOND H. WEILL CO.
407 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

Feb. 27, 1954

M r. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Fort Thomas, Ky.

		\$		
Expertization U. S. \$1				
Revenue	7	50		
Check herewith	7	50		
<p>Dear Stan:</p> <p>Considering your pleading of ignorance in the Revenue field, you seem to have furnished a very thorough report on the invert. We are much obliged for all your efforts.</p> <p>Best wishes,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  RHWCo. </p>				

POST CARD
POST CARD

MAR - 3 1954

Mr Raymond A Neill

407 Royal St

New Orleans (7) La

Dear Raymond

Yours of the 27th
received.

Thank you for the enclosure and
for your kind remarks

Sincerely yours

AT 12L-FILE8-RED-2 MIN. FEB 21 1964. BY WEILL A462





QF 132 - F08 F128 RED-45 SEC - A 455 8/455

B454



QUARTZ-131-F64-16 MIN.

B454

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. BOX 31

33 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.

FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY

Jan. 21, 1954.

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

Dear Doc:

Here is a photograph of a 10¢ 1847 with extended top frame line at left. While I have seen perhaps a dozen 5¢ with such extended lines this is the only 10¢ that I can recall ever having seen. Of course, it is an ink variety and not a plate. Question is this - Have you ever run across a similar variety in the 3¢ '51 or 3¢ '57 plates? I never noted such an ink variety among the 12¢ '51 or 12¢ '57 Plate 3. Of course, we do have slight extensions, a fraction of a MM, among stamps with recut frame lines but why should one like this be confined to the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847? Ever notice such a variety among French stamps?

I'll bet you had some fierce weather up your way last week and more is on the way.

Yes, I took a good job at Konwiser and his pal "PAT" Herst. Zareski, Herst and Konwiser. Nice trio.

Our best with regards to Jean and you.

Cordially yours,

Stanley B. Ashbrook

Dear Stan:- I don't remember having seen any such variety on either the 3¢ '51-'57 or on any French stamps. Of course the latter (19th Century) were all surface printed.

The bad weather - most of it - bypassed us.

Bad enough at that.

Jim just getting over a flu-like poisoning that surely set me back. Canned cysters - avoid 'em. I was sick for several hours, thought I was going to pass out. Getting better rapidly now.

Best

as ever

See clipping

CB.

L. G. BROOKMAN

Stamps for Collectors

121 LOEB ARCADE
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

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

R.D.P.
A.S.D.A.
M.C.C.

Feb. 10, 1954

Dear Stan:

I would think that the reason that the lines on the 10¢ '47 (and the 5¢) sometimes extend is due to the ink used on the 5¢ and probably because of the combination of the ink and the extreme depth of the lines on the 10¢ would make a greater quantity of ink ~~available~~ on the plate which might increase the possibility of its running out the end of the line when it was a bit thinner than usual. Actually, I think it is most remarkable that we do not have more printing and inking varieties on our early U.S.

(as the sheet was pulled)

I'm returning your letter with Doc's handwriting on it for your files.

Sure as the devil wish I could get down there to see you. Will have to make it one of these days in spite of hell and high water.

Henry should have landed in France this morning.

Absolutely swamped with work so must get at it.

Sincere regards,



Feb. 15, 1954.

Mr. Philip G. Rust,
Route 5,
Thomasville, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Rust:

Here is a note that I wrote Chase about your 10¢ 1847 and his penned reply. I sent it up to Brookman as he and I have discussed this variety in the past. I also enclose his letter. Please return both to me at your convenience.

With regards -

Cordially yours.

Dear Mr. A. - 2/17/54

I found the enclosed very interesting. I don't see how ink can run in ~~a~~ such a straight line -- almost like a plate variety!

Thank you, Phil R

PHILIP G. RUST
WINNSTEAD PLANTATION
R. D. NO. 5
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA



Remember - Only you can
PREVENT
FOREST FIRES

VIA AIR MAIL

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. BOX 31, 33 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.
FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

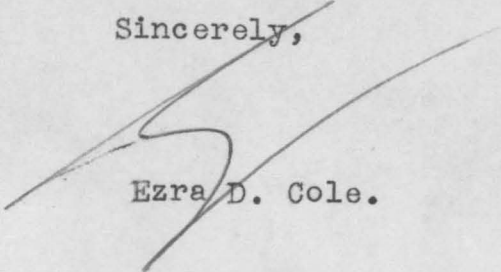
February 19th, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

Sitting at the H. R. Harmer sale the other afternoon I bought the enclosed. After I got it, I don't know why. It is only a face but I think there is something queer about the rate.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

Form 2817
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

EZRA D. COLE

NYACK,

N. Y.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Feb. 24, 1954.

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

Dear Ez:

This is a rather interesting cover. I think it is one of those "To the Lines" covers, where the U. S. postage should have been paid to the border.

This letter probably originated at New York, mailed direct to the mail car to Boston - (U.S. Express Mail). Inasmuch as it was over 300 miles to the border, the postage should have been 10¢. What puzzles me is who had to pay the 5¢ due? I am aware that we had postal arrangements with the P.M.G.'s across the borders to act as agents of the U.S. P.O.D. so I suppose the addressee had to pay the N.B. postage of 7 pence, (manuscript) and in addition the U. S. 5¢. My analysis seems correct but I wonder? I will make a photo and send a print to Boggs and see if he thinks I am right.

It is my recollection that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia did not take over the operation of their postal systems until July 1851, so this would have been the same as a letter to Canada. I am assuming the use was before July 1851.

Robbinstown, Maine, exchanged mail with St. Andrew's N.B.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

(30-13)

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 1st, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

Yours of the 24th. Let me know what you find out on that 5¢ 1847 cover. I only paid a few dollars for it. If it is interesting enough to be saleable and you can sell it, I will send it back.

O. K. on the Seybold catalogue.

With reference to the Van Den Berg column in "Stamps" I don't believe a word he says. It is just a gossip column. It is full of so many errors that all of us are mad at Lindquist for publishing it, but he says his readers like it, but no one checks his information.

Sincerely,

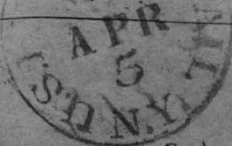


Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

Mail via Robbinstown Maine

~~Post~~ Due



Red

Red
7c

Henry Gilbert Esq

Saint John

New Brunswick

Blue

E.D.C.

From New York Via U.S. Ex. Mail To Boston To
Robbinstown Maine - Exchanged With St. Andrews,
N.B. - 5¢ Due - 10¢ To Border, 5¢ PAID. Manuscript
7- or 7 Pence Also Due At Saint John N.B.
(By E.D.C. 2/23 - 1954.) Face Only - Nothing on Back.

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.

Saturday, Feb. 20, 1954.

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

Dear Stan,

I have your registered letter of the 18th. Many thanks for the detailed explanation of the items enclosed.

So you have at last awakened to a fact I advocated to you long ago, namely to charge for the work you did. I hope this is not just a passing idea but that you apply it to everyone and in a small manner reimburse your own self for the untiring work you do for others. I'm not going to mention names but my! oh! my!, the value you have added to some 1¢ 1851-7 collections in New York, just for example. Of course you have done much more for me over the years but I have never knowingly tried to profit from it. Certainly I have never exposed any correspondence between us. So, I am glad you are like the young girl you speak about and have decided you might as "well sell it."

Herewith you will find several things. First is \$5.00 to sign my Fox copy of the O.B. 5¢ 1861. Also \$2.00 for return registration. I think you are in error about the copy being lot 85 - Harmer Rooke sale 12/10/51. That copy was described as dated "Aug 9, 1861." This copy is dated "Jul 16, 1861." I think however it was Polland's for quite a lot of the stamps in this sale were his, namely the Denver cover. I suppose however you can still sign it as a genuine cancel.

You will find also another copy of this stamp which I got last summer at a sale of Henry Kuhlmann's in Chicago thru Tony Russo. I did not send it up to you at the time because you were very busy and I did not want to bother you. I guess there is no doubt it is a type II and an O.B. The cancel shows up nicely if you drop it faced ~~up~~ on either water or tetra and just float it. This cancel is the New York Paid and matches exactly illustration in your book Vol. II, Page 126- Fig 44L and type "P" at the LR corner. I feel sure you will see it matches. I would like this signed if you think it good. Of course I will remit by return mail.

You will also find the pair I bought of the 90¢ 1860 at the Harmer Rooke Jeffrys sale back in 1951. At the same time I got the other good one with the Baltimore cancel which you had known for many years. It came with a P.F. so I just mounted it in my album. This pair I sent to the Foundation a few months afterwards and on April 14, 1952 they issued me certificate #3599 saying it was a "genuinely used pair."

On Sept. 2, 1951 and before the sale here is what you wrote me about the two lots I bought:

481- 90¢ single- I have known this for almost 30 years- It is a Baltimore Dec 1, 1860 and in my opinion it is genuine.

483- 90¢ vert pair- (This is the one enclosed.) I stated to the P.F. "The 90¢ 1860 is known with what are considered genuine magenta pen cancellations- supposedly used in China." (See Chase Sale.)

Of course I would much rather have your approval than all the P.F. certificates in the Foundation. If you will sign it, that is after you take time to go over it carefully, it may be you think it better to remove it and hinge it back on the piece and sign the stamps themselves on their back.

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

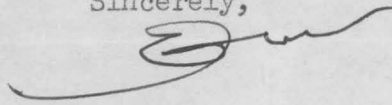
Again that is a charge you will have to figure out and bill me for.

Since I can feel free to send you covers and other things you have approved but not signed, and now have them signed for a small fee that you intend to charge, I intend to so do from time to time. Will that be O.K.?

I had a letter from Fox today apologizing for the four bad lots I sent back. Quite a different attitude from what dealers have had during the past lush years, which by the way are over. Yes, I agree with you that John's sale showed up with some silly prices. You speak of lot 272 at \$100 being no bargain. This was the 5¢ 1862 red brown with 30¢ 1861 and 10¢ 1861 to C.G.H. I wrote you asking if the 5¢ red brown was not more rare than the 5¢ buff. Surely you don't mean Em Krug when you say-"There is a certain person who thinks the red brown on cover is much rarer than the 5¢ buff." Whoever bought lot 272 must have paid the ridiculous prices for lots 313 & 314, two very mediocre copies of the stamp off cover. They were worth about \$7.50 and sold for \$20 and 12.50, the former over catalog.

I am going to Florida Monday afternoon to be gone for the entire week. So you need not rush these back. I know you need some time to study out these two other stamps I am asking to have signed.

Sincerely,



Enclosed:

Lot 483- Harmer 9/18/51-	90¢ 1860 Pair	Used
Lot 49- S.A.S. 9/23/53-	30¢ 1860 Single	"
Lot 176- Fox 2/11/54-	30¢ 1860 Single	"

Feb. 24, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

You are quite right about the two copies of the 5¢ 1897 O.B. of Baltimore. Your copy of "JUL 16 1861" and your Brown with the same date belonged to Dr. Pollard. I looked up his letter and the following is what he wrote me under date of July 30, 1851:

"I am most happy to send you the 2 copies of the 5¢ '57 with the Baltimore cancellation, the Brown or 30A I bought from Earl Hamilton, many years ago, the Orange brown or #30 I obtained from Bilden of Minneapolis, after seeing an ad. in Stamps xxxxxx I was amazed to find that it had on it the exact cancellation of my 30A."

He was just leaving for his vacation so I did not return them to him until Sep. 2nd, 1951. In the meantime I sent them down to Michael Miller and Perry Fuller of Baltimore to check with Baltimore postmarks of the period. I have their letters stating that in their opinions both markings are genuine. I don't know how I got the idea that this was the same copy as lot 85 in the Harmer Rooke sale of Dec. 10-14 1951. However, I was right in stating that you sent for that stamp and sent it to me in November 1951. Pollard bought it and paid \$112.50 for it.

Regarding the 90¢ 1860 - vertical pair. I have a copy of the letter that I wrote you under date of Sep. 2, 1951. (same date I wrote Pollard - How odd!!):

"Lot 483 - I stated to the P.F.; 'The 90¢ 1860 is known with what are considered be genuine magenta pen cancelations - supposedly used in China.'" (see Chase sale).

Em, inasmuch as I received no fee from the P.F. do you think I should go further than the above? I advised them unless they were reasonably sure that any item was good or bad, they should decline to issue a certificate. That is damn good advice and I hope they will heed it. As for the vertical pair - who can say? I thought it "looked good." Use your own judgement." (unquote)

Today when I looked at this pair I again thought it "looked good." The color is sure right and the magenta pen looks like the real magenta that is known on the 90¢ and regarded as genuine. I can't say I am crazy about the black postmark nor am I very enthusiastic about the red New York on the back of the piece. It looks like strikes of this marking that were made in the late sixties rather than in 1860-1861. About the best that I can say is this - It is possible this pair is a genuinely used item but I cannot sign it as genuine, because there is a reasonable doubt in my mind. I wonder if I gave the P.F. the impression that I thought it genuine and on the strength of same they issued the certificate? I don't think that they should have done so. One thing in favor of this pair is the piece of stamp at top.

#2. Mr. Emmerson C. Krug, Feb. 24, 1954.

Re - the two 5¢ 1857 - Orange Brown copies. One is the "Light Orange Brown," the other is the "dark Orange Brown." The Kuhlman copy being the former, the "Polland" copy the latter. This stamp is much the same color as the O.B. stamp on the cover you owned to the Grand Canary - 30¢ - 10¢ and 5¢ - remember? The Kuhlman copy has more yellow. Ted Gore has several of the Dark but only one of the Light. I believe the latter are much more scarce than the dark, as I think the dark came before the light, however, we are perhaps more apt to find fake cancels on the dark than on the light because there were probably more remainders of the dark than the light.

It is quite possible that your light copy has a genuine cancel but there is not enough evidence for me to base a worth while opinion. I can pass on the shade but not on the cancel.

No Em, I did not have you in mind re - the relative scarcity of the 5¢ Buff Vs the 5¢ Red Brown, but rather Ted Gore. He sent me a lot of Buffs to mount and a few Red Browns and he made the remark that he had not had much trouble in acquiring fine copies of the Buff but had not been able to add many fine Red Browns. He didn't state exactly, that he thought the R.B.'s were scarcer than the Buffs but he seemed to be under that impression. I really doubt such a supposition.

I have signed the Polland copy and regret that I cannot sign the other two.

Any further plans about Dorsey and you going East Via Cincinnati? Stan Jr. thinks his ship will sail for the Far East from Norfolk on April 5th and he plans to fly home to bid us good-bye on March 19th returning the 21st. My daughter's boy was due to sail from S.F. today with his outfit for Japan. He was 20 the middle of last month. Thank God they are not shooting over there at present.

Thanks Em, for the fee.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

C. W. REMELE
14 E. Carrillo St.
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Santa Barbara - February 4, 1954

Dear Stanley:

For once you are way ahead of me with communications - what with the Rutland & Burlington photo you sent - in that cover with the priceless print of Gen. Philip H. Sheridan - the enclosed interesting railroad items, and your long letter which came today.

I was glad to have the chance to look over the B. & O. timetable, etc., although the dates are a bit late for me. 1861 is, for the time being anyway, my strict stopping point. As for the Rutland & Burlington cover, of which you sent the photograph, you really have come to the right person and for once I think I can give you some interesting information.

A H. L. Sheldon, whose name appears in the oval marking, was the railroad station agent at Middlebury from 1857 to 1863 - and quite a remarkable person. Born on a farm in Salisbury, Vt., one of four brothers, he became a clerk in the Middlebury postoffice in 1841, at the age of twenty. He had already learned to play the organ - self-taught - and in 1842 began playing in the Episcopal Church, continuing to be the organist most of the time for 34 years. After three years in the postoffice, he became a clerk in a store for several years and in his spare time made an organ which he sold to the church - also made himself a broadcloth coat which lasted him the rest of his life. In 1850 he was appointed mail agent (route agent) on the Rutland & Burlington R. R. just completed, making the 234 mile trip from Boston to Burlington one day, and back the next, with one week's rest out of three. In 1853 he went back to the Middlebury postoffice for a couple of years, then after a trip to Nebraska came back to become station agent. After 1863 he engaged in several business ventures, acquired some income property, etc., and in 1870 was elected Town Clerk, serving for 25 years. He died in 1907 at the age of 86. He gave all his real estate to a foundation for the operation of the Sheldon Museum which houses many and various things he collected and is still operated by the Sheldon Foundation.

Now about the marking. The R. & B. Railroad evidently furnished their station agents with oval handstamps with the name of the town across the top and R. & B. R. R. at the bottom - movable dates in the center. Dr. Chase lists the one for Middlebury, and I have seen one just like it, dated in the sixties, for Sutherland. Sheldon evidently had another stamp with his own name in place of the initials of the railroad. He used this stamp on his own incoming mail - mail addressed to him, I mean - and I have such a cover. Sometimes he used the railroad stamp on his incoming mail also. Clarence Wilson, of Detroit, has about eight of these covers, all addressed to Sheldon and stamped with one of the other of these oval markings which of course have no postal significance when so used. However, there is at least one case - I have Dr. Chase's tracing of it - in which the railroad stamp was used to cancel a 3¢ '57 stamp on an outgoing letter to Brandon, Vt. And now you have a case in which he used his personal handstamp as a postmark! It is most interesting. If the owner of the cover wants to find out whether the letter was written by Sheldon, it would be very simple to prove by their handwriting.

I suppose Sheldon got used to using a handstamp when he worked in the postoffice and also as route agent on the railroad. Anyway, I

S. B. Ashbrook - 2 - Feb. 4, 1954.

am delighted to have the photograph. If the owner wants any more information about Sheldon, I may be able to supply it. The whole story is doubly interesting to me because my paternal ancestors owned a farm about two miles west of Middlebury for over two hundred years. When I was a small boy we went there for a month or two every summer, so I know the town very well indeed and have happy memories of it.

Two or three things in your letter - no, the P. O. D. did not have a mail clerk on every contract route by any means, although it did have them on all the longer ones with a few exceptions and on some fairly short ones. For example, in Massachusetts in 1861 there were 49 separate postal routes and only fifteen had route agent service. The longest route without such service was 38 miles, and the shortest one that did have it was 27 miles. This is of course an extreme case as there were many more short routes in Massachusetts than in most States. Without making an actual count, I would guess that a little less than half of all the routes had route agents in the late fifties, although on a mileage basis it would probably be over 80%.

As for the ultra-violet lamp's utility, I am glad to have your views. You mention telling the difference between black inks - but how about red inks? Most of the PHILADA RAILROAD markings are in red, as well as the accompanying New York town marks.

Thank you very much indeed for the information about the steamers sailing from New York. If my cover was dated April 11, 1853, a Monday, as indicated by the markings, on the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Eastern R. A. which was north of Boston, it may well not have arrived in New York until April 13 - in which case it probably would not have caught the steamer sailing that same day. Leaving on the 20th, it could have arrived in San Francisco by May 21st, I presume. The receiving notation even shows the time of day - 8 PM.

Well, I hope the information about Sheldon is of some value to you and that for once I have been able to be helpful to you after all you have done for me.

Hope you are in good health and not having too severe a winter.

Sincerely,

Chuck

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,

2-22-54

Dear Mr. Jahbrock:

I am enclosing a cover with a stamp tied to it which I believe to be S.V.S. #64 "pink".

If this cover is the pink as you know it I would appreciate it if you would sign the cover, if that is proper procedure in such cases.

I assume your fee is \$2⁵⁰ for this service. If I am incorrect in this assumption please let me know and I will remit the difference immediately.

I appreciate your help in this matter very much. Incidentally I have found the "Luff" Book very interesting and informative.

Many thanks again,

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

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 Millard H. Mack

3930 Red Bud Ave
Cincinnati

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Feb. 24, 1954.

Mr. Millard Henry Mack,
3930 Red Bud Avenue,
Cincinnati 29, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Mack:

The 3¢ 1861 was issued first to the public at Baltimore on Saturday, August 18th, 1861. Supplies were placed on sale at a number of post offices thruout the East, the following week, and a large number were sold at Philadelphia. Among the first supplies were quantities of the Rose and of the Pink, hence an early date of use of August or September 1861 does not mean the stamp was a Pink. We have variations of the Pink and the rare tint is what we call the "Pigeon Blood." It really is a rare color and especially so on the original cover. It is very beautiful, being a rich dark PINK.

We call the early prints of the Rose, the "Early Rose of 1861" and some of these have a pinkish cast and are frequently classified as the real PINK. They go by various names such as "Near Pink," "Pinkish Rose" - "Rosy Pink" etc. etc.

The stamp on your cover is a "Rose" and the most that can be stated about it, is that it is an "Early Rose of 1861."

I believe it is rather interesting to note that while the old 3¢ 1857 became illegal for use at Philadelphia along about August 26-27, 1861, it was still legal at New York up until the middle of September.

I enclose a copy of the 3¢ Pink from my reference collection. I suggest that you lay this copy alongside the copy on your cover and by side-by-side comparison you will note the difference between a Rose and a Pink. You can return this at your convenience.

In passing I might mention that it is stated that the female eye is much better in noting the difference in colors than the male, therefore, perhaps when you are in doubt, Mrs. Mack might lend a bit of assistance. I have tried it out on Mrs. Ashbrook and it seemed to work.

May I thank you very kindly for your check which is satisfactory.

Sincerely yours,

Insured

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

2-25-54

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

Many thanks for your most
informative letter of yesterday.

I am returning your copy of the
3¢ Pink. The difference is quite
noticeable when the rose is placed
next to the pink.

Again many thanks for your
many courtesies now and in the
past. Sincerely yours

Willard H. Mack

Feb. 19, 1954.

Mr. C. Corwith Wagner,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Corwith:

I trust that by this time you have fully recovered and that you are able to get about without any trouble.

The following is very confidential. My good friend, Louis Yeckel seems to have been in the hospital quite a bit in the past year. Mrs. Y. writes me that he is getting along okay and there is nothing serious, but so much time undergoing treatment makes me wonder if his ailment is really minor. Do you know? Anything you mention will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Here is a photo print for your files of a cover that belongs to Neal Grabert. Surely this must be very early from St. Louis. What is the postmark? Is it Cairo? I suppose I shouldn't ask these questions but should refer to the Chase book on Territorials.

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

C. CORWITH WAGNER . .
INSURANCE AGENCY

SUITE 1824 BOATMEN'S BANK BUILDING

SAINT LOUIS (2)

ACCIDENT
HEALTH
LIFE
FIRE
BONDS
BURGLARY
& HOLDUP
AUTOMOBILE

ESTABLISHED
1914

M A I N
1 6 4 0

February 23rd 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

Your note of the 19th, postmarked the 20th, came to hand today. Thank you for the photograph of the Grabbert cover - I am familiar with this item, and have it in photostat for my records, but be assured I am very glad to have the photograph - for it is much plainer, as to detail.

The postmark CAHO: is Cahokia - Ills. To the best of my knowledge all the mail from St. Louis went east from either Cahokia or Kaskaskia. There was no postal system in Upper Louisiana until early 1805 - my earliest St. Louis postmark I believe is April - maybe March, 1805. Grabberts item is very, very early.

Feb. 25, 1954.

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

Dear Corwith:

You can be sure that I will treat your letter in the strictest confidence and will never divulge a word of its contents to anyone.

Mrs. Ashbrook and I are very fond of the Yeckels. She is a lady in every sense of the word and most charming. He is a grand character and a gentleman. In this day and age it certainly is nice to know such a couple. We suspected that he had some serious ailment because of the time he has spent at the hospital in the past year. When one is seriously ill in these times one is apt to suspect cancer or heart. Let us hope that his trouble is not cancer because one is apt to linger for so long and suffer so much. Just a slow death for months and months, a long drawn-out affair that is almost as hard on the family as the patient.

Thanks so much for the information on the Brabbert cover. It was interesting and I must confess that I never heard of CAHOKIA ILL. I have an old "Gazetter" of 1832 and it gives - "Cahokia - St. Clair Co. Ill. about 1 M. E. of the Mississippi; 5 M. below St. Louis, 20 N. Harrisonville, 52 NNW, of Kaskasia, 978 from W. It is a French village."

I suppose the 978 from W. was Washington.

I also note that there is a description of the town in the Chase book on "Territorials" and that it is now a part of industrial East St. Louis.

Have you entirely recovered?

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

C. CORWITH WAGNER . . .
INSURANCE AGENCY

SUITE 1824 BOATMEN'S BANK BUILDING

SAINT LOUIS (2)

ACCIDENT
HEALTH
LIFE
FIRE
BONDS
BURGLARY
& HOLDUP
AUTOMOBILE

ESTABLISHED
1914

M A I N
1 6 4 0

February 26th 1954

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

Dear Stan:

I telephoned Alma Yeckel this morning before I left the house (I do not work as hard as I use to, and rarely leave home before 10 A.M.) and she told me that Louie was now at home. This occurred last Wednesday. She said she had taken him home to "get away from hospital routine, and give him a rest". She told me again that he had lost a great deal of weight and was not regaining his strength.

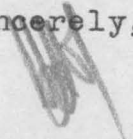
Upon my arrival at my office I found your letter of the 25th. I am sure that Louie's illness dates back more than a year - and in my book - I have been in the life insurance business almost 40 years - I believe my "guess" will prove correct. I shall pray for his recovery - but if that is not to be - he deserves more than a long and hopeless illness.

The old town of Cahokia was situated directly accross the river from what is now the foot of Market Street - which in the early days was the "heart" of St. Louis. There is a Union Electric power plant - called the "Cakohia Plant" which I believe is built on or very near the center of the old town. Sometime when I am handy to my records I will give you a thumnail sketch of Cakohia.

I am getting around very well now - altho my leg has a tendency to tire when I stand on it too long. However I consider my self as being very lucky - all things considered.

If anything of importance occurs concerning Louie Yeckel I will drop you a line.

Sincerely,



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

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17 BROADWAY

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Telephone 7-4495

2/24/54

Dear Stan:-

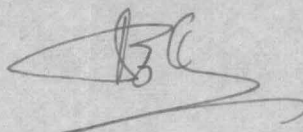
Herewith for your files a photo of a recent find by me turning up the first known used 10¢ Providence. I thought you might like it.

I am cleaning out all my old photographs of auction catalog plates mainly stamps but some covers. Would you like them to look over and either keep or throw away.

I am also enclosing a 5¢ 1847 for you to look at and advise as to its genuineness (cancellation). Kindly bill me for this which will have my prompt attention.

With my very best wishes to you and also your good wife.

Sinc



Feb. 28, 1954.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer,
1/ The Collector's Shop,
17 Broadway,
New Haven 11, Conn.

Dear Harry:

Yours of the 24th received.

I am returning herewith the 5¢ 1847 with the "PAID in Grid" marking, also the other copy of the 5¢ '47, which was evidently enclosed thru error. I have made a very careful examination of the PAID and in my opinion, it is a fake, though it was handstamped. Evidently some faker attempted to produce an imitation of the Boston type and he applied it to a pencanceled 5¢. The letters are too heavy for the Boston and the "alignment" is different. Further, I don't like the color of the black ink as it has a modern look. Several other post offices used this small type but this is different from any of which I have a record and it is my opinion this was made to imitate the Boston. Zareski of Paris makes things like this but he is not careful enough to make exact copies in many instances. He is a clever crook and should be hung, if such was possible.

Thanks so much for the photographs of the two Providence covers. I note you state these were a recent find that you made so I judge there is no question in your mind that both are genuine. If I wasn't assured of that fact I would be inclined to be suspicious of the 10¢ because of the "PAID" and "5." I would be inclined to suspect that someone had put the 10¢ stamp on a paid but stampless cover. I really don't recall, but was it the habit of the Providence office to handstamp each paid letter with "PAID" and the rate? A 10¢ stamp on this cover could be explained that the writer figured the letter was over 1/2 an ounce and paid it accordingly but the Providence office did not find it over 1/2 ounce, hence stamped it as "PAID" "5," or he could have made an error in using a "5" instead of a "10," rate stamp.

Regarding the photographs you mentioned, I surely would like to have them and I will gladly refund to you the forwarding postage.

Herewith I am enclosing a sample copy of my March Service Issue. I thought perhaps you might be interested in the contents. This seems to be a feature of our postal history that has been entirely overlooked by philatelic students.

I note that in the Slater book on the Providence, he illustrated a cover from the same correspondence - see illustration #14, page 80. It has a date of "Nov. 14," very similar to your 5¢ of "Oct. 21," stamp in upper left same pencancel, same handwriting, etc. He stated this cover "is alright, though its history has not yet been traced out." It was in the Unter collection on Jan. 10, 1900, went to McDaniel in 1905 and was in the Worthington collection in 1917. Purchased by Slater Oct. 24, 1917. Did you know all of this?

#2. Mr. Harry B. Keffer - Feb. 28, 1954.

There is no fee on the 5¢ '47 and later I will show you a color photograph that I made - this provided it comes out okay.

Mrs. Ashbrook joins me in kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

April 6, 1954.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer,
17 Broadway,
New Haven 11, Conn.

Dear Harry:

Here are two photo prints of the 5¢ 1847
that you sent me last month. One is "regular," the
other by the ultra-violet. See back of print.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

BY KEFFLER
AT 12 1/2 K3 - 30 SEC

B458

B458



U S POST OFFICE



BY H KEEFER

C198

QUARTZ-30MIN

This Photograph
Was Made By
ULTRA - VIOLET
RAY

By Stanley B. Ashbrook

C198

PUBLISHER—
"PAT PARAGRAPHS"
THE PHILATELIC
REFERENCE
LIBRARY

FROM THE DESK OF

ELLIOTT PERRY

STAMPS BOUGHT, SOLD AND APPRAISED

PHILATELIC
CONSULTANT
MOUNTING
LETTERING
EXAMINATION

February 25, 1954

Stan;

Check \$125 and 10c 1847 arrived O.K. and thanks for your promptness.

John is nearing the end of a lettering job which has been in the works for several months and will be able to do 10c 1847 plating whenever the stamps come.

Maurice Blake advises me he has documentary proof that the U.S.-G.B. treaty rate of 1849 was effective for U.S. domestic mails as early as August 1849, as per announcement by the postmaster at Boston.

Issue No. 10 of your Special Service has been read carefully, and particularly the part regarding the registry service. A fact cannot be changed and therefore I do not question any facts. But facts can be misunderstood or misinterpreted, and people's ideas about facts may be incorrect, or changed.

A Too often the student does not have all the facts, and can draw conclusions only from these he has. In my opinion all the pertinent facts in re the controversy about the 5c Jefferson stamps have not been published. Also, performance does not always prove intent, and neither does intent always prove performance. In my opinion conclusions which are reached by mis-stating facts, as a noble character in Phila. has done, aren't worth a hoorah.

When the pressure eases up I shall try to comment on your facts and your conclusions. Regardless of anything that happened afterwards, it is still my opinion that the original intent was to have the registry fee payable by a 5c stamp, and that had there been no such intention the 5c stamp would not have been ordered. No other adequate reason has been shown for having a 5c stamp at that date.

As ever,

Elliott Perry



PAT PARAGRAPHS

1931 . . No. 1

1951 . . No. 55

A REFERENCE LIBRARY for UNITED STATES AND OTHER PHILATELISTS

More than 1000 illustrations have appeared, including about 400 unusual postmarks and cancellations in natural size and over 600 enlargements of genuine and other stamps, reprints, etc., and also about 100 photo reproductions of original announcements pertaining to stamps or postal history of the United States. **Fundamental facts are also included which apply to many stamps the world over.** Practically all the data is from research since 1918 in original sources and much of it is not obtainable in catalogs, handbooks, or any other philatelic publications.

The page numbering is continuous beginning with page 1 in No. 1. No. 55 begins with page 1841. Pages are 5" by 7". A complete set occupies only 7 inches of shelf room.

Partial Index by Issues or Subjects

Data on the various issues or subjects mentioned below will be found in Pat Paragraphs, but much other information not listed here is included in Sections No. 1 to No. 55.

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 North-South Mail: in 6, 11, 12, 44, 46, 47.
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Other sections (if not out of print), each	1.00

ELLIOTT PERRY, Box 333, Westfield, New Jersey

A. P. S. 2322; Consultant A. P. S. Handbook Committee 1931-47

(Author or adapter of "Finds I Didn't Make," "Louder, Gabriel, LOUDER," "Needham at the Bat," "Juice of the Sukkasukka Tree," "Research Among the Researchers," and other amusing satires on stamp collecting and collectors.)

