

	Scrapbook No. 33 July 28, 1954 to October 18, 1954
1.	R.H. Goodall Re 90¢ 1869
2.	M. Jamet Re 45¢ 5d Brick Bd IV
3.	Geo. N. Malpass Re N.O. Cover Due 2
4.	John Fox Re 1d 51 P11 ^E
5.	Allen C. Beck Louisville Re Cover from Los Angeles – 1d57
6.	Henry Meyer Re Above Cover also Miscel.
7.	E.W. Phippen 3¢ S1 Cover to Canada Used auc K.S.
8.	Re-Unused 3¢ 61 – Ward in Mekeels
9.	J.D. Baker re “Thru the Lines” Cover Moody sale Lot 504
10.	Jack Moleworth 5 covers plus unused 10¢ 1855
11.	Marcel Levy re N.Y. Ocean Mail
12.	C.W. Christian re: Washington D.C. Provost Marshall
13.	Millard Mack Re 4¢ rate to France Re 2¢ 1869 Relssue
14.	Henry Meyer re: “Mail Route” & Becks Cover Los A. to Louisville
15.	Tracy W. Simpson re- 4¢ Rate Cover DUE 2
16.	Raynor Hubbell re 3¢ S1 cover Confederate?
17.	E.C. Krug – Re god 1860 – Two Boston Paid
18.	Morris Fortgang Re Pl.6-88-89-90 R6
19.	Bruce Daniels Re 3¢ S1 Bisect Lowell Mass
20.	Don Grieve Big Round Grid on 5¢ 1851
21.	Neal Grobert Re Green KY town
22.	Maurice C. Blake Re 1¢ S7 Plating
23.	“Mail Route” Article by Henry Meyer
24.	Earl Oakley Re 1¢ S1 copies
25.	Sanford G. Gesner re 90¢ 1860
26.	“Experts” by Linn-SBA Jr. Jean Koor, Hugh Clark
27.	Stanford G. Gesner Re 90¢ 1860
28.	Lester G. Downing Re N.Y. 2¢ Paid
29.	E. Perry re- Five “Way” Covers
30.	K.E. Root – Re Items Submitted
31.	E.D. Cole re Early Use 2¢ 1869 3/30 – 1869
32.	D.W. Garber See 34 Re Cover to Columbia River
33.	E. Perry Re- Prepaid Way
34.	D.W. Garber Re Cover Canada – Columbia Riv
35.	Raynor Hubbell - Re Several Conteds
36.	Perry Fuller – Re Confed Flag or Truce Cover
37.	E.L. Corson 1d S1 S7 to Type
38.	Henry K Jarrett Re 12¢ 50 Quarter
39.	Millard Mack 20¢ Cover to Germany – Bremen
40.	H.S. Cole – Cinti – Re 1¢ 1851 lc
41.	Sam Paige – Re Tying some 1¢ 51
42.	Raynor Hubbell Re Die Proofs – CSA
43.	Dr. W.S. Pollard Re - 12¢ 51 Bisects
44.	Dr. O. Bacher re 90¢ 1888 Block

45.	M.C. Blake Re UNPAID from Holland
46.	Edson Fifield Re Norcross
47.	C.W. Brazer re: 5d New York Reprint
48.	Gordon Bleuler - Re Fake Pockets
49.	Phillip Ward Jr. Re CSA 5¢ Plate
50.	"Western Express" article about Manson
51.	Irwin M. Bettman Re 10¢ 1879
52.	Tracy Simpson re: 2¢ Charleston S.C.
53.	Marc Haas 10¢ 1855
54.	Jack Fleckenstein Re Valentine Covers
55.	R. Dickson - 2¢ C.S.A. cover
56.	Michael Miller Baltimore DUE 1
57.	E.C. Krug Hawaii Covers
58.	C.W. Remele 3¢ 1853 Cover So. Carolina R.R.

FINE
U. S. POSTAGE
STAMPS

ROBERT H. GOODELL
BOX 757
LANCASTER PA.

FOREIGN
COUNTRY
COLLECTIONS

7/24/54

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I do not have the proper facilities for
examining stamps for cancellations. Will you
kindly let me know if this 90¢ 1869 is unused
or not, and your expense for the service.

It will not be necessary
to register, in returning.

Sincerely,
R. H. Goodell

FINE
U. S. POSTAGE
STAMPS

ROBERT H. GOODELL
BOX 757
LANCASTER PA.

FOREIGN
COUNTRY
COLLECTIONS

7/29/54

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P.O. Box 31

Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for your opinion on the 90¢ 1869. The only thing I have is "Black Light" gadget put out about 1947, and this usually shows up a pen cancel, but on the 90¢ did not - but I still had my doubts.

"Yes!" Some years ago Mrs. Goodell and I drove out to see you with a load of 3¢ 1851 covers - Columbia, Pa. bank correspondence. I recall stopping to see Wm. J. Aull in Dayton and the weather was sizzling like it is just now - 95° today.

Enjoyed a nice visit with you, but we
didn't get together on sale of 341851's A man
from Western Penna. Got the lot later in July
1936?

I do hope that you are in good health
and thank you again for your courtesy.

Sincerely,

R. H. Goodell

July 31st, 1954.

Mr. R. H. Goodell,
Box 757,
Lancaster, Pa.

Dear Mr. Goodell:

I would just like to add a line or two in comment on yours of the 29th.

Re - a black lamp. In about 75% of items examined it is my opinion such "lamps" are useless. I have a large Hanovia with transformer, very powerful. It cost me \$160.00. Long ago I ceased to use my eyes but rather, for efficiency to make a photograph. A photograph by ultra-violet will show things that were not visible by eye. But bear this in mind - all the "efficient" fakers on the continent do their repair work under ultra-violet light - They use modern methods that the Rays do not show up. I suppose the X-ray is probably the most efficient for scientific examination of faked philatelic items.

Sincerely yours,

July 27, 1954.

Mr. Robt. H. Goodell,

Box 757,

Lancaster, Pa.

Dear Mr. Goodell:

Herewith the 90¢ 1869 as per yours of the 24th.

The stamp looks very much like a cancelation had been cleaned as the red ink looks faded, etc. I don't think it should have this appearance if it is a copy that had never been used. When I am in doubt about cleaned copies I make an enlarged photograph by ultra-violet ray. Sometimes this shows up the cleaning and sometimes it does not. For such photography I charge \$5.00. I doubt if you would care to incur that expense on the enclosed copy so I am returning it to you.

There is no fee for the above.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--I believe you drove out to see me many years ago - was it along about 1936?

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 23rd of July 1954

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

(Etats-Unis)

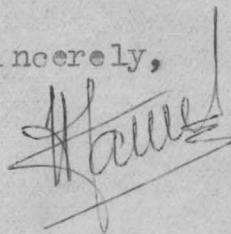
Dear Mr Ashbrook,

Please, find herewith a cover belonging to one of my customers. I gave him the advice to send it to you in order to ask you to do a photographic certificate in case it is genuine. This cover seems sincere, but I should be very happy if you would give me some explanations about the franking.

There has been some delay in the sending of the circular concerning your signature of the covers on my last sale. I apologize Charles BRETAGNE thought he could wait until I send me the list of prices realized and he would have posted both under the same envelope to avoid me more charges. I was one month before I was aware of this fact, and I wrote him at once to send the circular without more delay.

Awaiting the pleasure of your mail, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



July 27, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

Re - yours of June 28th, I have been swamped with work for over a month and haven't had time to get out those photo prints for you, but give me a little more time and I will locate them for you. I have a poor filing system for prints and when I have to look up some that are not recent it is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

Today I received quite a remarkable cover from Jamet. He stated it belongs to a client who wishes me to authenticate it for him. It is a Garnier cover from New Orleans on May 7, 1859 to Nantes, France.

A 45¢ RATE

franked by

A VERTICAL 5¢ 1857 - BRICK RED

A VERTICAL 10¢ 1857 - This vertical is supposed to be a vertical of TYPE IV - positions 54LL - 64LL - 74LL.

See my 10¢ book.

To obtain a vertical Type IV one would have to get these three positions. I haven't had time to check this strip or the cover, but apparently it is genuine. I will make a color slide for you and one for Les, also regular photo. The color of the BRICK strip is beautiful.

More later.

In haste -

Cordially yours,

July 28, 1954.

Mr. Maurice Jamet,
Paris, France.

Dear Mr. Jamet:

Regarding the second paragraph of your letter. I suppose no harm was done by the error in statement in your auction catalogue, but it was quite an annoyance. Most people believe what they read to be facts regardless. For example, three or four students of Confederates who received your catalogue wrote me to inform me that I should know that Lot 835 had a fake postmark, etc. You see they took it as a matter of fact that I had seen this cover and had passed it as genuine. There are far more people who would prefer to prove one wrong than right.

I made a wonderful color transparency of this cover and if your client would like to have one, the charge would be \$1.50.

I am enclosing with my compliments a transparency of a 5¢ New York supposed to have been used from Savannah, Ga. The "ACMP" is fraudulent as well as the postmark. This stamp is reported to have sold recently at \$1,000.00. Incidentally, a genuine use of the 5¢ New York from that office is unknown and in my humble opinion, such an item doesn't exist.

Sincerely yours,

July 28, 1954.

Mr. Maurice Jamet,
10 Rue d'Alger,
Paris 14^e, France.

Dear Mr. Jamet:

Herewith the cover to Nantes as per yours of July 23rd. This is a very rare cover and I am pleased to report after a very careful examination, it is genuine in all respects, in my opinion.

Of course, you are doubtless aware that the Parisian faker and crook, M. Zareski, is reported to have obtained possession of a mass of the "Garnier" correspondence and faked a lot of it, there were doubtless many fine and rare items in the lot that did not require any monkey-business on his part. This happens to be in that class. This cover shows a triple rate from New Orleans (May 7, 1859) - via New York (May 14, 1859) to France Via England. The single rate was 15¢ per 1/4 ounce, hence this letter weighed over 1/2 ounce. This was transmitted from New York by "American Packet" to England, thence across channel thru Calais, etc. By "American Packet" did not necessarily mean by a mail ship of U. S. register, but rather the carriage was at the expense of the U.S. P.O. Department. By such carriage, the U. S. was entitled, under the treaty, to 3¢ domestic and 6¢ sea (to England) per quarter ounce. Therefore, on this triple rate, the U. S. share was 3 x 19¢ and the share of the French P.O.D. was 3 x 6¢. Thus in the New York postmark (New York foreign mail division) there is an "18," same being the U. S. credit to France. This included 3¢ for transit by the British to Calais and 3¢ French domestic. Incidentally, France paid the British for their handling.

I have carefully examined the various postal markings and find that Zareski did not tamper with any of them. I have photographic records of New Orleans postmarks of this same date, also of covers from New York by "Amer. Pkt" on May 14, 1859.

Regarding the stamps, the use in May 1859 for a strip of the 5¢ 1857 - Type I - Brick Red is quite correct. New Orleans had a large supply of this color in the early months of 1859.

I made a very careful examination of the 10¢ strip and all three stamps are Type IV. The positions being 54L1 - 64L1 and 74L1. I am sure that you are aware that to obtain a vertical strip of this type, the strip would have to come from these three positions out of the 200 on Plate One. Naturally such a vertical is very rare. I made a photograph of this cover and I will forward a print later. I have also signed the cover on the back. My fee is \$5.00, which includes the photo print.

With kindest regards =

Sincerely yours,

Mr Maurice Jamet
10 Rue d'Alger
Paris 1^{er}
France

DO NOT MAKE ENVELOPE

Engraved

Dear Mr. Jamet

Here with the cover
to Nantes as per yours of July
23rd. This is a very rare cover
and I am pleased to report after
a very careful examination, it
is genuine in all respects, in
my opinion.

Of course you are doubtless
aware that the Parisian faker
and crack, M. Jarecki, is
reported to have obtained
possession of a mass of the
"Garnier" correspondence and
faked a lot of it, there
were doubtless many fine
and rare items in the
lot that did not require any
monkey business on his
part. This happens to be
in that class. This cover

shows a triple rate from
New Orleans (May 7 1859) - via
New York (May 14 1859) to
France via England. The
single rate was 15¢ per $\frac{1}{4}$
ounce, hence this letter
weighed over $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

This was transmitted
from New York ~~to~~ by "American
Packet" to England, thence
across channel thru Calais
etc. By "American Packet"

did not necessarily mean
by a mail ship of the U. S.
Register, but rather the
carrage was at the expense
of the U. S. P. O. Department.

By such carrage the
U. S. was entitled under
the treaty to 3¢ domestic
and 6¢ sea (to England) per
quarter ounce. There fore on

this triple rate the U. S. share
was 3x 9¢ and the share
of the French P.O. D. was
3x 6¢. ~~Plus~~ Plus in the
New York postmark (New York
Foreign Mail Division) there
is an "18", same being the
U. S. credit to France. Plus
included 3¢ for transit by
the British to Calais and 3¢
French domestic. Incidentally
France paid the British
for this handling. I have
carefully examined the
various postal markings and
find that Jarecki did
not tamper with any of
them. I have photographic
records of ~~the~~ New Orleans
postmarks of this same date,

also of carvers from New York
by "Amer Plst" on May
14 1859.

Regarding the stamps,
the use in May 1859
for a strip of the 5¢
1857 - Type I - Brick Red
is quite correct. New Orleans
had a large supply of
this color in the early
months of 1859.

~~H.~~ I made a very
careful examination of
the 10¢ strip and all
three stamps are Type IV.

The positions being 54 L1 -
64 L1 - and 74 L1. I am
sure that you are aware
that to obtain a vertical
strip of this type, the strip

would have to come from
these three positions out of
the 200 on Plate One.

Naturally such a necktie
is very Rare.

I enclose a photograph
of this cover and I
will forward a print
later. I have also
signed the cover on
the back.

My fee is \$5.00 which
includes the photo print.

With kindest regards

Sincerely yours

A VERY RARE COVER

RECENTLY I WAS SHOWN A MOST UNUSUAL COVER, A TRIPLE 15¢ RATE FROM NEW ORLEANS TO NANTES, FRANCE. A "GARNIER" COVER BUT AS GOOD AS GOLD. THE USE WAS IN 1859 AND HERE WAS THE WAY THIS RATE WAS PAID. A VERTICAL STRIP OF THREE OF THE 5¢ 1857 - TYPE I - BRICK RED IN A GORGEOUS SHADE OF THIS STAMP. ALSO A VERTICAL STRIP OF THREE OF THE 10¢ 1857 - ALL THREE STAMPS BEING TYPE IV. WHAT A COMBINATION!!!

IF YOU WILL REFER TO MY BOOK ON THE 10¢ 1855-57 AND THE CHART ON PAGE 23 YOU WILL NOTE THAT TO OBTAIN A STRIP OF THREE OF THE 10¢ TYPE IV HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL, ONE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN 54LI - 64LI - 74LI. THESE THREE POSITIONS AND THESE ONLY FURNISHED A STRIP OF THREE. I SUPPOSE IT HAS BEEN MANY MANY YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW A STRIP OF THREE OF THE 10¢ 1857, ALL TYPE IV. ALSO NOTE THE RECUTS. POSITION 54LI HAD THE BOTTOM LINE RECUT, 64LI HAD BOTH TOP AND BOTTOM LINES RECUT AND 74LI HAD THE TOP LINE ONLY RECUT. THUS A V.S. OF 3, ALL RECUTS DIFFERENT.

I MADE A WONDERFUL COLOR TRANSPARENCY OF THIS VERY REMARKABLE COVER. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT?

AUGUST 4, 1954

GEORGE N. MALPASS
5401 9th Street, North
St. Petersburg, Florida

July 15, 1954

Dear General Ashbrook:

At the recent Fox sale of Shenfield material, I secured several choice items. One was Lot #539, with the U.S. #63, "Due 2" and "Drop Letter" on it. There are several explanations as I see it.

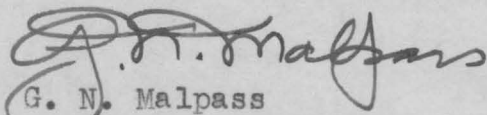
I wrote Gen. Larry and he said you had previously examined the cover. If so, and you have any notes or deductions, I should be very pleased to have your comments.

Incidentally, I have written up the talk I gave on Jefferson Davis, before the Tamspa convention visitors last August. It will be in three parts, a new approach to Confederate collecting, and I hope you like it.

The block of 6 of the T-E-N will be illustrated, and marked "Photo by S. B. Ashbrook." I trust that this meets with your approval.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,


G. N. Malpass

July 20, 1954.

Mr. George N. Malpass,
5401 - 9th Street, North,
St. Petersburg, Florida.

Dear Mr. Malpass:

Regarding yours of the 15th, and the Shenfield cover.

Larry may be right but I don't seem to have a record in my files of that cover nor can I recall it. Under the circumstances I would hesitate to comment on the cut in the catalogue. If you care to send it to me I will be pleased to look it over.

I have on my desk a very interesting document which belongs to a friend of mine. I have been trying to make a good photograph of it but so far have been unsuccessful. I enclose a print from a microfilm. This is very poor but it will give you some idea. I may persuade him to permit me to exhibit it at the Richmond Convention.

I will be delighted to read your article on President Davis.

I most assuredly have no objection to your use of my name in connection with the photo of the "TEN" block.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

GEORGE N. MALPASS
5401 - 9TH STREET NORTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

July 22, 1954

Dear General Ashbrook:

Thanks for your kind letter of the 20th, and the privilege of viewing that wonderful military commission for Jefferson Davis. I hope it will be on display at Richmond.

Enclosed is the cover previously referred to. It has interesting notations on front and back. I shall be very pleased to have your analysis.

I was indeed fortunate at that same sale to land not one, but two "First Day Covers" which fit nicely into my "U.S. Civil War" exhibit. One of them was the Grove Hill Ala. June 1, with 3¢ U.S. early envelope crossed out - the same as you pictured in your article in the Stamp Specialist (Emerald Book, page 12).

The other was the little cover used from Staunton, Va., with full date June 1, 1861, and U.S. #26 crossed out (Auction lot #158).

Quite unexpectedly I made a "find" recently, which can be called my only such good fortune in many years of collecting. I was up in Tennessee (my son is a student at Lincoln Memorial University, at Cumberland Gap) and acquired a Lincoln campaign portrait used by a Confederate soldier, from Beans Station, Tenn, Due 10. It is a bit "beat up" but certainly a rare combination. I know of only one other Lincoln portrait with Confederate usage. Showed it to Gene Wulfekuhler and he raved over it. Makes a beautiful companion piece to my "Hanging Lincoln."

With kind regards, and sincere thanks for your interest,

G. N. Malpass

July 28, 1954.

Mr. George N. Malpass,
5401 - 9th St., North,
St. Petersburg, Florida.

Dear Mr. Malpass:

Yours of the 22nd received. I regret to state that I have no recollection of ever seeing this New Orleans cover before. I recognize Larry Shenfield's lettering on the back. It indicates that he thought the 1¢ stamp was not recognized but I feel sure this theory is wrong. The date is Dec. 1864 and at the time the New Orleans P.O. was under the control of the Federal authorities. The 1¢ stamp was never demonetized. It has always been good for U. S. postage. In this case I think it undoubtedly paid 1¢ on a rate and 2¢ was still due. Would this mean that the clerks recognized the letter was from out of town and required a 3¢ rate? If so, then 2¢ was due. I think this theory is wrong but I mention it as someone might suggest it. The solution is in my opinion, as follows:

1) The Drop rate by Act of Mar. 3, 1863 was 2¢. In 1864, New Orleans did not have any letter carriers. The above rate was in effect but was later reduced to 1¢ in cities or towns without free delivery.

2) On deficient payments of postage double rates were charged. Thus if a 3¢ letter was mailed unpaid, 6¢ was collected on delivery.

3) In this case, 1¢ was paid, whereas 2¢ was the proper rate, thus 2 x 1¢ was due on delivery.

As you are probably aware, Mr. Leonard V. Huber of New Orleans is very much interested in anything pertaining to N.O. postal history. The chances are that he would greatly appreciate a description of this cover.

Congratulations on the acquisition of those June 1st 1861 Confed. covers. I remember that Larry accumulated some nice ones. The chances are that I have photos of them in my files because he knew I especially liked such items.

I have stayed over night at "Beans Station" and have passed thru Cumberland Gap on numerous occasions. The Lincoln Memorial University is a very fine institution and I have been a subscriber to their quarterly magazine (which is very fine) for a number of years. Your cover must be awfully nice.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

33-3





BY GEO N MALPASS - SEE S.B.383 - P3

B525
 GREEN F128
 85EC

B525

JULY 30-1954

33 - 3

TO A PRISONER IN NEW ORLEANS

ORIGINATED OUTSIDE

N.O. 14 STAMP NOT
RECOG. "DUE 2" FOR
DROP LETTER

1942. CS/-



*When ex'd & app'd
please drop in Post office
at New Orleans*

539

(24)

RMTX

020

DOWN. MYLTHS COVER SEE B525

JOHN A. FOX

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

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

July 27, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

Enclosed please find a 1¢ 1851 which has the boys guessing as to type. I think it is a IIIA, but we decided to send it along to the Master to find out the real story.

By the end of the week I expect to send some slides to be photographed. I have quite a few covers in my reference collection and once in awhile I give talks at various clubs, but do not like to show all of my material for fear it will be confiscated. Of course, it is a silly ruling where items are held to prevent fakery and then the Government confiscates them. I figured that if I could have pictured slides, I could show these instead of the actual material and in this way run no risk of having it grabbed.

I trust that Mildred and yourself are enjoying the summer and that you do not have too many days where the temperature runs over one hundred. We have been fortunate here insofar as there have not been too many bad days.

I wonder if you are going to California to the A.P.S. Convention. If so, I will see you there.

With kind personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,



JOHN A. FOX

JAF:ew



Buy at the Sign of the Triangle

July 30, 1954.

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

Dear John:

Herewith the 1¢ '51 as per yours of the 27th. As noted on the card, this is a Type II from Plate One Early. The top line is faint, but it is not broken, hence not a IIIA but a II. Because of the heavy Petersburg, Va. cancel, I do not believe the stamp could be plated, but it looks very much like a position in the 10th vertical row of the plate. I do not class any Type II stamps from this plate as IIIA unless there is a very distinct break in the top line and the break wide enough to be classed as a break. We do find some stamps from this plate with what I call a minor break but at best such copies can only be classed as very poor examples of Type IIIA. As such I doubt if they have any more value than a Type II.

Okay John, I note you will send me some items for transparencies. I will attend to same without any delay. I don't think that anyone is going to take the trouble to bother about these slides.

John a wonderful way to show slides is in an Eastman table viewer. It gives a picture about 5 x 7 and a wonderful reproduction. They list somewhere around \$98.00 or \$99.00. I can get one of these for you at a discount of about 20% as I buy so much photographic material I am classed as a dealer. Just bear this in mind but treat it as strictly confidential. You could stop in at one of the Eastman stores and request they show one to you. I have one on my desk and they are really wonderful.

It hit 100 here today and I suppose it might just as well have been five or six degrees higher so far as comfort is concerned. This was the second hottest day of the year.

No John, I will not attend the S.F. Convention this year. I would, however, enjoy it out there as I have a lot of friends in the S.F. area.

Mildred joins me in best wishes to Virginia and you.

Cordially yours,

ALLEN C. BECK AND ASSOCIATES

A Selling Organization

Phone: TAYlor 1214

Brokers—Candy and Specialties

3932 Frankfort Avenue

Louisville 7, Ky.

Territory
Covered:

atucky

ana

nessee

inia

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

July 26 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Henry Meyer is much
interested in a Currier cover
I have, which he has seen - and
states you also want to see it.
I'm enclosing this cover for you
study - Henry thinks it may be
a Lewisville Currier.

With best wishes & looking
forward to an early visit
from you at our Philatelic Club
I am

Sincerely,
Allen C. Beck.

July 30, 1954.

Mr. Allen C. Beck,
Box 85,
St. Matthews Sta.,
Louisville 7, Ky.

Dear Mr. Beck:

It was very kind of you to send me the enclosed cover and I want you to know that I appreciate the favor. This is quite an interesting cover and no doubt Henry Meyer gave you an outline of my analysis. If not, I will be glad to do so.

I feel quite sure that this cover had no relation to any "Carrier" usage.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

ALLEN C. BECK AND ASSOCIATES

A Selling Organization

33-5

Phone: TAYlor 1214

Brokers—Candy and Specialties

3932 Frankfort Avenue

Louisville 7, Ky.

Territory
Covered:

Kentucky

Indiana

Tennessee

West
Virginia

Aug. 15-1954

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
P.O. Box 31
33 W. Ft. Thomas Ave
Fort Thomas Ky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook -

You are very kind in
sending me the photos of the
Wells Fargo cases

Henry Meyer did not
give me your analysis of the
cases & its usage - He only gave
his appraisal & opinion.

I will appreciate your
analysis.

Sincerely
Allen C. Beck

33-5

Aug. 19, 1954.

Mr. Allen C. Beck,
3932 Frankfort Ave.,
Louisville 7, Ky.

Dear Mr. Beck:

Yours of the 15th. I am enclosing herewith my memo regarding your W.F. cover. If there are any points on which you wish any further information, you can advise me.

Sincerely yours,

WELLS FARGO COVER
3¢ 1853 U.S. Envelope
Los Angeles to Louisville

Analysis by Stanley B. Ashbrook.

This letter originated at some point in California and was carried into Los Angeles by Wells Fargo and placed in the U. S. Mail. I doubt if W.F. & Co. picked it up at San Pedro, Calif., because there was a U.S. P.O. at San Pedro, which was in "Los Angeles" County. The W.F. & Co. frank was the Express Fee for carriage to Los Angeles. From Los Angeles, it was carried East by the Overland Stage, ("Overland Mail") to St. Louis, thence to Louisville, Ky. The Los Angeles postmark is "July," undoubtedly July 1860. The rate to the East was 10¢ over 3000 miles, or 3¢ under 3000 miles. Thus via Panama and New York to Louisville the rate was 10¢ but by the Overland Mail it was 3¢, Louisville being less than 3000 miles by the Overland Route.

On the back of this envelope is a U. S. 1¢ 1857 - Type V, canceled and postmarked Louisville "Mar 14" (1861). Apparently this same envelope was again used in March 1861 as a "Drop Letter" - 1¢ postage - to transmit some message to the same person, same address at Louisville.

A pen notation on face has "Evidence 20 March 1861." This type of postmark with break in outer circle was used at Louisville in March 1861.

To sum up -

This letter first entered the U. S. Mail at Los Angeles in July, presumably 1860, and the 3¢ rate indicates it went by the Overland Mail to Louisville and was evidently delivered to the addressee at the end of its journey as there is no evidence of it being undelivered such as "Advertised" or "Dead Letter" etc.

On the back we find a 1¢ 1857 with postmark of March 16, which is evidence that this envelope with the same address again entered the mail at Louisville, and addressed to Louisville, indicating, of course, a 1¢ Drop rate. We can only speculate as to why it was used a second time to the same address.

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

AUGUST 19, 1954

WELLS FARGO COVER
3¢ 1853 U.S. Envelope
Los Angeles to Louisville

Analysis by Stanley B. Ashbrook.

This letter originated at some point in California and was carried into Los Angeles by Wells Fargo and placed in the U. S. Mail. I doubt if W.F. & Co. picked it up at San Pedro, Calif., because there was a U.S. P.O. at San Pedro, which was in "Los Angeles" County. The W.F. & Co. frank was the Express Fee for carriage to Los Angeles. From Los Angeles, it was carried East by the Overland Stage, ("Overland Mail") to St. Louis, thence to Louisville, Ky. The Los Angeles postmark is "July," undoubtedly July 1860. The rate to the East was 10¢ over 3000 miles, or 3¢ under 3000 miles. Thus via Panama and New York to Louisville the rate was 10¢ but by the Overland Mail it was 3¢, Louisville being less than 3000 miles by the Overland Route.

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A pen notation on face has "Evidence 20 March 1861." This type of postmark with break in outer circle was used at Louisville in March 1861.

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STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

AUGUST 19, 1954

Nells Fargo Cover
3d 1853 U. S. Envelope
Los Angeles to Louisville

Analysis by Stanley D Ashbrook.

This letter originated at some point in California and was carried into Los Angeles ~~and~~ by Nells Fargo and placed in the U. S. Mail. I doubt if N.F. & Co picked it up at San Pedro Calif, because there was a U. S. P.O. at ~~San~~ San Pedro, which was in "Los Angeles" ~~Calif~~ County. The N.F. & Co Frank was the Express fee for Carriage to Los Angeles x From Los A, it was carried East by the Overland Stage, ("Overland Mail") to St Louis, thence to ~~St Louis~~ ^{LOUISVILLE Ky.} The Los A. postmark is "July," undoubtedly July 1860. The rate to the East was 10¢ over

3000 miles, or 3¢ under 3000 miles. Plus via Panama and New York to Louisville the rate was 10¢ but by the Overland Mail it was 3¢, ~~to~~ Louisville being less than 3000 miles by the Overland Route.

On the back of this envelope is a U. S. 1¢ 1857 - type V, canceled and postmarked Louisville "Mar 14" (1861).

Apparently this same envelope was again used, ^{in March 1861} as a "Drop Letter" - 1¢ postage - to transmit some ^{message} ~~letter~~ to the same person, same address at Louisville.

A pen notation on face has "Evidence 20 March 1861."

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outer circle was used at
Louisville in March 1861.

To sum up —

This letter first entered the
U. S. Mail at Los Angeles
~~pro~~ ~~on~~ in July, presumably
1860 and the 34 date
indicates it went by
the Overland Mail to
Louisville and was
evidently delivered to
the addressee at the end
of its journey as there is
no evidence of it being
undelivered such as
"Addressed" or "Dead
Letter" etc.

On the back we find
a 14 1857 with postmark

of March 16, which is
evidence that this envelope
with the same address
again entered the mail
at Louisville, and
addressed to Louisville,
indicating of course
a 1¢ drop rate. We
can only speculate
as to why it was
used ~~to the~~ a second
time to the same
address.

Stuart H. Hunsaker

AUG 19 1954

A504

FOR BACK OF THIS COVER SEE B5C

PHINEAS BANNING

Forwarding

MERCHANT

SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA

Part of Rural
evidence to
J. M. Bann
No. 1
Main Street
Louisville
Ky.



BY ALLEN C. BECK OF LOUISVILLE

SEE FACE A504

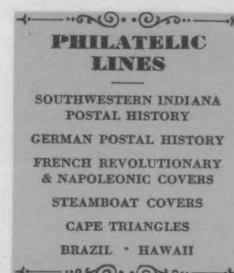


BACK OF THE BECK COVER LOS ANGELES
TO LOUISVILLE

B527

F128 GREEN-18 SEC

B527



July 6, 1954

Dear Stan:

I have come back to life. I was practically out of circulation all of last summer and fall, and completely out of circulation during the past winter and spring. I believe you knew what was the cause of my taking a demit from all stamp work; it was the centennial celebration of our school. It fell to my lot to do the history, and it became a much bigger piece of work than any of us had anticipated. It became a book of x plus 225 pages. Then during the last frantic efforts to get final corrected proof back to the printer and to negotiate constantly with him on all manner of details, I also had to organize and conduct one of the evening meetings (not quite single-handed, but very nearly so) and to gather, put up, supervise, take down and return a historical exhibit of things covering our hundred years of existence. I am still returning things, and I am still helping the circulation committee to mail out the book and to deliver copies in town in person; but eventually I hope to get back to my interrupted philatelic studies.

There have been two matters between us recently regarding which I have not replied to your letters. I am glad I sent for the slave sale poster; it is an interesting document, and you have done your friends in the C.S.A. a great service in making it available to us. You are very right, it was an iniquitous institution which had to be eradicated. It is unthinkable that civilized Americans who claimed to cherish the spirit of democracy and Christianity seriously argued for the preservation of such an institution only a hundred years ago when our school was founded. I had a very interesting time last summer, while doing research from the newspaper files of 1850-70, observing not only articles relating to education, but also those relating to slavery, disunion, secession, Kansas-Nebraska, Lincoln, Douglas, the progress of the war, its final end, and reconstruction. I absorbed the spirit of the times as I had never done from history books. History books have a way of hiding the spirit of the times beneath layers of facts; for a really intelligent understanding, we need both the facts and the spirit. I believe we studious philatelists come nearer to gaining an understanding of the olden times through our early folded letters and their contents than history majors in college do.

I read the day-by-day reports of the progress of Morgan's raid; I read the bulletins when he threatened to capture Evansville; I read the report of his crossing into Indiana at Brandenburg, and his progress through Ohio. It was like reliving those times. Recently the Book Nook, a semi-philatelic store in Louisville which also deals in old books, old prints, maps, etc., has turned up a copy of the Corydon Weekly Democrat of July 14, 1863, with the full account of the sacking of Corydon. They have made a reproduction which is very well done. They sell it for \$2.00. I have thought of writing T. W. Crigler a letter about it; he might want to announce its availability in the Confederate Newsletter. Some of our colonels might like to have it.

During the course of my research I also found a lot of interesting items about postal matters: prepayment, stamped envelopes, demonetization of the 1857 issue, mail by river, the appearance of the 1869 issue, etc. If I can ever get around to it, I may type up a few carbon copies of such items as I found for a few friends who would be interested. They are too scattering and too miscellaneous to make an article; but something here and there might be interesting to some of my friends. If I ever get to do that, I will make you a copy.

(No. 36)

We now come to your letter of Feb. 28 with a copy of your Special Service. A reply four months late can't be of much value to you any more, but your kindness in sending it to me at least deserves an answer.

If I had tried to reply at that time, my reply would not have meant anything; I would not even have understood the significance of that which you brought to our attention. But meanwhile Maurice announced his discovery in Mekeel's, which I read very carefully. I now see how it fits into your discussion. So I now feel able to comment upon it, especially since I can take the time to restudy it and type what I really mean.

It is very curious that it took so long for a postage rate of 1849-51 to become known to us. I suppose we all assumed all this time that we always had rates of 3x, 5x, and 7x the basic rate. Now comes Maurice and turns up this Boston Almanac which states that in 1850 only even multiples were permissible.

My first reaction was this: "Was Postmaster Hayden of Boston so tied up in his thinking with British rates that he assumed that odd multiples were excluded? Did he, on his own, cause that statement to be printed in the Boston Almanac? Did his interpretation influence thought and action in the Boston area where the Almanac circulated, or was it known over the U.S.?" But no, we see that the Washington-Willard semi-official postal guide contained it.

My second reaction was this: "If such a provision ever existed, why was it never published officially by the Post Office Department?" I now see that it was not printed where we can find it, because there was no P.L. & R. between 1847 (too early) and 1852 (too late). P.L. & R. always states the current information; it does not pretend to give historical background; so the 1852 issue would naturally make no mention of a rate which had gone out a year earlier. But it still is strange that the fine little booklet "Postage Rates 1789-1930" (and its 5¢ supplement) which is historical skips over this rate. One would think that the Solicitor-General of the P.O.D. would search not only bound numbers of the Postal Guide, but also the manuscript records of the Dept.

My third reaction was this: "In stating the rates for heavier letters, has everybody who stated a rate been so busy quoting even rates that he simply forgot all about odd rates?" But I now see that the Washington-Willard bulletin definitely states, "there being no triple or qunitriple (sic) rates."

My fourth reaction was (and still is) this: "Is it possible that P.M.G. Collamer set up the even rates on his own responsibility? Did he either read that interpretation into the law because he was so conscious of the British rates, or did he simply decide to make that regulation?" You are acquainted with the Kalakaua Errors (errors in interpreting directives from San Francisco and/or Washington) in Hawaiian postal History; have we here some Collamer Errors? It would be hard to find out, 105 years later, what led a certain man to make a certain decision, unless we can find something on paper.

There are two lines of study we can pursue incidentally, as we have time for them and as we are looking for other things:

1. We can be looking for a postal law of March 3, 1849 and see what it says.
2. I can look in the Evansville papers of March-July, 1849, for an announcement by our Evansville postmaster. Our postmaster of those days was a great believer in what we now call "public relations." At least a couple of times every week he insterted either a "post office notice" over his signature, or a letter to the editor. He kept the people well informed. In doing some research in the Louisville Courier and the Louisville Journal last summer, I found exactly the opposite situation; the Louisville postmaster almost never put anything in. Our Evansville postmaster may have made some announcement about the abolition (and later restoration) of odd multiples and given the source of his authority. Perhaps I can do that this summer.

I now come to a question which has been running through my mind, and which I need settled before I can finish an article I am writing on the mark "Mail Route." I am sure you remember this, that in one of the very early numbers of the Stamp Specialist there was an article on that mark, and I think it was by Seymour Dunbar. Tonight at stamp club I will verify the name of the author and take notes exactly what number it was in. It contained the thesis that the mark indicated transportation through Tennessee or Kentucky by virtue of a treaty with the Cherokee Indians. (It seems to me that it turned out later that somebody told that to the author, and he believed it and wrote his article accordingly.)

Very shortly thereafter, an article appeared in one of the leading stamp papers (my memory says STAMPS magazine) revealing the errors of the Stamp Specialist article. Now comes the question: Was it you who wrote the correcting article? You and I were not as well acquainted at that time as we are now, so although your name was already well known in philatelic research then, it did not make quite the impact on me as it would now.

If it was you who wrote the correcting article, do your notes show the magazine and date? If I say anything about it in my article, I should quote accurately and definitely. I have found in my writing that when I know that a certain theory is current or has been printed somewhere which I know to be untrue, I should say so; otherwise shortly after my article appears, I will begin to receive letters solemnly quoting to me like Holy Scriptures, the already discredited article. I save a lot of needless reading and acknowledging by saying that something is not so.

So it would help me a great deal if you find it possible to answer the two questions: (1) Did you publish the correction? (2) Name and date of magazine?

While I was typing this letter, the mail came, bringing from Mekeel's my copy of Maurice's booklet "Schedule of Mails and Postages in 1849." It doesn't change anything I said in this letter; it just puts everything in handier form. I must write to Maurice and congratulate him on the service he has rendered us.

I hope that from now on I can react to my philatelic correspondence in the normal manner as I did previous to last summer.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

July 16, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

Yours of the 6th received and carefully noted. I will comment on some of the subjects mentioned.

Slavery. I quite agree that it was a terrible institution and had to be eliminated from American life but we must bear in mind that the people of the South of the generation prior to the Civil War were not responsible for it, they did not institute it, it had been handed down to them as a thing that was legal in every way. But the most important point was, that their whole economy was based upon it. To have done away with it, would have meant economic ruin, as it later proved. Only in recent years has the South recovered. Then there was the other most important feature, States Rights. On this cornerstone was this nation founded. It has become a dead issue. No longer have the States any rights. Instead we have a government centralized in Washington.

Re - the reprint of the Corydon Weekly Democrat. Will you please give me the address of the book store in Louisville. My father was one of Morgan's men and was with the command on the entire raid. He was captured at the end of the raid and sent to Camp Douglas, Chicago. I am sure Crigler would like to know about the reprint.

News items that you found. I certainly would appreciate a copy.

Re - the Blake Discovery. You should send to Mekeel's and obtain Blake's booklet on the subject.

Note the last paragraph on page 2 of your letter. My answer to this "Fourth Reaction" is as follows: Here is my belief -

- (1) A new P.M.G. took office March 4, 1849.
- (2) Congress approved an act legalizing no triple rate on mail going to Britain and beyond under the U.S. - British Postal Treaty which went into effect the middle of February 1849. It is my conviction that Congress had no intention of changing the domestic rating of letters but merely to legalize no triple rate on mail to G.B.

Second. The new P.M.G. read his own interpretation into the law and on March 15, 1849 issued an order that the new "no triple rate" applied to all U.S. mail, domestic and foreign. Why should we have changed our method of rating domestic mail just because the Treaty provided no triple rate? The British were high and mighty in those days and hated the young and growing nation to the West. They never lost an opportunity to take a crack at us. They had no triple rate in their Postal System, hence made us accept no triple rate in the new postal treaty. Mail going abroad under the new treaty was very small in comparison to the large(?) volume of domestic mail. I simply cannot believe that Congress had any intention of changing the rating on domestic mail. The wording of the act of March 3, 1849 is perhaps ambiguous but it is according to how one wishes to interpret it. It

#2. Mr. Henry A. Meyer, July 16, 1954

must have been unsatisfactory to the people and Congress recognized the dissatisfaction and changed it back to the former method by the act of March 3, 1851.

I don't think that Blake agrees with me.

Henry we don't have to look for the postal law of 1849. The act of March 3, 1849 is given in the 1852 P.L. & R. It is possible that you might find something in the Evansville paper of March 1849.

Mail Route. Yes, I believe that Seymour Dunbar did have something on this subject in the "STAMP SPECIALIST" but as near as I can remember it was an article by a man named Fredericks of New Orleans who published some sort of a pipe-dream about a treaty with the Indians, etc. It seemed so utterly absurd to me that I published the correct story. This is all from memory and off hand I do not remember where my answer to his article was published but it was evidently in "STAMPS."

Later

I find that the Dunbar article appeared in Vol. 1 of the "STAMP SPECIALIST" Issue No. 4. My memo reads - "This article so far as Mail Route is positively silly."

I cannot find a memo of the article I published but as stated above, as near as I can recall, it was in answer to an article by a man by the name of Fredericks.

I note that you did obtain a copy of the Blake booklet.

With regards.

Cordially yours,

CAMBRIDGE TRUST COMPANY
HARVARD SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS



July 29, 1954

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

Dear Col. Ashbrook:

You probably do not remember me by name, but, perhaps you recall that Lester Downing, John Ayer and I had a very pleasant visit with you and Dr. Chase last year. We have often spoken of what a pleasant day we had, thanks to you. I do hope we shall have another opportunity before too long to renew our acquaintance.

I noticed your ad in the 3¢ '51 unit "Chatter" in which you were willing to give us help on some of our puzzles. Enclosed is a 3¢ '51 cover with a "U^D States 6^d" cancellation. I can find some information about the U^D States cancellations in your wonderful book on the 1¢, but I am puzzled about the 6^d part of the cancellation. Would you kindly enlighten me? When you return the cover, please send me a memo of how much I owe you and I shall send a check right away.

Yours very truly,

E. Willard Phippen

EWP:EB
* Enclosure
Registered Mail

July 31, 1954.

Mr. E. Willard Phippen,
1336 Massachusetts Ave.,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Phippen:

Yours of the 29th received and I certainly did recall you before I opened your letter. That certainly was a most enjoyable day we had last September at the home of the dean of U. S. postal research work, the beloved Carroll Chase. It would be nice indeed to have another such reunion.

Herewith I am returning your 3¢ 1851 cover from Buffalo to Toronto in September of 1853. First permit me to explain that I removed it from the wrapper for two reasons - (1) to obtain the year of use - (2) because I believe that it is perhaps bad for old stamps to wrap them up in this sort of material - I believe the air should be permitted to circulate for fear of damage when a stamp or cover is sealed in this chemical preparation.

Regarding the cover. We concluded a postal "agreement" with Canada in March 1851, fixing a rate of 10¢ per 1/2 ounce, payment optional. Where a rate was not fully prepaid the piece of mail was to be rated as entirely unpaid. Thus the 3¢ on this folded letter was null and void. Each country was to retain all postages collected in each country.

The blue "Ud. States - 6d" indicated that this letter was entirely unpaid and that "6d" or 6 pence sterling was to be collected from the addressee. The Canadian sixpence at that time was equivalent to 10¢ U. S. - Various cities on the border exchanged mail (in sealed bags) with designated cities in Canada. For example, Buffalo exchanged with Toronto. Mail in northwestern New York addressed to a town or city in Canada was sent to Buffalo and exchanged with Toronto and from that office it was forwarded to its Canadian destination.

I am more than pleased to give you this analysis of your cover and of course there is no fee.

When you next see John Ayer, Lester Downing and Arthur Davis, please extend to them my kindest regards. It was nice to hear from you.

Cordially yours,

On March 23, Harmer, Rooke & Co. sold lot #101, namely an 1861 "3c pink block of 4". The Philatelic Foundation in their report stated this was not the pink. It has been examined by Warren H. Colson, Ezra Cole and Philip H. Ward, Jr. and it is the opinion of all three that this is the pink stamp, Scott's #64. As we recall, John A. Klemann had a good size block of this shade some years back. It was broken into blocks of four and singles. From our observations, all unused blocks and most singles are from this larger piece.

The 3c pink comes in two very distinct shades — the lighter shade, such as this block and most of the used copies known, and a more brilliant deep pink, which is not known unused and is seldom found used. We think Stan Ashbrook calls this second shade "robin's blood" pink. However, we have a mint block of the former and a used copy on cover of the latter in our own collection, so that when our trained eye is at fault we can actually check with the stamps themselves, which after all is the best way to pass upon such a variety. To handle them is to know them and the more that pass through one's hands, the better one becomes posted.

WARD 1n

Mekeels

May or June

1954

June 7, 1954.

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

Dear Phil:

In your last column in Mekeel's you mentioned a block of four 3¢ 1861 Pink in the Harmer Roake sale of March 23, Lot #101. I note the P.F. Expert Committee stated that this block was not the Pink though it had been okayed by Colson, Cole and you. I have no recollection that I ever saw this block or that it had been sent to me for my opinion. I am just wondering if anyone was given the impression that I passed upon it? I do examine material for the P.F. from time to time. I feel sure that you know a Pink and I feel sure that Colson knows the color and I believe Ezra has a very good idea. Can you give me any further details regarding this difference of opinion?

I suppose you noticed the article in Mekeel's by a person named Plotz. I only glanced at it but I note that he used the term "MOCK PINK." That is a new one on me. I never heard that term before. I wonder if "MOCK" refers to a "near Pink" or a "Pinkish Rose."

I also noticed you quoted me as using the term "Robin's blood." That also is a new one. I never heard that term before. What you had in mind was a "Pigeon Blood." You were correct in stating that the real "Pigeon Blood" is a scarce stamp, also correct in stating that an unused copy is not known, at least, I never saw or heard of one.

I mentioned in my June Service that the unused, no gum, block in the Eno sale as being an exceptionally fine color and so it is. Not the usual faded out "unused" that are frequently classed as the "Pink." When I am requested to pass on a Pink or Pigeon Blood I always make direct comparison, side-by-side with my reference copies and only in good light - never on a dark overcast day. That is the sure way and eliminates any guess-work.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

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

June 21, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

~~While I was in the office a couple hours on Friday I am now back full time. The new drug that they gave me seemed to have knocked me out and I can still feel the effects.~~

On my return I find your letter of the 7th in regards to the pink. The block in question from the Harmer Rooke sale is from the same larger block as the Eno piece. Souren bought the Eno item and as they all are a little creased, he evidently washed off the gum and pressed it out. This shade is well known and I have never seen an unused block in any other color. We do not know who in the Foundation turned the pink block down but it came back to Gordon Harmer on the day of one of his large sales and Colson, Cole and myself happened to be present. While we were not in his office together, we each saw the block individually and each, without knowing what the other had to say, described it as the real pink. The block has been sent back to the Foundation for a revised certificate. No one intimated that you had passed upon it or even seen it. As a matter of curiosity, I would like to know who really turned it down. ~~Their Board, insofar as U. S. issues are concerned, is terrible and they have made some rotten decisions.~~

I note your remarks "Pigeon Blood" and for some reason or other there was lodged in my mind "Robin's Blood". I have a Pigeon Blood on cover in my collection, which you checked some years back, and as I state in my article, and which you confirm in your letter, I have never seen this in unused condition. I have in my personal collection a mint single and block of the pink variety, which is known unused, and several covers with the pink stamp on both Patriotic and normal covers. I also have one Pigeon Blood and must say I have been hunting for an unused copy for many many years without success. I imagine it is just one of those things that we will have to put down as not existing.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

JOHN DAVID BAKER
3909 NORTH DELAWARE STREET
INDIANAPOLIS 5, INDIANA

July 31, 1954.

Dear Stan:

I am in the midst of writing up a cover I bought in the Moody Sale and am confused. The cover is Lot 504 Through-the- Lines by Adams Express. The PAID 10 I understand to be the Confederate prepaid double rate, the 6¢ cancelled by Louisville to be the U. S. double rate. Why the other 3¢ stamp cancelled by Adams Express? Was Adams charge 3¢, if so how would they collect it if it was paid by stamps?

Are you going to be in Chicago for the S.P.A.? I will probably be there one day, the day of the banquet. I will be exhibiting a selection of pages from my collection of the 1851-64 period.

Sincerely
John

Aug. 4, 1954.

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

Dear Dave:

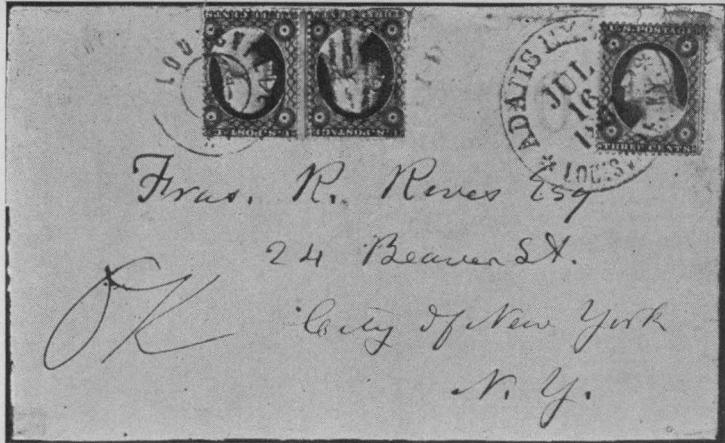
Re - yours of the 31st and cover 504 in the Moody sale. The 3¢ 1857 tied by the Adams Express did not pay any postage. I suppose the writer thought it would pay the U. S. postage but of course Adams knew it would not, hence canceled it at Louisville and attached a pair. I believe Adams charged "Two Bits" to carry the letter "thru the lines." The Charlottesville Post Office evidently rated it as a double if 10¢ was paid there because the Confederate rate was 5¢ up to 500 miles - 10¢ over 500 miles - per 1/2 ounce. I judge they rated it as a "double" because they did not think it would be over 500 miles to cross the line.

The "OK" was not a censor marking (as stated), as no mail between the two sections was censored that early. I suppose the "OK" was put on at Charlottesville by the Adams agent to denote the Adams charge had been paid.

No Dave, I will not attend the S. P. A. at Chicago. I have long since passed the time when I enjoy stamp conventions.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,



504

504



THROUGH-THE LINES COVER, originating in the Confederacy, pmkd in blue Charlottesville, Va., July 10, 1861, "PAID" and "10", denoting the prepaid Confederate postage; carried across the lines by Adam's Express with a 3c T. II tied on by Adam's Express, Louisville, Ky., July 16, 1861 and forwarded to New York with a pair of 3c T. II, tied on by blue Louisville, Ky. duplex canc., cover also bears Mss. "O.K." censor marking. Very rare (26)

See illustration

425



James Dechow

427



429



Melvin Welch V. Carroll

430



Geo. York



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

7/29/54

Dear Stan -

Would appreciate your
comments re rates on 4
of the enclosed covers + your
opinion as to whether or not
another stamp may have been re-
moved from the one with PI#
Pair of #73's. Hastily + with best wishes,
(over) Sam

P.S. Also enclosing 10¢ 1856 -
Has it been cleaned?

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth
102 Beacon Street
BOSTON (16) Mass.

See
Black
and
White
photos →

Aug. 2, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Your Air Special of July 30 did not reach me until this noon -- Aug. 2nd. I think you should register a complaint with the Dept. at Washington. Such service is absolutely outrageous. It should have reach me on Saturday or Sunday at the latest. We pay for Service and do not receive it.

Herewith the five covers that you enclosed, also the 10¢ 1855. You merely inquired if I thought the rates were okay -- you did not request me to sign them or to explain any of the rates. All the rates are okay and all the covers are genuine in my opinion. If you wish any signed or an explanation of any of the rates send them back and I will accommodate.

Regarding the 10¢ stamp. I am very dubious about this, as I have an idea it has been cleaned. I certainly would not sell it as "unused." I couldn't see any traces "by eye" under the lamp but the chances are that a photograph by ultra-violet might show up cancel marks. If you wish me to make such a photo return the stamp. I make an extra charge for such work and don't care to do it unless instructed.

No fee for the above but you can reimburse me for the return postage.

With regards --

Cordially yours,

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



U.S.A.
A.R.A.
B.N.A.B.S.

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

August 5, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

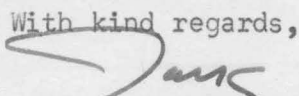
My thanks for your shipment of July 28th and your letters of August 2nd & August 4th. I wish that I could use the strip of Ty Ia's, but there is a tiny nick in the bottom of the center stamp which would eliminate it from the very fine class if I would remove from the cover and the stamp at right has a tiny skin in the shoulder. Were it not for these two factors I believe that I would be able to meet the \$250 price. However in view of them I regret I must return. I do appreciate your keeping me in mind for such material I shall be glad to look at anything you might feel that would be of interest in the future.

In my haste to get the five covers and the 10¢ 1855 off to you I fear I was not too specific in outlining what I wanted on them. Actually I wanted you to sign the reverse and describe the rates on all since they were odd ones that I was not familiar with myself. I did not doubt the authenticity of any of them except the pair of #73's on which I suspected that there may have been another stamp that had been removed from either the bottom left corner or to the right of the pair. I am returning them enclosed and would appreciate your signing and explaining the rates on them. Also enclosed is the 10¢ 1855 which I purchased in the last Harmer Auction. I don't quite feel that the comments in your August 2nd letter would be sufficient basis for return so guess it would be best for you to photograph the item by ultra-violet as I will either have to return to them based on your opinion that it is cleaned or keep myself and sell as unused. Advise fees for the above and add your postage on returning the last lot and I shall remit promptly as usual.

I appreciate your comments in regard to the 12¢ 1851 cover and can understand very well your opinion on it. It is something that I had no intentions of buying unless I could secure a favorable opinion on it from you. However, I did not expect that this would be forthcoming in view of the previous circumstances surrounding its being withdrawn etc. I presume it was Ezra Cole who talked the Foundation into their withdrawing their certificate. I appreciate very much your comments and advice concerning it.

Would you be qualified to make a few comments as to the differences between Confederate N.O. Provisional #62X3 and #62X5? I believe the catalogue comments concerning these are rather confusing.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/p
encl

Aug. 7, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

I have signed each of these five covers on the back and because it is Saturday, I am sending them back before noon. I am holding the 104 1855 and will return it Monday. I will send you an analysis of each cover.

Hastily yours,



1000
Aug. 7, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith I am enclosing the analysis of the five covers that I returned to you this A.M. by registered mail. I am also enclosing the 10¢ 1855 which shows no cancelation.

To me this stamp has an appearance of having been cleaned but under the ultra-violet my eye was unable to detect any direct evidence, therefore, I had to make a photograph by the ray. I will report on this later, and I hope to give you something definite.

There seem to be quite a few unused 10¢ 1855 in circulation. I have these submitted most all the time. The cleaners seem to find it an easy stamp to clean. They seem to be able to remove cancels from this green ink without leaving any trace. As far as I am concerned I would ~~not~~ pay a dime premium for an "uncanceled" copy.

Thanks Jack, for the return of the 1¢ 1851, Type IA strip.

Again re - the Geneva, N.Y. cover with the quarter 12¢ '51. The fellow who is supposed to have put this into circulation was a fellow named Jarrett. It may have been Henry not the Toronto Fred Jarrett. I believe that Harry Komwiser knows the facts. I really do not know if Cole advised the P.F. I suspect Komwiser but the latter may have given Cole the dope. I don't know anything about Jarrett - where he is from, etc., but the New York crowd evidently has his history.

For the data and signing of the five covers I am charging you a total of \$10.00. I will charge you later on the 10¢ 1855.

Re - your query re - New Orleans - stamps #62X3 and #62X5. I don't think that you should have any trouble with these, as it is merely a difference in paper, one is white, the other is yellowish. Explain to me what seems to puzzle you and perhaps I can help you out.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

A - a use ~~in~~ Dec 6 1867

(194)

stamps not full

check on back is 12/30-67

Bremen

B - ~~1865~~ - Red Brown on back
1863 on back ~~bottom~~ on Pch LONDON 63

C Lebanon to Nashville
no full no date

D) 37¢ to Russia - no actual year
on back Rec Jan 28 - 1866

E) 10¢ to China via P.M. in Mar 69
full stamps

Regarding Cover

37¢ rate from Salem Mass to
St Petersburg Russia ~~the~~ ~~from~~
presumably in December &
January 1865 - 1866. (There is
a pencil memo on back
"Rec. Jan 28 1866". This
was the 37¢ rate to Russia
by "Prussian Closed Mail" - i.e.
from New York in sealed bags
via England and Belgium
to "Aachen" where the bags
were opened and mail
despatched to points beyond.
The rate to Russia was 30¢,
the extra 7¢ carried the letter
to Russia via the Prussian
Mail. On this cover is a "14".
This was the U. S. Credit to
Russia, the U. S. share being
23¢. The person who sent
this letter over paid the rate

by 2¢ as the correct rate
was 35¢ if fully prepaid
but 37¢ if not paid.

Regarding Cover

19¢ Rate to Zurich Switzerland from
Bridgeport Conn on Dec 6 1867. with
a 15¢ 1866 and ~~2~~ two 2¢ 1863. Plus
was a single rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ over
ounce, "By Bremen or Hamburg
Nail". The rate to Bremen was
15¢ - 4¢ was added to ~~cover~~
transmit the letter to Switzerland.
The New York postmark is Dec 12.
A mail ship of the North German
Lloyd sailed on this date with
mail for Bremen and points
beyond. Zurich p. m. on back is
Dec 30 1867.

Regarding Cover

Pair 24 1863 - ~~7th~~ with plate
imprint and Plate No 51, from
Lebanon Penn to Nashville, No
evidence of year use. The
rate was 3d, ~~rather~~ no
extra ~~fee~~ fee; hence this was
a 16 cover pay. As the cover
is not very attractive. I believe
I would prefer this imprint
pair off cover.

Regarding Cover.

5¢ Paid to Calcutta India, from
Newburyport Ms, Feb 24 1863, with
a 5¢ 1862 red brown tied by black
grid. This payment was merely
the 5¢ U.S. Internal under the U.S. -
British Postal Treaty of 1848. Postage
from the U.S. frontier to ~~the~~
~~addressee was~~ destination (via
England) was collected from the
addressee as per manuscript
marking of 1/7 or one
shilling seven pence. This
letter was despatched from Boston
by a British Cunard Mail
Ship.

Regarding Cover

10¢ rate to SWATOW China from
Bristol N.H. on "Mar 10 - 1869."

In red on face, "New York PAID"
Mar 11. This letter was sent
to San Francisco and thence
by the subsidized Pacific Mail
to Shenai. This was a U.S.
Mail Rate, and the rate
was 10¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. The
stamps a vertical pair of
3¢ 1867 grill and a pair
of the 2¢ 1867 grill. The
~~letter~~ cover is addressed
to the U.S. Consul.

33-10

Aug. 12, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Here is a photo by ultra-violet of the 10¢
1855. In my opinion this print shows definite
signs of cancel removal.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Jack E. Molesworth
102 Beacon Street
BOSTON (16) Mass.

AUG - 7 1954

33
10

Charge

10⁰⁰

for 5 Covers

PAID

AUG 15 1954

See

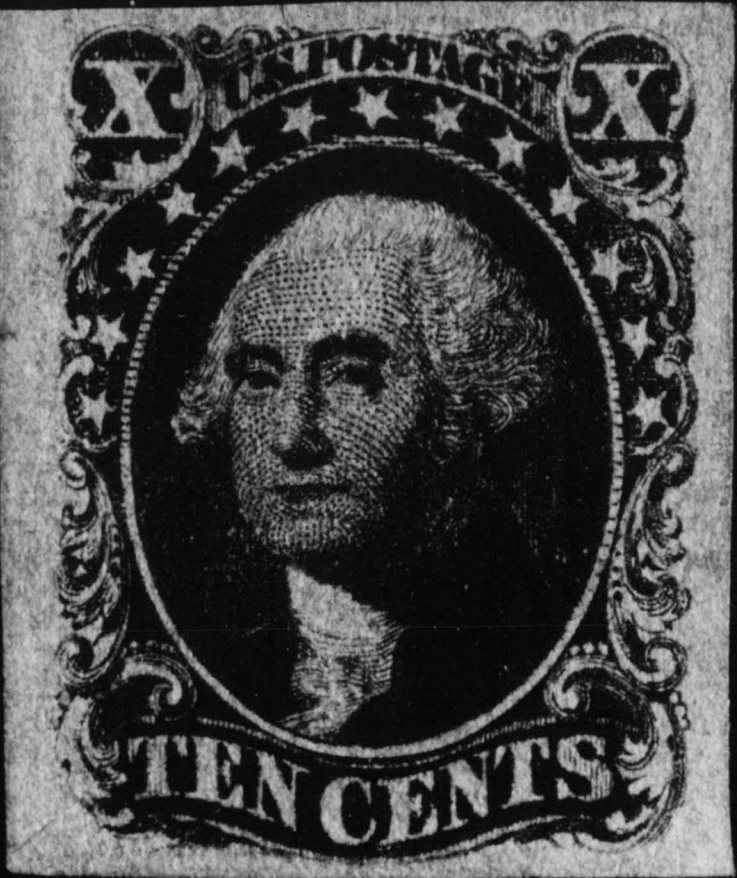
8 B 33

Pa 10

PAID

AUG 15 1954

4



BY J.E. M. &
AT 124-FC4-QUARTZ-20MIN-C214

AS 42



Blue
Lebanon
Tenn.

Wm R. M. Kennard

Blue

Care of Court House

No
Year

Public Square

Nashville → Nashville

Tennessee

JEM 8/2-54

10

A542

A542



Red
Brown

Black

Per Steamer Via England

Care
Capt. George C. Balch
Ship Lord Nelson
Messrs. Atkinson, Tilton & Co.
Calcutta
East India

JEM 8 1/2 - 54

B

AS42

Mr.

J. Y.



- Black



Germany

Hamburg



PAID
10A
KREMER
FRANCO

Blue

Red

Winklerland.

JEN
9/12-54

A

A542✓

By Pacific Mail.

J. C. A. Wingate
U. S. Consul.



Red

1869

Swatow.

China.

Grill



Grill



J.E.M.
8/2
34

A542 ✓

5 COVERS BY MOLESWORTH AUG 7-54
AT 23½-F128 - GREEN-8SEC



Paris, July 13 th. 1954.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

About the Ocean Mail markings I do not agree with the general philatelic position. By comparison with postal usages in other countries than the States, I think it was something of wrong in the students explanations, of incomplete and partially wrong in the study on your last Special Service issue just received. If I understand well your position, you think the three types of the O.M. markings were assigned to the O.M. service, and the examples known on other letters than to California were errors of handstruck use by the P.O. clerk. If so, this marking was only a sailing or maritim departure marking very similar to the different british, american, etc. packet marking of Boston, New-york, etc. If right why such difference of postal use between these different markings ? The packets are always on the back of the letter and never used as canceller; the O.M. are always on the face letter and nearly always used as cancellers. The P.M. are known on letters mailed trans-Atlantic and never on letters of other mails; the O.M. are known on other mails than the officially assigned. All the trans-Atlantic letters from any origin, paid by samps or by money, or unpaid, bore always the P.M.; they are very few of the letters to California who had this O.M. marking even if originating of New-York. The Packet markings uses were closely similar to those of french, british, german, etc. maritim markings of the same days. The O.M. markings uses are particular in all the usages, and similar to nothing. Always exceptions. It is the reason why I think the O.M. markings were not maritim markings even if often used for a particular maritim mail.

About the so-called errors of use, an error in the choice of the handstruck by the P.O. clerk was always possible of course. But if so, why the dates of the marking used were changed ? If the O.M. marking was really assigned for the California service only, it was no reason to change the calendars every days. Only two dates were useful, the 5 and the 20. If the dates were changed every day the reason was this marking had another uses than the O.M. And consequently the so-called errors of use with 9, 25, of date were not errors but only a use not yet understand.

In these old days it was only a central post office even in very big cities. In many harbours of Europa : Havre, Bordeaux, Nantes, Ostende, Amsterdam, Antwerp, etc. the P.O. trusted a clerk on the harbour, on the pier, with a little office or even with an open desk only. You have an example in América : Dentzel in New-Orleans. Why not in New-York ? The presence of such a postman would lighted the understandable uses of the O.M. markings. a) the days of to California sailings, this man collected the mail some time after it was too late, cancelled the stamps with his own markings so called O.M. and given these letters directly to the purser. Even to-days they are such last-postal service in Havre each sailing day. This usage giving an explanation why 1° only a little part of the Ocean Mail was striked with the marking 2° why it is always or nearly the only marking on the letter (at the contrary of the maritim markings who are + other markings), 3° the use as canceller, the postman having no other postmark or killer at his disposal, but the 7 due like on the letter of my collection, photo enclosed. In the O.M. marking look at the Sept. 5 in pen added. Do you not think such pen repair was really a funny work for a postman if in a P.O. with plenty of Ocean Mail letters before him to cancel ? I think it is the proof this marking was not applied in a P.O. and the postman had very few letters to cancell. Wich was normal if only after-closing mail. In other words, the O.M. markings on the letters did not have the 5 or 20 dates because the California sailings were these days, but because this marking was applied on letters wich were in the hands of the postman only these 5 and 20 dates days. The other days he received nothing, but the very few exceptions where they are two different O.M. on the same letter.