March 2, 1954.

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

Elliott:

Thanks very much for the information on Ralph Henn and the fake revenue inverts. I have never taken a great deal of interest in revenues but anything in the way of faked items, revenues or otherwise, does interest me. My memory is rather hazy on the Henn fakes but it seems to me that when you paid me a visit to Fort Mitchell early in 1936 that you had just been to Cleveland and that you had some of the fakes with you. Am I right or wrong? As I recall, we were of the opinion at the time that the heads on normal copies had been bleached out and a facsimile engraving had been printed upside down.

I am enclosing enlarged photo prints of two copies that were recently submitted to me, one a normal stamp, the other an invert. This photograph was made by ultra-violet and you will note that not only do the heads appear to be from the same die but that the ultra-violet failed to show the slightest sign of any monkey-business. Cancels, silk threads and paper show up perfectly normal. Therefore, I was convinced the Invert was genuine in every respect. Keep this print for your files but please do not use it in any way. I merely mention this as a caution knowing that you would not do so.

Re - 24¢ plus 1¢ - Do you remember Lot 499 in the Waterhouse sale - a 24¢ 1860 used on a 1¢ Star Die? Perhaps I could dig out photo prints for you of the following:

24¢ 1860 plus 1¢ '57 - from New York to Ireland.

24¢ 1861 Red Lilac plus 1¢ '61 from New York to England.

30¢ plus 1¢ to Prussia.

1861 stamps of 24¢ violet - two 3¢ and a 1¢. A wonderful cover.

30¢ plus 1¢ to France. Double rate 30¢ 1861 plus 1¢ 1861 - very rare usage.

10¢ plus 1¢ to Canada - two 5¢ 1863 Brown plus 1¢ 1861.

10¢ plus 1¢ to Canada - a most unusual cover - 1¢ 1857 paid - the rate of 10¢ sent unpaid. New York Jan. 2, 1861 to St. Catharines C.W.

15¢ plus 1¢ to France - a strip of five 3¢ 1861 plus a 1¢ 1861. I doubt if I could send a print of this without the owner's permission.

I have records of other covers but no photographs.

I note your remarks about Arthur Hall.

Re - yours of the 25th. Yes, Maurice Blake has proof that from July 1, 1849(?) to June 30, 1861, inc., the P.O. Dept. at Washington instructed postmasters not to recognize a triple rate. A most amazing discovery by Blake in my opinion and a most valuable contribution to philatelic research work.

I note your remarks re - the early registration system and your belief that the 5¢ 1856 was originally issued to pay the registration fee. I recognize the fact that everyone is entitled to their own opinion. I don't know what the original

#2. Mr. Elliott Perry - March 2, 1954.

intention of the P.M.G. was when he ordered the 5¢ 1856, nor do I care because I don't think that point is of any importance. What I do know is that the Department did not want any markings, memos, etc., on a registered letter to indicate it was in that class. This fact is a matter of record. The use of a 5¢ stamp with a 3¢ would have indicated a registered letter. I could argue that matter further but to no purpose. If you have any intention of doing so I beg of you to not waste the time as I do not care to discuss the matter.

Yours etc.,

FROM THE DESK OF

FRED W. ALLEN, Box 539, New Rochelle, New York

FEB 25 1954

Dear Stan

I bought this from Bob Seigel
as a "steel blue" - No 70 B. Is it correct. —

If so would you sign it for me as such —

Many thanks for your opinion —

With regards

Fred Allen

Post Office Department

Received from:

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 3F
38 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.



One piece of ordinary mail addressed
to Westcheater Stamp Co

47 Lawton St

New Rochelle N.Y.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

March 3, 1954.

Mr. Fred W. Allen,
Box 539,
New Rochelle, N.Y.

Dear Fred:

Herewith the 24¢ 1861. Yes, this is what is listed in the S. U. S. as the "Steel Blue." The fact is, the "Steel Blue" is a natural color changeling of the 24¢ Violet and some are changelings of the earliest Red Lilacs. The finest changelings are of the Violet.

Always nice to hear from you.

The best of luck.

Cordially yours,

Morrison Cafeterias

General Offices Mobile, Alabama

Birmingham, Alabama.
Wednesday, March 3, 1954.

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

Dear Stan,

I have your nice letter about what you did Monday in re Lee Chadwick & Warren Scholl. I hope I did not give you the false opinion that I thought there was the least thing wrong about them. I have done a lot of business with them in my little way and have never found anything that was not strictly on the up & up. I have sent them, for me, large amounts of stamps to sell and everything has been very clean. If I tried hard to criticize anything about this little deal I would say they should not have let themselves get in the position of not being able to deliver the sheet in their ad. It seems to me if I were running that bulletin I would not advertise any item to sell unless it was in my hands. That of course might not be practical. This item we are discussing was not even in the owner's hands, but in, of all people, Phil Ward's. I shall keep you posted on developments.

Here are four covers which I wish you would endorse. You have already passed on them, having had them in your hands from me before. I bought the fifth cover from Reinhardt the other day for \$50 which I thought was reasonable. I bought it strictly on looks and not condition. It is too bad the stamp has not better margins, but isn't it the nicest struck and the blackest copy you ever saw?

Just finished reading the SERVICE for March. Very interesting. I had quite a thrill at the start thinking, well here is something that may develop into a lead for my 90¢ 1860 cover. But of course it did not apply. But it does make my new 5¢- 10¢ Rouse Point cover rather unusual.

Sincerely,



Inclosed \$20 for the four covers.-fees.

- " SUS# 2- Lot 11 HRHarmer 9/14/53
- " " 35- " 140-Harmer-Rooke 9/18/51.
- " " 17A-11 Lot 307 Harmer Rooke 9/18/51
- " " 116- Lot 136 Harmer-Rooke- 11/6/50
- " " 2- Bought last week from Reinhardt. (Not for expertizing.) Just to show a pretty cover???

" "

P.S. - I did buy those Huntsville - Ala covers

MOBILE, ALABAMA

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

SHREVEPORT, LA.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

TAMPA, FLORIDA

CLEARWATER, FLA.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

SARASOTA, FLORIDA



MAR - 5 1954

POST CARD

MAR - 5 1954

Mr. EMMERSON C. KRUG
3008 - 13th Ave., South
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Dear Em

Yours received with
enclosures — and they will have
my attention today or tomorrow.
Delay because I want to make photos.
Blake is writing an article on the
"no triple rate" and I sent him
a photo of your 25¢ 1847 cover
and gave him permission to use
it to illustrate his article. I
intend to use your ~~Pony~~ Pony
cover in my April 12th Service
Regards yours E.C.

March 9, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Herewith the five (5) covers as per yours of the 3rd. You will note that I handstamped these and signed the handstamp. Some prefer covers this way but I am not sure that others do. At any rate, I prefer to have permission to use the handstamp which I believe is preferable to a plain pencil notation. Whichever you prefer in the future will, of course, be okay.

I remember that some people objected because Ward handstamped covers in the Gibson sale but I think it was a good thing as it showed that the cover came from the Gibson collection.

I am just vain enough to honestly believe that my endorsement on these covers will be a good investment.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--Re - the 1¢ 1869 strip. I suppose it appealed to me because it was a vertical strip of three on cover. I didn't think it made any difference, tied or untied. I can't remember when I saw a vertical on cover but I have a poor memory. Verts, however, must be much more rare than horizontals. What do you think?

JOHN A. FOX

173 Tulip Avenue • Floral Park • New York • FL 4-4636

AUCTIONS • APPRAISALS • RETAIL • WHOLESALE • STAMPS • COVERS • ACCESSORIES

March 1, 1954

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

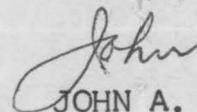
Dear Stan:

Would like your opinion on the enclosed. Is it a IC.

Have not heard much from you lately and was wondering how things were going. Trust all is well with you folks.

With kind personal regards to Mildred and yourself from Virginia and me.

Sincerely,


JOHN A. FOX

JAF:ew
enclosure
registered



Buy at the Sign of the Triangle

March 5, 1954.

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

Dear John:

When I opened your letter and saw the check I thought to myself - this check is going back because I'll be damned if I will let my good friend John Fox pay me any such a fee for typing a One Cent 1851. Then I looked at the stamp with a glass and when I saw it was 81R4 I decided that maybe the dope I could give you would justify at least a part of the fee. John this is a darn rare stamp and in all my years with the old One Cent this is the finest 81R4 I have ever seen. And in addition, it is on cover and a beautiful little cover at that. I have signed the cover on the back and include some data on the type and the "curl." If I owned this cover no one would get it away from me unless he laid at least \$500.00 on the line and he would have to slap it down in a hurry or else I would surely change my mind. I made photographs of this perfect little gem and I will send prints to you later.

In my time I have seen and photographed over fifty 7R1E's but I doubt if I have seen as many as half a dozen 81R4 and none as fine as this. This is perhaps not a fair comparison because with the Type I I made an intensive search to locate all known copies which I did not do with 81R4. However, as a guess I believe that an 81R4 is a scarcer stamp than 7R1E. I could be mistaken.

May I thank you very kindly for the check.

I am enclosing herewith three color slides which please return. No. F26 - a cover with a gorgeous example of the Henna - the real color and not a cross between a red brown and a Henna. This stamp on this cover compares in color quality with the rare pigeon blood of the 3¢ 1861. I think this slide is a very fine reproduction of the actual colors.

F17 is a photograph of the above stamp.

F4 is the 3¢ '61 "DARK CARMINE LAKE" - a very rare and rich shade - far more rare than even the Pigeon. I have three or four in my reference collection - all I have ever seen in a 40 years search. These close-ups were taken less than three inches from the lens. Special equipment is required for sharp razor edge focus and close-up distance.

I would think you could find use for color slides of covers and off cover items. They make a wonderful record. If interested I would make you a special price. Careful work is required as I take a meter reading of each item.

I am pleased to report that Mildred and I have been well all winter and I am kept busy all the time, in fact, too busy for such a young chap.

By the way John, did you ever try any old Jack Daniels? I suppose you have but if not ask for it at any fine bar. It is a Tennessee bourbon and for a straight shot I think it hasn't any equal. Ask Virginia to try a shot with a bit of water on the side. I imagine she will like it. Incidentally it was a favorite of my old friend Bill West.

#2. Mr. John A. Fox - March 5, 1954.

Congratulations on such a nice stamp. I always get a thrill out of something very unusual in the grand old One Cent.

Mildred joins me in the best of wishes to Virginia and you. How is that young lady and how are you?

As ever yours,

C 199

BY JOHN FOR 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -RED F128-35

FALL RIVER
MASS.



C199

Miss Eliza Rodman.
New Bedford
Mass.

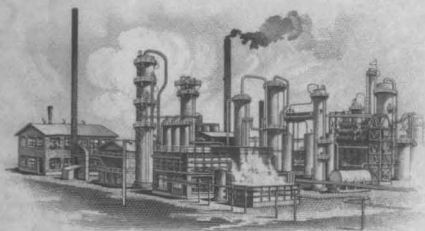


FALL RIVER, MASS
No Year

Blue F.L.

BLUE FOLDED LETTER with 141851 From
PLATE 4 - The RARE Type IC - plate position
81R4, one of The Finest Examples of
This Type on The Plate. *William Howard*
March 4 1954.

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

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

Ionia, Michigan.
March 3, 1954.

Dear Stan:

Stan, I find I have'nt written you since back in late December - in fact have not replied to your letter of December 30th and find too that I owe you \$5.00 fee for checking some covers for me at that time. Check enclosed. I don't know why I put off writing so long but main reason was that I wanted to be able to tell you that Rene and I were coming down for some weekend. However, one thing right after another came up to prevent our getting away so far but we hope to still make it some time later this month.

I note your remarks about the Pratt article on the 1¢ 1851-57 in the January A.P. and I too read this through twice and am still wondering what it is about. As clear as mud!

Just this morning, I received Lot #55 from Mozian's auction of February 25-26th which was described as: "24¢ violet Scott's #60 fine." I need this number - the so-called August issue - but this does not look like a violet color to me and am suspicious it is just the common #70 or #78. I bid \$26.50 and got it for \$25.00. Please tell me, Stan, if this is #60 or not and if it is genuine, please sign it on back as OK or mount it on a small card and endorse below the stamp - and if not a #60 violet, give me memo to that effect that I can send back to Mozian.

The Michigan Stamp Club had an exhibit at Detroit last Saturday and Sunday, and I spent some time with Jack Molesworth who attended. He has a nice stock of U.S. and Confederates and is doing well.

Snow fell last night and roads are in bad shape today so am staying home until later in the day when may head out for Detroit. We got about ten inches of snow during the night.

Regards to all.

JGF/
Enc:

Sincerely,

Jack
J. G. Fleckenstein.

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. J. G. FLECKENSTEIN

419 UNION STREET
IONIA, MICH.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

March 5, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 3rd received and I am returning herewith the 24¢ 1861. Looks as though you obtained a rare stamp at a bargain price, because this is 60A and a much rarer stamp than the #60 violet. I'll bet there isn't a dealer in New York City who would know a 60A if he saw one. I will also bet that you could search auction catalogues for many years past and you wouldn't find one offered. It is one stamp listed in the S.U.S. that never comes up at auction. The stamp is similar to the Violet #60 but different. Naturally it is not the No. 78A as that stamp is very different. I suppose that is why they thought it was #60.

Mildred and I were pleased to learn that at long last Rene and you will come down in the near future. We intend to get some kind of a roll-away bed for Stan's room so that we can sleep a couple over night.

We are expecting Stan home the week-end of the 20th to bid us good-bye before his ship leaves on the 5th of April for the round the world cruise. The three of us may drive down to Lexington to spend that Saturday and Sunday with Elliott and family. We have guests coming in tomorrow - otherwise no other plans for this month or April. It would be nice if you could drive by Adrian and bring the Shiersons with you.

Again re - #60. A fine violet is worth full catalogue or more, so Jack when you make a low bid, I don't think you should expect to get a good color or decent condition. This was an exception because the boys who are supposed to know realized this was not a "violet."

We note by the radio and papers of the heavy snow north of here. Thank God we have had very little. In fact, the ground here is free of the stuff. Something I hate. I often think of that "push in the slush" that we had from Marshall to the Castle. That must have been in 1949.

I note you spent some time with Molesworth in Detroit and I hope you were able to obtain some nice covers from him.

Re - the 1¢ '51. This week I had submitted to me for opinion a copy of 81R4 on cover. The finest copy I have ever seen. I regard 81R4 as the finest example of Type IC. It is the full "E" relief with no erasure or short transfer.

Our regards to Rene and you.

Cordially yours,

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

NNA

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service

Washington 25, D. C.

February 26, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letter of February 3, 1954, to the Post Office Department, regarding the post offices at Newport, Covington, Alexandria, and Florence, Kentucky, and Cincinnati, Ohio, has been referred to the National Archives and Records Service.

Records of the Post Office Department now in our custody contain the following information about the post offices in which you were interested:

Newport, Campbell County

First Postmaster

Daniel Mayo

Establishment Date

October 6, 1800

Cincinnati

Abner M. Dunn

June 7, 1794

Covington, Kenton County

Kenry M. Pushner

October 3, 1815

Alexandria, Campbell County

William D. Courseys

March 17, 1819

Florence, Boone County

Pitman Cloudas

Established as Connersville on March 28, 1828. Its name was changed to Florence on April 27, 1830.

Very truly yours,

Victor Gondos, Jr.,
For the Chief Archivist
Industrial Records Branch

Feb. 3, 1954.

The Post Office Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: Mr. Frank J. Delany,
Solicitor.

Dear Mr. Delany:

Will you be so kind as to furnish me with
the following information -

In what years were post offices first es-
tablished at -

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Newport, Ky.

Covington, Ky.

Alexandria, Ky.

Florence, Ky.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

LOUISVILLE EYE, EAR, NOSE and THROAT CLINIC

629 SOUTH FIRST STREET

LOUISVILLE 2, KENTUCKY

Friday Nite

My Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Again wish to state that I was greatly pleased and impressed with your presence and covers lost Thursday evening at the Louisville meeting. Knowing that you have a large following and group of cover friends, I wish to ask you to be on the lookout for Kentucky Stampless covers for me. I'll be very happy to purchase any and all you might locate for me.

Enclosed are the two covers we were discussing. Hope you find them authentic as they fill two gaps in my brief collection.

Best regards again,

Sincerely
Charles F Rosen M.D.

P.S. When you return letters I will return postage and any other cost to you -
C.R.

Dec. 5, 1949.

Dr. Chas. L. Roser,
629 South 1st St.,
Louisville 2, Ky.

Dear Doctor:

Herewith I am returning the two covers as per yours
of the 2nd. Here are some comments:

12¢ 1851 Bisect cover. This cover shows a San Francisco
date line of February 15, 1854, and here are some facts regarding
the use of 12¢ splits at the San Francisco Post Office - At a
certain period during August and September 1853, the San Francisco
P.O. ran out of supplies of the 3¢ 1851 and for a few weeks halves
of the 12¢ were permitted to pay the 6¢ rate to the Eastern part
of the U.S. - By late September recognition was refused, evidently
due to supplies of the 3¢ being on hand. Later that fall the
Postmaster General issued an order that halves or parts of stamps
were not to be recognized and all letters bearing such mutilated
postage stamps were to be rated as entirely unpaid.

In the case of your cover, it is my opinion that this
diagonal half of a 12¢ was placed on the cover by the sender but the
S.F. P.O. refused to recognize it and rated the letter as entirely
unpaid and with 10¢ due in Boston. The paid rate was 6¢, the unpaid
was 10¢. The black "10" is well known to me and was applied at the
S.F. Post Office.

It might interest you to know that this letter went from
San Francisco to Panama across the Isthmus to Chagres, and thence
by U.S. Mail Steamship to New York City. And further, that the
"S.S. California" carried this mail to Panama sailing on Thursday,
Feb. 16, 1854.

Regarding the other ^{Cover} comments - The date inside is ap-
parently Dec. 9, 1851, but the 1¢ stamp to left is a Type IV and
stamps from this state of this One Cent plate were not issued until
June 1852 - The actual use of this letter was probably Dec. 9, 1857.
It seems quite possible that someone changed the "7" to read as "1."
I rather suspect that the stamp to left was originally a canceled
copy and that a cancelation has been removed. The stamp to right
shows parts of a blue cancelation, and an attempt was no doubt made
to eliminate much of the marking. I would hesitate to hazard a guess
on the validity of this cover because there is - in my humble opinion -
so very little evidence that it is genuine. For your protection,
may I suggest that you write Mr. Gilbert and advise him that you
submitted the cover to me and that I advised you to forward it to the

34
51
Bisect

#2. Dr. Chas. L. Roser, Dec. 5, 1949.

Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation for authentication, and that if they refuse to certify it that you will be pleased to return it to him. They will charge you a fee of \$10.00 if they certify the cover is genuine, and no doubt their certification would well be worth that sum to you. If you decide to do this, forward the cover to -

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

My further advice would be to ask the following questions - and insist that they answer them, viz:

- (1) Is this cover genuine?
- (2) Were these three stamps used as we now see them on this cover?
- (3) Have the two One Cent stamps been cleaned?
- (4) Is the right hand stamp a used copy with a blue postmark?
- (5) Was the use of this letter Dec. 9, 1851?

I do not think that a dealer should sell a questionable cover such as this without a certificate of genuineness, and personally I would question the good intent of any dealer who would do such a thing.

Manufacturing "bisects" is a favorite past-time of the philatelic crooks and I can offer you no better advice than to be very careful in paying out cash unless the items have been authenticated by some recognized authority.

There is no fee for the above.

I assure you that it was nice to make your acquaintance and should I run across any Kentucky stampless covers I will be pleased to bear you in mind!

Cordially yours,

COPY

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

Re - P.F.Ctf. 4786

3¢ 1851 Bisect plus two 1¢ 1851

Blue envelope - addressed to

"Judge Warner -

for Miss Lizzie Osborn - Pittsburg - Alleghany Co., Penn,

Letter inside headed, "AVONDALE - JEFF. CO., VA. - DECth 1851"

There was no post office by this name in 1851.

On face of envelope is a manuscript postmark of "KABLETOWN VA., DEC 9."

There was such a post office in 1851.

Re - the 1¢ stamps. Stamp to left shows evidence of removal of pen marks.

This is a Type IV stamp from Plate One Late.

This stamp could not have been used as early as Dec. 9, 1851,

because this state of the plate did not come into existence before May 1852.

Further, this is a worn impression from the plate, and in my opinion, a printing of the year 1856.

Re - 1¢ stamp to right. This is a Type II stamp from Plate 2.

This plate was made in November 1855.

This stamp shows traces of a blue cancelation.

The 3¢ stamp is a very worn impression and looks like a stamp of 1855.

Again re - the "1851" year-date inside.

This could originally have been "1857" and it could have been (?) changed from 1857 to 1851.

There is actually no evidence that these stamps were used on this envelope and because of the suspicious features mentioned above, it is my opinion that the cover is fraudulent.

Signed

March 6, 1854.

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

FORT THOMAS, KY.

COPY

Re - P.F.Ctf. 4786

3¢ 1851 Bisect plus two 1¢ 1851

Blue envelope - addressed to

"Judge Warner -

for Miss Lizzie Osborn - Pittsburg - Alleghany Co., Penn,

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Signed

March 6, 1854.

(1949)

DEC 19 49

A 309

Black

Pencil

James Jackson & Co.

Hlaci

Black
Boston.
Mass.

Cap.

By Dr C.L. Roser
12/5-1949.
White F.L. Dated
S.F. Feb 15 1854

22 Direct By Dr. C. L. Rorer Dec 5 1944
Lamp Does Not Show Any Thing
Suspicious - See S. B. 18 - P. A.

Walterton Va
Dec 9
To



Judge Warner
For Miss Lizzie Osburn.
Pittsburg.
Allegheny Co.
Penn.

Blue Env
And Blue
Paper Letter
Dr. C. L. R.

"3¢ 1851 BISPECT" By Dr. C. L. Roser, Louisville Ky - Dec 5 1949.
4 Stamp To Right Shows A Blue Cancel. 1¢ To L. Shows
Pen Removed Marks - Letter Inside Is Headed
"AYONDALE - Jeff. Co. Va. Dec 9 1851" - Instead of
1851 The Use Could Have Been 1857 - As The
"1" Appears To Have Been Changed From A "7" To A "1"
For Correspondence See Scrap Book 18 - pg. 4.

GREEN
F128
17 SEC

Co. Va Dec 9th / 851



LS47B QJUA RTZ - 142 - JF64 - 20 MIN
BY PFOUND - SEE S.B. 30
MARCH 6 1954

B457



This Photograph
Was Made By
ULTRA - VIOLET
RAY
By Stanley B. Ashbrook

MEMO FROM

3/4/54

Dear Stan:-

Mr. Halbeach is a member of the C.C. and a gentleman I have had the pleasure of meeting - a fine philatelist.

Can you answer his question? - If so you can send the reply to me - or by Air Letter direct to him.

Will write later concerning Perf. article -

Regards
Wue

435, Wattletree Rd,
East Malvern, S.E.5.
Victoria, Australia.
16th February 1954.

The Secretary,
The Collectors Club,
22 East 35th Street,
New York, 16, N.Y.

Dear Sir,

On the 26th October last I wrote you by Air Mail asking whether one of my fellow Members of the Collectors Club could help me with a problem with regard to a French cover in my possession. As I have not heard from you since it is quite possible that my letter was on that illfated plane which crashed in flames over your side after flying the Pacific on November 1st.

This is my query:- I have a cover bearing a FRANCE 1849-51fr carmine tete-beche pair also a 40c stamp. The cover was posted in Paris on 5th September 1853. and was addressed to New York "via Liverpool", "per Arctic". On the reverse side is a double circle cachet with "Ligne de Calais" "No 1" and in centre "5 Sept 53", there are faint traces of a New York cancellation.

In addition on the front of the cover is a large "42".

I am trying to find out the significance of this "42". I believe it was applied in the U.S.A. and indicates that portion of the postage to cover a certain part of the route. Incidentally the "42" is impressed in a black ink. I have had several suggestions offered me by experts in England but they all agree that none of their calculations can be made to fit the figure of "42"

Can any Member of the Collectors Club help me to solve the riddle?

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

William M. Holbeach
William M. Holbeach.

42
Tracing of the
"42" in question

To open cut at top

BY AIR MAIL

AEROGRAMME



The Secretary
The Collectors Club
22 East 35th Street
New York 16 N.Y.
U.S.A.

First fold here

Second fold here

If anything is enclosed, letter will be sent by ordinary mail.

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

FORT THOMAS, KY.

March 6, 1954.

Mr. Wm. M. Holbeach,
435 Wattletree Rd.,
East Malvern S.E. 5
Victoria, Australia.

Dear Mr. Holbeach:

Your letter of the 16th of February last, addressed to the Secretary of the Collectors Club of New York, has been referred to me.

The "42" (black) on your cover was applied in the Foreign Division of the New York Post Office. It was a postage due marking of 42 cents, U. S. currency, and indicated a double rate of 2 x 21¢ for a letter weighing over 1/2 ounce, but not over one ounce. This was the postage due from the British frontier (England) to U. S. destination, by "American Packet" (U. S. Mail Steamship). The French postage was merely the rate to Great Britain, hence the U. S. postage due was from the British frontier and rated under the terms of the U. S. - British Postal Treaty of 1848. It was as follows, per single rate (1/2 oz.), 16¢ U.S. sea (Atlantic crossing) plus 5¢ U. S. "Internal" (not domestic), thus 21¢ single or 42¢ double. The mail steamship "Artic" was a ship of the Famous "Collins Line" operating between New York and Liverpool under subsidy by the U. S. Post Office Department.

I trust that the above information will meet with your approval.

Sincerely yours,

March 6, 1954.

Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs,
1/ The Philatelic Foundation,
22 East 35th Street,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Win:

I enclose copy of a letter to Mr. Holbeach of
Victoria, Australia. I would like to keep his letter for
my record but if you wish it returned I will be only too
glad to comply.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

435 Wattletree Rd,
East Malvern, S.E.5.
Victoria, Australia.

19th March 1954.

Mr Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31.
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue,
Fort Thomas, KY. U.S.A.

Dear Mr Ashbrook,

I should like to thank you very much indeed for your Air Letter of March 6th, and for the information contained therein regarding the "42" on my French cover.

Your comments have certainly cleared up some of the points that were puzzling me. There are still one or two which are not entirely clear in my mind and I am going to venture to impose on your good nature to help me clear them up.

1. You state that the "42" was "a postage due marking". I take it that you do not mean that the recipient of the letter would have to pay this sum, but that the figure indicated that, of the postage already prepaid by the sender, that sum was to be credited to the U.S.A. authorities for the carriage from the British frontier to the U.S. destination. In effect it was in the nature of a book-keeping entry. ?

2. I understand from your information that on letters up to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce the fee for the U.S. section was 21 ¢. double fee, as in this case, was charged where the letter weighed over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

3. A Friend of mine in England has sent me a list of French covers in his possession, and together with mine here is the list:-

July 16	1852	Paris to New York via Steamship,	stamps to value of 60c	(A)
Oct: 18	1852	,, Boston ,, Liverpool	95 80c	(A)
Dec: 13	1853	,, New York	,, 1fr -60c	(A)
Apr 17	1851	,, New York	,, 1fr 50c	(A)
May 19	1855	,, New York	,, 1fr 20c	(B)
Feb 20	1854	,, Boston	,, 1fr 60c	(B)
Mar	1856	La Rochelle via Paris, Calais, Liverpool to New York	,, 1fr 60c	(B)

(A) indicates that the letter had a figure "21" in sloping characters similar to my "42".

(B) indicates that the letter had a Circular obliteration ($31\frac{1}{2}$ mm dia) with an upright "21" at the top and "N YORK Am PKT" round the inside with month and day in the centre.

The reason I have given you this list is that there does not seem to be any consistency about the amount of postage prepaid in France,

and the (two types) of "21" indicate that none of these letters weighed over $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

I suppose the Folk in France were a bit hazy as to the correct postage so to make certain some of them put extra postage on for luck! Anyhow they probably did not know what an ounce was!

Curiously enough it was only the day before I received your letter that a Friend of mine in Sydney gave me the information that the "Arctic" was a ship of the "Collins Line".

I am enclosing a set of stamps which have recently been issued over here to celebrate the first visit of a reigning Monarch to Australia. We were all very thrilled to see the Queen in our own Home town. I hope they will be of some interest to you.

Many thanks again,

Yours sincerely,

William M. Holbeach.

William M. Holbeach.

P.S. I understand from literature in my possession that throughout the period covered in the list of covers given earlier, the foreign postage rate in France was 40c.

30-26

Sept. 10, 1954.

Mr. William M. Holbeach,
435 Wattletree Road,
East Malvern S.E. 5,
Victoria, Australia.

Dear Mr. Holbeach:

I sincerely apologize for the delay in replying to your letter of the 5th of March. The fact is your letter got mislaid and only today did it turn up.

Again referring to my letter of last March. The postage on your letter was not prepaid to the U. S. destination but only to England, hence postage had to be collected from the addressee from the British frontier. This consisted of 16¢ sea, Atlantic crossing, plus 5¢ U. S. internal or 21¢ per half-ounce. As your letter was over 1/2 ounce, a double rate of 42 cents was collected upon delivery from the addressee. As stated in my letter, the item was transmitted by a steamer of the Collins Line, (American Packet). Under the U.S.-British Postal Treaty of 1848, the rate of 24¢ per 1/2 oz., was fixed as follows: British internal 3¢ - sea 16¢ - U.S. internal 5¢. It is improper to use the term "domestic" for "internal."

It would be a bit unsatisfactory to comment on the covers mentioned in your letter without an examination of each one, however, I might add this explanation - Britain and the U. S. rated by the 1/2 ounce, whereas France rated by grammes, approximately 1/4 ounce. Inasmuch as a quarter ounce was not exactly $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes, we do find some rates that appear odd.

The U.S. and France did not have a postal treaty until 1857, hence the major part of the correspondence between the two countries was forwarded Via England, viz; - From France to England under the terms of the Anglo-French Treaty - from England to the U.S. under the terms of the U.S.-British Treaty. The U.S.-French Treaty went into effect April 1, 1857 - the rate was 15¢ U.S. per 1/4 ounce or $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes. In France 80 centimes (8 decimes). Mail could be sent paid or unpaid, but no partial payments were permitted.

May I thank you very kindly for the beautiful stamps you enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Form 3817
Rev. 9-37

Post Office Department

Received from: STANLEY B. ASK BROOK
P. O. Box 31
23 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
FORT THOMAS, KY



One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to Lee Chadwick
470 Blue Ash Road
Rossman, Ohio

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE

APS
BIA
NPS
SPAORIGINATORS of
STAMP MARKETThe BID and ASK
Established 1936

8470 BLUE ASH ROAD

ROSSMOYNE, OHIO

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763

February 18, 1954

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
33 North Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

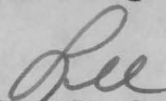
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed are a few items which I hope you will be kind enough to identify for us by Scott number, just marking the number beside the stamp on the card will be perfectly satisfactory.

Also enclosed are two covers which we just purchased and I don't think there is much to the strip of 1869's except that it is a nice clean little cover and I would appreciate your idea of what we might ask for it. I don't know whether there is anything really worthwhile about the pair of 12¢ but it strikes me that it might be a good item and if so would like your comments regarding it together with your opinion of its value.

Should either of them be anything you are looking for and you would like to buy them outright or sell them on a commission basis, by all means let me know since we are not committed to anyone on either of them.

Kind regards and good wishes,


Lee Chadwick

LC:LF

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE Co.

8470 Blue Ash Road

Rossmoyne, Ohio

ORIGINATORS of
STAMP MARKET



The BID and ASK
Established 1936



Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
33 North Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Box

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Form 3817
Rev. 9-37

Post Office Department

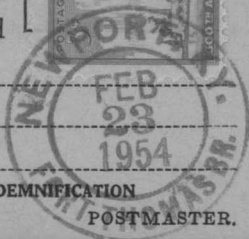
Received from: STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.

One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to
Mr. EMMERSON C. KRUG
3008 - 13th Ave., South

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION



POSTMASTER.

Feb. 21, 1954.

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

Dear Lee:

Herewith the items as per yours of the 18th.

Re - the cover with the pair of the 12¢ 1851. There really is not much value here because the pair is so badly cut into. In addition, there is very little evidence that this pair actually was used originally on this cover though it might have been. At that period quite a bit of mail was sent to England, prepaid, but without stamps. This cover was probably a stampless to which some joker added a damaged pair hoping in that way he might find a buyer.

Re - the 1¢ '51 which I mounted on a card. This variety of re-cutting is listed in the S.U.S. It is what we call a "double top and bottom." It is a scarce variety.

Re - the 1¢ 1869 cover. I am sending this to a client who may like to have it. I have priced it to him @ \$25.00.

My kindest regards to Warren and you.

Cordially yours,

Feb. 21, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Here is a nice little One Cent 1869
cover that belongs to Lee Chadwick, over town.
I thought it was something you would like.
The price is \$25.00.

Yours etc.,

QUEEN CITY STAMP CO.

8470 Blue Ash Rd.

Rossmoynne, Ohio

SYcamore 5763

"A Good Name Since 1890"

2/24/54

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for the information on the stamps and covers. I never would have spotted that double recut at T & B of #9.

Sorry to advise I have run into some rhubarb on the 1¢ 1869 cover as something else in the lot failed to be as represented so have to hold it intact. To avoid a possibly embarrassing situation, will ask you to write to the party to whom you offered the cover and ask him to hold it (if he has in mind keeping it) and not remitting for a few days.

I hope to have the matter straightened out by the end of the week and rather imagine it will work out allright, but just want to play it safe. If we have to return the lot will pay you your commission on the cover, of course.

Will advise as soon as possible, and will settle up for this work as soon as we know what goes with the 1¢ 1869 cover.

Kind regards,

hee

Feb. 25, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Hold up on that cover that I sent you
as there seems to be some question regarding
whether the owner wishes to sell it. It is
possible it may be that it will have to be returned
to him.

Yours etc.,

Feb. 25, 1954.

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

Dear Lee:

Okay on the 10¢ 1869 cover. So far I haven't heard from my friend but if he decided to take it before he hears from me he would return it without any trouble.

Yours etc.,

Louis C. Rove
R. R. 2 - Box 204
Pewaukee, Wisconsin

2/24/54.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

I have three copies of the 1851 issue which I would like to send you for your opinion and plating, if possible.

No. 1. is a type II in what seems to me a very unusual dark blue color. Is this possibly from plate 3?

No. 2 is apparently a "B" relief, type III-a from plate 4 with a fairly wide break in the top line. The bottom line is faint but complete.

No. 3 is apparently a "C" relief from plate 4. The top line has a rather small break. I would like your opinion on the bottom line. It appears to me that it would be considered broken and the stamp therefor a type III. I have not seen very many stamps of this type and would therefore like your opinion on it.

Would it be convenient for you to have me send the stamps to you at this time? I would of course expect to pay whatever your charges might be.

Sincerely,

Louis C. Rove.

Feb. 28, 1954.

Mr. Louis C. Rove,
R.R. 2 - Box 204,
Pewaukee, Wis.

Dear Mr. Rove:

Replying to yours of the 24th, I will
be glad to examine the three One Cent 1851 for you
and I can assure you that the fee will be very
modest.

Sincerely yours,

Louis C. Rove
R. R. 2 - Box 204
Pewaukee, Wisconsin

3/4/54.

Dear Mr. Aslbrook.

I am enclosing the three
1d 1851's about which I wrote you.
Will you please examine these and
indicate type and, if possible, plate position
with your signature on the back of each.

Do you have any 1851 material
for sale that you could send me on
approval? I am interested in anything
in very fine condition, particularly the
1d and 3d on or off cover.

I am a charter member of the
3d 1851 group and can refer you to
Fester Brookman or Emya Cole.

Sincerely

Louis C. Rove.

500
March 9, 1954.

Mr. Louis C. Rove,
R. R. 2 - Box 204,
Pewaukee, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr. Rove:

Herewith the three 1¢ 1851 as per yours of the 4th. I have plated two of these and signed all three on the back.

Re - the Type III copy - this evidently comes from the third row of the right pane of Plate 4, which would be the horizontal row below your 17R4. In other words, one of the ten positions, but I was not able to definitely locate it for two reasons; it is a late impression from the plate and "worn," hence the identifying markings have disappeared. I have marked it as a Type III, but there is still a faint trace of the bottom line, which might indicate that early prints from this position may have been Type IIIA - (bottom line intact - no break).

My fee for the typing and plating is \$5.00 which I trust you will find satisfactory.

Re - 1¢ 1851 material. I regret to state that I do not have anything exceedingly fine to superb for sale. Due to the insistent demand for very fine specimens they disappear as soon as I can lay hands on them. I do have "good" items which I could offer at prices in line with such condition.

Regarding plate positions, while it is possible to plate many One Cent stamps, it is also impossible to plate a great many. Where the identifying marks have disappeared, the specimen is just another One Cent 1851. I have been working on Plate 4 for about 35 years and still have parts of the right pane which are still a mystery to me. If I live long enough perhaps I may be able to put all the pieces together.

Very truly yours,

Louis C. Rove
R. R. 2 - Box 204
Pewaukee, Wisconsin

3/14/54.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

Your letter returning the three stamps arrived safely on Friday. Many thanks for your trouble. I am enclosing check for \$5.00 to cover your charges which seem very reasonable to me.

I was pleased to find that your opinion on the one stamp agreed with mine that it was a type III.

Your letter regrets that you do not have any 1¢ material in the condition that I want. Does this indicate you might have some material of the other values? If so I would be very happy to see it.

Sincerely yours.

Louis C. Rove.

March 23, 1954.

Mr. Louis C. Rove,
R. R. 2 - Box 204,
Pewaukee, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr. Rove:

Thanks very much for yours of the 14th with check for \$5.00.

Replying to your query. In recent years there has been such an insistent demand for fine to superb 19th material that so much that is in that class has disappeared from the market and gone into fine collections and in the majority of cases into collections of wealthy men where it is apt to remain until the death of the owner.

The majority of collectors regard the S. U. S. as the official and last word on values, but one is apt to forget that such quotations refer to just average condition.

Dealers have a hard time locating superb condition and when such items come their way they naturally send them to their most valued clients.

I am sure you are aware that such conditions exist but nevertheless I thought it would do no harm to repeat the above facts.

On occasions I do have some very fine material placed in my hands for sale, but I never try to mislead a prospective purchaser that he is obtaining a great bargain or a "sleeper," but rather I try to emphasize the investment value of superb philatelic material, the safety of which cannot be questioned.

If you will advise me whether you prefer off cover 19th U. S. to covers or vice versa, and which stamps or issues you specialize in, I will be pleased to keep your letter before me.

Sincerely yours,

March 23, 1954.

Mr. Louis C. Rove,
R. R. 2 - Box 204,
Pewaukee, Wisconsin.

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Sincerely yours,

L. G. BROOKMAN

Stamps for Collectors

121 LOEB ARCADE
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

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

R. D. P.
A. S. D. A.
M. C. C.

March 5, 1954

Dear Stan:

Just back from N.Y. and so terribly busy that I only had time to rush thru your latest bulletin so can give you only the most off-hand guess about the triple rate deal. ⁺ imagine that only a study of covers of the period will disclose whether or not ~~the~~ quadruple rate was generally applied within the U.S. or whether it apparantly was applied according to the whim of the postmasters involved.

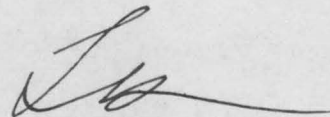
Here is some news. Bob Siegel and I now own the "Knaapp Shift" so that if you wish to disclose your knowledge about it you can do so with a completely free hand. I have not studied it for over 5 minutes and cannot express any opinion on it other than that it certainly is not a normal double transfer identical in cause to the other doubles on the plate. Whatever it may be, and whatever its faults and/or virtues, it is an interesting item and as such I am happy to own half of it. Now, of course, I am more anxious than ever to have you disclose your opinion about it and you know me well enough to know that all I want is the facts and let the chips fall where they may.

Certainly wish I could get down with Henry but I just cannot possibly spare the time now. I'm flying to Nebraska next Saturday (13th) to look at another lot. I do expect to get to the ASDA show in Chicago the end of March--Helen probably will come down with me. How about coming up to Chicago at that time?

Much to do so will knock off right now.

Sincere regards,

P.S. If by any chance you want to look at the Knapp again you can of course have it at any time.



March 9, 1954.

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

Dear Les:

Yours of the 5th received.

We had a most delightful visit from Henry Hill and Horace Poole but it sure would have been fine had you been able to come down with them.

I note your remarks on the "no triple rate" of 1849-1851. I deserve no credit for this discovery as it was Maurice Blake who dug it up. I consider it highly important.

Now for the "Knapp Shift." I was surprised to learn that Mrs. Souren perted with it but I hope you obtained it at a right price. The details of how it was obtained would be of special interest. Now that you have it I believe you will profit by a careful study of it, and the best suggestion that I can offer is for you to study it under a binocular microscope. I never used a stereoscopic binocular but a good friend of mine recently acquired one and he tells me it is the very last word. I have an idea it would be wonderful to use in examining the Knapp but if you can borrow one don't use too high power.

I note you do not believe it is a normal D.T. - Of course not, and had it been it would not have fooled E. Perry, Esq. and several others.

Now that you have it don't you think it would be far better if you solved the problem yourself - It wouldn't be any satisfaction if I gave you the answer - unless of course you proved that my solution was nothing but wind.

No Les, I don't think I would care to see the stamp at present in spite of the fact I haven't had a glass on it for many years.

Harry Lindquist wrote that he intended to attend the Chicago Show but I advised him there was little chance of me attending. It would be nice to see you both.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--On second thought perhaps it would be nice to have a colored slide of the "Knapp shift" so if you will send it down I will make three, one for Siegel, one for you and one for me. I will return by the next mail.

L. G. BROOKMAN

Stamps for Collectors

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

121 LOEB ARCADE
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

R.D.P.
A.S.D.A.
M.C.C.

May 13, 1954

Dear Stan:

Since you certainly are the best friend I've ever had in our world of philately, I never want to put you on the spot in any way. As far as the Knapp Shift is concerned, I've always felt that you have an open mind on the subject. As a matter of fact I remember that you used to tell me that you could take either side of the argument about it and make out a very strong case and I am certain you could do this.

Now of course it stands to reason that you have always had grave doubts about this item or you almost certainly would have come out in defense of it. I have always felt that were you certain of your opinion that you would not hesitate to give it but that you do not want to express this opinion without positive proof you are 100% correct. And of course positive proof on this stamp is mighty tough to produce.

I've always been skeptical that we could find out much about the ink on this stamp thru ultra-violet or X-rays due to the color involved and the composition of the ink which is simply carbon black, an element, mixed with a bit of varnish. An electronic microscope that would reveal the structure of the ink might do the trick. Now if such a microscope revealed a different ink structure then the whole case for the Knapp would go out the window but just suppose that this revealed the ink structure to be identical! Then there still would be a big problem facing students of this item. If we ASSUME that the ink were proved to be identical then as far as I can see it would be a printing freak or a plate variety brought about by the emergence of an original entry as per the "solder" theory. And of these two only the last seems possible to me. Any comments you would like to make on the above?

Since I could have sold this for Henry at a good profit he never could have any feelings about this item were it proved to be a phoney. He bought it strictly "as is", and he initiated the whole transaction. I never thought of offering it to him for I never thought he would be interested in it. Anyway, at \$600 it is worth the money just as the famous "Knapp Shift".

You know that I have an open mind on this item but I will say that I do not now believe it to be a fake in any way. Perhaps the electronic microscope might make me change my mind! Or of course it might make me more certain than ever that it is not a fake.

(over)

Bilden and I have been invited down to the Detroit Philatelic Society party in early June and it seems likely that we will go down. Is there any chance that you will be there?

This is the first really nice day of Spring. I understand that it is expected to get to 75 today and probably 80 tomorrow. I should take a little time off to work on my yard--needs seeding and a batch of chemicals.

I've been extremely busy. Flew down to N.Y. a week ago. Was busy every moment I was there and didn't even get a chance to let Harry know I was in town. I always hate to bother him because he has so darned many visitors.

Give my best to Stan, Jr. when you write him.

Sincere regards to you and Mildred,

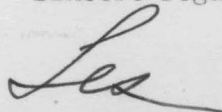


July 15, 1954

Dear Stan: This is a belated reply to your card of the 1st. Think I know who you meant by "Mr. X". Also took good note of your reference to the 10¢ Brown D.T. HAD A CHANCE TO SELL THE KNAPP YESTERDAY AT A SMALL PROFIT FOR HENRY BUT HE TURNED IT DOWN SO I DON'T INTEND TO TRY FURTHER ALONG THIS LINE. HE IS HAPPY WITH IT AND I GUESS IT IS BEST TO JUST LET IT RIDE THAT WAY.

Has been hot here but I've been working every possible minute--always much to do.

Sincere regards,

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



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



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

Mr. L. G. BROOKMAN
121 LOEB ARCADE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

30-29

The Stamp Mart

66 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

PHONE 3-9518

March 1, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

It has been several years since we have had correspondence, but have heard indirectly through a mutual friend - Gilbert Burr.

Could you supply position 12, 733 of the "Big Crack" on Scott #20 Plate 2? If not, would you know where they might be located? The condition is not too important.

I am enclosing two stamps for you to identify. The imperf stamp seems to have a crack. Can you enlighten me on this stamp. I will gladly take care of any cost incurred.

Sincerely,

Norman A. Robinson

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 NORMAN A Robinson
WYAKUSING PA

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Fee \$1.00

□ 1451 @ 30.00

March 3, 1954.

Mr. Norman A. Robinson,
Wyalusing, Pa.

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Herewith your two copies of the 14 - I have signed each on the back. Because Plate 12 has never been entirely reconstructed, I do not furnish positions from that plate. On the 2L2 I am charging you a fee of \$1.00.

Re - 12L2 and 33L2. I am enclosing a nice appearing copy of 12L2 which has a thin spot, priced at \$30.00. I regret that I haven't a copy of 33L2 showing the extension of the crack. The small extension into 33 did not show up until late in the life of the plate, so copies with it are very rare. It is so small that it can easily be entirely overlooked. I really would not know where a copy could be had.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

Norman A. Robinson

Wyalusing, Pa.

The Stamp Mart

66 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

PHONE 3-9518

March 6, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook -

Thank you for the prompt
reply. Enclosed is \$1.00.

I am looking for 12 L 2 8 33 L 2
on the perforated issue rather than
the imperforated issue. If you have
either or can tell me where they
might be obtained would be grateful.

Sincerely
Norman A. Robinson

POST CARD

MAR - 9 1954

Dear Mr. Robinson

This will acknowledge
receipt of yours of the 6th
with caulets as stated.

Thanks very much

~~Sincerely yours~~

I regret that I do not
have ^{any} of the Plate 2
bracks in ^{my} collection
nor do I have any
for sale, perhaps the best
way is to watch the Eastern
Auctions Sincerely yours

March 4, 1954



Stan;

Thanks for sending the \$ prints. I would not think of using them myself or letting anyone else do so. I don't find anything wrong with the invert. As I recall the head on the stamps and the Henn head looked as tho one was made by slight retouches on the other - I don't recall which. I think I have photos of the Henn copies you say I showed you 1936 and shall check them when I can find them. No, I do not recall showing them to you but if you say so, I must have done so. Before I got back to New York with them I checked a nearly complete set of inverts which belonged to a collector and which could not have come from Henn. They were all O.K.

Did you try the violet ray on the back of this \$1 invert? Altho the Cleveland copies had the heads entirely bleached out on the face original the violet ray showed them on the back.

I shall be glad to illustrate any or all of the foreign rate covers with lc stamps prepaying a carrier fee which you list, with proper credit to you and/or to the owner as you may desire, and am quite willing to pay for prints to be used in the Carrier Book only. The 24c red lilac with lc 1861 used to England sounds like the cover Russell Bleecker had in Cleveland at the time we were studying the Henn inverts.

You must be right about the 1936 visit because I now recall stopping a day or two in Dayton and looking thru some rev. proofs to find a difference in the portraits. Found nothing out of the regular line. But I did get some data in the Dayton library.

I have neither time nor inclination to get involved in a *correspondence* controversy about the 5c registry fee or stamps. I do think the catalog statement that the 5c stamp was for registration fee and two of them were frequently used to pay the rate over 3,000 miles, etc. says too much or not enough, and therefore is apt to mislead. I don't deny any facts, but know of facts which have not been printed and I intend to publish them when I get around to it.

re later issues
Facts have just been uncovered which show that the whole fraternity - including myself - have been barking up a wrong tree for over forty years, because our study was based on what seemed to be ~~an~~ official records. Apparently nobody suspected the records were incorrect or incomplete altho all the time we had other records which would have led to the truth if we had found out how to use them. We had facts, but placed the wrong interpretation on them. By good luck a student has turned up data which may be as important as the nugget Blake has dug up. A friend is now preparing an article for publication. Nothing to do with registration.

One of these days I expect to take a fellow named Latta apart to show what the pieces are made of. For over a year he ran a serial in Gossip that was full of facts, many of which "had nothing to do with the case." Just by reading his spiel I could tell that

3/4-'54



he had seen comparatively few of the 10c Jefferson stamps. His arguments are extremely plausible, and sound most scientific, but I have many dozens of stamps that cannot be reconciled with any of his arguments.

I gave up trying to tell Latta anything. It seemed useless. One morning I wrote him that I didn't have certain varieties which he seemed to consider very important. We had been very busy with other matters and I may not have looked at those particular stamps for several years. John had done a lot of the work and remounted much of the material. When he was here after lunch I asked him and he said yes, he thought they were in the collection. He had mounted them by themselves on a card and put the card on one of the album pages. He knew which book to look in and I doubt if it took him over two minutes to find them. It might have taken me ten minutes.

So to correct the error I had made in the morning, that afternoon I wrote Latta again, saying yes, the varieties were in the collection. Just common decency and good faith.

What a mountain Latta made out of that small matter! Without so much as "by your leave" he used my letters in print and in such a way as to make it appear that I was not telling the truth; that I could not possibly have gone thru thousands of stamps in such a short time, and found those varieties so quickly. They don't fit his theory, therefore I cannot have them because they cannot exist!

Latta was so sure I couldn't prove what I said I could that I offered to print it if he would pay the bill. He never took me up. So many illustrations were required I figured the article would cost \$500. Maybe that is what chilled his feet.

In this case Latta interpreted the facts to suit his own purpose. Probably Gossip readers who swallowed his version thought they were getting a true picture of the facts. But I still have the stamps and any competent student could satisfy himself that they are from successive stages, before and after re-entering, of the same position on the same plate.

We all believed we knew what the postage rates were from 1845 to 1851. Maurice digs up new data which shows we did not have all the facts. More power to him.

I dug a paragraph from what seemed to be a reliable source and used it. It seemed to be complete. Maurice digs around in another source at the same period and discovers that my paragraph was the last - and not the most important - of the account. My facts were correct as far as they went, but they did not tell the whole story.

I have gone to considerable length here because I have found that wrong conclusions may be obtained either by not having all the facts, or by misinterpreting facts that are complete or incomplete.

As ever,

Clark Perry

The old A.C.S. Standard Committee had an appropriation of \$1,000. to purchase the 10c Jefferson record. Arthur Hall and I decided the money could be spent to better purpose in another way - and did so.

March 9, 1954.

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

Elliott:

Yours of the 4th received.

Revenue Inserts \$100 Second Issue. It was merely my collection that you showed me your photo prints in January 1936 but I may be mistaken. No, I did not photo by the violet-ray the back of the stamp, as I didn't think it necessary at the time. I suppose I should have done so.

Carrier - Foreign Rate plus 1¢. At the moment I am too busy to dig out the photo prints and I don't suppose you are in any great hurry. Advise me which ones you want and I will keep your letter before me and get them out for you. Incidentally there will not be any charge.

I have carefully noted your remarks re - Latta and same will be filed for future reference. I have not noticed anything in the press about Latta for many months.

- Yours etc.,

THOMAS PARKS
3556 79TH STREET
JACKSON HEIGHTS, N. Y.

February 5, 1954.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I was over at the Library recently, and while I was unable to locate all the books I was after, I found some data which throws some light on two subjects which have been discussed somewhat among Civil War students.

Enclosed are some excerpts from a book about Richmond prisons, published in 1890, which purports to set at rest the question of which was the first prison in which Federal troops captured in battle were housed. It also clears up the confusion arising from some early prisoners having claimed they were in "Libby" in 1861.

The other outlines the official duties of the provost marshals in Virginia in 1862, and presumably thereafter.

Mac has loaned me his "Whelden" cover, which from the type of postmark I place at May 10, 1864. His captions on it indicate he thought it was a "prisoner cover" when he obtained it. The notes based on correspondence with Larry Sheffield at that time lead me to think both thought so then. When I acquired mine in 1944 I bought it as a prisoner cover and asked them for the name - Mac's and mine both have Richmond postmarks across the Whelden marking - and as well as I can recall, both went along with me in my supposition that it was a prisoner cover.

It seems to me that before WW II collectors put the emphasis on prisoner covers, and since WW II they have put them on supposedly "civilian" (non-prisoner) covers. I was annoyed a while back by some of the boys trying to impress me with "civilian" flag-of-truce covers which they seemed to think were rarer and more important than some of my p.w.'s, so I made an extensive study of the official records.

I found a number of references, which I am thinking of boiling down to an article, which indicate that officers in authority in the New Orleans-Mobile area were furious when they discovered that civilian letters were being smuggled through with prisoner letters and they threatened to stop all prisoner letters if the practice was continued. At Old Point Comfort, the Official Records indicate, there was a crackdown which eliminated practically all civilian correspondence for a time and then limited it to hardship cases only. I have a civilian letter from a resident of occupied Norfolk in 1864 to his agent, who was managing his property in Richmond, which went via Old Point Comfort and in which he outlined the rules and asked the agent to reply via Old Point Comfort. According to this letter there was no flag-of-truce service from Norfolk itself, and the letter was not examined by the provost marshal.

The so-called "civilian" flag-of-truce covers with which the boys tried to impress me are simply covers with Southern civilian addresses, Richmond postmarks of the approximately 1863 styles, and usually with a pair of 5¢ local print stamps, plus "Exd. WMT" or some other initials at the upper left corner. A few said "flag-of-truce" but most did not.

I have a cover and letter from a civilian prisoner at Camp Chase dated Dec. 16, 1861 which warns that mail was being censored, but it bears no censorship marks. In the same correspondence I have seen 1862 covers with manuscript censorship marks on the cover. Quite a number of manuscript censorship markings in the 1862-63 period are known from various prison camps in the North. The handstamps seem to have been mostly used in 1864-65, and I have some Fort Delaware covers (with letters) from a prisoner in 1865 when they seem to have discontinued using the well known Fort Delaware handstamp. Consequently, I think these "civilian" flag-of-truce covers, with nothing to identify them as such but the examiners markings, were the inside covers of prisoners' letters. I have always refused to pay anything for such because anybody could add them to any Richmond cover.

So far as I know, there are four "Whelden" covers in existence - Mac had one with the small rectangular "Type 1" marking; I have one with the octagonal "Type 2" and you illustrated a different one in the "Stamp Specialist"; and Antrim has a "Type 3" circular similar to a postmark. Nos. 1 and 3 seem to have been regular handstamps but my copy of No. 2 looks as if it was printed through a ribbon the way railroads date tickets. Mac's No. 1 and my No. 2 look very worn, as if they had been used a great deal. I have not seen Antrim's. I think these were used to authenticate passes and working permits, primarily. Some years ago Wulfekuhler gave me a pass issued by the Army of the Potomac to a food peddler, and a photo of it (which perhaps was taken by you?) This pass bears a postmark type handstamp marking in red. I am unable to find it at the moment, but will send it along to you for examination if you do not already have a photo of it.

The report to Congress in 1869 stated that 13,535 civilians were imprisoned during the war because of suspected Southern sympathies. Obviously, all of these were not picked up in the North, nor did they represent the population of occupied areas. The duties of the provost-marshals, as outlined in the attached copy from the Official Records, indicate that they could arrest civilians on suspicion of communicating with Confederates, the "Photo History" indicates they did arrest them and hold them without trial, and the Official Records contain some really bitter criticisms of the provost-marshals' actions.

In view of their almost unlimited power, and their probable feeling that a nice number of arrests would show they were on the job, I imagine the provost-marshals were the least trusted and most hated people in occupied areas.

When I lived in Arkansas a long time ago the chiefs of police in the cities I lived in were greatly feared and disliked because of their enthusiastic enforcement of the laws against cigarettes and drinkables, much, I imagine, the same as the provost-marshals of long ago. (In fact, in WW II I found that the provost-marshals in the camps and stations I was at were feared and avoided on "general principles".)

Inasmuch as letting a provost-marshal know that a person wanted to write to anybody in the Confederacy might cause arrest and imprisonment without trial, I absolutely cannot imagine anybody submitting a letter to a provost-marshal for approval - unless he was already a prisoner. In that case there was no alternative.

One cover approved by the Washington, D.C. provost-marshal, addressed to Alexandria, Va., after its occupation is known, and another (I have) from Carthage, Tenn., to a prisoner at Point Lookout, two months after the war was over, can only be explained as prisoners' covers. So far no "Whelden" is known to me with an address in Federal territory but I cannot imagine the marking as a normal "flag-of-truce" marking. If it had been, it would be more numerous. There is no record of a regular prisoner-of-war camp at Norfolk - it was too far South, for military prisoners. Most inhabitants probably complied with the rules and avoided arrest.

The theory has been advanced that a cover is a "civilian" flag-of-truce if it does not have a soldier's name, rank and regiment on it. I have a cover with no other identification than: "From Libby Prison", and I have seen covers containing letters from Libby that bore no name, no flag-of-truce notation, no postage, and were sent 6¢ collect. If the letters were lost they would be practically worthless - and I suspect that a great many "plain" covers with OPC and Richmond cancellations were once the containers for prisoners' letters as the "inside" cover.

Earl Antrim informs me that he has 32 prisoner covers, 21 of which do not show the man's name, rank or regiment, and 10 do not show "flag-of-truce".

I think a cover should not be called a "civilian" f.o.t. unless its letter proves it.

Am enclosing an original New York Times giving the shocked New Yorkers the inside low-down on what happened at First Manassas. Don't feel too badly about the mention of the Confederates shooting at wounded, etc. Green troops usually do. It happened in my first battle and I have heard of it happening often with new men.

Tom Parker

March 10, 1954.

Mr. Thomas Parks,
3556 - 79th St.,
Jackson Heights, N.Y.

Dear Tom:

I sincerely apologize for my tardiness in acknowledging receipt of your fine letter of Feb. 5th. We had a number of visitors run in on us in February and as a result I got so far behind in my work I had to neglect all correspondence which did not demand immediate attention.

I read over your letter and notes several times and on each occasion decided to write you then concluded I would delay and read over your notes once again before writing. The fact is I seem to be a bit confused. As I recall, the question was raised as to whether the Whelden items were "P of W" or "Flag of Truce" items. I really wonder if it makes much difference? After all, their importance in my opinion is that they passed thru the lines.

Way back in the twenties Ned Knapp and I drew a distinction between P of W and F of T covers as follows:

- (1) P of W covers. From a P of W to a relative or friend across the lines.
- (2) F of T covers - from a relative or friend and addressed to a P of W.

I remember that I had a lot of covers from San Francisco addressed to an officer, a P of W at Johnson's Island. Just because of the address they had been classed as P of W covers. As I recall, they had the Johnson's Island oval censor mark. Such items did not pass thru the lines, hence they were ordinary mail - the only feature being the address and censor mark.

Perhaps you recall my article in Gossip of Feb. 7, 1953, entitled "By Flag of Truce." Here was a cover from Georgetown, D.C. and addressed to Charleston, S.C. Incidentally, I sold this cover to Fred Grant. A letter from Earl Antrim dated March 3rd, states - "What were your final conclusions on that 'Flag of Truce' 2¢ over 10¢ you wrote up in Gossip? Grant says it is not a F of T cover." Well, I would be the last person to argue with Fred Grant but just to be on the right track and shown where I was in error I would like to have the following points explained. The original letter was enclosed and I quoted it in full. I assumed that it was from Georgetown, D.C. I am wondering if I was wrong? If not, then the letter was from a civilian in Federal territory and addressed to a "Mr" James C. Reynolds. If the letter was from some "Georgetown" in Confederate territory why would "Reynolds" be addressed "Mr"? Further - this letter was two months on its way. Do you think my assumption was in error? Perhaps Grant is of the opinion the letter did not originate in Georgetown, D.C. but in a Georgetown in the Confederacy. Well, enough of that subject. I believe the article speaks for itself. What do you think?

Tom, do you wish me to return your "notes" to you? If so, I will have a copy made. I certainly appreciate seeing all the data that you compiled and thank you sincerely.

With best of wishes -

Cordially yours,

RICHMOND PRISONS

There are a number of references in print which confuse the identity of the first prisons in Richmond to hold Federal captives. The following book attempted to set the record straight.

"RICHMOND PRISONS, 1861-62", by William H. Jeffrey

After describing the trip from Manassas and their lodging in Liggon's Warehouse, the following reference is made to prisoners captured at Bull Run-Manassas:

Page 10.

"Later in the afternoon the officers were transferred to their new quarters in the adjoining building, which was also a tobacco factory.*"

(at the bottom of the page - *Atkinsons.) (This prison is not mentioned in any other reference that I have seen.)

Page 101.

A pen and pencil sketch made in prison by W.A. Abbott (a U.S. Navy man, captured August 9, 1861 off Galveston, Texas and sent to Liggon's in October 1861, has the following caption:

"Liggon & Company's Tobacco Warehouse, Richmond, Va., 1861. The first building used as a prison for Union officers and soldiers."

Page 89.

A letter from B.B. Vassall, late 2nd Lieutenant, Co. E, 15th Massachusetts Infantry, (written in 1890):

"In reply would say that you have a valuable, interesting and authentic record of Liggon & Company's Tobacco Warehouse Prison, known as "Rockett's No. 1". It is a gross historical inaccuracy to call this 'Libby Prison', and ought not to be perpetuated, as at this time (1861-62) no such prison was in existence. I was not a prisoner in 'Libby' for this reason. It has become a common error in speaking of prisoners of war, who were confined in Richmond at that time, to say they were in 'Libby Prison' but such was not the case. The Union prisoners of war, captured at the first battle of Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, and scattering raids during the summer and fall of 1861, were confined in the tobacco warehouse of Liggon & Company, which was located on the bank of the James River, corner of Main and 25th Streets. Your book is a record of this prison. It is the original and is correct.

"In the summer of 1862 the Libby property was taken over and the famous or infamous 'Libby Prison' came into existence."

"The most unpleasant ~~sight~~ sight I ever saw in the officers' quarters was that of 200 officers sitting on their cots picking off lice; but even this looks comical when seen through the mist of a quarter of a century. This gave us our prison motto: 'Bite and be damned'". (The original draft is shown on page 127)

Some Notes on Federal Provost Marshals During the Civil War.

"Photographic History of the Civil War" - Volume 7 contains several references.

Page 193.

The Provost Marshal in a Department had (or assumed) powers depending in extent somewhat upon the character of the commander. --- In a general way the duties of a Provost Marshal were similar to those of the Chief of Police for a certain district, town or camp. He saw that order was preserved, and arrested all offenders against military discipline in the district, and was responsible for their safe keeping. All prisoners taken in battle were turned over to the Provost Marshal and by him later transferred to special guards, who delivered them at prisons further North.

Page 201.

Provost Marshals were appointed for every military department, even if no active campaign was in progress within its limits. They assumed the right to arrest citizens on suspicion and confine them without trial.

"Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies" contain much criticism of P.Ms.

Series 2, Volume 4, Page 363 gives the orders adopted for them in 1862:

Hdqns., Suffolk, Va., Aug. 9, 1862.

Major General John A. Dix, Commanding Fort Monroe, Va.

Sir:

I enclose a copy of the printed regulations for the provost marshal, &c., for your perusal. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, Jos. K. F. Mansfield, Brig. Gen., Commdg.

(Inclosure No. 1)

NOTICE.

Duties of the provost-marshal.

PROVOST-MARSHAL'S OFFICE, Suffolk, Va., Aug. 6, 1862.