About the so-called errors of use, take care at this curious chance, all the letters known were, or sent to foreign countries usually mailed by ships : France, Nova-Scotia, Cuba, Portugal, Hong-Kong.. none for the Up. Canada, or to american cities who are also harbours, Washington, Boston, New-Haven, Philadelphie, (my 1847's letter was also to this city, photo), and none to Pittsburgh or other city in the lands. Perhaps it is only a chance, perhaps not ? Perhaps it was possible to send by this man letters after-closing by cunarders or other ships. Or the forwarders were hoping it was the same with other ships than with those of the Ocean Mail.?

the letters being sent to the N.Y. P.O. -
if wrong ?

Sincerely yours,

Marcel Lévy

Aug.6, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Levy:

My sincere apology for this tardy reply to your kind letter of July 13th. When it arrived I was away on a short vacation and inasmuch as it did not demand an immediate reply I laid it aside until I had cleared my desk of urgent correspondence. I have carefully noted the contents of your letter.

Perhaps the following explanation will be in order. I was the one who assigned the term "Ocean Mail" to the New York postmark and the reason I did so was because it had previously been referred to as the "Around the Horn" marking. As I have repeatedly stated, no mail with this marking was ever sent around the tip of South America. I don't think I ever intimated that it was a marine marking or a stamper that was used aboard mail ships. The fact is that it was simply a stamper that was used at the New York Post Office and at a division or perhaps at a desk where mail was sorted and bagged for California and Oregon. Letters intended for other places could have been struck with this stamper thru error, and this could have happened in the following manner. Perhaps there was a "slot" in the New York P.O. where mail was intended to be deposited that was to go via Panama to California or Oregon. A letter addressed elsewhere could have been deposited in this slot and thru error was struck with this marking. The error was of no consequence - It had been postmarked and the stamp canceled, hence no correction was absolutely necessary.

The mail ships with the Pacific mails departed from New York in the early fifties on the 5th and 20th of each month. A letter addressed to California if mailed on the 12th of the month had to await the sailing of the 20th, hence the letter went to the Pacific mail desk and was postmarked the 20th, the departure date, not the date of mailing. I don't think there is any great mystery about this marking or do specialists in "Westerns" here in the States have any misconception regarding it.

Of course, this marking was not applied to any Pacific mail that originated outside of New York City. It was strictly a New York postmark that was applied to mail which originated in New York City and bore a Pacific Coast address.

If I did not make all the above points clear in my July Service Issue, it was because I assumed all subscribers were quite familiar with the details of the marking. I believe my explanation covers what I termed "errors of use." I might concede that this term is wrong. Perhaps covers addressed to Halifax, or China, or France, or Cuba, or Boston should not be termed "errors" but perhaps "unusual uses of this New York postmark."

I have no explanation as to why dates other than the 5th or 20th (or 6th or 21st) occur. I do think that this stamper was intended principally for the Pacific mail. Perhaps it is possible that special sailings of the mail occurred on off-days, hence the change in the day logo. I never made any investigation along this line that I can recall.

#2. Mr. Marcel Levy - Aug. 6, 1954.

I am pleased to return the two photos that you enclosed. I believe the "Due 7" was a marking applied at the New York Post Office, and has no significance as far as the O.M. is concerned. I have never run across any evidence that would indicate that this N.Y. marking was applied at a New York pier. If such had been the case, we would have many examples of mail from New York City to California with plain New York postmarks. Such items are unknown.

I will await with interest your comment on this letter.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

C. W. CHRISTIAN
FIVE-TWENTY
LARKSPUR AVE.
CORONA DEL MAR
CALIFORNIA

July 23, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

For a number of years I have been interested in collecting the U. S. One Cent 1861 in all of its varieties and uses. Recently I aquired from a dealer, whom I consider very reliable, a cover bearing three copies of the One Cent 1861 mailed from New York to Baltimore and bearing a red or red-violet cancel of the Military District of Washington.

Deaar advised this was a Confederate POW cover listed but not priced by Dietz. I can not find this particular Military District hand stamp in any of the Dietz books that are available to me.

I am not concerned with the validity of the stamps on the cover but will you please advise me if it is in line with your services, as advertised in Stamps Magazine , to furnish information on the hand stamp relative to an authoritative write up for the collection.

If so, kindly advise fee, and will arrange to send cover for inspection. The enclosed postage is for the convenience of your reply.

very truly yours,

C. W. Christian

A P S 18771

July 27, 1954.

Mr. C. W. Christian,
520 Larkspur Ave.,
Corona Del Mar, Calif.

Dear Mr. Christian:

Replying to yours of the 23rd, I do not recall that I ever saw or heard of a marking such as you described. If you care to forward the cover to me, I will be pleased to make an examination of it. The chances are there will be no fee but if there is, I can assure you it will be most reasonable.

I note that you specialize in the One Cent of 1861, which makes me wonder if you were acquainted with my old friend Tudor Gross of Providence, who passed away about five years ago.

One more thing. I find that very few collectors are really familiar with the real 1¢ 1861 ultramarine? I don't mean the pale blue shades but the real ultramarine. Have you experienced much difficulty in locating copies? Do you consider the stamp is much scarcer than the S.U.S. quotations indicate?

Sincerely yours,

C. W. CHRISTIAN
FIVE-TWENTY
LARKSPUR AVE.
CORONA DEL MAR
CALIFORNIA

July 29, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosing the P O W cover for your inspection. Will be very grateful for your observations.

It was not my fortune to know Tudor Gross as he passed away about a year before I became interested in No. 63. Incidentally Mr. Clarence Brazer suggested this stamp to me as a specialty and I am grateful to him for the suggestion as in this regard I believe it is somewhat of a "sleeper". Good thing it is not too popular as there are few enough copies in anything like respectable condition.

When I first learned of Mr. Gross I was curious as to the disposal of his collection and ultimately traced it through Mr. Stephen Lyon to Samuel C. Paige who sold it last year intact. I have never learned the purchaser.

As regards the ultramarine it would be my humble opinion that it is much more scarce than the catalog indicates. If in this shade it can be favorably compared to Scotts #s 246, 340, 382, and 438 then I would say I have none. Yet among those that have passed through my hands I have seen a number of indigos.

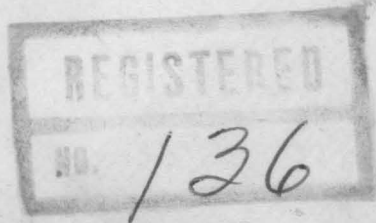
Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

C. W. Christian

Do not fold
or staple

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



RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



Form 381
Rev. 1-52



Aug. 2, 1954.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
Bronxville, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Yours of the 27th received.

A friend of mine out in California sent me a cover with three 1¢ 1861 tied by a Washington postmark of "Jan 5" (no evidence of year use). It is addressed to Baltimore, Md. Across the face is handstamped in red -

APPROVED BY

PROVOST MARSHAL
WASHINGTON D.C.

I have no recollection of ever seeing this handstamp before. There is nothing on the back of the cover. I made a black and white photograph, also a color transparency of the cover and if you or anyone else would like to see these let me know.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Copy to
Thomas Parks
Van Dyk MacBride
Earl Weatherly

Ben Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

August 4th, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

A I have the copy of your letter to Larry Shenfield of August 2nd regarding a Provost Marshal hand-stamp. This is a fairly well known marking, and it probably is the one illustrated and listed as Type II under "Military District of Washington" on page 168 of the present Dietz Catalog. It is known both with the Todd and other signatures. There was one used on a cover with a Confederate stamp in the Fox sale of my own collection listed as Lot #477, of which a rather poor photograph appeared on page 35 in the Catalog of that sale.

If the cover you examined is different from that, I'll be glad to see the photograph you made of it.

Sincerely,

MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L.Shenfield

Aug. 6, 1954.

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

Dear Mac:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 4th.

The collector who sent this cover to me stated that it was not listed in Diets and he inquired if I had ever heard of or had seen such a marking. I was extremely busy at the time and accepted his word that it was not listed, hence did not take the time to look it up.

I never saw a cover with this marking before. Do you suppose it was for mail from political prisoners confined in the "Old Capitol Prison?" I made a photograph but at this writing I have not had time to develop the plate.

This cover had a H.S. of 3 of the 1¢ 1861 and was addressed to Baltimore. I will send you a print later. I could not make out the signature and the ink looked red to me, hardly red violet but it could have been.

Again thanks.

Yours etc.,

Copy to
Tom Paulus
Neathert
Sheffield

Aug. 6, 1954.

Mr. C. W. Christian,
520 Larkspur Ave.,
Corona Del Mar, Calif.

Dear Mr. Christian:

Further referring to mine of the 2nd. I inquired of my friend Van Dyk MacBride if he was familiar with the Washington, D.C. marking as per your cover. Perhaps you will be interested in his reply, which I quote as follows:

"This is a fairly well known marking, and it probably is the one illustrated and listed as Type II under 'Military District of Washington' on page 168 of the present Dietz Catalogue. It is known both with the Todd and other signatures. There was one used on a cover with a Confederate stamp in the Fox sale of my own collection listed as Lot #477, of which a rather poor photograph appeared on page 35 in the Catalog of that sale." (unquote)

The sale referred to above was by John Fox Oct 20, 1953. The illustration was so poor it is impossible to make anything out of it. The cover sold for \$46.00. As noted it had a 10¢ 1863 Confederate stamp.

Sincerely yours,

Aug. 2, 1954.

Mr. C. W. Christian,
520 Larkspur Ave.,
Corona Del Mar, Calif.

Dear Mr. Christian:

Herewith I am returning your 1¢ 1861 cover from Washington to Baltimore, as per yours of the 29th. I never saw this red marking before. It is entirely new to me and I have been studying this class of covers since along about 1912. I believe that I published the first article on Prisoner of War covers that appeared in the philatelic press. We have very little to go by in judging this cover, no year date, not even the name of the Provost Marshall. However, after a careful examination I am of the opinion that the cover is genuine. My guess is that it was from a political prisoner possibly from Baltimore and confined in the old "Capitol Prison" in Washington. I believe a number of southern sympathizers were arrested in Baltimore and jailed in Washington. I will consult with several fellow students of "P of W" covers and in the event I can unearth any data I will advise you.

Tudor Gross was a very dear friend of mine and our friendship extended back many years. He was 100% in every way and a gentleman. His most intimate friend in Providence was Prof. Bob Chambers of Brown. They both passed away within a few months. I never knew what became of Tudor's collection but am not surprised to learn that Sam Paige sold it intact.

It is rather difficult to match early colors with those of later years.

I believe that Clarence Brazier gave you very excellent advice when he advised you to specialize in the 3¢ 1861. If I can be of a bit of assistance at any time please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. CHRISTIAN
FIVE-TWENTY
LARKSPUR AVE.
CORONA DEL MAR
CALIFORNIA

33-12✓

August 9, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

I wishto express my appreciation for the prompt return of my cover and for your observations regarding the usage. Thank you also for checking further through Mr. MacBride for it is good to know the marking has been recorded.

I purchased the cover from Jack Molesworth who mentioned it was listed in Dietz. Apparently the catalogs owned by the Los Angeles Philatelic Club library are not the latest, as it was there I made the search.

If I ever get a #63 in an ultramarine shade that compares well with my proofs I will send it on to you for an opinion.

Sincerely,

C. W. Christian

Aug. 13, 1954.

Mr. C. W. Christian,
520 Larkspur Ave.,
Corona Del Mar, Calif.

Dear Mr. Christian:

Re - yours of the 9th. The Washington marking is listed in the 1945 edition of the Dietz catalogue of Confederates on page 168. I am wondering if you could have overlooked it or could it be possible that the L.A. Club does not have the 1945 catalogue? It is the last edition published and a new one is in preparation.

In a letter from my good friend L. L. Shenfield, dated Aug. 10th last, I quote as follows:

"The red hand stamp from Washington is correctly identified I believe by MacBride. I had one of them which bore no U.S. stamp but only a Confederate stamp and was used in 1864. It undoubtedly came from old capitol prison since my cover bore that hand stamp. I think you will find it illustrated in my article in the A.P. on Prisoner of War covers." (unquote)

The circular marking of the "Old Capitol Prison" is also listed on page 168 of the 1945 Dietz catalogue.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. CHRISTIAN
FIVE-TWENTY
LARKSPUR AVE.
CORONA DEL MAR
CALIFORNIA

Aug. 23, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for the added information on my P O W cover and for your fine cooperation in authenticating this Military District marking.

I shall contact the clipping bureaus for a copy of Mr. L. L. Shenfield's article on Prisoner of War Covers as I would like to add it to my notes on the One Cent '61.

My thanks to you both and hope I shall have the opportunity to return the favor.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Christian

8/24/54

Wish to acknowledge receipt of photostat which arrived just after I had sealed this for mailing!

I had definitely put a date of use for the marking and I appreciate having it to add to the material

Lawrence C. Sheffield

Dear Stan-

My P.O.W. article was in
the Yellow Stamp Specialist, (1942)
- was in the AP, as I was wrong.
I have done others subsequently - but
the one above had photo of the
"Old Cap. Prison" and the "Todd" handstamp
When you read my captive phrase
remember it was written before a lot
of hidden items came to light in the
years 1942 to now -

Warm regards -

Law -

Aug. 20/54

33 - 12

Sept. 2, 1954.

Mr. C. W. Christian,
520 Larkspur Ave.,
Corona Del Mar, Calif.

Dear Mr. Christian:

The article by L. L. Shenfield appeared in the "Yellow Book" of the Lindquist publication, "The Stamp Specialist." I have little doubt that you will find a copy in the Library of the Los Angeles Philatelic Society, but if not and you want a copy, advise me and I will write Mr. Lindquist.

In the Shenfield article he illustrated a cover with a 10¢ Confederate stamp canceled at Richmond in Jan. ? 1864. The letter is addressed to Mobile, Ala. The P.M. marking is signed by Henry B. Todd. This cover also has the circular marking of the "Old Capitol Prison."

My good friend Thomas Parks of Jackson Heights, N.Y., is an authority on covers showing "P.M." markings, (Provost Marshall), of the Civil War. I quote as follows from a letter from him dated Aug. 26th last:

"You have bestirred me into making a check list of the Washington prisoner covers in my extensive collection of literature and photos.

I also looked up Captain Henry B. Todd in the Official Records. He had an interesting record:

November 12, 1861, captured and sent to Richmond.

January 24, 1862, expected to be exchanged for Capt. Smith, of the 25th Va.

The date of his appointment is not given but correspondence refers to him as Provost Marshal in Washington from March 2, 1863 to July 18, 1863. He was no doubt there longer.

July 13, 1864, he was Lt. Col. commanding the 3rd Provisional Regiment of the Second Brigade of Meigs' Division.

He apparently supervised all prisons in Washington, and was not stationed at the Old Capitol, according to: this letter:

Office of the Commissary-General
of Prisoners,
Washington, D.C. March 14, 1863.

Captain Henry B. Todd, Provost Marshal, Washington.

Captain: I have not yet been furnished by Mr. Wood, superintendent of the Old Capitol Prison, with a list of the prisoners under exchange who may be exchanged and I have therefore been unable to say at what time they will be ready to leave. I would like to have all things prepared for their departure as far as practicable,

#2. Mr. C. W. Christian - Sept. 2, 1954.

so that there may be no delay after I hear from Mr. Wood.

W. Hoffman, Col. 3rd Inf.,
Comm. Gen. of Prisoners."

(unquote)

I am enclosing herewith a color slide that I made of your cover. If you would care to retain it, the price is \$1.50.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Enclosed
A10 - 3 (?)

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Ashbrook: Wednesday

I am enclosing a copy of 1875
revenue (Scott # 124) and a pair of #113
tied on the front of a cover to France.

I would appreciate your signing
the stamp if it is the revenue and also
the cover, if it is genuine in every respect.

I haven't seen too many of this
type usage of #113 and I thought that
it would be a nice item to add to
my collection.

Please let me know what I
owe you and I will remit immediately.

With kind regards,

Sincerely

Millard H. Mack

Aug. 6, 1954.

Mr. Millard H. Mack,
3930 Red Bud Ave.,
Cincinnati, O.

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the two items as per yours of the 4th.

4¢ rate to France. This is only a face of a cover and the markings are not plain, however, I have no doubt but what the piece is genuine. This was a rate that became effective after Jan. 1, 1870 and was mostly in use during the first six months of that year. Such mail went thru England and our 4¢ payment merely paid the postage to the British frontier. That funny looking "worm" marking was the French due of "5" decimes, or about 9¢ in U. S. currency at that time. The other marking was a control marking between Britain and France. This is not a very nice pair, perfs cut, etc. I dislike giving philatelic advice but I believe you could well do without this item and wait until a nice one came along. A nice companion piece is a pair of the 2¢ Bank Note on cover, or such a rare combination as a 3¢ '69 + a 1¢ '69.

I will have to return the 2¢ stamp to you later as I fear this may have an ironed-out grill; so I will have to soak it in hot water to see what develops.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

350

Aug. 7, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the 2¢ 1869. In my opinion this is not a used copy of the 1875 re-issue, but rather a used copy of the regular issue with the grill ironed out.

I trust that you will be able to obtain a refund of the purchase price, and if so, I will have to charge you a fee of \$3.50 because I had to make two photographs by ultra-violet. Incidentally, I would like to know who sold this stamp to you.

I believe I recently passed on another used 1875 re-issue. At the time I did not make a photograph by ultra-violet, so perhaps it would be better if you returned the copy to me and I will do so.

Sincerely yours,

Charge

Millard Mack

\$ 350

a/o 24 1869

See SB 33

p 13

PAID

AUG 10 1954

33-13

MILLARD HENRY MACK

Monday

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 2nd concerning the 2¢ reprint (?) with the grill ironed out. I am sure I will be able to obtain a refund of my purchase price and I am enclosing a check to your order for \$3.50.

Jack Malesworth sold me the 2¢ stamp and I have already returned it to him with your letter.

You recently passed on two other used 1875 reissues of the 1869 set and I am returning them to you at your suggestion. I will be glad to pay for any photographs or other expenses you incur in examining these. I wrote you yesterday so our letters probably crossed in the mails.

Many thanks,

Sincerely,

Millard H. Mack

3930 Red Bud Avenue
Cincinnati 29, Ohio.

Aug. 10, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Yours of the 8th (Sunday). Thanks for your check for \$1.50 for the color slide of the remarkable cover. With it, I am enclosing enlarged photos of the two strips. If you do not care to retain these don't hesitate to return them. These slides are the next best thing to owning the original.

Re - the face of the cover with the two 2¢ 1869 stamps, there was no fee on this item.

I am also in receipt of yours of the 9th with check for \$3.50 account of the 2¢ 1869 submitted to you a re-issue. I will send you two photo prints within the next few days of the back of this stamp made by ultra-violet rays. You can send one to Molesworth and retain the other. I will endorse on the print that the stamp is not the 1875 but the regular 1869. The photo print will speak for itself.

I also acknowledge receipt of the 6¢ and 30¢ and I will make notes and report later. If the ultra-violet proves my former verdicts were in error I will have quite a red face. There will not be any additional fee on these two stamps.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosed:

A7 - 3

A7 - 7 - 2 slides @ \$1.50 each.

*Paid
Aug 17*

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

August 12, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thanks very much for your letter of August 10th and for the slides and your okay on the two 1875 reprints of the 1869 issue.

I am enclosing a check to your order for \$ 3.00 for the enlarged photos of the two strips. (1.50 each).

Very sincerely yours,

Millard H Mack

33-13

Aug. 12, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the photo prints as promised. There are two of the 2¢ 1869 and the removal of the grill is quite evident. The other two stamps do not show any faking as per the prints.

Sincerely yours,

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

8-16-54

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

On my return to town today I received a rather lengthy letter from Jack Moleworth concerning the 291869 stamp which you recently examined.*

I have forwarded to Mr. Moleworth the enlarged ultra violet photo which you sent me. I hope that this will be sufficient. I must apologize to you as I did not realize that this would cause a disagreement and I hope that the situation will work out to everyone's satisfaction.

With kind regards,

Sincerely

Mullard H Drack

* he stated that he was sending you a copy of the letter and I assume that you have already received it.

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



U.S.A.
A.R.A.
B.N.A.P.S.

33
13

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

August 13, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Mack,

I acknowledge receipt of your recent return of the 2¢ 1869 previously sold you as a reissue and the pair of 2¢ 1869's on cover. I shall be glad to accept the return of both and have credited your account giving you a credit balance of \$16.50 at the present time. Everything I sell is guaranteed to be as represented at the time of purchase with no time limit whatsoever on return if it should ever later be discovered to be otherwise than represented at the time of purchase. Tho the return of the 2¢ 1869 cover would not be included in this guarantee I shall of course under the circumstances be pleased to accept its return as I would not want you to retain anything with which you were not entirely happy.

Tho I have great respect for the opinion of Mr. Ashbrook and wish very much that I could agree with him on the 2¢ 1869 reissue, I regret that in spite of his opinion after careful examination and checking I still feel that the stamp is the reissue as originally represented to be. Upon receiving its return from you I immediately checked it by every means known to me and found no evidence whatsoever that it was the regular issue; rather, it is in my opinion the exact color of the reissue and printed on the exact type of paper used for same. Also, I can find no trace whatsoever of it ever having had a grill. However, in view of my own high regard for Mr. Ashbrook's opinion I sent the stamp along to Mr. G. N. Usticke, of New York to determine what his opinion might be before writing you as I certainly do not consider myself to be an expert in the same class as Mr. Ashbrook or Mr. Usticke. Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Usticke confirming my own opinion that the stamp is the reissue.

I do not know exactly what means Mr. Ashbrook used to form his opinion and am somewhat at a loss as to understand how Ultra-violet photographs would be of use in determining whether or not the stamp is grilled or not. However, I am sending him a copy of this letter and will look forward with interest to his reply which I am sure will clarify the situation.

I am especially sorry about this incident as Mr. Ashbrook had previously written me that you were a friend of his and requested that I give you every possible consideration. As a result of his request, I have made a special effort to send you only what I consider to be choice material.

The #112 pair which you requested is currently out on approval and if it is returned I shall be glad to send it along to you. In the interim I shall be glad to send along another selection if you would like to have me do so.

With best wishes,

cc S.B. Ashbrook

Encl.

Over please, MX

Dear Stan —

Your comments in answer to the above will be greatly appreciated. I am holding the 10¢ 1851 recently submitted awaiting the ultra violet photo's which you have taken of it. I hope that these will be forth coming shortly as quite a bit of time has elapsed since the auction was held in which I purchased it and I am not sure that a return at a much later date would be taken too gracefully.

With kind regards,

P.S. It may be that both ^{Jack} us strike & I are dead wrong & I for one would be quick to admit it if you can show where we have erred, or what we may have overlooked.

P.P.S. Enclosed is \$10.00 for exam.

Of course. Have written Konwizer. Know Garrett fairly well and have had no reason to suspect him of any funny business — he is rather wealthy in his own right. Will elaborate on 5¢ N.O. Prov. next time.

33
13

Aug. 15, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Molesworth sent me a copy of his letter to you dated the 13th.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of my reply. Perhaps you will note that I was a bit sarcastic in my remarks regarding G.N. Usticke, who owns the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Inc. of New York City. The reason my remarks were so pointed is because I wouldn't trust Usticke as far as I could toss a bull by the tail.

Sincerely yours,

33
13

Aug. 15, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours with copy of letter to Millard Mack received.
No doubt by this time you have received a photograph from Mr. Mack showing the back of the 2¢ 1869. I gave him a print to send to you. I believe that it would be advisable for you not to discount the work that the present day manipulators can achieve. Surely no one has a better appreciation of this fact than your friend Usticke, because I suspect that he has had them do an immense amount of work for him.

When one stops and considers the extremely clever work turned out by Sperati, surely one can appreciate how simple the removal of a grill from an 1869 stamp is for a real "artist."

Grills can be "ironed out" and with the use of a special cement, the fiberw of the paper can be rejoined. However, such "repair" (?) work can be shown very plain by ultra-violet photography or by X-ray photography. My print is proof conclusive and is the difference between a positive opinion and one of visual guesswork.

If this stamp came from Usticke you might ask him if he had it "reconditioned."

Sincerely yours,

Copy to
Millard H. Mack



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

August 19, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Box 31
33 N. Ft. Street
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan,

I wrote Konwiser about Mr. Jarrett as you suggested, but he replied that he knew nothing about the item or Mr. Jarrett other than that he had seen it offered in the auction catalog and "sorta did not like it but knew it had been approved by the Foundation." He suggested that I inform you that you were in error in indicating that he might know something about the cover. He indicated that Cole is responsible for the Philatelic Foundation's action. I shall write Cole when I get a chance and see what he has to say on the item as I am quite interested in the background.

33 10 H. R. Harmer accepted the return of the 10¢ 1851 gracefully, but returned your photo print with a question as to wherein it shows any evidence of cancel removal. Since I cannot myself observe any such from the photo, I am returning it to you and would appreciate your pointing out where in the photo indicates the cleaning so I can enlighten them.

33 13 Millard Mack has sent along your ultra-violet photo of the 2¢ 1869 and I presume that your opinion is based on the stain on the reverse shown in this photo. This stain was of course somewhat obvious to the naked eye and also showed up in fluid, and under my own ultra violet lamp. In order to determine for my own satisfaction whether it is actually merely a stain or the marks left by the clever ironing out of the grill, I treated the stamp as I would to remove a stain and believe it has been completely removed. I would therefore appreciate your re-photographing the stamp which I am enclosing and see if it turns out the same as the first photo. If the stain no longer shows up, I am wondering if you would feel the same way about it?

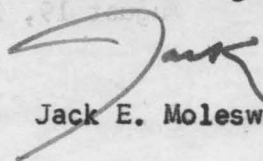
I did not buy the stamp from Ustick and the first he had seen it was when I sent it along after its return by Mack. I was quite interested in your derogatory comments concerning him as I have never had any such experience myself and have always held his opinion in the very highest regard and still feel he knows more about U. S. stamps in general than anyone else in New York. Of course, I have seen very few of the stamps he sells so have no first hand knowledge there. However, I do know that he has incurred the disfavor of quite a few of the more shady New York dealers through his policy of rendering opinions on stamps submitted to him. As a result there has been for some time a concentrated smear campaign on against him in New York, which for my money

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

August 19, 1954

has no basis in fact. I hope that you have not been the victim of this unfounded campaign and presume that you have other factual basis for your opinion. I would greatly appreciate it if you could mention any specific incidents which form a basis for your comments. Naturally, everything written between us is held in the strictest confidence.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

enclosure

JEM/ma

P.S. Enclosed is an interesting
Insect Cancel on #119 - What
do you think of it?

33-13

Aug. 21, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 19th received.

I return herewith the 2¢ 1869. I made a new exposure by ultra-violet and will report later.

I also return the photo print of the 10¢. It was my opinion that this is a cleaned copy.

I also return the 15¢ 1869, and suggest that you submit it to the P.F.

I note that Komwiser had no information on a man by the name of Jarrett, and it is possible that Ezra Cole might be able to give you some information.

I note that you have a very high regard for Usticke so it is possible that I was influenced in my opinion of him by unfounded rumors.

My good friend Tom Parks wrote me recently about a cover that you showed him several months ago. It was a Flag of Truce cover post-marked, "Richmond Sep 8" and addressed to John M. Knowles, care of Major Morfit, Danville, Va. At left end was "Per Flag of Truce Boat". On the back was a "PROVOST MARSHALL" handstamp signed by a Horace Sanders. I judge that I have the above description okay. If you still have this cover will you loan it to me so that I can make a photograph of it?

Yours etc.,

Jack E. Molesworth - 102 Beacon Street - Boston 16, Massachusetts
Aug 27, 1954

Dear Stan,

Replying to your care of August 25th just received, the 2¢ 1869 which I returned is definitely the same one which I submitted to Millard Mack and the same one which you originally examined. I presume that it should be possible to determine this from your original Photograph by checking the perforations.

I believe the answer in the difference is entirely in the ~~xxx~~ fact that I removed the stain on the back which showed up so badly in the original Ultra-violet photo.

Looking forward with interest to your final conclusion,

With best wishes,

Jack.

Jack E. Molesworth
102 Beacon St
Boston, Mass

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



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

VIA AIR MAIL

A.P.S.
S.P.A.
U.C.N.U.



U.S.A.
A.R.A.
B.N.A.P.S.

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

August 26, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your letter of August 21 and also your note of the 22nd. I shall look forward with interest to your report on the 2¢ 1869. As you suggested, I have sent the 15¢ 1869 off to the P. F. and shall let you know what their report is.

I should supplement my prior comments with regard to Usticke by emphasizing that my high regard is for his knowledge and opinions on U. S. stamps. I have had little direct contact with his business methods so I have no basis for judging them one way or the other. I have seen him buy some second grade material at auction, but then he also publishes a list on second grade copies and quite possibly might have been buying for it, though some of the prices paid would appear to preclude such.

The "Flag of Truce" cover which you inquired about has since been sold to a client that I would prefer not to bother in attempting to get a photograph of it, especially since it was previously photographed by Earl Antrim who I am sure would be glad to send you a copy of the photo print which he made. Col. Parks suggested that I send it to him for photographing after he had examined it himself which was done.

Regarding Dr. C. E. Greene of Chelsea, Mass., he was at one time a collector--dealer, but is now definitely a dealer primarily selling items that he has purchased in the past for his own collection, but also buying items on the open market for resale. He was quite active about five years or so ago, but was rather seriously ill for an extended period and apparently has just recently recovered enough to be active in stamps again. I would guess that he would be somewhere between 60 and 65 years old. I have done some business with him myself lately and it has been satisfactory, though he is not the easiest person to do business with. He appears to want to buy as cheaply as possible and sell as high as possible and then seems to occasionally have regrets on material that he has sold at a big price, feeling unjustifiably that he sold it too cheap, etc. He has a fairly good knowledge of U. S. though doubt that he has a sufficiently expert knowledge to be able to detect the various clever things that are currently going on. As far as ethics go, I believe that he is more or less on the level, but also believe that the pocketbook would probably overrule ethical considerations if it ever came to a test. The above comments are merely my opinion and in the strictest confidence.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

33-13
Mr. Jack E. Molesworth
102 Beacon Street
BOSTON (16) Mass.

POST CARD

AUG 25 1961

Dear Jack

The 25 1869 that
you sent me is not
the same day that I
examined for Mollard
Track. What is the
answer? Yours E.C.

33-13

Aug. 31, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

I see I was in error about the return of the 2¢ 1869 and that both stamps were the same. I am enclosing a print of the second photo that I made. I note that you did succeed in removing the stain or whatever it was that showed up on the first photograph. Whether this proves that my opinion was incorrect is a question. I carefully examined the stamp when Mr. Mack sent it to me and was convinced it was an ordinary copy of the 2¢ 1869, and not the re-issue of 1875. Then to be sure I made a photograph by ultra-violet and I thought that the result was proof positive my opinion was correct. If you think I was wrong, I suppose the best way to decide it would be to obtain an opinion by some reliable and recognized authority. I certainly would not accept Eusticke's opinion. It could be that the P.F. could give you a dependable opinion. Perhaps they could send it to someone who has the knowledge. In this day and age when fakers have so much in the way of modern scientific equipment to assist them in their work, I suppose a student is foolish to express an expert opinion. No doubt Sperati would confirm me in this.

The mention of Eusticke reminds me that I understand that he has sold out his business and I wonder if the buyer is the foreigner who has been doing all of the repair work for Eusticke for years past. You might ask him.

Thanks Jack, for the information on Dr. Greene. Your appraisal confirmed by opinion of the gentleman. I will keep it strictly confidential.

Regards.

Yours etc.,



Jack E. Molexworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

September 10, 1954

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas
Fort Thom as, Ky.

Dear Stan,

I was quite interested in the results of your subsequent photographing of the 2¢ 1869. The print came out as I rather expected it would and of course to my mind more or less confirms my previous opinion that the stamp does not have a grill removed. However, I realize very well as you have emphasized many times that currently the boys abroad are doing extremely disceptive jobs and have the use of modern scientific equipment which sometimes make it pretty difficult if not impossible to be sure something has been done to a stamp. I can therefore understand your current reluctance to change your opinion and of course would be glad to acquire the opinion of some other reliable and recognized authority as you suggest. However, off hand I know of no such person unless it would be Ezra Cole or the Philatelic Foundation and I have little confidence in the latter. Actually, I have so much time on the stamp already, that I would just as soon forget about it. Since Millard Mack asked the stamp be returned to him if you should change your opinion on it, I have sent it back to him and outlined your position but indicated that you have not necessarily changed your opinion but rather would be willing to accept the opinion of another reliable and recognized authority. I suggested that he might send it to the Philatelic Foundation if he so desired though I would prefer not to spend more time on it myself.

I was interested in your comment about Usticke having sold his business as such is the first I have heard of any such sale. I shall check in New York and see if there has been any such transaction. I was quite curious as to the basis for your comment about some foreigner who has been doing quite a bit of repair work for Usticke for years past and wonder if you have any specific incidents to support your opinion? I don't say that your opinion is wrong, as I have no facts either way myself, but if you do have some specific incidents, would appreciate your relating them for my own edification. I don't doubt but what a firm his size does now and then sell a repaired stamp without knowing it as of course he cannot check everything that comes in. However, if he were having material repaired and selling it as sound it should become fairly obvious after a while to anyone who has had any considerable amount of business to do with him.

I was glad that my appraisal of Dr Greene more or less confirmed your own opinion of the gentlemen.

With kind regards, Jack (over)

P.S. I am enclosing a 1¢ 1851 and would appreciate your indicating whether or not it is a type III and also if possible plating it.

Sept. 14, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

I note yours of the 10th was missent to Milwaukee. It did not reach me until today. The postal service is sure terrible at times. From Friday until Tuesday for an air mail letter from Boston!!!

Regarding the 2¢ 1869. I don't think your copy is the same as an 1875 - I don't think it looks like an 1875 - I don't think the shade is like the 1875. When I first examined the stamp I felt sure it was the regular 1869 stamp but to be sure, I made a photograph by ultra-violet - After developing the plate I felt there was no question but what my opinion was correct. I don't wish to appear stubborn or anything of that sort and freely admit that I might be wrong. I have no illusions that I am correct ten times out of ten or 99 times out of a 100. I think it would be quite a good thing to obtain an opinion from someone else - surely Ezra Cole is very competent, also right in Boston, why not consult with Dan Kelleher. I believe the Expert Committee of the P.F. could give you a reliable opinion. Why not send it to Elliott Perry? I would value his opinion very highly. If you can get Perry to state that the stamp is the 1875 I will accept his verdict as correct. Is that not fair enough? Also if you think I should pay the fee for his examination I will be glad to do so.

Regarding the Uspicke matter. I suggest that we forget it. I am not sufficiently interested to pursue it further.

Herewith the 1¢ 1851. This is a Plate 4 stamp and it is a Type IIIA - i.e., top line broken, bottom line not broken. While it is true there appears to be a very small break in the bottom line, such small breaks do not constitute a Type III stamp. This stamp comes from a worn state of the plate and seems devoid of any identifying marks. I suppose I could plate it thru a process of elimination but to determine same would not be worth the expense.

Sincerely yours,

Oct. 23, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Mr. Molesworth has advised me that the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation passed as the 2¢ 1869 as the 1875 Re-issue, and that you had accepted it as such, which I thoroughly agree was the proper thing to do. However, before finally closing the case I would like to have you send me the stamp after my return from the East so that I could submit it to Mr. Lester G. Brookman of Minneapolis, whom I consider the foremost authority on grilles and the faking that pertains to them. If Mr. Brookman believes that this stamp is the 1875 Re-Issue I will cheerfully abide by his finding and will refund to you the fee that I charged you.

With regards -

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.

Nov. 9, 1954

Dear Stan:

I've never claimed to be much of an expert on the "Special Printings" although I've caught many a regular issue being passed as the better item. Most of such are easy to identify by the faint traces of grill that usually can be seen.

A I cannot now see any trace of a grill on the 2¢ '69 so I cannot condemn it from this angle. I have a faint suspicion of the paper of the stamp, it appears a little too thin and I do not exactly like the way it absorbs the benzine but I do not feel that I can condemn it only by my suspicions.

I wish I had seen it before the center was cleaned up or worked on if it has had something done to it as is suggested by your early photo.

To give a direct answer to the question as to whether or not it is a Special Printing, I must in all honesty say "I don't know".

Certainly glad that Stan, Jr. has had such a fine time and that you had a nice trip down to pick him up. It is also good news that he will now be located in Illinois.

I'm flying to Denver tomorrow and expect to fly to N.Y. on the 18th. Much to do to clean up the shop but am coming along quite well now. I finally agreed on a settlement last night and I am well satisfied with it.

Sincere regards,

Les

Nov. 11, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith I am returning the 2¢ 1869 which I forwarded to Mr. Lester Brookman. Also the P.F. certificate #5152 which certifies the stamp as the S. U. S. #124 0 the re-issue of 1875.

I quote as follows from Mr. Brookman's letter, dated November 9th, 1954:

"I've never claimed to be much of an expert on the 'Special Printings' although I've caught many a regular issue being passed as the better item. Most of such are easy to identify by the faint traces of grill that usually can be seen.

"I cannot now see any trace of a grill on the 2¢ '69 so I cannot condemn it from this angle. I have a faint suspicion of the paper of the stamp, it appears a little too thin and I do not exactly like the way it absorbs the benzine but I do not feel that I can condemn it only by my suspicions.

"I wish I had seen it before the center was cleaned up or worked on if it has had something done to it as is suggested by your early photo.

"To give a direct answer to the question as to whether or not it is a Special Printing, I must in all honesty say 'I don't know.'" (unquote)

I believe that when I examined this stamp for you last August I charged you a fee of \$3.50. Inasmuch as I have been unable to have anyone else agree with my opinion of the stamp I am refunding the fee that I charged you.

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 11, 1954.

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

Dear Les:

Thanks very much for taking a look at the 2¢ 1869. I appreciate your position and if you did not think you were certain, I agree 100% that you were correct in refusing to guess. If one is not reasonably sure, then one should decline to express an opinion. If the P.F. Committee would follow that rule it would be far better. After all, anyone can make a guess but the chances are that most guesses turn out to be wrong.

I note you are due to make a trip to Denver and then back to New York. Just out of pure curiosity I would like to know what you did with your friend Minkus.

I was talking to my friend Shierson last week and he casually mentioned that Mrs. Stark had made up her mind to give the Stark collection, intact, to Harold Jr. and no part of it would be sold.

As you probably know, Shierson was a business partner of Stark and still is so far as I know, hence the information he gave me must be true.

With best and thanks again for the look at the 2¢ 1869.

As ever yours,

also see

32-15

32 58

33-13

B53
B53
B53
B53

→ \$9

→ \$9
BY M.H. MACK



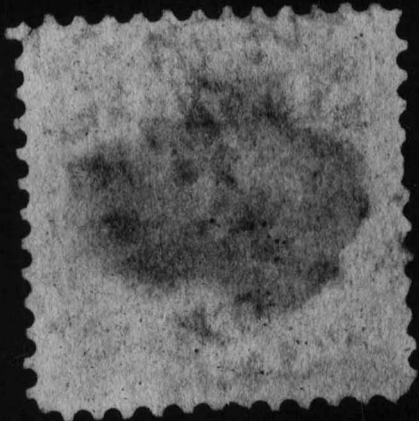
TWO 1875 RE-ISSUE Q F
1869

QUARTZ - 13-F64-20 MIN

33-13

15

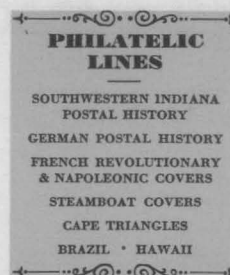
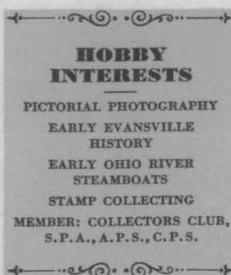
AT 142-F64 12 MIN (D22)
D22



2¢ 1869-BY MILLARD MACK
A 2¢ USED 1869 WITH H GRILL
REMOVED AUGUST 7 1954
SEE S.B.33 p

33-13

BY MILLARD MAYER - 24 1869
QUARTZ - 12½ - F64 - 20 MIN - GRILL REMOVE C216



July 19, 1954

Dear Stan:

I'll try to avoid repeating here what I said in the letter which accompanies this, and which refers to the article I have prepared for Stamps magazine. Just one thing I forgot to say was this:

Ordinarily, I would say that when you have finished reading the carbon copy of my manuscript, you can throw it away; but this time I want to use it for another purpose. I want to send it to the man who asked me the questions which led to the writing of the article, C. F. Wiley, who is with the N.Y. Telephone Co. In order that you may have no nuisance locating an envelope of the right size, I have prepared one two ways. I have addressed it to Mr. Wiley, so that if you find the article suitable for publication, you can send it on to him. But if it is so far from correct that you think it should be killed, it had better be returned to me; and for that purpose I have prepared a gummed label addressed to myself, which can be pasted over Mr. Wiley's address.

The copy for Harry Lindquist goes to him by this mail, so after you have read the article, will you let him know, please, whether to use it or to kill it? For that purpose I have prepared and enclosed an airmail addressed to Harry.

Enclosed is a pair pf photographs of the front and back of a cover owned by a Mr. Beek in Louisville. The Louisville collectors think it is a Louisville carrier use. (For delivery to the business house, I suppose.) What do you think it is?

Here is what always worries me about such a cover having a stamp which is extraneous unless we can explain it: I always think, "How did it get on the cover? Who put it there? Who paid for it?" That is what worried me about a cover from Cuba to the U.S., with proper Cuban postmarks and stampless cover markings, and a 10c 1847. I couldn't figure who put it on and who paid for it. This time, the 1c 1857 is properly ~~postmarked~~ cancelled and the cover is postmarked Louisville. It's not an advertised letter, at least it doesn't say so.

There is another question about it, too. Phineas Banning had stores in San Pedro and Los Angeles. This letter was presumably mailed from Los Angeles, since it is so postmarked. Then why did Phineas waste the price of a Wells Fargo frank on it? I wonder if Phineas was an ancestor of Peter Banning, whom no doubt you know.

If these pictures are of any interest to you, keep them. The Los Angeles town mark is in black; the Louisville town mark and grid I think are blue, but look green because of the envelope. The Ms. inscription on the front seems to be, "B. Part of Rinald's evidence 20 March 1861."

Thanks a lot for your very detailed answer to my last letter. It seems that one remark always leads to another, so now I'll have to reply to a few matters in your letter.

The reprint of the Corydon Democrat was made and is sold by the Book Nook of Louisville. I will enclose their broadside, which I no longer need. The proprietor (whose name I never can recall) wrote me that we talked together when I spoke at the Philatelic Club about a year ago. I am writing Col. Crigker about announcing the publication.

Some time this summer I'll copy off the news items I found concerning postal matters while I was doing the school history. Some of them were rather interesting.

I am inclined to agree that probably Congress had no intention of legalizing no triple rate on domestic mail, just because that clause had been forced upon us in our treaty with Great Britain. I practically said that in my previous letter, when I suggested a parallel between this situation and the Kalakaua Errors. It was very likely a misinterpretation on the part of the P.M.G. Congress, realizing that the misinterpretation had been made because the wording of the law made the misinterpretation possible, corrected it in 1851. I suppose it has long been known that there was no triple rate in the mail to Great Britain. I'll look in the Evansville papers of March, 1849 for some reference to the change.

I recall now, since you wrote something which reminded me, that it was Harold K. Frederick of New Orleans who wrote the foolish article in Stamps on Mail Route. You probably know Harold; he limps a little, and he letters album pages. Since your article was published 14 years ago, we can probably stand another whack at the subject now, provided my article is sufficiently correct. As I reread the Dunbar article, I found many more things in it which are silly; it is a pretty bad thing to have in print at all, and especially in a set of permanent volumes like the Stamp Specialist. It was his faith in the Dunbar article which caused C. F. Wiley to write to me after he read my article "Collecting Steamboat Covers" in Stamps of August 1, 1953. I often get letters "correcting" me by referring me to something which we have long since discarded as worthless. No doubt you have the same experience.

This will have to suffice for today, as I must get this and the original Ms. for Lindquist off on the evening mail collection.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

CARLETON F. WILEY
110 HENRY ROAD
MERRICK, N. Y.

July 25, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

This is to acknowledge receipt of
Mr. Meyer's article on MAIL ROUTE markings.

Incidentally, I have a cover postmarked
on Oct. 15, 1815, sent from New York to Albany,
which shows a "triple" War Rate of 76 1/2 cents.
If by any chance you would be interested in
seeing it, I should be glad to send it to you.

Respectfully yours,

Carleton F. Wiley

July 21, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

Yours of the 19th received.

I read your manuscript and am pleased to state that I thoroughly approve of it and I have advised Harry by all means to publish it.

After a long search I found the article that was published by H. K. Frederick. It appeared in an issue of GOSSIP for Dec. 23, 1944, page 374. Under date of Dec. 30, 1944, I wrote a letter to Frederick pointing out in a nice way his errors. I have a copy of that letter. He replied to my letter under date of Jan. 13, 1945. He mentioned that he had received a letter from you. He also stated that the data he published had been obtained from C. A. Wagner of New Orleans who was going by the Dunbar article. Under date of Jan. 7, 1945, you acknowledged a letter I had written you and had sent you a copy of the letter I wrote Frederick. You enclosed a copy of a letter you had written Frederick under date of Jan. 7, 1945.

I cannot find any record of an article that I published at the time but I have a recollection that I did. If so, it must have appeared in GOSSIP soon after the appearance of the Frederick article. Perhaps you have a file of GOSSIP. I haven't.

Henry, I have some "Mail Route" covers scattered around. If you would like to see them I will be glad to hunt them up and loan them to you. I will also loan you the correspondence mentioned above if you would care to see it.

I have mailed your manuscript to Mr. Wiley.

Regarding the two photographs that you sent me, front and back of the 3¢ 1853 envelope - Wells Fargo Frank - addressed to Louisville from Los Angeles. The latter postmark appears to be dated "JUL 17" (?) no year. The Louisville postmark on the back is Mar 14 and this is surely 1861, as I have made a study and record of Louisville postmarks for the first seven or eight months of 1861 in connection with covers with "South? Letters Unpaid."

One might wonder why a 3¢ rate from Los Angeles in July 1860(?) to Louisville? Also about other features. Here is a wild guess.

Cover originated at some remote point in California, was carried to Los Angeles by Wells Fargo (hence the Frank) and placed in the U. S. mail - carried East by the Overland Mail (stage) to St. Louis and thence to Louisville. Because the distance was less than 3000 miles, the 3¢ rate applied. Via Panama it was 10¢. Covers east or west showing this 3¢ rate are exceedingly scarce. Now for a guess - The addressee loaned this envelope to someone to mail something back to him months later. So the letter was remailed as a Louisville Drop on Mar. 14, 1861. The stamp and postmark on the back, the address on the face.

#2. Mr. Henry A. Meyer - July 21, 1954.

I am wondering if you could borrow this cover for me? I would like to make a minute examination of it.

Thanks very much for the copy of "Book Nook List." I will send for several items.

Again re - the Blake no triple rate. Did I send you a copy of one of my "SERVICE ISSUES" wherein I discussed this subject at length? If not, I will send you a copy.

I am sure that you are aware that Britain had no domestic triple rate until late in 1865.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Post Card

JUL 21 1954

Dear Harry

Re - Henry Meyer's

article on "Mail Route". I have
gone over his manuscript and
advise its publication. While
there are several minor errors
I doubt if any one will notice
them.

Regards
Cordally

July 28, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

Yours of the 22nd. I am terribly busy at present and inasmuch as you are in no hurry I will send you my "Mail Route" covers later, also the correspondence I had with Fredericks and you.

The cover from Mr. Beck came in this morning and I do appreciate the favor. I also purchased a half dozen or more books from the Louisville Book Shop including the facsimile of the Corydon, Ind. newspaper.

Re - triple rates. We never see a triple rate from the U.S. to Britain before about the middle of 1866. The old treaty expired as of Dec. 31, 1867, so a triple rate would have to be in that eighteen months period. No wonder such covers are extremely rare. It was years before I ever located one. It is postal history such as this that fascinate me.

Re - 3¢ rate from California. This was the rate via the Overland Mail. St. Louis was within 3000 miles. Apparently Louisville was also. I think it was over 3000 miles to Cincinnati, hence not 3¢ but 10¢. Of course all mail via the Ocean Route was 10¢ up to July 1, 1863.

Regards.

Cordially yours,

**HOBBY
INTERESTS**

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

Henry A. Meyer

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT • CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

RESIDENCE 516 READ STREET

TELEPHONE 5-6380

EVANSVILLE • 11 • INDIANA

**PHILATELIC
LINES**

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

July 22, 1954

Dear Stan:

Your letter of July 21 came this morning. That is really very good time.

Thanks a lot for handling my manuscript so promptly. I am very happy to know that you approve my article and recommend its publication. I am glad you let Harry know immediately.

I would very much like to borrow your MAIL ROUTE covers, if you can get them together without delaying more urgent matters. Any time this summer will be a good time for me to study them. I must get more examples any place where they can be found. We have had plenty cases of drawing conclusions from too few samples. I hope I get a big response in the way of offers of loans.

I would also like to borrow the correspondence with you and Harold K. Frederick about MAIL ROUTE, to review it. After ten years, it has been crowded to the back of my head and it will do me good to freshen it up again. Now that you mention it, I remember that Clarence A. Wagner was involved in it.

Clarence A. Wagner (whom some people insist on confusing with Corwith, though there isn't the slightest resemblance) was co-worker with Leonard Huber on THE GREAT MAIL. Clarence had the collection of New Orleans markings, and Leonard did the writing.

I have already written to Mr. Beck and asked him to send the California-Louisville cover to you. I am sure he will. If you don't receive it in a few days, or a week at the most, let me know and I'll write him a reminder. Your guess as to its meaning sounds reasonable. It would account for the way the 1c stamp got on, and who paid for it. After seeing it at first hand, if you change your diagnosis, let me know.

You sent me the Special Service bulletin in which you review and discuss Maurice's book. I don't think I knew that Great Britain had no triple rate until late in 1865. I'll study my Great Britain covers and see whether I can trace the introduction of the triple rate by the stamps on them. I probably can't, because I don't have a very continuous series of dates.

It is well that you mentioned the scarcity of 3c rate covers between California and the east. I might have overlooked it. I know I have some 10c covers in my reference file; then they went via Panama? I hope I can find a 3c cover, to fill out my series of rates by periods.

Yours sincerely,

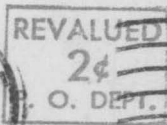
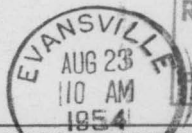
Henry

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

Dear Stan:

Just a word before I leave for the S.P.A. convention. I am thinking over your letter of Aug. 20, and want to write what comes to me as I study it, but that will take more time than I have tonight. I just want to reassure you with this card that I am giving your letter careful consideration and will write further as soon as I can after I return.

Henry



THIS SIDE OF CARD FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

33 N. Fort Thomas Ave.

Fort Thomas, Ky.



Coupon
Number F 1931

Citizens Insurance Co.
of New Jersey

In Consideration of the premium and subject to the terms and stipulations contained in the Policy named in the book from which this Coupon has been detached, does insure the safe delivery of the merchandise in the package or described in the invoice with which this Coupon is enclosed. And said merchandise is hereby insured for not exceeding the amount provided in said policy for a registered, unregistered or parcel post package, as the case may be.



Coupon
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*Policies Issued by the
Citizens Insurance Co.*

ART EXHIBITORS' — AUTOMOBILE — AVIATION
— BUSINESS INTERRUPTION — CUSTOMERS'
GOODS — EARTHQUAKE — EXPLOSION — FARM
— FINE ARTS — FIRE — FUR — HAIL — JEWELRY-
FUR — LEASEHOLD — LIGHTNING — MARINE
(HULL AND CARGO)—MERCHANDISE IN TRANSIT
(BY LAND, WATER, OR AIR) — MOTORCYCLE —
PARCEL POST — PERSONAL EFFECTS FLOATER
— PROFITS — RAIN — REGISTERED MAIL —
RENT—RIOT AND CIVIL COMMOTION—SPRINK-
LER LEAKAGE — TRACTOR — TRANSIT LIVE
STOCK — WINDSTORM.

Agents Everywhere

(Over)

*Policies Issued by the
Citizens Insurance Co.*

ART EXHIBITORS' — AUTOMOBILE — AVIATION
— BUSINESS INTERRUPTION — CUSTOMERS'
GOODS — EARTHQUAKE — EXPLOSION — FARM
— FINE ARTS — FIRE — FUR — HAIL — JEWELRY-
FUR — LEASEHOLD — LIGHTNING — MARINE
(HULL AND CARGO)—MERCHANDISE IN TRANSIT
(BY LAND, WATER, OR AIR) — MOTORCYCLE —
PARCEL POST — PERSONAL EFFECTS FLOATER
— PROFITS — RAIN — REGISTERED MAIL —
RENT—RIOT AND CIVIL COMMOTION—SPRINK-
LER LEAKAGE — TRACTOR — TRANSIT LIVE
STOCK — WINDSTORM.

Agents Everywhere

(Over)

TRACY W. SIMPSON
66 ALVARADO ROAD
BERKELEY 5, CALIFORNIA

July 16, 1954

Dear Stanley

Here is that cover you wanted to see.
The letter with it did not show a year date, but
I weighed it and the total came well below $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

I think Blake's hunch is right; viz. that
the Concord clerk picked up a little side money because
he thought he could get away with it - as it looks like
an overweight letter as to the 4c. As you know, he has another
from same correspondence without any "Disc 2".

Blake says there is no reason why a 1c U.S.
could not be used as a substitute for the Boston
Penny Post in 1853 or 54 - the probable year of use of
this (judging by the 3c stamp).

I have that plate plus you mention on a
single. It is quite scarce. The plate as far as I
know is unknown.

With best wishes and hope that things
are cooling down Kentucky way.

I'm mounting + lettering Geraldine Smith's first day
covers for Court of Honor at APS - a labor of
love - but I want him to get some recognition. He has fine
items but all so miserably lettered + mounted.

Hastily + sincerely

TWS

Enclosure

Value \$35.00 for insurance purposes

July 20, 1954.

Mr. Tracy W. Simpson,
66 Alvarado Road,
Berkeley 5, Calif.

Dear Tracy:

Thanks very much for a look at the 3¢ + 1¢ cover. I am wondering if that type of Boston PAID was used as early as 1853 or 1854. This is the "thick bar" type and I wonder if this is not more like a use in 1856. Would this 3¢ stamp be okay for 1856? The 1¢ looks more like a use in August 1854 than 1855, much less in 1856.

I cannot offer any better explanation than that suggested by Morris Blake. If it was not for that "Due 2" I would suggest a prepaid WAY cover into Boston. I suppose we will have to be satisfied with guess-work on this cover.

Thanks Tracy, for your comment on the 3¢ 1857 "cheek flaw" variety. I agree with you that it surely is not common.

We are having some very torrid weather. Last Wednesday it ran up to 104, the hottest day since July 1936. Today is also a scorcher.

Was pleased to learn you were assisting Dr. Smith.

With best wishes and again thanks.

Cordially yours,

RAYNOR HUBBELL
SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



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

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

Aug 5/1954

Stanley B. Ashbrook

Dr Thomas

Kentucky

Dear Stanley, - To satisfy
a Chicago dealer who is
asking me some covers
would you spell out the
probable period & number
of the enclosed covers. -

You may charge me
for doing so

Hubbell

Aug. 9, 1954.

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

Dear Raynor:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 5th. When I first glanced at this I concluded it was merely a "Forwarded" letter of the period - July 1, 1851 to April 1, 1855 - when the rate of postage was 3¢ PAID - 5¢ UNPAID. In other words, a letter "Forwarded" unpaid, cost the addressee 5¢ on delivery, but then I noted the dates - New York Mar 30 - Charlottesville - "Sep 11." I then concluded the envelope had been held from March of some year, and later used to send a letter - unpaid - to the same person in September, unpaid. And then I noted what is apparently a PAID either over or under the Charlottesville "5." This would seem to indicate a Confederate use in September 1861, provided that marking under(?) the "5" is "PAID."

The 1859 P.L. & R. - lists a post office at "OAKLAND COLLEGE - CLAIBORNE COUNTY, MISS. - J.E.C. Doreman, Postmaster." This office was also listed in the 1855 P.L. & R. with the same postmaster. Claiborne Co. borders the east bank of the Mississippi River in the southwestern section of the state. Port Gibson is the County seat.

Va ~~THERE~~ There was never a 5¢ rate in the Confederacy between Charlottesville and Claiborne Co., Miss., as the original rate was 5¢ up to 500 miles and 10¢ over that distance. On July 1, 1862, the rate became 10¢ in the C.S.A. *Charlottesville is Over 500 Miles From*

The above I believe are the facts and to go beyond these in an analysis of this cover would be pure speculation but nevertheless I will give you my theory. First. I do not believe that this is a Confederate use, because of the fact there was never such a rate as 5¢ between the two offices. Second. It is my guess that this use was during the period 1851-1855, and that the clerk at first stamped the letter as paid, then noticing the error, stamped over the indistinct "PAID" the DUE marking of "5." Incidentally, for the record, I note that there is nothing on the back to indicate the year of use. Further, both of the two postmarks are of the period prior to April 1, 1855.

Sincerely yours,

(33-16)

(New York And Charlottesville)

in Claiborne County in Mississippi

33-16

To

Raynor Hubbell,
Griffin, Georgia.

PAID
AUG 13 1954

For an analysis of
a 3¢ 1851 cover -
New York to Charlottesville, Va.\$3.00

(33-16)

PAID
AUG 13 1954

33-16

Aug. 13, 1954.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
40 Highland Circle,
Bromville, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Yours of the 10th received. I have been addressing you at home but I wonder which you prefer? The old address or home?

Thanks for your information on the Washington marking. I will convey it to the owner of the cover. Also my appreciation of your further comment on the early date of May 1, 1863 for the 10¢ Type II and for that on the Marshall, Texas cover. I am in complete agreement on both.

I am enclosing a photograph of a cover that was recently shown to me (keep this print for future reference). I believe the whole story is here on the face and I feel sure your analysis will agree with the one I furnished the owner. Look it over and let me know your solution.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Cover From Charlottesville
to Mississippi

Aug. 13, 1954.

33-16

Mr. Earl Antrim,
316 Holly,
Nampa, Idaho.

Dear Earl:

Here is a photo and memo which do not return. I thought perhaps the solution of this item might prove interesting to you. I furnished my analysis to the friend who sent the cover to me. I feel sure your solution would agree with mine. If requested to furnish same what would it be?

Haven't heard from you for some time. Anything new and what line are you pursuing?

What about the Bannock City Express? What have you and is it of any special interest to you?

With regards.

Cordially yours,

EARL ANTRIM
319 HOLLY
BOX 749
NAMPA, IDAHO

Aug. 14

Dear Stan, Many thanks
for the photo of the N.Y. &
Charlottesville Vq. Part 5. com.
Your analysis is as mine would
be, It is very interesting. I never
saw one like it before.

I sold all my Barroch city Express
& all my Idaho Expresses to Art
Farrell of Boise. He is very interested
in securing all the Idaho Exps.
he can find. If you have anything
along that line please let
him see them. His address is
ART FARRELL 5821 RANDOLPH DRIVE
BOISE IDAHO

Sincerely
Earl

33-16

Aug. 19, 1954.

Mr. Earl Antrim,
316 Holly,
Nampa, Idaho.

Dear Earl:

Again re - the cover of which I
sent you a photo. Your letter was rather
indefinite. I don't know whether we are
both of the same opinion. I might add, we are
not, if you were of the opinion it is a Con-
federate.

Sincerely yours,

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 5th. When I first glanced at this I concluded it was merely a "Forwarded" letter of the period - July 1, 1851 to April 1, 1855 - when the rate of postage was 3¢ PAID - 5¢ UNPAID. In other words, a letter "Forwarded" unpaid, cost the addressee 5¢ on delivery, but then I noted the dates - New York Mar 30 - Charlottesville - "Sep 11." I then concluded the envelope had been held from March of some year, and later used to send a letter - unpaid - to the same person in September, unpaid. And then I noted what is apparently a PAID either over or under the Charlottesville "5." This would seem to indicate a Confederate use in September 1861, provided that marking under (?) the "5" is "PAID."

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There was never a 5¢ rate in the Confederacy between Charlottesville, Va. and Claiborne Co., Miss., as the original rate was 5¢ up to 500 miles and 10¢ over that distance. Charlottesville is over 500 miles from Claiborne County in Mississippi. On July 1, 1862, the rate became 10¢ in the C.S.A.

The above I believe are the facts and to go beyond these in an analysis of this cover would be pure speculation but nevertheless I will give you my theory. First. I do not believe that this is a Confederate use, because of the fact there was never such a rate as 5¢ between the two offices. Second. It is my guess that this use was during the period 1851-1855, and that the clerk at first stamped the letter as paid, then noticing the error, stamped over the indistinct "PAID" the DUE marking of "5." Incidentally, for the record, I note that there is nothing on the back to indicate the year of use. Further, both of the two postmarks (New York and Charlottesville) are of the period prior to April 1, 1855.

Sincerely yours,

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 5th. When I first glanced at this I concluded it was merely a "Forwarded" letter of the period - July 1, 1851 to April 1, 1855 - when the rate of postage was 3¢ PAID - 5¢ UNPAID. In other words, a letter "Forwarded" unpaid, cost the addressee 5¢ on delivery, but then I noted the dates - New York Mar 30 - Charlottesville - "Sep 11." I then concluded the envelope had been held from March of some year, and later used to send a letter - unpaid - to the same person in September, unpaid. And then I noted what is apparently a PAID either over or under the Charlottesville "5." This would seem to indicate a Confederate use in September 1861, provided that marking under (?) the "5" is "PAID."

The 1859 P.L. & R. - lists a post office at "OAKLAND COLLEGE - CLAIBORNE COUNTY, MISS. - J.E.C. Doreman, Postmaster." This office was also listed in the 1855 P.L. & R. with the same postmaster. Claiborne Co. borders the east bank of the Mississippi River in the southwestern section of the state. Port Gibson is the County seat.

There was never a 5¢ rate in the Confederacy between Charlottesville, Va. and Claiborne Co., Miss., as the original rate was 5¢ up to 500 miles and 10¢ over that distance. Charlottesville is over 500 miles from Claiborne County in Mississippi. On July 1, 1862, the rate became 10¢ in the C.S.A.

The above I believe are the facts and to go beyond these in an analysis of this cover would be pure speculation but nevertheless I will give you my theory. First. I do not believe that this is a Confederate use, because of the fact there was never such a rate as 5¢ between the two offices. Second. It is my guess that this use was during the period 1851-1855, and that the clerk at first stamped the letter as paid, then noticing the error, stamped over the indistinct "PAID" the DUE marking of "5." Incidentally, for the record, I note that there is nothing on the back to indicate the year of use. Further, both of the two postmarks (New York and Charlottesville) are of the period prior to April 1, 1855.

Sincerely yours,

33 - 16

Aug. 13, 1954.

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

Dear Mac:

Here is a photograph which do not
return but keep for future reference. I
furnished my analysis to the friend who sent
it to me. No doubt your solution would be the
same as mine, but I will welcome it.

Yours etc.,

33-16

Ben Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

August 16th, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

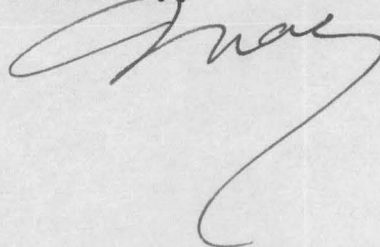
Thank you for the photograph of that interesting Charlottesville cover. As you say, my analysis of it can hardly be different than yours, - although I am sure neither of them can quite come up to the "romantic" description of it by the dealer who offered it for sale!

The U.S. 3¢ stamp carried the letter from New York to Charlottesville, Va. in the ordinary mails, - as a matter of fact Virginia had not seceded by the time this was mailed on March 30, 1861. It was apparently delivered to and kept by its addressee, W. L. Brown, and after he left for Oakland College in Mississippi the original address was struck out and the cover re-mailed to him, - doubtless with different contents. By that time, September 17th, Virginia had seceded and Confederate postage rates were in effect. Thus it got struck with the Paid, - indistinctly, - 5 marking, which was apparently enough to pay the distance rate between these two points.