1. To preserve order and decorum in the streets, arrest all drunken persons, supervise the transactions at all the stores and with the market people and prevent the sale of all intoxicating liquors; see that no unusual supplies of groceries are taken into the country by which the rebel Army will obtain comforts. The article of sale particularly will be limited and none allowed to be brought into the city for sale except by the special written permission of the commanding general.
2. He will know the business of every white man in the city to satisfy himself that they are not spies or in the pay of the rebels, and will require all white persons to pass through the pickets to give their parole of honor or take the oath of allegiance. Such deserters as come in from the enemy he will examine and send to headquarters.
3. All black men and women who come in from the enemy's lines will be examined and given passes to go where they please within our lines and work for a livelihood.
4. All ~~strangers~~ strangers coming into the city to open stores by permission from headquarters must be sound Union citizens and required in addition to take the oath of allegiance.
5. Whenever a house is suspected of having arms, ammunition, or contraband letters, &c., in it concealed, he will first communicate with headquarters before making a search.
6. All persons living in the city or within the picket guards who are not ~~suspected~~ regarded as reliable will be required to take the parole of honor, and any persons found violating their parole will be seized and put in close confinement and reported to headquarters.

7. Any person engaged in ~~bringing~~ interrupting the regular market people, in threatening them for bringing in their supplies or selling to the Army, will be seized if within the jurisdiction of the provost-marshal and reported to headquarters for punishment. If such persons live beyond the control of the provost-marshal he will report the facts to headquarters.

8. In case of alarm at night the provost-guard will require all citizens to keep in their houses and all confusion in the streets will be corrected at once.

9. In order to detect imposition and to punish all violations of paroles and oaths the provost-marshal will keep a record of all persons taking the oath or giving their parole.

10. The provost-marshal will protect all persons from imposition, depredations and insults in the streets and allow no hindrance in the way of the municipal laws of the city that do not conflict with the military duties.

By order of Brig.Gen.Mansfield: C.H.Dyer, Asst.Adjutant General.

(Inclosure No.2)

NOTICE

PROVOST-MARSHAL'S OFFICE, Suffolk,Va., Aug.6, 1862.

In accordance with Section 2 of General Order No.1, it is necessary that all white citizens doing business in this town should leave their names, occupations, &c., at this office. On and after this date a record will be kept open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for those who may desire to respect this order. It is essentially necessary they should do so as soon as possible.

Also citizens who have not heretofore taken the parole of honor will call at this office for the purpose of doing the same.

Regular office hours for the issue of paroled passes, &c., will be (as usual) from 9 to 12 m. daily.

By order of Lieut. Albert Weber, Provost-Marshal.

- - - - -

Series 1, Vol.6, page 722. (Lt.Col.C.M.Whelden) (only mention in the "OR")

General Orders No.23) Headquarters, Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, May 6, 1862.

A military commission, of not less than 5 commissioned officers of and above the rank of captain, with a recorder and ~~regular~~ legal adviser, is constituted and appointed, for the trial of high crimes and misdemeanors which by the laws of any State of the Union, or of the United States, or the laws martial, are punishable with death or imprisonment for a long term of years. -----

The following named officers are detailed for and will constitute such commission:

No.3 Lieut.Col.C.M.Whelden, 31st Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers.

----- By command of General Butler.

----- Geo.C.Strong, Acting Chief of Staff.

March 10, 1954.

Mr. Earl Antrim,
319 Holly Street,
P. O. Box 749,
Nampa, Idaho.

Dear Earl:

I have your two letters of Feb. 26 and March 3. Thanks for the return of the two photo prints and check for \$2.00. I am sorry my print of the Whelden cover is so poor. If I can find the negative I will make a new one for you but this may be sometime in the future.

Re - the 1¢ 1857 - Adams Express O.P.C. of July 1861 to New York City. I agree that this is hardly a P of W cover but could properly be termed, "A thru the lines cover," which means a "F. of T." Still, how do we know whether or not this was from some Federal held in the south? There were minor clashes before Bull Run.

I am enclosing copy of a letter that I have today written to Tom Parks. I suppose Fred Grant doubted that the Reynolds cover originated at Georgetown, D.C. Such a doubt would be the only reason why it would not be a F. of T.

I do not recall at the moment any photos that I may have of actual F. of T. covers. However, I will make a search.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

March 10, 1954.

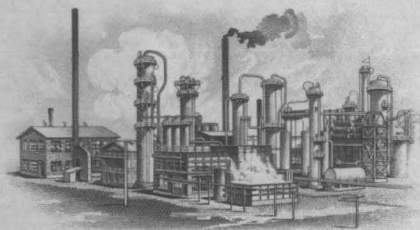
Mr. Thomas Parks,
3556 - 79th St.,
Jackson Heights, N.Y.

Dear Tom:

Herewith I return the copy of the
New York Times of July 24, 1861. I found it most
interesting and thank you very much for the loan.
My apology for holding it so long.

Cordially yours,

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY

INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

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

Ionia, Michigan.
March 8, 1954.

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your letter which arrived this AM and for once will try and make immediate reply.

Rene leaves tomorrow with Joan and Jackie for Tuscon Arizona - will be gone two or three weeks. I will stay home and work while they have a vacation. Will go out on the train and probably fly back by way of Denver. Joan thinks she might want to take graduate work next Fall at University of Arizona or Colorado School of Mines - thinks she might go on and get a Doctor's Degree in Geology rather than get married - her fiancée Dick went into the Army last month for two years and he will have three more years at M.I.T. after getting out of the Army before he gets a Doctor's Degree in Geology, so she thinks she might do likewise. Apparently won't consider getting married until he can support her. She likes to eat regularly and made one mistake - a little gun shy now, I guess.

Was sure glad to get the #60-a stamp. Shall I also try and get a #60 violet? Let me know how much I owe you for this, Stan.

Am enclosing the face of a cover that came out of the Schmidt collection in Ann Arbor. Is the Continental printing (#156). Please examine the stamp that is touched by the Chicago postmark - note the double transfer throughout this stamp - in the numeral "1" - in the "C" and "E" of CENT - in the "T" of POSTAGE - and even on the top part of Franklin's head. I wonder if this has ever been written up before? I have no use for this face of cover, Stan, and perhaps you know of someone who collects this issue and would appreciate it - if so it is yours with my compliments. Perhaps this ought to be written up and illustrated in "STAMPS"? I suppose it is too late an issue to be of interest in your "Special Service."

I understand Ruth Stark intends to dispose of some of Harold's material shortly after July 1st when estate will be finally settled. She told me she would have to raise some money that way, she thought. I hope she stays clear of the thieves from New York.

Rene says to tell you we will be down to see you and Mildred in April when she gets back from the West - all rested up - I hope.

Dan Kelleher has a nice sale coming up April 9th. Whose properties are these he is selling, Stan? Some nice 1¢ 1851 items in the sale. Do you know where this material comes from?

Rene joins me in best wishes to Mildred, Stan Jr and yourself.

Sincerely,

J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/k

Arthur Abelson just sent me a cover with a grilled 12¢ and a 3¢ 1869 beautifully centered and tied by red N.Y. with large red "6" credit to France from Buffalo NY in 1889. Cover has sharp clear blue round strike reading "ETATS-UNIS CHERBOURG 5 DEC 69." Priced \$10.00 and stamps wonderfully centered. I have never seen this "CHERBOURG" before. Is it rare and do you want to see it?

March 11, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 8th received. Looks like your girls are going to have a nice trip. Too bad you cannot go with them. Joan is sure ambitious and deserves a lot of credit.

Glad you were pleased with the 60A. Had you gone out and tried to find one it would have been very difficult to locate. No charge on this.

Re - the 1¢ cover that you sent me. I don't think this is a D.T. I am wondering if what you noted are parts of the blue cancel? However, I didn't examine the stamp under my microscope. I will do so later. In the meantime thanks very much for it, as it is quite a pretty little thing.

It was news to me that Ruth intends to sell some of Harold's collection. I can well imagine what the New York boys would do. I imagine she will be guided by Fred Schmalzreid's advice and I hope he will be very careful with same. I had hoped that she intended to keep the collection intact as Harold loved it so. Personally I sure regret it is to be broken.

We will look for you down for that visit in April and hope you won't disappoint us.

I noticed Dan's catalogue and the One Cent 1851's but I haven't the slightest idea as to the owner. Some of Dan's sales are composed of material from a number of people. When I glanced thru the catalogue I noticed several items that belonged to me years ago but haven't the slightest recollection to whom I sold them.

Re - the Abelson cover. I am familiar with the "Charbourg" marking. My advice is this - don't buy it unless you let me see it first. Some of the things you mentioned don't add up.

I suppose you are batching it at present - Mildred joins me in best wishes -

Cordially yours,

THEODORE GORE
400 BROWN BUILDING
WICHITA, KANSAS

March 8, 1954

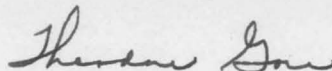
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Box 31
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing my check for \$9.50 for the two slides, and I have decided to keep the album, as it makes a handy size for me to put stamps in to carry around, and is not nearly as bulky as one of the Godden albums.

I am enclosing some 3¢ '61's. There is nothing particularly unusual about the lot. The one group of covers I picked up some time ago, as they impressed me as being an odd, deep shade. As you can see, they are all from the same correspondence used in a reasonably successive period of time. The off-cover stamp has an odd purplish-type cast to it. I have an unusually large number of these 3¢ '61's. I have been looking for the shade variations on this stamp.

Cordially yours,



Theodore Gore

TG/cn
encs.

March 11, 1954.

Mr. Theodore Gore,
400 Brown Bldg.,
Wichita, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Gore:

Thanks very much for yours of the 8th with check for \$9.50 for the album binder and the two slides.

I was very much pleased to see the little batch of covers that you enclosed and which I return herewith. Your cover of Apr 2 1862 is almost an exact match for a reference copy that I have had for many years and which I call "Indian Red." I consider it more of an Indian than even the 5¢ '57 Henna. Do you not think that my copy which I enclose is a perfect match with your Apr 2 1862?

Never before have I seen this shade used on the original cover at such an early date. Because it resembles to some extent certain shades that I have noted on covers used in the summer of 1863, I assigned its use to that period. Ezra Cole has a cover with a strip of five, plus a 1¢ '61 used to France - (15¢ plus 1¢ Carrier) and the shade of his strip is very close to my reference copy. I never dreamed this shade was issued as early as April 1862, hence I was delighted to see your covers. I may be wrong but I imagine it is a stamp that is very rare.

I am also enclosing my reference copy of what I call "Dark Brownish Germin Lake." I have never seen a cover with this shade, hence no idea when it was issued.

I don't think much of your off cover stamp, as I believe this is some sort of a "changeling" - It looks rather "sick" and "faded" - not an original color.

Again re - your five covers - Your Apr 8(?) seems a bit lighter than the one of Apr 3 and the other three much lighter and more red. No doubt I can match some of these in my reference copies.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

March 10, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 No. Fort Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan,

I am enclosing 2 covers which I would appreciate your examining and giving me your opinion on.

The 1869 face of cover has an odd rate that I cannot explain. The Confederate item appears to me to have a faked postmark tying a stamp from which a pen cancellation has been partly cleaned. Your comments will be greatly appreciated.

I had a bourse table at the recent Detroit Stamp Show and though there was not much in the way of new business or contacts there, did have an enjoyable time seeing and talking with Jack Fleckenstein. He certainly is a peach of a fellow which I am sure you already know. He certainly has an extremely high regard for you which I share wholeheartedly.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

Form 3817
Rev. 9-37

Post Office Department

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed
to *Mr. Jack E. Molesworth*
102 Beacon Street
BOSTON (16) Mass.

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

SPECIAL DELIVERY

March 12, 1954.



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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 10th and the two covers that you enclosed. First, the 1869 cover. Believe me when I state that I was not influenced by the pencil notation on the back but rather by the rate with which I have long been familiar. Incidentally, it is one of the rates I have sought. I believe it possible that the cover is genuine and actually did originate at Yokohama, Japan. The faint black postmark may have been applied at the U. S. Postal Agency there. This may and it may not be true. The rate could have meant - 10¢ by U. S. Mail S.S. to the U.S., then the 4¢ rate to France Via Great Britain. Note the routing, "Via America - Overland." In other words, to San Francisco, thence to New York "Overland" by railroad. The New York postmark is "NOV 26," the postmark of the "French Line" (direct to Havre) is "30 NOV 70." My records show that the "French Line" was scheduled to sail on Nov. 26, 1870, thus the New York Post Office handstamped this letter with that date, but it seems possible that the sailing was delayed until the 30th. The letter should have gone Via England as the 4¢ was so intended, however, for some reason the New York P.O. placed it aboard a ship of the French Line, thus the U. S. P.O. got 4¢ for not performing any service. I believe the cover is genuine, hence have endorsed it on the back. Please note my new method of authenticating covers. Please advise if you like or dislike the use of a handstamp.

I am enclosing a photograph of Lot 1794 in the second Knapp Sale, but this item went Via England. I believe your cover is much more rare as it is the only one I have ever seen that originated in Japan, went thru the U. S. and was sent by French Packet. You will recall the Franco-Prussian War was in full swing at this time. This may have been the reason of the four days delay in the sailing of the French Mail Ship. Please return the photograph as it is from my files. I doubt if this letter was delivered until after the war was over. Paris was surrounded by the German army at this period.

Regarding the other cover - Here are some points. The New Orleans P.m. is 20 NOV. If this was genuine the year-use would have to be 1861. I never saw a stamp like this used in Nov. 1861. The stamp is so poor I can't tell what it is - I suppose it could be one of those "facsimiles." I never saw a New Orleans postmark that looked like this. The crook who made this fake must have been very ignorant.

My fee is \$4.00. Fair enough?

Jack Fleckenstein wrote that he had quite a visit with you recently in Detroit. We have been close friends for many years. He is absolutely unique.

Stan Jr. is flying home next week-end to bid us good-bye. His ship is due to sail early in April for a cruise around the world.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

(30-35)

POST CARD

MAR 14 1954

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

Dear Jack

Re - the 144 rate Japan to Paris via U. S. The pencil memo on the back was by Ernest a Miltsee and was in his sale by Harmer Roche & Co on Nov 19 - 20 - 1946. It was Lot 127 - illustrated in part, and was purchased by Ezra Cole @ 28⁰⁰. There is a pencil "J.A.K." in one corner - this the "guarantee" by John A Kleeman. I note that Cortalis thought the cover was good. He had no knowledge of rates. Also a memo about "Rehse". I recall seeing a collection and sale of his collection but no memo at present

Yours etc

BACK 14¢ TO PARIS

This comm. has Klemm
guarantee checked by Mr. C. S. S.
of the Communist Stamp Co.
Postmarked Yokohama Japan
Oct 18 1940 via S.F. to
Europe. All
stamps legitimately
cancelled and belong
where offered
EW

L. W. Rooker, 1940
N.

PENCIL MEMO BY ERNEST A WILTSE - THIS WAS LOT 127 - WILTSE SALE BY HARMER
SEE S.B. 30, P 35
BACK OF 14¢ FROM JAPAN VIA U.S. TO PARIS
C204

Via America
Overland.



Monsieur Leon Delaporte
29 Rue St Roch
Paris



Face Only - Black YOKOHAMA - Black Cork Cancel - Red NY. - Red French
Black B - ~~Blue~~ Blue Cover - By Jack Molesworth - 3/11-54
See 30 - p. 35 -

A468

15.00

Bill leaf of
Dec 25/62



Mr Thomas H. Langster
Care of Capt. Simin.
Chas. M. M. M.
na

A468

7
B

Morrison Cafeterias

General Offices Mobile, Alabama

Birmingham, Alabama.
March 10, 1954.

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

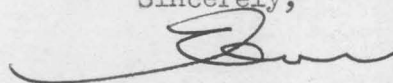
Dear Stan,

No word from you today in regards lot 165 from the Harmer Rooke sale of March 23rd about which I wrote you Monday. Assuming you have not seen it I am sending it to you herewith, having been given that permission by Thatcher of Harmer's. Will you expertize it for me and charging me for same and thwn forward it to Harmer Rooke's, postage for which is enclosed. I have looked thru all my catalogs trying to find out if and when this cover may have come up for sale but to no avail.

Also I bid in this cover at Carl Pelander's sale last week, the 5th of the month. It was lot 597. Will you give me your idea about it. Dont you think the 10¢ grew on it and was simply missed by the one cancel. Do you not think it good? Cost \$62.50.

Here is a letter that just came from Phil. Now if he will be good boy and send it back to Scholl I will be happy and so will you. See what Scholl says.

Sincerely,



Enclosed Cover Peru- lot 597 Pelander \$62.50
" SUS# 120 lot 165 H/R sale \$300.00

MOBILE, ALABAMA

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

SHREVEPORT, LA.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

TAMPA, FLORIDA



CLEARWATER, FLA.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

March 12, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Re - the 24¢ 1869 cover. Yes, I am quite familiar with this clever fake. It was sent to me by Moody in 1940 and later by Ward in 1942. I explained fully in my letter the many points that are all wrong. The notation on the back of "hdh 12/1/30/32" looks like Steve Brown's notation, but the cover was not in his sale. The 24¢ stamp was not used originally on the cover. I don't suppose you care for me to go into details. I will forward it to Hamer Rooke & Co. today but I will not give them an opinion.

Re - the Pelander Sale cover. I have examined this very carefully and failed to find anything suspicious. Here we have the stamps of three countries on one cover - most unusual, in fact, extraordinary, but right in line with mail from Peru at that period. We see such covers with the British and U. S. stamps which meant that the letter was mailed direct to the British mail ship but in this case the sender paid the Peru postage though the letter did not go thru the Peru Post Office. The British carried the letter to Panama City where it was turned over to the U. S. Mail Agent. The U. S. steamship rate was 10¢. Naturally the British did not cancel our stamp and this was also overlooked when the letter arrived at New York. I have signed it on the back. Quite a nice cover.

I return the Ward and Scholl letters. I didn't know Ward was back from Permuda. I do hope that he returns the sheet to the Doctor but if he hasn't seen another for so many years the chances seem slim.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

March 12, 1954.

Harmer Rooke & Co.,
560 Fifth Ave.,
New York 36, N.Y.

Attention: Mr. Thatcher

Dear Mr. Thatcher:

At the request of Mr. E. C. Krug of Birmingham, Ala., I am sending you herewith Lot 165, a "24¢ '69" cover. Mr. Krug stated this is from a sale to be held later this month but evidently my catalogue went astray in the mail. Will you please forward a copy by Air Mail and I will refund the postage.

Very truly yours,



Ship to C. D. Spidell
No. 10
Kashville Tenn
United States

PAID
OCT 30 1877
KASHVILLE TENN

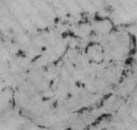
SEE SB 30 P 36

BY KRUG - FROM PERU

C201



lbt



In My Opinion This Cover Is Genuine In Every Respect

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

Stanley B. Ashbrook

BACK OF C201

KRUG COVER FROM PERU
104 69 - 1870

C202

C202



Monsieur
Bataillon
32 *Em de* *Comp*
Francs *Paris*

B467
HARMER ROOKE
SALE
3/25
1954
LOT
165
SEE
S.B.
30
P.36

QUARTZ 3 MIN 54

30

2925 West 57th Street
Chicago 29, Illinois
Phone HEmlack 4-0782

Custom Jewelry
Cuff Links
Pins, Earrings

Leslie ^{Enamel} ~~H~~ Ransley

ENAMELERS ON GOLD, SILVER AND COPPER

2-25-54

Mr Stanley B Ashbrook

Dear Sir

I am thinking of buying
a frame line from a stamp
dealer. The stamp has raised
a few questions in my mind.

What would be your
fee to examine and plate
the stamp.

The enclosed sketch indicates
some of the different things
that do not show on my
other frame lines

Sincerely
Leslie H Ransley
C.S.A.

Feb. 28, 1954.

Mr. Leslie H. Ransley,
2925 West 57th St.,
Chicago 29, Ill.

Dear Mr. Ransley:

Replying to yours of the 25th, if you care to send the copy of the Confed Frame Line to me I will be pleased to authenticate it, if genuine, and sign it on the back, (if you wish). I will also give you the plate position. Later I will furnish you with a photograph. The fee would be \$3.00.

I suppose you are aware that ever Frame Line stamp of the plate of 100 was different, because 99 of the 100 positions were gone over and retouched. From the enclosed I judge your copy is genuine because several positions on the plate were extremely close to the left Frame Line. I believe I could almost plate the stamp from the description that you gave me. In all probability it comes from the 10th vertical row of the plate.

Very truly yours,

2925 West 57th Street
Chicago 29, Illinois
Phone HEmlock 4-0782

Custom Jewelry
Cuff Links
Pins, Earrings

Leslie ^{enamel} ~~H~~ Ransley

ENAMELERS ON GOLD, SILVER AND COPPER

3-11-52

Dear Mr. Asbrook

I AM ENCLOSED FRAME LINE
STAMP & CHECK FOR \$3.00
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO
EXAMINE AND PLATE THE
STAMP

Sincerely
Leslie H. Ransley

March 13, 1954.

Mr. Leslie H. Ransley,
2925 West 57th St.,
Chicago 29, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Ransley:

Herewith the Confederate Frame Line stamp as per yours of the 11th. I am pleased to report that the stamp is genuine and in perfect condition - no thin spots, etc., etc. It shows the frame lines on three sides and a portion of the fourth. It is a marginal copy from the 10th vertical row and shows the top and bottom horizontal lines ending at the outside vertical line. This is quite a nice feature. The color is excellent, fresh and well preserved and this also applies to the paper. The plate position is 20. I believe that the stamp is priced very reasonably. A photo print will be sent later.

May I thank you very kindly for your check for \$3.00.

Very truly yours,

B469

FIVE COLOR AND
IMPRESSION



20 ON PLATE
BY LESLIE H RANSLEY
SEE SB 30 P. 37
SENT TO HIM BY
MOLESWORTH AT \$75.00

2



MURRAY HILL 3-5667

March 10, 1954

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

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JOHN R. BOKER, JR.
GEO. E. BURGHARD
ALFRED H. CASPARY
HUGH M. CLARK
ELLIOT G. CORIN
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ASS'T TO THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Stan:

Many thanks for the return of the article on perforations which is going to appear in two installments; the first part in the March number of the CCP, and it will be completed in the May number. If Dr. Chase had any notes which have never been published on this matter, I would, of course, like to see them but judging from your remarks there was nothing in them that would make it necessary to change what I have written.

Your letter of March 9th concerning our #4786, 3¢, 1851 bisect, addressed to Judge Warner, I have read with interest. First let me say I agree with your analysis that these stamps could not have been used in 1851 but I am quite certain that this cover was used in 1857 because there is definite evidence of tampering with the "7" of 1857 on the letter to make it 1851. In regard to the term "Avondale", Jefferson County, I note that the Avondale is in quotes which simply means that the name is applied to the plantation or farm from which the letter was sent and I notice that Kabletown, Va., is in the same county. The P.O. apparently was so small that it didn't have a cancelling device hence the manuscript townmark and the pen strike on the stamps. I have carefully examined the cover under the lamp and find no evidence of cancellations being removed.

The sender lost $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ postage and it is quite probable, almost certain, that the writer of the letter cut a 3¢ stamp in half and the Postmaster probably was not meticulous in his observance of the P. O. regulations. As you know we have ample evidence of slipshod handling of mails and observance of the P.O. rules so that we should not be surprised at it occurring in these small country towns. I managed to have one of the corners of the stamps separate from the envelope and underneath was clean, indicating that the stamps had been there for many years. There is also no evidence that the stamps had ever been removed or substituted.

My ultimate reaction - and with due respect to your opinions - is that this cover is genuine in all respects, but is just plain messy and unattractive.

We also have before us a 12¢ 1851 quarter stamp on cover from Geneva, N. Y. It is a plate I stamp. The quarter is the correct rate and a photograph of this has been in the Luff Collection since 1935. This cover was known as early as 1933 when it was discovered. A similar cover was discovered at the same time in the correspondence addressed to another town. Both have pencil notation in characteristic writing of the period 1854.

I have been told that this cover has been submitted to you and that you cannot condemn it but on the otherhand you were somewhat hesitant to say it was genuine. As far as I am concerned the only thing that bothers me is the concentric ring cancel which seems to be a little early although it seems to be plentiful by 1861 or 1862. I would have sent you the cover had I not been told that you had seen it and expressed such an opinion and I hope that I am quoting correctly.

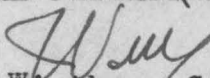
I enclose a pair of 1¢ which are marked as "faked roulette" which I think is a somewhat arbitrary statement. Would you be willing to say that it is possibly a roulette, privately applied at the time?

I want to thank you for the reply you sent to Mr. Holbeach for which I am certain he will be most grateful.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION



Winthrop S. Boggs
Director

wsb/l
encl.

P.S. Enclosed are two items - #4803 and #4802-on which the Committee would appreciate your opinion.

wsb

March 13, 1954.

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

Attention: Mr. W. S. Boggs

Dear Win:

Re - yours of the 10th. I believe that all the material that I have was published in the Chase book. I have his photostats and original notes which he turned over to me years ago.

Re - P.F. #4786 - 3¢/1851 Bisect. I have carefully noted your remarks. I think it is very harmful to authenticate an item such as this which is so questionable. In doing so, it encourages the crooks to go ahead with their fleecing of collectors and the Committee becomes a party to such crooked work. When there is a reasonable doubt about an item it is much better to refuse an opinion than to give one. The Committee is certainly under no obligation to the collecting public to express an opinion on every item submitted to them. It is far better to be honest and say, "I don't know," than to do any guessing.

Re - the 12¢ 1851 - quarter of a stamp on cover from Geneva, N.Y. I have known this item ever since it first came to light in the middle 1930's, and incidentally, I examined it for a New York dealer within recent months. In my letter to the dealer I believe I went into some detail re - "Target" cancels. Targets are known on 1847 stamps, but whether Geneva, N.Y. ever used such a killer I do not know. There are certain features that indicate the cover might be genuine. If the postmark is genuine I came to the conclusion that the quarter stamp and the target were, otherwise why the postmark. There are genuine covers in existence with quarter bisects of the 12¢ 1851.

Re - the pair of 1¢ 1851. For anyone to state that this item is genuine would be quite an assumption. I never made any study of grills which I call "punches in paper." I considered that I could spend my time to better advantage. I suppose most anyone could take a pair of the 1¢ 1851 and put "punches" in the paper such as this. I have absolutely no interest whatsoever in such a "variety."

I am returning herewith items No. 4802 and 4803.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

P.F.Certificate No. 4803
(30-38)

90¢ 1860 - single off
"ORL"

"Is the cancelation genuinely used on this stamp?"

In my opinion this postmark is genuine. I have known this stamp for many years and have a record of it in my files. It is signed as genuine on the back by J. M. Bartels and by me. It came up in a Bartels' auction in the early 1920's and has never been questioned to my knowledge.

Signed _____

March 13, 1954

P.F.Certificate No. 4802
(30-38)

90¢ 1860 - Single off
"BOSTON PAID" Large (double strike).

"Is this cancelation genuinely used on this stamp?"

I have a record of this stamp in my files, photographs, etc., as I examined it on several occasions in the past but was never able to arrive at a definite conclusion, because there are features that I thought were questionable. To be quite frank I simply do not know if it is a genuine strike, but it is possible the markings are genuine.

Signed _____

March 13, 1954

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

May 21st, 1954

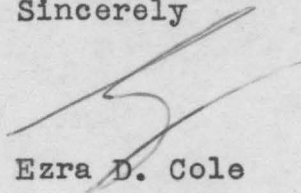
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P. O. Box 31
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

What do you know the Philatelic Foundation issued a certificate on the quarter of the 12¢ stamp from Geneva. It is in Bob Siegel's next sale on the front of the catalogue.

I have since found out - I am quite sure that that is one of Jarrett's things. You will recall he is the fellow who was in trouble with Colson - got a suspended sentence or something. He originally came from Philadelphia *PENNSYLVANIA, SEWELL*

Sincerely



Ezra D. Cole

EDC:mk1

May 25, 1954.

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

Dear Ezra:

Thanks for yours of the 21st re - the Geneva N.Y. quarter 12¢ 1851. The P.F. sent this to me last March and before that Bob Siegel sent it to me. In neither case did I condemn it, but I don't recall that I gave it my okay. Bear this in mind, I felt sure the postmark is genuine, and in the absence of any rating marking or evidence of a canceled stamp what did pay this letter if the bisect did not? In other words, this is quite unusual and looks darn queer, but I do believe it could be good. I think the P.F. should have refused to issue a certificate because of lack of evidence. They do not have to render a positive verdict on every item submitted to them.

Herewith I am returning the two letters from Levy of Paris. Nice to have someone over there who knows what is going on. I don't think Henry Hill knows Levy but he is well acquainted with M. Jamet. By the way, have you seen a copy of Jamet's coming sale? If not, I will send you a copy. Incidentally, he stated I had authenticated all the covers in the U.S. Section which is not true. I raised quite a protest. You will readily note some fakes and will realize I did not okay such silly things.

Herewith a letter from Molesworth which please return. I advised him there was no hurry and to go ahead and try to sell the 90¢ 1861 cover. Also note his reference to a 5¢ N.Y. used from Savannah. I advised him I had no record of such a use. Do you know anything about such a Sweet cover? Dan seems to think Molesworth is okay. Is that your impression?

I note that in the Fox sale of 4/15 - last, that Lot 311 was described as a pair of Type IV, whereas it was a pair of 4R1L - 14R1L - sale price \$15.00. How come?

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Re - GENEVA N.Y.
1/4 - 124 1851



Stanley B. Ashbrook, #2

May 26th, 1954

With reference to the 12¢ quarter used as a 3¢ stamp. There is no doubt that the stampless cover part of this part of a cover is alright - by this I mean the "Geneva 3 paid" in black. I have seen other similar stampless covers of approximately the same date. The thing that is bad about this is the quarter of the stamp which is the added starter. It was not necessary to have this on the cover at all. Furthermore I have since found out that this was one of the things that Harry Jarrett made, and I am quite sure that this cover may have been part of the court records at his trial, if it was not, there was only one or two just like it which were, and it is one of the items which he made, at least the court thought so.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

3/9/54

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:—

Here is that queer rate
letter I wrote about a week
or so ago.

Also enclosing the slide and Mr.
F. Smith, my photographer, compli-
ments you on it.

Kindest regards
Neal Sachet

Post Office Department

Received from: STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. Box 311954
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ky.
FORT THOMAS, KY.



One piece of ordinary mail addressed

Neal J. Graber
615 S. Norman Ave
EVANSVILLE Ind

THIS RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

March 15, 1954.

Mr. Neal J. Grabert,
615 S. Norman Ave.,
Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Grabert:

Yours of the 9th received with return of the slide and the stampless cover. This is quite an interesting item, and I wonder if Henry and you solved the rate? If not, I will be glad to send you my analysis.

I was pleased that your friend Mr. Smith liked my slide. I am constantly improving my exposures and my recent ones have been much more satisfactory. I believe that the best results are obtained thru the most accurate exposure.

By the way, may I inquire if Dr. Carroll Chase has seen your Cahokia, Ill. cover of 1804?

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Paris Ky.
Feb. 26th

24

Three
S. R. Fair T. M.

Mr. Hm. Garrett Clerk of the
Barren Cty. Court

This letter weighs one ounce
the P. M. only entitled to Frank
1/2 of the Postage on this is

therefore 24 cents
I enclose.

Glasgow
Ky.

THIS LOOKS LIKE PARIS KY. Bourbon Co, N.E. of
Lexington, But it is Not But Rather
"PACE'S POST OFFICE" in Barren Co. Ky
The Date is Feb 26 1845. The Postmaster
was Sanford R. PACE. The Act of March 3
1825, Entitled Postmasters To Forward
And Receive Mail Up To 1/2 ounce in
Weight FREE of Postage. Letters
Weighing Up To One Ounce Were To
Be Charged With Quadruple Rates.
The Act of Mar 3 1825 provided A Single
Rate of 6¢ "Not exceeding" 30 miles. Thus
The Regular Postage On This Letter Would Have
Been 4 x 6¢ or 24¢. According To The Rating
On This Letter No Part Was FREE. Stanley B. Ashbuck

Paris Ky.
Feb. 26th

24

Free
S. R. Fair S. M.

Mr. H. M. Garrett Clerk of the
Barren Cty. Court

This letter weighs one ounce
the P. M. only admitted to Frank
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Postage on this is
therefore 24 units
S. R. Bates.

Glasgow
Ky.

This looks like PARIS Ky. Bourbon Co, N.E. of
Lexington, But it is Not But Rather
"PACE'S POST OFFICE" in Barren Co. Ky
The Date is Feb 26 1845. The Postmaster
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Weight FREE of Postage. Letters
Weighing Up To One Ounce Were To
Be Charged With Quadruple Rates.
The Act of Mar 3 1825 provided A Single
Rate of 6¢ "Not exceeding" 30 miles. Thus
The Regular Postage On This Letter Would Have
Been 4 x 6¢ or 24¢. According To The Rating
On This Letter No Part Was FREE. Stanley B. Ashbrook

March 21, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have just returned from a trip to St. Louis and find your letter. Sorry to say Henry and I have come to no definite conclusion on the 24 cent rate of the Paris cover. While in St. Louis I called on Corwith Wagner, whom I had never met, and during our visit expressed a desire to see the cover for his analysis. I certainly would like to have your opinion of this rate.

Mr Wagner also expressed surprise that I am having Color Slides made, said they were unlawful and can be confiscated. It is my opinion that they are now permissible. Is that not correct?

Regarding the Cahokia cover of 1804, this is an Indiana Territorial mark, Illinois Territory being formed in March 1809. To my knowledge Dr. Chase has not seen it and I would be very happy to send it to him if would like to examine it.

Kindest regards,

Neal Porter

March 25, 1954.

Mr. Neal J. Grabert,
615 S. Norman Ave.,
Evansville 14, Ind.

Dear Mr. Grabert:

Yours of the 21st received and I was pleased to learn that you had recently visited my esteemed friend Wagner in St. Louis. He is one of the very best and I count him as one of my very good friends. He is a real and careful student.

Regarding the Kentucky cover. Here is a copy of the memo that I made regarding it, quote:

"This looks like Paris, Ky. - Bourbon Co., N.E. of Lexington, but it is not but rather 'Pace's Post Office' in Barren Co., Ky. The date is Feb. 26, 1845. The Postmaster was Sanford R. Pace. The Act of March 3, 1825, entitled postmasters to forward and receive mail up to 1/2 ounce in weight free of postage. Letters weighing up to one ounce were to be charged with quadruple rates. The Act of March 3, 1825 provided a single rate of 6¢ 'not exceeding' 30 miles. Thus the regular postage on this letter would have been 4 x 6¢ or 24¢. According to the rating on this letter no part was FREE." (unquote)

I expect Henry thought the P.O. was Paris, Ky. some 18 miles N.E. of Lexington. From the rating I assume that no part of the full rate was free. Is that your conclusion?

Re - color slides. It never entered my head that these philatelic slides of stamps or covers could possibly be any violation of the law but when it comes to rulings from Washington any damn thing in the world can happen.

I am wondering if some part of Wagner's conclusion might be correct? The reason, I have six rolls of color film at Rochester, some of which have been there two weeks. In the past I have had slides returned within five to six days. Why two weeks this time? I am wondering? To find out I have just sent a telegram to the Eastman Co., requesting an immediate answer as to the cause of the delay. Perhaps some pin-headed 2 x 4 squirt has taken it upon himself to be very officious. I hope I am wrong. I will keep you advised as I know you would be much interested. Some squirt could rule that stampless covers are a violation of the illustration act, and what could we do? I hate and despise politicians and bureaucrats, but to be the former in this day and age I suppose one has to be a regular louse.

Re - the Cahokia cover. You are quite correct. It is an Indiana

#2. Mr. Neal J. Grabert - March 25, 1954.

Territorial. Incidentally, a nephew of my great great grandfather was the first territorial governor and governor of Illinois, Ninian Edwards.

I was a bit surprised that Chase had never seen the cover. I will send him a photograph and if perchance he would like to see the cover I would like to borrow it and send it to him. I think it is wonderful and I sure would love to own it.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Pear Ky.
Feb. 26th

24

Free
S. R. Fair P. M.

Mr. H. M. Garrett Clerk of the
Barren Cty. Court
Glasgow
Ky.

This looks like PARIS Ky - Bourbon Co, N.E. of
Lexington, But it is Not But Rather
"PACE'S POST OFFICE" in Barren Co. Ky
The Date is Feb 26 1845. The Postmaster
was Sanford R. PACE. The Act of March 3
1825, Entitled Postmasters To Forward
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Weighing Up To One Ounce Were To
Be Charged With Quadruple Rates.
The Act of Mar 3 1825 provided A Single
Rate of 6¢ "Not exceeding" 30 miles. Thus
The Regular Postage On This Letter Would Have
Been 4 x 6¢ or 24¢. According To The Rating
On This Letter No Part Was FREE. Stanley B. Ashbrook

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Saturday P.M. 3/13/54.

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

Dear Stan,

Your yesterday afternoon letter came today, this A.M. early. Not bad service, I'd say. Thanks for the information about the lot 165 in the Harmer Rooke sale 3/23/54, the 24¢ 1869 cover. I knew that notation on the back was either Brown's or Emerson's, I couldn't recall which. He had no more ideas of rates like you do than did Knapp. You remember how many bad ones came up in the latter's sales. Sure, why should you give Gordon and the client who owns it the advantage of your years of work. I enclose my \$5.00 for the opinion and it is cheap at that. I could have easily been took for \$300.00.

I am also most happy to know I got a nice cover in the Pelander lot from Peru and G.B. etc. I bought it after the lesson I learned in letting Paul Weiss buy a cover at Percy Doane's Green sale of the Edgar Nelton's Cover back in Nov. 4, 1942. I could not be there in person but Ez did not go high enough for me and Weiss got it for \$475.00. It came up again years later and years ago and brought about double even though the 30¢ has a tear in it. My cover is the same routing.

Herewith is my ten dollar bill for the two above covers.

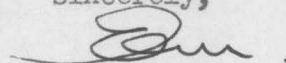
I am glad to read Dr. Polland's letter. I wish I knew him, never having met him. I think his opinion of Edgar is same as mine. He likes him and I do too. But there is nothing I would rather do than to outsmart him in a stamp deal at auction or otherwise, and I think that is what would please the doctor. Right? I return the letter herein. I also second his remarks about you. I think as far as Fox is concerned, that he may be a great salesman but I don't think he knows stamps and, as Ez says, the only way you can buy from him is to buy an item he knows nothing about. He would know the value of a sheet of 10¢ Pan-Americans because it has a set and printed value. But he would not know much about the value of the cover I just bought above from Pelander and might let it go in a sale for the price of the 10¢ 1869 on cover or \$15.00.

I have my fingers crossed about Ward and the sheet. I'll let you know first mail if I ever hear from Scholl.

I am sending a couple of cheap lots I got in the same Pelander sale as the Peru cover. Not for expertizing but just for you to see the various route which I thought made an attractive set. I paid \$8.50 for the other cover which must have been solely for the rates. I have no other explanation of why. Thought you might like to see also. I enclose a dollar to pay for stamps back here.

I sent you the enclosed 5¢ Orange Brown in December 1952 and you sent it back Dec. 5, 1952 with the note that it was a genuine New York P.M. of August 1861 and that you had signed it on the back. I did not note at the time that you had only indicated it as the O.B. Would you now sign it as a genuine Postmark like the one from Fox I bought last month? Can you recall your letter?

Sincerely,



Enclosed 5¢ 1857 O.B. used single.
Lot 13 Pelander sale 8.50
Lots 18-19-20-21 " 41.00

Please, when your catalog comes from Gordon, give me your opinion on lot 908 & 911.

Sunday night -
March 14, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Your air registered of yesterday arrived at about 2:30 this afternoon.

First the cover to France. Rather interesting and inasmuch as I analysed it, I thought you might like to have the story. It is dated inside, "Hampton." I assume this was the name of a family estate in Maryland, perhaps not far from Baltimore. The postmark is "TOWSONTOWN MD" - queer name. It was written by a female, hence the odd rate of 26¢. I wonder where she got the idea the postage was that sum? At any rate, she might have saved the stamps as they paid nothing. She could have sent it unpaid - postage due, because that is the way New York rated it. The letter was over 1/4 ounce but not over 1/2, hence 30¢ should have been paid, hence New York stamped it aw "SHORT PAID" but at first they assumed it was not over 1/4 ounce and stamped a credit of 3¢ to France. Later the error was discovered and the "3" was marked out by a red grid, and a debit postmark was applied with a charge to France of 24¢. The letter was sent by "American Pkt" direct to Havre, hence our share was 12¢ for each 15¢ rate. France rated it as entirely unpaid and placed a due on it of "16" or 16 decimes - about 30¢ U.S. The addressee had evidently gone over to Florence, hence Munroe & Co. of Paris sent the letter under separate cover to their correspondent in Florence.

There is the story of the cover but what about the stamps? The 12¢ are, of course, from the first plate - Plate One made in 1851. Here is a use in 1857. What a wonderful plate. The 1¢ stamps are Type IV and the stamp to left is one of the Inverted Transfers - listed in the S. U. S. under Type IV - 1857 - 71LLL - 81LLL - 91LLL. I don't suppose you give a darn whittoone of the three and I won't bother to put a glass on and try and find out. I suppose I could.

Incidentally, there is the French receiving "Havre" on the 1¢ pair. Too bad the stamps are in such frightful condition. Look up in the S.U.S. the value of a 1¢ '57 "Inverted Transfer." Must be quite high because perfs. are quite rare. I would hate to try and read that letter, wouldn't you? Four years later the war was on and I suppose this family bore their burden as did most everyone else.

Re - the four covers to London - The postmark is "CAPE ISLAND, N. J." There was such a post office in Cape May County but apparently under a different name today. The letters were all in July 1858. Three were mailed at Cape Island and one at Philadelphia which was not a great distance. I note the heading inside has "Congress Hall." I wonder if that was the name of the estate? Two show carriage by British Packet (with 19) - the other two by American Packet (with 3). Did you read any of the letters? I wonder who was "Dear Pet?" Little did the writer suppose th

#2. Mr. Emerson C. Krug, March 14, 1954.

that almost a century later some "philatelist" would be reading his letters.

Re - the 5¢ O.B. - (Dark O.B.). I have added "Genuine New York p.m." - Too bad there is no more room.

Re - Knapp and Steve Brown. When both were active in the middle thirties, I suppose all three of us thought we knew Rates. As I look back to that time now I realize I didn't know a darn thing and that goes for Steve and Ned as well as a lot of others. If a cover "looked good" we concluded it was genuine. My goodness what a mistake.

Re - that 24¢ '69 cover. I will send you a photo later. As a guess, I would suppose there were two stamps in the upper right corner, a 12¢ '61 and a 3¢ '61. Maybe my photo print will show something along this line. In other words, 15¢ was paid, whereas 30¢ should have been paid. Somewhat similar to the cover herewith.

Re - your Peru cover. The stamps of three different countries on one cover is quite nice.

Re - Dr. Polland. He must be a prince of a fellow but I have never met him personally. You are right, he gets a tremendous kick out of trading items with Jessup and especially in getting the best of Edgar. It must be quite an achievement.

Thanks Em, for the ten bucks. I paid my income tax today and I am flat broke. Hard life this. All work and little play.

With best wishes -

Yours etc.,

P.S.--Re - lots 90 and 91 Harmer Rooke Mar 23-24 - I noticed these and though there is little in the illustrations they look like awfully nice covers. I see no reason to question them - one is a single - the other a double rate to Germany. Note my pencil notation on Lot 81. I wonder when this was done? Perhaps many years ago. Re - Lot 76 - don't you think this is unusual? Three 5¢ on a cover to Spain.



Mr. & Mrs. White
Care of Chapin & Co.
No. 5. Rue de la Harpe
Paris, France
Black Red

By E.C.K.
3/14 54

SEE 30-40



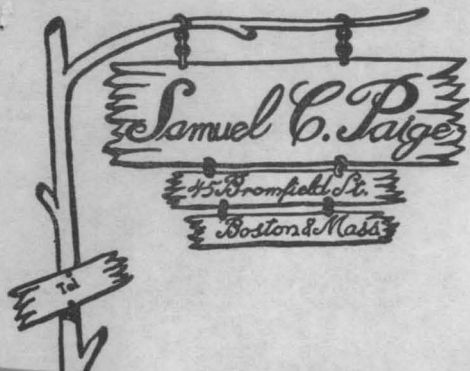
Mrs. Eliza White
Care of Miss Anna M. M. & Co.
No. 5. Rue de la Paix
Paris
Black France



Red

By E.C.K.
3/14 54

SEE 30-40



March 12, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Would appreciate your opinion as
to the genuineness of the cancella-
tions on the two covers and also
your opinion of the lc 99R2.

As usual, please let me know what
your charges are. With my best
regards -

Sincerely,

Sam Paige

Samuel C. Paige

March 15, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Paige:

Herewith the three items as per yours of the 12th.

2¢ 1867 Grill - U. Diagonal half, addressed to Litchfield, N.H. I dislike items such as this as there is no way to prove them good or bad. The best that we can do is simply to express a personal opinion, so here goes. This has no postmark - Why? It was sent sealed. No origin. No year-date. If it was from out of town why did "Louise" think she could send it for 1¢? If it was a "Drop," why did she seal it? It may be okay but I don't like it and would hesitate to okay it. No postmark would indicate a Drop but if so, why no postmark. I suppose some would say that the P.O. clerk refused to send it without a pay of 3¢, hence stamped it "Paid 3." That seems a little farfetched to me.

Microfilm

12¢ Bisect San Francisco. A fake that I have known for many years - that is, the S.F. fake postmark. I wrote an article about it in STAMPS along about 1937. During the years I have photographed perhaps a half-dozen items.

Microfilm

1¢ 1857 - 99R2 - Yes, this is the Type III - 99R2. It is signed on the back by me - The perf 99R2 is a very rare stamp - believe me.

My fee is \$5.00.

Sincerely yours,

PAID
MAR 22 1954

Mr Samuel B Page

POST CARD

MAR 22 1954

45 Bromfield St

Boston

Mass

Dear Mr Page

Thanks very much
for yours of the 18th

with enclosure

Sincerely yours



Mr George Sprung
Newton & Falls

63-8



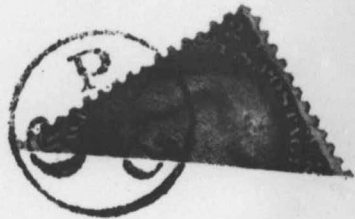
Mr George Sprung
Newton & Falls

63-8



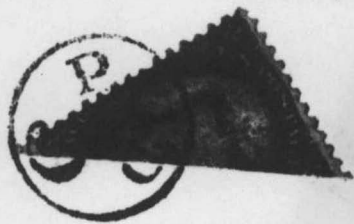
Mr George Young
Newton & Falls.

63 - 8



Miss Hannah Adams
Litchfield
New Hampshire

63-8



Miss Hannah J. Adams
Litchfield
New Hampshire

63-8

FRANK S. LEVI, JR.
11 ROCKWOOD DRIVE
LARCHMONT, NEW YORK

March 15, 1954.

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

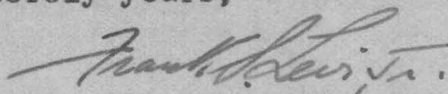
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your letter of the 11th. Needless to say I was most disappointed to read that you no longer have your material on the 10¢ 1855. But even worse was your feeling that the present owner most likely will do nothing about furthering the study of this delightful stamp. This is even more regrettable when the man obviously has the means to produce a book or booklet for the enlightenment of all his serious fellow collectors.

Enclosed you will find the 5¢ cover. I have no recollection of my dad ever getting this from Brazer. In the back of my mind I seem to recall that he got it from Percy Doane....but perhaps Percy picked it up from Brazer. I really don't know. You are correct regarding the S.U.S. listing of Jan. 1, 1856... that is the way it was listed through 1953 but in the 1954 catalog it has been changed to "earliest known use March 15, 1856". I hope you can prove beyond a doubt that this cover is genuine.

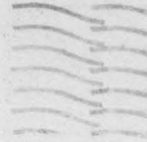

Also enclosed is the imprint pair of the 10¢ as well as the two copies with the line in the left "X". If you would be kind enough to forward these two for identification I will be greatly indebted to you.

Sincerely yours,





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



FRANK S. LEVI, JR.
11 ROCKWOOD DRIVE
LARCHMONT, NEW YORK

FRANK S. LEVI, JR.
11 ROCKWOOD DRIVE
LARCHMONT, NEW YORK

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

For the past few years I have attempted to make a study of our early imperf stamps with a special accent on the 10¢ '55s. Needless to say your fine book has been an inspiration as well as a constant guide. However, and I am sure this has happened to others, I have reached a point where I feel I must turn from the book and speak with the author.

My problems stem from the unhappy factor that I have not been able to gather very many multiple pieces. An occasional pair is about all I have been able to afford and still I try to plate as many stamps as I can. I realize that my best bet is to wait until something further is published covering the balance of the positions not described in your book. This I shall do but there is one stamp that drives me slightly crazy. To date I have found two copies which proves, in my mind at least, that what I see are definite plate marks. I shall attempt to describe.

The stamps in question are type II ("A" relief) and have a faint line in the left "X" almost exactly as in your illustration of position 76R. I say "almost exactly" for the line falls just short of the upper edge of the "X". The difference is so slight that it could be called 76R but the guide dot is not close. The dot is a full millimeter beyond the oval, perhaps a fraction more than a millimeter and a little more to the left than say the guide dot on position 58R. If from this meager description you can give me an idea of the true position I will be for ever grateful.

There are two items of information that I should like to pass on to you in the hopes that you will find them of interest. I have a nice horiz. imprint pair of the 10¢ '55....positions 41 & 42L.....in case you do not have this recorded. The imprint covers the following "nter.Casilear & Co.BANK NOTE" and just to make it a beautiful piece it is smacked twice with a Mobile paint cancellation.

The second item is a 5¢ '56 on cover. I know you are working on this stamp and feel that since the catalog lists March 15th as the earliest date this should be

reported to you. The stamp is tied with a black New Orleans March 14....the cover is cancelled New York March 23 and there is a French receiving mark on the face (and another on the back) dated April 5, '56 and the one on the back April 6, '56. Also penned across the top is "Steamer Canada". Forgot to mention that it is addressed to Paris. This cover belonged to my father and I find a note on the back in his hand "Waterhouse collection earliest date of use known" This may not be the earliest but I'm pretty sure that it will rank up with the best of them.

Should you care to see either the 10¢ pair or the cover I will be more than happy to send them along for your inspection. (Neither are for sale.)

Thank you for taking the time to read this rather long note. If you can help me on the afore mentioned 10¢ I will be greatly obliged.

Very truly yours,

Frank M. Levi, Jr.

March 4, 1954.

March 11, 1954.

Mr. Frank S. Levi, Jr.,
11 Rockwood Drive,
Larchmont, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Levi:

I am in receipt of yours of the 4th.

Regarding the 10¢ 1855. I regret to state that I haven't done any plating of the 10¢ plates for a number of years, hence am very rusty on the plate varieties. I disposed of all my material including notes, diagrams, etc., etc., to a New York collector who took up where I left off and who went ahead and completed the entire reconstruction of Plate #1. Last year he, in turn, sold all of his material to another collector who is acquiring material in an effort to improve the condition of the reconstruction. He is replacing poor condition with any finer items he can locate. I seriously doubt if anything new will be published any time in the near future. The present owner is young or rather middle age, quite wealthy and probably not the type who would be inclined to write an article much less a book or booklet.

If you care to send your 10¢ 1855 to me I will be glad to submit them to him for identification or I will photograph them and send him prints for which I would charge you a fee. At any rate, I would like to see your imprint piece and make a photograph of it for my records.

Regarding your 5¢ 1856 cover. I have a complete description of this cover in my files but no photograph. I have an idea your father acquired it from Clarence Brazier. Is this true? Because some question regarding its validity was raised some years ago I never listed it as the earliest known date of use. If the cover is genuine, then it is the earliest use known of the 5¢ 1856. The S.U.S. gives Jan. 1, 1856, but I seriously doubt if this is correct. If you care to forward it along with your 10¢ items I will be glad to give it a careful examination.

Sincerely yours,

March 18, 1954.

Mr. Frank S. Levi, Jr.,
11 Rockwood Drive,
Larchmont, New York.

Dear Mr. Levi:

I am in receipt of yours of the 15th enclosing the 5¢ 1856 cover, the two 10¢ 1855 singles and the imprint pair.

Regarding the cover which I am returning herewith. I will be glad to furnish you with a complete analysis of this cover but for same I would have to charge you a fee of \$5.00. I have spent quite a bit of time on this and went to the expense of making enlarged photographs, by ultra-violet, color and black and white.

Regarding the two singles, I am taking the liberty of sending these to my friend who owns the only reconstructed plate and with them I am sending him the lovely imprint pair so that he can have a look at it. I am requesting him to plate the two singles for me. I am wondering if by any chance you would be willing to part with the pair? I would love to acquire this for my reference collection.

Also may I inquire if by any chance you might be interested in acquiring a small collection of the 10¢ 1855 - every stamp in superb condition. The owner as yet has not definitely decided to part with it but if he does, the price will be around \$2500.00. No-covers, but all off cover singles, pairs, etc., with all types represented, and especially the finest of condition of the Type IV position.

Sincerely yours,

5.00
fee
for 5¢
1856
Sent
To
Rust

FRANK S. LEVI, JR.
11 ROCKWOOD DRIVE
LARCHMONT, NEW YORK

March 21, 1954.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
30 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

This is to acknowledge the return of the 5¢
1856 cover; I trust you found it interesting.

Thank you for sending the two 10¢ 1855 singles
along to your friend for plating. I look forward
to further word on them. As to the imprint pair
...afraid that I do not wish to sell same.

Regarding the collection of 10¢ 1855 that you
mentioned. I should not like to commit myself
without seeing the stamps but from what you say
there is a very strong possibility of my buying
same. So if the owner decides to sell please keep
me in mind.

Sincerely yours,

Frank S. Levi, Jr.

March 25, 1954.

Mr. Frank S. Levi, Jr.,
11 Rockwood Drive,
Larchmont, N.Y.

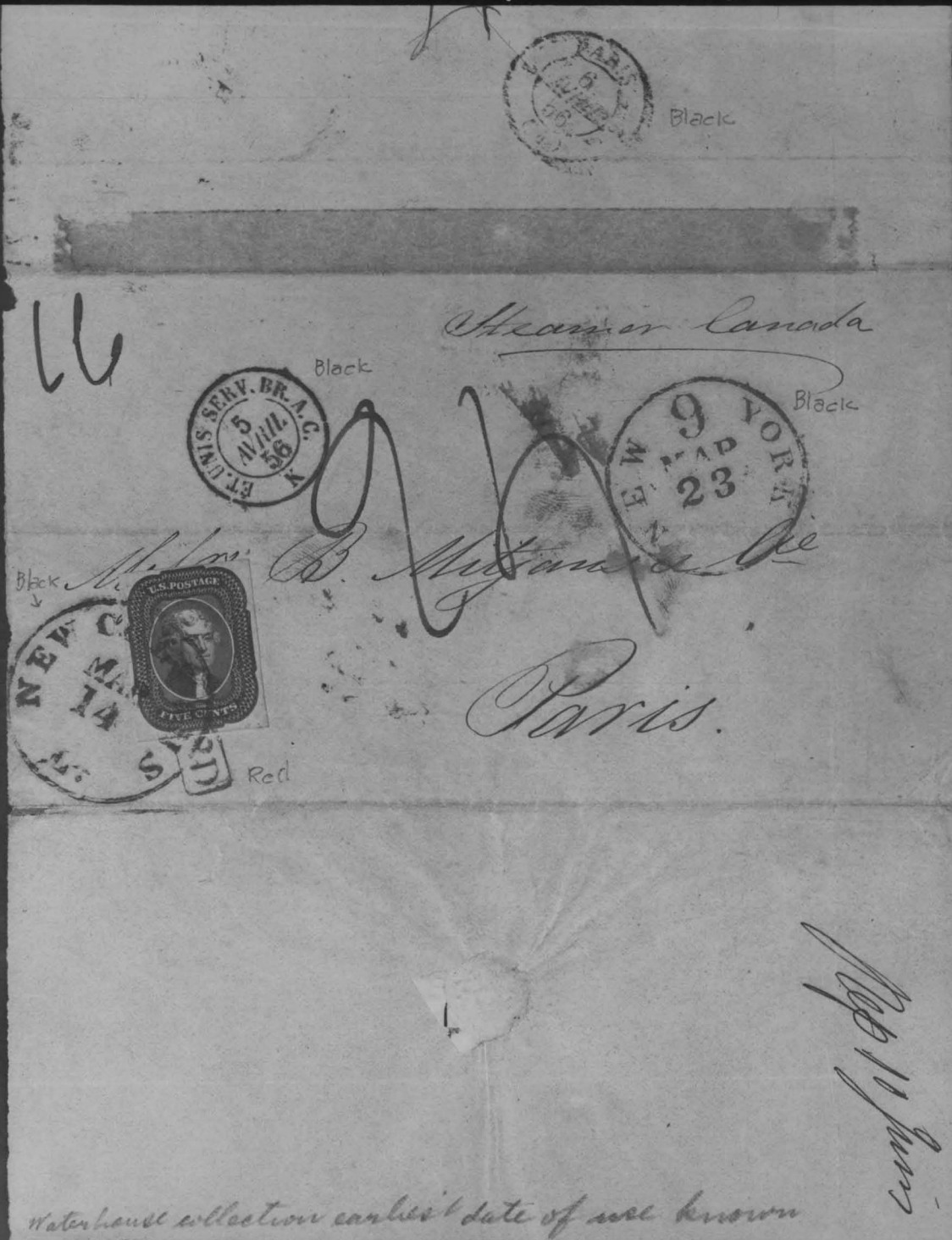
Dear Mr. Levi:.

Herewith I return your two singles and the imprint pair of the 10¢ 1855. My friend reported that both singles are 53L1, which is indeed quite a coincidence.

Regarding the 10¢ 1855 collection previously mentioned. In case my friend decides to sell I will take it up with you later. I regard it in the investment class - an investment of the safest nature.

I was sorry that you did not care for my opinion on your 5¢ 1856 cover. I believe it would have been of much interest to you. May I suggest that you send it to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation, New York City.

Sincerely yours,



FAKE 5¢ 1856 COVER, FRENCH DATE "56" - THE NEW YORK POSTMARK DID NOT COME INTO USE UNTIL APRIL 1 1857. THE NEW ORLEANS POSTMARK IS FRAUDULENT AND 5¢ STAMP WAS NOT USED ON THIS COVER, WHICH ORIGINALLY WAS A STAMLESS SENT UNPAID WITH 24 DECIMES DUE, OR 45¢, VIZ 3 x 15¢. Stanley B. Ashbrook
The Earliest Possible
USE OF THIS COVER WAS MARCH 23 FROM NEW YORK.

EARLIEST THIS
COULD HAVE BEEN
MARCH 1858

212

SEE B474 FOR QUARTZ OF SLAMP

ll

Steamer Canada



S. Meyer & Co.

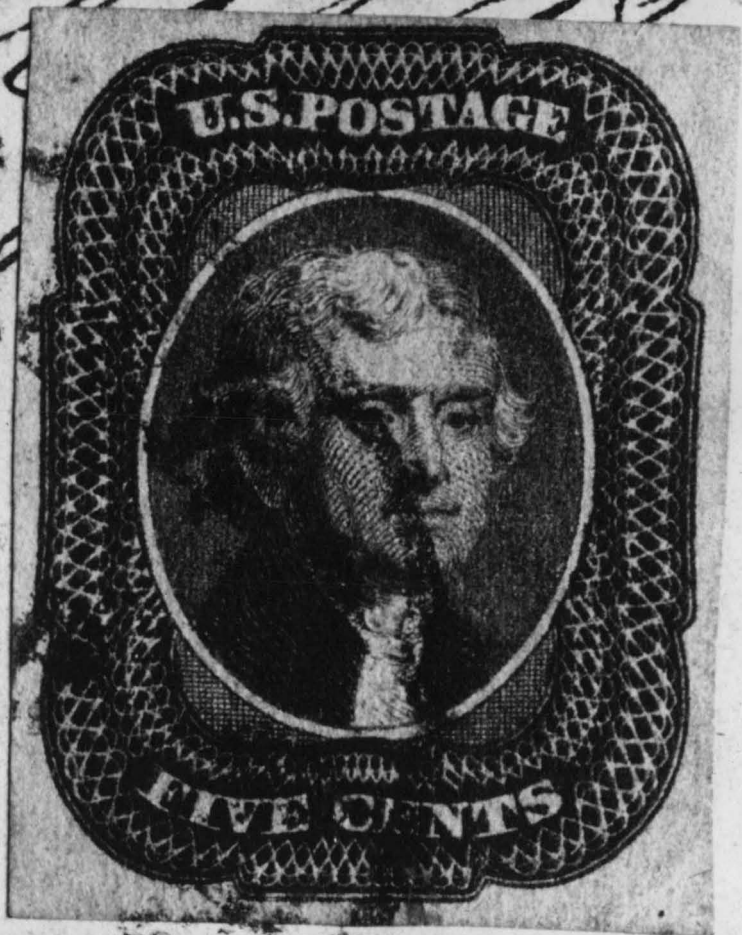
Paris.

FAKE COVER BY LEVI - SEE SB 30

April 1 1954

Service

145





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



FRANK S. LEVI, JR.
11 ROCKWOOD DRIVE
LARCHMONT, NEW YORK



HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT :
JAMES STUART ELLIOTT BULLOCH

CHAPLAIN :
REV. L. MAURICE WILLIAMS, M.A., B.D.

19



53

SECRETARY-TREASURER :
PATRICK C. COURTNEY

RECORDER :
VERNON EDNEY-CUFF

The Confederate Research Club,

164, Newcome Road, Fratton,
Portsmouth, Hampshire,
England.

mh/a/I

Wednesday,
3rd. March, 1954.

Stanley B. Ashbrook Esq.,
Box 31,
Fort Thomas,
Kentucky, U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for the booklet, "Notes on the Postal Legislation of the Confederate States of America", such items are invaluable in establishing a reliable information and reference service in this country.

We have already received many such items from other Confederate groups in the United States, particularly the Confederate Stamp Alliance, which I see you are a member of, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Perhaps you will assist us in a similar field; that of obtaining books devoted to the history of the Confederate States. Should you ever hear anyone say that they wish to dispose of any book or books on this subject, I shall more than appreciate it if you will put in a word on behalf of this club.

These books are few and far between over here, and we have great difficulty in securing them. We have been lucky to date however, and have recently been presented with the "Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government" by a Camp of the S.C.V. in Missouri.

I must close now as there is much still to do,

All good wishes, and please write any time you like,
I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick Courtney".

Patrick C. Courtney,
Secretary-Treasurer C.R.C.

March 13, 1954.

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

Dear Phil:

I am enclosing what the owner claims is a mint block of the 90¢ 1869 and he wants me to sell it but the darn thing looks queer to me. I guess there is no question but what the gum is fake. However, I am no authority on the Bank Notes and make no pretensions. I am sure that you can help me out, so what is this block?

I haven't heard from you since your return. I trust you had a good rest and an enjoyable time.

With best wishes -

Sincerely yours,

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

March 16, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

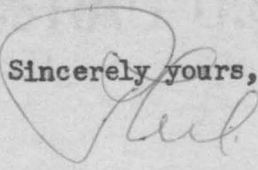
X I have your letter of the 13th with enclosure and would inform you that the block, which you submitted and which I herewith return, is the 1879 90¢ imperforate with privately applied perforations. The gum is original and this is from the part sheet found many years back of the 90¢ imperforate which, by the way, lists at \$300 a pair. In those days varieties such as imperforates were not wanted so that the fakers perforated the blocks. I do not know what you would call this but it is quite a curious piece. I have recollection of seeing a similar block sometime back. I do not know if this happens to be the same one or not.

Many years back, before the turn of the century, Coleman obtained sheets of the Newspapers in imperforate condition, clipped off the paper-number strip of five and had the balance of the sheet perforated. These perforated varieties are really Special Prints of the soft paper for they were made by the Bank Note Company as samples for the Bureau, who had recently taken over the contract. How Coleman got the sheets was never announced but he readily admitted that he had them perforated. As a result, many of the 1879 issues of the Newspaper stamps are from the Coleman lot.