I thought the "5" at first was a due marking, but I think the Paid seems to be indistinctly struck across it. Anyhow, it was not a soldier's letter, and therefore would not have been forwarded if the minimum postage rate had not been paid first. In my opinion this cover is only an "oddity", and as such worth perhaps \$10.

My best!

Sincerely,



MacB/HK

Aug. 19th, 1954.

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

Dear Mac:

Thanks for yours of the 16th, which I have carefully noted. I enclose a copy of the letter that I wrote the person who sent me the "Charlottesville, Va." cover. Further comment will be appreciated.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--You still have a credit balance with me. Shall I send you a check?

LAWRENCE L. SHENFIELD

Advertising & Merchandising
Consultant

40 Highland Circle, Bronxville 8, N.Y.
BRonxville 2-4206

Dear Stan-

This cover looks to me like an 1854 stamp - impen-
(judged by the impression) regularly mailed from N.Y.
to Charlottesville. Then forwarded to Miss. unpaid
and Murphy "due 5" Had nothing whatever to do
with the C.S.A. as I see it. As to the gap in the
dates. MAR TO SEP. That is a puzzle unless the
dating logos are in error - but I presume you know
that answer!

Let me know my return on this before

Best,

Lawrence

Aug. 25

Soddam this pen - excuse phrase.

MacBride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

August 25th, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for yours of the 19th, further re that Charlottesville, Va. cover. This time I guess it was I who was the careless one! I failed to check the distance in this case, and thereby assumed the 5¢ rate was the Confederate, and a correct one.

You doubtless have the right answer in your analysis, especially as your knowledge of the periods in which various postmarks were used, helped identify this as an 1851-55 usage. Incidentally, the "5", in blue, also served to mislead me, for that is the 5 which was used in the Confederate handstamped PAID 5 marking.

Anyhow, thanks for straightening me out on this one.

As Always

MacB/HK

P.S. No, - keep that credit balance of mine if you don't mind, - I'll doubtless find some way to make use of it a little later.

33-16

BY RAYNOR HUBBELL
SEE B531



Blue



Blue



Black

Mr W. L. Brown,

Nothing on
Back

~~Charlottesville~~
Oakland College
~~Virginia~~
Mifflin

Submitted By A Dealer To A Client With
This Notation " Mailed From New
York March 30 (1861) With 3¢
Postage. Stayed In Charlottesville
Thru War Declaration & Forwarded
Sep 11 (1861) Under Confederate Frank
"Charlottesville 5", PRICE \$25.00.

GREEN 1128-15 SEC
BROWN BLUE COVER

B532

Submitted By A Dealer To A Client With
This Notation " Mailed From New
York March 30 (1861) With 3¢
Postage. Stayed in Charlottesville
Thru War Declaration & Forwarded
Sep 11 (1861) Under Confederate Frank
"Charlottesville 5", PRICE \$ 25⁰⁰.

33-17

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, 5, Alabama.
Saturday P.M. 8/7/54.

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

Dear Stan,

I just received back this 90¢ 1860 from the P.F. with the enclosed certificate. I am enclosing it herewith and sending it to you to illustrate a point. Maybe you recall some correspondence we had last June about such a stamp that I had sent the P.F. with a blue town cancel. They had sent it back with a "The Expert Committee respectfully declines to give an opinion on item #4880 Blue Baltimore Town". I wrote you about this and you wrote me length on the subject. I complained then that the P.F. should make some decision just as a judge does from the bench. We did not exactly agree on this.

I know you dont keep files for everyone years back but I have kept the correspondence we had in 1952 about the enclosed 90¢ 1860 single. This was lot 80 in a sale of H.R. Harmer on April 14, 1952 and which I bought for some \$24.00 thru Ezra. It was described as "Well centered, creases and tiny tear, but fine appearance." and was photographed in the catalog. On 4/7/52 before the sale you called my attention to the fact that it was coming up, but that you were suspicious about the cancel. This was prior to seeing it. (By the way, this was the same day you wrote me a long hand note to the effect you had been in intense pain with gall bladder threat.) Next day you wrote you had sent for lot 88 a pink, and lot 80 the 90¢, that the 3¢ was not a pink, and that "the 90¢ #80 is a miserable looking thing and has perfs down the center line. I never saw a 90¢ center line copy with perfs down the line. I sent both copies right back and did not waste time examining the 90¢. Even if it was good I wouldn't like it. I didn't inform Harmer what I thought of either stamp. I dont think a stamp such as this should be sold in a sale unless it has a P.F. certificate. Without one it should be stated- Offered as is. " Unquote SBA.

Well, I had a bid in at the time for \$25 with Ez and it was sold to him for me for \$24 as noted above. I was never convinced that it was bad and even with this turn down by the P.F., I still am not exactly convinced. And here is why- explain to me if this is an unused stamp falsely cancelled by two large Boston PAIDs, that there is transferred pen-writing on the back of the stamp. Surely a faker wouldn't have thought of that. Maybe this is a pen cancelled one, removed and cancelled falsely by the Paids.

Anyhow to go on with my story, I put it away in my album with a (?) mark after it. You had not said it was bad, just didn't think it looked good. I pay \$50 a year to the P.F. for supporting member and am entitled to three free examinations. So I dug it out the other day and sent it down with the query as shown in the attached blue receipt- "Is this genuinely cancelled as noted above- that is by Boston Paids?" Today I get the reply that "the cancellation is fraudulent." What enters my mind is this question- "How do they determine that this one is FRAUDULENT and the one previously dsicussed between us in June, the blue Baltimore, is cclasssed as "decline to give an opinion."

As you see I drew for them an possible outline of the stamper as it might have appeared. Maybe they sent this to you. Do you recall it?

It is not necessary to register this back to me. I just want your comment on the P.F.'s position. I do think they are right in saying yes or no this time even if I dont agree at all with their decision.

Sincerely

Straight Postage
or AIRMAIL

See photo
C47

Aug. 9, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

After writing the enclosed yours of Saturday P.M. with the 90¢
1860 arrived.

First. The P.F. did not submit this copy to me.

Second. In issuing the certificate I assume they had some
evidence that convinced them that the marking is fraudulent. I have no re-
collection of putting this copy under the lamp and have not done so today, but
it could be that they had such an examination made.

If you would like for me to make a photograph by ultra-violet,
I will be glad to do so. For such photos I charge \$3.00 each. I cannot promise
the negative will show anything. I don't think the marks on the back have any
real significance so far as a genuine cancelation is concerned.

My advice to them is -- where any doubt exists, refuse to give
an opinion. I judge that in this case they did not consider there was any room
for doubt.

As far as the Baltimore postmark is concerned it was a cast
where I am very familiar with postmarks of that city, also the blue ink. They
are not -- thus I am more competent to render reliable opinions.

Do you own the Blake book on Boston Postal Markings? If not,
you should.

I will hold the 90¢ and papers pending reply.

Yours etc.,

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, 5, Alabama.

Wednesday, August 11, 1954.

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

Dear Stan,

Your letter of Monday came on the morning mail. This had with it the letter from Sullivan, Indiana and the photos of my Manilla cover. I thank you much for the Sullivan cover. It was just four years before my birth being 1885 but the firm of Beasley & Williams brought back memories. We had Beasleys as lawyers when I lived there, evidently descendants of these folks. I am going to send this to my brother in New York to see if he recalls them and let you know. It is also interesting since it is to President Davis and the pencil notation on the cover of "Indiana Officer refutes the story of Scrigg." I suppose this had something to do with getting a pension for an old soldier living in Sullivan. See! when we were boys there were many thousand Civil War veterans still alive, many thousands. Thanks again.

Also I suppose you mean for me to keep these photos of the Manilla cover which I appreciate. I'm sorry that I am such a bust about the slides but I cant help it and personally much prefer these photos which you include here. I have no occasion like Henry Hill has to show my covers to others. Since Haydn died there is NO ONE in Birmingham who even has the slightest idea what any cover I might show them means. Nor are any of them interested. A very few collect Ala. stampless covers IF they do not cost over 25¢. Even Scruggs has no idea about covers if I was close enough to him to show them. And I am NOT.

You did return the Kiplinger letter, the one which I want to keep. I have a suggestion for your Service letter along this line. Why not ask your C.P.A. or even your local Internal Revenue man for a detailed translation of this ruling. It might be very helpful to many of us. For example, can one still off-set losses within the same year against any profits? Just an idea, which may not be acceptable to you.

Now, in regards to the example you gave in the Service about bidding at auctions, I cant say you are in error, but I can say I never attended an auction wherein the bidder asked the auctioneer to price down a lot. On the other hand I have heard Ezra and others ask to have bidding raised so as to satisfy some of their clients who may have bid higher than the knock-down price. This does NOT mean that your example has never happened. I do not mean to even imply such a thing. I hope you did not so take me.

I did not send that 90¢ 1860 stamp up to you with any further idea of establishing its worth since you had seen it and the P.F. passed on it as fraudulent. You and I have discussed at length different phases of the Foundation and its worth to us. I just thought that you might get some information from seeing the certificate that they had sent me and to note that they were taking a stand and not being wirshy-washy about their decisions. I think they should have passed as either "guilty or innocent" on the Baltimore stamp I sent them. That was what I meant to show you by the letter.

Nothing can now be gained by making an ultra-violet photograph as I see it. If you proved there were no pen cancellation thereby, the stamp is still forever damned by the P.F. certificate and can only be sold as "with a fake cancel."

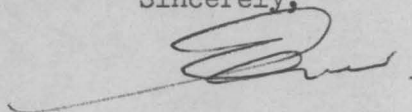
As I am sure you are aware, the P.F. does not nor could afford to rescind any certificate it had put out.

The point I meant to make about the transferred pen writing on the back was simply that the stamp had likely been used and was hence a used copy even if the two Boston Pairs had been added fraudulently. It still seems logical to assume that as true. Otherwise how can one account for the pen marks.

I do not own a Blake book and if you think I should have one, why not have him send it to me. I know he is your friend and would appreciate this from you. If however it must come from Mekeel I can order myself. You can let me know.

Speaking of Mekeel's brings to my mind, do you want me to send you my copies of the Collector's Club Philatelist? I know you don't care for my A.P.S. magazines but thought these might be too nice to throw away. Let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'D. W. Mekeel', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Aug. 12, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Herewith your 90¢ 1860. I doubt if I can add anything to my previous letter. I still feel that the P. F. is trying to do a job that perhaps they are not qualified for. I believe that Mrs. Dale must be footing the expense of the P.F. and is a very conscientious lady who is trying to carry out the wishes of her father. I don't think they should issue a certificate unless they believe they are right. When doubt exists I think they should refuse to give a verdict. I had strongly urged them to follow this policy. Now Em, to be fair, would you want them to issue a certificate when they were not reasonably sure one way or the other? I think we should have an Expert Committee in this country. If they get disgusted and quite we will have none. Certainly you would not have much respect for an A.P.S. or an S.P.A. Committee. I give them assistance free whenever they call upon me because I don't want the Committee to fold up.

Re - yours of Wednesday. No, I did not mean to imply anything about the New York auctions. I was wondering if you thought my story was all wrong? Do you not agree that if a price could be changed from \$200 to \$248, it could just as well be reduced from \$248 to \$202, provided no one objected? Am I wrong in supposing that one does not happen whereas the other does? If my story in my SERVICE was wrong, I do want to correct it. So far I have not had any criticism of it.

I think you are wrong about the P.F. changing a certificate. If they are given proof a certificate is in error, they will cancel it, provided the certificate be returned to them so that it can be canceled. I don't blame them if they refuse to have two certificates in circulation; one that an item is good, another stating it is bad. The members of the Committee give their time without any compensation. If you could attend one of their meetings and note how they go over each lot and try to render a correct opinion you would have a better appreciation of what they are trying to do.

Again I don't think the offset pen marks on the back of the 90¢ stamps prove a thing. They could have originated from many different sources.

Re - the Blake book. Maurice has none for sale, so I suggest you order a copy direct from Mekeel's. It is not confined solely to Boston postal markings but to many subjects that will interest you. Blake is a very careful and accurate student and he is very thorough in anything, he does. I think his book is a wonderful piece of work and because of it, I recommended that he be honored by the British Roll.

No Em, don't bother to send me the C.C.P. or the A.P. One copy of each is enough as the contents of both could hardly be worse for a collector of 19th U.S.

Did you note that the C.C. awarded Chase the Lichtenstein medal? The fine tribute was signed by "S.G.R." but it is a cinch that ~~sewer~~-rat never wrote it. He could never compose anything like it. The ignorant S.O.B. had someone write it for him. I suspect Henry Goodkind.

#2. Mr. Emmerson C. Krug - Aug. 12, 1954.

My friend Henry Hill is driving down Sunday to spend a day or so with us.

With regards -

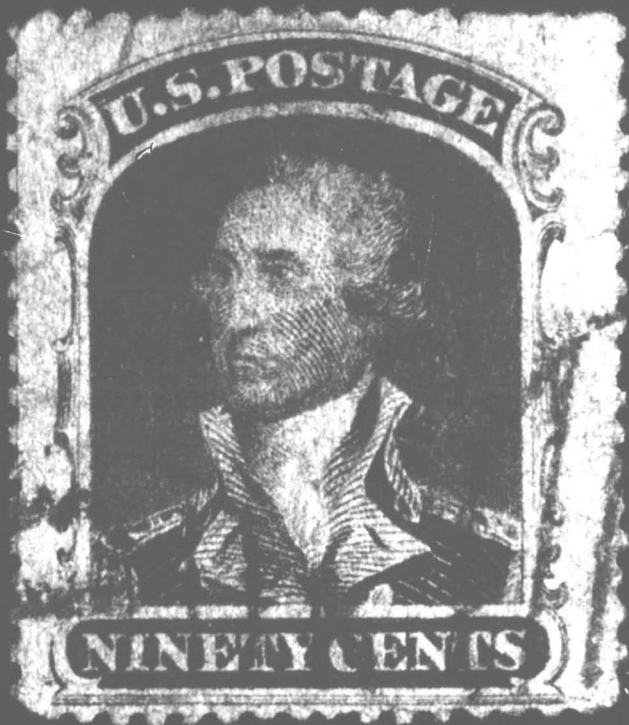
Yours etc.,

P.S.— I enclose photo print of that other 90¢ 1860. Didn't I think this copy had a fake cancel? Looks like the same person made both of them. Please return the print as I lifted it from my files.

S.

33-17

QUARTZ 13-1-64-20MIN C217



SEE S.B. 33 P. 17
BY E.C. KRUG 8/9-54-SEE 33 C217

This Photograph
Was Made By
ULTRA - VIOLET
RAY

By Stanley B. Ashbrook

H.R. 14, SALE APR 14-52 107 80



C47 "L" VIOLET ROSES

Re -- Mort's strip, 88R6 - 89R6 - 90R6. You inquire as to why I plate this strip as coming from the right pane of Plate 6. Quote "Is the only reason that the reconstruction seems that it should fit into this blank space?" End quote. The fact that it could fit into this space helps considerably, but is only one of several reasons. I do hope that you made a photo of this strip and that you can supply me with a print.

You will note that the side ornaments in each stamp of this strip of "E" reliefs are quite short and give the appearance that these stamps can come from most anywhere but the right pane of Plate 6. This feature -- the decidedly short side ornaments -- is probably characteristic of the entire 9th horizontal row of right pane of Plate 6. Also note the scratches at N.E. in center stamp and observe the mottling in stamp to left. Compare these markings with those on the nearest plated E relief, 85R6 shown on Negative 1. The mottling characteristics of 85R6 are quite similar to those shown on 88R6 (I suspect 86R6 and 87R6 also show this mottling). The side ornaments of 85R6 are just as short as those shown on the strip, while the scratches at N.E. on 85R6 can almost match those showing on 89R6.

Also note the dot showing in colorless line below "O" of One in 90R6. Compare this with dot showing at same spot in 50R6, V.S. of three on Middlebury cover. Would you say this dot was on the transfer roll relief, or that this is a strange coincidence? I incline towards the former theory.

Surely this reconstruction of eight cannot come from Plate 7, inasmuch as the Hollowbush strip, (Neg.24) and Mort's strip, (Neg. A136) show that these positions were entered by transfer roll No.3; the "D" showing no side scratches and side ornaments are complete.

Can you supply me with a print of the imprint strip 21R7 - 31R7 - 41R7? No hurry. Stanley, there never was any hurry about replying to any of my letters and you definitely should have completed your Service Issue before you answered my letter.

In the several years we have been corresponding, I have never asked for a hurried reply or return. On one occasion, I sent you a cover worth about 50¢ that Mort borrowed from Pelander. It seems someone was quite fretful about this cover and hounded me until I had to ask you to return it to me, probably at a time when you were busy and not in the best of health. I suspect this gave you the impression that I had become unreasonable about getting my material back. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Furthermore, may I suggest that you write your Service stories when and as the spirit moves, rather than meet a definite "deadline". I am sure you will enjoy your work all the more and your subscribers will have no objection, even if they receive only nine or ten issues a year rather than a dozen.

In my next letter, I shall send you an immaculate cover bearing the nicest copy of the so called "Dropped Relief" you ever saw. Quite a bold statement to make to Ashbrook, but I am that much enthused about this item. Have you ever come across an imperf stamp from Plate 2 showing the New York Ocean Mail marking? In your Work you say you never have. I have such an item on cover that is superb in every respect.

Ann and I are leaving in a few moments for a short trip to Montreal and points east and west, and we both extend our best regards to Mildred and you.

Sincerely,
(Morris)

July 4, 1954.

Dear Stanley:

Thanks for the comments contained in your letter of June 23rd. I have returned the Slave Broadsheet to Robert Siegel, as well as Lot #24, described as the earliest known "Way" marking. I understand this marking is known used in 1786 or thereabouts.

I was mighty pleased with the two prints of negative #24. I am enclosing herewith my check in the amount of \$4.25 in payment of these prints (\$2.00) and for a copy of your book, "Some Notes" etc. (\$2.25). I shall be everlastingly grateful if you will autograph this Work for me.

Re -- print of three trimmed bottom row copies. I fear I was not explicit in my letter. Stanley, last December you sent me a batch of Plate 6 prints. I plated most of these and returned them to you. In this batch were three or four excellent prints of the trimmed reliefs and in my letter of June 18th I inquired whether you could supply me with one of those prints.

Re -- 99R2. Thanks very much indeed for the loan of your set of nine photos. Yes, I agree that early impressions show the double transfer on Franklin's shoulder better than late. I also agree that the Newbury imperf block and the perf strip were made in heaven; they are out of this world. The design in the perforated strip is hardly touched and this is most remarkable, inasmuch as the fresh entry was made somewhat to the right of original entry and the distance between the ninth and tenth vertical rows is less than the diameter of a perf. hole. Too bad several of these prints are fading and so lose the plating marks in the process. I do hope you still have the negatives. In my next letter, I shall show you a superb copy of 99R2 in the scarce, beautiful, blue color and showing a San Francisco, Cal. postmark. Do you recall seeing this stamp? I shall also show you a vertical strip, 79R2 - 89R2 - 99R2 that was made in hell. Someone, probably the devil himself, clipped the corners of 79 and 99, and so created an "artistic strip".

33-19

BRUCE G. DANIELS
7 WATER STREET
BOSTON 9, MASSACHUSETTS

TELEPHONE
LAfayette 3-0970

July 16, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

There is quite a story attached to Lot 119 in my June 4th auction sale, and it is very possible that you can help me out. The successful purchaser was one M. Moses, who is at present being questioned by the Post-office Department concerning several unsatisfactory dealings with auctioneers in which he claims he never received the merchandise.

In view of my knowledge of the above proceedings, I notified this man of his purchase of Lot 119 and telling him that I would ship it to him when I received a satisfactory payment. In reply I got a rather curt little note to "just forget the whole thing." Since I have paid the owner for this Lot, I am now the proud owner. At present I am at Cape Cod for a week but I will be glad to send this lot to you when I return.

If you can sell it for me so that I will come out whole, I naturally would appreciate it very much.

Best regards,



BGD:P

July 18, 1954.

Mr. Bruce G. Daniels,
7 Water Street,
Boston 9, Mass.

Dear Bruce:

I was pleased to receive yours of the 16th.

I will welcome the opportunity to examine the cover and if I think it is okay I will be glad to buy it from you for my reference collection.

I am wondering if the M. Moses you mentioned could possibly be Milton Moses of Lynchburg, Va. This I doubt because I have known Milton for some years and have always had a high regard for him. Besides I think he only collects Confederates.

Looking forward with much interest to seeing the cover, I am

Cordially yours,

BRUCE G. DANIELS
7 WATER STREET
BOSTON 9, MASSACHUSETTS

TELEPHONE
LAfayette 3-0970

July 21, 1954

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

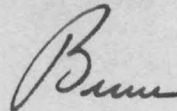
Dear Stan:

The item about which you inquired is enclosed herewith for your examination. As I previously told you, this item sold for \$90 in my June auction sale but was never delivered to the buyer. If you can use it at \$90 or somewhere near that price, I would be very glad to sell it.

The M. Moses that I mentioned is indeed Milton Moses of Lynchburg, Virginia. As I understand it he has been an old-time collector of good standing for many years. Quite recently, however, he seems to be collecting only material, U. S. or Confederate, that comes to him gratis. He does this by claiming never to have received merchandise sent to him through the mail. I don't know what is wrong but he pulled this on me as well as several New York dealers. At present the Post-office Department is investigating our complaints.

My regards to you and Mrs. Ashbrook.

Sincerely,



BGD:P
Enc

July 26, 1954.

Mr. Bruce G. Daniels,
7 Water St.,
Boston 9, Mass.

Dear Bruce:

Yours of the 21st received with the 3¢ Bisect. I want to make a very careful examination of this item because if I can satisfy myself that it is genuine I would like to have it for my reference collection and if I can establish any evidence it is bad, I would still like to have it for my fake collection to show what the artists turn out. Of course, this dates back for over 30 years.

What I would like to do is to carefully soak the stamp from the piece and then make a photograph of the piece by ultra-violet to see if there is the slightest trace of any removal of parts of the cancel under the stamp. May I have your permission to do this? What I will do will be to open up the piece and soak the paper (carefully) from the back avoiding getting any water on the face.

I was amazed at your remarks on Moses. He must have gone off his nut to do such a thing. Please keep me advised if you hear anything further about him.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

BRUCE G. DANIELS
7 WATER STREET
BOSTON 9, MASSACHUSETTS

TELEPHONE
LAfayette 3-0970

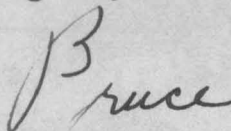
August 2, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

Regarding the 3/4 Bisect, it will be perfectly all right with me if you want to carefully soak it to determine its authenticity. As I think I told you before, due to Mr. Moses, I now own this item and if it is not genuine I guess it is just my tough luck.

Regards,

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

BGD:P

AUGUST 4, 1954.

MR. BRUCE G. DANIELS,
7 WATER STREET,
BOSTON 9, MASS.

DEAR BRUCE:

YOURS OF THE 2ND RECEIVED.

I WILL REMOVE THE HALF STAMP AND SEE
IF I CAN FIND ANYTHING UNDERNEATH. THANKS FOR THE
PERMISSION.

HEREWITH I AM ENCLOSING A PRINT SHOW-
ING THE TWO POSTMARKS. STUDY THIS PRINT AND THEN
WRITE ME WHAT YOU THINK. IT WILL BE NICE TO SEE IF
OUR IDEAS AGREE.

WITH REGARDS -

CORDIALLY YOURS,

Aug. 12, 1954.

Mr. Bruce G. Daniels,
7 Water St.,
Boston 9, Mass.

Dear Bruce:

I removed the piece of the 3¢ from the piece of the cover and a photograph by ultra-violet failed to show any trace of a removal of parts of the postmark, so if this item is bad then the postmark is fraudulent. Whether this is a fact, I don't know how we could establish it as a fact. At any rate, I am going to put this in my reference collection and therefore hand you my check for \$90.00.

I am not quite satisfied that the postmark on the "bisect" is the same as the one on the cover but even if they are different it could mean that they had more than one.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

33-19

Aug. 13, 1954.

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

Dear Doc:

I was agreeably surprised to receive yours of the 9th and to find that you were out of the hospital and back home. I think it remarkable that any surgery case could get out that soon. I do hope that the operation will do all that you hoped for. I wrote you a letter at the hospital. No doubt they forwarded it to you.

I am wondering if by any chance you remember the piece of a cover with a 3¢ '51 bisect - pictured in your book on page 215 - figure 107? Have you any recollection as to the source of this item? I am now the owner of it. I carefully removed the piece of stamp - a vertical half and photographed by ultra-violet the piece of the envelope. No sign whatsoever under the stamp of any erasure of parts of a whole postmark. In my opinion this proves that the stamp was used as it is, provided the postmark is genuine. Under all the tests I have made it appears to be, but I rather doubt that the strike matches that on the 3¢ cover that accompanies the bisect. I am wondering if you might have a 3¢ '51 cover with a "Lowell, Mass." postmark? Don't bother about this until you have fully recovered and feel okay.

We are having some delightful cool weather and what a relief it is from those 100 plus days that we had recently. I didn't suffer as long as I was up in my room where it seldom got over 80 but I sure did when I went down to the second floor. Several nights were very bad.

With all good wishes to you both -

Cordially yours,

BRUCE G. DANIELS
7 WATER STREET
BOSTON 9, MASSACHUSETTS

TELEPHONE
LAfayette 3-0970

August 20, 1954

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

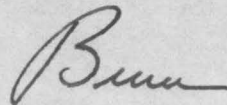
Dear Stan:

Thank you for your check for the 3¢ "Bisect."

After careful comparison of the enlarged photographs, I am inclined to think that there are a few minor differences in the postmarks. However, I agree with you that there could very possibly have been two postmark hand stamps, similar but not the same, and also that the length of service and force of impression could also make the differences.

Since you did not find any trace of tampering when you lifted the stamp, I would assume that it is genuine.

Best regards,



BGD:P

33-19



AT 12½-F64-20MIN-QUARTZ-

B529



33-19

C215

C215



33-19

C214
FG4
15 M
142



33-20

Aug. 6, 1954.

Mr. Richard Cabeen,
1029 N. Dearborn St.,
Chicago 10, Ill.

Dear Dick:

I am enclosing a photo of a 3¢ '51 cover that was shown to me recently. I don't recall ever seeing a round grid as large as this one on a 3¢ '51-'57. Of course, my pencil 23M does not refer to the grid. I am wondering if this size is new to you.

I understand that Doc Chase was operated on yesterday in Boston. I suppose it was for that old hip injury. I understand he came thru okay.

Keep this print for files.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

1029 N. Dearborn St
Chicago 10.

Dear Stan:

Was much interested in your
photo of the unusual cancellation.

So far as I can recall, I
have never seen so large a
grid. Certainly I do not
have it on cover.

I will look at each stamp
with grid cancellation to see
if I have anything off
cover but this will be a slow
job.

As a matter of fact I
can definitely say I never have
seen a Bloomingburgh Ohio postmark
before.

I have just heard from Dr. Chase
and he had a flock of ~~g~~ birdiney
stones removed I believe. Hope he
recovers fully.

Thanks for the photo for my files

Best regards

Richard M. Taber

33 - 20

Aug. 7, 1954.

Mr. Tracy W. Simpson,
66 Alvarado Road,
Berkeley 5, Calif.

Dear Tracy:

Thanks for yours of the 29th. I have made careful note of the information contained therein.

Here is a photo for your files, approximately natural size. The 23M refers only to the postmark. I don't recall a grid this large on the 3¢, do you?

I suppose you have heard that Carroll Chase was operated on yesterday in Boston for that old hip injury. I understand he came thru okay.

Keep this print for your files.

Weather here this summer has been abominable - just a bit of everything disagreeable and discomforting. I don't know what I would do without my air conditioned room.

With our kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Aug. 6, 1954.

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

Dear Bill:

I haven't heard from you for an age. How are you?

Did you know that Carroll Chase was operated on yesterday at a hospital in Boston? I believe it was an effort to correct the injury he received years ago to his pelvis. I had word today that he was doing nicely.

Here is a photo of a 3¢ 1851 cover. Did you ever see a grid as large as this? I measured both the grid and the postmark, then penciled both as 23 MM which was a dumb trick.

Keep this print for your files.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

July 31, 1954

33-23

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a very recent acquisition and one that I feel very fortunate in getting. Fortunately the man I got it from was a stamp but not a cover collector and we were able to make a mutually satisfactory trade.

Henry Meyer went wild over it and immediately asked if I intended sending it to you and also Dr. Roser for examination. I assured him that I had decided that as soon as I was able to get it.

The only other green cancellation I have ever seen from Kentucky has been on the 3¢ '51, but this green on a green stamp, and such an excellent copy sure pleases me. The only thing that would make it better would be for it to have been type IV. What do you think about my good luck?

Sincerely,
Neal J. Grabert

Neal

Aug. 2, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Grabert:

It was indeed nice to hear from you and I was delighted to see this Kentucky cover with that grand old 10¢ stamp tied by a green Kentucky postmark. The stamp itself is superb. I wonder why the 10¢ rate? I note a memo of "expense" inside lists "postage" (evidently paid) as 10¢. I suppose this was surely a triple 3¢ rate and was overpaid by 1¢. Why? We will never know.

I made several color slides and I will later send one to you and one which you can give to that fine Kentuckian, Dr. Roser.

Again many thanks for your kindness and with every good wish -

Sincerely yours,

July 15, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

Yours of the 11th received.

Yes, we have made considerable progress in the study of the One Cent Plates 5, 6 and 7 in the past few years. I use "we" because I have been very ably assisted by Morris Fortgang, and Mortimer Neikken of New York City. Being down in the big city they have uncovered a lot of new material, which has enabled us to make very substantial progress. Probably the most important discovery that I made was in regard to Plate 6. For many years past it was my theory that Plate 6 did not contain any stamps which had the Type V "side scratches," therefore, when I ran across any multiple with "side scratches" I concluded it did not come from Plate 6. About seven or eight years ago I discovered a H.S. of three, two stamps to the left did not have side scratches but the stamp to right did. This was the first intimation that some stamps from Plate 6 did have side scratches. It was this feature that had prevented me from making any progress with the left half of the left pane of Plate 6.

I suppose some people don't understand why certain students bother to reconstruct plates, but the truth is that it is remarkable how much can be learned about a plate by its reconstruction.

Regarding the Plate 6 stamps. No, there is no way that I know of to identify stamps from this plate. I mean that such stamps have no characteristic that identifies them. In the not distant future we will have complete reconstructions of Plates 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, and then when we discover a multiple that we can be positive does not come from any of these four plates then we can be reasonably sure it came from Plate 5. As a plating proposition, the work on the five plates has been intensely interesting.

In Morris Fortgang I discovered a very careful and a very keen student. He is very very capable in plate reconstruction work. He has an eye that is very sharp. He really has been of much assistance.

Re - your "Northfield" cover of Jan. 8, 1860. From the date of use it would be my guess that the strip came from Plate 9, or possibly Plate 8. A use in 1860 of a strip from Plates 5, 6 or 7 would be most exceptional. Inasmuch as I am most anxious to see any Type V multiples I will welcome a look at your cover.

I note that you expect to remain in Brookline for most of the summer. I trust you will escape the brand of weather we have had here this week. Yesterday it hit almost 104 here, the highest we have had in eighteen years. This morning it had dropped to 70, a most welcome relief.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

July 21, 1954.

Mr. Maurice C. Blake,

11 Mason St.,

Brookline, Mass.

Dear Maurice:

I believe you rather enjoy trying to solve the mysteries of covers. Here is a good one - photos rather poor of a front and back. Not my work but I am trying to borrow the original.

Miserable weather out here, worst in years.

Regards.

Cordially yours,

MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

July 22, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

I was just looking over my covers with 1st 5⁷ Type II multiples in accordance with the suggestion in your letter of June 15th, when your Wells Fargo puzzle cover came to-d

The original cover is preferable to photos, but my off hand guess would be that this 3rd envelope cover was brought by express agent, perhaps from Phineas Baimey's San Pedro office and placed in the U.S. mail at Los Angeles for transmittal or delivery at the L.A. P.O. to an addressee whose name was subsequently erased. Then the cover with legal contents of "20 March 1861," as noted after being received by the new addressee, "Messrs S. Williams & Co. Main Street, Louisville, Ky." was privately carried from Los Angeles ^{or wherever first addressed} by an individual rather than by a Wells Fargo agent and posted with 1st 5⁷ on reverse as a drop letter in Louisville MAR/14 (1861), or possibly sent under other cover to Louisville and then dropped.

Although you did not answer my inquiry regarding greater distance between the rows of perforations for the bottom row of Plate 6, I found this must be so as not only my off cover 51 L 6 but also another off cover 7 relief of 6th row Plate 6, when placed on my 48-99-100 R 6 stamps could not be trimmed to the critical length of the latter bottom row stamps without leaving evidence of perforations. Then I found that some years ago when I last looked at a flag cover from NORTH BERWICK/12/25/ME postmark cancel on V.S. 1st 5⁷ that I had inserted a pencil notation "Hor. rows perf. further apart for bottom row, 26 instead of 25 mm. (cf S.B.A. Pl. 4, p. 248)," on a card in the cover. So, I enclose this cover with the NORTHFIELD/JAN/18/1860 H.S. item.

I find ten other covers with multiple Type II stamps, one of which I see I have guessed to be V.S. 1-11-21 R 6 with finer center line than the next cover ALBANY/NOV/29/N.Y. V.S. 1-11-21 R 8. (note MANCHESTER/FEB/7/1859.) Probably most of these are from the Plates you are quite familiar with, but I send them along for you to see or glance over if you wish.

In addition you will remember the San Francisco block of nine MAY/20/1858 with single, which you saw at the 3rd 51-57 Unit meeting in Philadelphia several years ago. I should be glad to have this plated at your proper charge for this if you can spare the time for it. In fact I should like to have the usual fee for any of the other twelve covers whose stamps you can plate for me.

These covers are exclusive of such as I may have in my collection of Boston Postal Markings. Should any of the Boston multiple 1st 5⁷ Type II be of any help, I should be glad to submit them later.

Thus far we have been most favored as to summer temperatures here than further west or south. I hope some cool air comes your way soon.

Sincerely,

Maurice Cary Blake

Aug. 2, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

Your registered letter of the 22nd arrived safe and sound, but as I was in the midst of a lot of work, I had to lay the material aside. I am going over it at present and will return it toward the end of the week. I surmised that there was no immediate hurry for its return.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Aug. 9, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

Here is a color slide of a piece of a F.I. that was submitted to me as showing the "earliest dates known" of the 2¢ and 12¢ 1869 - supposedly April 1, 1869. The cover is addressed to Palermo, Sicily. Hold this slide to a strong light and view it with a good glass. It shows better this way than a black and white print. The $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. rate by this route was 15¢. This is supposed to be a double with a 1¢ over-pay.

I refused to list this as an early date because there is no actual evidence that these stamps actually originated on this cover, or rather a piece of a cover. The owner was rather miffed at my decision. I will value your opinion.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Aug. 10, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

Herewith I am returning the various 1¢ 1857 Type V items as per yours of the 22nd of July. In one envelope you will find items of which I did not make any photographs. All in this envelope would not be of any assistance in our present plating work, and further, as my notations show the impressions are much too poor for plating. I might also add that all of these are from plates of which full sheets are in existence. I regard plating as a means to study a plate and unless a strip or other multiple has some particular feature, it is a waste of time to hunt for the plate positions.

The other items I put in a separate envelope and I made photographs of these and I will give you a report on each one later on. Each one of these appear to be rather unusual and they may be of assistance to us.

I also enclose a separate letter accompanied by a color slide of a cover, that is, a piece of a F.L. What I would like is your opinion. Do you think there would be any justification for me to list this as an "earliest known date of use?"

In addition to the above, I am enclosing with my compliments a photograph of the Jessup cover with the block of four of the 5¢ 1861 Buff. This is the only 1861 stamp known to me with the N.Y. O.M. postmark. This means that it is the latest use known.

Also, two photos, front and back, of the cover I requested you to look over and give me your analysis. When this was loaned to me last month, I gave the owner my theory. I will have a copy made and send it to you.

Plate 6. Regarding your query about "the greater distance between the rows of perforations for the bottom row of Plate 6," the reason I did not answer your query was because I never gave this feature any study whatsoever. Practically all of my reconstruction of this plate was done with photographs I have borrowed over a period of over 30 years. Very few of my photographs are of the same size.

Yes, I well remember your S.F. cover with the block of nine. You loaned it to me in 1951 and I made a photograph of it but the negative came out very poor, and I don't seem to have a memo that I plated the block. It is possible the negative was so poor I was unable to obtain a print good enough to plate from. I wonder if this could be from Plate 5. If so, I will surely find out and advise you and you can rest assured that I will not charge you any fee. For any information I can give you, your assistance and co-operation puts me in your debt.

I suppose you have kept in touch with Carroll Chase while he has been in a hospital in Boston. I have had no word regarding his condition since the morning

#2. Mr. Maurice C. Blake - Aug. 10, 1954.

of the operation and I am anxious to receive some word. No doubt I will hear tomorrow.

We had a most miserable month of July, just a little of everything in the weather that was most uncomfortable. This Ohio Valley is a miserable place to live. August so far has been better than usual. It will be a miracle if it lasts.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Aug. 10, 1954.

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

Dear Morris:

My friend Maurice C. Blake loaned me some 1¢ '57 covers and there were certain strips which I photographed. I will send prints to Mort and you later this week.

I quote from a letter that I received from him dated 7/22/54, quote:

"Although you did not answer my inquiry regarding greater distance between the rows of perforations for the bottom row of Plate 6, I found this must be so as not only my off cover 5116 but also another off cover F relief of 6th row Plate 6, when placed on my 98-99-100R6 stamps could not be trimmed to the vertical length of the latter bottom row stamps without leaving evidence of perforations. Then I found that some years ago when I last looked at a flag cover from North Berwick/24/Sep/Me postmark cancel on U.S. 1¢ '57 that I had inserted a pencil notation "Hor. rows perfs. further apart for bottom row, 26 instead of 25 mm. (of S.B.A.Pl.4,p.248)," on a card in the cover. So, I enclose this cover with the Northfield/Jan/18/1860 H.S. item."

I wrote Maurice that I had no information on the above subject, had never made any measurements, etc., in fact, much of my plating had been done from photographs of borrowed pieces, etc. Further, I informed him I would look into the matter and report later.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Copy to
M. Neinken.

33-22

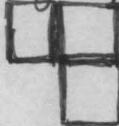
MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

August 14th, 1954

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

Dear Stanley:

Thank you for the returned 1st 57 covers received to-day. I appreciate that a number of these are not useful for plating from the point of view of your study of the particular plates.

Of the group not photographed there is one with three single stamps arranged  cancelled by SALEM MS. APR 4 1860. This you note as "Plates 9 or 10" "Poor impression" black circle postmark.

However, I should think they must surely be Plate 9, as your earliest date for Pl. 10 in your Vol. I, p. 297 is given as December 21, 1860. Also the top left stamp shows a single guide dot at upper right of Relief A and has no dot on shoulder, which indicates that it must be 8, 9 or 10 R 9, I believe 10 R 9. The other two stamps are perforated close to the design, but may be ^(p. 289) 30 R 9, still of no significance as you state that full sheets of this Plate exist.

I have just reached Lester Downing at Topsfield by phone regarding Dr. Chase, of whose hospital visit I had not heard until your letter came this noon. He came down to Boston last Tuesday, but it was found that a kidney stone had passed into the bladder so that it was removed without any surgery, and Downing returned with him Sunday and has since heard that he is all right.

Of the four covers photographed I see that I took the vertical strip from MANCHESTER N.H./FEB/7/1859 to be 1-11-21 R 6 and the v.s. from ALBANY IV.Y. NOV/2? as 1-11-21 R 8. I shall be interested to hear your report as to the correctness of these, as well as what you find regarding the two horizontal strips.

What a gorgeous block of four 5th 61 buff on the Jessup cover and with latest grid Ocean Mail of Nov/1 (1861). Many thanks for the photograph to file with my Ocean Mail items. Also thanks for front and back photos of the Los Angeles - Louisville 1st 57 cover, of which your analysis is anticipated with curiosity, as mine was probably a blind guess.

Off hand I cannot give a satisfactory answer to your request for the San Francisco block of nine, nor to the color slide of 2nd and 12th 1869 (total 31st in stamps), but will do so later, as I want to get this off by AIR MAIL for the good report on Canoll Chase. Sincerely,

Maurice C. Blake

33-22 ✓
Aug. 19, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

Thanks for yours with return of the color slide and comment on the alleged 1869 early date of "Apr. 1."

Re - yours of the 14th. Regarding your Type V cover with use at Salem, Mass of Apr. 4, 1860. No doubt this is Plate 9 because of the top row guide dot. I doubt if Plate 10 was made as early as April 1860 but we have pushed the date back from December 1860 to September, since my book was published in 1937.

Thanks so much for contacting Lester Downing. He was kind enough to write me and give me some details of Doc's visit to the Boston hospital and return. Doc did not give me any details as he doubtless has so many good friends to write. He must have suffered quite a bit of pain before deciding to go to the hospital. I had a short letter from him yesterday stating he was feeling perfectly all right.

I am pleased to report that your plating of the two vertical strips was correct - 1-11-21R6 and 1-11-21R8. I don't see how you plated the Plate 6 as it was cut into at R. The top row strip I had Neinken plate and he reports it as 8L6 - 9L6 - 10L6. I haven't had time as yet to confirm his plating. The other horizontal strip is probably 21R8 - 22R8 - 23R8 but due to lack of time I have not confirmed.

Herewith I am enclosing copy of my analysis of the W.F. & Co. cover, Los Angeles to Louisville and I will appreciate your comment on it.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

AN INVESTIGATION Of The Mark "Mail Route"

By HENRY A. MEYER
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE S.P.A.,
and MEMBER NO. 1631

MOST collectors of steamboat covers now realize that the marks STEAM, STEAMBOAT, SHIP, and sometimes WAY, are marks applied at the post office where a letter was turned in by the captain or clerk of a boat or ship. Such a letter was not mailed by the sender at a post office; it was entrusted by him to an officer of a boat, either shortly before the boat sailed or at a way landing. When the captain turned the letter in at a post office, the postmaster paid him either one cent or two cents, depending on the status of the craft, and applied the mark which now makes the cover interesting and valuable to us. At certain times and under certain circumstances such letters cost the receiver extra postage; at other times they did not. To give a complete list here of the captain's fees and the charges to the addressee for each class of letters and for all periods would make this article reach an unwieldy length and would detract from the purpose of the study.

The character of these marks, and the fact that they were applied at the post office where the letters were turned in, have not always been understood by collectors. It is only sixteen years since Stanley B. Ashbrook and Mannel Hahn, each on his own and yet co-operating, dug out the sections of *Postal Laws and Regulations* (universally referred to in philatelic literature as *P.L.&R.*) which directed the postmasters of a century ago in their handling of letters thus received from "outside the mails." This information was unearthed with a great expenditure of the most tedious searching of volumes of fine print, and collectors of today and the future owe these two premier students of postal history a heartfelt debt of gratitude.

Even today this writer receives letters revealing a misconception as to the nature of these marks. A correspondent will write thus: "This mark STEAM seems to have been



Henry A. Meyer

used on boats on the Mississippi River, but I have seen the same or a very similar mark used on boats from Mobile to New Orleans." The mark was not used on boats at all; it was used in the New Orleans post office, and was applied to letters reaching the post office by boats having no mail carrying contract, from any direction whatsoever.

Postal history students have given the name *origin marks* to marks such as those we have been discussing, which show by what means the letter reached a post office. The regulations governing the use of the four origin marks thus far mentioned are now fairly clear, except for certain details, since Ashbrook and Hahn have explained them to us, and have told us exactly where in *P.L.&R.* to look for the full text. But there are several other marks found on waterborne letters, arriving from "outside the mails," for which no authorization has been found. The following examples occur to the writer: PAID SHIP, STEAM SHIP, U. S. SHIP, PACKET, PURSER, QUARANTINE, and MAIL ROUTE. There

are probably others which do not come to mind at the moment. We search *P.L.&R.* in vain for directions covering their use; yet they occur often enough to make us feel reasonably sure that there was some system governing their use, and that it was not mere whimsy on the part of some postmaster. It is the last of the marks just named, MAIL ROUTE, which forms the subject of this article.

Two serious difficulties present themselves to a postal history student investigating the mark MAIL ROUTE: the absence of any printed directives for using it, and the fact that no student thus far has had enough such covers at hand at any one time to make the pattern of its use apparent.

The writer of an article published in 1940 stated that the mark identified letters carried from the South to the Atlantic seaboard via Kentucky or Tennessee under safe-conduct by reason of treaties with the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Creek Nations of Indians. The present writer does not doubt the existence of such treaties, since the author of the earlier article amply documented his statements with dates of the treaties and quotations from them. But the mark MAIL ROUTE had nothing to do with them. The misunderstanding arose out of the finding of two letters bearing the mark MAIL ROUTE, one of them endorsed "Kentucky" and the other "Tennessee" in the lower left corner. But many such covers are endorsed with words which are not the names of states. The illustrations presented herewith show the words "Brig Orion," "Ship Francis," "Pr. Brig Francis," and "Ship Carolinian, Capt. A. Hewes." The present writer has seen others also bearing ships' names, as was a widespread custom a hundred years ago. With that observation as a suggestion, a study of the files of New York newspapers of the 1830's, and earlier, reveals that the "Kentucky" and the "Tennes-

#315

5c Mint Imperforates

Pair O.G. \$100.00
 Block O.G. 200.00



syvester colby
 INCORPORATED
 1505 FIFTH AVENUE - NEW YORK 17

THE MOUTAWAKILITE

KINGDOM OF YEMEN offers a difficult challenge to collectors. Very few have ever been able to complete the stamps of this remote country. If you have a wantlist of mint sets of Yemen (or of any other "tough" country, for that matter), we'll do our best to fill it. Here are two issues which are not in Scott's, but listed by Sanabria, Michel, Yvert, etc. Both are eagerly sought by specialists: July 2, 1947, Crown Prince's Flight to N. Y. to join the United Nations. An appropriate overprint was applied to Scott types A5, A7 and A8. Some individual sets available as well as one complete mint collection of all 34 values. Sanabria net \$160.00, SPECIAL \$99.75
 September 20, 1948, celebrating admission to the U.N. Set of 20 pictorials (10 postage, 5 airmail, 5 dues) showing F.D.R., Churchill, Truman & Statue of Liberty. Complete mint (20) \$24.75

Frank Warner109 Nassau Street
New York 38, N. Y.U. S.
RARITIES**2c Pan American
Inverted Center**

#295a

Very Fine Mint

\$2,350.**Robert A. Siegel**

505 Fifth Ave, New York 17, N. Y.

**Every Specialized Collection Should Include
U. S. Essays and Proofs
The Gems of Philately****U. S. Revenue Proofs
Are Very Beautiful**

None were ever distributed privately but kept in the files of Contractor Jos. R. Carpenter until sold E. B. Sterling in 1884. I now have all that remains of this lot. Orders from my Price List promptly filled. Some large blocks as Show Pieces available of Second, Third & Proprietary Issues. Also some complete uncut sheets of card proofs. Send 10c for 16 page Illustrated Price List.

Clarence W. Brazier

Box 70 (S) Flushing, New York

UNITED STATES—USED

# 7.....\$4.10	#119.....\$4.90	#299.....\$1.70
9.....2.90	149.....2.90	310.....1.00
24.....1.00	151.....1.90	311.....2.10
35.....2.50	158.....3.65	325.....3.25
36.....4.25	160.....3.80	327.....2.65
63.....1.00	162.....2.40	C1.....1.25
68.....1.00	165.....2.35	C2.....2.65
69.....2.60	166.....8.10	C3.....2.10
73.....1.00	217.....3.55	C18.....4.90
76.....2.00	229.....4.40	
78.....2.65	240.....6.75	
87.....2.25	276.....3.60	
112.....4.10	291.....5.10	
113.....1.00	297.....1.40	
117.....3.30	298.....2.60	

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Sloane's Column

Weekly column conducted by George B. Sloane, 116 Nassau St., New York 38, N. Y., recognized philatelic expert and authority.

Fight Over Newspaper Stamps, 1897

The government stirred up a first-class row in 1897 over the philatelic traffic in Newspaper stamps and the fact that many of the preceding issues were in the hands of collectors. Newspaper stamps had always been restricted and were not to be sold to the public though some postmasters violated the regulations. The stamps were very popular with collectors. Newspaper stamps had been in issue since 1865, and in 1875 the Continental Bank Note Co. had furnished a set ranging from 2c to \$60. A 1c value was added in 1885 by the American Bank Note Co. In 1894 the stamp printing contract was given to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The American Bank Note Co., who had previously held the contract and had been printing the Newspaper stamps, made a special printing in limited quantities of all values which was turned over to the Bureau to serve as color samples. Some of these were imperforate and part of them eventually got into philatelic channels. Subsequently most of the imperforates that reached the trade were privately perforated and advertised for sale.

The matter came to the attention of the government. A seizure was made and legal action instituted on the grounds that such stamps could not legitimately be bought and sold by philatelists, and that philatelic possession of Newspaper stamps was in defiance of law. The stamp trade and collectors banded together, raising a fund to defend the suit.

The action came to trial in April, 1898, before a judge and jury, but the government had a poor case and soon lost it. The judge took it away from the jury's consideration and directed a verdict for the defendants, pointing out that the Post Office Department, in 1875, offered all values (the "Special Printings") to anyone interested, that there was no law prohibiting such sales, that the government received and retained the purchase money, thus waiving all irregularities and ratifying the sale, that foreign governments, members of the Universal Postal Union, regularly received sets of the stamps that ultimately gravitated into the stamp trade, and finally, that the Postal Regulation that supposedly prohibited the sale of Newspaper stamps was illegal in that it was inconsistent with Federal Law, if not, indeed, unconstitutional.

Instantly, dealers who, evidently, had been hiding their stocks, began to advertise the stamps again, and no doubt in view of the litigation there was a good sale for them. A year later, in 1899, the Post Office Department, after the use of Newspaper stamps had been discontinued, and in a complete reversal of their former attitude, placed on sale, sets of the 1895 stamps, from the 1c to the \$100 value (including reprints), at \$5 per set.

George B. Sloane

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 (St. Louis & North Shore Line R.R.)

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 Pairs 2.00
 Blox of 4 5.00

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 #9 7½d fine 4 margin unused copy, with a minor corner crease, Cat. \$400.00 \$190.00
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 #15 5c used Good .75 Fine 1.50 VF 2.50
 #17 10c used Good 4.00 VG 5.50 Fine 7.00
 #18 12½c used Good 3.50 Fine 6.00 VF 10.00
 #18 12½c dated MR 1 1866 in red VF 17.00
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In order, then, to learn what the mark MAIL ROUTE *may* mean, this will be an article of inquiry to start others on the same study. The writer does not pretend to know what the mark means; but after studying all the evidence available, he will present a hypothesis for further investigation.

Our illustrations show the four forms of the mark known to the writer. Fig. 1 shows the familiar New York mark; Fig. 2 shows one used at a post office yet to be determined, preferably by locating another cover bearing this same form of the mark and also a town mark. Figs. 3 and 4 show the two straight-line marks; the former is the Philadelphia mark, measuring $38 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ mm., while the latter is the Savannah mark, measuring $42 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The New York mark and the one of unknown origin are found in a good clear red, while both the Philadelphia and Savannah marks have been seen in a weak, dirty red, mixed with black. The last has also been recorded in black, a very late use on a cover with stamps, to be described later.

To study the characteristics of any given group of covers, we must observe everything we can about their places of origin, dates, places to which they are addressed, and any postal markings appearing on the covers. A list of such details concerning covers known to the writer is presented with this article in tabular form.

A study of the table of information reveals certain facts very clearly: (1) Over half of the covers re-

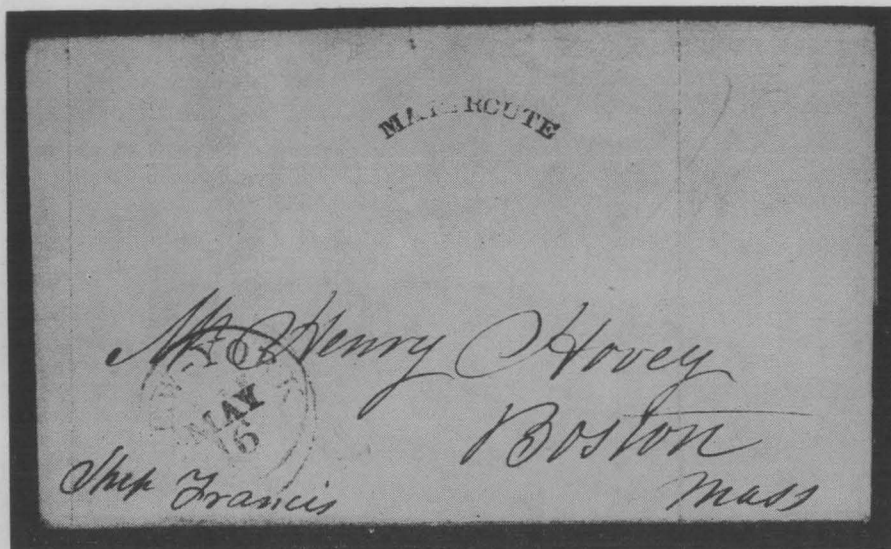


Fig. 1—Letter from New Orleans to Boston in 1827, entering the mail at New York, where it received the New York postmark and the mark "Mail Route," both in red.

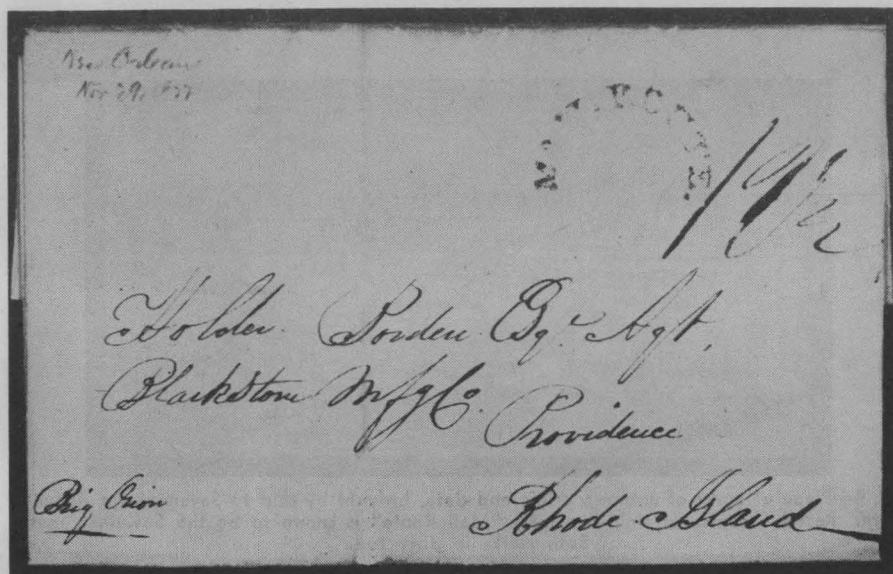


Fig. 2—Letter from New Orleans to Providence in 1827, entering the mail at some unknown port, where it received the semi-circular mark "Mail Route" in red. No town postmark.

LIST OF LETTERS KNOWN TO THE WRITER BEARING THE MARK "MAIL ROUTE"

Example	Place of Origin	Address of Destination	Town Mark	Mail Route Mark	Date of Letter	Date of Town Mark	Date of Receipt	Rate of Postage	Ship's Name How Expressed	Fig.
1	New Orleans	Boston	New York	New York	Apr. 29, 1827	May 16	?	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	"Ship Francis"	1
2	New Orleans	Providence	None	?	Nov. 29, 1827	None	?	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	"Brig Orion"	2
3	New Orleans	Castine, Me.	New York	New York	Jan. 15, 1828	Jan. ?1	?	25	None	
4	Mobile Bay	Albany, N.Y.	New York	New York	Jan. 31, 1828	Feb. 28	?	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	"pr Brig Francis"	5
5	New Orleans	New York	None	New York	Oct. 8, 1828	None	Oct. 28	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	"Tennessee"	
6	New Orleans	Castine, Me.	New York	New York	Nov. 18, 1828	Dec. 10	?	25	None	
7	New Orleans	New York	None	New York	June 29, 1829	None	July 28	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	"per Kentucky"	
8	New Orleans	New York	None	New York	Jan. 21, 1830	None	Feb. 10	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	"Kentucky"	
9	?	Philadelphia	None	Phila.	Missing	None	?	10	"Ship Carolinian"	3
10	?	Missing	None	Savannah	Missing	None	?	6	None visible	4
11	?	Marietta, Ga.	Savannah	Savannah	?	Missing	?	3 plus 1	None	



Fig. 3—Letter of unknown date, from an unknown place of origin, to Philadelphia, entering the mail at Philadelphia, where it received the straight-line origin mark "Mail Route" in weak, dirty red mixed with black.



Fig. 4—Piece of cover of unknown origin and date, brought by ship to Savannah for delivery there. Rated 6 cents. Straight-line mark "Mail Route" is known to be the Savannah mark. Both marks in dirty red.



Fig. 5—Letter dated "Mobile Bay, Jan. 31st, 1828," addressed to Albany, entering the mail at New York. It there received the New York town mark and the mark "Ship," which was corrected by crossing it out and substituting "Mail Route." All marks in red.

corded are inscribed with the names of ships. (2) In the cases where a town mark is present, or is implied by the presence of a type of mark MAIL ROUTE which has been identified with a definite post office, the post office is never the one in the place where the letter originated, and is often at a very great distance from that place. (3) The town mark, if present or implied, is either that of the post office from which the letter was to be delivered, or that of a post office between the place of origin and the place of destination.

These observations lead to the inference that such letters were carried all or part of the way toward their destination by private hands, "outside the mails," and in every case where sufficient inscriptions are present, they were thus carried by ship.

We therefore cannot escape the conclusion that *mail route* letters are in somewhat the same category as *steamboat*, *way*, and *ship* letters, in that they reached the United States mails by private hands, and specifically, by ship. But their category must differ in some respect from that of the other classes just mentioned, because every post office which was or may have been involved (New York, Philadelphia, Savannah, and perhaps Providence) had handstamps in use at the time of these letters reading STEAM and/or STEAMBOAT and SHIP. They probably had WAY handstamps also, but the present writer has not recorded them.

Further evidence that these letters differ in some detail from *ship* and probably from *steamboat* letters is furnished by the cover shown in Fig. 5. The reader will observe that the New York postal clerk had marked the letter SHIP, then crossed that word out heavily with the same ink which he used for the rate mark, and applied the handstamp MAIL ROUTE. Plainly, he knew that he had made a mistake and should correct it.

It need not disturb us that nearly half our recorded covers bear no town mark whatever. Collectors who have handled many *steam*, *way*, and *ship* letters have observed that at least half the examples of such letters which pass through their hands have no town mark. In many post offices it appears to have been a matter of indifference whether they did or did not apply the town mark to such letters. In other post offices the town mark appears never to have been applied to such letters. This statement holds good, regardless of

August 14, 1954 ☆ STAMPS

whether the letter was to be delivered from the office where it was turned in, or whether it was to go forward by regular mail.

Since we observe a similarity, and at the same time a distinction, between *mail route* letters and covers bearing the other waterways marks, it becomes advisable to review the regulations concerning those classes of letters. Perhaps those regulations may shed some light on the problem of the covers here being studied.

Ship letters were first recognized by the postal law of Feb. 20, 1792, and the rates to be charged were there set up. By the postal law of March 2, 1799, the rates on *ship* letters were revised to 6 cents if delivered from the office where they were turned in, and the regular zone postage plus 2 cents (the captain's fee) if sent on farther by mail. The rate remained thus until slightly revised in 1861, and considerably changed in 1863, which dates are far beyond our present needs.

Steamboat letters were first differentiated from *ship* letters by the postal law of March 3, 1825. The law provided that the captain of a steamboat not employed in carrying the mail, who brought in letters, should receive 2 cents each as his fee. We do not find a definite statement that the 2 cents should or should not be collected from the addressee. A study of letters marked STEAMBOAT in the years following 1825 shows that some postmasters added the 2 cents to the postage, which in those days was usually collect (especially on letters reaching a post office by private hands), while others charged only regular zone postage. Not until 1855 did *P.L.&R.* definitely tell the postmasters what to do about the extra 2 cents.

The postal law of March 3, 1845, states that the rate to be charged on a *steamboat* letter was to be the same as if the letter had been carried "in the mail" for its entire journey. *P.L.&R.* for 1852 contains a lengthy and detailed chapter on *Ship and Steamboat Letters*, in which the provisions from the law of 1845 are repeated, and a further complication is created for the long-suffering and not too well educated postmasters of a century ago. If a letter was carried "outside the mails" over waters, a part of which had been declared a post road, *ship* letter rates were to prevail; but if carried over waters, the whole of which had been declared post roads, regular inland postage should be charged. That all sounds simple; but in the applica-

tion, certain troublesome questions arise. Since this chapter of *P.L.&R.* was an attempt to clarify existing practices, it may have a bearing on the meaning of the mark MAIL ROUTE.

Ship letter postage was 6 cents to the port of arrival, and zone postage plus 2 cents if the letter was forwarded by mail. Question: Was the zone postage to be reckoned for the whole distance, or only for the distance which the letter traveled by mail? On *steamboat* letters, *P.L.&R.* is clear on this point; on *ship* letters, it is not.

Steamboat letter postage was the regular zone postage for the whole distance, and the captain received 2 cents per letter, just as did a ship's captain. Question: Was the 2 cents to be added to the zone postage? On *ship* letters, *P.L.&R.* is clear on this point; on *steamboat* letters, it is not. It is not surprising that we find practices differing at different post offices, and at the same post office at different periods. Even to us, with the advantage of the perspective of a hundred years, it is well-nigh impossible to decipher what the law probably intended.

Steamboats carried *way* letters, also—provided the steamboat was carrying mail in closed pouches under arrangement with the Post Office Department. Such letters, picked up just before leaving or at an intermediate stop, if brought to a post office by the captain, entitled him to a fee of 1 cent. By the postal law of

March 3, 1825, the extra cent was added to the postage, although such had been the practice for fully a quarter of a century previously. In the last days of the year 1852 a controversy between a patron of the New Orleans Post Office and the Department resulted in a ruling that on *way* letters brought by steamboats the extra cent should not be added to the postage, but should be paid out of the general revenues of the Department. At all times the postage rates to which the extra cent was added were the regular zone rates of the period.

Having mentioned the zone rates several times, and observing that they must be a part of our discussion of the rates on *mail route* letters, we here give a list of such rates.

1816-1845

Not over 30 miles.....	6 cents
30 to 80 miles.....	10 cents
80 to 150 miles.....	12½ cents
150 to 400 miles.....	18½ cents*
Over 400 miles	25 cents

* Raised in 1825 to 18¾ cents

1845-1851

Not over 300 miles.....	5 cents
Over 300 miles	10 cents

1851-1852

Not over 3,000 miles	
3 cents prepaid, 5 cents collect	
Over 3,000 miles	
6 cents prepaid, 10 cents collect	

When we attempt to reconcile the rates found on the covers with the

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rates in the above schedules, we encounter considerable difficulty.

Example 1. From New York to Boston is between 150 and 400 miles, which is evidently the distance charged for.

Example 2. Since we have no idea where the mark MAIL ROUTE was applied, we have no way of judging whether the distance from that place to Providence was between 80 and 150 miles. It has been suggested that this mark may be the mark of Providence itself; but there was no way to justify a 12½ cent charge for simply delivering a letter from the Providence post office to a citizen.

In the two examples just studied, the total distance could not possibly have been involved, because the rate would then have been 25 cents; but in some of those to follow, there is a

possibility that the postmaster was following the directive to charge the same rate as though the letter had been transported its entire distance "in the mail."

Example 3. From New York to Castine, Me., and from New Orleans to Castine are both over 400 miles, so the 25 cent charge may have been on either basis.

Example 4. This one defies interpretation. The 1847 edition of *P.L.&R.* gives the river distance from New York to Albany as 144 miles, which should have cost 12½ cents. If the total distance from Mobile to Albany was being charged for, it should have been 25 cents. There is no logical explanation for 18¾ cents.

Example 5. 37½ cents may signify a double-rate letter, 2 x 18¾ cents, or a triple-rate letter, 3 x

12½ cents because of several sheets or enclosures. But neither local delivery at New York nor the distance from New Orleans to New York can account for either a 12½ cent or an 18¾ cent rate. No explanation seems to fit this cover.

Example 6. Explanation same as for Example 3.

Example 7. Neither local delivery at New York nor the distance from New Orleans to New York accounts for a 12½ cent rate.

Example 8. Same remarks as for Example 7.

Example 9. Local delivery at Philadelphia certainly could not have cost 10 cents, so some distance "outside the mail" was evidently being charged for. Not knowing the place of origin prevents our attempting to fit the distance to a 10 cent rate for 30 to 80 miles.

Example 10. The Savannah post office plainly rated this either as a ship letter to the port of arrival, or else for a distance of less than 30 miles. The 30 miles may have been either its total distance, or its distance after entering the mail. Not having the destination available prevents our completing the analysis. The author's reference file contains no other covers to an addressee named Woodbridge, from which a possible destination might be suggested.

Example 11. If we could show a picture of this cover, we could make the situation much more clear. Will all readers who have Stanley B. Ashbrook's *One Cent Stamp of 1851-57* please turn to pages 233 and 235?

This cover differs radically from all the rest in two respects: (1) It is more than twenty years later than any of the others. (2) It is the only mail route letter seen which shows any evidence of an extra fee having been added.

In the absence of an illustration, a verbal description must suffice. The cover bears a 1 cent 1851 stamp in the upper left corner, tied on by the word MAIL of MAIL ROUTE, the same handstamp shown in Fig. 4. In the upper right corner is a blank space where formerly another stamp, presumably a 3 cent 1851, was tied on by a Savannah town mark. The detaching of the stamp has carried away the date. There is another strike of the same handstamp MAIL ROUTE, and the letter is addressed to Marietta, Ga. Mr. Ashbrook explains to us on page 235 that the cover represents a prepaid way fee. It was picked up en route, deposited in the Savannah post office, post-

(Continued on Page 236)



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Mark Mail Route

(Continued from Page 234)

marked, and the 1 cent stamp was cancelled with the MAIL ROUTE handstamp. All marks are in black.

If Mr. Ashbrook is correct in his analysis of Example 11, and this writer concurs in his explanation, the ship which brought in the letter was employed in carrying the mail under contract, in closed pouches. That is the situation which would make "loose letters" picked up by its captain *way letters*, and *way letters* are the only category of letters which cost an extra fee of 1 cent. The date of this letter, bearing as it does an 1851 stamp, was evidently between July 1, 1851, when the stamps were issued, and the end of the year 1852, when the *way* fee on letters picked up by a steamboat was abolished.

The writer now feels ready to state the hypothesis which the reader has probably already inferred, namely, that if the mark MAIL ROUTE means anything distinctive, it designates letters carried by ship over waters, the whole of which had been declared post roads.

As reasons for formulating this hypothesis, the following facts should be enumerated:

- (1) Every cover which bears enough evidence to make it useful for study was carried by ship.
- (2) Every cover except one shows by its rate mark that no *ship* fee was levied, and the one exception is logically explainable.
- (3) The Post Office Department was quite conscious of a distinction between letters carried over post roads and letters carried by other routes, as shown by the following references:

The Act of March 3, 1823, Section 3, states that all waters on which steamboats regularly pass from port to port shall be considered and established as post roads.

P.L.&R. for 1852, Chapter 15, attempts to clear up questions regarding existing practices, but due to its involved legal verbiage it does not succeed completely. Section 108 states that which we have already mentioned earlier in this article, that if the route is over waters, *part* of which are deemed a post road, *ship* letter postage is to be charged; but if the *whole* of the water between any two ports has been declared a post road, regular inland postage will be charged. (Unfortunately for this particular study, Section 108 contains an illustration which com-

pletely contradicts the testimony of over half the covers we have been studying: "Thus, the Mississippi River, from New Orleans to the mouth, is a post road; yet letters carried by ship between New Orleans and any other port in the United States, are subject to the usual *ship* letter postage." This statement is made as illustration of a route, *part* of which is a post road; yet our covers show that with the single exception of Example 11, regular postage was charged, no *ship* fee being added.)

Section 110 of the same chapter further states: "Upon letters and packets received from the master of steamboats, on waters deemed post roads, the persons addressed will be charged, when delivered to them, the same postage as if the letters and packets had been conveyed in the mail overland."

These references are mentioned to illustrate the argument that the Post Office Department was very conscious of a special category of *ship* letters, namely, those conveyed over waters which had been declared post roads. The writer sees in this distinction a basis for the mark MAIL ROUTE.

The writer is impressed with several features of the covers bearing the mark MAIL ROUTE and the regulations which may be the cause of the use of the mark:

- (1) The apparently contradictory character of certain regulations in P.L.&R., as well as contradictions between the regulations and the testimony of the covers themselves.
- (2) The fact that only four post offices on the Atlantic Seaboard found it necessary to have such a mark. How did other cities mark letters carried under the same circumstances?
- (3) The fact that those four post offices all happened to choose the same manner of expressing the idea. Had some interchange of suggestions taken place which led to the adoption of exactly the same words in four post offices?

(4) The fact that no southbound letters have been seen marked MAIL ROUTE. When the same ships made the return trip and picked up letters for Mobile or New Orleans along the way, what mark did the letters receive at those places? If SHIP, was *ship* letter postage charged? The New Orleans post office began using handstamps reading SHIP and STEAM very early, before 1830; Mobile apparently began using them much later. It is strange that Baltimore, Charleston,

(Continued on Page 247)

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Mark Mail Route

(Continued from Page 236)

Key West, Tallahassee, and perhaps other post offices on the seaboard between Philadelphia and Mobile did not need some way of designating southbound letters carried entirely over post roads.

(5) The fact that no letters marked MAIL ROUTE have been recorded between 1830 and 1851. Were it not for the solitary example in 1851 or 1852, collectors would have reason to say that the mark vanishes from use after 1830. Such a gap in the year-span of use of a mark is striking.

One fact stands out prominently in this study: *We do not yet have enough covers recorded to give us the complete pattern of the usage of the mark.* The writer therefore suggests that this article be regarded as a preliminary study, and not as a finished pronouncement. He needs more covers, *many more covers*, to arrive at more reliable conclusions. He requests from former and new correspondents the loan of as many MAIL ROUTE covers as possible, whether within the year span already covered, or earlier or later, and whether from the same cities or from other cities. Unless special circumstances arise to delay the routine, ten days to two weeks will be needed for photographing and recording a cover. The writer will undertake to report at some later date on the progress of the study. Please send all possible MAIL ROUTE covers to *Henry A. Meyer*, 516 Read Street, Evansville 11, Indiana.

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Aug. 15, 1954

Dear Stan:

Thanks for lending me the six MAIL ROUTE covers. I have listed them with all details, to use when I carry the study further. I had one reported by Maurice C. Blake, and two lent to me by strangers. If I see that I can extend myself a little before mail time, I'll remark further on them; if not, I'll continue it in a later letter.

I'll try to find the book "Square Riggers on Schedule" by Albion at the library. I want to find out whether the Francis, the Orion, and the Russell were Holmes Liners, as well as those with states' names. Our stamp club is having some research done in Washington, and I can work in with other questions these two: (1) Was there a contract mail route by sea between New Orleans and New York in the late 1820's? (2) Did the Holmes Line have it?

Re 3c rate from California to the east by overland mail--I think there is no doubt that you are right, that such covers are very rare and are not appreciated because they are not understood. Here is a side light on it: When I began to translate the Hawaii section of Kohl's Handbook in 1941, I knew very little about U.S. postage rates. Dr. Munk had the rates pretty badly muddled, and he had the dates muddled still worse. But he made one statement which helps us a little, although the date he gives is wrong: "About the beginning of the 60's the U.S. fee for single weight letters from Hawaii to all points west of Cincinnati, if carried in the United States by overland mail, was reduced to 5c, including the 2c for the ship's fee."

That was when you and I began to correspond about our studies. I knew that a 3000 mile circle drawn from San Francisco would reach far beyond Cincinnati, but I did not know that distance was computed the way the mail went, nor by what route the overland mail went; so I could not verify the Cincinnati feature. When would you say it first became feasible to apply the 3000 mile idea to overland mail? The middle of 1859, as the "Tulare Record" is dated, or even earlier? I am glad all this came up; because from now on, at every bourse, I will be looking for covers from California to approximately Louisville, Nashville, Indianapolis, etc., with 3c postage, if before Feb. 27, 1861.

It is nice that you had Mr. Beck's cover. The Louisville fellows are very co-operative. I suppose you hold to your original suggestion, that the letter was remailed as a drop letter. You are probably right.

Sometime later I'll be glad to see the color transparency of the triple 15c rate to Nantes. Not now, however, as I am rushing headlong to get my correspondence and sorting of negatives, prints, and unassimilated covers done by time to go to the S.P.A. convention, and as soon as I get back the pre-school conferences begin, followed immediately by the hectic days of the opening of the new school year. I don't want anything unusual on until I am back in the regular groove of school work.

I missed the mail collection, because Neal Grabert called up. We were talking about going to the S.P.A. convention and about Lorin Warg's wonderful discovery. Did you hear about it? You know the FORT SNELLING (no state or territory) in 34 mm. circle, of which Nort Sampson says in his "U.S. Territorial Postmark Catalog," "This postmark with bottom word partly erased has been seen only on Minn. Terr. covers, but it almost surely originally read "IOWA." Lorin went to New York, and came back proudly displaying a very fine cover with superb strike "FORT SNELLING/IOWA." I'm glad such a nice fellow as Lorin got it, for he is most co-operative about sharing his knowledge and his covers with other students.

Since there is no longer any rush, let's go back to the MAIL ROUTE matter. The most bewildering thing about the covers is the rates on them. They defy interpretation with our present knowledge. Besides the 11 covers I had already listed, you lent me 6, and I had 3 from other sources, making 20. Seven of the covers are addressed to New York and entered the mails at New York, receiving the New York MAIL ROUTE mark. Of the 7, 6 are rated $12\frac{1}{2}$; the 7th is rated $37\frac{1}{2}$ --triple $12\frac{1}{2}$. Here is what bothers me: Under what sort of regulation could any of the following letters be chargeable with $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents postage?

- (a) An inland letter from New Orleans to New York.
- (b) A ship letter from New Orleans to New York.
- (c) A way letter from New Orleans to New York.
- (d) a drop letter dropped in the slot at New York, deliverable through the window or through a box at New York.

I can't see any way for any of these letters to be charged $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents; yet it was done consistently at least through 1828 and 1829, and probably from 1827 through 1830. Being consistent, a suspicion arises that we may have to look for some directive to charge that amount. If we ever fix $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents as the rate under those circumstances, that will fix the home port of the mark on my Example 2 (the horse-shoe mark) as Providence.

Here is an experience which I am sure you have often. Isn't it amazing, what unhelpful ideas people can suggest? Regarding my Example 4, which was charged $18\frac{3}{4}$ c postage, when the distance of 144 miles would have made the postage $12\frac{1}{2}$ c, several people have suggested that the letter was going by land and perhaps the land distance was more than the river distance.

We out here in the Ohio Valley know that the river distance is always more, and usually a great deal more than the land distance. Sometime in the 1850's the postmaster general's letter book showed a letter warning that the postmasters must rate letters brought by steamboat with the river distance, not the land distance. The Hudson is a lot straighter than the Ohio; but we know that every river does some snaking, and I can't see any way for the land distance between New York and Albany to be more than the river distance.

So far, all I can make out of the rates on the MAIL ROUTE letters is this, that I can't make anything out of them. It looks almost as if they charged haphazardly. Three of those you sent me are to Danbury, Conn. From New York to Danbury isn't over 60 miles; the postage would have been 10c; but they charged $18\frac{3}{4}$ c. On the other hand, if they were charging from New Orleans to Danbury, it would have been 25c. Maurice Blake reports one from New Orleans to Kennebunk, with N.Y. town mark and N.Y. MAIL ROUTE mark, rated 25c; he says the distance from N.Y. to Boston by the post road was a maximum of 257 miles, and from Boston to Kennebunk 103 miles, so it should have been $18\frac{3}{4}$, but they charged 25c. If we had only that one example, we would say, "It is simple; they charged for the whole distance from New Orleans to Kennebunk." Then how about those from New Orleans to New York rated $12\frac{1}{2}$ c? When we see one example of a stamp or postmark or cover, we think we know all about it; when we have seen two, we don't know quite so much; when we have seen a dozen, we know that we don't know anything about it. Yours sincerely, Henry

2 items from files

Aug. 8, 1954.

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

RETURNED BY AUG 19 1954

Dear Henry:

Re - 3¢ rate between East and West Via
the Overland Mail Route for distances less than 300
miles. As you will recall, the 10¢ rate applied to dis-
tances over 3000 miles.

I enclose two items from my files which
please return.

I believe that you will find that covers
showing this rate are very very rare but little appre-
ciated because they are not understood.

Did I advise you that Mr. Beck loaned
me his cover and I made fine photos of it, front and
back?

Regards.

Sincerely yours,



Mail Route
Covers

Aug. 8, 1954.

RETURNED BY AUG 19 1954

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

Dear Henry:

Nerewith I am sending you six (6) "Mail Route" covers and I hope they prove of some assistance in your research work.

When I was attempting to make some investigation of this marking a few years ago I had it in mind to write to Washington and request information regarding a mail route by sea between New York and New Orleans, but I never got around to it. This is a lead that you might follow.

Later I will send you the correspondence with Fredericks of New Orleans.

If you have a copy of the book, "Square Riggers on Schedule" by Albion, you will find that all of the ships listed on these covers were of the "Holmes Line" of New Orleans. Here is another lead you could follow - Did this Line have a U. S. Mail contract? It was evidently a very wealthy shipping company.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

33-23

Aug. 20, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 15th and a partial reply.

Re - the following ships that you mentioned -

Frances (you had Francis). This was not of the "Holmes Line" (N.O.) but of the "Old Line" (N.O.). Launched in 1824 - "Line Service" 1824-1831. Became a Whaler in 1831 to 1846.

Orion - Unable to find any listing of such a ship.

Russell - This was also a ship of the "Old Line" (N.O.) - Launched in 1825 - Line Service began 1825 - ended 1832 - Became a Whaler 1833-47.

Rates. Likewise I have never been able to figure out the rates. Consider two of my covers - N.O. to N.Y. in 1828 - 1829. Rated "12½" - The only 12½¢ rate was - over 80 - not over 150 miles. The only way that I can figure this was that the letter entered the U.S. mail at a point "over 80 miles - not over 150 miles." Where was the entry? "Mail Route" did not mean Water Route but a land route into New York, hence such mail was mailed direct with the carrier - whatever that was - stage or steamboat (no railroad at that time). The postage charged was the postage from entry to destination.

I cannot figure any other solution.

More later.

Sincerely yours,

33-23

Dated 9/1-54

Henry A. Meyer
516 READ STREET • EVANSVILLE II, INDIANA

Dear Stan: *I find that Leonard Hudson gives us a list of slips of both the Holmes Lane and the Old Lane in "The Street Mail."*

Thanks for your card, which came just after

I left for the S.P.A. convention. I have looked up the MAIL ROUTE covers in the Knapp sale and listed them. Did you possibly have either cover for recording and/or photographing? Much is still needed about each of them. On 217, I need the mark. On 472 I see a misdescription. The rate is not "50" as stated, but "56 $\frac{3}{4}$ " which is a miscalculation for 56 $\frac{1}{4}$. As soon as I have enough new recordings to help me see the situation, I'll write you further before I do another article. I intend to let enough time pass to get in all the covers I am likely to get. A study like this is no good if rushed too fast.

At the convention I had lunch with Arthur Van Vlissingen and dinner with Towner Webster. I picked up helpful suggestions on other studies from both.

Henry

Earl Oakley
Attorney at Law
Suite 200 Continental Building
Los Angeles, California
Mutual 7331

May 17th., 1954.

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

D

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for your attention to the stamps which I sent to you for checking. I am enclosing my check in your favor in the sum of \$17.50 to cover your billings on the same.

I am sending another group to you for checking, including two of the last items sent to you, items numbered 15 and 17. Item 17 I purchased as 63 R 2, is this plating correct? Item 15, you noted as Plate One Early and has some constant dots in the upper left margin. I have since found another copy (Item 14) with identical markings, and it has the appearance of a Plate 2 stamp. I do not know of any similar markings on Plate One, do you know the position of these markings? I should like to have the items I am sending you at this time returned to me at your earliest convenience, since I plan to arrange an exhibit for the San Francisco meeting and may want to use some of this material.

from
Plates
3 and 4

A number of the items enclosed have been in your hands before but they are new to my collection. I am particularly interested in establishing all of the plate positions possible. Can you also advise me how many center line copies from Plate 3 have come to your attention since your book was written, and as to whether such copies were from the Left or Right panes?

I am enclosing the material sent to you except for a strip of three, containing 99 R 2, in a separate envelope. Please cover such items with \$500.00 when returning them to me, and an additional \$500.00 on the enclosed strip. I am obliged to send these in two lots because the limit of my insurance coverage is \$500.00.

I am also returning by separate registered letter the strip of three, Type Ia, which you submitted to me. I noted that this cover was in a recent Harmer auction but did not bid on it because of the condition. Each of the stamps is damaged and while it is a rare item its only value to me would be from a plating standpoint, and I would not want to put that much money in such an item at this time. I have told Dr. Alter about the cover and he is not interested in it, although I know he would like to get a very fine copy for his collection. I have not placed coverage on this item because I understand that your insurance covers transmittal both coming and return.

Please excuse my typing as I am trying to do this at home
Sincerely,

(over) on Sunday,

I am trying to obtain very fine (or better) examples of all types from each of the Reliefs of Plate Four. If you have any thing in this line that you think I can use, I would like to have you submit it. Also, need 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 R 1^(Early) examples in very fine or better condition.

On all of the Plate 3 and Plate 4 items submitted I wish you would identify them on the back.

Also, am still looking for imprint and plate number examples from all the plates.

Proamy

May 22, 1954.

Mr. Earl Oakley,
Suite 200 Continental Bldg.,
Los Angeles 13, Calif.

Dear Mr. Oakley:

Thanks very much for your check for \$17.50 and the return of the Type IA strip that I sent you recently.

I have carefully noted yours of the 17th and I am returning herewith the off cover strip of 97R2 - 98R2 - 99R2 - the latter the 99R2 Type III. It is indeed a pity that this stamp is cut into at the top and the break in the top line cut off. I have endorsed the strip on the back as of those above positions and am charging your account with a fee of \$3.00 for authentication and \$1.31 for return registered postage.

I will write you separately about your registered of May 17th - registered number 227996.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Earl Oakley
Attorney at Law
Suite 200 Continental Building
Los Angeles, California
Mutual 7331

July 17th., 1954.

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

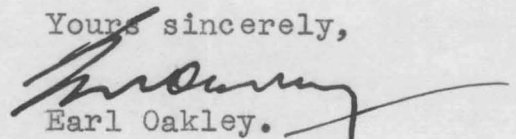
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I sent you a number of items to check under a covering letter of May 17th., 1954. When you returned the strip of three containing 99 R 2 you said that you would be able to get at the other items within a short time. Would it be possible for you to return these to me with your comments with a short time? Some of these items I may want to include in some material that I am going to try to assemble for the San Francisco exhibit. I am quite anxious to have your opinion as to most of the items you have and asked in ~~my~~ ^{my} previous letter that you identify as many of the Plate 3 and Plate 4 items by noting their positions of the back, or, at least, the plate.

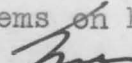
In my previous letter, I advised that the markings on items 14 and 15 appeared to be identical and constant, and otherwise spoke about some of the questions that arose in my mind about these stamps. I would like to have as much information as possible about the inquiries made in my previous letter.

With my best personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,


Earl Oakley.

EO/M.
airmail

P. S. Do you have any of the items on hand that I requested in my letter of May 17, 1954? 

Aug. 8, 1954.

Mr. Earl Oakley,
Suite 200, Continental Bldg.,
408 South Spring Street,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Oakley:

I am working on your material
and will return it to you this week. I
am terribly sorry about the delay but
due to conditions beyond my control, it
was unavoidable.

My sincere apologies,

Very truly,

REGISTERED
227 998

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

DO NOT STAPLE, FOLD OR BEND.

VIA AIR MAIL



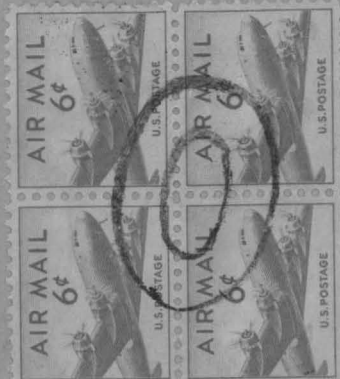


Earl Oakley,
200 Continental Building,
Los Angeles, California.

REGISTERED
227 996

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

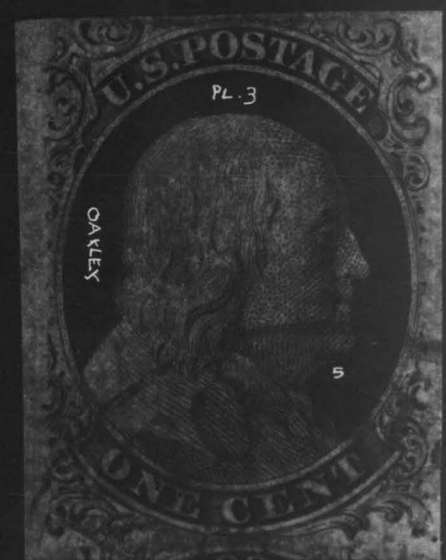
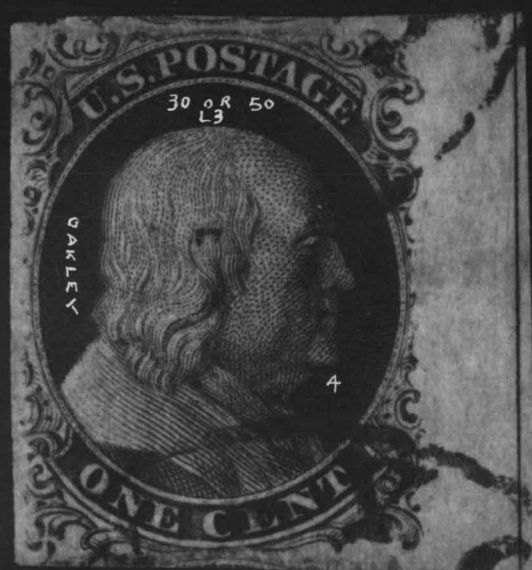
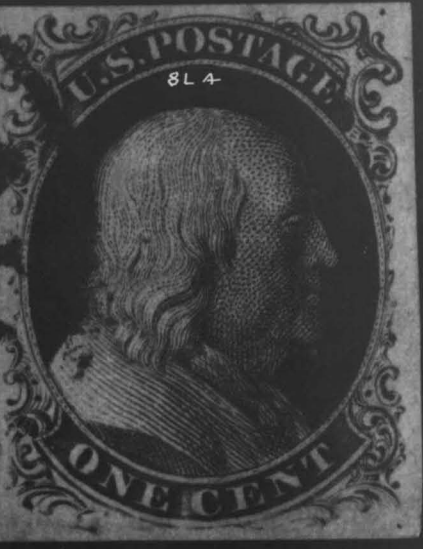
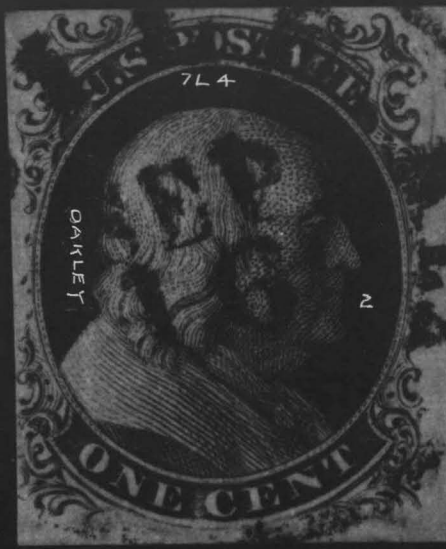
DO NOT STAPLE, FOLD OR BEND.



VIA AIR MAIL



ANV
K35
58 1954
58 7 1/2



Aug. 18, 1954.

Mr. Earl Oakley,
Suite 200 - Continental Bldg.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Oakley:

At long last I am returning herewith the One Cent 1851-57 items contained in yours of May 17th last.

I am enclosing herewith a memorandum of each of the items, and I am charging your account \$13.13 as per memo, plus \$4.31 a balance due, total \$17.44.

I am terribly sorry that I was forced to hold these items so long and offer my apology for same. I regret to state that I will have to decline any future commissions such as this as it puts far too much of a strain on my eyes.

For some months past I have been compelled to do just as little plating as possible and in the months to come I will have to do even less.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

No. 1. This stamp shows very little to identify its position, therefore, a hard stamp to plate. In addition, the postmark covers up an identifying feature. However, the position is 10L4 and I have signed it as such on the back. For plating this my fee is \$1.50.

No. 2. This is not 6L - 7L4, but rather 7L4 - 8L4. I have signed it on the back as such. The fee is \$1.50.

No. 3. Correct - this is 5L4. I have signed it as such on the back. No fee.

No. 4. This is either 30L3 or 50L3. I worked a couple of hours on this trying to determine which but had insufficient evidence. I am a bit inclined to believe that it is 30L3. Not at all sure. I am charging you a fee of \$1.50 on this, in part compensation for time occupied.

No. 5. Plate 3 - but plate position unknown. No fee (signed on back)

No. 6. This looks like Plate 3 but I am not sure - no plate marks to identify it as a Plate 2 stamp.

No. 7. Due to absence of plating marks I was unable to plate this stamp either as a Plate 2 or a Plate 3.

No. 8. This is 60L2. I am charging you a fee of \$1.50.

No. 9. Not platable (?)

No. 10. Not platable (?)

No. 11. Correct - this is 83R2. I am charging you a fee of \$1.00 on this.

No. 12. A poor impression - absence of any identifying features except guide dot.

No. 13. I haven't done any plating of the 10¢ since 1935. I disposed of all my material years ago. I do not consider this an unusual Type II - a number of positions had top lines that were quite strong but did not appear as recut. Perhaps a weak line over the right X may be a bit unusual, provided it is consistent.

No. 15. Are you sure this is the stamp that I previously marked as Plate One Early? If I did, then I was in error, because this stamp is 41L2. I am charging you a fee of \$1.00.

No. 14. This is 41L2.

No. 16. This pair is 16R2 - 17R2. I am charging you \$2.00.

No. 17. This is 63R2 - signed on back. I am charging you a fee of \$1.00.

No. 18. This is 99R10 - 100R10. I am charging you a fee of \$1.00. This is not a crack but a guideline that was drawn on the plate.

No. 19. Very poor impression. In all probability from Plate 2 - not worth plating.

No. 20. This is undoubtedly a Plate 2 stamp. It could be plated by the guide dot but inasmuch as there are a number of "B" positions on Plate 2 with similar guide dots it would require a process of elimination, that is, the checking of all similar guide dot positions. The cancel is most unusual, probably a homemade cork used in some small office. I attach little significance to this class.

No. 21. Surely Plate One Early. I fail to note any plating marks. The cancel is

very nice and I have no clue as to where it may have been used.

No. 22. Type IV - Early print - 1853 color.

No. 23. Bottom Row - "F" - this may have been one of the Plate 7 "F" curls but too poor an impression to identify.

No. 24. This is not an "F"

No. 25. An "F" but too badly worn.

No. 26. Yes - 57R8.

No. 27. Of the three, I judge this is 34R9 because of the dot at top left. This is a rather poor impression.

No. 28. Yes, Plate 6, I will furnish the plate position later (if able to locate).

No. 29. Yes, this is the Plate 3 crack 24L3, an early print.

Regarding Center Line items from Plate 3 - a hasty check-up is as follows: The listed actually show the center line -

Right Pane

Singles - four

H.Pairs - one

H.Strips - four

Left Pane

Singles - four

H.Pairs = one

H.Strips - Two

V.Strips - One

There are other singles and multiples from center line positions which have been recorded which do not show the line.

Recap.

No. 1	⊖	\$	1.50
2	-		1.50
4	-		1.50
8	-		1.50
11	-		1.00
15	-		1.00
16	-		2.00
17	-		1.00
18	-		1.90
			<u>\$12.00</u>

Return	
Postage	1.13
	<u>\$13.13</u>

Balance	
Due	
as per	
my letter	
May 22nd.	4.31
	<u>\$17.44</u>

Recap.

Nº 1	-	1.50	✓
2	-	1.50	✓
4	-	1.50	✓
8	-	1.50	✓
11	-	1.00	✓
15	-	1.00	✓
16	-	2.00	✓
17	-	1.00	✓
18	-	1.00	✓
		<hr/>	
		\$ 12.00	

Return
Postage 1.13

\$ 13.13

Balance
due
As per
my letter
May 22nd

4.31

\$ 17.44

(9)

Mr Earl Oakley
Suite 200 Continental Bldg
Los Angeles Calif

AUG 18 1954

Dear Mr Oakley
Ah long last I am
returning here with the One
Cent 1851-57 items contained in
yours of May 17th last.

I am enclosing here with
a ~~note~~ memorandum of
each of the items, and
am charging your account
\$13 ¹³/₁₀₀ as per memo, plus \$4 ³¹/₁₀₀ a
Balance Due, ~~Total~~ \$17 ⁴⁴/₁₀₀

I am terribly sorry that
I was forced to hold these
items so long and offer
my apology for same. I
regret to state that I will

have to decline any future
commissions such as this
as it puts far too much of
a strain on my eyes ~~and~~.

For some months past I
have been compelled to
do just as little painting as
possible and in the
months to come I will
have to do even less.

With Regards—

Sincerely yours

No. 1 - This stamp shows very little to identify its position there fore a hand stamp to plate. In addition the postmark ~~falls on the~~ covers us an identifying feature. However the position is 10L4 and I have signed it as such as the back. For plating this my fee is \$ 1.50

No. 2 - This is not 6L-7L4, but rather 7L4-8L4. I have signed it on the back as such. The fee is \$ 1.50

No. 3 - Correct - this is 5L4. I have signed it as such on the back. No fee.

No. 4 - This is either 30L3 or 50L3. I worked a couple of hours on this trying to determine which but had insufficient evidence. I am a bit inclined to believe that it is 30L3. Not At All Sure - I am charging you

a fee of \$150 on this, in part
compensation for time occupied.

Nº.5 - Plate 3 - but plate position
unknown. No fee. (Signed On Back) (2)

Nº.6 - This looks like Plate 3 but
I am not sure - no plate
marks to identify it as a
Plate 2 stamp.

Nº.7 - Due to absence of Plating
marks I was unable to
plate this stamp either as a
Plate 2 or a Plate 3.

Nº.8 - ~~I found it impossible~~
~~to plate this stamp~~ This is 60L2.
I am charging you a fee of \$150

Nº.9 - ~~Not~~ Not Platable (?)

Nº.10 - ~~Not~~ Not Platable(?)

Nº.11 - Correct This is 83R2
I am charging you a

fee of \$1⁰⁰ on this

(3)

N^o 12 - A poor impression - absence of any identifying features except guide dot.

N^o 13 - I haven't done any plating of the 10¢ since 1935. I disposed of all my material years ago. I do not consider this an unusual type II - A number of portions had top lines that were quite strong but did not appear as recut. Perhaps a weak line over the right X may be a bit unusual, provided it is ~~as~~ consistent.

N^o 15. Are you sure this is the stamp that I ^{previously} marked as Plate One Early? If I did, then I was in error, because this stamp is 41L2.

~~412~~ I am charging you a fee of \$1⁰⁰ (4)

N^o 14 - This is 412.

N^o 16 - This pair is 16R2 - 17R2
I am charging you \$2⁰⁰.

N^o 17 - This is 63R2 - Signed on
back. I am charging you a
fee of \$1⁰⁰.

N^o 18 - This is 99R10 - 100R10
I am charging you a fee
of \$1⁰⁰.

This is not a crack but
a guide line that was
drawn on the Plate.

N^o 19 - Very poor impression. In
all probability from Plate 2 -
Not worth plating.

N^o 20 - This is undoubtedly a

(5)

Plate 2 stamp. It could be
placed by the guide dot but
inasmuch as there are a
number of "B" positions on
Plate 2 with similar guide
dots it would require a
process of elimination, that
is the checking of all similar
guide dot positions. The
cancel is most unusual
probably a ~~for~~ home made
cork used in some
small office. I attach little
significance to ~~so~~ ~~these~~
this class.

No. 21. Surely Plate One Early.
I fail to note any plating
marks. The cancel is very
nice and I have no clue
as to where it may have
been used.

Nº 22 - Type IV - Early print - (6)
1853 Color.

Nº 23 - Bottom Row - "F" - this may
have been one of the Pl 7 "F"
Curls but too poor an
impression to identify.

Nº 24 - This is not an "F"

Nº 25 - An "F" but too
badly worn.

Nº 26 - eps - 57R8.

Nº 27 - of the three, I judge this
is 34R9 because of the dot
at top left. This is a rather
poor impression.

Nº 28 - Yes, Plate 6, I will
furnish the plate position
later. (If able to locate).

N^o. 29 - ~~YES~~ this is the Plate 3 (7)
Crack 24L3, an early
Primb.

Regarding Center Line ~~Cases~~
Items from Plate 3 -

A hasty check up
is as follows - The items
listed actually show the
Center line.

RIGHT PANE

<u>Angles</u>	-	four
H. <u>Pairs</u>	-	One -
H. <u>Strips</u>	-	four

Left Pane

<u>Angles</u>	-	four
H. <u>Pairs</u>	-	One
H. <u>Strips</u>	-	TWO
V. <u>STRIPS</u>	-	One

There are other angles
and multiples from center
line positions which have
been recorded which do
not show the line.

(8)

LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

GEORGE W. LINN, Senior Editor.....HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA
CARL P. RUETH, Editor.....SIDNEY, OHIO

PUBLICATION OFFICE.....119-121 E. Court St., SIDNEY, OHIO
Mail Address.....P.O. Box 29, Sidney, Ohio Telephone.....7297-1

When requesting information include a stamped addressed envelope for a reply.

Subscription Per Year — \$1 U. S.; \$1.50 Canada; \$2.50 Foreign

Entered as second class matter April 22, 1942, at the post office at Sidney, Ohio under the act of March 3, 1879.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

LEWIS F. TURLEY
Advertising Manager

Rates are per column inch per insertion. Transient, 1 inch \$4.80; 2 inch \$7.80; 3 inch \$10.20; 4 inch \$12.00; 5 inch \$13.50. (Contract rates lower.)
Rates for larger space and complete rate card on request.

CLOSING DATE for new copy or change, Wednesday noon, for publication second Monday following.

There's No Place Like Home

That is something we all learn anew year after year when we take what is commonly called a vacation. Just why we take these so called vacations is a subject fit for scientific study, but we doubt if the question ever can be solved any more readily than the medical profession can cure a common cold.



GEORGE W. LINN

Anyhow we had to make a trip to Sidney, Ohio for business reasons and naturally we tried to make a vacation out of the trip by adding on some extra days and doing it all in one package. I just wish I would know enough not to try it again, but I perhaps will.

I spent the years from 1928 to 1948 without anything like a real vacation. Matters with the paper were such that I just never could get away for a couple weeks. It was not until 1951 when we took a trip to Hawaii that I really had a splendid vacation, one which I really enjoyed, but even then, when it was time to turn my face toward home and get there, I was glad of it.

On our trip north we went as far as Buffalo to visit Marie's parents, and to Rochester to visit with some of our friends. While in Buffalo we took an afternoon to go to the races at Fort Erie, over the Peace Bridge in Canada. We got a thrill out of being at a track when a big daily double was paid to 20 different people, so the newspapers said. It was a neat \$1030.90. Never yet been lucky enough myself to even pick a little one.

Talking about taking a vacation or staying at home makes me think of when I saw in one of the stamp papers where Henry Harris of H. E. Harris & Co., stamp dealers of Boston had been on one of these Caribbean cruises with his wife. I have often thought I would like to take one of those trips, so asked Henry to tell me about it and how he liked it.

Henry happens to have lived a good many of his childhood years right here in Central Florida and knows this part of the state very well, so he writes back and tells me all about the cruise and winds up his letter by saying "You have a beautiful home there in Howey, why do you want to take one of those cruises?"

Anyhow, now that we are home again, as of August 1, I want to thank everyone who had written me and did not feel obliged to complain because I had not given them a prompt reply, which of course I could not do. I had a heap of mail when I got back and was able to clean it all up in a week's time, now I can loaf again and play with my stamps a bit.

The weather has been a bit hot, but no hotter than many places in the north while we were up there. On the other hand we have lots of lovely cool days such as today. Right now the sky is very cloudy and quite a wind is blowing. I guess we are approaching what is called by northern newspapers, the hurricane season. I always did love to watch a good storm and look forward to that hurricane season with interest.

Speaking Of Experts

When it comes down to making a list of Philatelic Experts, the name of Stanley B. Ashbrook should be near the top of any list. Too many so called experts are expert in anything that pertains to stamps. It should be obvious therefore that the man who devotes his studies and efforts to a very limited line is a man who can be looked up to as an expert in that line.

In a recent letter Mr. Ashbrook says, "I haven't collected foreign stamps for over 40 years so my knowledge of anything in that line is zero—and this also applies to U. S. 20th. To the above I can add all side lines such as Revenues, Departments, Envelopes, Locals, Carriers, etc."

But when it comes to early U. S. postage, there is where Mr. Ashbrook takes his place at the top of any list of experts. Among his Philatelic Material is the most thorough and complete lot of data on 19th Century United States stamps to be found in the whole world. He has diligently gathered and kept data and information on these stamps and on the postal history of the period until there is little that has escaped his attention. His data is so thorough that he can usually tell you when a certain postmark was first used, where it was used, why it was used and most anything else about it that you would want to know. It is knowledge and facts of this nature that enable him to readily tell if a cover is genuine or if a faked one, as so often is the case with some of the very attractive covers of early days.

Stanley has all the lights, lamps and photo equipment to examine stamps and covers inside out and otherwise, there is little that is phoney that can escape detection at his hands.

With such a complete array of material it is but natural that his services are in demand by collectors who have questionable items or by collectors who want to know about those 1c 1851 or other stamps they may have. Mr. Ashbrook has therefore set up a service for which he charges a reasonable fee. He also accepts subscriptions to this service on an annual basis that permits him to give a real service to those who want it. Along with this he issues a special Service Letter which gives information and details not usually found in the Philatelic Press. All in all it is a DeLuxe accomodation for the stamp collector. Besides the 19th Century U. S. referred to Mr. Ashbrook also includes Confederates among his activities and is recognized as one of the best informed on these stamps. I have known Stanley Ashbrook personally for fifty-five years and marvel at his ability in his chosen field of stamps. Interested collectors can address him at Box 31, Fort Thomas, Ky.

Credit Where Credit Is Due

In a recent editorial in speaking about the early days of First Day Cover Cachets, we find we erred in crediting Mr. Leo August and the Washington Press with being the first to produce engraved cacheted covers.

We are glad to acknowledge our error and know we are in error but due to the limited issue of the covers of Mr. Henry Grimsland of Chicago we had just overlooked and forgotten him.

The record should be changed to say that the first Engraved Cacheted covers were produced by Mr. Grimsland for the Century of Progress Exhibition in Chicago in 1933. Thanks to Jerry Jarnick of Almond, Wis. for correcting us on this point.

SMILEA

"This I've ever provals

Mink New

Encour collector their Ma kus Pub still bign uled for book is Stamp A

Printed housed slip-case bum wil 75,000 w will be the more details a designs notes sin stamps i fore. Mo mit extr grouping each ind Maps i geograph and stan of the fe Supreme best-selle annual s price wi A new stamp newly Stamp O c' l' p who wish sues of Attract tains the bum wh features stamp, t Catalog scribes a stamps, U. S. sta stock b tong. is ideai in the ri For th Master 1954 sup by the e lctors stamps during th supplem All of bels Sta York, Pl Marshal Kaufman Rich's iz They v leading shops, s stores. distribut Publicat W. 32nd

We neve of replies caught up Each D stamps of catalogs 20th Cent You can your colle new custo Bound A countries Extra R collect and that catal

LUCK COSSAYU

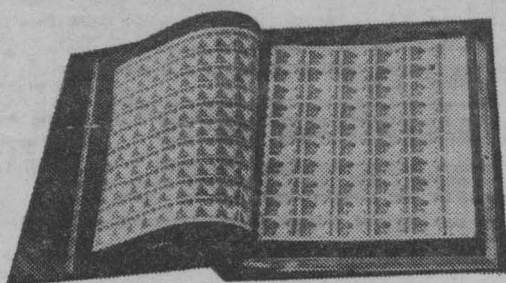
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rday as

marked, while the background of each flight and the value for the various cancellations is given

The second book is the 32 page Helicopter Post Catalog with a price tag of 3 Deutsch Marks (75c). It illustrates some of the special markings and supplies the back-ground data for helicopter mail service of 22 nations. Included is the United States.

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Dr. Carroll B. Chase, a keen student
of United States and French stamps, and
known to all of the older collectors, was
recently operated on at Hahnemann Hos-
pital, 1515 Commonwealth Avenue, Brite-
ton, Boston, Mass., for a bone injury
which he suffered in an accident in France
some years ago. We extend our best
wishes for a speedy recovery.

From the *Collectors Club Philatelist*
we learn that Dr. Chase has been award-
ed the Lichtenstein medal for the out-
standing work that he has done for phi-
latelically. It certainly is a well deserved
honor.

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Jr., son of the
well known student of stamps of the
same name, is now an Ensign in the
Navy and has been seeing service on a
destroyer in Chinese waters. His ship
was part of the squadron that attempted
to pick up survivors from the British
plane that the Reds shot down.

Douglas Dittich of Toronto, Canada,
calls our attention to an article in the
July issue of *Liberty*, dealing with the
criticism that has resulted from some of
Canada's recent stamps. It is entitled "A
Shameful Way to 'Sell' Canada", and
cited for specific mention, of course, was
the 4c Elizabeth about which there has
been so much violent reaction. The au-
thor reported having visited the artist
who designed it, *Emanuel Hahn*, and of
having been shown by him "the original
of the four cent stamp quite unlike the
alleged facsimile sponsored by the Post
Office; it was much better." When *Alex-
ander Barrie*, the author, asked him how
come he was not as angry as one would
expect, considering all the criticism, Mr.
Hahn replied, "Well, it's hard to stay
mad for months, and anyway, I have
to be careful."

The *National Geographic Magazine* for
July 1954 had an article, *Everyone's
Servant, the Post Office*, by Allan C.
Fisher, Jr., and Volkmar Wentzel. It
was accompanied by thirty-seven illus-
trations, twenty-six of them in natural
color. It is quite an extensive article, and
covers many phases of the Post Office of
interest to the collector. Our thanks to
Robert W. Linley, Jr., of Fairfield, Conn.,
for calling it to our attention.

London Calling, the overseas journal of
the British Broadcasting Corporation, for
July 15, 1954, had an item by Norman
Williams on Henry Archer's machine for
perforating stamps, and telling he was
offered 500 pounds for it by the Post Of-
fice and turned it down; "wisely so, be-
cause ultimately, in June, 1853, after a
Parliamentary Committee had considered
his claim, he was awarded the sum of
4,000 pounds. The odd thing is that
Archer's machine was not used again.
The Government contracted with an en-
gineering firm to design new machines,

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Old Sleuth

A. J. Paul, 4315 Alice Avenue, Austin, Texas, sends us a meter cancellation from San Marcos, Texas, with the slogan "Mailed Under Water at Aquarema," and the figure of a girl mailing a letter under water. Mr. Paul says he will be glad to accommodate collectors desiring this meter. Send blank envelopes accompanied by 3c, or 6c if wanted by air, in coins or mint U. S. stamps, plus 1c for forwarding for each cover. The year date '64 appears in the meter Mr. Paul sent, but he says he is sure this will be corrected.

* * *

The August 1954 issue of *Fortune* carries an ad of the *Aero Service Corporation* of Philadelphia, Pa., featuring pictures of stamps and headlined "Save the Stamps for Johnny." Each morning the company's mail room gets hopeful calls from Aero staff members whose youngsters are collecting stamps, the ad states, and they are never disappointed, for dispatches arrive daily from Aero clients and crews in distant lands. Of course, there is a tie-in between this and the message the ad is intended to carry to readers. Our thanks to Samuel Shaskan, of Kingston, Pa., for calling this to our attention.

* * *

Grady W. Manley, of Brookshire, Texas, sends us a clipping from the August issue of *Photography* magazine concerning the Eastman commemorative stamp issued on July 12, 1954.

* * *

A recent issue of *United States News and World Report* stated that the Internal Revenue Service, in its first published ruling on the question of losses on the sale of stamps, decreed that an individual may deduct such losses if incurred in a trade or business or in a transaction entered into for profit. However, an individual collecting stamps as a hobby is not in business or collecting them for profit; therefore, it would appear that the implication is that losses could not be deducted unless the collector could prove that he bought his stamps for investment, although the ruling did not comment on the tax consequences in the latter instance.

Similar information appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, we learn from *Van Dyk Mac Bride and George B. Wray*.

* * *

Theodore Sheldon, 209 S. State St., Chicago 4, Ill., who specializes in the issues of the Philippines, is making a particular study of the Island of Negros

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BOX 42-BB
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Miss Jean Greta Koor
and
Mr. Hugh Massey Clark
announce their marriage
on June the twenty-ninth
Nineteen hundred and fifty-four
Los Angeles, California

Stanley S Ashbrook
P.O. Box 31
Port Thomas, Ky

July 29, 1954

Dear Sir,

I have read with interest your ad in "Stamps" relative to examining U.S. stamps.

Recently I purchased a used copy of U.S. # 39 which I should like to have examined and if possible, authenticated with a suitable statement etc. for mounting in my album with the stamp.

The stamp in question was purchased from C. Edward Greene, M.D. and has a slight flaw but superb appearance. He claims the Cancellation was been expertized but no Certificate.

Thanking you for your anticipated reply I am

Very truly yours
Stanley S Ashbrook

Aug. 4, 1954.

Mr. Stanford G. Gesner,
% Creole Petroleum Corp.,
Las Piedras, Edo Falcon
Venezuela, South America.



Dear Mr. Gesner:

Replying to yours of the 29th, I will be glad to have a look at your #39 - a used copy of the 90¢ 1860 (U.S.).

I suppose about 19 out of 20 copies sold as "used" have fake cancelations. One should never buy such a stamp unless it is accompanied by an opinion by a qualified authority.

My fee for the examination would be \$3.50 plus return registered postage, if the cancelation, in my opinion is bad, or \$5.00 if genuine. If I am unable to give an opinion one way or the other, there will not be any fee.

I suppose you referred to Dr. Greene of Chelsea, Mass. Correct?

Sincerely yours,



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

Aug 11, 1954

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my inquiry dated July 29th.

Enclosed herein is the stamp in question together with some relating correspondence which I should like returned. Also check in amount of \$5.50 representing fee for examination plus postage.

If, in your opinion Mr. Ashbrook, the cancellation is genuine, I should appreciate your writing something appropriate that I can mount in my album with the stamp.

Sincerely yours
Stanford G. Garner

Aug. 22, 1954.

Mr. Stanford G. Gesner,
% Creole Petroleum Corp.,
Las Piedras, Edo. Falcon,
Venezuela, South America.

Dear Mr. Gesner:

Herewith I am enclosing a letter which you can send to Dr. Green if you wish to return the stamp to him. I will send you a print later of the photograph that I made by ultra-violet. I am including with the stamp a slightly enlarged photograph of a plate proof which shows the regular design. I suggest that you compare the left side of your stamp with the left side of this print with a strong glass and you will note parts of the design which have been retouched.

A genuinely used copy of this stamp catalogues in the S.U.S. @ \$135.00 and this price is way out of line because a genuine used copy authenticated as such would easily bring \$250.00 to \$350.00. Anybody with any knowledge of values would surely not sell what he considered a genuine used copy at any such a price as \$39.00. One would have little faith if any, in the cancellation being genuine to even consider parting with a copy at that price. Even if a copy was not in good condition. I cannot believe that anyone with any knowledge of this 90¢ 1860 would express an opinion that this copy had a genuine cancellation.

I suppose this copy would doubtless bring around \$25.00 in a New York sale if it was offered as a repaired copy with a doubtful cancellation and that is the way it should have been offered to you.

May I thank you very kindly for your check for \$5.50 which I am accepting in view of the extra amount of attention and photography given this particular copy.

Dr. Greene has known me by reputation I am sure for many years and I would be surprised if he questioned my opinion.

Sincerely yours,

Aug. 22, 1954.

Mr. Stanford G. Gesner,
% Creole Petroleum Corp.,
Las Piedras, Edo. Falcon,
Venezuela, South America.

Dear Mr. Gesner:

Herewith the 90¢ 1860 as per yours of the 11th. This stamp shows a blue cancelation which I suppose could be called a "grid." I have examined this copy very carefully and have put it thru various tests, also made a photograph of it by ultra-violet ray. The stamp shows repair work down the left side with retouching with blue ink or paint which appears to be the same as the cancelation. There is also a closed tear or crease of some kind that extends from the upper left corner down into the head of Washington. It is my opinion that this is not a genuinely used copy, that the blue cancelation is not original, but fraudulent.

Sincerely yours,

Aug. 22, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Can you give me any information on Dr. C. Edward Greene of Chelsea, Mass.? What is he - a collector-dealer? How is he regarded? About how old is he? Any information you give me will be treated as strictly confidential.

Yours etc.,

CREOLE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

2345

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~~Judithana~~

MR. STANLEY ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

FORT THOMAS, KY.

W. P. A.

CERTIFIQUESE



STANFORD G. GESNER
C/O CREOLE PETROLEUM CORP.
LAS PIEDRAS, EDO. FALCON
VENEZUELA, SOUTH AMERICA

UNDELIVERED



33 - 25

Sept. 3, 1954.

Mr. Stanford G. Gesner,
% Creole Petroleum Corp.
Las Piedras, Edo. Falcon
Venezuela, South America.

Dear Mr. Gesner:

Here is a photo print of the 90¢ 1860 which I made by ultra-violet ray. The photo shows the repair work down the left side of the stamp with parts of the design "redrawn" or painted. The repaired tear from upper left thru the "U" also shows up.

I have my opinion of anyone who would sell a stamp such as this without a true description of its defective character.

Sincerely yours,

AT 13-F64- 17 MIN B539
BY QUARTZ
SUBMITTED BY S.G. GESNER
SEE S.B. 33-P25



119 WASHINGTON STREET
TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

August 20, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

I am enclosing a circular which has me puzzled as to why the 2¢ rate. It is a circular giving notice of dissolution of a firm etc., on December 31, 1852 and mailed on February 25th, probably 1853 with the New York "PAID TWO CENTS" cancellation. I notice that I should have said "PAID 2 Cts".

The circular weighs a speck over $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

It is unsealed.

It is prepaid.

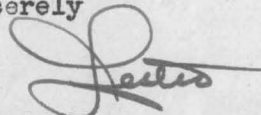
It is going from New York to Salem, N.Y., a distance of about 200 miles.

From its appearance it would not indicate that there were further enclosures, it would take about 9 more copies of this circular to bring the weight over 3 oz.

The circular rate after October 1, 1852 was 1¢, if prepaid, for less than 3 oz to any place in the U.S. Maurice Blake and Dr. Chase could not figure it out and suggested that you might like to see it, though I imagine that you have already seen more of the same.

Maurice Blake and I were up to see Dr. Chase Tuesday of this week and found him real well.

Sincerely



Lester L. Downing

Aug. 23, 1954.

Mr. Lester L. Downing,
119 Washington St.,
Topsfield, Mass.

Dear Mr. Downing:

Herewith the stampless cover of New York, apparently "FEB 25" (1853), with the postmark of "PAID 2 CENTS." As you are aware, the Act of Sep. 30, 1852 fixed the rate on printed circulars @ 1¢ up to 3 ounces, to any part of the U.S. However, there was one word in the law that doubtless explains the 2¢ rate on your cover. That word was each. A person could only send one circular for 1¢, not two or three, even though three might weigh less than three ounces.

I believe if you will read the Act, you will find it read something like this - "Each newspaper, periodical, unsealed circular ~~xxx~~ not exceeding three ounces in weight, etc."

Evidently another circular or price list was enclosed with this one, even if a duplicate of this was sent, the postage would have been, "One Cent each" (See my 1¢ Book, Vol.1, p.6).

The P.L. & R. of 1855, page 12, Regulations, Sec. 94, read as follows, quote: "Circulars, advertisements and business cards, not weighing over three ounces, sent any distance in the United States, are chargeable with one cent postage each when prepaid, and two cents each when not prepaid." (unquote)

The 1852 P.L. & R. was published in the spring of 1852, before the passage of the Act of Sep. 30, 1852. The next publication was in 1854 and was unofficial and was a P.O. Directory and "Postal Guide." I do not recall that the word "each" was emphasized in this edition. I have an idea that the word "each" was inserted in the law because it was somewhat of a custom to send two "price currents" to some correspondents with a request one be passed on to some interested party.

I note that Maurice and you paid a visit to Dr. Chase last week. How I would love to join you on such occasions.

With regards - Sincerely yours,

Copy to M.C.B. and C.C.

119 WASHINGTON STREET
TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

August 29, 1954.

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

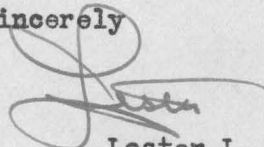
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd and the solution of the 2¢ rate on the New York circular. The "each" in the regulations entirely escaped me and am afraid it also did Maurice Blake and Doc.

I certainly hope that I will have the privilege of visiting Doc and you when you again visit him. We all enjoyed that visit very much.

Again thanking you for your help and with kindest regards,

Sincerely



Lester L. Downing

MILLERS FALLS

OLD DEERFIELD BOND

33-29

Aug. 8, 1954.

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

Elliott;

Herewith for a look five (5) very interesting covers, viz:
Cleveland, O. 3¢ + 1¢, 1861 - to Ravenna, Ohio. Surely a Prepaid Way into Cleveland.

Freeport, Ill - 6¢ + 1¢ 1857 - to a street address in Philadelphia - Take your choice - a prepaid Way into Freeport or a prepaid carrier delivery at Philadelphia.

Freeport, Ill - 3¢ Star Die * 1¢ 1857 - to street address in Philadelphia - On these two covers note the use of an encircled grid - most unusual - very rare.

Rutland, Vt. - 3¢ + 1¢ + 1¢. Why 5¢? Most unusual. Was this a prepaid Way into Rutland, plus a 1¢ carrier delivery (note street address) at Providence? I am not asking you for an answer to this query - merely trying to suggest a solution of a 5¢ rate. Perhaps such a prepayment was not possible if you care to figure it that way - but perhaps the writer thought such service could be prepaid.

And lastly-

New York City 3¢ '61 + 1¢ '61 - Originating outside of N.Y. brought in with the 1¢ intended to prepay the delivery fee.

I thought these would interest you and for that reason only am I sending them to you.

Note that Cleveland's late use June 29, 1863. Mailed on the 29th - received on the 29th.

Yours etc.,

August 11, 1954



Stan;

I am very glad to see the five covers that came from you today, and any that will add to the comprehensiveness and reliability of the Carrier Book. I expect to have other material photoed on Friday and shall include these and hold the prints subject to your O.K.

Cleveland 1c plus 3c 1861 to Ravenna. I think the chances are against this being a prepaid WAY into Cleveland. I think the 1c stamp prepaid collection fee into the Cleveland post office. There had been U.S. carrier service in Cleveland for several years and the other 1c plus 3c 1861 cover which I owned at one time does not have the address in the same handwriting and went to Euclid. BUT, the 1c and 3c stamps - particularly the 1c - could have come from the same sheets as they are off-center in the same way and to the same extent, which, if both were WAY letters going into Cleveland from ~~another~~ post office, would be some coincidence. Moreover, neither of the covers prove there was WAY service into Cleveland at the period.

Freeport, Ill; Two other covers from the same correspondence have been recorded, One is 4c rate and the other 7c rate, all with 1c and 3c 1857 cancelled with same encircled grid. The dates appear to be April and May 1861 and your cover of Nov. 12, 1860 indicates the correspondence covered a period of a bit over six months. In my opinion, unless it can be determined whether the letters were written in Freeport, or outside of Freeport, I do not know of any means of determining whether they were prepaid WAY into Freeport, or were attempts to obtain carrier delivery in Philadelphia.

Rutland, Vt; two 1c 1861 plus 3c. I don't think this could be prepaid WAY plus 3c postage, plus carrier delivery in Providence because the date appears to be July 18, 1863, after the carrier fees had been abolished. The writer may not have realized that fact. There was steamboat service on Lake Champlain for several years, but if the letter was a prepaid steamboat fee the Regulations indicate it should have been postmarked at Burlington or Whitehall, rather than at Rutland, which is not a port and would be reached thru Whitehall. The true explanation may have nothing to do with steamboat, way or carrier fees. Suppose the writer in Rutland thought the letter would be overweight and affixed the stamps which happened to be available - two 1c and a 3c, - took the letter to the Rutland p.o. and found it wasn't overweight, that 3c postage was enough. There would be a choice between trying to take off the unneeded 1c stamps or posting the letter "as is." If the latter was done the cover would appear just as it now does. This could be the explanation, but doesn't have to be the right one.

New York. 1c plus 3c 1861 cancelled with red N.Y. carrier pmk, to N.Y. city address. Probably there is more than one explanation but I think yours is as good as any. I have dug up data on the 4c compound envelope which indicates the idea of use to prepay carrier delivery to addressees was abandoned before the envelope was issued. Maurice considers this data to be important.

As ever

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

Aug. 14, 1954.

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

Elliott:

I have yours of the 11th with
comments on the five covers that I sent
you on the 11th. I found your remarks
very interesting. If we have been able
to locate two 3¢ + 1¢ into Cleveland,
why no such covers into Cincinnati?

Yours etc.,

August 13, 1954



Stan;

The five covers you kindly submitted are enclosed. The prints will be held subject to your wishes.

Regarding WAY letters, my position is that on prepaid covers, not marked "WAY" it is first necessary to determine that WAY service was in operation at the date and to the office where the letter was postmarked. For instance, that there could be no WAY service between Boston and Charlestown because the distance of the mail route between those offices was only one mile.

Regarding the Cleveland 4c letter, and the similar one which I owned, unless it can be shown that they were handed to a contract carrier on a route going into Cleveland, in my opinion the fact that U.S. letter carrier service was in operation would take precedence, and the extra One Cent stamp prepaid collection fee to the Cleveland Post Office.

In any city where carrier service had been in operation for several years, as at Cleveland, by 1861 it had become normal practice for people to use the carrier collection service to the local post office, with more or less regularity. Distance from the post office, weather and other circumstance affected the volume of such mail.

But, except in localities where communication was mostly by steamboats, as in parts of the south, WAY service was not normal practice. It was exceptional. That is one reason why "WAY" letters are so much scarcer than the ordinary mail. For one reason or another people didn't make use of it even where it was available.

Perryville, Mass., for instance, is a mile and a half south of Webster and was on the mail route from Worcester to Norwich, Conn. It is just a small mill village started by my great-grandfather in 1826. The people in the village left ~~there~~ outgoing mail and got their incoming mail at the mill office. A buggy or other wagon went to the Webster Post Office to deliver and receive mail every week-day. WAY service from Perryville was possible but I doubt if ~~anyone~~ ever used it. There was no need to. Probably there was similar practice at many other mill villages in New England which were too small to have a post office. The mills were glad to render this free service to help keep their employees contented.

The next mill village south was Wilsonville, Conn., and then North Grosvenordale, ~~Grovenordale~~ and Mechanicsville and then two miles more to Putnam. As late as 1859 there was no post office in the ten miles from Webster to Putnam unless one of them was called West Thompson. Probably the textile operatives didn't know such a function as WAY service existed, and the big shots had their horses and carriages and didn't need it. The difference between a possibility and a probability can be a great deal.

As ever,

August 17, 1954



Stan;

There may be a dozen possible explanations for two 3c plus 1c covers at Cleveland and none found at Cincinnati. Unless all the circumstances and conditions at the time are known, who can say which is the correct one? No 1c stamp on a cover used locally in Cleveland during the period 1860 to June 30, 1863 has been found. Should it be assumed therefore that there were none?

Providence and Worcester had U.S. letter carrier service long before 1860, yet no 3c plus 1c cover has been found from either city, nor any 1c used singly which I can be certain prepaid the carrier fee on a local letter. During the Civil War period there were 70,000 people in Newark and a carrier crew of five or six. Not one cover that certainly had carrier service is known to me.

The Cincinnati service is merely part of a larger picture. The scarcity of WAY covers suggests either little opportunity to use WAY service, or that the service which was available was not used at all, or very rarely.

Around 1860 there were about 640 post offices in Massachusetts, and it may be assumed that 90% or more of them were more than two miles apart. Hence WAY service would have been possible at some 575 post offices. Rarity of WAY covers in or from the Old Bay State could be the result of either or both or two apparent causes;

- (1) - It was not customary to use the service.
- (2) - It was not customary for the carriers to demand the WAY fee.

The contract carrier was probably born and reared in the vicinity and the people along his route were likely to be personal acquaintances or friends. Altho he was under no legal compulsion to pick up a WAY letter within a mile from a post office, if he so chose to do he could pick up a letter anywhere along his route and deposit it in the next office without demanding his fee. There could be many letters which actually received WAY service but show no indication of it because no fee was prepaid or collected.

The contract carriers often ran package expresses or did similar work in addition to the mail contract which may have been the smaller part of their income. Farms, country stores and industries along their routes were their customers. Probably they were glad to take WAY letters for their customers without fee. When I was living in Killingly, Conn., in 1901 such a route by democrat wagon ran from the Killingly P.O. across the street from the railroad station in Dayville eastward up into the hills thru various small villages to East Killingly near the Rhode Island state line. I think there were two other routes from Dayville to mill villages a few miles away. Whether or not those particular routes were in

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operation a hundred years ago doesn't change the picture because such routes were operated in the same way back in the 1850s and 1860s.

The Proposals for ^aCarrying the Mail in the State of Massachusetts from July 1, 1853 to June 30, 1857 were dated December 15, 1852 and were published early in January 1853. They indicate that the contracts were let at four year intervals, but whether the intervals were the same all over I do not know.

If I were to investigate Cincinnati I would start with the Proposals that give the routes which were in operation at the period and note whether WAY service into Cincinnati was possible, or probable. I would think that the chance of WAY service being used would depend to a considerable extent upon the length and importance of the mail route.

When covers are being studied which represent only a tiny fraction of the total mail the law of averages cannot be expected to apply. There are curious holes in the Carrier Book where the covers which probably existed were far commoner than any which show indication of WAY service.

I am glad to hear you and Brother Steve are satisfied. There is much interesting history in the Connecticut River Valley. A wonderful story about Rogers' Rangers attack on St. Francisville (near Sherbrooke, P.Q.) and return was published a few years ago. They had a terrible time getting back to (Post No. 4?) safety at the junction of the Ammonoosuc and the Connecticut at what is now Woodsville, N.H. about forty miles north of White River Junction. For years the Vermont settlers lived in fear of Indian raids from Canada. One raid burned Royalton which is about a dozen miles up the White River Valley from our old camp ground at West Hartford. The school ma'am had time to hide the scholars in the woods and a horseback rider got thru to White River Junction - twenty miles - spreading the alarm.

I read your very interesting articles on the so-called War of 1812 rates, but have had too many other matters on my mind to give covers in the stampless period as much attention as they deserve. The Haiti covers going back to the 1790s and Christophe's time, are enough at one time.

As ever,

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

33
30

Aug. 17, 1954.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook -

Dear Sir -

Don Grieve informed me that you might be interested in seeing my 30 cent 1869, with the blue flags missing. Don tells me he made a mistake in telling you my stamp had the red eagle & shield missing, when actually these are in good condition and the blue is gone, although the impression of the flags is quite visible. I always considered this a dry plate printing of the flags, as there does not seem to be any blue color under the cancellation. However, I may be wrong.

I know very little of the history

2.

of this stamp. I bought it, (as a damaged 30 centes) from a Cleveland dealer in 1934. It was from an old collection (-19th century only) that was sold to the dealer by an old man, not a resident of Cleveland. That is all I know of its history.

Dow Grove also tells me that you might be interested in some ant.-of-the-ordinary shades, so I am taking the liberty of sending a few that you might be interested in seeing. They are as follows: 1. a 3 cent 1869 that is supposed to be blue.

2. a 2 cent 1883

*210, a dark brown. I have never seen this color duplicated.

(3) a 5 cent 1862

*75, that to me seems almost

3.

brown-orange color.

(4) a 24 cent 186

*70 B steel blue. This may be quite common, but it's one of my pets. I have seen some milky-blues called steel blues, but this to me seems the real color.