I guess you would describe your block as 1879 90¢ imperforate with privately applied perforations. X

Always most pleased to give you any information and do not bother enclosing stamps for return postage. With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,


PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

enc.

March 19, 1954.

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

Dear Phil:

Thanks very much for the information on the 90¢ 1879 block. I am wondering if the gum on this is original? The reason I inquire is that I noted what I thought was gum in some of the perf holes indicating(?) that the gum was applied after being perforated. Could it be possible that this was from an imperforate sheet that someone in Washington lifted from the old files, applied perfs and gum?

Is it your opinion that this block is the same sort of variety as the 147C (3¢ 70), 156F, 158G, 158H, 178A, 184A. I note the S.U.S. states that 191B "was not regularly issued." Is one to infer from this that the above numbers were "regularly issued?" I also note 210B, 211A, 212A, 215A, 216B, 217A, 218A, etc.

I never took any interest in such trash because I never considered that such stuff were postal items because, in my opinion, they were never "regularly issued" to the public." If not, then they are not postage stamps but proofs. If so, then the 90¢ block is a perforated proof, perforated and gummed. What bothers me is why someone applied the gum after perforations?

I will greatly appreciate your comment on the questions I have raised above.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

March 19, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

Herewith I am sending you the 90¢ 1879 block. You recall to whom I sent it and I quote as follows from his letter:

"I have your letter of the 13th with enclosure and would inform you that the block, which you submitted and which I herewith return, is the 1879 90¢ imperforate with privately applied perforations. The gum is original and this is from the part sheet found many years back of the 90¢ imperforate which, by the way, lists at \$300 a pair. In those days varieties such as imperforates were not wanted so that the fakers perforated the blocks. I do not know what you would call this but it is quite a curious piece. I have recollection of seeing a similar block sometime back. I do not know if this happens to be the same one or not.

Many years back, before the turn of the century, Coleman obtained sheets of the Newspapers in imperforate condition, clipped off the plate number strip of five and had the balance of the sheet perforated. These perforated varieties are really Special Prints of the soft paper for they were made by the Bank Note Company as samples for the Bureau, who had recently taken over the contract. How Coleman got the sheets was never announced but he readily admitted that he had them perforated. As a result, many of the 1879 issues of the Newspaper stamps are from the Coleman lot.

I guess you would describe your block as 1879 90¢ imperforate with privately applied perforations."

~~Always best placed~~ (unquote)

I note that he states that this has the original gum. If this was from an imperforate sheet - then perhaps the sheet did not have any gum because it seems to me that this block was gummed after being perforated.

Inasmuch as he gave me this information free of charge I think it would be wise to keep it to ourselves. However, I suggest you do this - if you think advisable - Tell Les that I said it was from a sheet of imperforates that H.F. Coleman had perforated and gummed years ago. I suppose the things listed as 191B, were issued without gum. I may be wrong but this gum did not look good to me.

H. F. Coleman was a dealer in Washington, D.C. and he obtained a lot of material from unknown sources down there.

If you will examine the perfs you will note traces of gum which makes me believe the gum was applied before the perfs but I may be wrong. I note that Luff states that "occasionally the gum was quite brown." (referring to the 1879 stamps by the American Bank Note Company)."

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

March 25, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

Again referring to your 1879 - 90¢ block. I am quoting as follows from a letter from the same source as the previous one, quote:

"I have your letter of the 19th in further reference to the 90¢ 1879 block and would inform you that these imperforates were found many years back--in fact, long before I started to study stamps--and it has always been my guess that they were among stamps submitted for inspection to either the Post Office or else stamps retained for comparison in the files of the Bank Note Company. The gum on this block is identical with the pairs and blocks of the imperforate that I have seen heretofore. This gum was applied by hand, something I never knew until I ran across a letter in the files of the Department advising that the Bank Note stamps were gummed sheet by sheet by hand. This may have had a second coat of gum applied to it but I think not for it is the same dark gum found on the others. It is on the identical paper of the 1879 issue, is in the correct color and you might call it, if you want, an unissued stamp but I would by no means classify it as a proof. It is similar to the imperforates that we have in the 1890 issue and the 1895 issue as well as others. I doubt whether any of the imperforates, including the others which you mention in your letter, were ever regularly issued and sold over the Post Office counter. They, however, have been recognized for what they are over the years."

Compare the above with his first and let me have your reaction.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

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

March 22, 1954

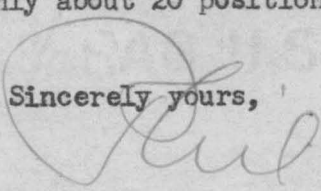
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

A I have your letter of the 19th in further reference to the 90¢ 1879 block and would inform you that these imperforates were found many years back—in fact, long before I started to study stamps—and it has always been my guess that they were among stamps submitted for inspection to either the Post Office or else stamps retained for comparison in the files of the Bank Note Company. The gum on this block is identical with the pairs and blocks of the imperforate that I have seen heretofore. This gum was applied by hand, something I never knew until I ran across a letter in the files of the Department advising that the Bank Note stamps were gummed sheet by sheet by hand. This may have had a second coat of gum applied to it but I think not for it is the same dark gum found on the others. It is on the identical paper of the 1879 issue, is in the correct color and you might call it, if you want, an unissued stamp but I would by no means classify it as a proof. It is similar to the imperforates that we have in the 1890 issue and the 1895 issue as well as others. I doubt whether any of the imperforates, including the others which you mention in your letter, were ever regularly issued and sold over the Post Office counter. They, however, have been recognized for what they are over the years.

I have just received a communication from Mort Neinken telling me he read with interest my remarks in "Mekeel's" on the 12¢ 1851. It comes as a surprise that he, too, is working on this stamp for I was of the opinion that only the three of you, who started this work some years back, had made any headway. He writes that as soon as he completes his 1¢ work he is starting in on the 12¢ and has considerable material. I see he has the plate 6 1¢ complete with only about 20 positions missing, which means about 180 have been plated.

Sincerely yours,


PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 12th, 1954

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

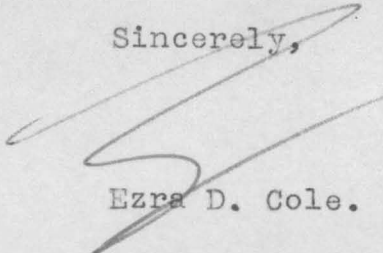
Dear Stan:

In the Harmer Rooke sale of March 23 and 24,
I see a lot of Ward's cripples.

What can you tell me about lot 165? Where did
it come from? I cannot find it although I am sure I
have seen it.

Also do you have any record of Lot 43? Don't
see anything else that might interest us.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

March 17, 1954.

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

Dear Ez:

Re - yours of the 12th, and the lots in the Harmer Rooke Sale of March 25-26.

I believe that it is only right that I put everyone on the same basis and charge each and all the same, therefore, I have adopted a new rule to be perfectly fair.

Molesworth has been a subscriber to my Service since the beginning and so has John Fox and both submit a lot of material to me for my opinion. John has always been most liberal in his payments.

Recently a dealer in New York, not a subscriber, made the following comment: "I understand you do not charge some dealers why do you make an exception of me?"

One more thing Ez, I do not think is hardly fair. You sent me a 5¢ 1847 and inquired if it was the "Orange." I sent you a personal note stating that it was. You sent the stamp to my close friend Charlie Putnam and charged him \$150.00. He would not have purchased the stamp without my assurance it was the correct color. I judge you made at least \$100.00 on the sale. Don't you think you should have paid me a \$5.00 fee? Here is the slip that you sent Putnam and which enabled you to make the sale.

I also have in mind the 5¢ 1847 cover that you sold to the Columbus, Ohio boy for \$1,550.00, the cover that I wrote up in STAMPS. He told me that he never would have bought it had it not been for my article.

As I wrote Em Krug lately, I am somewhat like the shapely little miss who stated she gave away a million dollars worth before she realized she could sell it. Of course, her wares were priceless but I came about mine the hard way, whereas God presented her with hers.

Re - Lot 43 in the sale. Off hand I am not sure that I have photos and a record of this, but I know all about \$165.

Please return the enclosed to me. If you care to mention it to Charlie, I have no objection but I think it would be best not to.

The Knapp shift changed hands this week and I now have it on my desk. First time I have had it on my desk since 1936. I'll bet that Elliott Perry would like to have it and study it. You would be surprised if you knew the present owner which I was requested to keep strictly confidential.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

March 22, 1954.

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

Dear Ezra:

I have your letter and I can assure you that all I had in mind was to lay all the cards face up and endeavor to be fair to everyone. I can absolutely assure you that I was not excited, peeved or anything else. I find that I am compelled to put my efforts on a money-making business. Why should there be any misunderstanding, etc., etc.?

Re - the 5¢ 1847 Orange. This stamp is now in Charlie Putnam's collection and he paid you \$150.00 for it. This is a fact. You sent the stamp to me and asked me if it was the S. U. S. Orange. I assured you it was, as per my memo on the slip. On my opinion, Putnam bought it. That is all there is to it. It is all water over the dam and I surely don't want any \$5.00 fee. I merely mentioned it because I have adopted a new rule.

You asked me a direct question - What I thought of the 24¢ '69 in the Harmer Rooke sale. I merely informed you that I was adopting a new rule and henceforth would charge a fee. I realize, of course, that you don't need my Service so that is the reason I never invited you to subscribe. As you know, subscription is only by invitation.

I really don't know whether Molesworth or Fox read my stuff or not, but I gained the impression at sometimes they do because at times they have commented on the contents. However, this is all beside the question and I doubt if either one would pay out \$100 per year if they didn't consider it money well invested. Whether it is nor not, I don't know. Maybe yes, maybe no.

I have some very close and intimate friends and neighbors who are lawyers and doctors, when I go to them for advice, treatment, etc., I expect to pay them their fee. I appreciate they have to earn a living. So Ez, there is nothing to get excited about and we can put things on a business basis. Whenever you want my opinion, ask for it and I will charge you a fee. I do appreciate your interest and your desire to help me make some money and I appreciate your effort along this line in the past. I believe that I endeavored to make it two-sided.

So there it is - all cards face up and no misunderstanding in any way, shape or form.

Re - the Knapp shift. Whether it is good or bad is not for me to say. I will leave that entirely to those who are better qualified to express an opinion than I am. Perry insists it is not a paint job, it is a genuine variety, but not a "Shift." Officials of the American Bank Note Company issued a statement over their signature that it was genuine. Why should I compete? Mrs. Souren offered the stamp to me several months ago. I sent her letter to Les. Incidentally, they no longer own the stamp and further, it so happens it is on my desk at the present time. I have a sneaking suspicion that the present owner don't give a tinker's

#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - March 22, 1954.

damn whether it is a genuine plate variety or not, he wanted it merely because it was the "Knapp Shift," an item that had received a lot of publicity in past years. Maybe he made a good investment - maybe not, I am sure I don't know. Back in the early forties, Hughey Clark asked me if he should list the "Knapp" in the S.U.S. All I said was "No." That could mean a whole lot and on the other hand it couldn't mean a darn thing.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 19th, 1954

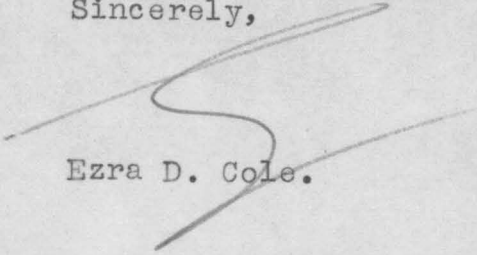
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

I know who bought the 10¢ Knapp Shift.

I know now that Bob Siegel and Les Brookman
bought it on a flyer together, at a cheap price, as is,
from the Estate on a gamble.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 19th, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

Yours of the 17th. First, with reference to the Harmer Rooke sale and Ward's junk. The reason I write you sometimes about these covers is that I feel that you might overlook them but mainly it is because other people might overlook them and there is a chance we could buy them and make some money on them. I was not just looking for free information.

I have been trying to get you to make some money rather than get something for nothing.

With reference to Molesworth and Fox being subscribers to your Service they sure need it but I guess they don't read it.

With reference to the 5¢ orange. I do not even know whether I sold this stamp to Putnam or not, and I could not tell for the life of me how much I got if I did sell it. You will note on the back it is carefully marked "return to EDC" and I am sure I sent it to him for reference purposes. He may have sent the stamp back to me and kept the slip. I don't know how I could check up on this but if I come across the stamp I will let you know about it. If I did sell it, I agree with you, and I would be very glad to pay you the \$5.00 fee. In all probability I had no intention of selling it when I sent it to you except to let you see the color and check it, not only to add to my knowledge but to yours as well.

With reference to the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 covers. I am sure I explained this to you in detail. I DID NOT SELL THE COVER. By Colby did. Of course I knew what it was when I bought it but I did not even buy it for the unusual rate, I bought it because it was from the town I used to live in and it was written from and also to two very close friends of my grandfather so it was an association item.

The only reason I have sent you material and I have so clearly stated many times is

- (1) if you think you could sell them we would split over ~~your~~ cost.
- (2) if you felt they were interesting you could use them in your Service Letter, take photographs of them or do anything you wanted to.

If you do not want me to continue this it is perfectly alright and as I said I will pay you the fee when I want an opinion on something that I am going to sell. If it is just sent along for one of the other reasons I will tell you.

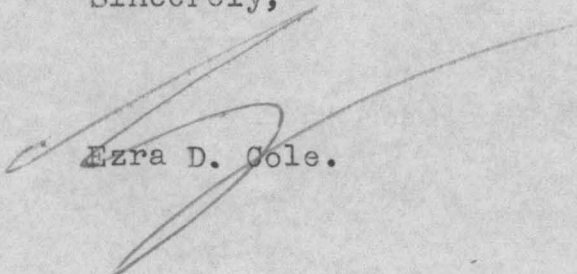
Perhaps I would be surprised if I knew the present owner of the Knapp shift but it is a fake just the same. Even the Philatelic Foundation has said so. H. R. Harmer had it, returned it to the Estate; Bob Siegel and Les Brookman have been doing some fussing around with it - they may have bought it "as is". So many people have had and are getting stamps from the Souren Estate no one knows what goes on, including the Estate.

With reference to Lot 43 in the Harmer Rooke sale. This would be a nice thing but of course originally there were two (2) stamps on the cover and the envelope and one of them was cut off.

Lot 165 was Steve Brown's cover and two stamps are missing on this and I do not think the 24¢ belongs.

Sincerely,

EDC:mkl


Ezra D. Cole.

P.S. AND PLEASE DON'T GET UPSET
FOR I WON'T - WHILE I HAVE
ASKED AND GOT SOME FREE
INFORMATION FROM YOU I HAVE
DONE THE SAME FOR YOU - AND
I HAVE AN IDEA THAT YOU HAVE
SOLD SOME STAMPS AND DONE
SOME WORK BECAUSE I TOLD
SOMEONE SOMETHING - EZ

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

FORT THOMAS, KY.

March 22, 1954.

COPY

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

Dear Ezra:

I have your letter and I can assure you that all I had in mind was to lay all the cards face up and endeavor to be fair to everyone. I can absolutely assure you that I was not excited, peeved or anything else. I find that I am compelled to put my efforts on a money-making business. Why should there be any misunderstanding, etc., etc.?

Re - the 5¢ 1847 Orange. This stamp is now in Charlie Putnam's collection and he paid you \$150.00 for it. This is a fact. You sent the stamp to me and asked me if it was the S. U. S. Orange. I assured you it was, as per my memo on the slip. On my opinion, Putnam bought it. That is all there is to it. It is all water over the dam and I surely don't want any \$5.00 fee. I merely mentioned it because I have adopted a new rule.

You asked me a direct question - What I thought of the 24¢ '69 in the Harmer Rooke sale. I merely informed you that I was adopting a new rule and henceforth would charge a fee. I realize, of course, that you don't need my Service so that is the reason I never invited you to subscribe. As you know, subscription is only by invitation.

I really don't know whether Molesworth or Fox read my stuff or not, but I gained the impression at sometimes they do because at times they have commented on the contents. However, this is all beside the question and I doubt if either one would pay out \$100 per year if they didn't consider it money well invested. Whether it is nor not, I don't know. Maybe yes, maybe no.

I have some very close and intimate friends and neighbors who are lawyers and doctors, when I go to them for advice, treatment, etc., I expect to pay them their fee. I appreciate they have to earn a living. So Ez, there is nothing to get excited about and we can put things on a business basis. Whenever you want my opinion, ask for it and I will charge you a fee. I do appreciate your interest and your desire to help me make some money and I appreciate your effort along this line in the past. I believe that I endeavored to make it two-sided.

So there it is - all cards face up and no misunderstanding in any way, shape or form.

Re - the Knapp shift. Whether it is good or bad is not for me to say. I will leave that entirely to those who are better qualified to express an opinion than I am. Perry insists it is not a paint job, it is a genuine variety, but not a "Shift." Officials of the American Bank Note Company issued a statement over their signature that it was genuine. Why should I compete? Mrs. Souren offered the stamp to me several months ago. I sent her letter to Les. Incidentally, they no longer own the stamp and further, it so happens it is on my desk at the present time. I have a sneaking suspicion that the present owner don't give a tinker's

#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - March 22, 1954.

damn whether it is a genuine plate variety or not, he wanted it merely because it was the "Knapp Shift," an item that had received a lot of publicity in past years. Maybe he made a good investment - maybe not, I am sure I don't know. Back in the early forties, Hughey Clark asked me if he should list the "Knapp" in the S.U.S. All I said was "No." That could mean a whole lot and on the other hand it couldn't mean a darn thing.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964
March 24th, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

Your letter of March 22nd. Fifield does have a terrible time with Norcross. As I wrote you he is as queer as a \$3.00 bill and Fifield is the only one who can get along with him. I know he has tried to get those things so that you can photograph and look at them, and Fifield probably feels a little bad about the whole thing for he would like to help you. I will see him when he is in New York with his next sale. I will try to stir him up and will report off the record what I find out.

Your further letter is fine and I agree with you. Just to get the record straight when I send you something that you can use for your own information or to help you I will send a note along with it. If it is something that I want back and want to sell and want your opinion so that I can sell it, I will be only too glad to pay you the \$5.00 fee. I will try to keep it straight so that you will know all about it too and if you have any doubt you can ask.

You may be right about the 5¢ orange but I do not recall a damn thing about it at all. Neither am I sure that he actually bought the stamp. At any rate he did not return the little slip which he was supposed to do.

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Wednesday, March 24, 1954.

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

Dear Stan,

It looks like old Ward has put it over and kept the sheet of Pan Pacific I wanted.

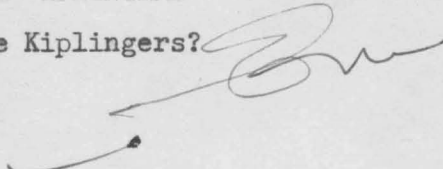
I have your letter of the 22nd and with the papers about Ezra. I return the complete file as you request. I agree 100% with your stand. I did the same when you advised me you had finally decided to charge for your service. Of course I hate to see any feeling except the very best to creep up between two folks as close to me as both of you are. However I know that will soon blow over. I just hope you stick to your guns now and make it a universal charge and to apply to all cases. Yes, I think Ez used very bad judgement in the case of the Orange to Mr. Putnam. Here is an example which occurs to me. Marvin from time to time sells for me stamps that I replace with better ones or sometimes "mistakes" we all make in auction buying. He makes a little and I usually do or at least come out even. I appreciate this. As a consequence I would not sell anything to anyone in this city no matter who it is except thru him and with a commission to him. For example you know I have that used block of 90¢ red carmine Bank Note, SUS 191, block of 25 which you wrote up in the SERVICE recently. Well there is an optician here that collects the 90¢ bank notes only and he would like that block at \$450.00 but cant see why he should pay Marvin an additional 10%. So there is no deal which satisfies me just as much for I like the block my own self. In like token Ezra should certainly lay off your close friends.

I will be most happy to take any bids for you to the Paige or Dan sales and may also be available for the Harris Hawaiian sale April 27th. We hope to leave here about Saturday week, or ^{more} likely Sunday. We will go on to New York direct for I want to be there to go to Boston on the 8th. We will return to Pittsburg to see our son, then to "Cincie" to see you and then to Indianapolis to see about mother's grave and on home.

Glad you had Stan, Jr. home for the week end. I know how you feel about his going for a long cruise. Still you wont have the fear of war as it has been in the past years. Let's hope we see no more of that during our time at least.

Sincerely,

P.S. Do you like to read these Kiplingers?



EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 22nd, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

My friend, Edwin Mueller, is going to
do a story on mixed frankings.

Of course I have a few photographs but
he cannot use cuts, he has to have photographs so
that he can have cuts made.

It is going to be a general article and
will only have U. S. covers incidentally, as part
of the story. He is going to try to cover a great
deal of the world.

Have you any photographs of any covers like
these that could be used? I am sure he will give you
credit. I certainly would rather see some nice things
illustrated than just a bunch of junk.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

March 25, 1954.

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

Dear Ezra:

Re - yours of the 22nd. If Mr. Mueller would like to have any photographs that I might have I suggest that you have him write me and inform me exactly what he would like to have and I will be glad to supply him prints @ \$2.00 each.

Some weeks ago, a chap out in Colorado wrote me that he was preparing an article on the Pony Express and would I be so kind as to supply him with photographs to illustrate his article. I replied that I would be delighted to do so and would send him a selection and he could retain any that he wanted from one up, returning the balance. Price \$2.00 per print. That is the last I heard. Goddamn it what do such short-skates think I am? To be quite frank I am getting fed up to the hilt with such stuff.

Recently a chap down East wrote me that he had a most unusual 5¢ 1856 cover and would I look it over. I advised him to send it. I was amazed when I examined it, and I made numerous photos, etc., etc. When I returned it I informed him that I would give him a complete description of the cover and I was sure the information would not only be of value but of interest. The fee for same would be \$5.00. He acknowledged receipt of the cover but made no mention of the facts concerning it or the fee.

Is it any wonder I am getting fed up to the hilt?

With regards.

Cordially yours,

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

MORNING AND SUNDAY
SUPERIOR AVE. AT EAST 6TH STREET

THE
FOREST CITY
PUBLISHING COMPANY
523-529 SUPERIOR AVE., N. E.
CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

CLEVELAND NEWS

EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY
SUPERIOR AVE. AT EAST 18TH STREET

STERLING E. GRAHAM
PRESIDENT
CHARLES F. McCAHILL
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN A. VAN BUREN
VICE PRESIDENT

March 18, 1954

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

Dear Stan;

All stamps received in good order and as I remember that 24¢ 1861 it was a much deeper purple than it is now. I noticed that when I took it out of the album and cannot figure what happened. The 3¢ were just nice copies and I put them in for the heck of it.

The next trip you make to Cleveland it might be possible for you to look over my junk on the chance I have something about which I know nothing. I have an awful lot of junk that I have never really looked at and the chances are that I would not know what I was looking at even then.

I really did enjoy your bulletin and only wish I have your patience and knowledge. It is my belief that present day collectors will never have the opportunity to really learn stamps the way the old timers did. By actual contact with hundreds of copies of each variety.

Please give my regards to Mrs. Ashbrook and I am glad that you both got through the winter in such fine shape.

Sincerely,

Don

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



U.S.A.
A.P.S.
B.N.A.P.S.

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

March 16, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your prompt and extremely interesting comments on the 1869 cover and other Confederate items recently submitted. Enclosed is my check for \$4 which I consider quite fair.

Enclosed are 2 covers which I would appreciate your examining and signing. I presume the 24¢ 1861 is #70 though it almost has the color of the August. I am also enclosing several off cover items that I would appreciate your checking as indicated on the card.

It appears that Stan, Jr. has an extremely nice setup in being able to take a cruise around the world at the Government's expense. I hope he has an enjoyable time and certainly do envy him myself as I was aboard ship for about one year myself and never got out of the Caribbean except for one trip through the Panama Canal to San Diego.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

March 19, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 16th. First, the court house cover with the two 1869 stamps. There is not sufficient evidence for me to endorse this as a genuine use of the 3¢ 1869. While the killers are similar on the 3¢ and 24¢, they seem a bit different. It would be comparatively easy for a faker to remove a lower value 1869 and substitute a 24¢ and wouldn't I be a bit foolish to authenticate such work? ①

The 24¢ 1861 cover. This is evidently a slight color changeling. It is a bit similar to the Violet but hasn't enough red in it to be classed as #70. I suppose that it might be put in the #70 Black Violet or more properly, Blackish Violet. The actual natural color changelings of the 24¢ are sometimes very difficult to classify according to colors listed by the S.U.S. I am sure that you are well aware of this. ②

Re - the H.S. of three of the 1¢ 1857 - I signed this on the back. ③

Re - the single - see memo on card - a WAS type. ④

Fee for above \$2.00.

PAID

MAR 28 1954

Stan Jr. is home on a few days leave to bid us good-bye as he expects his ship to sail on April 5th. Not absolutely certain as the economy movement of Washington may cancel the cruise plans at last moment. He wishes to be remembered to you.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--Thanks Jack for your check for \$4.00.

March 23, 1954.

Mr. Don K. Grieve,
1886 East 93rd St.,
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Don:

Yours of the 18th received.

Re - your 24¢ Violet. How odd!!! As I remembered this copy, I thought the color was remarkably good - which is the reason I wished to make a color slide. When I received it from you I thought to myself - the color isn't as good as I thought - I made a color slide but it was very unsatisfactory - It did not exhibit the true shade of the stamp to the proper extent. I am aware that these Violets do, over a course of long years, change and the best examples of early prints become fine examples of STEEL BLUE, but I have never known of a case where any change whatsoever occurred in a few years time. It is my opinion that this could not occur unless the stamp had been subject to extreme dampness or had been out in the open and had been subjected to fumes in the air or sunlight or some other deteriorating factor.

You are probably aware that I have long contended that the so-called "STEEL BLUE" was not an original color but a "natural color changeling" of the 24¢ Violet, the No. 60. We also have color changelings of the "red violet" and these "changelings" come in so many different shades it is practically impossible to classify many of them according to S.U.S. numbers.

It would be nice to sit down with you and go over your collection. Maybe the opportunity will present itself at some future date.

Mrs. A. joins me in kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

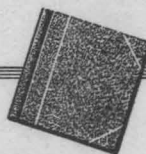


ALBUMS

2202 SUPERIOR AVENUE

Cleveland 14, Ohio

15410 BROOKPARK ROAD
CLEVELAND 11, OHIO



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

Dear Stan;

I am very happy to lend you the 24¢ for photographic purposes. I am also enclosing what I have in the 5¢ 1857. Whether they are good shades or not I do not know as they are not common enough around here to tell. As I am not so good at shades could you identify them for me so I do not mount them in the wrong places. I am writing this letter before looking for any thing else I might have so there may be more than is listed above.

Things are about as usual here and I have been waiting to hear from you. The boys really enjoyed your visit and always ask when you are coming back. It is entirely up to you and we will be happy to have you at any time. If you have noticed the program of the Collectors Club for May 5 you will see that we are on the program. About six or seven of us plan to make the trip and while we will not show them anything new we might show it different.

I trust that you both are well and enjoying good health. We are having a blizzard here and it is a dandy.

Best of everything;

D. K. Grieve,
1886 E. 93rd Street,
Cleveland 6, O.

*That you might like to look at the Philadelphia Dead Letter
Da*

Feb. 25, 1954.

Mr. D. K. Grieve,
1886 E. 93rd Street,
Cleveland 6, O.

Dear Don:

Several years ago you loaned me a 24¢ 1861 violet that was used from Wallingford Ct. on Sep. 5, 1861. As I recall, this was quite a good example of the color. If you still own it will you please loan it to me as I would like to make a color slide photograph of it. I will return it without any delay. If you have anything else that is exceptional in color such as any of the shades of the 5¢ 1857 will you loan them to me for the same purpose?

Haven't heard from you for a long time. How are you?

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

March 10, 1954.

Mr. D. K. Grieve,
1886 E. 93rd St.,
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Don:

Thanks very much for yours of the 5th with various enclosures which I return herewith. I made a color record of the 24¢ '61 on piece and signed this on the back - also a color slide of your 3¢ '61 cover with the Philadelphia markings. This is quite a nice item. I also marked the various 5¢ '57 copies. I doubt if there is anything exceptional about the three 3¢ or did I overlook anything?

Re - the 24¢ Violet. The original color has faded a bit and I suppose could now be classed as a #60 - "Pale Violet." The 3¢ '61 cover from New York shows a stamp that is badly faded evidently has been exposed to dampness or strong light. The 3¢ was never issued in such a pale shade though some printings made in 1864(?) were in a "muddy rose."

I would like to pay a return trip to Cleveland sometime as I certainly appreciated the warm reception I was tendered on my last visit. Give my kindest regards to all your associates. Best of luck on your visit to the C.C. in May. I wish I could be present.

I am pleased to report that we managed to put the winter behind us without any bad colds, etc. In fact, we didn't have a lot of bad weather down here in the Ohio Valley and very little snow. Thank God nothing like you had up your way.

Mrs. Ashbrook joins me in kindest regards and I hope that some day we will both have the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Grieve.

As an added thought I am sending you under separate cover a copy of my March 1st Service Issue. This contains details of a recent discovery and I trust it will prove a bit interesting.

Cordially yours,

May 8, 1954.

Mr. Don K. Grieve,
15410 Brookpark Road,
Cleveland 11, Ohio.

Dear Don:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of yours
of May 6th.

When I first saw your 24¢ stamp I thought it was
an excellent example of the violet. Recently when you sent
it to me I was not so favorably impressed and I suppose I
came to the conclusion that perhaps my first appraisal might
have been in error. I am now wondering if there might have
been a deterioration in the color between the time I first
saw it and the last. I am wondering if you read my article
that was published some years ago on the color changelings of
this stamp. If you haven't a copy I will be glad to loan one
to you.

With our best wishes -

Cordially yours,

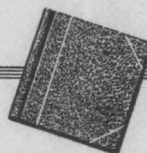


ALBUMS

2202 SUPERIOR AVENUE

Cleveland 14, Ohio

15410 BROOKPARK ROAD
CLEVELAND 11, OHIO



May 6, 1954

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

Dear Stan;

I have checked everything and cannot figure out what happened to the 24¢ violet. It did not come off on the album page and as I only work on my stamps at night the sunlight could not affect it. I suspect the cause lies in the fact that the stamp was in an album, unopened, for about 30 years and after that length of time the color was just barely hanging on and the first air took it away. It is just one of those things that happen and almost impossible to guard against.

I trust you both are enjoying good health and good weather,

Sincerely,

D. K. Grieve.

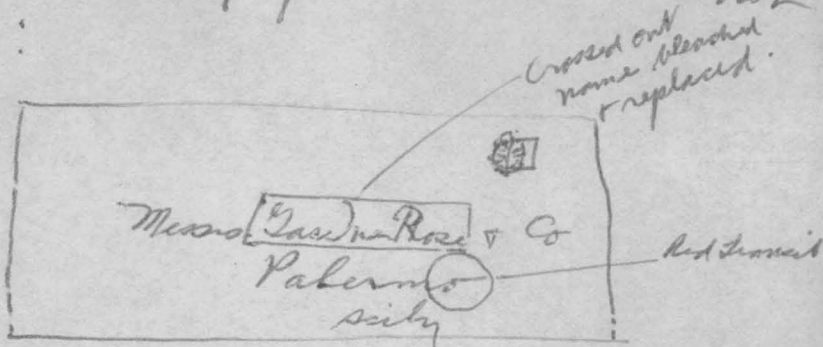
1886 E. 93rd Street,
Cleveland 6, O.


E. D. WARSHAUER
901 HILLSIDE BLVD.
CARRCROFT
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Mar. 14, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I recently had offered me
a cover bearing the 304 1869 signed
and guaranteed genuine by you. A
rough drawing of the cover is shown
below:



The cancellation is rather heavy
in black something like this  and
your guarantee is dated Apr. 11, 1945.
There are also three cancellations on
the back, transit and receiving.

Since I believe you keep a
record of such covers would
it your mind confirming the above
agrees with your records. (over)

Self addressed envelope is
enclosed for convenience in re-
plying.

Sincerely,

J. D. Washburn

March 23, 1954.

Mr. E. D. Warshauer,
901 Hillside Blvd.,
Carrcroft,
Wilmington, Delaware.