(5) a 3 cent 1873

*158 that is a very deep green.

(6) also finally a 2 cent 1873, *157 of a deep brown shade.

I might be bothering you needlessly, but Don was insistent that I show you some of these, thinking they might be of interest to you.

Yours Truly

R. E. Roof

3656 Rawnisdale Rd.
Shaker Heights 28 Ohio

Aug. 29, 1954.

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

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the 2¢ 1869 cover as per yours of recent date. This is a folded printed circular from New York addressed to "Pueblo - Via Vera Cruz" (Mexico), and routed, "pr City of Mexico." A blue oval handstamp reads, "H. Marquardt - Mar 29 1869 - 180 Pearl St. N.Y."

The S.U.S. lists the earliest use known of the 2¢ 1869 as Mar 30 1869.

The enclosed cover does not have a New York postmark but in my opinion, this 2¢ stamp was used originally on this cover because I believe that supplies of the 1869 issue were on sale at the New York Post Office as early as March 25th or possibly a day earlier. Further, this 2¢ stamp is a very early shade and impression, and the "grill" is very "fresh" - a strong impression. Further, the printed circular inside is dated "29 Marzo 1869" - "Nueva York" - "pr City of Mexico." Further, while I do not have a record of the name of the actual ship, I do have the record that a ship sailed from New York with the Cuban and Mexican mails on March 30, 1869. I am therefore listing this cover in my records as a use on that date (Mar 30 1869) rather than Mar 29 1869, because we record postal dates rather than private as per the business handstamp.

The S.U.S. "Mar 30, 1869" is from my records and it was a cover to Canada.

This letter is for my records.

Thanks for the look.

Yours etc.,

(33-31)



"In presenting the following review of the entire 10c Jefferson matter, the writer gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness to Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook from whom was obtained evidence of unusual varieties and combination pieces which materially assisted in the development of the writer's proposed solution, as well as Mr. Ashbrook's courtesy in reviewing the writer's manuscripts and revisions for serious omissions and possible basic errors of fact. Without Mr. Ashbrook's kindly assistance this series of articles could not have been made nearly so complete. This acknowledgement does not in the slightest respect imply that Mr. Ashbrook concurs in the writer's opinions and proposed solution, nor with any of the alternative hypothesis hereinafter discussed. The statements herein made and the expressed opinions based on the evidence cited are entirely the writer's own for which he assumes full personal responsibility."

May 14, 1954



Stan;

Yesterday I was all set to reply to all your letters but John brought the mail and I dropped everything and went to New York because something required immediate attention. I've almost given up trying to do anything at a definite time.

The photo of the 24c once-violet-now-gray from Wallingford is enclosed. I am glad to know about this. I have assumed that the gray stamps which are found in the Fall of 1861 belonged in the steel blue group. Now it appears that some (or all?) of them may be from the printing in violet. If I was correctly informed that the steel blue stamps contained a pigment which was different, an examination by a competent student should reveal whether the gray stamps are from one group or the other, or come from both groups. There should be somebody with knowledge and experience such as Bob Chambers had.

I used to go thru Wallingford several times each year. Use of a 24c violet there may be unusual but is quite possible. The stamp may have been purchased in New Haven or Hartford, if not actually in Wallingford. The larger Connecticut offices received their first supply in August; the smaller offices mostly in October and November. Meriden is considerably larger than Wallingford and probably was in 1861, and the "New Stamps" arrived there on October 29th. Meriden is only about six miles north of Wallingford.

In my experience people often disagree because they place a different interpretation on the facts, or on what they believe to be the facts, but very often they do not have all the facts. One important chapter in the Carrier Book is being held in abeyance now because two members of the Editorial Committee hold divergent views on a fundamental point. Perhaps it is a case both can't be right, one may be right, or both may be wrong. I don't think anyone should agree with me unless they are convinced that my argument or position is correct. I have been wrong many times and doubt if the last time has arrived yet.

Check \$2 for John received O.K. Offer to include this in a group price still holds. I talked with him about 22L and don't see how he can have made an error. We have photo of a vertical pair 12/22, and a strip 21-22-23 which is enclosed and you may return as it is the only print I have and the plate was destroyed thirty years ago. These and a single all show the characteristics better than the print which I happened to use on May 2.

10c 1847 Knapp "shift" enclosed. This is indeed marvelous. Not returned sooner because you originally asked that it be sent back at my convenience and I have had too much on my mind. More Haiti work to be tackled soon and not easy. Might mention here that article in current W.S.C. about "Himself" contains considerable about me that is truthful as well as flattering, but was

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not inspired by me and I had no definite prior knowledge of it until a day or two before it went to press, and too late to have any changes made, altho I sent airmail immediately. Doc Hennen did far more of the work on his Dom Pedros, Chile, Peru, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Central America, etc. than would appear from the article. John and I had to step lively to keep ahead of him and often were ahead only because we happened to see the material first. Any idea that Doc just bought the stamps and we did the research and the mounting and lettering is quite misleading. Doc did a lot of the mounting himself, and much of the research and study.

The author did not get his information from me and I knew nothing except that I heard an article about me was in preparation that was to be published in the W.S.C. or somewhere at an unstated date. I had great difficulty in remembering anything about the meeting in New Haven which is mentioned in the article.

I understand there are two covers each bearing a 90c 1867, in fact, I know there are because I had one and saw the other, which went to a foreign country and bore other stamps. Mine was a large "court house" cover. As I recall it bore a 3c green, but the 3c green may have been on a companion cover which was from the same correspondence, or something like that. I am quite sure they were mounted together and were sold together. I bought it and sold it as wholly authentic and never had reason to question it. The envelope may have been washed and the stamps replaced as has commonly been done with such covers, but I am not sure about that. The 90c certainly seemed "to belong."

For a guess I would say I bought the cover in Cleveland from a man who passed away perhaps ten years ago. The man to whom I sold it died within a year and I do not know what has become of his collection. This cover may have been in the Ackerman collection in 1927. If so the page on which it was mounted may be here and perhaps could be found.

Thanks for the photo of the certificate in re the Knapp shift, dated Dec. 3, 1951. In a way this is news to me. I don't recall being formally consulted but do recall casual conversations a few years ago, which may have been around the date mentioned. Probably I mentioned my own experience with the stamp and that I had accepted what I was told by people who should have known, i.e., that it was an offset from a slip sheet, etc. I think someone told me that Clarence had suggested a different idea, but I have no recollection of hearing that a certificate had been issued. I recall nothing further until some time last year when I was told that it was certainly a paint job and I think I obtained the impression that a European authority had so concluded, but do not recall who it was, or if the name was stated. Long ago I came to a conclusion that the thing was never worth a fraction of the time and effort that was spent on it, and that Ned's attitude was unfair to himself, to everybody else, and to philately.

5/14-'54



Latta and 10c Jeff; Latta did claim that the "relief break" on the 2c 1890 was a repeat of the A.B.N.Co. experience with the 10c Jeff, and it surely did sound plausible. So I looked up the 2c 1890 article and found that the comparison did not fit. One puzzling fact about the 10c Jeffs was one that was discovered almost at the start, viz; the normal, hairline, and missing secret marks did not follow a sequence, but appeared to be scattered helter skelter and hit or miss all over the plate(s). Any of the three varieties might occur above or below, or at left or right, of either of the others.

But on the 1890 plates the "relief break" did follow a definite sequence. The "irregularity" which Latta claimed - or seemed to claim - was not in the sequence of the breaks, it was in the order of numbering the plates. That is, the plates were not numbered in the same order in which they had been transferred, making relief breaks occur on plates with lower numbers than other plates on which the break had not yet occurred.

Of course I don't dare to print that because Latta has threatened to sue me "if and when" - at least, that is what I understand.

Chrissie and our daughter-in-law are out today giving a talk about Chrissie's "period dolls" and the grandchildren are out too, and Sherm isn't home from his job at the Memorial Park in Morristown yet, so after John goes I'll take this down and put in the airmail and you may get it tomorrow.

Maybe this weekend I can get at whatever else is to be sent or written you.

I have had to get out reports showing the status of the Carrier Book to all the donators to the fund for the preparatory work, and much other detail that takes time.

As ever,

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

May 15, 1954



Stan;

With regard to the 5c orange article which you sent me on April 5th, I am glad to have this and thank you for your trouble.

I consider it to be an accurate presentation of the important facts so far as my own knowledge goes.

I suppose the "Gibson" mentioned is Henry C. Gibson who I have known well for more than thirty years. I know nothing of the unused 5c orange which he had. Probably about the time when we were working on the 10c he suggested that I try to plate the 5c but altho it would have been O.K. and most welcome for my bank roll, and he did not object to the cost, I declined because my estimate ran into five figures and it did not seem to me that the chance of success was ~~not~~ good enough to justify spending so much money. As I recall now, the worst stumbling block was the possibility of a second 5c plate. Henry accepted my decision and I have never regretted it.

In this connection, once in Percy Doane's office Ned Knapp said he could plate the 5c if he had 800 copies, (meaning "as they ran" and including the average number of multiple pieces). I had made some investigation of Ackerman's 1,200 copies, and others, which included more verticals than all the others I had seen put together, and was satisfied that more, and probably many more, would be required to give even a reasonable hope of success.

Souren told me he had plated the 5c, but would say nothing more.

I have always been satisfied that if the Ackerman material had contained a satisfactory match for the Slater copy the comparison in the Narragansett Hotel room in Providence would have found it. I do not recall all those you state were present. The only other person I recall was a plain-clothes man or "private eye" of Irish blood who was usually in the room as a guard. I think the Judge employed him, and recall the Judge mentioning that he knew Murphy who was Chief Moran's assistant in the Secret Service office in Washington, and who was from Boston. I knew Murphy from my own visits to the S.S. office in Washington.

The examination took place in the room which I used, as the Senator and I had switched rooms. As the result of a peculiar occurrence I did sleep in the Senator's room on the other side of the building the night the Senator stayed with the Judge in Pawtucket.

Probably the two or tthree "near orange" copies found in the Ackerman collection had been in the Chase collection, altho one may have come from McDaniel, or another source. About 1927 I sold them at \$40 or \$50, As I recall. The one fact of which I am quite certain is that any stamp I suspected of being "orange" which had belonged to Ackerman, or had been in the Chase collection, was in the Ackerman collection in Providence.

#2

Stan

5/15-'54



The 5c "orange" was first listed in 1897 or 1898. The first cat. I bought was the 1898 edition and I still have it. The listing is;

5c brown	-	3.50
5c red brown	7.50	.85
5c dark brown	7.50	.85
5c orange	-	3.00

1900 edition

5c red brown	7.50	.70
a. dark brown	7.50	.70
b. orange	-	3.00
c. white paper	-	3.50
d. laid paper	-	-

As late as 1914 the listing was;

5c red brown	8.50	1.75
a. dark brown	8.50	1.75
b. orange	-	3.00

By 1928 the "orange" had become very much scarcer;

5c red brown	35.00	8.00
a. dark brown	35.00	8.00
b. orange		
brown	40.00	9.00
c. orange	500.00	85.00

I came to New York in 1912 and resumed activity in stamps a year or so later. In the following years I wondered why I could not find a 5c orange when the price (\$3) indicated it was a comparatively common stamp, just as years before I wondered why I could not find a 24c steel blue which cataloged at \$2.50.

It seems obvious that the color the catalog called "orange" and priced at \$3 from 1898 to 1914 could not have been a match for the Slater copy, nor for the color which Chase classed as "orange."

As ever,

Elliott Perry

May 19, 1954



Stan;

I think all your letters that required an answer have been answered.

I am investigating a possibility that there were several almost identical handstamps of the NEW YORK 1c black of 1851-1854 (or 1855?) which you indicated in your Vol. II, and that if more than one was used at the same period, one or more may have been used in the main part of the post office for post-marking drops, circulars etc., and another may have been used in the carrier department.

It will be necessary therefore, to determine if there was more than one handstamp, and also if the use of any variety was confined to certain mail.

This idea has not occurred to me before, and I don't know that it has occurred to anyone else. I have started a hunt for covers bearing this handstamp, hoping to find strikes that are clear enough to prove that they are all identical, or are not identical. I agree that there probably was more than one handstamp and would not expect them to be exactly alike. Whether they can be distinguished is another matter.

I am not at all sanguine of success, but just don't want to pass up a possible clue without trying to find out if it is a clue.

Latta; I have no desire to get into a discussion about him or his 10c Jeff article. I do think you should be aware of certain facts. Some day I expect to publish more of the facts and don't want you to be in the line of fire, especially if Latta brings suit against me, as he apparently intends to do if I cut loose. When I am ready to shoot I doubt if any threat of his will stop me.

There was an agreement between the Collectors Club and myself which resulted in the publication in the CCP of some "Supplementary Notes to 100 Years Ago" and several installments of a serial on the 10c Jefferson. I went ahead with my end of the understanding but am still waiting for the Club to make good on their end. That was the reason, and the only reason, why both of my articles were discontinued. Latta's serial on the 10c Jeff began at about the date when mine stopped and he may think one was a result of the other. The fact is that my articles would have been discontinued at the time even if Latta had never published anything about the 10c Jeff.

The enclosed quote from Gossip states that you reviewed Latta's manuscript and revisions "for serious omissions and possible errors of fact." Regardless of the remainder of the quote

Top row, page 117, Vol. II

#2

Stan

5/19/54



it seems to me a fair inference that you found no serious omissions or possible errors of fact, or if you did find such, you advised Latta and his manuscript was changed accordingly. Indirectly you seem to be made to share Latta's unwillingness to believe that stamp plates were re-entered and used again, not to mention other statements that contradict official records that have been no secret to students for fifty years, and are to be found in well known works of reference.

If you did find errors of fact, told Latta so, and he refused to credit your knowledge, I think his articles should have said so. No such statement appears anywhere in his serial.

Certainly you don't believe that stamp plates which were thirty years old in 1890 and were still used to print proofs, had been destroyed twenty years before.

You have done good work and lots of it. A stronger adjective would express the idea better. Other students may disagree with you on this or that point occasionally, but the standing which is rightfully yours will still remain. It is not fair to yourself, or to the better interests of philately, to make you appear to agree - even indirectly - with statements which you know are far from the facts.

As ever,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. BOX 31
33 NORTH FT. THOMAS AVENUE
FORT THOMAS, KY.

Feb. 1, 1954.

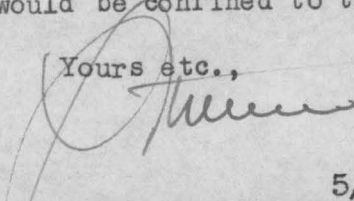
Mr. Elliott Perry,
Box 333,
Westfield, N.J.

OK & Thank you

Elliott:

Keep the enclosed print if you wish. As near as I can recall, this is the only 10¢ '47 that I have ever run across with an extended frame line. I wrote Chase and inquired if he knew of the variety among the 3¢ '51-'57. His reply was, that he didn't recall any. I never ran across a 12¢ '51-'57. Seems strange it would be confined to the 1847's.

Yours etc.,



5/19-'54

If the same engraver had recut the horizontal frame lines I would expect to find horizontal extensions, loops, and other inaccuracies which are found on the vertical frames. Eggo, the recutting was done by two men, one of whom did a better job than the other. That is the only solution which seems to fit the facts and which has occurred to me.

E.P.

May 31, 1954.

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

Elliott:

Yours of recent date received and my apology for this delayed acknowledgment.

Thanks for the loan of your photo print of the 10¢ 1847 - 21L - 22L - 23L, which I am returning herewith. I also acknowledge receipt of my print of the 24¢ Violet, and my color slide of the 10¢ '47, the so-called Knapp shift.

Regarding the quote from "Gossip of July 1, 1950" by Latta. I most assuredly never gave my endorsement of his theory, nor any part of it, as near as I can recall.

I have laid your recent letters aside and I will reply later. I have been working seven days a week and most of the nights and I am still way behind with my correspondence.

Yours etc.,

May 8, 1954.

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

Elliott:

I have yours of the 6th acknowledging receipt of mine of recent date, enclosing the 10¢ 1847. I am now enclosing a photo of the stamp which I made by ultra-violet. The traces left by the removal of the cancel show up quite plain. This print with my compliments.

Under date of April 7th I sent you a color slide that I made of the 10¢ 1847 "Knapp shift" and requested you to return same. I note that I never received any acknowledgment of same. I am wondering if you received it and what you thought of it? Will you please advise.

Years ago you advertised in "Pats" a 90¢ 1867 cover. Do you know where this is today? Have you any description of it? By any chance could it have been a fake?

Yours etc.,

RETURNED BY
JUN -1 1954

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 Elliott Perry

P.O. Box 333

Westfield N.J.

THIS RECEIPT, WHICH MAY BE USED FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL,
DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION



April 7, 1954.

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

Elliott:

I have yours of the 5th with further reference to Latta. When I get a bit of spare time I will look up his articles and refresh my memory regarding his theory on the 10¢ Jefferson.

I recall that his theory had to do with a broken relief and with some connection to the 2¢ 1890 but I am sure that I never agreed with his theory. More on the subject later.

I am enclosing herewith a color slide that I made recently of the famous (?) "Knepp shift." I am loaning this to you merely for the purpose of showing you the marvelous results I am obtaining in this sort of work. Looking at this slide is better than looking at the stamp itself, that is, in some respects.

Please return at your convenience.

Yours etc.,

RETURNED BY
JUN - 1 1954

PUBLISHER—
"PAT PARAGRAPHS"
THE PHILATELIC
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FROM THE DESK OF

ELLIOTT PERRY

STAMPS BOUGHT, SOLD AND APPRAISED

PHILATELIC
CONSULTANT
MOUNTING
LETTERING
EXAMINATION

April 16, 1954

Stan;

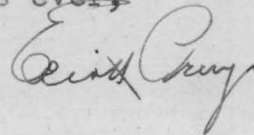
Two letters came from you and a large envelope this morning. You will have reply soon as can do. This has been a heavy week. I had to go to New York several times and check a batch of photos that were made several years ago. Caught a whole series of transpositions that had got into my notes. Now they won't get into print!

I had a little chat with Emmerson Krug. He showed me a wonderful slide you made. Beats anything I have seen.

I have been trying to keep the Editorial Committee busy with latest revisions of the chapters for the Carrier Book. Thirty chapters have been submitted - eight longer and 22 shorter ones - total 441 pages with 842 photos. Two more short chapters are ready and about six more still require work. They will bring the total to not less than 600 pages of copy and photos.

I want to get more done before I have to go back on Haiti.

As ever,





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.

UNITED STATES

Postmaster stamps: in 2, 19, 21, 22, 54.

1847 issue: in all sections 1 to 54, except 38 and 44.

1851-60: in 1, 6-22, 24-26, 29-31, 34, 35, 40-44, 46-48, 50, 53, 55.

1861-68: in 3-26, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36-55. Sanitary Fairs: in 1, 2, 16, 38.

North-South Mail: in 6, 11, 12, 44, 46, 47.

1869: in 14, 15, 30, 33, 34, 40, 45, 46, 48, 49, 52.

1870-89: in 1, 4, 5, 7-15, 19, 20, 29, 34, 35, 37, 39-42, 45, 49, 51-55.

Carriers: in 2, 9, 25-27, 29-35, 39-41, 51-54.

Canada & B. N. A.: in 32, 34, 36. Hawaii & U. S.: in 34, 42, 43.

Confederates: in 4, 5, 13-16, 21, 24, 25, 31, 32, 36, 46, 47, 49, 50, 54, 55.

Departments: in 8, 27, 42-45, 48, 49.

Express Mails: in 1, 21-25, 27, 28, 32, 45, 53, 54.

Pony Express: in 37-41, 46, 47, 50, 52. Private Posts: in 3, 16, 25-55.

Revenues (General Issue): in 1, 10, 29, 42, 43. (Private Die) in 2-6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16,

18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 38, 41, 46, 47, 49-51, 55.

Postmarks & Cancells: in 2, 5, 10, 12-14, 16-23, 27, 30-34, 36, 37, 39, 42, 44-46, 48-53.

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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.)

P.O. Box 137
Bellville, Ohio

30 August, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I understand that you have photographic equipment for reproducing covers, stamps, etc.

The enclosed cover, carried via the Hudson's Bay Company trade routes, bears a cancellation of Lachine, Lower Canada, the point of departure of the Express Boats for the west.

Will you kindly quote me your price for a negative that will clearly show these markings for publication purposes? The cover to be open flat to include the two thirds with postal markings.

I would appreciate your explanation covering the 25¢ and 4½¢ rates as indicated on the cover.

Very truly yours,


D. W. Garber.

Sept. 1, 1954.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
P. O. Box 137,
Bellville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Garber:

I am in receipt of yours of the 30th enclosing the 1844 cover. I note that you would like to have a photograph which would bring out the faint red postmarks, but I doubt if I could obtain a print that would be satisfactory for illustrating purposes, that is, a half-tone cut would have to be made from the photograph and in the process I suspect that the faint postmarks would lose too much to show in print. May I suggest this - I will photograph on an 8 x 10 special plate thru a blue screen, the face and part of the back of the cover - make a print, then re-draw in black ink, the two postmarks and the PAID.

In your article you could explain that the red postal markings are so faint on the cover that they had to be retraced for illustration purposes.

For the above, I would have to charge you \$5.00.

I will await advice.

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 2, 1954.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
P. O. Box 137,
Bellville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Garber:

In my letter of yesterday, I note that I failed to comply with your request to comment on the postage rates.

The manuscript "25" was applied at the office of mailing, viz: WILBRAHAM, MASS. Apr 6 1844, also the red "PAID." This was the U. S. rate for a letter comprising one sheet of paper conveyed for a distance of over 400 miles. This meant that it was paid "to the line" (border office) which was over 400 miles from the mailing office.

The " $4\frac{1}{2}$ " was the Canadian rate from the line to Lachine L.C. This rate applied to Canadian mail for a distance not in excess of 60 miles. I note that Lachine is in the Province of Quebec. This " $4\frac{1}{2}$ " was $4\frac{1}{2}$ pence, Canadian currency, not sterling. I suppose at Lachine it was turned over to the Hudson Bay Company and carried by their "Express" to destination. Is this your interpretation?

Sincerely yours,

P. O. Box 137
Bellville, Ohio

4 September, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your letter of September 1st advising concerning the possibility of making a photograph of the Hudson's Bay Company cover.


The price is satisfactory for the work as you outline it - however, I wonder what you think of the idea - suggested by the operator of a photostat laboratory here. After mailing the old cover to you I had occasion to have a couple of old documents photostated and mentioned the matter of the old cover. It was suggested that the photostat would bring out all that appears on the cover, a positive print could be photographed and would show the marking which I wish very much to appear in the reproduction.

I have had no experience in this matter, perhaps you have and can venture an opinion as to the possibility offered by the photostat reproduction. I am quite willing to venture on it however and if it does not workout resubmit the cover to you for re-drawing.

Fact of the matter, I have no idea of the value of such a cover, whether it is of such interest to actual warrant an article - brief tho it may be. Am strictly an amatuer, do not have access to literature that may have been published on the Hudson's Bay Company express routes but have found the cover and it's background keenly interesting.

Should you feel that it would be a waste of time trying the photostat experiment please proceed with the reproduction as you outlined in your letter and I will forward my check immediately.

Very sincerely yours,


D. W. Garber.

Sept. 9, 1954.

Mr. D. W. Garber,

P. O. Box 137

Bellville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Garber:

Yours of the 4th received and carefully noted. I really do not know if the two postmarks could be made readable by a photostat, but my guess is that it would not be possible. However, I am returning the cover to you and you can have your friend see what he can do.

Further, I am not a student of Canadian postal history so I am not competent to express an opinion regarding the rarity of your cover. It might be an item that is quite well known, hence not of a great deal of interest - on the other hand, it might be an item that is rare and would make quite a nice story. It appeared to me that a cover dated 1844, addressed to the Columbia River, might be quite a desirable piece of postal history.

In case you care to return it to me, I will be glad to send it to one of several of my friends who would give me accurate information.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 21, 1954.

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

Dear Win:

Here is a photo print of the cover about which I wrote you - a folded letter from "WILBRAHAM MASS" - Apr. 8, 1844 - Addressed to the "Dallas Station" on the Columbia River, % the "H. Bay Co." at "Lachine L.C." to be sent by "Express to Columbia River." The three markings are in red and very faint. The date of the Lachine is "13th April 1844." A manuscript receipt is "By Express Boats Oct. 29, 1844."

Across Canada in the summer of 1844, time occupied six months. I will appreciate any information that you can give me regarding this item.

I note that Lachine was practically a suburb of Montreal, and that the U. S. Paid 25¢ carried the letter to the line and the "4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " was the postage to Lachine. Surely this must be quite an unusual cover and extremely rare. It does not belong to me but to a good friend and I suggested to him that it was worth a good story. Do you know anything about a "Dallas Station?"

The letter is quite a lengthy one and I have not taken the trouble to try to read it.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-5667

October 6, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

I am returning herewith the photo of the cover you sent me in your letter of September 21st. It is indeed a most interesting item but I do not know anything about the Hudson Bay Company's operations aside from what has been casually referred to in books I have read. It might have been wise to read the letter as sometimes a clue is given as to the location of the address.

As you probably know the Hudson Bay Company still operates and I believe that they have offices in Montreal. One of your Canadian friends can no doubt give you further details. The Hudson Bay Company has published elaborate histories and no doubt you can locate the location of the Dallas Station.

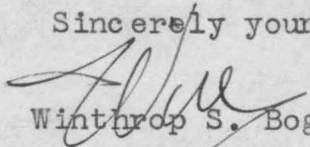
I am sorry I can't be more informative but as you can understand there are so many things that I am supposed to investigate and study that there are bound to be large areas that I don't get around to.

I hope you are feeling pretty good and can understand your not coming East with all the excitement it involves.

I certainly anticipate having your article for the CCP as you mentioned in your letter to Henry. It will be a great privilege to add your name to the list of authors that have written for our magazine.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,


Winthrop S. Boggs

wsb/l
encl.

33-34

P.O. Box 137
Bellville, Ohio

18 September, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:


Thank you for returning the cover - carried by the Hudson's Bay Company Express - so promptly.

A copy of the photostat which I had made is enclosed. It shows the markings quite clearly but of course it does not show markings that do not exist. A satisfactory reproduction would probably require the re-drawing as you suggest.

However, your kind offer which you made, to refer the cover to one of your friends for accurate information concerning its possible worth as an item of Canadian postal history would appear to be the best procedure. If it proves to be of genuine interest, and of reasonable value as an item of historical interest, we can profit by your experiences in obtaining the best means of reproduction.

I will of course be glad to reimburse you for your efforts in obtaining information concerning the cover and for the re-drawing, etc., which you may make.

Sincerely yours,


D. W. Garber.

Oct. 3, 1954.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
P. O. Box 137,
Bellville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Garber:

Herewith I am returning your cover as per yours of September 18th. I regret that so far my friend has not replied to my letter concerning the cover, possibly due to the fact he has been on vacation. Rather than hold the cover any longer, I am returning it to you. I am sure I will hear from him very shortly and when I do I will be pleased to again write you.

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 21, 1954.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
P. O. Box 137,
Bellville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Garber;

Yours of the 18th received with the return of the 1844 cover. I made two different negatives in an effort to bring out the faint red markings. I am enclosing prints herewith, one of which I retouched in ink. Not intended to be an exact copy but to make a more understandable illustration. I will communicate with a friend regarding your cover and advise you later.

I am returning your photostat, which I think is unusually good. There is no charge for the prints that I am sending you unless you feel they are worth acquiring.

Sincerely yours,

33-34

Oct. 8, 1954.

Mr. Frank W. Campbell,
1132 Pinehurst,
Royal Oak, Mich.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the clipping from your local paper announcing the engagement of Don MacGregor's daughter. I was pleased to receive this word.

Also thanks for the data on the early St. John N.B. postmark,-- very interesting.

Herewith I am enclosing a photo print of a cover -- a folded letter -- that was shown to me recently. It impressed me as being quite unusual and "early" for a letter going overland across Canada to the Columbia River. Do you agree? Is it anything very unusual in your opinion? It originated at Wilbraham, Mass and the 25¢ paid the U. S. postage to the line. It went to Lachine L.C. which was a suburb(?) of Montreal. There it was delivered to the Hudson Bay Company with 4½d. due. The postmark on the back is LACHINE 13 APR 1844 by "Express Boats" and it apparently was six months in making the trip. The address states "Express to Columbia River". Do you know anything about such an express? Do you know anything about a "Dallas Station." There is an extremely faint Canadian red postmark on the face under the Wilbraham postmark but it is not legible.

I will greatly appreciate any data that you can give me concerning this item. The owner wonders if it is of sufficient interest for a special article regarding it. Any data you furnish will be credited to you.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

33 34

Oct. 12, 1954.

Mr. Frank W. Campbell,
1132 Pinehurst,
Royal Oak, Mich.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Herewith I am enclosing a photograph
of the cover that I mentioned in my recent letter.

Sincerely yours,

Apt. #3, Shalimar Apts
Leesburg, Florida.

22 October, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

At last your letter of October 3rd with which you forwarded the Hudson's Bay Company cover was received yesterday - forwarded from Missouri where they were waiting for an address in Florida. Thanks very much for your continued interest and assistance.

In response to your letter of Oct. 12 in which the suggestion is forwarded from Mr. Winthrop Boggs concerning Dallas Station and the Express Boats the following information is available.

Dallas Station was the Wascopam Mission located at the Dalles of the Columbia River. The locality is now within the present city of The Dalles, Oregon. After the abandonment of the mission the U.S. Army maintained a frontier fort at the place for sometime. One of the buildings which stood on the old army post is currently maintained as a historical museum.

The "Express Boats" were just about what the name implies - an express and mail service maintained by the Hudson's Bay Company from their headquarters at Montreal (Lachine being the jumping off place since the boats were unable to make the Lachine rapids immediately above Montreal, and Lachine, at the head of the rapids, was the point of embarkation for the six months trip across the continent to the Pacific terminus at Ft. Vancouver.

The faint red-orange postmark at the lower left corner of this cover I believe to be similar to that found on P. 28 of Holmes Handbook of Canada and British North America, the cover illustrated from the Goodchild collection, dated Nov. 10, 1844 is readily identified as like the cover submitted. The cancellation as I read it is

'Montreal

Apr

12

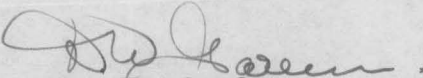
1844

LC'

The wide V at the top is a print through from the opposite side of the paper. The L at the right balances with the indistinct mark at the left which is the M of Montreal. The LC at the bottom are clearly legible. The date Apr 12 would seem to be correct and would indicate arrival at Montreal and

remailing to Lachine. I believe this to be correct but
I may be wrong - what do you think?

Sincerely yours,


D. W. Garber.

Nov. 13, 1954.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
Apt #3, Shalimar Apts.,
330 S. 9th Street,
Leesburg, Florida.

Dear Mr. Garber:

This will acknowledge receipt of your interesting letter of the 22nd. Yes, I agree that the very faint postmark is Montreal.

I really think you have quite an interesting cover and I think it would make quite an interesting story if published.

If I can give you any further assistance, please do not hesitate to write me.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Oct. 13, 1954.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
Apt. 3, Shalimar Apts.,
South 9th St.,
Leesburg, Fla.

Dear Mr. Garber:

Thanks very much for yours of the 11th with check for \$5.00.

On the 4th of this month I forwarded your cover by registered mail to your Bellville, O. address. No doubt it has been forwarded to you by the time this reaches you.

Yesterday I wrote you a letter to your home address as follows:

"Re - our recent correspondence regarding your cover. Mr. Winthrop Boggs suggested that I write the Hudson Bay Co., Montreal, and inquire if they could furnish any information regarding the location of Dallas Station and how mail was transmitted from Montreal to Dallas Station in 1844 and what was meant by 'Express Boats.' You might act on this suggestion.

"Examining the photo that I took of your cover I never noticed until today that there was another faint red postmark under the Wilbraham MS."
(unquote)

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Apt. #3
Shalimar Apts.
South 9th Street
Leesburg, Florida

11 October, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

You will think me remiss and ungrateful for your kindness in sending the prints of the 1844 cover. Such however is not the case. In due course the prints were received during a trip to Missouri and on down here to Florida. This is really the first opportunity I have had to make acknowledgement.

I hasten to express my appreciation and to assure you that I feel the retouched print is splendid. My check for \$5.00 is enclosed to compensate for your efforts. This print should reproduce very nicely.

It is quite possible that you have returned the cover to me at my home in Ohio in which event it will be duly received. However, should it still be the subject of study I will be glad to have you forward it to me at the above address when you have finished with it.

Sincerely yours,


D. W. Garber.

33 - 34

Oct. 12, 1954.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
P.O. Box 137,
Bellville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Garber:

A Re - our recent correspondence regarding your cover. Mr. Winthrop Boggs suggested that I write the Hudson Bay Co., Montreal, and inquire if they could furnish any information regarding the location of Dallas Station and how mail was transmitted from Montreal to Dallas Station in 1844 and what was meant by "Express Boats." You might act on this suggestion.

Examining the photo that I took of your cover I never noticed until today that there was another faint red postmark under the Wilbraham MS.

Sincerely yours,

The Shalimar
Leesburg, Florida

25 March, 1955

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

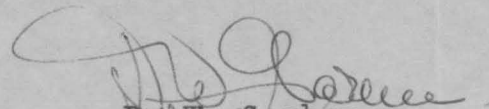
You doubtless feel that I am remiss in acknowledging your kind letter of February 17 in which you advise of the information received from Mr. W. E. D. Halliday of Rockcliffe Park, Ontario, Canada. This is my apology for failing to write to you.

Mail addressed to me at my home in Ohio is forwarded rather haphazardly by friends who allow it to accumulate and mail it in one batch. Such is my explanation for failing to receive your much appreciated letter until yesterday.

I will indeed be glad to have you send me the letter which you have from Mr. Halliday. It will be copied and returned to you promptly. There is additional material on the Oregon Mission Mail which perhaps can be worked into something of interest at a later date and the information made available by your correspondent will doubtless add to my meager data.

Again, my thanks for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Sincerely,


D. W. Garber.

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

COPY

Dec. 21, 1954.

Mr. W. E. D. Halliday,
420 Lisgar Rd.,
Rockcliffe Park,
Ontario, Canada.

Dear Mr. Halliday:

Thanks very much for your card and message. I am pleased to report that I am enjoying good health and sincerely trust that you have had the same good fortune.

Herewith is a photo print of a cover that belongs to a correspondent. I thought it of sufficient interest to have him give it a little write-up in STAMPS. I believe his article will appear in the near future.

The U. S. postmark is WILBRAHAM Mass. All the postmarks in red are extremely faint and I had difficulty in registering them on a negative. The fact is, they are plainer in the print than on the cover. The one on the back is Lachine L.C. and dated 13th April 1844. As I recall, the extremely faint one in lower left is Montreal. The fact is I didn't know it was on the cover until the photo print disclosed it.

Do you think this cover is rather exceptional or is it more or less common place. What appealed to me was - "BY EXPRESS BOATS"

WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS.

Cordially yours,

420 Lisgar Rd.
Rockcliffe Park
Ont. Canada.

Jan. 17, 1955.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thank you very much for your letter of Dec. 21st. and the enclosed photograph of a most interesting cover. It is quite out of the way. I must look out for the article in 'Stamps'.

One does not come across many letters carried by the Hudson Bay Company that have a specific reference to the famous 'Expresses'. Also this one had gone part of the way through normal postal channels. Out of the forty-five odd letters in the ~~Manitoba~~ Archives went to Ross, only ~~one~~ appear to have gone definitely by the Companies packets.

The handstamps and rate markings, of course, only cover the passage of the letter from Wilbraham, Mass. to Lachine, Lower Canada³. The H.B.C. warehouse was at Lachine, also the Governor's residence- Hudson Bay House, which was brought in 1833 as an official residence for Sir George Simpson. It was demolished in 1888³. The H.B.C. sent regular packets by "express" both west and east, extending into what is now British Columbia and Oregon after they absorbed the North West in 1821. These expresses travelled largely by canoe and York boat, but also by pack train or cart (especially in the prairies and over the Rocky Mts.) In the winter, naturally, by sleigh and dog team. The expression "By Express Boats" on the envelope, of course, refers to the York boats. (of which I can supply much detail) first built about 1826.

At the risk of repeating what you have do doubt already put down, my guess is that the letter went from Lachine by canoe and York boat up the Ottawa river- Lake Nipissing- the Great Lakes- Fort William- Rainy river- Lake of the Woods- Rat Portage- Lake Winnipeg- North Saskatchewan river and Edmonton. From here it would be carried by the pack brigade to Jasper House and over the Athabasca trail across the Rockies the "Boat Encampment" on the Big Bend of the Columbia river. From here on water transportation again down the Columbia. The "Dallas Station" on envelope is probably "The Dalles (or Dalles des Morts)" which was about 190 miles upstream from the mouth of the Columbia and could be reached by ocean going boats. A mission was established here 1838-47 which was replaced by a fort around which a settlement grew up in the 1850's. The fur trade forts at the mouth of the Columbia were respectively in age, Astoria, Fort George and Fort Vancouver.

Enough.

Yrs.

Billy Halliday

August 31, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

Box 31

Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

Sure had a busy time in Chicago at S. P. A. I enclose check for the 25 books you sent. They got there too late to do me much good. Brought most of them back here. I am making the check \$31.25. Should I also pay you postage etc? If so, how much? A lot of these new converts to Confederate Philately need information and this book gives them some of what they need. I could sell the rest of what you might wish to let me have. How many can you spare? I would put them to good use. And it is better to sell them where they will help the Confederate cause.

I am sending you three covers on which I want information in three separate letters for use in dealing with three different individuals^{met} at Chicago. I will pay your fee for the three separate letters wanted.

No. 1-I have agreed to buy the 2¢ Green on Texas Cover--"Subject to o. k. by Stanley Ashbrook." If this town in Texas was in Nacogdoches county could it be a drop letter?

No. 2--Montgomery Alabama--Apparently an unlisted 10¢ Provisional

as far as Scott catalogue is concerned. But picture of this type in Dietz catalogue---Type 2. But in Dietz pricing only type 2 5¢ denomination is listed and priced--no listing of 10¢ denomination although there is a picture of it. This belongs to a small dealer. Please give me as much guiding information as possible, ^{as} I can handle the matter with this dealer and possibly buy it.

No. 3 Now in regard to this "Lynchburg" envelope. It belongs to another dealer too. Please guide me on this case also. Is it used or unused?

Help me as much as you can towards intelligent handling of all three cases and charge me a fee.

Sincerely,

Raynor Hubbell

RH:bd

Enclosure

RAYNOR HUBBELL
SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



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

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

Sept 11/1954

Dear Stanley:

Why should I have
evidently sold the letters
from Peter Pargal and Red
Pom's Comfort in Northern
hands for \$3.00?

Yours truly
Raynor Hubbell

300

33-35

Sept. 9, 1954.

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

Dear Raynor:

We were away for a short vacation, hence the delay in acknowledging receipt of yours of the 31st.

Thanks very much for your check for \$31.25 for the Confed. books shipped to Chicago. I am sorry they did not reach you sooner. For a further supply, let me know when you exhaust the present lot and I will let you have a further lot if I have sufficient left.

Regarding the items that you enclosed and which I am returning herewith, as follows:

24 Green cover - I enclose separate letter regarding this and in addition I have signed it on the back. I am charging you a fee of \$3.00 for this.

Montgomery Ala - P.M.P. - This may be perfectly good but I am no authority on Confed Provisionals and prefer not to express an opinion on this cover.

Lynchburg, Va. Same as above applies. I note a pencil memo on back "Genuine - Oct. 21-40 - W.H.C." This looks like it might be an endorsement by Warren H. Colson. This Lynchburg has been very cleverly counterfeited in the past and my advise is not to handle one of these unless authenticated by a most reliable authority.

Two covers - Due 3 - I suppose both weighed over 1/2 oz., hence double rates with only one rate paid, no doubt due to enclosures. I cannot think of any other reason.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Sept. 9, 1954.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,

Griffin, Ga.

Dear Mr. Hubbell:

Regarding Confederate cover herewith - a folded letter with a 2¢ Green Lithograph, S.U.S. #3, tied by a round black grid and addressed, "L. T. BARRET, ESQ., MELROSE, TEXAS," I have endorsed this cover on the back as follows:

"Melrose is in Nacogdoches County, Texas:- This was a tax bill mailed as a Drop letter - sealed - postage 2¢ at Melrose, no doubt along with a number of similar items at the same time. It is my opinion that this cover is genuine in every respect. I see no reason to question it." signed Stanley B. Ashbrook

Sep. 8, 1954.

Very truly yours,



Perry W. Fuller

STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

BALTIMORE LIFE BLDG.

BALTIMORE-1, MD.

September 7, 1954

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

Dear Stanley:

The enclosed Flag of Truce cover was from the Peters collection, and I might say that there were two of them. The other one was much better and is now in Miss Heathcote's collection. That was addressed exactly in the same way and went to Abingdon, Va. and was forwarded from there to Salisbury, N. C.

The enclosed cover is exactly the same except it has the Wytheville, Va. postmark in addition to the Richmond cancellation.

My customer has returned this to me asking for an explanation as to why the Wytheville postmark is on this cover.

I have no doubt as to its genuineness, yet I am unable to explain why it should have stopped at Wytheville when it was addressed to Abingdon, Va.

I would appreciate very much if you would give me your analysis of this item. The enclosed \$1. is on account. Let me know the balance.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

PWF
MR

33 - 36

Sept. 10, 1954.

Mr. Perry W. Fuller,
Baltimore Life Bldg.,
Baltimore 1, Md.

Dear Perry:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 7th. I fear that I cannot be of much assistance to you on the analysis of this item.

I imagine the letter originated in Federal Territory and was sent under separate enclosure by Flag of Truce, thence to Richmond, where the Confederate stamp was added. Wytheville and Abingdon are located in the extreme southwest corner of Virginia, and during the war were not far apart on the railroad from Lynchburg to Knoxville, Abingdon being west of Wytheville. I really do not know why this letter stopped at Wytheville but it may have been due to military operations in that section at the time or it might have been misssent to Wytheville rather than on to Abindon.

No fee for the above.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Sept. 13, 1954.

Mr. E. L. Corson,
2221 No. Decatur Road,
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Corson:

Further replying to your registered letter of the 1st, may I thank you very kindly for the check for \$3.00 for the two color slides contained in mine of August 7th.

I am herewith returning the items you enclosed, and my comments on these are as follows:

Card No. 1 - eight singles and a vertical strip of three - 1¢ 1857 -
No. 1 - "A" relief - top row - I doubt if this is a Plate 6 stamp. There are no plating marks that might identify the plate positions.
No. 2 - an "E" relief and probably from Plate 7.
No. 3 - "A" relief - top row - This might be from Plate 6 but position not identified.
No. 4 - "B" relief - Plate 6 - 2nd row.
No. 5A - "B" relief - Plate 6 - 6th row position 59R6 - Variety "curl in head" and dot in "O" (postage).
No. 6 - "E" relief - This could be from Plates 5 or 7, hardly from Plate 6.
No. 7 - "B" relief - Plate 6 - Too poor a copy to identify.
No. 8 - "A" relief - This is not Plate 6.

Vertical strip - Plate 6 - Reliefs "C" - "D" and "E". Plate positions 24R6 - 34R6 - 44R6. Position 24R6 shows a "curl" over the "E" of CENT. Position 34R6 shows a small curl in the head. See my One Cent Book - Vol. 1 - page 263 - Fig. 22A for an illustration of a strip from these same positions.

Card No. 2
Copy A - Plate 2 - Relief "B" Type II
Copy "B" - Plate 2 - Relief "A"
Copy C - Plate One Early - Relief "T" - top row left pane - Type II
Copy D - Plate 2 - Relief "A" - Type II
Copy E - Plate 3 - Relief "A" - Type II - very fine "CRACK PLATE" VARIETY -
3113 - See my One Cent Book - Vol. 1 - page 224 - Fig. 19U. The illustration shows a later stage of this position after additional cracks developed.
Copy F - Plate One Late - "Relief "B" - Bottom row of plate - Type IV - top line only recent.

Cover with H. Pair 1¢ 1857 from Plate 4 - Relief "E" - 5th Row Plate Position 47R4 - 48R4 - both stamps are Type IIIA (top line broken - bottom line not broken - see my One Cent book - Vol. 1 - page 234 - chart with types).

My fee for the examination of the enclosed items is \$7.50 as per memo.

I made a color slide of your Plate 6 strip and also of your Plate 3 single

#2 - Mr. E. L. Corson - Sept. 13, 1954.

with the 31L3 crack. Incidentally this is one of the nicest cracks on the plate, so I thought you would like to have a slide. These will be sent to you later.

I have quite a nice cover (folded letter) from New Orleans to France in Sept. 1856 with a H. Pair of the 1¢ 1851 plus a 3¢ 1851 - The pair is from Plate 2, the big crack - position 23L2 plus 24L2. Quite an attractive and rare cover. I can offer this to you, subject to prior sale @ \$75.00 and I will submit it if you care to see it.

I note that you are not a member of the American Philatelic Society (A.P.S.), and I also note that there are quite a few members in Atlanta. I also note that you are not a member of the S.P.A. I am wondering if you would not find it advantageous to belong to either one or both?

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 11, 1954.

Mr. E. L. Corson,
2221 No. Decatur Road,
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Corson:

I have yours of Sept. 1st with enclosures,
and will give same my attention this week-end.

Regarding the vertical strip from Plate y,
This is quite a beautiful item and I would like to
request permission to remove it from the piece of
paper to which it is attached. This piece does
not add anything to looks or value, and a color slide
of it would be much more attractive if the strip was
not attached. I note the cancel is an encircled PAID
which I suppose may have been used at Providence, R.I.

Sincerely yours,

Atlanta, Ga
Aug 14/54
Sep 1

Mr. S. B. Arkbrook:
St Thomas, Ky

Dear Sir:

I enclose some more items for information
as follows:

Card - Strip of 3 - Plate 6 - 8 singles Plate 6 ?

Are these singles all from plate 6 ?

I would like to have a kodacrome made
from this strip.

Card - A - B - C - D. appear Type 2 - Plate 1
will you confirm or advise if different

E - looks like cracked plate, can you advise
what plate

F - Type 1 or 4 looks like Plate 1

Cover - Pair Plate 4 Type 3 + 3 A

If they are Type 3 + 3 A. I would like to know
the plate position.

I enclose 3⁰⁰ for the two kodacromes.

E. L. Carson

Atlanta, Ga.
Aug 3/54

Mr. S. B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Sir:

I enclose check for the
4⁰⁰ balance due you.

I would like to have you
plate the enclosed.

Please sign them on backs

Thank you also for your
comments in your letter of 7/5
these are most helpful.

also thank you for the photo
of S1 R 4

Do you ever make such prints
for collectors?

I have a vertical strip of 3
from Plate 6 which I would
like to get a photo like
the one you sent me.

Could you tell me where
I could get a copy of
a plate 3 stamps?

E. L. Garrison

Plating
2 slides

3.75
3.00

6.75

Aug. 7, 1954.

Mr. E. L. Corson,
2221 No. Decatur Road,
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Corson:

Yours of the 3rd with check for \$4.00 received. Thanks very much. I have plated the three 1¢ 1851 as requested and have signed each one on the back.

I charge \$2.00 for photographing stamps or covers, size 5 x 7 or smaller, 8 x 10 high price. I also make superb color transparencies (slides) with very accurate matching of colors. I am enclosing a color slide of a pair of 1¢ 1851, from Plate 3, positions 61L3 - 62L3. Position 61L3 is an imprint position. It can be identified by a small "curl" on the shoulder which runs down into the top of the "E" of ONE. This pair shows some very faint surface cracks in the vertical margin between 61 and 62. I charge \$1.50 each for "slides" of off cover stamps or of covers. I have recently photographed in color two whole collections. These slides projected upon a screen make a wonderful showing or one can obtain very fine table viewers at any photographic supply store. If at all interested I will be pleased to supply further information.

Regarding the color of the pair 61L3 - 62L3. This is quite a good Plate 3 but it is not as fine as the color that I call the real Plate 3 color - a rich deep Prussian blue that comes only from Plate 3. I regret that at present I haven't a single Plate 3 item that I can sell, but I will endeavor to locate a copy for you.

I am also enclosing a color slide of the 1¢ 151 - a rare vertical pair of 14RLL - 14RLL. A vertical showing two types II and IV. The bottom stamp in this pair is the same as your 14RLL single enclosed. See my One Cent book for the plate markings on 14RLL.

If you wish to retain these slides you may do so, prices \$1.50 each.

I will be pleased to make an enlarged photo of your Plate 6 strip or a color slide at prices above.

I am sending this to you by Special Delivery as it is Saturday afternoon and our P.O. closes at noon on Saturdays. This, rather than hold over to send Monday by Registered Mail.

Enclosed:
2 slides @ \$1.50
W20
A5 - 32

Very truly yours,

PAID
3.00
SEP 11 1954

33-37

Atlanta Ga
Oct 5/54

Mr. S. B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky

Dear Sir:

I enclose a few more items
for information.

Item A & B plate 1 items I
believe - please give me plate
positions.

Item C - Plate 4 Ver. pr
please give me type and plate
position

Items D-E-F. from what plate?
" G- is this laid paper? I
don't think so although it was sold
to me many years ago as such.

No - I am not a member of the
A.P.S. or S.P.A. Why? Just never
joined.

Item H. Plate?

I note in your letter of
Sept 13 your reference to
Cover having 23-24 Plate II
I have singles 12 & 23 and
would like to obtain copy
of #2

Hope to receive the cink
chrome of that plate 6
strip soon.

Mailed you check a few
days ago for the 7.50

Very truly yours
E. P. Carson

E. P. Carson
2221 No Decatur Rd
Atlanta Ga

750
PAID



HIRE THE HANDICAP
IT'S GOOD BUSINESS

Mr. Stanley P. Ashbrook
33 No Ft. Thomas Ave
Fort Thomas
Ky.

E. H. Carson
2421 No. Duane St. Rd
Atlanta Ga



Mr. Stanley D. Ashbrook
33 N. W. 4th, Thomas Ave
Fort Thomas
Ky.

1276
REGISTERED

P.O. Box 31



33-37

Oct. 9, 1954.

PAID
OCT 23 1954

Mr. E. L. Corson,
2221 No. Decatur Road,
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Corson:

Please pardon my negligence in acknowledging receipt of yours of Sept. 29th with check for \$7.50 as per mine of Sept. 13th.

Herewith I am enclosing a photo print of your Plate 6 V. straip with my compliments. I am also including two color slides as follows:

AL2 - 35
AL3 - 2Price \$1.50 each.

← 3.00

Return either, or both, if you do not care to retain them.

Herewith I am returning the various items contained in yours of the 5th. The following remarks apply to them -

- A - Type IV - 61RL1. Too early a print to show a late surface crack.
- B - Type IV - 92RL1 - difficult to plate in as poor copy as this.
- C - Both Type III - See the chart in my Vol. I - Plate 4 chapter.
- D - Imprint 6OR8
- E - Plate 8 - D.T.8R8
- F - Imprint 6LL9
- G - regular paper
- H - Plate 6 - bottom row, left pane, 98L6-99L6-100L6 - a very late print and the identifying marks on each have almost entirely worn away.

← 5.00

My fee for the above is \$5.00.

If you would like to join the A.P.S. I will be glad to propose your name but I doubt if it would be of any benefit. They used to have a good magazine but under the present editor it is of no value whatsoever to one who collects U.S. stamps.

Sincerely yours,

E. L. Garrison
7441 No Decatur St
Atlanta, Ga.



Mrs Stanley D. Ashbrook
P.O. Thomas

Ky.

REGISTERED
2620

33 N. P.O. Thomas Ave



11

E L CORSON
2221 N DECATUR NE
ATLANTA 6 GA



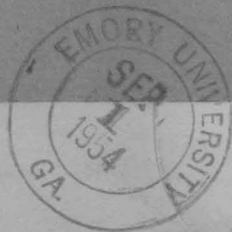
Return Receipt Requested
FEE PAID.

P.O. Box 31

Mr. Stanley G. Ashbrook
33 N. St Thomas Ave
Port Thomas
Kentucky



78



U.S. POSTAGE

EC
6

ONE CENT



U.S. POSTAGE

EC
5

ONE CENT



U.S. POSTAGE

EC
4



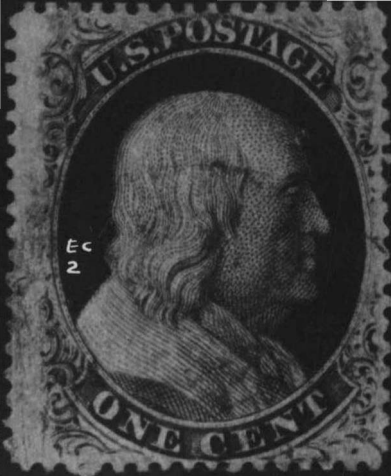
ONE CENT

U.S. POSTAGE

EC
3

ONE CENT





Ec
2

EC
1

U.S. POSTAGE

ONE CENT



HENRY K. JARRETT
135-44 - 77TH AVENUE
KEW GARDENS HILLS 67, N. Y.

September 15th, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The enclosed quarter 12¢ 1851 on cover from Geneva, N.Y. used as 3¢, as you may recall, was the leading item in Robert Siegel's June 16th sale. The day of the sale he was notified that the Philatelic Foundation certificate on it was cancelled, so the lot was withdrawn. Why the Foundation changed its mind at the last minute neither he nor I know.

Since then I have offered it to a dealer with all the facts, and he advises me he communicated with you concerning it but had not sent it to you.

The facts concerning it are these: Peter V. O. Barkelew of Moorestown, N.J. came to see me in Bethlehem, Pa. in March 1937 with a large scrap book filled with hundreds of covers, all of which were fastened therein with brown gummed paper. The covers were all addressed to a great grandfather and a great grand aunt of the finder, Maynard. The enclosed cover was one of them.

The lot was mostly prestamp and stampless to 1855, but included two 5¢ 1847, 63 3¢ 1851 and four 3¢ 1857. There were numerous covers from San Francisco also addressed to Messerve with the 10, 20 and 40 rates, all stampless.

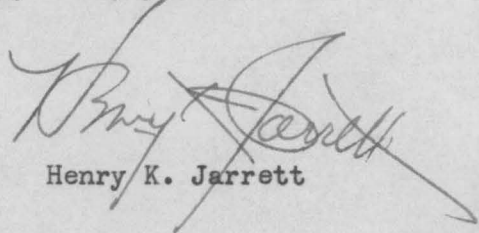
I bought the enclosed cover and requested that Barkelew get a letter from the finder concerning it, which he did. It appears evident that Barkelew dictated the letter since the finder would not have known the terminology "split of the 12c black 1851."

I had it photographed, and believe gave a copy thereof to Barkelew. I ceased collecting very soon thereafterwards and did not resume again until Spring of 1953, removing it from my vault last Fall for Siegel to sell at auction, and learned then that Siegel had known Barkelew, as had other New York dealers, and that he died a few years ago.

I am enclosing it, with return stamped envelope, for your observation, and would appreciate your opinion upon it, since I cannot doubt its genuineness, the cover being part of an original find and Barkelew being a respected person and one of integrity as far as those who knew him are concerned.

Kindly advise what charges there are for your opinion in this matter and I shall forward check to your order.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henry K. Jarrett", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Henry K. Jarrett

Sept. 20, 1954.

Mr. Henry K. Jarrett,
135-44 -77th Avenue,
Kew Gardens Hills 67, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Jarrett:

Yours of the 15th received and carefully noted.

I am returning herewith the Geneva, N.Y. cover of "May 10" with the quarter of the 12¢ 1851, together with the accompanying items you enclosed. I examined this cover prior to the Siegel sale but it is my recollection that I gave no definite opinion concerning it. Later I was informed that the Expert Committee had withdrawn the certificate that they issued to Mr. Siegel. This led me to assume that they had discovered some evidence of some kind that caused them to doubt that the quarter of the stamp actually was used originally on the cover. Naturally I have no advice as to what caused them to withdraw a certificate they had issued.

Whether the cover is good or bad is unknown to me, and in view of the fact, the evidence to prove it good is so very meager, I think anyone person or any committee would be assuming too much to declare it genuine. You will surely admit that this could have been a stampless with the 3¢ postage paid by cash or charge, and someone could have attached a quarter of the 12¢ stamp and tied it to the cover with a fake target. I seriously doubt if it could be proved beyond the question of a doubt that the two black inks are the same.

Regarding the items that you enclosed, I do not think that the two covers prove anything beyond the fact that there was such a person as Messerve.

I regret I am unable to furnish you with an opinion one way or the other.

Sincerely yours,

September 13th, 1954

Mr. Henry K. Jarrett
135-44 77th Avenue
Kew Gardens Hills 67, N. Y.

Dear Henry:

Your letter of September 3rd together with
the quarter of the 12¢ 1851 on cover.

I was away over the weekend fishing so pardon
the delay in answering your letter and replying to
you more promptly.

I don't for the life of me know who informed
you that I had any information on this cover at all.
It seems to me I have seen this cover on another one
like it, illustrated in one or more of the old phila-
telic publications - just which one escapes me at the
moment.

The information about the Philatelic Foundation is
rather interesting.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Ezra D. Cole

EDC:mk1

Ezra D. Cole.



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

October 16, 1954

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

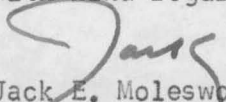
Dear Stan,

Mr. Jarrett has again written me after sending you his quarter 12¢ 1851 on cover and I am somewhat at a loss to know what to do about it. I am rather sure that I could place the cover for him to a client, but I have no desire to do so unless I was sure in my own mind that it was o.k. I gather from his letter to me which I am enclosing, that you did not condemn the cover yourself though also did not o.k. it. Also, I saw Cole in Richmond, Va. and attempted to get him to make a definite statement but he was evasive and merely said, "stay away from it." Though his advice may be good, my nature is such that I like to know why before I return such a cover to a man whom I have done some business.

I am therefore sending along his letter to you and would appreciate your suggestion on the matter. Do you feel that I should definitely return the cover to him and refuse to have any more to do with it? Or do you feel that based on the facts presented in his letter, that I would be safe to offer it for sale?

I shall greatly appreciate your advice and assistance in this matter.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

P. S. I will be pleased to pay you for a definite opinion if you feel that further extensive research and examination by you would result in same, either negative or affirmative. In other words, I would like to have something definite one way or the other and would be glad to pay for same.

Oct. 18, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith I return the letter from Jarrett, which I found rather interesting. However, I have little confidence in such examinations of black inks. I certainly would place little dependence in same.

Jack, I regret that it would be impossible for me to give you a definite opinion on the cover. About the best that I can do would be to state that I think Ezra Cole gave you some excellent advice. I am sure that I would not offer that cover to any client or friend of mine, not even if it had a certificate from the P.F. Expert Committee stating it was their opinion it was genuine.

It is my conviction that a collector should be advised not to invest good money in any item that is questionable, and I think that any dealer lays himself open to criticism who has any contacts whatsoever with items which raise a question of doubt. A cover such as the Jarrett item would be very easy for a philatelic crook to manufacture and if any collector would pay hundreds of dollars for such an item, well I think he should have his head examined.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

Oct. 14th, 1954

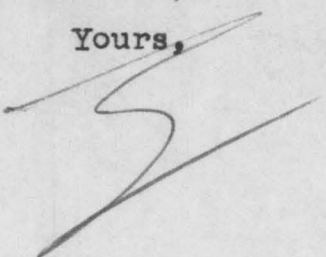
Dear Stan:

Re the 12¢ quarter used as a 3¢.

This identical cover, at least the major portion of it, showing the bisect and the postmark, was illustrated in "Postal Markings" for April 20th, 1936. It was reported as having been submitted to Nicholas Sanabria, Inc. by a "Pennsylvania Collector". This obviously was Jarrett and Konwiser was the editor of "Postal Markings" at the time.

I searched through my files of "Stamps" from 1936 to 1940 and could find nothing listed in the index about any trial in Philadelphia but it was reported in the Philatelic Press. Jarrett is still trying to sell the cover. Molesworth asked me for some more information about it while we were in Richmond but I ducked.

Yours,



EDC:mk1



Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

October 21, 1954

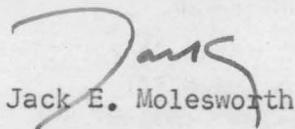
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P.O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your letter of October 18th and your advice with regard to the Jarrett cover. Your letter and advice were more or less as I expected they would be and I have today returned the cover to Mr. Jarrett since I agree that it should not be offered for sale under the circumstances.

I just heard from young Mack and apparently the P.F. ~~Founda-~~
~~tion~~ have okayed the #124 as a genuine 1869 re-issue. Though this is as I expected, I frankly have no higher opinion of their abilities than you do. Therefore, if for your own satisfaction you might like to send the stamp along to someone like Ezra Cole, I am sure that Mack would be pleased to let you have it. He has now purchased and paid for it based on the P.F. opinion.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww

HENRY K. JARRETT
135-44 - 77TH AVENUE
KEW GARDENS HILLS 67, N. Y.

September third, 1954

Mr. Ezra Cole
266 North Broadway
Nyack, New York

Dear Ezra:

The enclosed quarter 12¢ 1851 issue on cover from Geneva, N.Y. used as 3¢ as you may recall was the leading item in Siegel's June 16th sale; the day of the sale he was notified that the Philatelic Foundation certificate on it was cancelled, so the lot was withdrawn. Why the Foundation changed its mind at the last minute neither he nor I know.

Since it having been returned to me I have offered it to a prominent dealer, who I thought had a market for since he specializes in covers, stating all the facts I know of it. He returned it stating you claimed to know its history and said it was definitely no good.

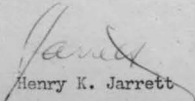
The facts concerning it are these: Peter V. O. Barkelew came to see me in Bethlehem, Pa. in March 1937 with a large scrap book filled with hundreds of covers, all fastened therein with brown gummed paper. The covers were all addressed to a great grandfather and a great grand aunt of the finder, Maynard. The lot was mostly prestamp and stampless to 1855, but included two 5¢ 1847, 63 3¢ 1851 and four 3¢ 1857. There were numerous covers from San Francisco also addressed to Messerve with the 10, 20 and 40 rates, all stampless.

I bought the enclosed cover and requested that Barkelew get a letter from the finder concerning it, which he did. It appears evident that Barkelew dictated the letter since the finder would not have known the terminology "split of the 12c black 1851 issue"

I had it photographed, and believe gave a copy thereof to Barkelew. I stopped collecting very soon thereafter and did not resume again until Spring of 1953, removing it from my vault last Fall for Siegel to sell at auction, nor did I show it to anyone until it was returned to me.

I am enclosing it, with return stamped envelope, for your observation, and would appreciate what light you can throw upon its history, since I cannot doubt its genuineness. Thanks for your courtesy in this matter.

Sincerely,


Henry K. Jarrett

B545

SEP 9 1954
F128-7 SEC
"50" PLATE

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sunday

Dear Mr. Gashbrook,

Thanks very much for your
letter of the 24th.

I am enclosing for your
authentication a cover I picked up at
the stamp show yesterday. I would
appreciate it if you would sign it if it
is genuine in all respects and it meets
your standards. Please let me know
what I owe you and I'll remit
immediately.

With kind personal regards
Sincerely

Millard H Mack

350

Sept. 20, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the 1869 cover as per yours of the 17th.
Congratulations on the acquisition of quite a nice cover.
I have authenticated it on the reverse for you.

This was the single rate of 15¢ per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. to France
which was in effect from April 1, 1857 to Dec. 31, 1869
inclusive. This letter was sent to New York and routed
to France by the Foreign Division in the New York Post
Office. It departed from New York on Oct. 6, 1869 on a
mail steamer bound for England (American Packet). The "6"
in the New York postmark was the credit of 6¢ to the
French P. O. Dept. as their share of the postage for the
handling of this letter.

My fee for the above is \$3.50.

Sincerely yours,

From the desk of
Millard Henry Mack

Friday

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I was successful in
obtaining the cover from the
Harmer Rooke Auction.

I am enclosing it. Would
you be kind enough to sign it
as genuine and let me know
what I owe you for your work
(including the picture taken several
weeks ago). I also would appreciate
any information concerning the rates
involved.

Sincerely

Millard Mack
3930 Red Bud Ave
Cincinnati 29, Ohio

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sept 29, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Many thanks for your letter of 28th
with the combination cover.

I am enclosing my check for \$2.⁵⁰
to your order.

With kind personal regards, I am
Sincerely yours,

Willard H Mack

P.S. I am enclosing an extra \$2.25
for a copy of your book, "Some Notes on the
Postal Legislation of the Confederate States of
America etc. Many thanks
W.H.M.

Oct. 1, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Thanks very much for yours of the 29th with check for \$4.75. Under separate cover, I am mailing you a copy of my Confederate book.

I can offer you my two-volume study of the U. S. 1¢ 1851-57 @ \$45.00. This was the last sale at auction in New York. The book was published in 1937 @ \$7.00. It was a small edition and has long been out of print. I enclose a copy of the original offering circular which will give you some idea of the scope of the book. It is not only a study of the stamp but of the U. S. postal history of the decade 1851-1857.

I can also offer you a copy of my book, "The United States Issue of 1869 - Preceded by some Additional Notes on The Premieres Gravures of 1861." This book is also out of print. Price \$2.50.

Also, a copy of my book on the U. S. 10¢ of 1855-57, published in 1936. Long out of print - \$5.00.

Also, copy of the Catalogue of the First Knapp Sale (1941), a very valuable bit of reference on U. S. 19th Century covers Price \$10.00.

I will be glad to submit any of the above on approval.

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 28, 1954.

Mr. Milard H. Mack,
3930 Red Bud Ave.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the 1869 cover as per yours of the 26th, which I have signed on the back as genuine in all respects. This is quite a nice and attractive item, the combination of U. S. envelope plus a stamp of the 1861 issue as well as two of the 1869, and all stamps in nice condition, good colors, etc.

As stated on the back, this was a double 10¢ rate by "Remen steamer" direct from New York to Bremen.

My fee is \$2.50.

Sincerely yours,

C227

By Millard Mack

Within 10 days, to be returned to

via Hamburg or Bremen



Anton Clement Esq



*Espe
by boat
Waldeck
Germany*



H. SCHUYLER COLE

WILLOW HILLS LANE
CINCINNATI 27, OHIO

October 1, 1954

SPECIAL - REGISTERED MAIL

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a copy of a stamp submitted as a Type 1B of the 1¢ 1851 issue, which means as I recall that it must be either position 6 or 8 RLE.

I would like very much to have you - 1) determine this stamp's plate position to be certain that it is a true Type 1B., and - 2) check condition.

As I received it here in my office where I do not have facilities for proper examination with my mediocre eyesight, I am not certain whether there is a small thin spot or not.

If this stamp is not defective and a true Type 1B, I would like to have you sign it or a card accompanying it. If, on the other hand, it is not a true Type 1B, then it should not be signed.

It will be helpful if you will return this as quickly as practical since it has been submitted on the basis that I return it at once if I do not wish it.

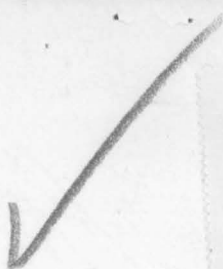
By the way, I have tried for more than a year to secure copies of your 1¢ 1851 books. Do you know by any chance a dealer who has some available?

Thank you very much for this kindness.

Very sincerely yours,

H.S.C.

att.



SPECIAL DELIVERY

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

REGISTERED

50423

H. S. Cole

4700 Willow Hills Lane

BOX 107 RURAL ROUTE ONE

CINCINNATI 27, OHIO



Oct. 2, 1954.

Mr. H. S. Cole,
4700 Willow Hills Lane,
Cincinnati 27, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Cole:

Herewith the U. S. 1¢ 1851 as per yours of the 1st. I regret to inform you that this is not a Type IB, but rather a stamp from Plate 4, and a rather fine example of the scarce uncatalogued Type IC. This type is fully described in my book. I enclose a diagram showing the Plate 4, "E" relief used on the 5th and 9th horizontal rows of that plate. I have made some memos showing the features of the relief and type.

I seldom express an opinion on values, but if perchance you would have any desire to acquire this stamp, I do not think that the seller should charge you over \$50.00 for it. According to the catalogue it would rank as a Type IIIA, that is, top and bottom ornaments incomplete, top line broken, bottom line not broken, side ornaments incomplete. I believe a used IIIA is quoted @ \$52.50.

If a dealer offered you this stamp as a Type IB he should have known that it is not that type because a IB has the top design complete as on the die. The S.U.S. plainly states under Type I, "the scrolls and other line at top are complete." See the cut A5 in the S.U.S. The top of the enclosed stamp is like A6.

The copy is apparently sound, no creases, no thin spots, etc., however, the design is touched at right and close at bottom which puts it in the classification "fine" but not "superb." As an example of the type IC, it is a "fine example." The stamp is not an early impression but rather late, hence practically all of the markings that would identify the actual plate position have disappeared. For this reason it might not be possible to identify the plate position.

In the event you decide to acquire the stamp you can return it to me and I will sign it on the back for you and attempt to identify the plate position.

Regarding my One Cent book, two volumes. As you are possibly aware this was published in 1937, the edition was small, and it has long been out of print. What few copies were at my disposal originally soon passed into the hands of collectors. Once in awhile I manage to acquire copies at auction or thru private sale. I can offer you a pair in excellent condition at \$45.00 or a mint pair of the deluxe

#2. Mr. H. S. Cole - Oct. 2, 1954.

edition (numbered and signed, special binding - only 75 copies
were issued) @ \$100.00.

Sincerely yours,

Oct. 2, 1954.

To

H. S. Cole,
Cincinnati, O.

Fee for examination of U. S.

One Cent 1851 - Type IC \$3.50

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 Samuel C Paige
45 Bromfield St
Boston (8) Mass

THIS RECEIPT, WHICH MAY BE USED FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL,
DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION



Samuel C. Paige

45 Bromfield St.

Boston & Mass.

September 21, 1954

Phone

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Please find enclosed two stamps I would very much like to have you look over for me.

The 1c imperf I believe to be a type 1C. The 1c perforated is, I believe, a type 1A and perhaps is unused.

At any rate I would like to know about them as soon as possible as they should be listed in my next auction, if I am correct in my typing.

One other question, which may seem elementary, is this: would it be possible for a 12c 1851 to be bisected and used in San Francisco on July first, 1851? The reason for this question is that I purchased a bisect on cover this summer, which is dated July first San Francisco. Unfortunately, the letter has been removed. I feel quite sure it is a little later than 1851 but know that you can tell me. This cover will also appear in my next auction.

Trust you have had a pleasant summer and hope the stamp season will prove to be a fine one from your view point. With my best regards.

Sincerely,

Sam Paige

Samuel C. Paige

Member

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

SCP:ALF
Enclosures

Sept. 23, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Paige:

Herewith the two One Cent stamps as per yours of the 21st. Here are some comments:

1¢ 1857 - This comes from the bottom row of Plate 4, the plate position is 99R4. Rather than class this as a Type IA, the proper description is - "This was a Type IA before the perforations at bottom destroyed the type." A Type IA should show the die design complete at the bottom. Naturally this copy does not, due to the perfs and the cut. In other words, this is a was type, not something that is but something that was. I call such cut stamps enuchs. Rather than class it as unused, do you not think it would be better to state, "without cancelation?" I could probably determine whether or not a cancelation had been removed by making a photograph by ultra-violet but I doubt if this copy, which I class as "damaged," is worth the expense. You probably have a lamp and if it does not show any traces of a cancel I would class it as above, "without cancelation." It is possible to remove some canceling inks from early U. S. without leaving a trace.

Regarding the imperforate. This comes from Plate 4 - the "E" relief and thus the relief that produced the uncatalogued IC stamps. I regret that I was not able to locate the plate position within a reasonable time. The stamp apparently comes from one of forty positions on the plate where my record is not definite. I would class this as a fair example of Type IC due to the fact that the left bottom corner ornament is not wholly complete. A fine IC shows this ornament complete as per the die design.

Regarding your query about the 12¢ 1851. While I have no doubt that the 12¢ stamp was issued at the same time as the 1¢ and 3¢, I have never been able to locate a use as early as the month of July 1851. Further, the earliest use known in California of the 3¢ is rather late in September 1851. It is not believed that any supplies of the three values were sent to San Francisco or California until toward the latter part of August 1852. It is my belief that supplies of the 1¢ and 3¢ were in that first shipment but I seriously doubt if any 12¢ were sent in the first shipments.

I would be apt to question a use of a 12¢ 1851 bisect with an apparent use from San Francisco in July of any of the years 1852 to 1854 inclusive. Bear in mind that in July 1855 the rate was 10¢ not 6¢, thus if the cover you mention indicated a 6¢ rate from San Francisco to the East, the use would probably have been 1852-1853 or 1854. I am assuming it was a 6¢ rate to the East, as the mail ships departed from S.F. for Panama in the first half of 1850 on the 1st and 16th. These were the dates of regular sailings but there were extra

#2. Mr. Samuel C. Paige - Sept. 23, 1954.

sailings at various periods.

I have signed both stamps on the back for which my fee is \$3.50.

I regret to state that the weather here in this Ohio Valley has been abominable most of the past summer. If it wasn't one thing it was another, but I suppose it was more or less disagreeable all over the country.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Sept. 24, 1954.

Mr. Raynor Hubbell,
% Hotel Sinton,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Raynor:

Re - C.S.A. De La Rue die proofs of the 5¢ and 1¢ Typographs.
There were a number of these in a sale by Harmer Rooke & Co. on Feb. 17, 1953. I had some correspondence with MacBride about these and shortly after the sale, Mac wrote me as follows, quote:

"I was particularly interested in the die proofs of the 5¢ and 1¢ De La Rue's, and am glad to say that I bought the 5¢ blue (#246P) and the 1¢ black (#281P). The 5¢ proofs sold from \$40. to \$60. and the 1¢ proofs from \$50. to \$62.50 - the latter being #284E, with incomplete lettering. Clarence Brazier bought some of each, and the others went elsewhere.

This was the largest lot of these Confederate die proofs I have ever seen, - I understand they came from some English dealer. They will add considerably to the future listings in the E-P catalog, as well as in the Dietz and Scott Catalog. Incidentally, note that some of them bore very late dates, in 1862, 1863 and 1864, which was after the stamps had been made and shipped to the Confederacy. My theory is that those dated later in 1862 may have been in connection with the alteration of the 5¢ plate to 10¢ and the 1¢ to 2¢. We know De La Rue did this and shipped such plates to the Confederacy in November, 1862. Why the proofs dated in 1863 and 1864 were made, I have no idea, unless they were just for the De La Rue files." (unquote)

In a sale by Harmer Rooke on Sep. 14-15-16, 1948 one of the 5¢ proofs in blue sold @ \$50.00. It did not have any date. In a sale by Harmer Rook on April 21 - 22, one in black sold @ \$45.00.

From the above you will note that in recent years, prices on these proofs have averaged around \$50.00.

Yours etc.,

33 - 43

Oct. 5, 1954.

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

Dear Doctor:

Yours of the 24th with the four photo prints of the "Via N" covers received. Thanks very much. I am indeed pleased to be able to add these to my records. They are certainly an interesting quartet, and if it would not be too much trouble I would like to see them and illustrate them with a write-up in one of my Service Issues. Here are a few remarks- the data checked, but not carefully. Thru the S.F. P.O. on July 1, 1853. I did not check my records back of 1853 but I have a record of a 12¢ 1851 bisect used from S.F. on Jan. 15, 1853. It was Lot #2 in a Laurence sale of Jan. 18, 1937 - L. R. diagonal half tied by S.F. postmark of Jan. 15 (1853). Fine folded letter from Macondray & Co. - S.F. to Boston. Received there on Feb. 19 - routed "Per Golden Gate" - My records show that this ship did sail on that date. I suppose I examined the cover as I have a description of it and there is nothing in same to indicate I doubted it in any way. I don't seem to have a photo print.

I also have a record of a cover used from S.F. on Apr. 1, 1853, addressed to a Major John Harris, Navy Yard, Philadelphia. This has a L.R. diagonal half of a 12¢ tied by a S.F. p.m. I never saw this cover but it was illustrated and described in the "Albermarle Stamp Collector" along about 1923, exact date missing from my record. Letter was date-lined S.F. Mar. 21st, 1853. I don't know if this is good or bad.

In a Harmer Rooke sale of Jan. 13-15, 1953, Lot 49 was a piece of a cover with an U.L. diagonal half of a 12¢ 1851 apparently used on June 1 (1853?). I examined this and assumed it might be good and the date might be "1" - the "Jun" very plain. What about uses in 1852 from towns in California with halves of the 12¢? For example from Sonora as early as Jan. 1852, if my memory serves correctly. Your cover 16 DEC.

Back in 1948, the Philatelic Foundation Expert Committee sent me a cover - buff envelope with an upper right diagonal half of a 12¢ 1851 tied by a S.F. p.m. of "1 Jan." I examined this very carefully and expressed the opinion - it might be good, might be bad. In the absence of any indication of year use I assumed the use was more likely Jan. 1, 1854 rather than Jan. 1, 1853. My lamp disclosed nothing suspicious. It was addressed to Sag Harbor L.I. Perhaps this came up at auction sometime in last year. If this cover was a Jan. 1, 1853 use then your Dec. 16 is probably a very late attempt to use a 12¢ half from S.F.

Regarding the tie of the "10" (due) to your cover. It seems to me that I have seen other halves tied in the same way. Consider your cover. Are you sure that the "10" was applied at S.F.? Perhaps S.F. recognized the half and did not cancel it. Just because a cover with a 12¢ bisect used from S.F. has a "10" is no sign that S.F. refused recognition. The chances are that recognition was refused at the office of receipt. The writer intended that your "16 Dec" go "Via N" but instead it was placed in the S.F. P.O. One wonders why?

#2. Dr. W. Scott Pollard - Oct. 4, 1954.

I will photo the two halves of July 1 and Dec 16 (enlarged) on one negative, so that we can cut the stamps to show it was one. How very odd!!

Is it your belief that the S.F. office cut up 12¢ stamps and sold the halves or that they sold 12¢ stamps and permitted the buyers to cut them? I wonder if anyone ever searched the S.F. newspapers of the period for any news item bearing on the use of halves of the 12¢?

Some years ago I wrote an article on the use of the 12¢ "halves" at S.F. in August, September and October 1853, but I do not recall whether I published it. I used to write such articles, send them for publication, then forget all about them. No record kept.

The theft of the Hinde material at the A.P.S. was deplorable. Any further news about it? What can be done to prevent such thefts at future exhibitions?

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

33-43

Oct. 12, 1954.

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

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for yours of the 7th with the four covers which I am returning herewith. These are certainly very interesting.

I am wondering if what you read about the shortage of 3¢ 1851 at San Francisco came in part from some of my writings on the subject? I believe that I published the official notice from the P.M.G. about recognizing halves of stamps. This was some ten or twelve years ago, and I would have to look up my files to refresh my memory. If you do not have the reference let me know and I'll see if I can find my article. I recall I wrote an article, "When are Bisects not Bisects?" But I cannot find where it was published. Seems like a silly title. I believe my whole argument was to the effect that a bisect was a provisional when it actually paid the rate intended. As such it was a collectable item. Where it did not serve the purpose intended it was not a Provisional and a tobacco tag would have served the same purpose. Thus "When is a Bisect not a Bisect?" Do you recall such an article? In short a cover with a bisect and a postage due was not near as valuable as a cover showing the rate was actually paid by the piece of stamp.

I have quite a lot of material in my files on the use of 12¢ halves at San Francisco during August and September of 1853 but as near as I can recall it is all in the shape of covers. I do not recall that I have anything in the way of newspaper news items or anything official to show there was a shortage of 3¢ stamps at the S.F. P.O. during August of 1853. I have often wondered if the issuance of the 3¢ stamped envelopes, first issued in the East early in July 1853, had any connection. I do not recall that I have any data to show when the shortage arose and when it ended. Further, it is my recollection that, in a number of cases, the S.F. recognized the 12¢ bisects but that they were refused recognition at the delivery office.

Re - the Brigham cover that you mentioned - Lot 85 - sale by Kelleher - Dec. 1, 1950. You are correct. The date of this cover was 1854. This mail left S.F. on Mar. 16, 1854 by the Cortes. I am familiar with that particular cover and I have a photograph of it. It was an Emerson cover and Lot 79 in the Emerson sale of Oct. 19, 1937. Knapp bought it and paid \$310.00 for it. In the Knapp sale it was Lot 1449. I have a record of similar cover by the same mail but it is the only bisect.

I agree with you that the "10" on your cover of "16 Dec" is surely the S.F. type. As far as I am aware New York never used a "10" like this. I agree with your conclusions regarding this regular mail cover which has "Via Nicaragua." I regret to state that the two halves do not match, that is, that they are not a severed single. If you will study them under a glass I believe you will agree with

#2. Dr. W. Scott Pollard - Oct. 12, 1954.

my conclusion.

Re - your cover with the red Via Nicaragua, and "6" upside down. At first glance I suppose that one would jump to the conclusion that this was the regular 6¢ rate due. It was not, but the Ship rate - 6¢ to port of entry. I note that this cover has a pencil "September" so I assume it was written from S.F. in September 1853. See Knapp Lot 1450, a cover now owned by Jessup. It seems logical to assume that the S.F. P.O. cut up sheets of the 12¢ into diagonal halves before selling them as 3¢ but I suppose that one guess is as good as another on this particular point.

I was pleased to learn that Mr. Hindes was paid in full by the Insurance Co., rather than have any question raised over carelessness in protecting the valuable stamps by such flimsy material as celophane. Even with glass, there is no assurance a thief could not use a diamond glass cutter.

If you discuss these four covers with Edgar you can, if you wish, mention anything in this letter and inform him that if you both think it worth while, that I will be glad to look over his lot of covers that you mentioned.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

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

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

9-24-54

Dear Mr Ashbrook:-

I have just purchased
this remarkable set of covers. I think the
July 1 first is the earliest ^{known} date. One of
the amazing facts concerning this set of covers,
is that the other half of the 124 stamps ^{used in July},
was used in Dec, and is the latest known
date, where there was an attempt to use
the first. This was of course rejected by
the P.O., but the postmaster was good
enough to tie the first with a 10. I think
this is the only one known of this type.
The Via Nicaragua first was of course
rejected, although it was only September,
and I think the firsts were legal up
until October. It is a pretty cover with a
red Via Nicaragua, whereas the other
Via Nicaragua is in blue. Apparently there

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JOHN H. CARR, M.D.

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SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

were plenty of 3 & 5Ts in August. This is
such an interesting series of covers from
the correspondence, you might like to
see them. Also an article in your
Special Service on this interesting subject
might be timely.

You perhaps are now familiar with
the theft of Barrett Hinder's stamps at
the A P S show. Only the rarest items
were stolen - Columbian & James M. Thompson
dollar blocks, 4 & Columbia blue error, and
an unused 30 & 1869 invert. Apparently whoever
stole them is an individual who may
try to dispose of them in Europe, or
is a miser type who will ^{hide them and}
glorify over ^{of these gains in secret} ~~the~~ possession. I doubt if they
will ever be seen again.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Wm. Polland

Mrs Melville Kelsey
care Strymer, Brasher & Co
Wall St.
N.Y.



"via Nicaragua"
August

Mrs Melville Kelsey
care Strymer, Brasher & Co
Wall Street
New York



VIA NICARAGUA
HEAD OF THE MAIL

via Nicaragua

Mrs Melville Kelsey
care
Messrs. Strymer, Brasher & Co
Wall St.
New York



via Nicaragua

September
Mrs Melville Kelsey
care Strymer, Brasher & Co
Wall St
New York

VIA NICARAGUA
AHEAD OF THE MAIL



BY DR. POLLAN

BY
DR.
POLLAN

A620

33 43

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
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HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.
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TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

10-7-54

Dear Mr Ashbrook :-

Your very interesting letters of the 4th were just received. I am enclosing the 4 covers for your further study and comments.

Your comments on the birds were very interesting. It is quite true that these were birds used from California before July 1853. Jerry has that remarkable Steve Brown cover, used from Smoia as early as January 1852, and I have seen others; some of questionable origin, used from Shasta, Sacramento and San Francisco. However the period I am particularly interested in, ran from late June, or early July 1853, up into October 1853. During this period of time, as is my understanding, that there was a real shortage of 34's 57's and that the post office department in Washington recognized this shortage and instructed their postmasters to

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accept the bruits of the 12¢ as payment
of the return rate. Some where I have
seen the post office departments printed
notice instructing the post office not to
accept the bruits after Oct? 1853. In
other words, I think the occasional use
and acceptance of the bruit before July 1853
has a little different meaning than those
that were used from July-October 1853, and
had full postal recognition from Washington.

Also I think there were attempted
uses of the bruits much later than Dec 1853.
In Kelleher's sale of Nov 1850 - Bughouse
material, lot 85 was a Via Nicaragua - blue box -
with a New York stamp of April 10. I think
this must have been 1854, because of the
type of Via Nicaragua. It was rejected
by the New York P.O. However, I have
never seen a bruit mailed in the S.F.P.O.
as late as December 1853. I think the 10
of my cover is the typical S.F. 10 of
this period. If San Francisco was going

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to accept the post they would have stuck
the town cancellor on the stamp, as was
~~their~~ ^{the} custom at the time. I think the
writer intended to send his letter via
Niagara, then must have changed his
mind; perhaps he was able to catch the
mail boat, and figured he could get
his letter east quicker by this route.

I am anxious to have the two halves
of the stamp photographed together. I think
they will match. Notice the scissors cut in the
upper margin of the stamp.

I think it likely that when the
post office was short of 3¢ stamps, they
actually cut up the brints and sold them
across the counter. I have no proof of this;
what is your opinion?

I don't know what one can do about
the kind of stealing that occurred at
the A.P.S. However, I am sure that, if
the stamps had been covered by glass,
rather than cellophane, the job would

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have been much more different. If rare stamps are to be shown, the frames should be made of heavy clear glass. This won't stop a thief from breaking the frame, but it will make the job more difficult. Cutting thru cellophane with a razor blade or sharp knife is just too easy. Inadvertently Hinder was paid in full by the insurance company.

Yes my "Placeville and Salt Lake" is the same as Edgar's ^{edition}, except for the color of the envelope. Edgar tried to take this cover away from me, because of the difference in color of the envelopes but I wouldn't let him have it. I think he and I have the only covers of these two types of "Placeville and Salt Lake" in existence, or at least recorded.

In writing up the books, you might ask Edgar about the correspondence he has, which runs for several months in 1853, starting with pairs of 3 & 5/5

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TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

going into boxes, then going back to
3d Sts. a very nice lot. Incidentally
he has more boxes than any man
that I know.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely

W. Scott Polland

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

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

10-14-54

Dear Mr Ashbrook:.

Thanks very much for the return of the ~~bisect~~ material, and for your interesting letter concerning same. I think that most of the information I have read concerning this interesting subject, came from your original article, that you published some years ago. However, I do not have your article at this time, and I have been ^{unable to find} ~~unable to find~~ much about the ^{subject} ~~subject~~. I wonder if it wouldn't be well to bring us up to date with the information you have gathered. At the same time, such an article might stimulate others to contribute additional knowledge.

I will see Ed next week at a meeting of our Stamp Group. It has been several months since I have really had a private session with him in his den. He is hard to approach and apparently very

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busy with other things.

Your letter to Ed concerning lot 111
of the last Harris sale is very interesting.
I have never seen an imperf stamp with
the 11 bar grid cancellation of San Francisco.
I have seen a number of 3¢ 57s off cover
with this cancellation, and I think I owned a
cover at one time with 3-3¢ 57s and 1-1¢ 57,
making the 10¢ rate cost with this cancellation.
I have also seen a Type I 10¢ 57 off cover
with this cancellation. It is interesting that
this biller was used at Benicia during the 60s
and at Oakland during the 70s. I think they
got it from the San Francisco P.O.

Sincerely
W. Scott Polland

Nov. 11, 1954.

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

Dear Doctor:

Referring to yours of the 8th. The sailings of June 1853 were as follows:

June 1, 1853 - Wednesday - California
June 8, 1853 - " - Columbus
June 16, 1853 - Thursday - Golden Gate

As you are aware, in April 1853, weekly sailings of the mail from S.F. was inaugurated, commencing on April 9 - Saturday. It was found to be unsatisfactory and was discontinued with the June 16th sailings.

I note that your bisect cover of July 1, 1853 had an enclosure of "June 10, 1853." I wonder if this belonged in this envelope? It seems odd that if written on the 10th, it did not go out on the 16th. I merely mention this because we cannot always depend on enclosures in envelopes.

I believe that I wrote you that there was a 12¢ bisect on a piece with "Jun 1" (1853?) in a Harmer Rooke sale of June 13, 1953, Lot 49. No evidence it was genuine.

I really do not know of any one person who bought the Westerns in the recent Lehman sale. Bob Siegel bought some for Baker of Indianapolis. Paul Rohloff of Chicago was in attendance and was a buyer, and Meroni was also back in the market. Cole was not a big buyer so I guessed that Edgar did not get very much.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

JULY 6, 1883

via Nicaragua ^{RED}

September

VIA NICARAGUA
AHEAD OF THE MAILS



Mrs Melville Kellogg
care Strymer, Brasher St.
Wall St
New York

Mrs Melville Kellogg
care Strymer, Brasher St.
Wall St.
N.Y.

via Nicaragua



Mrs Melville Kellogg
care
Messrs. Strymer, Brasher St.
Wall St.
New York

"via Nicaragua"
August



Mrs Melville Kellogg
care
Strymer, Brasher St.
Wall Street
New York

VIA NICARAGUA
AHEAD OF THE MAILS - BLUE

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M. D.,
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M. D.,
HOWARD HAMMOND, JR., M. D.,
ARNOLD A. NUTTING, M. D.,
AUSTIN W. LEA, M. D.,
JOHN H. CARR, M. D.,
Albert Building,
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA.

VIA AIR MAIL



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

33-44

Oct. 5, 1954.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
Regency House,
1-4 Warwick St.,
London, W. 1, England.

Dear Dr. Bacher:

Your air mail letter of the 23rd was duly received, also the photo print of the block of 40 of the 90¢ purple of 1888. The latter arrived in excellent shape, and I wish to thank you sincerely for it. I note that you are considering a little write-up of the block for "STAMPS" and if I can be of any help in any way I will be delighted. In fact, I will write my good friend Lindquist today and inform him of the find and that I suggested to you that you send him an article about the block.

As you probably know, the late Col. E. H. R. Greene had two full panes of this stamp. One was described as very fine, the other was not in as fine condition. The former was Lot 511 in the Costales Sale of the Green collection on Feb. 18-21, 1946. It sold @ \$4,300.00. Described, full o.g. - imprint and plate No. 23. The other one was Lot #58 in the Harmer Rooke sale of the Green collection on Nov. 13-14, 1944. It sold @ \$1,700.00. Described as "full gum - right pane - centering fair to very fine."

Yes, Brookman mentioned the Waterhouse block of 40. I note that it was Lot 732 in the Waterhouse sale of Nov. 18-21, 1924 (London). Sale price 32 pounds, described as "one or two small unnoticeable defects." No description was given as to H & V.

Back in the middle nineteen twenties there was a small dealer in Cincinnati by the name of L. J. Flerlage, now deceased. I remember that he made a trip abroad and came back with a large used block of the 90¢ purple. That was a long time ago and I cannot remember whether he showed it to me or not, but I suppose he did, because he was in and out of my office during those years. However, I find that this block is mentioned in the December 1926 issue of the American Philatelist - Vol. 40, No. 3 - page 187. It was described as a used block of 50 not on cover acquired in Europe by Flerlage and "recently sold." I remember that Flerlage was quite friendly with Arthur Hind at that time and anything fine that he got his hands on went to Hind. This block was not in the Hind sale and I have no record as to what became of it. I feel sure it never went into a Cincinnati collection. I have records of used blocks of 12, 15, 24 and 27, but no record of any used block larger than the "Flerlage block." In this connection I might mention that I have often wondered if the description in the A.P. of a block of 50 is correct? It might have been an error on the part of the editor. I have often wondered if Flerlage purchased the Waterhouse block and that it was the one that was described as a block of 50 in the A.P. I mention this merely as a

#2. Dr. O. Bacher - Oct. 5, 1954.

possibility because I cannot swear that the Flerlage block was one of 50. All I have regarding it is the mention of it in the A.P.

Because my good friend Lester Brookman will undoubtedly be interested in the fact that a new block has been discovered and also the above data re - the "Flerlage block" I am sending him a copy of this letter which I trust will meet with your approval.

Please do not accept the above as final and official, because it is possible that I may have overlooked some item at auction or failed to record an item. This stamp is rather late for me and my interest in U. S. 19th after 1875 has never been very great.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Oct. 5, 1954.

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

Dear Les:

It was nice talking to you last night and naturally we are both delighted at the prospect of an early visit from Helen and you, but we regret that the time will be so short. If you could manage to extend it we would be more than pleased.

Dr. Bacher of London recently made a new find of a block of 40 of the 90¢ purple of 1888. He assured me it is a new discovery and not the Waterhouse block. He referred to your book and inquired if I knew of any larger used block. I thought you would be interested in my reply, so I am enclosing copy of my letter to him.

Keep me advised as to your plans.

As ever yours,

33-44

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.

Oct. 6, 1954

Dear Stan:

Many thanks for showing me the letter ~~from~~ to Dr. Bacher concerning the block of 40 of the 90¢ purple.

I did not mention the Flerlage "block of 50" for the simple reason that I had no confidence in him and could not place credence in the report even though it was in the A.P. I took into consideration that this block almost certainly would have reappeared or at least have been known to you and I so I just decided, rightly or wrongly, not to mention it.

The largest block of this stamp ever owned by me was the block of 20 I illustrate in my Vol. 2. It was found by a Paul Card and I bought it from him. If I am not mistaken he actually found this item in a mess of debris and old papers outside of some building! A very nice item in good condition.

Present plans still call for us to arrive around 12.45 on the afternoon of the 20th but will give you definite information when I pick up our airline tickets. I will find out if we have lunch on the plane and if we do not it would be nice to stop on the way in from the airport as suggested by you.

Have been working very hard on my forthcoming price list, which will be used by over 200 dealers scattered all over the country, and I'm glad to say that the first of the five forms will start on the press today. 112 pages this year so it has required a lot of time and effort.

Sincere regards,

Leo

*P.S. I know Flerlage
quite well -- even
saw him, some a
few times.*

33-44

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

COPY

Oct. 5, 1954.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
Regency House,
1-4 Warwick St.,
London, W. 1, England.

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With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

#218.

The PROPERTY OF

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO. LTD.,
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET,
LONDON. W.1. (off Regent Street)

BEINY
Photographer
27 BAKER ST., W.1
WELBOK 7428





THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

MANAGING DIRECTOR: O. BACHER, D. PHIL.

MEMBER BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN, PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY, LONDON,
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY, COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK.

BANKERS:
BARCLAYS,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

TELEPHONE:
GERRARD
4900

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS.

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

OB/B

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Sept. 23, 1954.

It was so very kind of you to send me the splendid "Special Service" range and I want to thank you very much, also for putting me on the list of subscribers.

As to payment my bank just informs me that I might now be able to remit direct to you. So please let me know what the Service will cost me yearly and kindly remember that I am not a dollar millionaire like so many of your good friends. I prefer this direct way of settlement to bothering Mr. Hill with such a small matter. I am sure he is a very busy man and because he has such great charm at the same time, I do not wish to run the risk of upsetting him by approaching him with such a small matter.

As a small token of my appreciation I send by same post, second class air, photo of a brilliant used block of 40 of # 218, still on the fragment of the original wrapper, I bought a few days back. Brookman mentions in his US-book the Waterhouse block of 40 of # 218, sold in 1924, as the largest block known to him at the time (1947). This is not the same block. Has in the meantime, viz. between 1947 and now, anything similar in size, or even larger, turned up for # 218? No doubt your records will give the answer. I should be grateful for any information you may care to give me and I need not emphasize how much I appreciate your recommendation to Mr. Hill - you mention this in your letter - whom I saw here last about two years ago.

With best wishes

Cordially yours

PS. I am just thinking that it might not be a bad idea if I was to write a little article on the block, illustrated, for LINDQUIST'S STAMPS, provided he is interested. I haven't published anything there for many years. Naturally your name would be mentioned by me for any information you may have to give me regarding these blocks. What do you think of the idea?

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1

First fold here

Sender's name and address :-

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.,
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK ST.,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON, W.1, G.B.

Second fold here

BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



SAVE
BUY 2/6



Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.

33 N. Fort Thomas Ave.

Fort Thomas

Ky.

USA

THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER

Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/11K

To open cut here

C 224

By M. G. Blake

Oct 1954

Steamer from Liverpool.

1849



Blue



Black



Red

4
Messrs Nathan Froster & Co.

Pl. 31:294

Pl. 39)42:681

"100" on Back
(Dutch Cents)

Philadelphia

By M.C.B.,

Edson J Fifield

STAMPS OF THE WORLD FOR COLLECTORS
1500 NORTH OCEAN BOULEVARD
POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA
TELEPHONE 5755 2201

September 13, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

In my last letter I tried my best to explain to you the type of man I have to deal with. It is not a matter of trusting you or me with the material. It is an idea of his getting at it, and I think I mentioned he, himself, doesn't know where the stamps are. About the only time he goes over the material is when I have time or chance to be with him. They are packed away in shoe boxes, envelopes, original auction sheets, et cetera. As you say, it is a free country with the privilege of contacting anybody. I will tell you in advance what will happen. Your letter will be forwarded to me, with a notation on it "Fifield, take care of this".

Yes, I well recall that back in 1936 he sent on to you plate proofs of the 5c 47s that were purchased in the Kelleher sale, and this was done with my say-so, as a matter of fact I wrapped and prepared them for mailing. You must bear in mind that this gentleman is not a philatelist, and the only reason he buys New Yorks and 5c and 10c 47s is that he likes the designs, and also that he is very acute in regards to engraving. His business is greeting cards.

I mentioned I would probably be in New York in the Fall, and would do my utmost to dig out these items for you, and also mentioned I might require your services on quite a number of other things. Frankly, I can say no more.

I can readily understand your "pleasurable experience" with FDR. Like yourself, I knew him many years, and did considerable business with him in the past, and I must say that his buddy, Mr. Ickes, was a gentleman to do business with. You may recall I sold his collection.

By the way, Mr. N. is very much adverse to being known as a stamp collector, and there are only a few of us who know his name. He was induced many years ago to join the A. P. S. I believe he dropped membership due to the great amount of auction catalogues, letters, et cetera, he received. and at that time he pulled out of the market for about three years, and believe me that costs me plenty.

Leaving on a three or four week's trip. Return about Oct. 15th

Sincerely,

Edson

33-47

Oct. 13, 1954.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazier,
Box 70,
Flushing, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

I have before me a copy of the "Balasse Magazine" for September 1954, published in Brussels, Belgium and I note an article on the 5¢ New York so-called Reprint plate. I regret that I am unable to read the text but it seems to be an article describing the nine positions. An illustration of a full sheet is shown and inasmuch as one of the authors is "Consul Klep" whom I have corresponded with for some years, I am wondering if he might own a sheet.

I haven't heard from him for some six or seven months because I think he has been ill. Nevertheless I am writing him today.

If you do not have a copy of the magazine I will be pleased to loan my copy to you. I note the name "George A. Hussey," so I suppose the authors are repeating the same old story.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

33-47

Oct. 13, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Klep:

I have just received a copy of the Belasse magazine for September and note an article on the 5¢ New York so-called Reprint sheet of nine. Unfortunately I am not able to read the article. Inasmuch as you are one of the authors of the article I am wondering if you own one of the full sheets of nine? If so, will you please give me a description of it, its color, and if possible a photograph. I would also greatly appreciate advice from whom you obtained it in this country.

I am aware that you are interested in the 5¢ New York stamp but I was not aware that you might be the owner of a sheet. It may be of great interest to you to learn that I do not believe that George Hussey had anything to do with this sheet or impressions from this plate of nine. I firmly believe that all impressions are not "Reprints" but prints made from a first plate of nine by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson. Hussey may have gotten hold of some of the proofs or essays or sample prints but in my opinion he never owned the plate nor did he have any impressions struck.

It is my opinion that the first plate that was made was one of nine and Postmaster Morris intended to sell the sheets at 50¢ each to help defray the cost. It is my theory that he was advised by the P.O. Department that he would not be permitted to do so, hence decided on a larger plate and never used the small plate of nine. It is unthinkable that the American Bank Note ever permitted the original die to leave their possession to become the property of Hussey or that they used it, or a transfer roll, to make a plate for Hussey. If my "theory" is correct, then these so-called "Reprints" are much more desirable than has been supposed.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

The Fox sheet of 9 N.Y.P. in your photographed Jan 6.54
is the Ackerman, Perry, Swane sheet. I identified by
the sheet margin irregular cut between #1 and #2.

Oddly the one in Miller Collection has a similar 12mm
left border but is straight on top. So I will not
have more prints made now. Cordially.

Elaine

9/10/54

Return Postage Guaranteed
CLARENCE W. BRAZER
BOX 70, FLUSHING, N. Y.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

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

CLARENCE W. BRAZER

Philatelist

U. S. ESSAYS & PROOFS

EXCLUSIVELY

415 Lexington Ave., N. E. Cor. 43d St.

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMBER

Collectors Club—Past Governor

American Philatelic Society

Society of Philatelic Americans

Essay Proof Society—Director

Tel. Vanderbilt 6-1777

New York 17, N. Y.

Stanley Bashbrook
P. O. Box 31, Fort Thomas, Ky.

Aug. 18, 53

See Philatelic Congress Paper 1954

Dear Stanley,

I have only one good glossy photo of the N.Y. Postmaster's sheet of 9 so called reprints, except the one in my own collection. I have promised this photo to a good customer some months ago, but have been so busy it has not been sent him. Perhaps you may be able to photograph a copy of it from the enclosed which I would like returned soon. I have been gathering a plated sheet of 9 for my customer to send with the photo, but have not quite completed the 9 positions.

The burglars stole 7/6/51 my N.Y. P. M. collection of original die proofs. Later die proofs ^{trial color dies} original plate proofs ^{black on} and all my reconstructed plates of 9 in the 4 colors on bond, blue paper 3 thicknesses, black on white, etc. All in the 9 positions complete except I needed two orange-red positions. I had several marginal pieces. Now have the only multiple pieces known from recent Harmer, Proctor's Sale. Ward ran me up! But I had to have them to rebuild as much as possible what was stolen. Am making good progress on the reconstruction sheets of 9. but may never find some colors of original die P.C.

(ora)

✓ The U.S. Cat. listing was from my collection when Hugh Clark wrote
✓ edited the Cat. so that is most of what was burglarized.

Have you found any information substantiating that prints from
this sheet of 9 are "reprints" printed in 1862?

I have been trying to find it for 25 years and all I found was
an original early British magazine article (perhaps before 1870) 1864
claiming Hussey had ^{New Yorker} them reprinted. Hussey a month or so later
✓ strenuously denied it in the same magazine saying he never
worked with anything of his Uncle Samuel! Knowing the attitude
and strict honesty of R.W.H. & E. and the A.B.N.Co. I seriously doubt
they would have supplied Hussey, if he wanted them to. I wrote the
A.B.N.Co. last year but received no information.

Due to the gutter marks it is evident these prints were made
from an unflattened plate before burnishing the gutters, and as
prints are only known from this state of the plate, I am convinced
they were original trial color proofs in fine colors, and later the
black on ^{gray} white, and on three thicknesses of the blue paper, one
of which was adopted. Transfer rolls in 1845 were the width
or vertical height of a bank note, plus. This plate of 9 could have
been picked up on such a transfer roll, for possible lay down
on the plate for 40 stamps, as was done in one row by T.C.C. & Co.
The B.E. & P. tried it in larger multiple blocks, but abandoned it due
to greater movement of metal, making the "Rose" ^{2x5=10} experimental 2c plate
out of horizontal alignment in the pane of 100.

Not done as
small plate is
wider spacing

Position #6 on plate of 9 has some marks at bottom gutter as

2 positions on the plate of 40. I have not yet had time to study the

8/26
later
not possible
as [9] had
2mm gutters
+ [10] 1 1/2mm
Plate of 40 to see whether it could have been laid down from a
roll of 9, after ^{taken up after flattening and burnishing gutters} some positions on the plate of 9 were retouched before

hardening & to be transferred. Perhaps you have material from which to check this, particularly if you have a photo of the piece of the two bottom rows. Would like to have your opinions.

✓ Please keep my opinions confidential for the present year or so as I have in preparation an article on the prints from this plate of 9 which I claim are original trial color and plate proofs, not "reprints". Of course this word "reprint" has been used for everything the observer found not like the issued stamps, mostly long before we knew much about essays & proofs. As this sheet of 9 positions each has some identifying mark not on the original plate, they cannot truly be "reprints" which should be from the plate used for the stamps.

1856.5c

✓ Am sorry I have not previously answered your letters of May 25 and June 22 about the 1851-6 .5c strip of 3 which I promptly returned to Pelander. Julius Windner loaned me another similar strip of 3 he bought at the same time and which he still has. I found the lines drawn in top & bottom, color not as red as the 1856 original trial color selected from P09 trial colors on stamp paper (over)

✓ The plate proof on India (I have a block of 12) Type II is similar in color to the strip of 3. I had hoped to put all my proofs under the lamp at the Collector's Club, but Bugge has been away and the caretaker had no authority to let me do so. You are probably right that the strip of 3 is a plate proof on India mounted on other paper as I noticed two thicknesses of paper on one corner of the strip. I returned without

✓ If I was much interested I would try to get X ray photos of the India paper proof and of the strip of 3, by one of those two who have recently published photos of paper X rays. The Eastman man formerly belonged to the E. P. S.

Cordially

Clarence

CLARENCE W. BRAZER

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Essay Proof Society—Director

Tel. Vanderbilt 6-1777

New York 17, N. Y.

Sept. 21. 53

My Dear Stanley.

Am sorry to be so late replying to your very kind letter of Sept. 2 and the excellent photos of the N.Y.P.M. sheet of 9. for which I am very grateful. Many thanks. This all arrived while I was on a short vacation at East Gloucester, Mass. and I have been so swamped with correspondence since that I can't seem to catch up. Getting out a new price list for the printer also was a time consumer.

Am very glad to have your remarks, and especially to know that Percy Doane also thought this sheet was a trial color proof!

I believe one sheet of nine that ^{was} Perry's is now in the N.Y. Public Library Miller Collection via Serphos. John Fox bought one a year or so ago, as I have heard. I only have heard of these two sheets of black on bluish.

The A.B.N.C. in 1936 exhibited the original bill of R.W.H.&E.

In "one steel plate ~~with~~ \$40. ~~or~~" or words to that effect. I have a

Seeuff copy somewhere and referred to it in what I wrote on the 1847 plates in the C.C.P. With kind regards. Faithfully yours. Clarence.
It is enclosed!

Clarence W. Brazer
Philatelist
U. S. Essays & Proofs
EXCLUSIVELY

MEMBER

Collectors Club—Past Governor
American Philatelic Society
Society of Philatelic Americans
Essay Proof Society—Founder

Tel. FLushing 9-2526

Box 70, Flushing, N. Y.

Sept. 4, 1954.

Dear Stanley.

Thank you for all your trouble in searching for and finding my letters about the New York P. in plate of nine. I had forgotten a few thoughts written then and was very happy to be able to add them in my paper which went off on time Aug. 30, with your photos. I took the liberty of putting the first five lines of the second paragraph of your letter of Sept 2. 53 as to Doane. Also your six line paragraph, fourth from end of letter, which I believe a very logical solution as to the reasons for, and sequence of, the two plates of 9 and 40. I think that is just what happened, and why the plate of nine was not furnished. When my paper is printed I would appreciate your reactions to the presentation.

- ① The black on blue sheet of nine in the Muller Collection. N.Y. Public Library has a left sheet margin at least 12 mm wide. This I believe was the one Scott Stamp & Coin Co. had for many years. It is mounted with the originals assembled two bottom rows and a cover. Perry says they sold it to him in 1928 but was turned back over a dispute on price. It is probably the same sheet offered in a Morganthau Sale 1945. or 43? I do not have Cat. of Sale. (or as I gather from this letter)
- ② Perry sold the Ackerman sheet to George Swann but understands it was not the sheet that Fox had. In 1937 Perry loaned me this sheet and I had an 8x10 photo made by Wurts Bros. in N.Y.C. I found this negative

while hunting thru my data and am having prints made. I will send you one. It may be the margins will help to identify it, when I look at the negative but Warta Bros matted it with black strips so the print I found is no help. The good ^{photo} print and a bleached one were mounted in my N.Y.P.M. collection stolen by the burglars in 1951. Where Shome sold is not recorded.

(3) Where the Fox sheet came from has not yet been recorded or where it now is.

(4) Perry says he has heard of another sheet but does not know where it is. The owner has had it a long time and valued it in four figures. The man who saw it and told Perry is dead.

Whether (4) is the same as (3) or whether both or either can be the same as (2) is yet to be traced.

^{Perigial}
In further reply to your letter of Sept. 2. I found in my files a folded double sheet of paper 20x14 inches illustrating Ernie Jacob's plating of 50 positions (5x10) as drawn by Cabeen and based on Harbo 1911 study. At the top is a six line description stating every position was checked by pairs altho he states 14 positions were difficult to locate from singles and can be located only from pairs.

There is a plating of 40 in the Miller Collection, and I have illustration of another plating as Lot 40 in Pattick Simpson, London Sale 11/18/1924 that has Ink Notations in margin resembling the Earl of Crayford's. Gerber bought a part of plating and broke it up in Auction several years ago. Aug. 15/1945. 21 positions.

I know Reggio, an architect, well, but do not know Lapham's son or H.C. Gibson. I may write the latter as I have furnished word for him many positions, in various papers and colors, from the plate of nine.

Cordially,
Allerance

Clarence W. Brazer
Philatelist
U. S. Essays & Proofs
EXCLUSIVELY

MEMBER
Collectors Club—Past Governor
American Philatelic Society
Society of Philatelic Americans
Essay Proof Society—Founder

Tel. FLushing 9-2526

Box 70, Flushing, N. Y.

Aug. 16, 1954.

Dear Stanley.

Many thanks for sending my letters of 8/18/53 and 9/21/53
written you about the N.Y.P.M. sheet of 9. I find they will be a great
help with my paper. They will be returned after it is written.

In haste. Cordially.

Clarence

Aug. 12, 1954.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazer,
Box 70,
Flushing, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

I succeeded in finding two letters from you written last summer and I am enclosing them herewith. I had them very carefully filed so that I could find them at once when wanted (as I supposed).

I don't know whether I told you, but I wrote the article that was published under the name of Paul MacGuffin that was published in the May 1936 Tipex number of the A.P. I have long intended to revise and republish that article and I had filed these letters in papers regarding a new article. You can return them at your pleasure and if you would like microfilm copies I will be glad to make them for you.

No doubt you will recall the 30¢ 1869 that I sent you recently - not the fake die but the proof copy with fake grill, perforations, etc. I thought perhaps this was a mounted proof, that is, perhaps an India proof mounted on another piece of paper. However, I put it in boiling water and for five minutes, and there was no separation. I am now wondering if this is a split card or if a proof was ever printed of this stamp on paper as thick as this?

My kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Sept. 2/53

My dear Stanley:

Am sorry to be so late replying to your very kind letter of Sept. 2 and the excellent photos of the N.Y. P.M. sheet of 9 for which I am very grateful. Many thanks. This all arrived while I was on a short vacation at East Gloucester, Mass. and I have been so swamped with correspondence since that I can't seem to catch up. Getting out a new price list for the winter also was a time consumer.

Am very glad to have your remarks and especially to know that Percy Doane also thought this sheet was a trial color proof! I believe one sheet of mine that was Perry's is now in the N.Y. Public Library Miller collection via Serphos. John Fox bought one a year or so ago, so have heard. I only have heard of these two sheets of black on bluish.

The A.B.N.Co. in 1936 exhibited the original bill of R.W.H.& E for "one steel plate \$40" or words to that effect. I have a copy somewhere and referred to it in what I wrote on the 1847 plates in the C.C.P. With kind regards.

Faithfully yours,

Clarence.

It is enclosed!

Sept. 2/53

My dear Stanley:

Am sorry to be so late replying to your very kind letter of Sept. 2 and the excellent photos of the N.Y. P.M. sheet of 9 for which I am very grateful. Many thanks. This all arrived while I was on a short vacation at East Gloucester, Mass. and I have been so swamped with correspondence since that I can't seem to catch up. Getting out a new price list for the winter also was a time consumer.

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The A.B.N.Co. in 1936 exhibited the original bill of R.W.H. & E for "one steel plate 340" or words to that effect. I have a copy somewhere and referred to it in what I wrote on the 1847 plates in the C.C.P. With kind regards.

Faithfully yours,

Clarence.

It is enclosed!

Aug. 18, 53

Dear Stanley:

I have only one good glossy photo of the N.Y. Postmaster's sheet of 9 so-called reprints, except the one in my own collection. I have promised this photo to a good customer some months ago, but have been so busy it has not been sent him. Perhaps you may be able to photograph a copy of it from the enclosed which I would like returned soon. I have been gathering a plated sheet of 9 for my customer to send with the photo, but have not quite completed the 9 positions.

The burglars stole 1/6/51 my N.Y. P.M. collection of original die proofs, later die proofs trial color dies, original photo on India and all my reconstructed plates of 9 in the 4 colors on bond black on blue paper 3 thicknesses, black on white, etc. All in the 9 positions complete except I needed two orange-red positions. I had several marginal pieces. Now have the only multiple pieces known from recent Harmer, Rooke & Co. Sale. Ward ran me up! But I had to have them to rebuild as much as possible what was stolen. Am making good progress on the reconstruction sheets of 9 but may never find some colors of original die F.C. The U.S. Cat. listing was from my collection when Hugh Clark edited the Cat. so that is most of what was burglarized. Have you found any information substantiating that prints from this sheet of 9 are "reprints" printed in 1862?

I have been trying to find it for 15 years and all I found was an original early British magazine article (perhaps before 1870) claiming Hussey had them reprinted. Hussey a month or so later strenuously denied it in the same magazine saying he never monkeyed with anything of his Uncle Samuel! Knowing the attitude and strict honesty of R.W.H. & E. and the A.B.N.Co. I seriously doubt they would have supplied Hussey if he wanted them to. I wrote the A.B.N.Co. last year but received no information.

Due to the gutter marks it is evident these prints were made from an unflattened plate before burnishing the gutters, and as prints are only known from this state of the plate, I am convinced they were original trial color proofs in five colors, and later the black on white, and on three thicknesses of the blue paper, one of which was adopted. Transfer rolls in 1845 were the width or vertical height of a bank note, plus. This plate of 9 could have been picked up on such a transfer roll, for possible lay-down on the plate for 40 stamps, as was done in one row by T.C. & Co. The B.E. & P. tried it in larger multiple blocks, but abandoned it due to greater movement of metal, making the "Rose" 2 x 5=10 experimental ~~22~~ 2c plate out of horizontal alignment in the pane of 100.

Position #6 on plate of 9 has some marks at bottom gutter as 2 positions on the plate of 40. I have not yet had time to study the plate of 40 to see whether it could have been laid down from a roll of 9 taken up after flattening ~~gutter~~ and burnishing gutters after some positions on the plate of 9 were retouched before hardening and to be transferred. Perhaps you have material from which to check this particular if you have a photo of the piece of the two bottom rows. Would like to have your opinins. Please keep my opinions confidential for the present year or so as I have in preparation an article on the prints from this plate of 9 which I claim are ~~xx~~ original trial color and plate proofs, not "reprints."

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Of course this word "reprint" has been used for everything the observer found not like the issued stamps, mostly long before we knew much about essays & proofs. As this sheet of 9 positions each has some identifying mark not on the original plate, they cannot truly be "reprints" which should be from the plate used for the stamps.

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The plate proof on India (I have a block of 12) Type II is similar in color to the strip of 3. I had hoped to put all my proofs under the lamp at the Collectors Club but Boggs has been away and the caretaker had no authority to let me do so. You are probably right that the strip of 3 is a plate proof on India mounted on other paper as I noticed two thicknesses of paper on one corner of the strip I returned Windner.

If I was much interested I would try to get X-ray photos of the India paper proof and of the strip of 3, by one of those two who have recently published photos of paper X-rays. The Eastman man formerly belonged to the E.P.S.

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If I was much interested I would try to get X-ray photos of the India paper proof and of the strip of 3, by one of those two who have recently published photos of paper X-rays. The Eastman man formerly belonged to the E.P.S.

Cordially,

Clarence.

Sept. 25, 1953.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazer,
415 Lexington Ave.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Yours of the 21st received. I am today writing John Fox and informing him that I heard that he had purchased a sheet of the 5¢ New York so-called 1862 Reprint, and that if this was true could he borrow it for me so that I could make a very fine photograph. I will keep you advised and if there is no objection on John's part, I will be glad to send you a print of any photographs that I make. I suppose I could find out from Perry if the sheet that he handled is now in the Miller collection at the New York Public Library.

I am returning the copy of the Rawdon bill herewith. I have a faint recollection of seeing this at the 1936 Show, and I believe I met at that time a representative of the A.B.N. Co. I recall that Ned Knapp and I had quite a lengthy conversation with him. I believe he has since passed away. I am wondering if you overlooked the fact that Luff quoted this full invoice on page 32 of his book.

I wrote Phil Ward and inquired if he thought that Henry Gibson or Frank Hollowbush had a sheet and his reply was to the effect that he was pretty sure that neither one possessed some an item.

If anything new developes I will, of course, be more than pleased to advise you.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

JOHN A. FOX
173 TULIP AVE.,
FLORAL PARK, N. Y.

Sept. 25, 1953.

Dear John:

I have been informed that about a year ago you bought a sheet of the 5¢ New York Reprints of 1862. If this is true, I am wondering if you could borrow it for me so that I could make a very excellent photograph of it to be used for plating purposes. I surely would greatly appreciate such a favor and of course I would take excellent care of the item and return it immediately. If there was no objection, I would like to include a photo print in one of my Service Issues. It is my understanding that only two of these sheets are known to exist, but I have no verification of this. I am wondering if that is your understanding.

Cordially yours,

Aug. 21, 1953.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazier,
418 Lexington Ave.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Thanks very much for your kindness in the loan of the photo print of the 5⁴ New York, which I am returning herewith. I made several negatives, one on 5 x 7 and the other a large one on an 8 x 10. I will send you some prints next week and at any time in the future that you would like to have any extra copies it will be a pleasure to supply them to you. I don't believe I have a bit of information on this plate that would be of help to you. I will reply to your letter next week.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Sept. 2, 1953.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazer,
415 Lexington Ave. ,
N.E.Cor. 43rd St.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Further replying to yours of the 18th, I am now enclosing some prints of the New York plate. I regret that these are not better but it seems to be difficult (for me) to obtain a fine negative of a photograph. If perchance you wish any further copies I will be glad to furnish them.

Regarding this so-called 1862 plate - about the only thing I have is a memorandum that I made years ago, perhaps in the early 1920's. In a conversation with Bob Emerson and Percy Doane, the subject came up about the 1862 plate and Percy stated that he didn't believe that the plate of 9 was made in 1862, was not a reprint plate and that it was a trial plate made prior to the plate of 40. When I got home I made a memo but failed to include any further details. I made no mention if Emerson agreed or knew anything. I was not greatly interested at the time and do not even actually remember the conversation. I used to meet Emerson very frequently in Percy's office when on trips to New York in the late nineteens and early twenties and Bob visited me in those days at my old home in Northern Kentucky on frequent trips west.

Surely Percy must have discussed the subject with Elliott Perry at that time and perhaps with Luff, as John was still very active around 1920.

Henry C. Gibson has been doing some work on the New York in recent years and Ward has been assisting him. I loaned my photograph of the Plate of 9 to Phil but he never returned it. I assume that he wanted it for Gibson, which might indicate that Gibson did not have one much less an original sheet.

I believe that Ward wrote me that according to his recollection only two sheets were known and that Perry at one time had one for sale. I wondered if it came from the Ackerman collection. I haven't the slightest idea where the two sheets are today but wonder if one could be in the Lapham collection.

I am wondering if you have a copy of the little book that Hart wrote on the 5¢ New York back about 1911 or 1912? Luff had several pages about the "1862 plate" and as far as I am aware, more is contained in this book than has ever been published elsewhere in the past fifty years. Luff and Hart and all the early students including Hiram Deats were of the opinion the 1845 plate was one of 50 positions. I believe that Hatfield is given credit for discovering that the plate was of 40 positions, 8 x 5. However, unless I am mistaken, it was Jacobs (Ernie) who first made a correct reconstruction. He worked in conjunction with a collector by the name of McDaniel.

I remember the Worthington sale in August 1917, (36 years ago) - At

#2. Mr. Clarence W. Brazer - Sept. 2, 1953.

that time I had two or three dozen or more copies of the 5¢ New York. I missed some of the 1¢ 1851 items in the sale and McDaniel bought them. Later Ernie traded him all my New Yorks for the One Cent lots. I am positive that McDaniel and Jacobs had correctly plated the stamp at that time. The Hatfield book, published by the Scott Co., did not come out until several years later.

There are arguments for and against the A.B.N.Co. making a new plate for Hussey. It was not in any sense an official stamp and was obsolete after July 1, 1847. The A.B.N.Co. surely had the Die and if Hussey wanted a plate laid out why should they refuse him.

I firmly believe that the regular plate was copper - a steel die - steel transfer roll with one relief and a copper plate of 40 subjects. I doubt very much if the roll had more than one relief. I am wondering if you knew that I wrote the booklet on the 5¢ New York that was published under the name of Paul MacGuffin? It was published in the A.P. at the time of the Tipex - May 1936 and later as an A.P.S. handbook. I did all the photo work and the cuts describing each position. In that book I illustrated the well-known block of 10 from the bottom of the plate. Emerson loaned me a number of pieces from his collection and Reggio furnished me with a lot of data from the Lapham collection.

I made a memo at one time that perhaps Doane may have been right and that originally Morris ordered a plate of nine intending to sell a sheet @ 50¢ in order to pay the cost of manufacture but that the P.M.G. advised against any charge over face and that Morris then decided on a plate of 40, selling a whole sheet @ \$2.00 or half a sheet @ \$1.00. It seems logical that the 1862 prints in various colors may have been "trial colors" submitted to Morris from the plate of nine of 1845.

Another argument against the theory that the 1862 plate was made in 1845 is in the difference in which both plates were laid out - guide dots - fine dotted lines - etc. etc. etc.

I wonder if Henry Gibson believes that the story about the 1862 plate is true?

I will treat the contents of your letter in the strictest confidence.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Sept. 17, 1954.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazier,
Box 70,
Flushing, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Thanks very much for yours of the 4th and card of the 10th, both of which I have carefully noted. I doubt if I can add anything additional.

I believe that I wrote you some time ago that Henry C. Gibson was very much interested in the 5¢ New York and, several years ago, was taking of publishing a book or booklet but as I recall he abandoned the project because of present high costs of production. I doubt very much if he owns a sheet of the "nine plate." I remember that years ago Perry gave me a photo print of a sheet. Four or five years ago I loaned this print to Phil Ward, presumably for Gibson. It was never returned and Ward wrote that he had no recollection of borrowing it. (Incidentally I believe this is an unfortunate habit that he has). At any rate, I got the impression that Gibson did not own a sheet of nine.

I wonder if you made any effort to find out if Frank Hollowbush owns a sheet? He is a great pal to George Sloane so Sloane might know.

It is unfortunate that there is no line of approach to the Lapham collection as Lapham had a fine lot of the 5¢ New York. I don't know who has charge of the collection at the present time but it would be my guess that Lapham had a sheet of nine. With so much interest in the 5¢ New York I imagine he would have made a real effort to acquire a sheet. Too bad Reggio had to die. I did not know Lapham left a son. Do you suppose Colson is the one who is close to the collection? I doubt if Kelleher is in touch but he may be.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

33-47

Clarence W. Brazer

Philatelist

U. S. Essays & Proofs
EXCLUSIVELY

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Collectors Club—Past Governor
American Philatelic Society
Society of Philatelic Americans
Essay Proof Society—Founder

Tel. FLushing 9-2526

Box 70, Flushing, N. Y.

Nov. 18, 1954.

Dear Stanley.

Thank you for the kind approval of my New York P. N. Plate of Nine (Proofs) article in the Philatelic Congress book. Elliott wrote me his commendation pointing out only 1 error - that George Hussey had no middle letter, as given him by other writers quoted by me "A." And he says Scott's Cat. gives him an "F." Perry says there was another George A. Hussey in business in New York at that time. I have struck out the A in the reprinting that may appear in the Essay Proof Journal before Stowell sends my reprints prepaid to the Congress Editor last month. Will send you some when I get them. Have not heard from George Shorne.

I have had a recent letter from John Klemann offering me three dollar value card proofs of the State Dept. which he said were Atlanta trial colors at \$45 - saying the only others he knows were sold by him to Wilhelm. I returned them as the blue-green did not match the yellow-green used on all Atlanta trial colors and the card was 002" thicker than used for Atlantas, in fact they matched the 1885 printing of card proofs! Not having seen any that match the Atlanta yellow-green and thin card I advised deleting them from Scott's U. S. Cat. several years ago. In the past I have not found his memory accurate nor noticed any scientific care. In fact I have found some gross errors of identification.

(over)

Your Port Royal Jan. 1865 cover puzzles me! Card proofs were first distributed in 1879 and none of the fine printings^{79.85.90.93.94} on card match this 3c color. I have some 1861 (or contemporaneous) India paper proofs, that originally had card (blotter) backing when printed, that are slightly darker and not so pinkish. Possibly it may be one of those that faded lighter by exposure since 1865. Whether it would soak off the card would be the only test I know. I do not find tongue tip dampness affects it as I usually find on India proofs on original card backing.

Here were numerous experimental proofs of this 3¢ printed from the stump plates, various inks on many different papers. The burglar took my 40 pages of essays & proofs of this 3¢ and the second collection I am now building is far from complete. But I do not recall seeing any other proofs to match this on your cover.

Cordially yours.

Clarence

33-47

Dec. 8, 1954.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazier,
Box 70,
Flushing, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Here is a color transparency that I made of
that 24¢ mounted proof that I sent you recently.
This is a more accurate method of recording color
than the Ridgway.

Kindly accept the enclosed with my compliments.

Cordially yours,

Enclosed:
A19-5

33-48

September 25, 1954.

From: Gordon Bleuler
2115 Barberry Drive
Dallas 11, Texas.

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

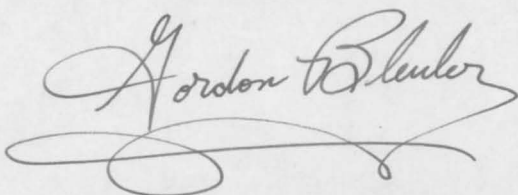
Dear Mr. Ashbrook.....

Have your letter of the 21st regarding the New Orleans & Cairo - Steamer Travis cover. I regret to say that I traded this cover to a Ft. Worth collector some weeks ago for some items of Texas interest. The cover had a 3 Cents 1857 Issue and that is this collectors specialty, so am afraid that it would be difficult to get him to part with it.

The only other early Steamboat cover that I have available is the item I am enclosing. Perhaps it may be of interest to you. As to value....I would say \$10.00, though my knowledge of the value of these early steamboat covers is quite limited. I would be willing to trade this one for something of equivalent value of interest from a Texas or Confederate standpoint. Will leave it up to you!

By the way, I am planning to attend the Convention of the Confederate Stamp Alliance at Richmond, Va., in a couple of weeks. Perhaps you are planning to attend this show....if so, will look forward to meeting you there.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gordon Bleuler". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

33-48

COPY

Oct. 4, 1954.

Mr. Gordon Eleuler,
2115 Barberry Drive,
Dallas 11, Texas.

Dear Mr. Eleuler:

Regarding the 3¢ 1857 cover with the alleged Packet markings of a "Steamer Travis." At the request of my good friend Henry Meyer of Evansville, Ind., this cover was forwarded to me by Mr. Edward B. Murphy of your city. I have today advised Mr. Murphy that the alleged packet markings on this cover are fraudulent. I feel quite sure that you would not have sold this cover to Mr. Murphy if you had had any suspicion of its fraudulent nature. I have been informed that there are other covers with these same fraudulent markings and if you have any advice as to who might own them at present will you be so kind as to advise me. To guard against other collectors who might be defrauded by such fakes I intend to give wide publicity to all covers with such or similar markings. I sincerely trust that for the good of philately that you will give me your wholehearted co-operation.

Herewith I am returning the other 3¢ 1861 cover which you so kindly submitted to me. This has a 3¢ 1861 tied by postmark which is not legible - It also has a circular "Due 3" and a large circular marking which I suppose was intended to be a packet marking by some philatelic crook. It appears to read "NEW ORLEANS - STEAM BOAT" etc. This marking, in my opinion, is fraudulent, and may I request that you return this cover to me and I will endorse it across its face as "FRAUDULENT" and sign my name.