Dear Mr. Warshauer:

Replying to yours of the 14th, I have a photograph of the cover and I am familiar with its history. I acquired the cover in the middle 1930's from a reputable dealer and sold it to Mr. S. W. Richey of Cincinnati. When I sold his entire collection about ten years ago, I sold this cover for him, but off hand I haven't a record who purchased it. There never was any question in my mind that the cover was not genuine in every respect.

Sincerely yours,

(30-48)

2221 Washington Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland
March 15, 1954

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

Dear Sir:

I have had in my collection for a number of years a One Cent 1851 Type IV cover showing usage from Eaton Rapids, Michigan dated May 20, with no year date. I originally acquired this piece because of the wonderfully deep color of the stamps; and upon more careful study, including comparison with known early printings, it has become apparent that the strength of the plate markings confirms the earliness of the printing. Suspecting an 1852 usage, I have unsuccessfully investigated the possibility that the addressee had died or moved prior to May of 1853. Since my limited research has borne no fruit, I can only build a circumstantial case as follows:

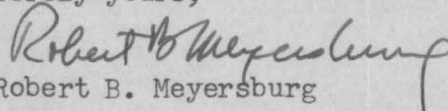
1. Based on color and impression, as early a printing as I have seen.
2. A corner strip (98-99-100RLL) - an obvious place to attack a fresh pane.
3. Correct postal use for the period.
4. Postmarked May 20, only a few weeks earlier than the presently assumed earliest date.
5. Entirely different appearance from any May 1853 uses I have seen.
6. I do not reasonably expect a pane of one cent stamps to remain even in a small post office for a year; and while the probability of a private individual requiring a year to use up one hundred one cent stamps is greater, it also is not high.

I have never seen other postmarks from Eaton Rapids, Mich., so there has been no opportunity to compare mine with dated standards.

I write to inquire first, if you believe a May 20, 1852 usage of the Type IV is a real possibility; and second, if it is, to seek suggestions for other means of attempting to determine the year date of use. You are more than welcome to examine the cover if you care to.

May I seek your considered judgment on another matter? I have a cover which you may recall, since you note its existence in your book, containing an irregular and broken block of nine Plate 2 one cent 1851's, and a single Plate 3 copy showing the center line (30L3), used on a ten cent entire from California to Alabama. The condition of both the stamps and envelope shows a certain amount of deterioration, due perhaps to some chemical interaction between the different papers. Do you feel that this cover has enough philatelic significance to keep it intact in its present form, as opposed to removing the stamps in order to preclude further deterioration? My own inclination is to keep the cover intact and preserve it as best I can; but the stamps have become very brittle, especially at the edges. I would appreciate your comment on this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Robert B. Meyersburg

March 23, 1954.

Mr. R. B. Meyersburg,
2221 Washington Ave.,
Silver Spring, Md.

Dear Mr. Meyersburg:

I have yours of the 15th and have very carefully noted the contents. No doubt you have a copy and I will comment on your notations as follows:

1) I have seen what I consider very early 1852 impressions and colors used in 1853.

2) Yes, this is rather good circumstantial evidence but in no way conclusive.

3) Yes, but of little value.

4) Noted.

5) See No. 1

6) I have seen imperfs of the 1¢ used as late as 1860. A use of a stamp that was printed in May 1852, in May 1853 would not appear unusual to me. A number of reasons could account for such a late use if you wish to call it that, but I don't think I would class it as a "late use."

I have been keeping a record of the earliest known dates of use for many, many years and I have endeavored to be extremely careful that the use was correct. I have tried to avoid errors and by being extremely careful I have avoided giving out false information.

Unless we could prove, in some way, that the use was actually May 20, 1852, it would, of course, be impossible to list the date. I readily admit that the use could have been May 20, 1852, and no one would be more pleased than myself to set the date of Plate One Late back to that date. I wish I could suggest some way to assist you but I fear that I cannot. In the meantime I will keep your letter on file as the date as a "possible," though I cannot help but believe the actual use was 1853.

Regarding the cover you mentioned. Yes, I remember it quite well though I haven't seen it since 1936, but I believe I did notice that it came up at auction recently. As I recall, it was from California and addressed to Mobile, Ala. and the name of the addressee was Andy Black. I plated the Plate 3 stamp at that time as a center line position 30L3. I am sure that no one else had the data that would have enabled them to plate the stamp. I believe that Harry Jefferys

#2. Mr. R. B. Meyersburg, March 23, 1954.

bought the cover along about 1937. I do not remember the condition of the stamps at that time but the chances are that no great deterioration has taken place in the last 20 years. I do recall that no one knew the single stamp was from Plate 3 until I plated it. If I owned the cover I believe I would not remove the stamps.

Sincerely yours,

(30-49)

Lewis J. Mann
262 Spring Street
Portland (4), Maine
Apartment 6

Stanley B. Ashbrook (APS #2497)
33 North Fort Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas
Kentucky

Dear Sir:

I'm enclosing an imperforate horizontal-, and a perforated vertical-strip-of-three which may be of interest to you, and on which I'd appreciate some information. (This is rather a "one word for you, and two for myself" situation, I'll admit.)

The lady who presented me with the vertical strip (which I believe to be from the top, second, and third rows of Plate 6--a point upon which I'd like your opinion) kindly steamed them off the cover for me. I practically ruined a nice top coat before I found it where she disposed of it at the very bottom of her incinerator...not even scortched! The cover was a "Parker House, School Street, Boston" corner on buff; Boston Cancellations #663A in red, and #624; dated May or March 9, 1869. (It could be 1868, but #663A isn't known that early.)

The mint strip I can't get to first base on except in a negative way: I THINK they're from the first, second, and third vertical rows; but if so I figure the spacing and/or alignment throws Plates 1E, 1L, and 2; and the reliefs on Plate 4 doesn't seem to jibe with the one on the strip (if the stamp farthest east is the same relief as the other two).

So that's my problem: Is it, or ain't it, a strip from Plate 3? And are all three Type 2?

Do you believe the top stamp in the vertical strip and those mint copies could be repaired? And if so, do you consider them worth repairing? I dislike imperfect specimens, but repaired, nice looking copies of our early issues are much better than nothing.... especially when the material is as tight as it is in this town.

As an after-thought I'm also enclosing a single copy of (what I assume to be) #20R7, upon which someone (in a pensive mood, no doubt) "doodled" extra shading lines, et cetera, upon astute old Ben's silv'ry locks; and then his tribute (in the only undoodled place left--his face) with a deathless observation: "A wig I should think".

The writing on this curio seemed very similar to another long-ago doodler (if they aren't the same person) who penned the name "Washington" across Franklin's skull on four of the nine stamps on "Emerson" cover and pictured on page 142 of Volume I of your book. The writing certainly is very similar--note the "i", "g", and "t"; also the "h" in one and "k" in the other.

Sorry to be so long winded, and if there's any charge or anything please advise. Thank you very much.

Yours philatellically(?),

Lewis J. Mann
LEWIS J. MANN

March 24, 1954.

Mr. Lewis J. Mann,
262 Spring St - Apt. 6,
Portland 4, Maine.

Dear Mr. Mann:

Herewith the three 1¢ 1857 items contained in yours of the 19th. You are quite correct, the vertical strip is from the three top horizontal rows of Plate 6, however, the impression is so late and worn I was not able to do plate it. I might have been able to do so had the perfs not cut the design so much at the top. I endorsed it on the back.

The horizontal imperforate strip of three is from the right pane of Plate 2, and "A" relief - positions 51R2 - 52R2 - 53R2.

Re - the single. I note you thought this was 2OR7. However, 2OR7 was a "B" relief, whereas this is a "C" relief. The pen decoration on this copy is quite odd.

Re - the top stamp in the vertical. You will note that I closed the tear for you so as to prevent further damage. This is all that should be done.

For the above, my fee is \$2.50, which includes return registration.

I am returning your envelope and wish to call attention to your Post Office's use of wire staples. The use of such clips is contrary to P.O. Regulations and I think the attention of your Postmaster should be called to this violation. What right has a postal clerk to punch wire clips thru a registered letter? Cases have been reported where these clips have ruined a valuable stamp. It is a wanton and damnable practice.

Sincerely yours,

April 20, 1954.

Mr. Lewis J. Mann,
262 Spring Street,
Portland 4, Maine.

Dear Mr. Mann:

Yours of recent date received with check for \$2.50, for which please accept my thanks.

Re - the method I use to close a tear - dampen or wet a good hinge - not peelable, and pull thru the tear as per sample herewith. Do not make any attempt at patch-work but merely close the tear to prevent further damage. I enclose the type of old fashion hinge that I use.

Re - your 3¢ 1867 that I return herewith, no, this is not a pre-cancel but a cancelation that is well known and was used in the sixties at Leominster, Mass.

I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. N. R. Abrams, Asst. P.M.C. which is as follows:

"April 16, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Further reference is made to your recent report of damage to the contents of a registered article mailed at Portland, Maine, due to improper use of a wire staple in affixing the return receipt.

The postmaster at Portland reports that renewed instructions have been issued cautioning all employees of his office who accept mail for registration not to use staples in affixing return receipts when the articles are known, or presumed to contain valuable documents or stamps of philatelic value, or in any case where the sender objects to the use of staples.

It will be appreciated if you will advise this Bureau as to the name and address of the sender of the registered article in question in order that it may be suggested that he request the accepting postal employee not to affix the return receipt by means of staples when presenting mail of this character for registration.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) N.R.Abrams

Assistant Postmaster General."

I am wondering if you overlooked to return to me the other letter that I sent you in my letter of April 12th.

Sincerely yours,



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

March 26, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

Enclosed is my check for \$2 to cover your fee on the last lot. Many thanks for your comments. I can understand your position on the 24¢ - 1869 item. My source purchased this in the last Fox auction; why the auctions do not send these things to you in advance of their being sold I do not know as it would certainly save a lot of headaches. The owner is sending it to the Foundation to see what they may say on it.

Enclosed is another nice 24¢ - 1869 cover that should be rather rare in this condition on a small cover if genuine. I picked this up in the Harmer Rooke sale of Tuesday and am a bit suspicious of it though I believe there is no inconsistency between the markings and the stamp. However, the right corner looks a little odd as if there should have been some stamps there! Anyway, your examination and signature on the back if genuine will be greatly appreciated.

Please give Stan Junior my regards and wish him Bon Voyage!

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

March 28, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 24¢ 1869 cover as per yours of the 26th. I wired you yesterday afternoon as follows:

"TWENTY FOUR CENTS SHORT PAID IS FAKE IMPOSSIBLE TO RETURN
UNTIL MONDAY - STANLEY B. ASHBROOK"

I hope that you have not paid Harmer Rooke & Co. for this. I have known this cover for many years back. At one time, it belonged to the late Steve Brown, but it is my recollection that it was not in his sale. I may have informed him it was bad and he got rid of it. It turned up in the hands of a prominent dealer who tried to sell it as genuine but a prospect sent it to me and it was returned to the dealer. He was informed it was a fake. I don't know who put it into the recent Harmer Rooke Sale but I think they are subject to criticism when they offer a cover such as this with no assurance it is good. I suppose they are well aware of the fact that genuine 24¢ 1869 covers cannot be had at bargain prices. A reputable firm would demand that a seller accompany a cover such as this with a certificate that it was genuine, though I doubt if any member of the P.F. Expert Committee would know whether it was good or bad.

The faker removed two stamps from the upper right corner and substituted the 24¢. The cancel on the stamp is genuine but the "tie" on the cover is a paint job. The use was not in 1869 but much earlier. I have an idea that perhaps the cover originally had a 12¢ and 3¢ 1861, and because 30¢ should have been paid, the cover was rated as Short Paid or entirely unpaid with "16" decimes due at Prices. Had the weight not have been over 1/4 ounce, France would have been entitled to a credit of 6¢ (not the red New York with 6, an error) and the U. S. share, the balance 9¢. It was discovered that the weight was over 1/4 oz., hence the U. S. debited France with 2 x 9¢, hence the black New York with "18."

One more point - the "SHORT PAID" marking. The left end of this is genuine but the right end has been retouched or painted - why I don't know. The "D" of "PAID" was not a large letter but smaller and the genuine was several millimeters longer. I enclose a tracing from my files of a genuine strike. Lay this over the strike on the cover and you will see the difference.

Later

I feel sure this cover was Lot 1351 in the Brown Sale by Harmer, Rooke & Co. on Nov. 2, 1939. It was sold as "doubtful" and "as is." It was purchased by Ward for \$39.00. I note by my catalogue that I condemned it at the time. The pencil memo on the back is by Brown and the "H D H" shows he paid \$101.00 for it on Jan.

#2. Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - March 28, 1954.

30, 1932. Someday soon I intend to write this up in a Service Issue and brand it as a rank fake.

I enclose a photo-print by ultra-violet which speaks for itself.

My fee for the above is \$5.00.

PAID APR -3 1954

Stan Jr. is due to sail on April 5th but at this writing they have not received final sailing orders. I will convey your message to him.

Thanks very much for yours of the 26th with check as stated.

With regards -

Sincerely yours.

P.S.--Please return the tracing to me.

Straight Wire

3/27-54

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

Twenty four cents short Paid is
false impossible to return
until Monday

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

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



U.S.A.
A.R.A.
B.N.A.P.S.

Jack E. Molexworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

April 1, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

Thanks for your letter of March 28th and your detailed comments on the 24¢ - 1869 cover for which I enclose my check for \$5.00. Though the slight delay in your reply made no difference as I had not paid for the cover, I did not receive the wire which you mentioned sending so you might like to check and see what happened to it. I certainly do appreciate your consideration in making an effort to so notify me even though it was not received.

Why Harmer, Rooke put items like this in their sale without having them checked by you I do not know. I probably should not have bothered to buy it in view of my suspicions but if I had not then some other naive buyer might have bought it and ended up getting stuck. Incidentally, I believe Fox was the underbidder and wonder if he would have sent it along to you himself if he had been the buyer? I have sent the cover back to them and implied that whoever may have put it in the auction may have probably known it was bad, and will let you know if they make any interesting comments in their reply.

April 5, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks very much for yours of the 1st with check for \$5.00.

It surely appears that some auction houses don't give a damn whether a cover is good or bad. All that matters is that the buyer will not find out about it until too late to get his money back. Of course, it is none of my business how Gordon Harmer conducts his business, hence I cannot suggest that he have a cover such as this authenticated before he offers it in a sale. He surely must be aware that an off cover 24¢ '69 cats at \$37.50, whereas a cover is quoted @ \$400.00. I would think it would be okay for you to suggest to him that it is really unethical to sell such a cover without any assurance it is good. Is it not similar to a real estate agent trying to get cash for a piece of property without any assurance the title is good?

Regarding the wire that I sent you. I was surprised that you never received it. I will call attention of the Western Union to this and I will refuse to pay for same.

Again re - the 24¢ 1869 cover. This cover belonged to a dealer the last time I heard of it. He sent it to Moody and Moody sent it to me. When I informed him it was a fake he returned it to the dealer. Of course, he could have sold it later "as is" to the one who put it in the sale.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

April 5, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - Harmer Rooke sale of March 23-26 last,
and Lot #65 - this a 24¢ '69 cover marked "Short Paid."
I understand you were the runner-up. For your information,
this cover is a rank fake and one I have known for many years.
I wonder why Gordon Harmer would put a cover like this in a sale
when there is no assurance it is genuine?

This cover was in the Brown sale in 1939 and was described as doubtful at that time. The sale price was \$39.00.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

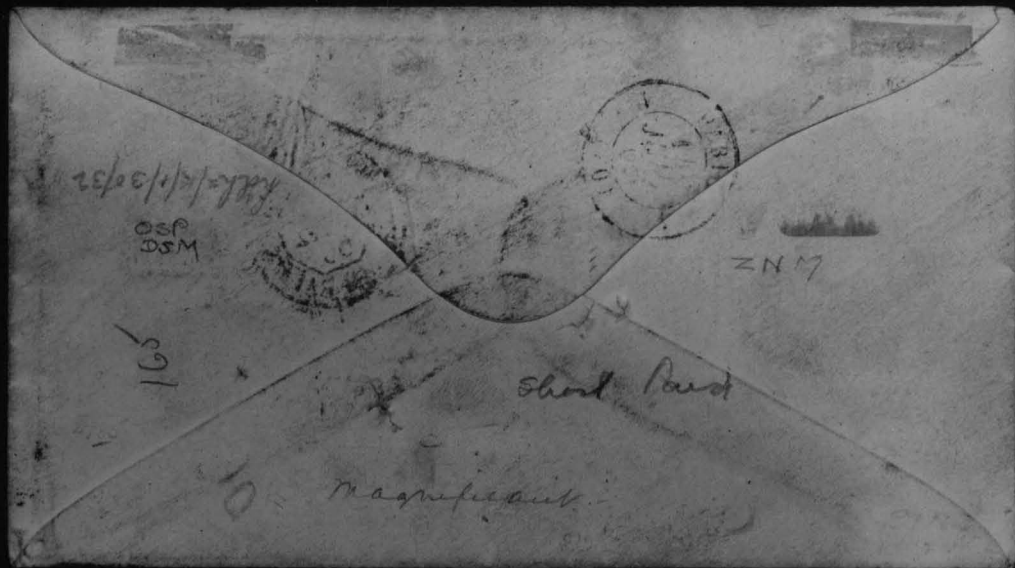
QUARTZ 9 MIN FOT

B467
HARMER ROOKE
SALE
3/25

1954
LOT
165
SEE
SB
30
P.36



"50" PLATE - F128 - 10 SEC



BACK OF B467
24469 - "SHORT PAID"

L. G. BROOKMAN

Stamps for Collectors

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

121 LOEB ARCADE
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

R.D.P.
A.S.D.A.
M.C.C.

3/12/54

Dear Stan:

I would be happy to have slides of the Knapp and it has occurred to me that since this is a black stamp it is perfectly legal to shoot it and to have color prints made of it. This will show the cancellation and of course if you want to shoot a couple thru a filter you can do this also. I'll be glad to pay for any expenses involved and I want you to bill me.

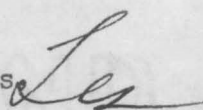
I've been so busy that I've not looked at this stamp for more than 5 minutes, if that, since I obtained it and I have yet even bothered to put it under my lamp. Must try and find a moment to do this. I don't think I'll send it with this letter as it is blowing and snowing to beat the very devil. Will try and forward it next week. I want to register it of course but I'll be darned if I'll go to the P.O. thru this storm. I'm supposed to fly to Omaha tomorrow afternoon--have the ticket in my pocket-- but I may not be able to get out of here because of the storm. Even if I can get out by plane I will not go unless a friend of mine, who dug up this lead for me, can get there by car from Newton, Iowa. According to present weather reports it is most doubtful if we can both get to Omaha tomorrow. May have to put it off a week--will phone him tonight to find out.

Just called a doctor friend of mine and he says that one of these days he will meet me at the hospital and we can look at the Knapp thru a binocular microscope which should be very interesting. I think that I can also have it looked at with an electronic microscope, in New York, which will look right into the crystalline structure of the ink and that should reveal something. I wish I had a few examples of the Post Office Shift to examine--I would like to know if each of them, in the shifted area, were identical in every respect. I suppose they are but it would be most interesting to find any of them with any part of the doubling missing.

I believe the Knapp is on a very late printing but of course this means absolutely nothing unless there is something to the "solder theory". If the cancellation is genuine then old H.R.H. is 100% wrong. The electronic microscope ~~should~~ could reduce the problem to the solder theory or a printing variety. Most interesting.

Henry had a wonderful time with you.

Sincere regards



March 19, 1954.

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

Dear Les:

Your two letters of the 12th and 15th and the "Knapp shift" received. I made color slides of the stamp and they are being processed at present. I will hold the stamp until the slides come back so as to be sure they are okay. A little over or under-exposed makes a lot of difference. I mentioned in a letter to Henry I would hold the stamp so as to be sure the slides are okay. So far I haven't used any colored filters for slides but I have a red and I will try it on the Knapp before I return the stamp. I would have to guess at the exposure.

Re - your examination of the Knapp. If you can - be sure and examine it under a high power binocular for the sole purpose of examining the structure of the ink. That is all important. Satisfy yourself one way or the other that the ink is the same that printed the stamp and the ink of the shift. If you can satisfy yourself on this point you will have an opinion of your own that would be hard to convince you otherwise. So enough on this subject - but I might add - I don't think that the cancelation feature will get you very far but it might in some respects.

I was surprised at two things, viz: (1) that Mrs. S. sold it so cheap and (2) that Henry bought it. In the event you can satisfy yourself that it is genuine, then Henry has a very great bargain. If otherwise then he paid \$600 for an item whose only value is the publicity it received in past years.

Further - as a last resort and final - before any decision, I suggest that the stamp be sent to my friend Cheavin in London for a thorough X-ray photographic examination. In my opinion he is the greatest authority in the world on such work. If he gave his okay then you could write an article - "The stamp that fooled the experts."

So far, I have not had any prints made from philatelic slides, and I doubt if I will do so unless I could obtain permission from Washington. I don't believe that true color values could be transferred to prints but prints might be okay for covers. However, at present I don't want any interference from Washington so will not invite same. They couldn't possibly object to slides because it would be damn silly to imagine they could violate any sections of the illustration law. I do wish that we could obtain a ruling on prints.

Mildred and I were discussing those headaches of yours and I don't like them. I believe that you should slow down a bit. They could prove darn serious. You should get out of all that cold weather and locate in a more southern city. Cleveland has always been a good stamp city and with a live dealer there like you, I am sure you could do much better than in Minneapolis and have better health. You should make such a change while you are still young. The roots grow deeper every year.

Our best regards - Cordially yours,

L. G. BROOKMAN

Stamps for Collectors

121 LOEB ARCADE
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

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

R.D.P.
A.S.D.A.
M.C.C.

March 15, 1954

Dear Stan:

This will surprise you as much as it did me when the event occurred but I have sold the Knapp Shift.

Henry Hill looked at it when I first brought it back and apparently had only curiosity interest in it. Saturday, right out of a clear sky, he asked me what I would take for it. I told him that Siegel and I paid \$400 for it and I would take \$600 if he was sure he wanted it. He peeled off the cash and bought it and that was that. Now of course I made no representations about it other than I thought that it was NOT a normal shift but was an interesting item that might be worth quite a bit to anyone because of its past history. He is well pleased with it--whatever it may be.

*showing
red
cancel*

I would very much like a slide of this (we looked at some today you shot for Stan) and I also would like a color photo which I can have made if you cannot. Of course Henry would like the same deal and told me to ask you to make this for him and put it with his other slides you are making for him. I went with him today and we picked out a wonderful projection machine so he is now all set. I doubt if Siegel has a machine so he no doubt would like to have a photo which either you or I can have made from the transparency. Be sure to bill me for this.

Just flew in last night from Omaha where I picked up a 25 volume collection of U.S. Fair lot--will try to sell it tonight. Have a miserable headache right now so will knock off and try to get this in the mail.

Sincere regards,

Les

*Sticking in a few
stamps for return
Postage.*

March 28, 1954.

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

Dear Ezra:

Your two letters of the 24th and 25th received.

I note you were leaving for Atlanta - and may get over to Birmingham. Gore wrote me he would be in New York until the end of the month. I believe the Krugs are due in New York on the 5th.

I sure was surprised to learn that Lehman sold his collection to John Fox. Does this mean his U. S. and Confeds? What was the big idea? Is he getting out of stamps entirely? Gosh how some people can get so hot and then cool off until they are as cold as a fish, viz., our architect friend in Baltimore, Moody, Shenfield, MacBride and many others that we have seen come and go - Brooks, Richey, etc., etc. I'll bet Fox did not obtain any great bargain but have no fear, John will not lose any money.

I had a letter from Fifield and I feel confident that he will do all he can. Back in 1936 I had quite a lot of correspondence with Norcross and he loaned me anything I wanted to see. All of a sudden he ceased to answer my letters. No trouble of any kind.

Norcross has two 5¢ 1847 Orange - the used Slater copy - and the unused Gibson copy. I never saw the latter but it is said to be exceptionally fine. He paid \$750.00 for it and \$425.00 for the Slater. I would like to borrow both. Edson will be in New York the latter part of this week and I am to write him there.

Okay Ez on future arrangements. The whole thing in a nutshell is this - I cannot afford to antagonize paying customers by making any exceptions in the matter of fees. So we will make a mutual agreement - When I require an opinion from you, I will pay you a fee. With my Service I do not furnish any free examination of stamps or covers.

For your confidential information Molesworth sent me the 24¢ '69 cover and I have always charged him fees - these in accordance with the value of the cover. In this case, I will save him \$270.00 and who can say it is not worth five bucks. Besides I furnished him with a photo print by ultra-violet which speaks for itself. I had forgotten that this cover was in the Brown sale and I have a memo in my catalogue that it was bad. Ward bought it and is probably the present owner. He sent it to Moody in 1940 @ \$500.00. Moody sent it to me - then in 1942 Ward sent it to me. He might have found some sucker buyer but I doubt it.

Ez, I can assure you that I am 100% correct on the 5¢ Orange. I have the stamp here at present as I borrowed it to record the color. Putnam paid you \$150.00 for it, and he asked my advice before he bought it from you. It is all water over the dam so forget it. I merely mentioned it because I thought that it was hardly fair.

Again re - the "Knapp shift." What if it could be definitely established that the ink of the stamp was the same as that of the "shift," then I suppose it could not be a "paint job." Back in 1935 I spent a whole day with Dolph Fennell at

#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - March 28, 1954.

the Cincinnati School of Pharmacy. The college was equipped with all sorts of microscope equipment. Dolph was the head of the college. We called in several of the professors and explained what we wanted to know. Were the lines of the "shift" of the same ink as the stamp itself. The final answer was a positive yes. I must confess that I was at that time very much impressed. I put the same question up to the officials of the American Bank Note Company thru a Vice-president. Was his name Treadwell? Their findings was the same. I haven't a 500 power microscope or any equipment to detect the difference between the ink of the shift and the ink of the stamp, but what would you think if you examined the stamp under a 500 power and was convinced the ink was the same? I had no part in the sale of the stamp to the present owner. As I wrote you, I don't think he gives a tinker's damn whether it is a genuine variety or a paint job. He evidently bought it because it is the "Knapp shift" and "unique." I understand he intends to have scientific tests made regarding the inks of the shift and that of the stamp. If he asks me what I think, I will tell him the same that I told various people in past years - viz - Knapp swore it was genuine. So did Steve Brown. Sweet said it was a painting. Perry said it was not a painting but an "imitation shift," - whatever that is. H.R. Harmer said it was a lousy fake. Souren said it was genuine. Who am I to differ with any of the above, but I can tell you this - I would be darn surprised if I ever found out I was wrong. I disagree with you on one point. You mentioned you could point out something to me that would prove it is a fake. Do you think that in all the years I have had with this stamp that you could point out something I had never noticed? If so, I must be dumb as the very devil.

I am enclosing a letter from Zinsmeister which please return. If you wish to order anything I will be glad to attend to it.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

L. G. BROOKMAN

Stamps for Collectors

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

121 LOEB ARCADE
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

R.D.P.
A.S.D.A.
M.C.C.

April 14, 1954

Dear Stan:

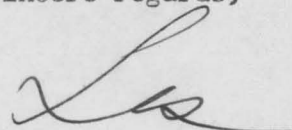
I've been simply swamped with work and haven't answered your previous letter that inquired about colors on the 5¢ '47. I have never seen the true orange--have seen a good example of the red orange.

If Perry thinks the "Knapp Shift" just has to be bad I think he has lost his marbles. Of course any damned fool knows it isn't and couldn't be a normal shift as the term "normal shift" is generally understood. In other words ~~the~~ shift isn't showing on the Knapp Shift stamp for the same reason that it shows on the stamps from R1, 2, 31 and 41. The shift on the Knapp, in my opinion, is there because of a certain reason and I most definitely do not believe it is a fake. Had I thought so I would not have bought it and had I thought so after I bought it I would not have sold it to Henry. I do not think it is a "Zareski" in any sense of the word. If you think that it is a fake I certainly want to immediately give Henry a chance to return it to me for his \$600.

The clipping from Cole's letter seems to indicate that ^{he thinks} you don't have enough knowledge to know that a stamp can't plate both with and without a shift under normal circumstances! Too ^{actually} bad about your lack of perception, Stan! I suppose this ~~was~~ the very first thought that crossed your mind when you first saw the stamp years ago. If the stamp is a fake I suppose you can prove it easily enough but if it isn't then that is an ~~e~~ntirely different matter and a much more difficult thing to prove. It could have occurred, genuinely, in at least two different ways and perhaps three, but to PROVE this is a difficult (to say the least) task.

By the way, did Perry ever come up with an explanation for the "missing link" on the 10¢ green. Of course this one isn't a "Knapp"--or rather, perhaps it is a reverse Knapp. Damn it all, you and need to have a few hours together again.

Sincere regards,



May 12, 1954.

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

Dear Les:

I had your letter of the 14th aside to answer later, then I never got around to it. I refer to the one in which you discussed the "Knapp Shift."

No doubt you have read the articles by Dr. Pollack and C. F. Bridgman on X-ray photography as applied to philately. Bridgman is an official of the Eastman Kodak Co. at Rochester, and a good friend of Harry Lindquist. Harry put me in touch with him and I have had quite a bit of correspondence with him.

Incidentally, their processing laboratory held up a lot of my stamp slides and I appealed to Bridgman. I imagine they sent some down to Washington and inquired if this fellow Ashbrook was violating the illustration law. Well, all my slides are now coming thru okay without any delay so I doubt if I will be put in jail.

In my correspondence with Bridgman, I inquired about the Knapp - would it be possible to determine by the X-ray if the ink of the "Shift" was the same as the ink of the stamp. There is the key to this copy, always bear that point in mind. Every other point doesn't amount to a damn. Bridgman explained that it would not be possible to obtain a definite answer by the X-ray. I wonder?

I have had a lot of correspondence with Cheavin of London who is the Pioneer in X-ray philatelic work. I persuaded Cheavin to publish his articles in Gossip. I have an idea he might not agree with Bridgman re - the Knapp stamp. In a recent letter from Cheavin, he had some very interesting remarks about the Sperati forgeries. Stated it was absolutely silly talk that these should fool anyone who knew inks, etc. Well, I have seen some that would fool a whole lot of experts.

I will appreciate some comment on this letter.

With best wishes -

As ever yours,

P.S.--Les, I noted that you sort of put it up to me on the Knapp shift. I have never stated the stamp was genuine or that it is a paint job. Henry bought it "as is" and regardless of what it actually is it will have value in itself as the Knapp controversial copy. I don't want Henry or you to conclude that my silence on whether he bought a genuine plate variety or a painting is conclusive in any way. I have never hesitated to state this point. "If the ink of the 'shift' is the same as that of the stamp the copy is genuine." It is not hard to obtain the use of a 500 X Microscope. It will not give a definite answer but you might be able to draw some conclusion.

S.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

ROCHESTER 4, N.Y.

GENERAL OFFICES

343 STATE STREET

March 18, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Harry Lindquist has written me concerning your experimentation with colored slides to record the shades of 19th century stamps. This certainly has been one of the great weaknesses in our methods for classifying stamps. Harry claims that you have been very successful in bringing out true colors of the rarer shades of the 1861 issue. This is of course of considerable interest to me, being connected with the Eastman Kodak Company.

It is a very difficult problem to get absolutely accurate color rendition over a period of time because, as you know, there are many changes that can take place, due to the life of the lamp bulbs being used and even the processing. We feel that we can do quite a critical job of processing color film, but there is always the likelihood that a slight variation may result. This variation may be enough to cause an error in the analysis of a stamp. Are you planning on getting up sets of slides showing color variations? They might be very useful for, let us say, stamp clubs to own so that all the members could make use of them.

I have long felt that photographs of rare items would be useful to the advanced philatelist although I wonder what Mr. Baughman would say to this suggestion. I have photographed all of the stamps used by Dr. Pollack and myself in our x-ray studies on Kodachrome film, and for the most part, am quite pleased with the results, although I must admit that viewing conditions can drastically alter the color rendition. I would be very interested to hear more about your success in photographing stamps.

Cordially,

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

B. Baughman
Medical Division

CFBridgman:GH
cc Mr. Harry Lindquist

March 25, 1954.

Mr. C. F. Bridgman,
Medical Division,
Eastman Kodak Co.,
343 State St.,
Rochester 4, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bridgman:

Thanks very much for your kind favor of the 18th, the contents of which I have carefully noted.