Sincerely yours,

3348

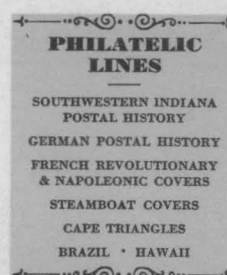
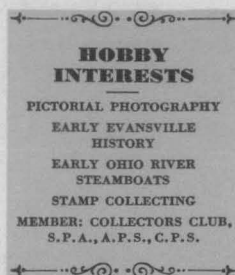
Oct. 4, 1954.

Mr. Edward B. Murphy,
3836 Hill Top Road,
Fort Worth 9, Texas.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Thanks very much for your kindness for a look at the 3¢ 1857 cover which I return herewith. There is absolutely no doubt but what the packet markings on this cover are fraudulent. I am enclosing copy of a letter that I am today writing to Mr. Bleuler. I am also enclosing a signed memo that I used in recording a photograph of this fake, also I am returning the various letters that you sent me.

Sincerely yours,



Sept. 25, 1954

Dear Stan:

Only three months from today is Christmas. How the time flies!

This letter may become a bit lengthy, as there are a lot of matters to be cleared up. First, the STEAMER TRAVIS cover.

I find that this is identically the same cover which Hubert Scruggs submitted to me, some two years ago. On my advice he returned it. I have a good negative and some good prints from that occasion, of which I enclose a print. Keep it. The negative I made this time, before I found that they were the same cover, is too dense and does not print well, but no matter, the other one is good. I don't think Gordon Bleuler would be a party to passing fakes, but he seems mighty anxious to unload this cover.

Since it belongs to Mr. Murphy by purchase, Bleuler may reply to you that he has no more. Therefore in returning it to Mr. Murphy today, I am asking him to send it to you. In case you should need to write to him, the address is Edward B. Murphy, 3836 Hill Top Road, Fort Worth 9, Texas.

I have been thinking of doing an article sometime on some of the fake steamboat covers which I have seen the last few years. I would not need to feature any one above the other. I have pictures of:

1. NEW ORLEANS & CAIRO/WEEKLY MAIL gray-black) from dry
STEAMER TRAVIS dull purple) pads
2. NEW ORLEANS & CAIRO/STEAM/BOAT in big circle
3. U.S. MAIL SHIP/DETROIT ON LETTERS TO AND FROM
Green Bay, 1832.
4. SHIP on letter with Metropolitan local added
5. WAY 2 which we have discussed so much
6. Doc Roser's fake Louisville STEAM
7. BY/STEAM on letter to Long Island, lot 6 in W. T. Pollitz's
sale of Oct. 2, 1954.

The style of type of Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 is so much alike (although differing a little in size) that I wonder whether they can all be emanating from one source, but being distributed through various victims.

It is odd that I never connected the funny mark on the FX Co. cover with "2 bits." Of course the phrase is very familiar to me; it is much used here, as an affectation, I think. But to find it used on a cover, even on one carried outside the mails, is new to me. Glad to know about it.

When I can, I will dig out all photographs of Baltimore STEAMBOAT covers with DUE 1, DUE 2, and DUE 3. I know now where some of them are, but not all. Two years ago, when I spent some Saturdays in St. Louis using the P.M.G.'s annual reports in the public library there, I was pretty close to some of the answers to some of these Due problems. Then I got on our school Centennial project, and my mind has been far from steamboat rates. I remember coming back to the Mound City meeting from the library and going to the room with Alfred Diamond. We took something I had just found, and with its help we interpreted a passage in an old P.L. & R. which had bothered me. At that moment I knew that the passages we were discussing held a part of the key to the Baltimore problem. I want to get back onto the problem soon.

For several week-ends to come, I will be very busy. That always happens along in the early fall. After that, I think I can give some time to my philatelic studies. Since you have just run into the problem, I take it that there is no immediate rush. May I suggest that even if you find some information, it would be interesting if you would hold it until I can write you in detail and tell you what I think I have worked out. We can then see how close we are together in our inferences.

I am sure you are right, the demand for old P.L. & R.'s arose as a result of your Vol. 2. I have had the same thing happen as a result of my articles on Steam, Steamboat, Way, and the Route Agent marks. Covers which I used to get in fair numbers for 50¢ apiece are now priced at \$5.00 and more, but too often somebody else beats me to them. I seldom get anything more. I did get a cover with a 3c 1851, and the Milwaukee mark STEAM, from Doc Chase, but I had to pay him \$10 for it--an atrocious price. It was only the third copy I had ever seen, and it was by 500% the best strike of the three, but still, that is an awful lot for a plain STEAM cover.

One day the past week, I went after work to the post office and mailed Paul Rohloff his covers after keeping them disgracefully long. I am sure he had begun to be annoyed, though he will never say so. When I got home that evening, your letter was here asking me to send you the De Moine cover. I am sure he will now send it to you. If it will help any, I made a very fine negative of it. I suppose you know that it is identically the same cover of which you made a color slide for Horace Foole. Horace was the one who told me that he had sold it to somebody else, who sold it to somebody else . . . who sold it to Paul. He asked Paul to bring it to the meeting for me, which Paul did. The color slide you made is really beautiful and very true to color. That is a gorgeous cover from any point of view.

I wish there were time for you to write to Pollitz for lot 6 in his sale of Oct. 2, the cover BY/STEAM to Greenport, L.I. I just know the thing is a fake. I have a negative, and when I have a chance to make some prints, I'll send you one. I am sure it belongs to the same set as those others I enumerated with it in the beginning of this letter.

It is really bad that thieves got some rare stamps at San Francisco. It is especially bad if they got some irreplaceable research material--platings, covers with markings which solve problems, etc. If they got blocks of Columbians, fine off-cover 47's, etc., they can be replaced with the insurance money, but it is still a blow to the exhibition system. But research material can probably never be replaced for any amount of money.

I have here the catalog for Bob Siegel's sale of Leo Shaughnessy's stamps. I have been wondering when they would break. There are a number of covers in it which I would mildly like to get, but strangely, there are none which I need for

recording. I wonder when Abe Rubel's covers will appear. It will be a little hard on the budgets of us 3c 1851 people, if Leo's covers and Abe's covers are sold in fairly rapid succession.

Several years ago you lent me a Covington & Newport city directory of the 80's. When I returned it, I called your attention to the fact that it was published by H. Thornton Bennett, an Evansville man who also published (and still does) the Evansville city directories. Of course he is no longer alive, but his lineal descendants publish it. Recently there was a feature story in the Sunday paper here about the fact that the firm now publishes 750 different city directories in the United States. The headquarters are here. The story very much understated the length of time they have published the Evansville directory: they began with the 1861 number. The story also did not bring out the fact that it was an Evansville family, but in the old directories, year after year, the residence address of H. Thornton Bennett was given. My mother remembers him and knew some of his children.

I have received a number of loans of one to three MAIL ROUTE covers which help my records. I think soon I can give you a preview of my next article, but I want a full year to pass in order to get all the loans I am likely to get. Or is that too long? Will interest lag if I wait that long? This week came the most helpful lot: it contains a cover to Troy, with the horseshoe mark accompanied by the Providence town mark, thus clinching my inference that the mark was of Providence. It is only the second copy of the mark I have ever seen, the other being my own. Mine has no town mark, but is addressed to Providence. But I still have no help on the matter of rates. I am having the P.M.G.'s letter books in the Archives searched for any directives for the use of the mark and the rates to be charged. ✓

I have an offer which poses a problem for me. You remember John S. Campbell, the short, chubby man who came to your house with Chuck Remele and me. (Frank Stultz with whiskers was the fourth member of the party.) John has acquired Delf Norona's entire set of Postal Guides and Post Office Lists. He has some annual numbers, but the amazing thing is the large number of quarterly and monthly supplements which he has. I am sure you are aware of this fact: that the Library of Congress, the P.O.D. Library, the Archives, the city and state libraries, Steve Lyon, and other private owners are pretty well supplied with annual numbers, but none of them have any quarterly or monthly supplements to speak of. Delf had them, and John now has them. He has offered them to me; in fact, he seems to have his mind set on it that I ought to own them. He wants to swap them to me for \$100 value in covers--not rarities, but as he expresses it, common stamps with uncommon postmarks and/or corner cards. He wants them worth 10¢ to 50¢ apiece. I know I can let him have that much without impairing my study material. The problem is two-fold: (1) To get a chance to hunt out the covers, which will take a couple of days. (2) What to do with the books? We do not need them for our Southwestern Indiana post offices. Our study of the post offices is complete except for trouble spots in about 20 post offices, and right now we have our research worker in Washington working on those. If I were a person of means, I would get them and donate them to the Collectors' Club Library. I am still tempted to do that, knowing full well that I have no business making any donations when my teacher's pension is thousands of dollars in arrears and I have only a few years ahead of me in which to clear it up. True, it would not cost me any cash, and that is a point to be considered. Several auction dealers want to sell it at auction for John, but we both hate terribly to see the set scattered after it took such work to bring it together. Its great value is in its intactness. It isn't complete, but it is the most nearly complete set there is. I must do some prompt and careful deciding very soon, to give John an answer. As ever,

Henry

October 11, 1954.

From: Gordon Bleuler
2115 Barberry Drive
Dallas 11, Texas.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.....

On my return from a little vacation trip to Richmond, Va. to attend the Convention of the Confederate Stamp Alliance, I found your letter returning the cover that I sent for you to look over.

From the manner in which I submitted the cover I sent to you I believe you will agree that I had no idea that either of these covers were not good. To set the record straight...the "Steamer Travis" item came out of a little group of covers that I purchased from Jack Shipman (now deceased) of the Shipman Stamp Company, about five or six years ago. The 3 Cents 1861 cover with the New Orleans - Steam Boat marking came out of a large box of covers that I purchased from one of Robert A. Siegel's auctions about two years ago.

Now, there is something else that appears a bit peculiar to me about this whole situation, and frankly I just do not understand what goes.... About a year ago I noticed an advertisement in one of the Stamp Journals (I believe it was Gossip Magazine), of a H. Scruggs, who appears to be an authority and does considerable writing on packetboat markings. He seemed interested in this type of material so I sent him the covers to look over. He returned the covers and said they were interesting, but that he did not wish to buy them. What I do not understand, if the covers were not good then, why wasn't something said at the time to this effect. In other words, why were they good then, and then a year later they are said

to be no good. By implication, I was left with the impression that these covers were o.k.

Now frankly, as I said in my letter to you when I sent you the 3 cents 1861 issue cover, the packet boat field of cover collecting is just not of interest to me and I am not too well informed regarding the different markings. If this cover is proved to be fraudulent I will have no objection to returning this cover to you to be so marked.]

There are several points about it which I would be interested in having you give me some more information. The 3 cent 1861 tied by postmark, which you say is not legible, is actually a blue Nashville, Ten. Would it not have been possible for this letter to have been mailed aboard the steamboat and placed in the mails at Nashville, Ten., where it was postmarked and the additional Due 3 marking was added. It seems a little odd to me that anyone faking a steamboat marking such as this would have struck it so light and applied it so indistinctly. It seems peculiar that a faker would have bothered to change the date on the packet marking in manuscript.

You may have additional information as to why you believe this packet marking to be fraudulent. I will appreciate hearing from you in this connection.

Since the authenticity of this cover has now been questioned I am sending the cover to another friend of mine whose opinion I would like to have.

I am writing Mr. Murphy, who lives in Ft. Worth, Texas, regarding the other cover with the "Steamer Travis" marking. The cover was not sold, but traded to him for something of Texas interest. I will advise him that if he wishes to return it to me, we can come to some agreement on adjustment or I will return the items he traded to me.

Very truly yours,

Gordon Blair

33-48

October 18, 1954.

From: Gordon Bleuler
2115 Barberry Drive
Dallas 11, Texas.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.....

Thank you for your kind letter in reply to my letter of the 11th. There was no intent in my letter to question your opinion as to the authenticity of the cover in question. It does come as a shock to find that covers you have previously submitted to someone that you thought knew something about this particular field, now prove to be fraudulent.

Actually, I am the only one really stuck on these covers, and have no recourse on them due to the way they were acquired. I am currently engaged in making restitution to Mr. Murphy of Ft. Worth for the cover traded to him.

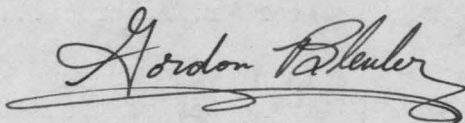
It does seem peculiar that the only two, early so-called packet covers I have acquired, in all of my collecting experience, should turn out this way. I have occasionally run across covers from dealers, and from auction sales, where the stamps have been added, replaced, tied-on, etc. but these are the first, and only, packet items with which I have had any experience.

I have sent the New Orleans item off to a friend who collects covers, as I wanted him to see this particular item. You need have no fear that this material will remain unmarked and allowed to deceive some other collector in the future. These covers will both be destroyed....in the presence of some reliable witness. Don't you think this is the best

way of handling this type of material?

Let me say again that I appreciate your opinion very much, and I am sorry that it is not possible to discuss personally the various points which prove these items one way or another. I am certainly very much interested in the way the evidence is developed.

Very truly yours,

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

PS. On the question of fakes, reproductions, ect. there is one point that I do not understand, and perhaps you can enlighten me on this point. When at Richmond a couple of weeks ago, I noticed some of the dealers were selling full sheets of the 5 Cent - C.S.A. London Printing. These are very good reproductions of fakes, the color is very close to that of the original, yet they are not marked in any way. No doubt, once they are cut up and sold, and passed from hand to hand, many many unwary collectors will be buying a fake stamp for the real thing (a cheap stamp, but currently priced around \$.75 or 1.00). Why do the American dealers sanction this type of issue and sell it along with their genuine merchandise. I just do not understand why selling this type of stamp is allowed to continue.. to the uninformed collectors.

Oct. 14, 1954.

Mr. Gordon Bleuler,
2115 Barberry Drive,
Dallas 11, Texas.

Dear Mr. Bleuler:

Replying to yours of the 11th. I note that you believe that the postmark on the 3¢ 1861 cover is Nashville, Tenn. and no doubt you are right. I did not question the postmark or the "Due 3," but I do question the "----- Orleans Steam Boat" marking. I believe that every well-informed student of our postal markings will readily concur in my opinion.

Your other cover shows a 3¢ 1857 postmark at New Orleans and addressed to Kentucky. Needless to state this does not make sense and to any student of packet covers this would appear rather ridiculous as outgoing mail originating at New Orleans and northward bound would certainly not have any such markings as are faked on this cover.

I note that you submitted the covers to Mr. Scruggs of Birmingham and that he returned them without comment. I have no means of knowing why he did not express an opinion regarding them but my guess would be that he considered them fraudulent, hence was not interested in acquiring them. Some students do not volunteer opinions on questionable items unless requested to do so.

I feel sure that you did not suspect either cover was bad when you offered them for sale but I do think that you might have avoided possible criticism had you had some assurance that they were genuine before you attempted to sell them.

It is most regretable that philately is plagued with so many crooks who manufacture fake covers. I see so much of this sort of thing because of the material submitted to me for my opinion. It is most disgusting and I try to do what I can to warn collectors to be careful and to have some assurance that material is genuine before they put good money in it.

Do not bother to return the 3¢ 1861 cover to me, as I note that you question my opinion that the "Steam Boat" marking is fraudulent. I might add, that a letter addressed to a town in Pennsylvania could have been brought into Nashville by a steamboat during the time the 3¢ 1861 was current but I am of the opinion that it could not have received the marking which appears on this cover.

Sincerely yours,

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I feel sure that you did not suspect either cover was bad when you offered them for sale but I do think that you might have avoided possible criticism had you had some assurance that they were genuine before you attempted to sell them.

It is most regretable that philately is plagued with so many crooks who manufacture fake covers. I see so much of this sort of thing because of the material submitted to me for my opinion. It is most disgusting and I try to do what I can to warn collectors to be careful and to have some assurance that material is genuine before they put good money in it.

Do not bother to return the 3¢ 1861 cover to me, as I note that you question my opinion that the "Steam Boat" marking is fraudulent. I might add, that a letter addressed to a town in Pennsylvania could have been brought into Nashville by a steamboat during the time the 3¢ 1861 was current but I am of the opinion that it could not have received the marking which appears on this cover.

Sincerely yours,

Oct. 21, 1954.

Mr. Gordon Bleuler,
2115 Barberry Drive,
Dallas 11, Texas.

Dear Mr. Bleuler:

May I thank you very kindly for yours of the 18th. I was pleased with your assurance that the two faked covers would be taken out of circulation. Rather than destroy them, I think they should be canceled and then forwarded to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation, New York City, to be filed for future reference.

Re - the "full sheets" of reprints which made their appearance at Richmond recently. While I have heard about these I have never seen any. Naturally I would be very much opposed to any reprints in colors that would in any way resemble the originals.

Sincerely yours,

"New Orleans & Cairo/Weekly Mail" in gray black.

"Steamer Travis" in dull purple.

New Orleans town mark in black.

Belongs to Edward B. Murphy of Fort Worth;
bought from Gordon Bender of Dallas.

Photo And Memo
By Henry Meyer

OCT -5 1954

NEW ORLEANS & CAIRO
WEEKLY MAIL

STEAMER TRAVIS



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

33-48

HAMILTON BOND

33-48

November 8, 1954.

From: Gordon Bleuler
2115 Barberry Drive
Dallas 11, Texas.

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

Dear Sir.....

Reference is made to the last letter I had from you dated Oct. 21, 1954, in which you suggested that the two fraudulent covers should be taken out of circulation, cancelled and forwarded to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation.

I have been successful in securing the return of the cover I traded to a Ft. Worth collector. I am enclosing the two covers, just for the record, and trust that you will forward them on to the proper party with the Philatelic Foundation.

I am certainly sorry this incident came about. The whole thing would have been brought to a head a couple of years ago if this fellow Scruggs had merely passed on the opinion on the covers that he had received from an expert on packet markings. I do not understand this approach, but you can bet I will be much more careful in the future.

Though I am the only one really "stuck" with these covers, I feel quite sure that the ones who sold them to me had no intent to defraud me and they were passed on in good faith.

Very truly yours,

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

Nov. 19, 1954.

Mr. Gordon Bleuler,
2115 Barberry Drive,
Dallas 11, Texas.

Dear Mr. Bleuler:

I trust that you will pardon this tardy acknowledgment of yours of the 8th enclosing the two fraudulent packet covers.

I am today forwarding them to Mrs. Louise Dale, Chairman of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation, New York City, as per copy of letter herewith.

Incidentally, Mrs. Dale is the daughter of the late Alfred Lichtenstein, one of the founders of the Foundation, and one of America's great philatelists of past years. The following is confidential.

Do you suppose these two covers might have been "fixed" by Scruggs? The reason I inquire is because I had Scruggs expelled from the A.P.S. back in the late 1930's for manufacturing fake Confederate covers and disposing of them thru 10¢ stores in Birmingham. The lettering on the two packet covers appears similar to some that he used at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 19, 1954.

Mrs. Louise B. Dale,
Chairman Expert Committee,
The Philatelic Foundation,
22 East 35th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Dale:

I am enclosing herewith two covers with fraudulent "packet markings" which speak for themselves. At my suggestion these are being presented to the Philatelic Foundation by Mr. Gordon Bleuler of 2115 Barberry Drive, Dallas 11, Texas.

You will note that I have canceled both on the face in india ink.

May I respectfully suggest that the Committee express their thanks to Mr. Bleuler for his kindness in removing these from circulation.

Sincerely yours,



THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

22 EAST 35TH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-5667

November 22nd 1954

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ASS'T TO THE CHAIRMAN

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thank you very much indeed for the copy of the letter which you have sent me regarding the "Steamer Travis" markings, which are fraudulent. This is most helpful, and I will have it filed with our reference material for future guidance.

Thank you also for ~~son~~ kindly forwarding the two covers with this fraudulent packet marking from Mr. Gordon Bleuler, to whom I have written thanking him for his gift, and for his nice gesture which will remove these covers from circulation. We are glad to have them in our reference collection, and appreciate very much your co-operation in this matter.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Louise B. Dale
Chairman.

November 22, 1954.

From: Gordon Bleuler
2115 Barberry Drive
Dallas 11, Texas.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.....

Your letter of the 19th is at hand along with the copy of your letter to Mrs. Louise B. Dale. I feel that you have expended more than your share of time and effort in connection with the two covers.

Regarding your note as to whether these two covers might have been "fixed" by Scruggs at some time in the past, I have no knowledge of this. The covers were acquired by me as previously mentioned and as far as I know the first time he saw them was when I sent them to him for inspection. The first inkling that I had that they were not genuine (and frankly they fooled me completely), was when I met this fellow Scruggs (for the first time), at the C.S.A. show in Richmond last month. I told him then that I could not understand why he had not passed on the information the previous year. When I arrived home I received the letter from you regarding the cover I had submitted, and at the same time I wrote the fellow I had traded the other cover.

Since you have mentioned the incident of expelling Scruggs from the A.P.S. some years ago, I might add that he mentioned the fact when I was in Richmond. Also, I might tell you confidentially that he is personally very, very bitter toward you as a result..... you are probably aware of this!

Very truly yours,

Gordon Bleuler

Nov. 26, 1954.

Mr. Gordon Bleuler,
2115 Barberry Drive,
Dallas 11, Texas.

Dear Bleuler:

Thanks for yours of the 22nd.

While I might be wrong I am definitely of the opinion that the two packet covers were made by Scruggs, but perhaps years ago.

I suppose I should feel quite bad if Scruggs is bitter against me. He was lucky to have escaped with only expulsion from the A.P.S. I had the case reported to the District Attorney but he didn't have time to bother. It was a clear case of using the U. S. Mail to defraud. He purchased counterfeit Confederate stamps, put them on covers, with fake postmarks and offered them under the name of "Alabama Stamps." He sent a batch of the trash to a banker out in Bradshaw, Neb., who sent them to me for my opinion. Can you imagine anyone doing such a thing? And now he is bitter against me!! Maybe he has reformed and don't do such things any more. I wonder.

Sincerely yours,

33-49

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

September 14, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

You will recall sometime back I wrote you about the Franklin Institute finding a 400 subject plate used for printing the 5¢ blue Confederate. This consists of 400 stamps in blocks of 100 each with substantial margins between. I have not been able to find any of the early history but think that this was one of the plates sent over with some of the stamps by DeLaRue. The stamps have long since been discontinued and this plate has no doubt been lying around for over eighty years, unknown to the philatelic world.

distributed

I am having some reprints made in both blue, somewhat similar to the issued stamp, and in black. I will have them cut into panes of 100 with margins on all sides but will have available some complete sheets. As I believe I informed you, these will be sold for the benefit of the Franklin Institute and monies received will be used by them in adding to their collection of stamps, which has grown to some proportions. As it is, they only have the \$5,000 fund which Jefferys left them and a good portion of this was used for making the frames.

I am writing to you as one who would have a good slant on both the dealers and the collectors. Do you think we could do better by selling only a few sheets at fancy prices or offering them on a basis that will appeal to all collectors? My present thought is to offer them retail at \$5 a pane of 100, or \$20 for the complete sheet of 400, supplying them in either blue or black, whichever is desired. In black it is especially attractive and while I have had but one sheet, which was run off for my inspection, I have seen them in the two colors and the printers have done a wonderful job. I will send you a pane of each as soon as I start to distribute them. As yet they have not been received and it will possibly be a month or so before they finish the work as they are doing it in their spare time. Of course dealers, if I can get two or three of them to handle them, should have them at about \$4 a pane of 100. We will offer none in behalf of the Institute in less than panes of 100, leaving it to the dealers to break them up and sell them in blocks, should they so desire.

Do you think my present scheme is better than some other one? It is my desire to get as much money for the Institute as possible and if we receive sufficient we will go into the market and buy some grand pieces to be added to their holdings.

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

Sept. 16, 1954.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
40 Highland Circle,
Bronxville 8, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Confidential

Some time ago Phil Ward wrote me that the Franklin
Institute of Philadelphia had come into possession of
"a" 400 subject plate "used for printing the 5¢ De La Rue."
I believe that I wrote to you at the time about it.

Here is a letter that I received from Ward today
and attached is a copy of my reply. Do you know anything
about this plate? Please return Ward's letter.

I will appreciate your comment.

With regards -

As ever,

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

September 28, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

I have your letter of the 23rd and would advise that I have just received proof sheets of the Confederate reprint in two colors and am sending you a block of four of each. I hope to have the sheets and panes very shortly.

I am having a full history written up about the finding of the plate, its present whereabouts and the reprinting of the stamps. I will have this information published in the stamp papers and will also have a little printed history to go with each pane as sold. Monies received, after payment of the printing plus expense in mailing, will go towards the Jefferys collection and will be used in enlarging the holdings of the Franklin Institute.

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

enc.

COPY

September 28, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

I have your letter of the 23rd and would advise that I have just received proof sheets of the Confederate reprint in two colors and am sending you a block of four of each. I hope to have the sheets and panes very shortly.

I am having a full history written up about the finding of the plate, its present whereabouts and the reprinting of the stamps. I will have this information published in the stamp papers and will also have a little printed history to go with each pane as sold. Monies received, after payment of the printing plus expense in mailing, will go towards the Jefferys collection and will be used in enlarging the holdings of the Franklin Institute.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Philip H. Ward, Jr.

Copy To Shenfield

33-49

Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield, Inc.
ADVERTISING

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

September 28, 1954

Confidential

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

Dear Stan:

I don't remember your writing me about Phil Ward and the plate for the De La Rue stamps, however I was much interested in Phil's letter to you. The first question that arises in my mind is whether this is an original plate, which it certainly seems to be judging by the 400 subjects on it. The counterfeit, as I remember, was only 100 subjects. Possibly this was the plate among the seized stamp material mentioned in Dietz' book.

I presume you want my comment on pricing - I think it would be better to offer them on a basis that would appeal to all collectors, something like \$10. for the complete sheet of 400 or \$3. for a plate of 100. Also, since Dietz reprinted from the two altered plates in many colors would it not be a good idea to confine this reprinting to black only which would give them the status of privately printed reprint proofs? Of course, as Phil says, the dealers could break up the sheets to singles and blocks. One thought occurs to me - would it be helpful to limit the present printing to say 1000 complete sheets and then to return the plate to exhibition? This would seem to me to make them more desirable than if they were printed ad infinitum - and then in later years a second printing could be made.

Sincerely,

Bryant

Encl.

P.S. I get your point as to the genuineness of the plate. This could be determined by comparing it with Dietz' description of the known plates in his possession. Also I would like to see a few impressions for comparison with the real stamp to make sure they were not one of the altered plates.

Oct. 4, 1954.

Mr. Lawrence L. Shenfield,
40 Highland Circle,
Bronxville 8, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Confidential

Thanks very much for yours of the 28th. I am sure that I wrote you about this plate a year or so ago. Perhaps it did not make much of an impression and you forgot about it.

I am enclosing a copy of Ward's last letter and also copy of my reply. I may have mentioned this plate to Mac a year or so ago. I do not recall whether I did or not but if you care to ask him it will be okay with me. I have not mentioned it to Mac since. I also mentioned it to Hubbell when he was here recently. I cautioned him not to mention the matter to Gus Dietz and I hope he respects my wishes. I do not know whether Ward has been in touch with Dietz.

Phil sent me two blocks of four - one in black, the other in a pale blue that is an excellent match for the London color.

You will note that Phil promised to send me the history of the plate. When this comes in you shall have a copy by air mail.

With best of wishes -

Cordially yours,

Oct. 4, 1954.

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

Dear Phil:

I have been engaged on some very important work that was urgent so this is the first opportunity I have had to reply to yours of the 28th.

So far I have not had the time to carefully examine the two blocks of four that you sent me. My reaction is this - I would strongly advise against any reprints in a blue that in any way resembled the genuine color. I believe that blocks of four in the blue could easily be sold to unsuspecting and uninformed collectors by unscrupulous dealers as originals. S.U.S. quotes \$3.50 for such a block, so this could mean a lot of small collectors could be defrauded. I think each stamp should be marked on the back with something to identify them - handstamped "Reprint" or it could be printed in small type. Phil, I am unalterably opposed to anything that might lead the crooked dealer to sell these as originals.

Re - the pricing. I believe you could sell quite a few sheets @ \$3.00 each - that is, sheets of 100. Why would anyone want a large unwieldy sheet of 400, but if they did, price them @ \$10.00. I don't think you would sell very many at a higher price. Further, I think that the printing should be limited to a certain number and assurance given that no more will ever be made. I think it would be unjust to present buyers if no assurance was given that thousands and thousands would not be printed at some future date.

As soon as you have the full panes will you please send me prints so that I can carefully study them. You can bill me for same at whatever price you decide upon.

I will await with interest further advice regarding the history of the plate.

With regards -

yours,

33-49

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

October 5, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

I sent blocks of the Confederate reprints to Raynor Hubbell and he writes me that he thinks they are the Richmond prints for one of the blocks I sent him shows the "pop eye" variety. I have never heard of this variety before, which seems to be peculiar to the Richmond printings. It has been my thought that DeLaRue made all the plates and the stamps which they printed in London we have naturally called the London print and the copies from the same plates which were produced in Richmond were called the local prints. I realize that possibly in the meantime the plates may have been subjected to some damage, giving us the "necktie" variety and the like.

I expect to have a small stock from these plates very shortly and as soon as they are received I will send you complete panes if you want them.

Sincerely yours,


PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

Oct. 7, 1954.

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

Dear Phil:

Re - yours of the 5th. Hubbell obtained his data from the Dietz catalogue of Confeds - see page 136 - You might check these varieties and see if they are present in sheets of the stamps. It would be quite a discovery if the plate is actually the one that was used by Archer & Daly in Richmond in 1862. I also suggest that you read the Dietz data on pages 133-134-135-136 of the Dietz catalogue. I really don't know if there was a duplicate plate of the one used at Richmond. It would seem to me that Gus Dietz would probably know more about the plate than any other living person. I have no use for him whatsoever and don't even speak to him. I have a well-founded opinion regarding the old rascal.

When you send me the complete panes I will check same to see if they contain the varieties that Dietz lists. I believe all are well known. As you are aware genuine full sheets of the Richmond prints exist and a friend of mine out here in Fort Thomas owns one. I will check it against the sheets you send me.

Incidentally, full sheets of the Richmond sheets are really rare - much scarcer than sheets of the London.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Western Express



News-Letter of the Western Cover Society

This Issue consists *
of 11 pages, plus *
one photo page. *

*
* Vol. IV, No. 3
* MAY-AUGUST 1954

NEW OFFICERS

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, has announced the election of the following officers of the Western Cover Society:

Mel C. Nathan -- Director and President
H. Parker Johnson -- Rocky Mountain Director and Vice President
Henry H. Clifford -- Southwestern Director and Vice President
Roy Taylor -- Director and Secretary
Henry Chaloner -- Director and Treasurer
Stanley B. Ashbrook -- Southern Area Director
Dr. A. Jay Hertz -- Eastern Area Director
Charles Meroni -- Central Area Director
Edgar B. Jessup -- Pacific Area Director

Mr. Jessup further reported that only two ballots had substitute names written in. This strongly suggests that the membership as a whole was highly pleased with the list of nominees selected by the Nominating Committee. Our thanks to Mr. Jessup and the members of his Committee!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Fellow Members:

I have just been informed that I have been elected to take over the helm of the Western Cover Society. Thank you very much for your confidence. I shall endeavor to deserve it.

The untiring efforts of Dr. Hertz in successfully directing the Society since its inception will indeed serve as an inspiration to continue the fine job that he started. I hope that our new Board of Directors will continue to have your enthusiastic support.

I expect to have a message in each of the coming issues of "Western Express" on some pertinent subject of interest to you all. Your constructive suggestions or criticisms will always be welcome.

Sincerely,

M. C. Nathan

PLEASE ADDRESS all communications intended for WESTERN EXPRESS to the Editor, Henry H. Clifford, 639 So. Spring St., Los Angeles 14, Calif. But note that advertising copy, and the payment therefor, should be sent to Henry Chaloner, 2612 Ashby Ave., Berkeley 5, Calif.; and inquiries regarding membership should be sent to Roy Taylor, 68 Post Street, San Francisco 4, California.

THE EDITOR'S PAGEThe Oregon Forgeries -- A Deplorable Fraud!

In the April Issue of WE appeared an article by Dr. Polland concerning certain forgeries of western express and other handstamps that had recently appeared on the market. Since that Issue went to press the entire matter has been brought to light, the culprit unmasked, the money refunded to those who had been duped, and the forged handstamps thoroughly destroyed. So while there has been a certain measure of wrong-righting, at the same time there remains a great deal to be disturbed about. So let's put the cards on the table, face up!

The "unkindest cut of all" was the fact that the forger was a member of Western Cover Society, and used his membership as a lever into the pocketbooks of fellow members. (How low can you get?) Furthermore, he was a "charter" member of WCS, within the first hundred who joined. Unfortunately, your Editor is not presently at liberty to mention his name without specific authority from the new officers of WCS. Perhaps that is all for the best, for we would not like to see his name perpetuated through these pages -- as was the case with Shakespeare's "Musty Christopher".

Credit for exposing these forgeries goes to Dr. Polland, Ed Payne and Howard Mader of Salem, Oregon, and Jack Schwartz of Portland, Oregon. Dr. Polland proved them spurious, and the other three did the detective work which ran down the forger and secured his confession and restitution. Ed Payne and his two Oregon friends first secured 21 handstamps from the guilty party -- their sworn and notarized statement reads as follows: "This is to certify, that the undersigned, at Salem, Oregon, on May 20, 1954, in the presence of each other, did completely destroy the twenty-one fake handstamps, which had been made in Eugene, Oregon, late in 1953. Sample impressions of these 21 forgeries are attached hereto." Those 21 handstamps appear on the photo-page which follows, which was prepared from the impressions accompanying the sworn statement. Since that photo-page was printed, the forger subsequently surrendered a handstamp of the Goleta "Kicking Mule" with the date "Aug 26 1882" -- hence it is not illustrated. It was destroyed at a Bay Area meeting of WCS members.

So much for the facts. Ed Payne's letters read like a miniature "Who Done It?" and should be written up separately, to do them justice. Now let's get down to the question of what can be done to prevent a repetition at some time in the future.

The best guide to future action is a careful and thoughtful study of what has happened in the past. There have been many forgeries, some of them very clever. The objective invariably is to "get something for nothing" by passing a fake as an original. It is safe to say that all of us have been "taken" at one time or another, with greater or lesser monetary injury, but always with great mental discomfiture.

Forged western express covers are nothing new -- witness the "Tandler" forgeries, which have placed under suspicion all the covers in the Tandler correspondence, in spite of the fact that many are genuine. Then in recent years came a group of covers with printed franks of "Spear's Express" and handstamps of "Pioneer Express" and "Dorsey & Swift". These were traced to the San Francisco Bay Area.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE (Continued)

While the Tandler forgeries were made years ago, with their origin correspondingly obscured, the question arises as to what action was taken with the more recent forgeries which emanated from the San Francisco Bay area. The answer is, unfortunately, "practically nothing" other than the restitution of the ill-gotten gains. No names were mentioned, other than by hearsay; and the guilty party lost nothing other than the cost of the handstamps and a few cheap covers, and perhaps the local loss of a little "face".

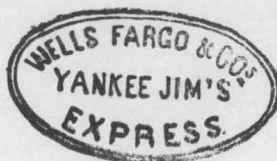
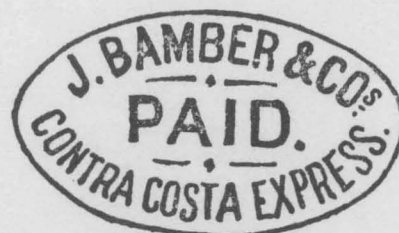
And therein, I feel, lies the solution of our problem. It is a simple solution, involving human behavior and human reactions. No one likes to admit having been duped; and no one likes to accuse another of immoral practices even when he is in possession of very strong circumstantial evidence. Furthermore, our laws have been so interpreted in recent years that one is fearful of making an accusation, lest he be sued for slander or libel. That is an unfortunate situation; but it can be overcome, with a little courage.

As regards the Oregon Forgeries, a "confession" was extracted more or less with the understanding that no names would be named, so as to protect an innocent family. Gentlemen, I submit that the same gag was pulled in the case of the Bay Area Forgeries -- another "innocent family"! Now that might solve the immediate problem; but it doesn't solve the problem which will arise next year or the year after! Somewhere along the line, some one has to be the "horrible example", or else this plague of forgers will be with us for years to come. And some one must have the "guts" to call a spade a spade, and let the chips fall where they may.

So here's my solution to the problem, and I'll back it up with all I've got. When next a forgery appears and is proved bogus, the matter will immediately be turned over to the Postal Inspectors and the F.B.I. Those organizations are not noted for their consideration of "innocent families"; but they are very considerate of innocent victims! Their impersonality also serves to protect anyone who submits a valid charge against such a forger. Remember that the laws of the United States are violated when the U. S. Mail is used to defraud people; and there are plenty of other laws which can be brought to bear if the U. S. Mail is not involved.

In the case of the forger from Eugene, Oregon, I would like to see him branded as such, simply as an example to those who might be contemplating some similar undertaking. I myself have nothing against him personally, except that he has damaged this field of interest to no small extent. I would not hesitate to name him, but for the restraint put upon me by my good friend Ed Payne. For those who might question my defense of a legal action for slander or libel, I have this to say. I happen to be a Deputy Sheriff of Los Angeles County; and I have sufficient of this world's goods to fight any legal action up to and including the Supreme Court.

MORE FORGED HANDSTAMPS FROM SAME SOURCE -- See Editorial and last issue.



Dr Pollard
Re Manson

Aug. 16, 1954.

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

Dear Doctor:

Under separate cover by air mail, I am returning to you your file of the Manson case. Unless I am mistaken this clown is more of a simple damn fool than an outright crook. Perhaps a bit on the same order as our erstwhile monkey-shine, Levy. He sure got off easy. I don't know how Western Cover Society handled Manson but if they permitted him to resign I intend to hand in my resignation. Manson tried to resign from the A. P. S. but was not permitted to do so and the last advice that I had from the A.P.S. Board was that he would be expelled as of August 5th. I think Ed Payne and his associates did a fine job in getting the goods on Manson and forcing him to confess. Too bad the same could not have been done with Levy.

I held up the return of the Manson material until after your vacation which I believe is due to expire on the 18th which is next Wednesday. I trust you had a most enjoyable time and that it did you a world of good.

Herewith I am enclosing you a print of the Pony Express cover. I had Siegel send the cover to W. R. Parker but at this writing I don't know whether Parker thought it was good or bad.

With all good wishes -

Cordially yours,

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

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

Dear Mr Ashbrook:-

7-22-54

Thanks for yours of the 20th. The Pony cover is a beauty, and I think genuine in every respect, but I am going to San Francisco tomorrow and want to do a little additional checking before returning it.

Enclosed are my Mauser letters, covers, and finally the letters from Ed Payne. Letter #1 with the covers and prices etc is self explanatory. Letter #2 was in reply to my first inquiry, as to where he had obtained this material. At this time I did not want to alarm him, and it was simply a letter asking information. Letter #3 was in reply to mine, in which I told him, that all the covers, except 2-3 cheap items, were forgeries and that I would give him \$5.00 for the lot.

MATTHEW E. HAZELTINE, M.D.
W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.
HOWARD HAMMOND JR., M.D.
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Simply to get them out of circulation,
and put them into my forgery collection.
At this time I was not certain about
his part in the picture. Because he
was a "breeding mule" specialist, I included
him in my letter about the forged
Goleta "breeding mule" he had sent me.
This was the only forgery I returned to
him. Letter #4 was in answer to my
demands that he name the individuals
who had sold these covers to him.
Letter #5 was more of the same. In
letter #4 he tells me I can keep all the
covers, except the Goleta mule, which
I sold.

It is interesting that when Ed Payne
etc. found the maker of the rubber
handstamps for Monson, he said there
were 22 different types, but Monson

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only admitted having 21. After I told
Payne about the Pickering mule, he
went after him again and secured
the 22nd, and I think ^{they} last of these
phonies.

Enclosed is a letter from Myerson
of Los Angeles with a photograph of a fake
cover from this lot, which he bought.

From what I have heard, Ed Payne
and a number of the Portland collectors
were really taken in by this fellow.
They have now obtained from him post
dated checks, and hope to get their
money back eventually.

Since I will not be back until
August 18th, take your time looking it
over and let me know what you think
of it.

Sincerely
Robert Randall

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7-22-54

Dear Mr Ashbrook :-

In my opinion this Virginia
Prize is perfectly O.K. Although used on a
demeritized envelope, and very late; probably 1864.
There is no reason why Wells Fargo would not
fulfill its obligation to the purchaser or owner
of the envelope. The U.S. government received its money
from W.F. & Co, and W.F. & Co carried it outside the
mail, and although in technical violation of
the law, Wells Fargo & Co would certainly carry
it - they were used to violating the law or
making up their own rules etc. I can find
nothing wrong with the handstamp or ink.
Although too pretty to believe genuine, I
can find no fault with it. Of course the
Good Hill W.F. & Co office did not have this
envelope on hand at the time of its use; this
envelope was brought to their office by someone
who had purchased it prior to 1864.

There is only one folder that could

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have made a cover like this and that
was Parker Lyon, who had a lot of
the original W.L. Co handstamps - 81 I
believe. I don't know if he had the Good Hill
N.T. handstamp. However, the ink on this
cover looks O.K. to me and I don't think
I have ever seen a perfect imitation of
this ink.

At any rate I would be willing to
purchase this cover. By any chance is
it for sale?

Kindest regards, and thanks for letting
me see this pretty and unusual stamp.

Sincerely
Wm. Polland

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7-17-54

Dear Mr Ashbrook-

Many thanks for yours of the 15th. I am just as enthusiastic as ever, but find interesting or unusual material very scarce these days.

I thought your Ocean Mail article excellent. Edgar certainly has the material.

I have all of the correspondence, plus all but one of the fake covers, that Manson tried to sell me. However, in all of the letters he vigorously denies that he was the creator of these fakes. In fact, in one letter he refers to another person, also a faker, as having created these items. Ed Payne of Salem Oregon and his two associates, who found the manufactures of the handstamps, had later got a full confession out of Manson, have the real evidence, which should be used in forcing the A.P.S. to act. If

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You would like to see my correspondence
and fake covers, I would be glad to send
them to you.

As regards Mr X of your
July 1st Service, it is always a matter
of personal judgement in matters of this
kind. Apparently the "Bonds" such as
we set up in our various Philatelic
organizations are very reluctant to act
in such matters. I don't know why, but
I suspect that it is either fear of libel
suits, or a sort of feeling that we should
not wash our "dirty linen" too often, or
it will hurt the commercial aspects of
our hobby. I have found practically
all dealers and auction houses, at times,
consciously or unconsciously trying
to sell an occasional, obvious fake.
I have seen an occasional fake in practically
every outstanding collection I have examined.

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including the Weltsch, Jessup etc.
These of course were not recognised by
the owners and sometimes the item was
a very much prized and expensive one.
I often ^{remember} how many Western fronts may
have been manufactured, say 60-70 years
ago and which are prized rarities today.

I saw Ed last Thursday night when
my friend Barnett Hinder exhibited his
collection in Oakland. Ed says he has
been too busy to do much about his collection.

I will be on my vacation from
July 18th - Aug 18th.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,
W. Scott Polland

July 20, 1954.

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

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for yours of the 17th. I do appreciate your remarks re - Manson and I would like to see your file and evidence, and if possible obtain your permission to microfilm same with the idea in mind that if necessary I could show the evidence to the A.P.S. Board. I doubt very much if this will be necessary because I believe they will expell him "for conduct unbecoming a member."

I believe that Boards of philatelic organizations are reluctant to be too drastic for fear of a libel suit. Any louse can bring such a suit and it costs money and time to defend. I suppose they think it is better to take the easiest way. I doubt if the mere expulsion of a member does much good. Few ever hear of it and I suppose a crook can operate just as well "out" as "in."

Yes, I too wonder how many Western Franks were made half a century ago.

I believe your good friend Barrett Hinde collects unused U. S., including 19th Century. My Oh My - not for me. He should have a peek at my files. I may be 100% wrong but I figure that anyone who would collect 19th U.S. prior to 1860 in mint or unused condition would have to believe in Santa Claus.

I note you will be on vacation from July 28 to August 18th. I trust you have a most enjoyable rest.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Western Express

News-Letter of the Western Cover Society



This Issue consists *
of 9 pages, plus *
2 photo pages. *

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

*
* Vol. IV, No. 2
* FEB.-APRIL 1954
* *****

OF EXPRESS FRANKS AND HANDSTAMPS: Since the last issue, Pep Thorp and I have exchanged some 30 pages of letters regarding his new catalog, which should be published shortly. While I was able to add a few franks to the several hundred he has illustrated, time did not permit the gathering of additional material from the foremost collectors of express material on the Pacific Coast. So it was deemed best to proceed with that catalog without further delay -- subsequent additions can always be made through the pages of WE. The actual publication of that catalog is now eagerly awaited. It will definitely be a "must" for every collector of western material -- so get your orders in early to Prescott Thorp, Netcong, New Jersey.

I found the above correspondence most interesting for a variety of reasons. Chief among them was the simple question of what to collect and why, for there seems to be some difference of opinion. Envelope collectors apparently feel that the addition of a printed frank makes for a different envelope variety; and they will pass up a printed frank on a stampless cover. Furthermore, they seem to have little interest in express handstamps, and tend to regard them in much the same light as postal markings.

Of course I can speak for myself only, by way of rebuttal. But I am interested in ALL express markings, regardless of what envelope they appear on; nor do I particularly care whether they appear on stampless covers, or on plain covers with adhesives. I welcome varieties of markings and varieties of color; but I don't particularly care if "Type 1" (in red) appears on white paper, or buff paper, or on blue paper. It seems to me that it is simply a question of what you are collecting -- envelopes or express markings, or you can have two collections and collect both. But to COMBINE the two -- that way lies madness. In stating my views, I am well aware that it is differences of opinion that cause horse races.

OF WCS DUES: I am deeply touched and gratified by your response to my challenge for \$5.00 annual dues. Only a handful have resigned; and most of those state that they have little or no interest in western covers. So it appears that we have lost no members who are really interested. While on the subject of dues, please note the following:

Hereafter, and until further notice, regular dues will be \$5.00 per annum -- and that entitles the member to ONE subscription to WE. EXTRA subscriptions to WE will be at the rate of \$2.50 each. The same rate of \$2.50 will apply to INSTITUTIONAL subscriptions, such as libraries, historical societies and the like. Note in passing: any member GIVING such subscriptions can deduct them for income tax purposes, assuming only that those institutions meet the necessary requirements of the Int. Rev. Bureau.

PLEASE ADDRESS all communications intended for WESTERN EXPRESS to the Editor, Henry H. Clifford, 639 So. Spring St., Los Angeles 14, Calif. But note that advertising copy, and the payment therefor, should be sent to Henry Chaloner, 2612 Ashby Ave., Berkeley 5, Calif.; and inquiries regarding membership should be sent to H. Parker Johnson, 1330 North 12th St., Grand Junction, Colorado.

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

SPOTLIGHT

The Salt Lake City Stamp Club has elected Nyal Anderson as president and La Mar Peterson as Secretary. Both are members of W C S. Congratulations and best wishes.

Collectors Club of Seattle: Seattle seems to be an enthusiastic stamp town. A unique and very active organization is the Collectors Club which combines 10 separate stamp clubs into one central organization complete with Club rooms and library. Their schedule of events could well be the envy of any city. Included among the clubs is the Washington Postal History Society, which is active in early day postal research. Dean Bartley (WCS #92) is the executive secretary.

Parker Johnson's Colorado collection took Grand Award at the Detroit show. Parker has also been elected President of the Grand Junction Rotary Club. The Rotary International celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 1955 and there is a commemorative stamp contemplated honoring the event.

John O. Theobald (WCS # 161) won the Grand Award at the Phoenix Philatelic Association Exhibit, January 16-17, held at Phoenix, Arizona. He exhibited Postal History of Arizona, and his collection of Wells Fargo and Arizona Territorial Postmarks.

A P S Convention News

The official prospectus of the A P S Convention and Exhibit to be held in San Francisco September 15 - 18 is available for distribution. Frame fee will be \$6.50; frames to accommodate 20 album pages each with a limit of 2 frames per exhibitor.

As to awards to be made available for the Western Cover Section, we are happy to inform you that three of our members have generously furnished awards personally. Mr. Edgar B. Jessup is furnishing the Grand Award for the section, and it is rumored that this award will be really something to strive for. Mel Nathan is offering a special award for Ghost Town exhibits and Dr. W. Scott Pollard an award for Research. Our thanks are extended to these members. Several other members have contributed more than their share to the Club award fund, specifically Mel Nathan and L. H. Barkhausen; and your chairman expresses his appreciation for the contributions. The total funds available now amount to \$39.00. We cannot hope to obtain suitable awards for less than \$10 each and it was hoped that the Club would offer an Honor Award and four 1st awards. Thus we have not met our budget as yet. If you intend to subscribe a buck to this fund, won't you please send it now to H. Parker Johnson, 1330 No. 12th St., Grand Junction, Colo.

We hope you will plan to exhibit and that we may meet one another in person in September.

H. PARKER JOHNSON, Secretary.

THE 1866 AMENDMENT TO THE POSTAL LAWS

By ED. S. McCONNELL

Some months ago "Western Express" carried my inquiry as to the date of and the authority for the discontinuance of additional postage for forwarding a letter. Subsequently, the same inquiry was published in Harry Konwiser's column in "Stamps"; and that latter inquiry brought forth three correct answers -- from Maurice C. Blake of Brookline, Mass., (co-author of "Boston Postal Markings") from John Gemmill of Yorktown Heights, N. Y., and from Stephen C. Lyon of Providence, R.I. Mr. Lyon loaned me a copy of the Act of June 12, 1866, effective July 1, 1866; and pertinent sections of that Act are quoted below.

"AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS
Relating to
THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
Together with
INSTRUCTIONS PREDICATED THEREON BY THE
POSTMASTER GENERAL FOR THE
GOVERNMENT OF POSTMASTERS.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE POSTAL LAWS.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, from and after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, prepaid and free letters shall be forwarded, at the request of the party addressed, from one post office to another without additional postage charge; and returned dead letters shall be restored to the writers thereof free of postage.

"SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the tenth section of the act entitled 'An act to establish salaries for postmasters, and for other purposes', approved July one, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and so much of the twenty-eighth section of the act entitled 'An act to amend the laws relating to the Post Office Department,' approved March 3, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, as requires postage to be charged at the prepaid rate, to be collected on the return delivery of letters, indorsed with a request for their return to the writers, be, and the same are hereby, repealed; and all letters bearing such indorsement shall hereafter be returned to the writers thereof without additional postage charge."

"Approved June 12, 1866."

"Sections 1 and 2 of the foregoing act make important changes in existing laws and regulations, and greatly simplify the work of mailing and forwarding letters.

"No postage is to be charged on letters forwarded from one office to another, or on dead letters returned to the writers, and, consequently, no account of them is to be kept. *****"

"'Request Letters' (described in the regulations of 1866, sections 394 to 399) are also to be restored to the writers free of postage.*****"

RITCHERDSON'S MISSOURI EXPRESS

by C. CORWITH WAGNER

The first mention of this express that I have been able to find appears in the Missouri Republican of March 8, 1953, in the form of an advertisement. The advertisement reads:

SPRING AND SUMMER ARRANGEMENT,
Ritchardson's Daily Express, St. Louis and Alton.

ON AND AFTER MONDAY, February 28th, the above Express will leave St. Louis daily, at 4 P.M. under the immediate charge of J. F. Ritchardson. Packages, Parcels and Bundles of Goods - Bank notes, Specie, &c conveyed; Notes, Drafts, and Accounts collected or paid promptly. Goods or Produce bought or sold, and a general express and commission business transacted.

Fast freight line to Carlinville, Springfield and all points on the line of the Alton and Sangamon Railroad and points beyond daily. Packages, parcels and light freight forwarded in twenty-four hours in advance of the usual way. The attention of Merchants and forwarders is requested to this arrangement.

JOSEPH F. RITCHARDSON, Office on the Altona
Feb 25 DTF and at the Alton R.R. Wharfboat.

This advertisement no doubt appeared on February 25th or the day after (1853) - but I have not seen it. On December 19th 1854 of the same paper there was an advertisement that he was operating between St. Louis & Alton (Ills) going in the afternoon on the steamer REINDEER and returning the following morning. On May 6th 1855 in the same paper a notice appeared that the EXPRESS had been expanded and that a DAILY EXPRESS between St. Louis and Belleville (Ills) had been started.

On September 27th 1855 (Missouri Republican) announcement is made that RITCHERDSON'S MISSOURI RIVER EXPRESS will leave that day on the passenger packet POLAR STAR for St. Joseph and all points below.

In the Missouri Republican - October 4, 1855 appeared a news item which reads as follows:

Richerdson's Express for St. Joseph, Weston, Kansas, Lexington, Glasgow, Boonville, Jefferson City, and all the intermediate points and landings, will leave this day on that new and favorite through boat, "Star of the West". They receive up to quarter of 4 P.M. Send in packages and boxes and they will be put through O.K.

On October 12, 1855 a long news item appeared in which the statement was made that a "Joint Stock Company" was being started - to have a capital of \$30,000 - in shares of \$50 each. Subscription was invited.

Up to this point he had been operating by packet boat. On December 25, 1855 an advertisement appeared that RITCHERDSON'S MISSOURI EXPRESS via Pacific Railroad daily to and from St. Louis, Cheltenham, Kirkwood, Meramac, Allenton, Franklin, Grey's Summit, Labadie, South Point, Washington, Miller's Landing and Hermann (all towns in Missouri, within 75 miles of St. Louis) BY passenger trains. Freights of every description carried at lowest rates. Money, packages, parcels and bundles particularly attended to. Collections made and returned in quickest possible time.

Express leaves St. Louis every morning at 8. Returning leaves Hermann at 2:20 P.M. Each express in charge of a special messenger, provided with a good iron safe.

(RITCHERDSON'S MISSOURI EXPRESS - by C. Corwith Wagner - continued)

Office, No. 12 Main Street, St. Louis.

On January 5th 1856 a news item appeared to the effect that RITCHERDSON'S EXPRESS had held a meeting and elected seven directors to serve during 1856 in Ritcherdson's Missouri Express Company (directors named): that Mr. Ritcherdson was chosen President etc etc etc.

The last mention - that I have found - of this express appears in the April 28th 1857 issue of the Missouri Republican.

Apparently this Express did not handle mail (letters) but limited its activities to the conveyance of packages, specie, bank notes, parcels, bundles and merchandise. It was listed only once in the St. Louis Directories - that of 1857. I have noted that its envelopes had an embossed corner card - one which within recent months brought a very fancy price. I am sure that it never carried mail - had no "Frank" and did not operate outside of Missouri - except it stopped at Alton Ills. in its early days.

If this express did not handle any mail, has it any place or right to be - on a list of western expresses that did handle mail ?? In my opinion it has not. I might add that I have a hand bill of this express advertising a trip to be made on the steamer J. H. Lucas.

Regarding the spelling of the name "Ritcherdson". The name is spelled with an E on the hand bill that I own and so appears in the St. Louis City Directory for 1857. I believe that to be the correct spelling. As I recall, the only time that the name was spelled "Ritchardson" was in the first advertisement (the 1st that I have seen) that was printed in the March 8th issue of the Missouri Republican. I expect it was a printer's error as the common and usual way to spell Richardson is with an a not with an e.

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS OF WCS -- Continued from January 1954 Issue

- 248 - Albert V. Phillips, 13,217 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Inglewood Ave., Hawthorne, Calif.
- 249 --James Turner, 2171 Maplevlew Drive, Seven Hills, Cleveland 9, Ohio.
- 250 - John H. Smith, 320 Washington Street, Providence, R.I.
- 251 - M. C. Nathan (Jr.), 519 California St., San Francisco 4, Calif.

(Editor's note: FOUR new members at the INCREASED rate of dues does not suggest that we are being exorbitant by any means. Besides, these four are equivalent in dollars to ten at the old rate; and at the higher rate, we are quite certain that they will make a greater contribution in INTEREST.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS -- New Addresses Shown

- Douglas M. Perham, Historic Properties Inc., New Almaden, Calif.
- Harold Longfellow, P. O.Box 161, Sedona, Arizona.
- J. A. Leermakers, 350 Allen's Creek Road, Rochester 18, N. Y.
- Walter N. Frickstad, 5548 Carlton St., Oakland 18, Calif.
- Charles F. Meroni, 828 South Broadway, Park Ridge, Ill.
- Joseph J. Cavagnol, 17-A Haynes Ave., Mathies Manor, Chicopee Falls, Mass.
- Howard A. Mader, 633 Brenner, Salem, Oregon.
- Robert Beale, 405 Central Tower, 703 Market St., San Francisco 3, Calif.

RESIGNATIONS -- Regret to report the following:

128 - Kanaga	112 - Livingston	80 - Hoffman
157 - Altman	160 - Bulger	120 - Alpers
146 - Biglow	59 - Stine	233 - Rhein
177 - Coops	81 - Eberstadt	78 - Reaugh
171 - Galleher	135 - Powers	119 - Butler

* * * * *

NEW APPLICATION BLANKS AVAILABLE

Our genial and long-suffering Henry CHALONER has prepared application blanks for new or old members. By this time you have probably received a copy or two. Keep them handy, and use them lavishly in getting new members. In case you run out of application blanks, just ask Henry Chaloner for more; or simply get the applicant's check for \$5.00 and send it (plus name and address) to Mr. Chaloner. Up to date, there has been no ruling on the \$1.00 initiation fee; but in view of the increased dues, your Editor has suggested waiving that extra buck, and has received no adverse comment to date.

* * * * *

WCS NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

There seems to be a continuing interest shown in a new WCS Roster, which would list all the members and show each one's collecting specialties. Unfortunately, there seems to be some difference of opinion concerning its contents and format; and that is what is holding up publication. Also contributing to the delay is the fact that necessary data is lacking from most of our newer members, and some of the older ones.

Regarding the Roster's contents, it certainly should include name, address, and WCS number. It would also be desirable to include each member's particular western specialty, such as express or postal routes or ghost towns, etc. It can probably be taken for granted that ALL WCS members have SOME interest in EVERY phase of western postal history -- hence only the prime specialty of each member should be listed. And don't bother noting the fact that some member collects Tibet -- that will appear in the annual roster of the A.P.S., and has no place in our roster.

Regarding the roster's format, there are two schools of thought. First is another small volume, either identical or very similar to the one Henry Chaloner published a couple of years ago -- the advantage to the small size is primarily that members can slip it in the pocket when taking trips. Second is a letter-size job, same size as WE, and which could be published as a supplement to some issue of WE -- perhaps that could become an annual roster, published each year after the new officers are installed. With these thoughts in mind, your Editor happily leaves the final decisions up to the new officers, and washes his hands of the entire matter.

And speaking of new officers, there are rumors to the effect that Ed JESSUP, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, has finally rounded up a good slate. So we should shortly have an opportunity of voting for them. Apropos of which, a post card has just arrived from Prexy Jay HERTZ, saying that he is eagerly awaiting his relief, and stating that he hopes the new prexy is a Westerner.

FORGERIES OF HANDSTAMPS OF WESTERN FRANKS

By W. SCOTT POLLAND (W. C. S. 31)

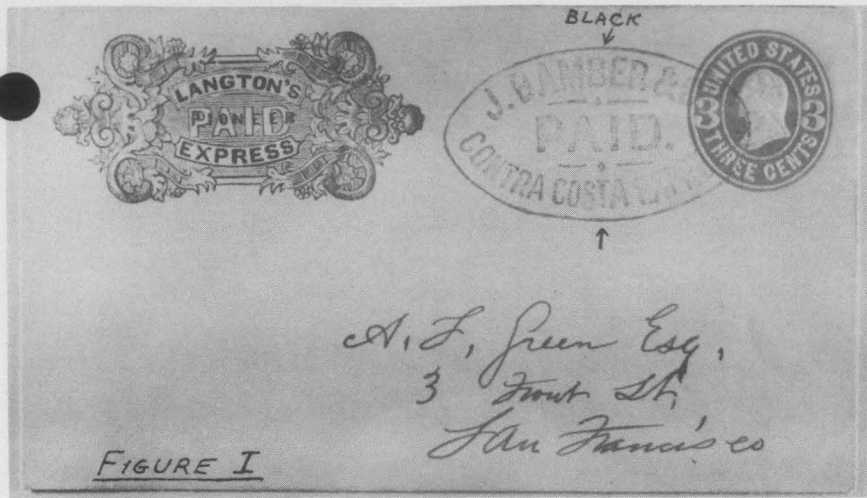
Recently I have been offered for sale a group of covers with forged handstamps of well-known to semi-rare western expresses. All of these had certain characteristics in common, which when once recognized, makes identification easy. The chief characteristics are as follows:

1. The impressions were those obtained by rubber handstamps in that the ink was lightly and evenly applied to the paper. The fibers of the paper were rarely broken and the penetration of the ink into the paper was slight.

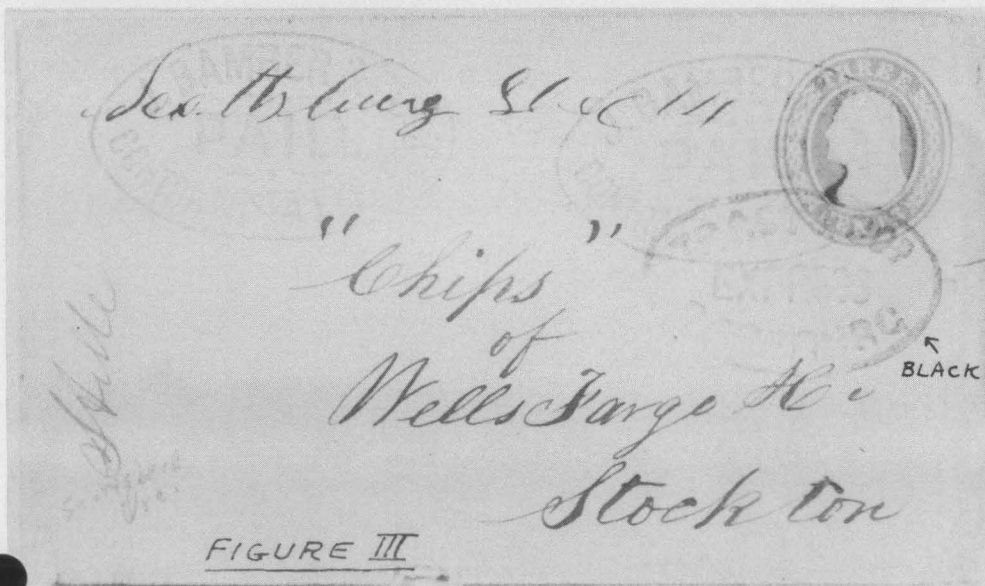
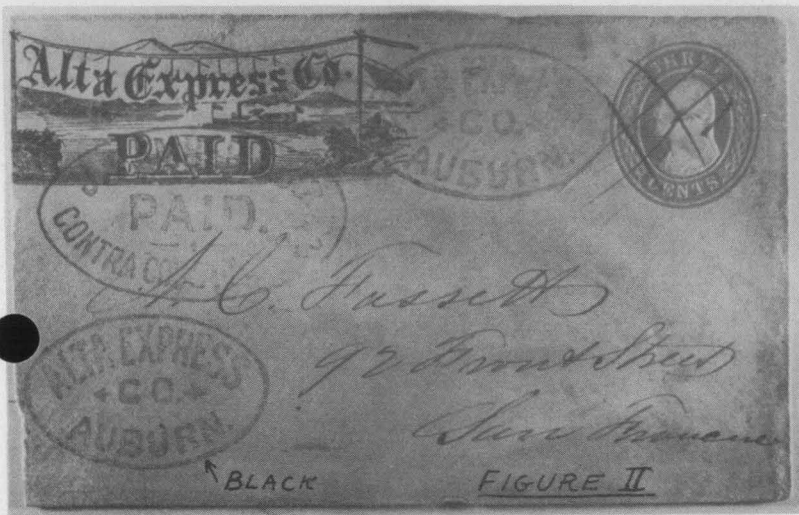
2. The ink looked modern, the shades were bright, light and showed no evidence of change due to age. Under ultra violet light, the inks of all handstamps, regardless of company, fluoresced alike.