As Harry wrote you, I have been doing a lot of experimental work in recording the rare colors of U. S. 19th Century stamps and perhaps you would be interested in the equipment I employ. I have a Leica and also a Contax - both 35 MM - also a Leica Focastide - extension tubes, etc., etc. I have a great deal of material submitted to me to examine and authenticate. As an example, a serious collector will send me a 5¢ 1857 stamp and inquire, is this the Orange Brown, heretofore - all I could do was to state No, or to send him one of my reference copies. This required the expense of registration both ways, etc. With a color slide of a fine 5¢ 1857 Orange Brown I can show him what the color looks like. This applies to the 5¢ 1847, reddish orange and particularly the very rare 5¢ '47 Orange. Inasmuch as I know of only two copies of the real 5¢ '47 Orange it is evident that the great majority of collectors have never seen this color. With a color slide I can show them what the color looks like.

The 24¢ 1861 Violet is another example, also the 3¢ 1861 Pink and Pigeon blood, as well as some extremely rare colors of the 3¢ 1861 that are not listed in the catalogue and to the great majority of advanced collectors are not even known. In the 1¢ 1851 we have a rare and gorgeous shade from Plate 3 but few collectors have seen the color. I could go on and on and name many similar examples but this will explain the work I am trying to accomplish. I am just an amateur in photography but in my many years of philatelic research work I have used photography, and I am frank to state that the modest success that I have achieved has been principally due to my use of photography.

I haven't the slightest idea what Mr. Baughman would think of the experimental work that I am doing which I consider is scientific in every sense of the word. I have used photography ever since 1914 in my philatelic research work and would have considered any interference by the Treasury Department as simply absurd. However, this reminds me and I wonder if you could lend me a bit of assistance. I have five or six rolls of color films of stamps and covers that have been down to Rochester for processing for almost two weeks. By any chance could you inquire for me if these are being held up for any particular reason? Would it be asking too much if you would communicate with the head of the Processing Department and explain to him that films that I forward are for scientific purposes only.

#2. Mr. C. F. Bridgman - March 25, 1954.

By the way, I am wondering if you have ever had any correspondence with my friend W.H.C. Cheavin of London? For some years he has been employing the use of X-rays in philatelic research work and it is my opinion that his work has far exceeded any along that line that has been accomplished in this country.

Again many thanks for your kind letter.

Sincerely yours,

C.C.-Mr. Harry Lidquist.

Stonegate Lane
Pittsford, New York
March 29, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your letter of March 25 concerning your photography of U.S. stamps. I have just checked through Kodak Park and found that three rolls of film were shipped to you on March 24 so that undoubtedly, by this time you will have received them. I am glad that you have not had any trouble with Mr. Baughman. So far, I have gotten along fine with my photography of U.S. stamps in color, in fact I have a letter of approval from him on the matter. Kodak Park says that most of the U.S. stamps that are sent in on rolls taken by photographers are cancelled so they feel that they can be returned to the photographer. Your equipment sounds most satisfactory and I should expect that your work would be of fine quality. The use of your slides in connection with your appraisal of stamps should make it much easier for both you and your customers to make comparisons.

I have corresponded considerably with Mr. Cheavin in London and I am fully familiar with his work. I realize that he has priority as far as publishing his results with respect to others in the field. Unfortunately, he is limited with the equipment he uses and the material such as films and papers which are available in England. As you know, I have been doing a great deal of this work with Herbert Pollack, M.D. of Chicago. My results have been published in the SPA Journal, Stamps, Radiology, etc. I sincerely feel that we have been able to obtain better technical quality through our reproductions than Mr. Cheavin, mainly because the materials in the U.S. I think are superior in some aspects. In fact, he is using quite a few of our prints to illustrate his articles and lectures. I think that if Cheavin were over here, his results would be technically better. He is quite a character and I hope I will be able to meet him some time so that we can discuss our mutual interests.

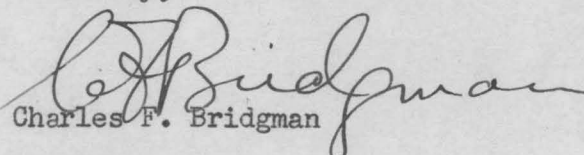
I have just been working on one of the U.S. stamps and have several prints left over so I am taking the liberty of enclosing this for you. It was made by the electrons emitted from the metal

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook--2

March 29, 1954

element in the ink by which the stamp was printed. I would be glad to send you copies of all our articles in case you are not acquainted with them.

Cordially,


Charles F. Bridgman

bjh
Enc.

April 14, 1954.

Mr. Charles F. Bridgman,
Stonegate Lane,
Pittsford, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bridgman:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 29th which I assure you I read and re-read with much interest.

I was agreeably surprised that you have been in correspondence with Mr. Cheavin. Incidentally, he was kind enough to send me copies of all his published articles and I was so impressed with them that I persuaded him to run a series in "GOSSIP" which no doubt you noticed. I was aware of the fact that Dr. Pollack of Chicago was doing similar work but when I wrote you I had no idea that you were associated with him. I humbly apologize for the oversight.

Regarding your joint articles, I recall that some were published in STAMPS, one in the "American Philatelist" and also in the "S.P.A. Journal." As I have complete files I will certainly look them up.

My sincere thanks for the large photo print. Such work is a bit over my head but I intend to read up a bit and obtain a better understanding.

Some years back Mr. Cheavin mentioned that he was using a Kelly Koett Machine and I wrote him that I was born and reared in Covington, Ky., the home of the K.K. Company and that Bob Kelly was an intimate friend of mine many years ago. He was the founder of the Company and evidently succumbed to X-ray burns sustained in their early experiments.

I am wondering if you have ever heard of the famous(?) 10¢ 1847 stamp known as the Knapp shift? This shows a double transfer which some claim is a "paint job" - some claim it is an error in print, others claim it is a genuine plate variety. Back in 1936 we submitted it to one of the vice-presidents of the American Bank Note Company. It was carefully examined by some of their experts in the Engraving Department and they furnished Mr. Knapp with a letter stating it was a genuine plate variety. Many years ago - along about 1934 - I think, I studied this copy for a whole day under a powerful microscope, and as I recall, I was greatly impressed with the ink of the stamp itself and the ink of the double transfer lines. I am wondering if the X-ray could show up anything along this line? Recently I made some very fine color slides of the stamp and in the event you would like to see them I will be only too glad to forward them. I might mention that all my slides came back safe and sound from the Processing Department. They undoubtedly held them up because they were fearful I was breaking some Federal law.

My kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

ROCHESTER 4, N.Y.

GENERAL OFFICES
343 STATE STREET

April 21, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I assume by now that your difficulty in getting your transparencies back from Kodak Park has been satisfactorily resolved. I spoke to them about your work and hope that you will not have any further trouble. They of course are working under pretty strict orders which deal in generalities and sometimes the specific instance has to fall under those conditions.

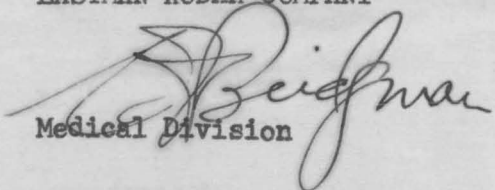
I have just received a letter from Cheavin. He told of his relationship with you and with Sir Nicholas Waterhouse in London. If you were the person who induced Cheavin to send his articles to Harry Weiss, I feel that you are to be congratulated as they have been a valuable contribution to American literature on this subject.

I have had to drop my x-ray activities for the time being because of increased pressure of work in our x-ray laboratory. This of course has upset Dr. Pollack as well as myself because we felt that we were obtaining most interesting results. Because of this I have had to decline any additional work on stamps. Frankly, I feel that the double transfer on the Knapp shift might show up even better on a good photomicrograph than on an x-ray. We might be able to show a difference in ink, but I question if it would be critical enough to be of absolute diagnostic value.

I did not mean to embarrass you by mentioning that I was doing all of the x-ray work for the series of articles with Dr. Pollack. I am very humble in admitting that Cheavin knows more about this than I ever will. I think I do have an advantage in having a great deal of equipment at my disposal and am not limited by the fact that he has to pay for all of his materials out of his own pocket. I think it is too bad that he has not been accepted more widely by the English philatelists as he has put many years and much money into his investigations. He feels that his work will be appreciated posthumously, which is too bad.

Sincerely,

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY


Medical Division

CFBridgman:GH

Kodak

April 28, 195

Mr. C. F. Bridgman,
Medical Division,
Eastman Kodak Co.,
343 State St.,
Rochester 4, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bridgman:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 21st. I certainly appreciate your kindness in mentioning the nature of my work to Mr. Kuhns of the Color Processing Department and I am much gratified to report that slides are being returned to me with unusual promptness.

Yes, I did arrange to have Mr. Cheavin publish his articles in GOSSIP, though I would have preferred STAMPS because of its larger circulation but the paper that the former uses is much better adapted for half-tone illustrations.

I am sure that all serious-minded philatelists in Britain and in this country do appreciate the work that Mr. Cheavin has done. However, in this busy age, interested people seldom sit down and write letters of appreciation.

Just a word re - the "Knapp Shift" and then I will not take up any more of your time. Some authorities are of the opinion that this is a very clever bit of work. However that is a matter of opinion. I doubt if a photomicrograph would prove anything more than can be seen by a good binocular microscope. If the double transfer is a paint job then of course the black ink of the stamp is different in composition than the ink of the painted lines. I am not at all familiar with what the X-ray can disclose and I wondered if any evidence could be obtained by its use regarding the ink or inks.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

ROCHESTER 4, N.Y.

GENERAL OFFICES

343 STATE STREET

April 26, 1954

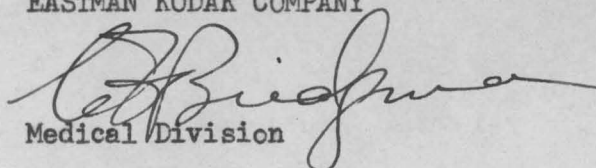
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 North Fort Thomas Avenue
P. O. Box 31
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

You suddenly cast the die on the Knapp shift by mentioning that it was printed in black. I am not a collector of United States stamps and did not realize for a moment that that specific stamp was black. Most black inks contain carbon for their pigmentation and therefore possess a very low atomic weight. Unfortunately such low weights do not absorb x-rays as do the heavier metals such as chromium, iron, etc; neither do they emit characteristic electrons in sufficient numbers to make an image on the film. That is the reason why we can x-ray metallic ink stamps which are heavily cancelled and obtain an image without the cancellation showing. Most cancellations are made with lamp black or some form of carbon ink, so I guess even if we had the stamp, we would be unable to get an image of your special stamp.

Very truly yours,

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY


Medical Division

CFBridgman:GH

April 29, 1954.

Mr. C. F. Bridgman,
Medical Division,
Eastman Kodak Co.,
343 State St.,
Rochester 4, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Bridgman:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 26th. You answered a question that was of much interest to me, viz., - Could it be possible that an X-ray examination of a stamp might disclose whether the black of the stamp employed to print the stamp was of the same composition as the ink of a double transfer that has been stated to be a paint job. In other words, the stamp in question shows very decided double lines of the engraving, a variety known as a "double transfer." If it can be determined that the ink of the double transfer is the same as the ink that printed the stamp itself, then I think it is safe to assume that the stamp is genuine but if the ink of the double transfer is not the same, then it is doubtless safe to assume the double transfer feature is fraudulent.

I dislike to bore you with this subject but if perchance you would like to see one of my color slides of the stamp I will be only too glad to loan it to you.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

ROCHESTER 4, N.Y.

GENERAL OFFICES

343 STATE STREET

April 29, 1954

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

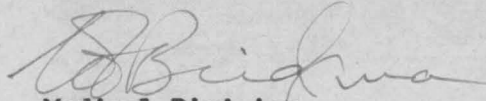
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your observations on the double transfer are most interesting. However, as I mentioned previously, I would be unable to obtain any image whatsoever on a carbon ink stamp whether it be printed in the original engraving or painted on afterwards. Inasmuch as you have intimated that the stamp was black, we just wouldn't be able to tell anything about the ink because as far as I know, almost all blacks are from a carbon base. Furthermore, our x-ray equipment is tied up at the moment on manufacturing experiments so that it would be quite a few months before I would be able to do any definitive work.

Please do not feel that you are boring me on this matter because I find it highly interesting and am exceedingly sorry that I am unable to give you any satisfactory cooperation.

Yours very truly,

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY


Medical Division

CFBridgman:GH

May 8, 1954.

Mr. C. F. Bridgman,
Medical Division,
Eastman Kodak Company,
343 State St.,
Rochester 4, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bridgman:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt with thanks
of yours of the 29th.

I had a long letter from Mr. Cheavin this week
in which he expressed appreciation of the co-operation
that Dr. Pollack had given him. Most of his letter was
devoted to a complaint about the way the philatelic experts
of Britain had treated his work.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

March 24, 1954.

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

Dear Edgar:

Yours of the 20th received and Mildred and I were so sorry to learn that Mildred's asthma had been worse. We were so hopeful that the recent treatments had been of much benefit. It is perhaps fortunate that she can reside in a good California climate and not here in this miserable Ohio Valley. I really don't know anything about asthma but I wonder if a dryer and warmer climate would ease the condition. You have a lot of fog in San Francisco but does this get over into Oakland? I suppose it does. And is the fog bad for her? What do you plan? Would a trip back to New Orleans be advisable? Tell her that we were so sorry to learn that she has not been so well and that we hope that with better weather around the corner that her condition will show great improvement.

I return the Colson letter and Bulletin. He really is remarkable for his age - and he surely must be close to 80. Looks like he is going to survive all the told-timers. Colson was active at the turn of the century - 54 years back. What other dealer of that age is active today - John Kleeman is still alive but I guess that is about all. Stern is no more and also both the Burglars, Bartels, etc., etc. It will not be long until Ward will be among the very few survivors of the old-time dealers. Colson is sure unique and much as I despise and loathe him I do give him credit for his great knowledge of the stamps of the world and his acquaintance with all the great collectors of the past. How unfortunate that Providence endowed him with such a vile disposition. You inquired, "Why does he write me?" I wonder? I suppose the answer is that he counts you as a friend and surely he has very very few in American philately. You have been nice to him and haven't quarreled with him - hence you are a friend. Also he has you in mind on that 90¢ cover and he hopes to convince you someday that you should own it. If I outlive Colson, I will write up that cover and brand it for what it is - a rank fake. I would do it now if I could lay my hands on it and photograph it.

Re - the Annals. Thanks for offer to loan but Ed I have a very fine copy - but I want one for a good friend. I will ask Bill Smith to try and locate a copy for me. I imagine they could be bought cheaper outside the S.F. area.

Re - your reference to Lichtenstein, Newbury and Harris. The passing of these three men was a severe blow to philately and who stepped in to take the place of any one? The answer is nobody. You and I had the good fortune to know all three and I am sure it was a pleasure. The Admiral was a wonderful character.

No, Pat Herst never came thru with the photographs of the fake covers. I wonder why? I had a letter from John Fox only yesterday stating he had all the details on this amazing case and would supply me with all the facts. He swears that the Oregon chap is innocent and was a victim. Does anyone suspect Levy?

#2 - Mr. Edgar B. Jessup - March 25, 1954.

Re - slides. The last lots I sent Eastman are long over due and I am wondering if they are being held up on account of the illustration law? If so, it would be absurd. Probably some pin-headed 2 x 4 trying to assume too much authority. If anything develops I will advise you.

When you mentioned "Dock" I got the impression you referred to some new collector in the Bay area. Strange that I didn't think of Doc P. Ed, I haven't the slightest idea what he meant when he told you that Fox did better with his material than I could. Perhaps he is right because my present contacts are more with cover collectors. I am not so hot in placing off cover, unless the condition is superb and of course anyone can sell superb material in these times.

Yes indeed your 1¢ '57 - Express Mail is most unusual and rare.
Very nice.

I had forgotten that you purchased the rejoined block of nine from me, but I was aware that I removed the items from a piece of cover and rejoined them. I had the impression you bought them elsewhere and loaned them to me to rejoin. We are making wonderful progress on the plating of the left pane of Plate 7 and before long I will give you the plate positions of the block.

Re - the unique 5¢ 1847 Orange - Ex-Slater - Ex-Ackerman - Ex-Emerson. It came up in an Emerson sale and I advised Mr. Newbury to buy it but Fifield outbid Ernie and got it for something like \$450.00. Edson bought it for Norcross. I have an idea Norcross instructed Edson to buy it regardless of cost. I am at present trying to borrow it so that I can make a color slide. It would be great to have such a record. But what if Eastman refuses to process the film? I suppose you own the Brown cover #156 - purchased for you by Klein @ \$72.50. Is this correct? I had no record that you owned this cover and I have wondered where it was. Will you please send it to me so that I can examine it carefully by Ridgway and make a color slide of it? Browns turn out exceedingly good and I may be able to obtain a wonderful color reproduction. It would be nice to have color slides of the "Slater" and yours side by side. If the color of yours is good, i.e., better than the usual, I will write it up in my "Service."

I enclose my new stamp that I use on covers. What do you think? Would you like this on any of your covers? I charge a fee to each and all of \$5.00 each. Incidentally this includes Krug, Cole and everyone. No more free stuff to Cole. When he asks my opinion he pays or else, no opinion. He has sorely abused this in the past. No more.

I will make a memo to loan you the Virginia Reed letters. Or better still I may make a microfilm copy for you - if you wish.

Re - no triple rate (1849-1851). Blake will have an article on this in Mekeel's at an early date. Watch for it. Anything that boy does is good. Very good.

Again we are so sorry about Mildred. Please keep us advised.

Our best to all the family and you.

#3. Mr. Edgar B. Jessup - March 24, 1954.

As ever yours,

Later

I looked up my record on your 5¢ '47 Orange and found that it was not in the Brown Sale but was found in his effects after his death and sold to you. My memo is to the effect it is what I call the S.U.S. stamp, that is, a "commercial copy." For example, similar to the "S.U.S. 3¢ 1861 Pink," the kind of items sold in auctions as the 3¢ '61 Pink, and further, Norcross owns the two finest orange, one the used Slater copy, the other, the unused Gibson copy which I have never seen. It is said to be a very fine color - it cost Norcross \$750.00. I suppose you noticed that the S.U.S. no longer lists an "Orange" but rather #1C as "Red Orange." I believe this is wise because the commercial copies are this red orange color rather than orange or orange brown.

S.B.A.

BRUCE G. DANIELS
7 WATER STREET
BOSTON 9, MASSACHUSETTS

HONE
ette 3-0970

March 26, 1954

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

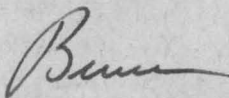
Dear Stan:

Enclosed is a cover bearing a pair of 30¢ 1857's and I would appreciate it if you would give me your opinion as to its genuineness. Perhaps you are familiar with the cover but if not, I purchased it from a recent auction sale.

I have also enclosed a stamped self-addressed envelope (\$100 surcharge) for the return of this cover, and if you would be kind enough to bill me for your services, I would greatly appreciate it.

My regards to you and Mrs. Ashbrook.

Sincerely,



Bruce G. Daniels

BGD:P
Enc.

4/1/54

Many thanks + my
regards —

Bruce

Cheek 500
Enclosed

APR - 3 1954

March 29, 1954.

Mr. Bruce C. Daniels,
7 Water St. - Room 709,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Bruce:

Herewith the 30¢ 1860 cover as per yours of the 26th. I am pleased to report that the cover is genuine in every respect and I have signed it as such on the back. You will note that this was a double rate (over 1/2 oz.) by "Prussian Closed Mail," which meant that it was sent from New York in sealed bags thru England and via Ostend, Belgium to "Aachen" on the Prussian border where the bags were opened and the mail distributed by Prussian mail, to destination. The "14" in the New York postmark was our credit of 2 x 7¢ to Prussia. This is quite a desirable item.

My fee for the opinion is \$5.00

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

POST CARD

APR - 3 1954

Bruce Daniels

Dear Bruce

Just a line to
acknowledge receipt of yours
of the 31st with enclosure.

Thanks very much

Sincerely yours

E. R. Guilford, Stamps 4527-4977

~~2515 12th~~ Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

150
Enclosed

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I am enclosing a cover which I believe is fairly unusual. Your opinion on its authenticity, rarity, and probable sales value, would be greatly appreciated.

You will find my check inclosed. If it is insufficient, please bill me for any amount due.

My best regards, and thanks for your many favors.

Bob Guilford

Please note change of address - as I am moving March 31, 1954, please do not return this before that date.

Thanking you again
Bob Guilford

April 2, 1954.

Mr. E. R. Guilford,
4527 - 49th St. N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Guilford:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 26th. Of course, this cover is unquestionably genuine in every respect but I would hardly call it a "Double Provisional Use of U. S. stamps in the Confederacy" but rather the use of U. S. stamps in seceded states which had joined the Confederacy. Up to the 28th of May 1861 all post offices in the seceded states were still operated by the Washington Government and all the postal officials were employees of the Federal Government. It must be remembered that at this period the Federal Government regarded the seceded states as in revolt against the Federal Union and did not recognize them as independent states or states of a separate government. On the other hand, the seceded states considered that under the Constitution they had a perfect legal right to withdraw from the Union. In doing so, they fully expected that their right to do so would be recognized and that treaties would be signed between the two governments. In the meantime, they permitted operation of the postal system thruout the South by the Washington Department.

In my opinion any real value in this cover is the Virginia date of May 7, 1861, because on that date Virginia became a Confederate State in her opinion but not in the opinion of the Government of the U.S.

Your idea of value would be just as good as mine and for that reason I always decline to express an opinion on values.

Thanks very much for your check.

Sincerely yours,

syvester colby
INCORPORATED
505 FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 17

March 31, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

COLBY'S The enclosed cover is well pedigreed. You may recall, Meroni had it. I have a customer that will buy it, but he wants to be sure it's ok, and I suggested sending it to you so that you could let us know its history, etc. Please let me know what the charges are. In haste, best regards.

Cordially yours,

SYLVESTER COLBY, INC.

By
SC:am
Enclosure

To Sylvester Colby

New York, N.Y.

For authenticating the 12¢ 1851 Bisect cover)
to Kingston, Canada)
(Brooklyn May 25, 1852)\$5.00

April 5, 1954.

Sylvester Colby, Inc.,
505 Fifth Ave.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Sy:

Herewith the 12¢ 1851 Bisect cover as per yours of the 31st. This cover is genuine in every respect and I have authenticated it on the back (inside).

I have known this cover for many years, in fact, in 1937 (May 27) it was in the collection of Dr. Warren L. Babcock of Detroit and he sent it to me for my opinion. I made a photograph of it at that time and have the record in my files. ~~Unfortunately I have not been able to find a duplicate photo print of the one made at that time.~~ After Babcock's death his collection was sold by Laurence & Stryker and this was Lot 227 in that sale. At that time I find that my opinion was asked regarding the cover and I stated it was unquestionably genuine. In later years it was acquired by Charles F. Meroni and when his collection was sold by John Fox, this was Lot #1314 in the sale on Nov. 13, 1952. It was purchased by Robt. Siegel. I happened to be present.

A I regard this as a fine example of the 12¢ bisect and a very early use. The letter inside is dated Brooklyn, N.Y. May 25, 1852. The blue folded letter was not placed in the Brooklyn or New York post offices but mailed direct with the mail clerk aboard a Hudson River steamboat bound for Troy, N.Y. It is addressed to Kingston, ^{CANADA} The mail clerk canceled the stamps. ~~No doubt you noted the rather rough impression of the 3¢ stamp - a bit unusual for a use of a 3¢ stamp as early as May 1852 but I attribute this to the fact that dampness may have caused an "oxidation" and when the color was restored it caused this rough appearance.~~ The 1¢ stamp is from Plate One Early and this would be proper for a use in May 1852 as stamps from this first plate were the only ones available at that time.

To sum up, everything about this cover is in proper order and I have long considered it quite a gem, much more desirable than the 12¢ bisects used from San Francisco in August and September of 1853. One more point.. At this period the use of halves of a stamp had not been forbidden by the Postmaster General.

Sincerely yours,



syvester colby
INCORPORATED
1505 FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 17

April 21, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

COLBY'S Thanks very much for checking the 12c Bisect. Had to leave in a hurry so just had the check sent off to you at once so as not to delay.

COLBY'S My client would like to have the letter you sent to me. However, I feel that since it was in such a personal vein, that I would rather have it for my files and sent a copy to him. It seems he would like to have an original. Would it be too much trouble to wire another letter covering the ~~same~~ ground. Please bill me for any extra charge.

Cordially yours,

SYLVESTER COLBY, INC.

By
SC:am



April 28, 1954.

To whom it may concern

Regarding cover with a 12¢ 1851 Bisect used to Kingston, Canada in May 1852.

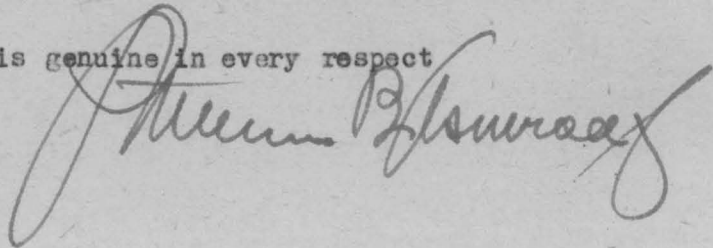
I have known this cover for many years, in fact, in 1937 (May 27) it was in the collection of Dr. Warren L. Babcock of Detroit and he sent it to me for my opinion. I made a photograph of it at that time and have the record in my files. After Babcock's death his collection was sold by Laurence & Stryker and this was Lot 227 in that sale. At that time I find that my opinion was asked regarding the cover and I stated it was unquestionably genuine. In later years it was acquired by Charles F. Meroni and when his collection was sold by John Fox, this was Lot #1314 in the sale on Nov. 13, 1952. It was purchased by Robt. Siegel. I happened to be present.

I regard this as a fine example of the 12¢ bisect and a very early use. The letter inside is dated Brooklyn, N.Y. May 25, 1852. The blue folded letter was not placed in the Brooklyn or New York post offices but mailed direct with the mail clerk aboard a Hudson River steamboat bound for Troy, N.Y. It is addressed to Kingston, Canada. The mail clerk canceled the stamps. The 1¢ stamp is from Plate One Early and this would be proper for a use in May 1852 as stamps from this first plate were the only ones available at that time.

To sum up, everything about this cover is in proper order and I have long considered it quite a gem, much more desirable than the 12¢ bisects used from San Francisco in August and September of 1853. One more point. At this period the use of halves of a stamp had not been forbidden by the Postmaster General.

In my opinion this cover is genuine in every respect

April 28, 1954.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "William B. Hoover". The signature is written over the typed text "In my opinion this cover is genuine in every respect".

April 28, 1954.

Mr. Sylvester Colby,
505 Fifth Ave.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Sy:

Herewith the memo as requested in
yours of the 21st. Of course there is no extra
fee.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Small
Blue

To Sylvester Polby
New York

For authenticating - the
124 1851 Disch cover
to Kingston Canada
(Brookley May 25 1852

} \$ 5⁰⁰

PAID

APR 12 1954



syvester colby
INCORPORATED
505 FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 17

May 10, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

COLBY'S Thanks very much for the photograph of the
12c Bisect. Best regards.

Cordially yours,

SYLVESTER COLBY, INC.

By
SC:am



sylvester colby
INCORPORATED
1505 FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 17

April 30, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

COLBY'S Thanks very much for sending the memorandum on the 12c Bisect. Just for your confidential record, the cover was purchased by me from Siegel, and now is in the collection of S. M. Arnold. Thanks once more for sending the memorandum. Best regards.

Cordially yours,

SYLVESTER COLBY, INC.

By
SC:am

Blue F. L.

By Sy. Colby 4/3 1954.

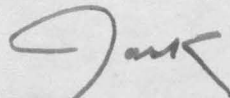
B475

Black
Black
Black
Mrs. James Sinclair Junr.
Kingston
Canada West

Letted Inside Dated Brooklyn N.Y. 25th
May 1852. Mailed Direct To Mail Agent
Aboard A Hudson River Mail Steam
Boat. on Back in Red KINGSTON
U.C. JUN ? 1852. See S.B. 30-57.

Inclosed is a cover with U. S. #58 and #67 tied on by an odd circle postmark that I do not recall having seen before though the cover appears to be all right otherwise, 3 Confederate #8's on which I question the cancel, and a pair of Confederate #3 tied on cover. I would appreciate your examination of these and signature on the backs of the covers if you feel they are O.K. I believe the #3 cover was offered in one of the Harmer auctions of some of the Souren material and was withdrawn from that sale as being no good, though at the time having examined the cover I recall wondering as to the reason. I shall be especially interested in your comments on it. Advise fee and I shall remit promptly as usual.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jack', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/mm

April 5, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:


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

Regarding the 15¢ rate to Germany, with the 10¢ Type I and the 5¢ Buff. This was the correct rate by "HAMBURG mail" and the "Hamburg Mail Steamer" did sail from New York on Nov. 16, 1861. Steamers of this line at that time sailed every other week, whereas the Bremen Line steamers sailed monthly. The New York postmark read as follows: "N. YORK - PAID - HAMB. PKT" "16 - NOV - 10." I do not know why there are two types of cancels on the stamps. This seems odd. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the cover is genuine, and I have signed it as such on the back.

Re - the Confederate cover with the pair of 2¢ Green. In my opinion, this cover is a fake. I believe the Atlanta postmark is a fake. Note the queer "T A" of Atlanta. The "JUN" also looks queer. Further, why 4¢? The circular rate was 2¢ up to 3 oz. for the first two years.

Re - the single 2¢ Red Brown. There is not much to go on here but if this was intended to imitate the Petersburg blue it is a fake.

Re - the two 2¢ Red Brown tied to piece by Richmond, Va. I do not like to pass on stamps on pieces, or cancels on single stamps unless they are very obviously bad. I don't like the looks of this Richmond postmark but I suppose this item could be good.

 My fee for the Buff cover is \$3.00.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Chary

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

300

See

S.B. 30

Page 58

PAID

APR 12 1954

March 27, 1954.

To The Postmaster General,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to call attention to the enclosed. I paid the Eastman Company the sum of 53¢ to forward this to me by Air Mail Special Delivery. It was mailed from Rochester, N.Y., marked, "AIR MAIL - SPEC. DEL" on March 24th, which was last Wednesday. The time of day is in the Rochester postmark. This bears the Newport, Ky. postmark of today, Saturday, March 27th, 9:30 A.M. It was delivered to me here at Fort Thomas, a sub-station of the Newport P.O. at 1:15 P.M. this afternoon.

Such service is absolutely disgusting in my opinion. Would you be so kind as to explain to me why it would require from Wednesday to Saturday morning to bring this by Air Mail from Rochester, N.Y. to Cincinnati Ohio and over to Newport, Ky? A century ago, a letter would not have required more time.

I suppose a lot of people thought when they voted out the damn democrats in 1952 that there would be some improvement in Government service, but it certainly appears that as far as the postal service is concerned it is worse than ever. I'll bet a lot of people have a darn good idea how they are going to vote this fall and also in 1956. If we have to have lousy postal service with the public be damned and take what they can get, then as far as I am concerned I think you better turn the Government back to Truman and his fellow nincopoops.

The very damn idea - an Air Mail Special Delivery piece of mail costing 53¢ from Rochester on Wednesday being delivered Saturday afternoon. Why not go back to stage coach days or better still by Pony Express?

Very truly yours,

Post Office Department
ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION
Washington 25, D. C.

In replying, please
refer to:

JCA: A:D:HL:Su

April 23, 1954

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

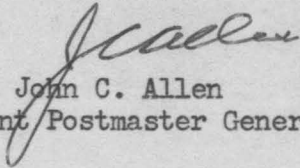
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The Postmaster General has asked me to reply to your letter of March 27, 1954, regarding delay in receipt of an air mail special delivery parcel.

You are entirely correct in protesting this unreasonable and unwarranted delay. This parcel should have been delivered to you on March 28, and it is regretted that available records do not reveal any interruptions in the service which would account for the delay.

Your interest in the service and your thoughtfulness in bringing this evident mishandling to the attention of the Department are sincerely appreciated. The cover of the delayed parcel will be of material assistance in connection with our efforts to determine and correct the cause of such failures in the service.

Sincerely yours,


John C. Allen
Assistant Postmaster General