3. The faker of these handstamps did not make them from originals, but copied the illustrations from the well-known book "19th Century United States Fancy Cancellations" by Herst-Zareski. This is true of all the forgeries except one, that I have seen. Since the handstamps are exact images of the illustrations in the book, it is possible to identify them by the book. The following handstamps copied from the illustrations have been seen by me:-

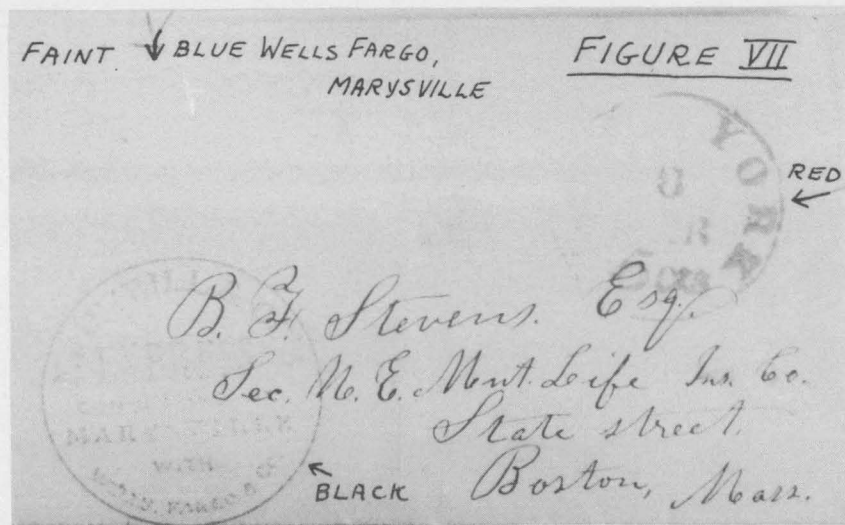
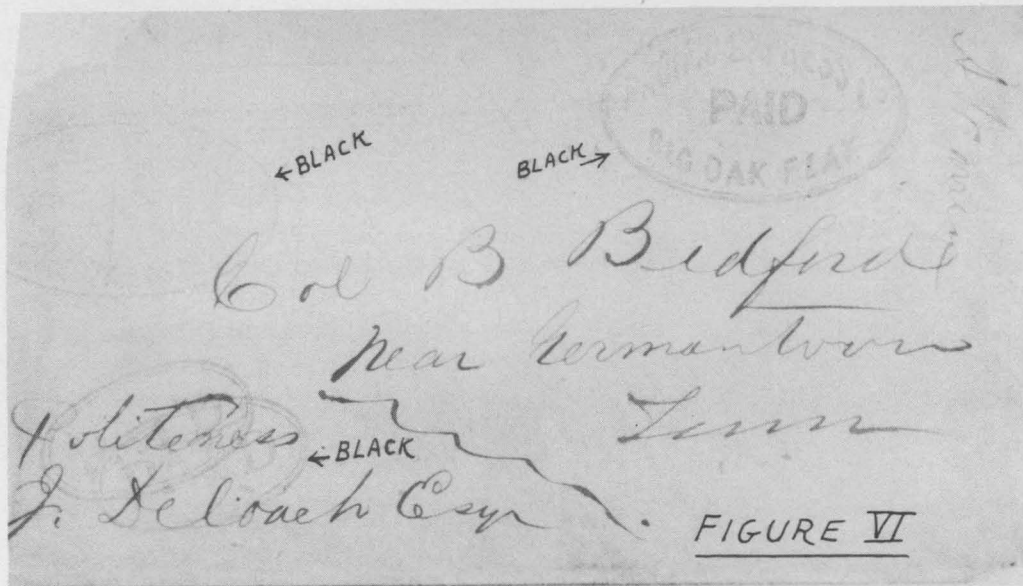
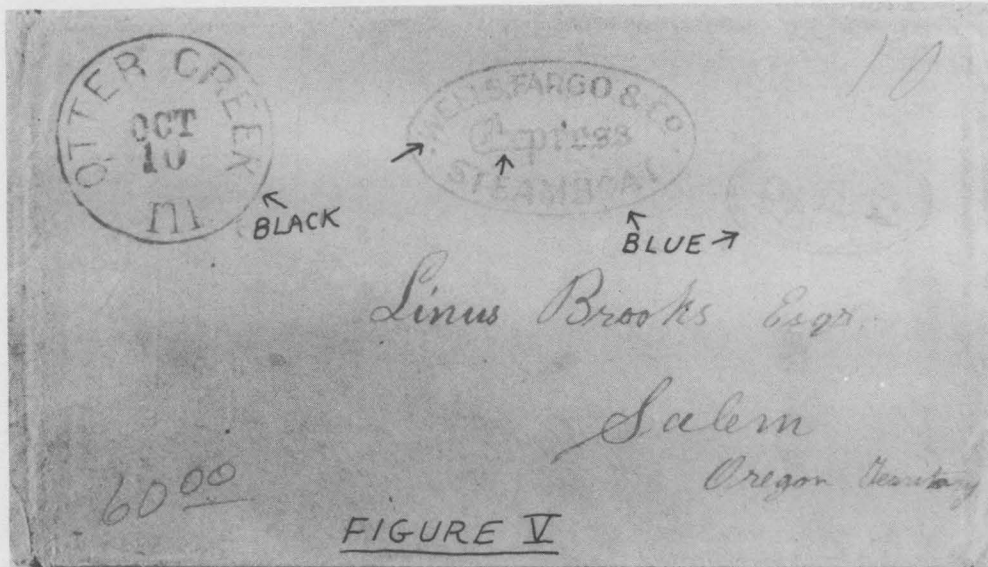
- A. J. BAMBER & CO. PAID, CONTRA COSTA EXPRESS, Page 3, Illustration #31-see figures 1, 2, & 3. The forgery like the illustration in the book has a constant defect in that the T of Costa is slightly elevated and out of line. The lines under Paid are shorter and thicker than the normal. See Figure 4.
- B. ALTA EXPRESS CO. AUBURN Pg. 109, illustration #26. See Figure 2.
- C. TRACY & CO. EXPRESS, ROSEBURG. This is the only handstamp not illustrated in the book and apparently was made from another source. See Figure 3.
- D. WELLS FARGO & CO. EXPRESS, STEAMBOAT. Pg. 107, Illustration #8. See Figure 5. Note the defect in the E of Express. The letters of Express are also crowded together measuring about 22 mm. instead of about 24 mm. The W of Wells is diagonal instead of being almost horizontal.
- E. PACIFIC EXPRESS SS. CO, PAID, BIG OAK FLAT Pg. 113, illustration #44. See Figure 6. This is a miniature of the real handstamp, in that it measures 40 x 26 mm, instead of about 51 x 31 mm. of the normal.
- F. WELLS FARGO & CO., EXPRESS, SACRAMENTO Page 107, illustration #7. See figure 6.
- G. PAID IN OVAL Page 103, illustration #199. See figures 5, and 6. Note how the letters of PAID are out of line.
- H. WELLS FARGO & CO., MARYSVILLE, EXPRESS Page 107, ILLUSTRATION #3. See figure 7. The strike is very faint, but the letters of Marysville are about 1/2 mm. shorter than the normal.



FORGERIES: 1954
See accompanying article



FORGERIES: 1954
See accompanying article



GOOD NEWS IN THE WAY OF SPONSORS! The economic soothsayers have missed the boat again! (At least so far as WCS is concerned!) Two (2) contributions have come in; and both were entirely unsolicited, which makes them doubly gratifying. New member Bruce M. GANEK sent in \$20.00 as a "small contribution toward WE's success"; and John A. FOX gave \$75.00 by way of sponsoring some of these issues. With such enthusiastic backing, we look forward to a most prosperous year. Many, many thanks to you both!

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND PERSONALS

Henry CHALONER spent a busy afternoon with your Editor in February, exchanging ideas regarding WCS, and looking over your Editor's collection, such as it is. In spite of a considerable rainfall that afternoon, we had a most enjoyable time. Since that visit, our genial Treasurer reports he has been given a nice territorial -- addressed to Lewiston, M.T., with a Virginia City, I.T., cancel Sept. 25, and a straight-line Boise City, I.T., Oct. 3, 1864. (Oh to have friends who give such gifts!) A more recent letter states that he has gotten 5 more nice territorials, and one early Los Angeles strike on a cover from L.A. to San Francisco.

Willis H. KERR has volunteered to help prepare an index of articles on western express companies. He has complete files of the "American Philatelist" since 1922, the "Collectors Club Philatelist" complete from the beginning, and the "Stamp Specialist". Your Editor suggested that he start with the Collectors Club Philatelist, and that he index all articles pertaining to western subjects, whether express or not. Now who will tackle the job of indexing those other publications? Remember that you don't have to take on the entire publication -- only a few years at a time will get the job under way; and gaps can be filled in at a later date.

William O. BILDEN writes two letters containing much food for thought. First, he takes a dim view of the usual run of trophies, which often are useless dust-catchers. He would prefer ribbons, which mean just as much -- and the cup money could be used to better advantage elsewhere, he thinks, such as reprinting worthwhile articles long out of print. Second, Mr. Bilden has taken the bull by the horns and persuaded Mr. Guest of the A.P.S. to handle the sale of any covers our members might wish to sell -- see separate paragraph on this page. Third, see the following paragraph.

Mr. BILDEN also poses a question. He has a Virginia City Pony Express cover in his collection. It was sent from Gold Hill, Utah Terr., to Folson and bears the handstamps of both of these points. However, it also bears several strikes of the blue oval "Wells Fargo & Co's Express Prairie City". So far he has been unable to find out where Prairie City was located, or why that handstamp should have been applied. If any member can answer this, please write directly to Mr. Bilden, preferably with a carbon copy to your Editor for his edification.

A SALES DEPARTMENT FOR WCS THROUGH THE A.P.S.

Member William O. BILDEN has made arrangements for the sale of covers through the A.P.S. Sales Department, handled by Mr. J. E. Guest, 505 North Ervay St., Dallas 1, Texas. This is a most logical arrangement, since WCS is a unit of the A.P.S. Upon inquiry, Mr. Guest will send books in which to mount your duplicate covers -- there is probably a nominal charge for the books. Mr. Bilden believes that the commission charged on sales is 15%. As soon as enough books are entered, Mr. Guest will establish circuits of WCS members to receive the books in rotation.

 * G E N E R A L S T O R E *

 Rates are two cents per word per insertion, with a minimum charge of 50 cents. Send payment with copy -- unused 3¢ commems acceptable. Mail direct to the Treasurer, Henry Chaloner, 2612 Ashby Ave., Berkeley 5, California.

I will buy, sell, or exchange express and Territorial covers from Idaho, Montana, Wyoming. Lynn Crandell, Box 687, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

 WANTED: Covers from Utah, Idaho, Nevada, prior to 1890. Will pay \$50. for 1851 Straight Line Salt Lake City cover. Will buy, sell, or exchange the above. LaMar Peterson, 2159 Green St., Salt Lake City, Utah.

 WANTED: Immediate cash by return mail for common to rare California P.O. covers, 1849 to 1895; or any Western Express Cover. Extra pay when markings are clear. Especially want used pictorial letter sheets. Will exchange. W.R. Parker, 1460 Montgomery St., Oroville 41, California.

WESTERN COVERS WANTED: Expresses, Territorial, Ships, Packets, Postmarks, Covers of all types during the 1845-70 period. Letter sheets and other collateral material also desired. We can supply Western material for the collector who is first beginning to accumulate Western covers, and we can add rare and choice items to enhance the albums of a well known collection, anything from a ghost town cover to a cover of a little known express or a rare Pony Express cover. Write and let us know your wants or ask for our auction catalogs which often contain fine Western items.

John A. Fox,
 173 Tulip Avenue,
 Floral Park, New York.

RECENT ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

"Western Wayfaring" -- Routes of Exploration and Trade in The American Southwest -- by J. Gregg Layne -- edition limited to 1500 copies. Order direct from WESTWAYS, 2601 So. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 54, Calif. Price \$3.50 if ordered before May 1st; \$4.50 thereafter. Illustrated with 28 maps showing various routes, including Butterfield Mail, Pony Express, etc. Thanks to Ben MYERSON for calling this to our attention.

"Holladay's Overland Mail" -- by Alma McLING -- in "Covers", March 1954.

"McGreely's Express Alaska" -- by Joseph J. CAVAGNOL -- in "Stamps", February 20, 1954.

"Pacific Express Company Alaska" -- by Joseph J. CAVAGNOL -- in "Stamps", March 6, 1954.

"Western Expresses and Franks" -- by George B. SLOANE -- in "Stamps", February 27, 1954.

"Early Arizona Mail" -- by Harry M. KONWISER -- in "Stamps", March 13, 1954.

"The Port Townsend Kicking Mule" -- by H. H. PARKER -- in "The American Philatelist", April 1954.

"Old Traverse des Sioux" -- by Lorin C. WARG -- in "Stamps", Feb. 6, 1954.

33-51

BETTMAN
4018 BEECHWOOD AVENUE
CINCINNATI 29, OHIO

October 3, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

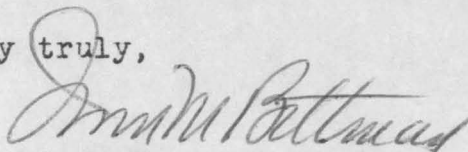
I am taking the liberty of enclosing for your inspection a used block of the American Bank Note printing of the ten cent denomination. I would very much appreciate having, at your convenience, your opinion of this block.

The block is described as being a mixed block (Scott #187 and 188), some with and some without the secret mark. After my most careful study, I cannot agree with this description, but I would prefer your conclusion.

I shall of course be glad to make prompt payment for your trouble if you will advise me of the amount.

Accept my thanks and sincere appreciation.

Very truly,



Irvin M. Bettman

33-51



283

Oct. 5, 1954.

Mr. Irvin M. Bettman,
4018 Beechwood Ave.,
Cincinnati 29, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Bettman:

Herewith the block of ten of the U.S. 10¢ 1879. I believe that if you will put a strong glass on the two bottom stamps, you will see a faint trace on both of the "secret mark." The top stamp to left apparently shows little trace, if any.

Several theories have been advanced to account for the fact that stamps from two 10¢ plates show some stamps with the mark and some without, and the two varieties are found side-by-side. Some stamps even show parts of the mark, for example, a half of it, etc. Naturally the best of combinations come from what might be called "early impressions." I would class your block as a late impression which accounts for the faintness of the mark in the two bottom stamps. I believe that it is advisable to obtain early prints, if one wishes to show a combination of 187 and 188 in a pair, strip or block, though I appreciate the fact that a block might be difficult to locate. In fact, a block that plainly shows the combination is quite a rarity.

A theory that seems plausible to me is that Plates 302 and 303 were originally entered with a transfer roll that had the "secret mark." As these plates became worn, a number of the positions were re-entered with a National roller, that is, a roller with reliefs which did not have the mark. Of course, we can advance other and similar theories that seem to be just as plausible.

Herewith I am enclosing a H.S. of 3 from my reference collection which you can return to me in the stamped envelope herewith. I believe you will find these stamps to be as follows: Stamp to left, very faint trace - middle stamp does show the mark - stamp to right, shows a faint mark, or perhaps the left half of the marking.

My fee for this examination is \$2.50 plus return registration or \$2.83.

Sincerely yours,

TRACY W. SIMPSON
66 ALVARADO ROAD
BERKELEY 5, CALIFORNIA

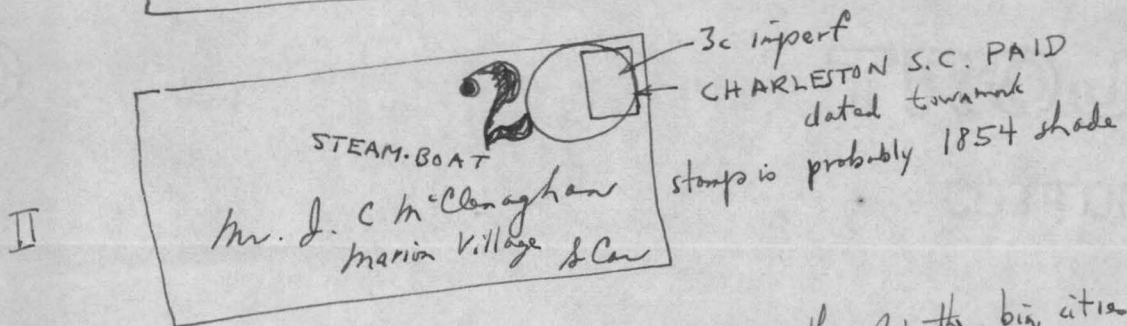
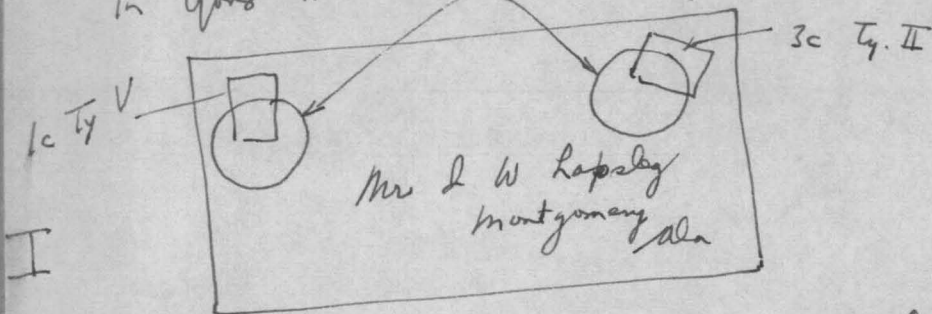
Sept. 30, 1954

Dear Stanley

We surely missed you at APS in San Francisco. You would have enjoyed the fine things shown. Too bad about the robbery, though. I know the exhibitor and he is disconsolate even though he had good insurance coverage.

I picked up at Bourse tables a couple of items in your like

Both regular circular SELMA Ala 3 PAID dated townmark



I figure I is a prepaid WAY. Even though the big cities did not add the 1c to the amount that addressee paid, perhaps smaller places still did so — or the sender thought they did, so prepaid it.

II Looks like a collect ship fee but marked STEAM-BOAT instead. It is the well known Charleston STEAM-BOAT.

H. Parker Johnson showed his CORAVILLE K.T. cover at the exhibit. It has two 1c Ty V (one stamp removed from strip of 3). The stamps are tied + the townmark also appears again on the cover. (over)

^{Cover}
The Auraria K. T. in the Fox auction brought \$650⁰⁰ !!
The Leavenworth City + Pike Park (Lot 208) brought \$500⁰⁰.

I picked up a sleeper 3c '57 on cover with MOUNT
VERNON N. T. townmark - condition superb. That townmark
is not listed in the Chase-Cabeen Nebraska list of known
markings, although the town itself is listed.

I hope all's well with you + Mrs. Ashbrook. We
missed you both.

Sincerely yours
Tracy

33-52

Oct. 5, 1954.

Mr. Tracy W. Simpson,
66 Alvarado Road,
Berkeley 5, Calif.

Dear Tracy:

Yesterday I mailed you a copy of a letter that I wrote to Gordon Bleuler of Dallas, Tex. regarding a fake Steamboat cover, which I was informed you had examined. There is no question but what the cover is a fake. It is my opinion that Bleuler is okay and that he thought the cover was genuine. We will see, perhaps.

Thanks very much for yours of the 30th. I have records of covers into Montgomery, Ala. with 3¢ + 1¢ - prepaid Way, dated Mobile and New Orleans but I had no record of a Prepaid Way into Selma. Both towns are on the Alabama River, and Selma is west of Montgomery. I judge this was carried into Selma and mailed at that office, as a prepaid "WAY." I believe a "Way" letter could have been carried into most any P.O. as per the law and regulations of the periods. The P.L. & R.'s never gave any hint that such Service applied to certain offices, but rather to all. Why not? I believe that Perry holds some different belief. Further, I believe that the mail carrier could have traveled by horse, stage, boat, train or any mode of conveyance. Because there was such a large volume of "Way" mail brought into New Orleans, the "Way" fee was discontinued there as of Jan. 1, 1852 as I recall.

Re - your Charleston cover. This was a steamboat cover into Charleston - a fee of 2¢ was paid the captain, hence was due from the addressee. I probably have a photograph of this same cover as it was in the Shenfield collection years ago. The address is the same - the date on my photo print is "JUL 12." This Charleston "2" is well known even on Confederate covers. Henry Meyer has a cover with a 3¢ '57 with this "2," the stamp tied by the S.L. "Steamboat" - no postmark but addressed to Charleston.

Re - the "Coraville K.T." cover. Parker Johnson wrote me about this item when he acquired it in 1946. According to my memo it came from the Chase collection of Territorials acquired by Sampson. Johnson gave me quite a history of the office.

AURARIA K.T. He was sure surprised at the price this cover brought at the Fox sale.

I appreciate the data you furnished.

Mrs. Ashbrook joins me in kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

TRACY W. SIMPSON
66 ALVARADO ROAD
BERKELEY 5, CALIFORNIA

Oct. 9, 1954

Dear Stanley

I am very grateful to you for the information in your letter of Oct. 5.

The reason I wrote as I did about the CHARLESTON S.C. with "Z" and STEAM-BOAT is because the evidence seems to be, as you know, that in 1953-4-5 it was not customary to add the 2cts steamboat fee to the postage and collect it from the addressee if the steamboat was on a post route. From this I figured it was probably a SHIP letter upon which no extra could be collected, as you know. However, possibly it was applied to mail received from a steamboat that did not travel a post route, hence by strict reading of PL+R it appears that there is nothing that prevents the collection of the 2cts from addressee (see PL+R Sec. 110, your Vol II page 52). Yes, my cover has date JUL 12 as I guess it must be Shenfield's copy.

Again my best thanks, and my compliments, too, to Mrs. H.

Very sincerely
Tracy

Marc Haas
14 East 75th Street
New York

10/4/54

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I have been meaning to write you for some time, but just have been careless about it.

I have been collecting for some years and specialize among other things in the 1 cent and 10 cent 1851-1857, also 3 cent 1851 on and off cover and in really superb condition only. Naturally, I have studied your text books on these stamps.

I am enclosing a cover that looks like TYPE II but possibly could be IV? Anyhow I would like your opinion. I don't know whether you ever sell, but if you do would certainly be interested in unusual cancels, pieces etc. Have plenty of usual stuff.

Sincerely! My firm and myself are interested in the "Green Line" and I often get out to Covington on Company affairs. Would certainly like to meet you some day.

Cordially
Marc Haas

Oct. 7, 1954.

Mr. Marc Haas,
14 East 75th St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Haas:

Herewith the 10¢ 1855 cover from Boston to Montreal in October 1856, or 98 years ago this month. I can assure you that the stamp is a Type II and surely comes from the first vertical rows of one of the panes of Plate One. I fail to note any plating marks that would identify it's exact plate position. I believe if you will study the layout of the plate you will see why this would come from either of the two rows. The margins on this copy are certainly nice.

Re - the "Green Line." I was born and reared in Covington and was in the brokerage business in Cincinnati, for years a member of the Stock Exchange and in my time I handled a great deal of the old "C N & C stock" and later the "C N & C L & T." Of course, I remember the Company before it was an "Electric Line," when they operated horse-drawn cars, with their office at Fourth & Scott Streets and George M. Abbott was secretary and treasurer.

Give me a ring sometime when you are out this way.

There is no fee for the above but you can reimburse me the return postage.

Very truly yours,

33-53

Marc Haas
14 East 75th Street
New York

10/10/54

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thank you for your nice letter of Oct. 7 returning my 10/51 cover. Enclosed is "postage money."

You neglected to advise whether you had anything really superb for sale in the 1851-57 group. I assume this means you have nothing now. Should you run across something I will always be happy to hear from you.

Should you ever get to N.Y. I would like you to go over my imperfs, for a fee of course. The lot is too voluminous to ship to Cincinnati. And I would be afraid of damage en route. Just let me know a few days beforehand.

Kindest regards,
Marc Haas

33-53

Oct. 13, 1954.

Mr. Mare Haas,
14 East 75th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Haas:

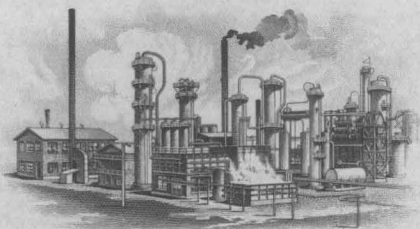
This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 10th with enclosure for which please accept my thanks.

Regarding 1851-57 material in superb condition. As you are aware, such items are eagerly sought after and if a seller has any for sale he seems to prefer the auction route rather than thru private sale. I suppose he figures he will not receive the very last penny thru the latter. I have so many requests for superb items that they go out the same day they arrive, when perchance they do arrive, which come to think of it, is very seldom.

I rarely get down to New York any more unless to attend some important auction but should I have occasion to do so I will be pleased to meet you personally.

Sincerely yours,

PHONE 125



CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

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

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN
Ionia, Michigan.
October 4, 1954.

Dear Stan:

Bilden of Minneapolis sent me a bunch of covers which arrived today, and am returning most of them as am not interested, but some I perhaps ought to acquire but will not do so unless on your specific recommendation. I bought the valentine cover he sent me some two weeks ago @ \$200.00 which had the six cent rate - all 1¢ stamps from plate one early - one pair being both Type III-A. Now learn this cover was Lot #327 in the West sale and Jefferson Jones bought it for only \$40.00 but still think it worth all I paid for it. What do you think about it? Anyway, thats over the dam anyway.

Am sending for your opinion, eleven covers that Bilden sent me - ten small covers and the big valentine size 8½ x 10½ with three 5¢ 1847's tied by crayon mark (black grid does not tie any of the stamps) along with your letter to Jefferson Jones dated May 9, 1944. I don't like the "FEB 27" date on this valentine tho, do you? Bilden says I can have this valentine at \$400.00 - the same price Jones paid Brookman for it ten years ago. Is this thing a good investment, Stan? Note stamp at left has tear in at bottom. Re the other ten covers, if there are any that you think outstanding at prices shown, please tell me in strict confidence and will take them. Or if you can make any money on any of the enclosed, take them yourself and send me your check and will forward it on to Bilden.

Am also enclosing a cover with nice single Type I-A perforated from Plate Four, position 100-L-4 (note "F" relief flaw and center line 5mm from stamp which positively identifies it at a glance). This is nicely tied and nice color even tho perms cut at top but shows type wonderfully and got it cheap. Please sign this on back as being above and any other comments you think desirable.

Let me know your fee and will send check to cover. I never started on Confederates and know nothing about them as you can appreciate but thought thses might be desirable if priced right.

Rene and I came back from hunting last night because there were no birds where we went - winter must have killed them all off. Will hunt around here.

Rene joins me in regards to all. Tell us how Stan Jr is doing and where he is stationed?

Sincerely,

JGF/
Enc:REG: -

J. G. Fleckenstein.

Oct. 6, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 4th received with various enclosures which I return herewith. Here are some comments:

Your 1¢ '51 Plate One Early Valentine cover. The West sale was in 1943, and since that time I believe that Valentine covers have become much more popular and in demand. Also the cover in the West sale went far too cheap. It was a case where a bargain really occurred. You know as well as I do that the strips alone were worth more at that time than the cover brought.

The Jones Valentine cover. I still have the photo Mr. Jones sent me. Yes, I think this is a good investment @ \$400.00. In a sale by Bob Siegel on Sept. 23rd last, Lot 9A was a valentine cover with a single 5¢ '47. I note that it brought \$157.50. Valentine covers are a specialty that will become more popular in the years to come. I really do not know why Jefferson Jones has been selling material from his collection. At one time he was Brookman's star client. I imagine that he is selling thru Brookman and Les is permitting Bilden to handle some on commission. It is possible Bilden bought outright from Les. As to the late(?) postmark date. I have often wondered about covers that I have seen that had postmarks days and even weeks after Valentine Day. I have wondered if Feb. 14th was Valentine Day a century ago or whether it was the custom to mail valentines on any day in February. This large one was mailed on "Feb. 27" to a "Miss," almost two weeks after our present Valentine Day. I don't know the answer. However, this cover is surely genuine in all respects. I note the stamp to left has a tear or crease but the value is in the fact that this is a Valentine cover. There is a feature about it that we were ignorant of until recently. This was a use surely on Feb. 27, 1850 or 1851, and at the time there was no such a thing as a "triple rate." See my Special Service about this. I believe that I wrote it up in the February 1954 Issue. The sender sent it as over one ounce but inasmuch as there was no such a thing as a triple rate, the Boston P.O. charged an extra 5¢. This point adds a lot of interest to this cover in my estimation.

Maurice Blake published a booklet on the subject which is now being offered by Mekeel's. Be sure and order a copy for your library. Mention of library reminds me that I bought the One Cent book from Rasdale and was glad to get it. Many thanks for your kindness.

I would like to have some of these covers but Jack I cannot pay his prices and then add enough to make them a good purchase.

Two Valentine covers - 3¢ '51 - Note the date "17 Feb" - I sure think this is well worth \$15.00. I advise you to buy it. 3¢ '57 looks like FEB 14 - Receipt was after Valentine Day. I am sure this is a good buy @ \$15.00. When you

#2. Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein - Oct. 6, 1954.

buy items like these you are not spending money but rather you are investing it. I remember that I sold Newbury some Valentine covers from a lot that Brooks had - also sold some to Stark.

Valentine - 1¢ 1857 - To Biddeford, Maine. This date looks like Feb. 15. Come to think about it I guess Valentine Day is Feb. 15 rather than Feb. 14. I guess I got mixed up a bit. This 1¢ cover is worth his price.

Valentine - 1¢ 1857 - Norwich, Conn. This date looks like Feb. 15 - so a drop and no doubt delivered the same day. I believe any 1¢ '51 - '57 Valentine cover is worth more than \$20.00.

Prisoner of War cover - Sandusky, Ohio - Apr. 21 '64. Priced much too high (in my opinion). This lacks several features that would make it worth about \$30.00 if it had them.

P. of W. mailed at Memphis. This is an exceptional item - very desirable but in my opinion \$50.00 would be enough. These covers with U. S. stamps and Confederates are really wonderful items. If you really like this - keep it and figure you paid him \$25.00 too much rather than let it get away. This is good as gold.

C.S.A. 5¢ '61 Green - Way over priced - Worth at most about \$10.00. This stamp is common on cover and a corner card don't mean a thing to me.

C.S.A. - 10¢ Blue - overpriced - worth about \$12.50.

Pony Express - If this was priced @ \$400.00 I would advise you to buy it but it is not worth a top of \$550.00. I could name several reasons why.

Plate One Early Single "A" Relief. This line is not a plate variety - It is not black, not in blue. I marked it on diagram as part of cancel? I do not see any marks on the stamp that might identify it. Single Plate 1E - A Reliefs are tough.

1¢ 1857 - Type was 1A. This is surely 100L4 - no doubt about that. What a shame that the top is not like the bottom. Your Brooks cover is really a gem. I have signed it on the back.

Jack, there is no charge for the above.

Tell Rene we sure get a lot of pleasure out of that coffee maker. I attach it to the radio which wakes us at 6:45 A.M. - by the time I get my eyes open - the coffee is all ready.

Stan Jr.'s ship is due at Norfolk on Oct. 29 - Milred and I are considering driving down and meeting his return. We believe he is due at Naples on the 10th after a trip from Bombay - the Red Sea - Suez, etc. The color slides he sends us are marvelous. Last week, sixty arrived, taken at Hong Kong and Singapore. He may be able to get a leave and come home for a few days.

Our best to you both.

Cordially yours,

33-54

Oct. 7, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

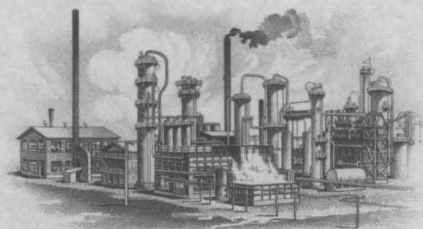
I have before me a large size valentine envelope mailed from Boston on Feb. 27 with three 5¢ 1847 stamps. - no year indicated. The stamps are dirty plate impressions and surely used either in 1850 or more probably in 1851. In red-brown pencil is "PAID 5" - also in same "20" - also handstamped "PAID." I figure that when the person who mailed this was informed the postage was short by 5¢ that he paid the deficiency in cash and the clerk marked "PAID 5" - also the "20" and to be sure he added the marking "PAID." I believe that this is the nicest example of your recent discovery that I have run across. I made a photograph and I will send you a print later.

Do you have any explanation for the date of "Feb. 27?" If Valentine Day is Feb. 14, why such a late date? I have seen a number of similar late dated Valentines in the past. Has Valentine Day always been Feb. 14th, or was any day in the month of February appropriate to send a valentine? Seems odd that a person would send a valentine two weeks after the day had passed.

For your information this cover with the valentine enclosed is offered to me @ \$400.00. I wonder if it should command such a price.

With regards -

Cordially yours,



PHONE 125

CRYSTAL Refining Company OF CARSON CITY

INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.
October 19, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for yours of the 13th quoting from MacBride re the valentine cover and of course also for your nice letter of October 6th. On the strength of your recommendation, I have purchased the big valentine cover with the three 5¢ 1847's at \$400.00 and agree with you it is most unusual primarily because of the history shown by the 20¢ rate required due to the fact that there was no triple rate in 1850-51 until July 1st 1851. Seems as tho this makes this cover indeed unique and it occurred to me that you might want to write this up in your "Special Service" and illustrate it, and if so, am sending it along for your consideration. In any event, wish you would endorse it on the back with comments about the unusual rate and the fact that in your opinion it is absolutely genuine in every respect. Or better yet, perhaps you would want to write this up with illustrations and send the story to Harry Lindquist to publish in "Stamps" and if so, I would expect to pay you for the time and expense involved, as I think such an article would add greatly to the value of the cover. Incidentally you suggest I get a copy of Maurice Blake's booklet now being offered by Mekeel's but I have no idea who to write to to get this booklet, which I would like to own. Can you give me the address to write to?

Am also enclosing a lovely cover with a superb top row copy from Plate Twelve (something I have never been able to get on cover before) and wish you would sign this on back stating what it is and how rare in relation to a Type I perforated.

Pheasant season opens tomorrow but I have to be in Kansas City the rest of the week and won't be able to hunt until Saturday or Sunday. Rene and Jackie, tho will hunt together the rest of the week, and she will spend balance of the week with us at Ionia.

Regards to all.

Sincerely,

Jack
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/k
Enc:REG:

If you write the article, you might also explain how the extra 5¢ came to be paid in cash (or charged to box holder) as mentioned in your letter to Jefferson Jones (enclosed) in 1944.

Sam Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

October 11th, 1954.

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

Dear Stanley:

I have yours of October 7th enclosing a copy of your interesting letter to our mutual friend Maurice Blake.

From my studies in connection with old Valentines and the customs of Valentines Day, I early learned that February 14th was a "movable feast". That is, according to my understanding any time in the month of February was considered an appropriate time to send a Valentine! I have seen them genuinely used as such, pretty nearly from the first to the 28th-29th of that month, - generally in the 1840's - 50's period.

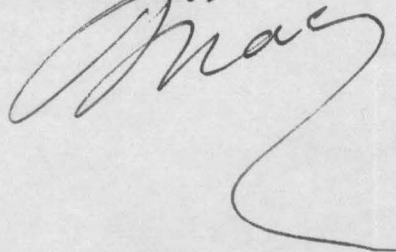
Also, many persons apparently did not send a Valentine until and unless they had first received one. So, datings after February 14th are quite often seen, on Valentines sent as a sort of a "reply", to one received earlier.

A I paid \$500. for my 5¢ 1847 Valentine, - two beautiful copies of the stamp on a cover with "N. York & N. Haven R.R." postmark in red. Whether that was too much or not only time can tell, - as in many such cases it was beautiful, and I wanted it! But in view of that I would say that the price of \$400. being asked for the one you describe, showing the unusual rate of 15¢ paid with three of the 5¢ 1847 stamps, certainly does not seem out of line.

Finally, the "auction sale of Valentines which took place in New York", about which you inquire, was held by our old friend H.C. Barr February 26-27, 1952. It included the Mrs. Diamont Valentine with the 10¢ 1847, - still the only one known, - which I think brought \$1400. I tried to buy that one too, but it was far too much for my pocketbook! My card index has notes of various other sales in which Valentines formed a part, and I'll be glad to give you a record of them if you want me to.

My best!

Sincerely,



MacB/HK

From the desk of

MR. VAN DYK MAC BRIDE

10/12/54

To

Stan

(P.S. to my letter to you
of yesterday)

I wrote an article,
"Valentines Used with Stamps of
the 1847 Issue"
which was in the American
Philatelist of Feb'y 1948
You doubtless have a
copy thereof and might
find it interesting

Hastely

Mac

Oct. 13, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Regarding valentine covers. I wrote my good friend Van Dyk MacBride, as Mac made a specialty of this class of covers some years ago. I quote from his letter, dated Oct. 11th:

"I have yours of October 7th enclosing a copy of your interesting letter to our mutual friend Maurice Blake.

"From my studies in connection with old Valentines and the customs of Valentines Day, I early learned that February 14th was a 'movable feast.' That is, according to my understanding any time in the month of February was considered an appropriate time to send a Valentine! I have seen them genuinely used as such, pretty nearly from the first to the 28th-29th of that month, - generally in the 1840's - 50's period.

"Also, many persons apparently did not send a Valentine until and unless they had first received one. So, datings after February 14th are quite often seen, on Valentines sent as a sort of a 'reply,' to one received earlier.

"I paid \$500. for my 5¢ 1847 Valentine, - two beautiful copies of the stamp on a cover with 'N. York & N. Haven R.R.' postmark in red. Whether that was too much or not only time can tell, - as in many such cases it was beautiful, and I wanted it! But in view of that I would say that the price of \$400. being asked for the one you describe, showing the unusual rate of 15¢ paid with three of the 5¢ 1847 stamps, certainly does not seem out of line.

"Finally, the 'auction sale of Valentines which took place in New York,' about which you inquire, was held by our old friend H. C. Barr February 26-27, 1952. It included the Mrs. Diamont Valentine with the 10¢ 1847, - still the only one known, - which I think brought \$1400. I tried to buy that one too, but it was far too much for my pocketbook! My card index has notes of various other sales in which Valentines formed a part, and I'll be glad to give you a record of them if you want me to." (unquote)

If you have a copy of the American Philatelist for February 1948 you will find quite a fine article on Valentine covers by MacBride.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

21854 Cromwell Ave
FAIRVIEW PARK Ohio
Oct 4-1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

This cover was submitted to me yesterday for possible purchase. I'd like to have you look it over. While the postmark is practically indistinct it would be acceptable to me if it is good. One thing I did note that the "S" has been partially "pencilled in".

I have two examples of this stamp used as drop letter rate on regular covers. However - this example is appealing to me for the obvious reason that it's use is to a —

" Freight invoice of the Atlantic & Gulf Railroad to G. B. Lamar of Savannah Ga. Invoice for freight charges on 477 bales of cotton to the amount of \$9092.29 dated Aug. 13-1864. "

Took a little time and came up with some interesting figures on this freight invoice.

477 bales — total wt.

239,271 ^{lb}

Av. weight per bale.

501 ³/₄ ^{lb}

Av. freight charges per bale

\$19.06 or

roughly 4¢ per lb.

-over-

While I assume that freight charges were rather high during the later years of the conflict - this practically 20⁰⁰ a bale for freight charges seems exceedingly high.

I will appreciate your looking over this case for me and your comments on same. Please bill me for any charges incurred.

Respectfully Yours
R. Dickson

If you would like to look at the invoice - the flap of same - lift from under the top portion of the stamp.

Oct. 7, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Dickson:

Herewith the 2¢ Confed cover as per yours of the 4th. This is certainly an interesting little item and in my opinion, the stamp was used as we see it. I think it is unfortunate that someone saw fit to "monkey" with it. Rather than use a pencil it looks to me like the letters have been inked or painted. Being a "Drop" it was not necessary to add the city, though of course it was generally done. Perhaps the addressee had a box so when the letter was mailed it was simply put into his box.

Now for the other side. It is possible that this never went thru the Savannah P.O. and that someone put this stamp on as we see it and painted portions of a postmark. It is also possible that the sender put this stamp on as we see it and it was never canceled. This could have induced some "fixer" to paint portions of one.

Because the evidence of genuineness is so small I could naturally not sign it as "genuine in my opinion."

This bill is dated in August 1864 and at that time Confederate money had depreciated to such an extent that it took several thousands to purchase a dollar in gold, so while this freight bill appears very high remember it was in Confederate money.

There is no fee for the above but you can reimburse me for the registered postage.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Oct. 22, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Dickson:

Yours of the 19th received and herewith I am returning the cover from France to New Orleans with the N.O. U.S. City Post - "shovel type" marking. I never made much of an effort to record the earliest known use of this marking but glancing thru my files it appears that cover 46A on page 170 of Vol. 2 of my One Cent book is the earliest record I had, viz., N.O. "Nov. 12" 1851. Your cover shows "Oct. 2" 1851, a month earlier. I am advising Elliott Perry of your cover and inquiring if he has any record of an earlier use. Do you mind if I furnish him with a photo print in the event he would like to have one?

In my One Cent book on page 171 - Vol. 2, I illustrated a cover from France - somewhat similar, and I have a record of others in the same category. Please note cover on page 170 - It has a 3¢ and a 1¢ 1851. What would be your explanation of the 4¢ rate - the extra 1¢? I don't believe Perry gave any explanation of this cover in his text.

No hurry for a reply to this letter as I will be away until the 5th or 6th of November.

Sincerely yours,

Regular Mail
Insured
OCT 22 1954

A623

16

Green

Red

Black

Green
Oct 2
1851

By
R. Dickson

Blue FL
Dated Bordeaux
Sep 8 1851

Consul

St. Louis, Mo.

A la nouvelle orleans.

Par Liverpool.

Steamer anglais.

YORK
SEPT 24

BORDEAUX
9
SEPT

St. Louis 12th March

Red

Black

U.S. POST OFFICE

33-56

Michael Miller

26 S. CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE 3, MD.

A.P.S. LIFE No. 83 S.P.A.
ESSAY-PROOF. B.I.A.
S.C.S. C.C.N.Y. CONF.S.A.

*can't find
your letters
& photo.*

September 27th

Dear Stanley:

I have received your letter with photo and am sorry ^{for my delay in} that I have been very involved with our show and special display of Carriers from Baltimore that I have assembled for this Sunday, — beginning a week exhibit. This is ^{by} invitation and is to be the feature.

Now for your query. That due 1 has often puzzled me and I cannot reconcile the same with the steamboat mail regulations. Enclosed are ~~two~~ other examples, one from my friend French. There was no way to tell the date but they are after 1863. Perhaps, your great knowledge of the shades of the stamps may help.

Let me explain to you that at that period there were a lot of steamboat lines that ran to Baltimore. Every one of the rivers on the Eastern shore and also ^{for ports} on the west had a line. The roads were all bad and ~~most of~~ the little railroads ran down to the river wharves of greater prominence. Otherwise they would have to connect with the line that ran all up the shore to Wilmington or Port Deposit at the mouth of Susquehanna. Look at a map of Maryland.

^{My belief} People would give letters to the Captain known to all and ~~many~~ ^{of} them must have mail contracts of some kind. Is there any regulation that has to do ^{under the circumstances, with a way charge.} Also the Due 1 has nothing to do with any letter carrier charge for local delivery, as far as I can see. Can you help me clean up the third steamboat cover enclosed, which has a lot of rubber cement marks. With sincere regards.

Mike

Oct. 8, 1954.

Mr. Michael Miller,
26 South Calvert Street,
Baltimore 3, Md.

Dear Mike :

Thanks very much for your kind note of the 27th with the three Baltimore covers which I enclose herewith.

I have been giving this subject some thought and the following may or may not be correct. I merely offer it as a possible solution.

Baltimore Due 1 - A Way cover - with the Way fee of 1¢ Due. Brought into Baltimore by a U. S. mail carrier - over a mile from the P.O. - You are familiar with the regulation regarding Way letters. A "Carrier" could have traveled by coach, horse, train or boat, hence these Baltimore Steamboat Due 1 were Way covers handed to a U. S. carrier to deposit at the Baltimore P.O. and collect his 1¢ Way fee.

Baltimore, Steamboat, Due 2cts. This was a Steamboat fee cover - a letter brought in by a non-contract mail steamboat - Captain entitled to a Steamboat fee of 2¢.

The difference. The Way cover - brought in by a Government carrier - the steamboat brought in by a private carrier.

There may be some other explanation but if so I cannot imagine the answer and I doubt if we would find same in P.L. & R.'s of the period.

Re - your "Due 1" cover. The Baltimore postmark is July 26. I do not believe that this shade of the 3¢ 1861 was used as early as 1862, so this could have been 1863, though it looks more like 1865 or 1866. Probably not the latter.

I will appreciate your comment on the above.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Oct. 8, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

I wrote my good friend Michael Miller of Baltimore re - the Baltimore encircled "Due 1" and "Steamboat." Mike sent me three covers, two with the "Due 1" - the other, the S.L. "Due 2cts." He stated that the Due 1 had long puzzled him and that he was at a loss to explain it.

I thought my reply would interest you
so I am enclosing a copy.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

5

If not delivered within _____ days, to be returned to

STEAMBOAT



Miss Georgie, A. Smith
Corner Madison & Dallas Sts No 288
Baltimore

No Year
By Michael Miller

M

STEAMBOAT



Miss Georgie, A. Smith -
No 288. Corner Madison & Dallas Sts
Baltimore

No Date
By Michael Miller

Mc

Nov
1856
By
Michael
Miller



John L. & S. L. L. L.
W. J. Eastman
Washington

Blue

AG 11

AG 11

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, 5, Alabama.

Oct. 8, 1954. Friday P.M.

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

Dear Stah,

I have your postal card of th 6th and also your letter of the 7th. I think the whole trouble with the Service mail delay was brought about by a new postman, now that I have looked into the matter. I think we can drop the matter unless there is a re-currence. The boys at the office here are all nlce to me, often calling me up even on Sundays should I have a registered letter, etc. I'd not like to get them in bad unless I am sure.

I had intended to get your signature on my recent purchases even before I bought them. Remember I wrote you about lot 111 with that in mind. I will have to send them in seporate parcels due the the limits of value in surcharge on my policy, that being \$2500.00. So please send them back in the same way, limiting it to the same amounts. I will of course reimburse you for the cost. I am glad you thought I did not pay to much for the ones I did buy. I think I paid high for one or two but made up for it on others.

Out of the second days run I only obtained lots 284 and 285 due to very much higher prices that could have been(I did not say they were positively) due to your article on the Hawaiian Steam Service. Ez is in Richmond at the SSA so I am sure he has not sent you the prices. Here are the ones I bid on at the second day:

Lot 237-	110.00	I bid \$50
" 242-	180.00	" \$100
" 281-	110.00	" \$50
" 283-	95.00	" \$75
" 284-*	70.00	To ECK
" 285-*	55.00	To ECK
" 289-	75.00	I bid \$60
" 290-	75.00	" \$60
" 292-	95.00	" \$75

I note your remarks about lots 102 & 103 and Edgar. I confine my Hawaiian so far at least to combinations with U.S. That takes enough dough as it is. And then only covers and no Missionaries. The latter are too repaired and torn for my way of thinking.

I would be much pleased to have you write up any of these in the Service. I can only say that Cole has repeatedly told me that Coan was his great-grandfather. Be sure to note that a duplicate was lot 61 in the first Ferrari sale. I think you might want to note in your signature that the cover was from the Admiral Harris collection. That might add to its worth.

You say lot 87 was likely a Richey cover which pleases me if it was for I sure like that fine gentleman. It was listed as Hawaii #5 plus the U.S. #17. Will you please compare it with lot 119 which was listed as Hawaiian #8 plus U.S. #17. You know I am very ignorant of these Hawaiian stamps and truly cant see where the difference is. Note that these two are nearly the same correspondence, the only difference being the date of receipt by the writing across the left hand side. What is your verdict? Funnier than all is the price paid.

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Hawaiian #5 is priced much higher in Scotts than #8, yet I got Lot 87 for \$200 and paid \$390 for lot 119. How do you explain that? Can you see the difference between the two. Will you indicate when you sign these, if you do, what the SUS# of the Hawaiians are?

Sincerely,

Enclosed:

✓ Lot 74	Harmer Rooke Harris sale	4/27/54	For signature.	Cost \$551.25
✓ " 119	" " " "	10/4/54	For signature.	Cost \$315.00
✓ " 87	" " " "	" "	For signature.	Cpst \$210.00
✓ " 121	" " " "	" "	For Signature.	Cost \$136.50
✓ " 122	" " " "	" "	For signature.	Cost \$220.50
" 127	" " " "	" "	For signature.	Cost \$147.00

The rest of these are not necessary to expertize but I thought you might like to see, maybe something of interest:

✓ Lot 136	Harmer Rooke Harris sale	10/4/54	Cost 52.50
✓ " 137	ditto	"	78.75
✓ " 284	"	"	73.50
✓ " 285	"	"	57.75
✓ " 62	"	"	94.50
✓ " 41	"	"	120.75
✓ " 283	Samuel Paige sale	4/9/54	" 36.23
✓ " 284	Ditto	"	38.33
✓ " 28	Harmer Rooke Harris sale	4/27/54	" 70.88
✓ " 150	Harmer Rooke sale	10/17/50	" 44.10
✓ " 321	Samuel Paige sale	4/9/54	" 21.53

Total 17 covers

2269.07

Sincerely
[Signature]

Oct. 12, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

As per mine of yesterday, the 11th, I am now returning to you all the covers contained in yours of the 8th. You will note that they are in the same order as you listed them in your letter.

Okay Em, on the delay on my October Service Issue.

Thanks for the prizes you gave me on the lots in the Second Day of the sale.

Re - Hawaii 5¢ stamps #5 and #8. No. 5 was issued in 1853 and it is on a thick wove paper. No. 8 was a later printing in 1857 and it is on a much thinner paper.

Re - difference between lots 87 and 119. It is not believed that any of #8 reached Honolulu before the summer of 1857. Lot 87 shows a use from Honolulu on May 21, 1857, hence too early for #8 so it must be #5. I think it is safe to consider that any 5¢ blue used before July 1857 are #5. Compare the two stamps on these two covers. You can see that 119 is on a thinner paper than 87, also note the difference in color - (lay them side-by-side) - Lot 119 is a much paler blue. The difference in price in these two lots is indeed funny, but Em with Knapp, Tows and Harris out of the picture we have comparatively few who really know Hawaii covers. Many may know the stamps, but very few know covers and rates. Admiral Harris did know his Hawaii.

In a good light compare #5 with #8. Don't you see the difference in color?

On each 5¢ cover I marked the S.U.S. number.

Henry Meyer is also a very competent student of the stamps, rates and covers. Also Elliott Perry.

Regards.

Cordially yours,

33-57

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

Birmingham, Alabama.
Saturday A.M. Oct. 9, 1954.

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

Dear Stan,

Here are the other two covers from the Harmer Rooke Harris sale of last Monday, lots 110 & 111. The latter of course, as I wrote you was lot 510 in the John Seybold sale in 1910 and went for the then high price of \$87.00. I think I wrote you that Eugene Klein paid 285 pounds for the lot 110 in the Hind London sale and sold it to the Admiral at about \$1250.00. So I did not pay too much considering the inflation of money. Do you think?

I suspect that I was kissed off of the lot 48 by Ezra. He said it was not tied and was lousy looking. I only 25 or 30 on it altho my better judgement said I was wrong at the time. The cover I wanted and am now sorry I did not bid more than \$250 was lot 104. I feel sure that covers with U.S. 12¢ 1851 and Hawaiian #6, the 13¢ red, are very rare. I guess this due to the fact that the two sales had only this 104 in the last sale and only one in the first which I think went to Edgar. I bid at Ez's suggestion \$200 while he bought it for someone for \$340., I imagine Jessup. Of course I have a cover which is already at your house with a combination 5 & 6 & US #17. But the single combination must be rare. I should have gone on and bought lot 104.

I am anxiously awaiting the catalog from Ez with the buyer's names which he has promised. I will then send it to you.

Cooler here yesterday and today, thank goodness! Thursday it hit an all time high in Montgomery- 100 on Oct. 7th.

Sincerely,

Ezra

Enclosed:

Lot 110-	Harmer Rooke sale 10/4/54	Cost	\$1575.00
" 111-	" " " "	"	<u>577.50</u>

Surcharge for - - - - - \$2152.50

33-57

Oct. 11, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Herewith Lots 110 and 111 from the Harris sale. These came Sunday noon. I certainly congratulate you on the acquisition of these two fine covers. I made black and white photos and will probably write them up in my November Service Issue. I also made color slides of both but I will not send copies to you unless you want them. Though you did not request me to sign them I did so anyway so there is no charge.

These covers are sure wonderful and I am glad they found their way into your collection.

Henry Croker published an article on the 5¢ on 13¢ back in 1910 and Cartright published an article in Mekeel's in 1921. Both are interesting so I am making microfilms of both and will send you prints later.

No indeed I do not think you paid too much for 110 and 111 was quite a bargain. One is either too high and the other too low, so inasmuch as 110 is not too high then 111 sold much too low.

Your other lot came Saturday A.M. - I will go over these carefully and return the lot to you tomorrow. Don't let Lot #48 cause you any worry because you missed it. At \$90.00, I would be perfectly willing to let someone else have it.

Re - lot 104. Before giving this my okay I would want to examine it very carefully. If Edgar advises me he bought 104 I will let you know.

Les Brookman and wife will fly in at noon on the 20th. Leave that night by plane for New York.

Mildred and I plan to drive down to Norfolk, leaving Sunday the 24th. Stan's ship is due there on the 27th. I guess we will be gone about a week.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Emmerson G. Krug
2006 13th Ave., South
Birmingham, Alabama

VIA AIR MAIL



REGISTERED

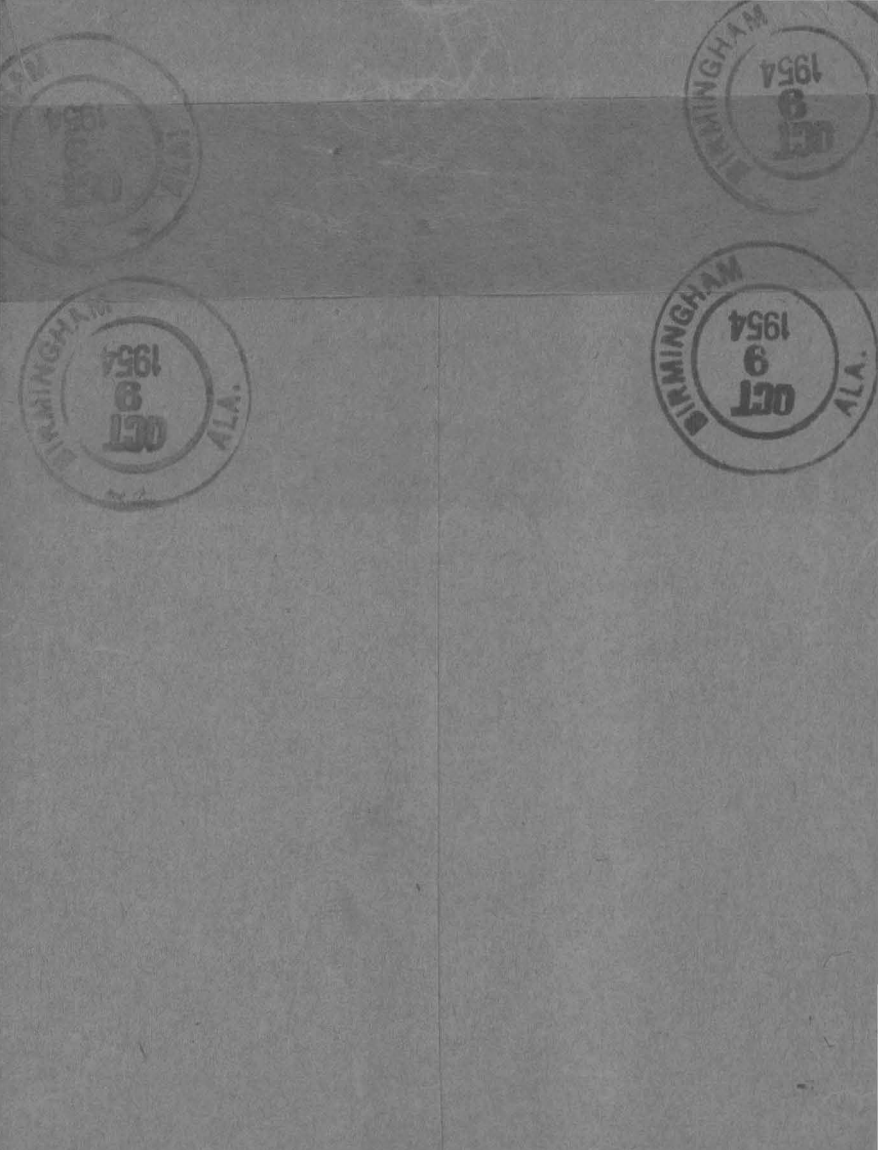
8533

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

SPECIAL DELIVERY



KAROLTON KLASP—4 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 6 $\frac{3}{4}$

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THE AMERICAN ENVELOPE CO.
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PLEASE DO NOT
FOLD OR BEND



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SPECIAL DELIVERY
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8499

REGISTERED

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



33-58
C. W. REMELE
14 E. Carrillo St.
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Santa Barbara - October 7, 1954

Dear Stanley:

In your nice letter of September 3, which has gone unanswered until now because there was nothing in it that particularly required a reply, you said - "if anything turns up that is exciting, please advise me".

Well - today I received from the Pollitz auction the enclosed cover which to me is exciting, although I may be way off base. I sent in a bid on it because I thought from the catalog description that it was a case of a forwarded cover with the second postmark a railroad marking - not rare, but somewhat unusual. (I have several examples of SOUTH CAROLINA R. R., so didn't want it particularly for that marking.)

Now, however, I look at the cover and can see no signs of its having been forwarded. So why the rating, a handstamped 5 of the same color as the R. R. postmark? My conclusion is that the year date was 1861 and that the route agent caught the error made by the postal clerk at Columbia in accepting a northern stamped envelope as postage paid. He therefore affixed his postmark and the 5 rating.

The scratched out ms. notation in the lower left corner appears to read "Polite attention of - - - - - Jr." The words "care of Elias Ball, Esq." are apparently in the same handwriting as that of the address.

How does my theory strike you? Perhaps I have overlooked something entirely and am indulging in wishful thinking. It seems strange that no one has noticed the problem before but there are no pencil notations on the cover to indicate that anyone has.

I'll be much interested in your ideas about this. I suppose there are many similar cases among southern letters in the early days of the Confederacy, but I have never run across one before - if this is such a case. If it's worth taking a picture of, go right ahead.

I have gotten some help from Frank Hollowbush in the form of data from covers in his collection, but his ideas about the N and N Y markings are of no assistance.

The APSx convention was very enjoyable - to me particularly because I had a chance to meet so many people with whom I have had correspondence. Dave Baker, Towner Webster, Tracy Simpson and I spent quite a lot of time together. Of course I see Tracy often, and I had met Towner once before briefly in Chicago, but Dave I had never seen. Had a fine visit with Corwith Wagner, too - peculiar but interesting.

I hope you'll like seeing this cover, and won't mind helping me with it.

Sincerely,

Chuck

(Two trains daily left Columbia for Charleston, one at 5.00 AM. and the other at 1.40 PM. Both carried mail. A letter mailed too late to catch the afternoon train would of course go out the following day.)

33-58

Oct. 13, 1954.

Mr. C. W. Renele,
14 East Carrillo St.,
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Dear Chuck:

Yours of the 7th received enclosing the South Carolina R.R. cover, which I am returning herewith. I have little doubt that many collectors of Confeds would wonder if this was a Confed use but in my opinion it is not. Confederate mail had to be prepaid, or else it was not forwarded, that is, with the exception of mail from the armed forces when duly endorsed, etc. Such could be forwarded collect, but not free. The explanation of your cover, in my opinion, is that it was over weight, that is, over 1/2 ounce, one rate paid, one rate due - period 1851 to 1855. I therefore judge the use was 1854. May 1853 would be too early for a stamped envelope and May 1855 or later would have been Due 3 for the second rate. One wonders what enclosure could have caused a double rate for so small an envelope but I feel sure this is the explanation.

I have never seen a postage due (civilian) Confed that I can recall, and further, Confed Railroad covers are something we seldom run across. I believe that you will find that this R.R. marking would be just about right for the year 1854.

I am wondering how many Confed R. R. covers you have run across? I never tried to locate, which could meant that they are not as scarce as I think.

From all who attended the S.F. A.P.S. Convention, the report came ~~SS~~ what a fine time they had. I was surprised to learn that my good friend Corwith Wagner was in attendance. A very fine chap. Dave Baker and his brother are gathering some fine material. They don't come any finer than Towner Webster.

With every good wish -

Cordially 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.

September 24, 1955

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Deat Stan:

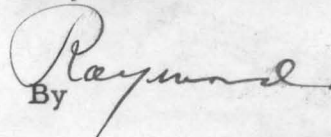
We have just had a report from the Foundation on the 5¢-10¢ 1847 combination cover, which was lot 88 in the Waterhouse sale. The Foundation's certificate reads, "pen cancellation has been removed or faded from the stamps, otherwise the cover is genuinely used in all respects."

In your letter of August 1 you graciously told us that if the Foundation stated this item ~~is~~ genuine, you would not fuss with them. We are so delighted with their opinion that we are not going to ask you to even examine the cover but shall just hope that they are right.

We are going to examine the Caspary Postmasters in New York next week. If you have any notes covering some of these items and based on which you would like to render a professional opinion, please let us hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

By 

rhw:lc

Oct. 3, 1955.

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

Dear Raymond:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 22nd and 24th, and also return of the two sheets of the 3¢ green. I am sorry that they were not quite fine enough for your client. I appreciate the postage which you enclosed but inasmuch as I do not think I am entitled to this I am returning same.

It does seem a bit strange to me that the P.F. would condemn the 3¢ 1861 block. Just think, this same block has been considered a Pink ever since 1890 by all the leading authorities since that time, - John Luff, Worthington, Duveen, Charley Phillips, Kennett, Arthur Hind, Waterhouse and lastly Dr. Bacher. In spite of this record, the P.F. states it is not PINK. I am not prepared to express an opinion because I never had the opportunity to make a close examination. I might agree with the P.F. and I might disagree with them. I do not know. As far as I am aware, Elliott Perry never stated it was not a Pink. I would rather have his opinion than any member of the P.F. Committee. He recently informed me that the block was not submitted to him.

I note the Committee passed as genuine Lot 88 - the 5¢-10¢ combination cover. I note that they stated, "a pencancelation has been removed or faded from the stamps." I was absolutely unaware of this feature. I will forget the cover as I have no desire to fuss with the Committee, but I do think that they should be more careful. I have certain information about the cover they do not have. They did not ask my opinion regarding it. I am glad that they didn't, because I receive no compensation when I examine covers for them, and it requires a lot of my time to pass on items they submit to me.

Re - the Caspary postmasters. I make no claim to any expert knowledge on this class of material. I am sure you would be just as competent as I am in examining such items in the Caspary collection. Alfred was a very keen student and if there was one specialty that he knew from A to Z it was U.S. and Confederate P.M. Provisionals. I doubt if he had any fakes.

With best wishes to Roger and you.

Cordially yours,

Oct. 4, 1955.

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

Dear Raymond:

I would like to correct a statement that I made in my letter of yesterday regarding lot 88 in the Waterhouse sale, the 5¢-10¢ 1847 cover. I had forgotten that the catalogue description stated, "small pen marks have been removed from the stamps." I remarked in my letter that this was news to me. After I mailed my letter I looked up all the data that I had on this Waterhouse cover.

In my article in "Stamps" of July 19, 1947, in which I illustrated the cover, I made no mention of the pen marks. In fact, my remarks re - the cover were quite brief. I find that I had quite a bit of correspondence with the late Frank Coes after my "Stamps" article appeared, and in a letter to him I mentioned that the stamps had faint pen marks, so I judge that I was informed of this fact by Sir Nicholas when he sent me the photograph, a copy of which I used for my "Stamps" article.

Bear in mind that I never had this cover in hand for a careful examination, and the only time I ever saw it was at Cipex in 1947 behind glass in the Waterhouse Exhibit. According to the memorandum furnished me by Sir Nicholas (1947), there were no markings of any kind on the back. There was no indication on face of the actual year use, hence the cover does not disclose the year it was used. This is a most important point as I will explain. When I wrote the article in 1947, I was not aware that the U.S. P.M.G. had made a ruling that there was no such a thing as a legal triple rate after March 15, 1849. You will find that I gave the story of this discovery which was made by Maurice C. Blake, quite a write-up in my Service Issue of March 1, 1954 - pages 264 - 265. You can look it up.

The use of the Waterhouse cover was "Apr 10" so a triple rate of domestic postage could only have applied in April 1848. In other words, had this letter been mailed in Apr. 1849 - 1850 or 1851, it should have been rated "Due 5," provided it weighed over one ounce and not over two ounces. Between March 15, 1849 and July 1, 1851, there was no legal triple rate, if a letter weighed over one ounce and not over two ounces 20¢ was charged for distances up to 300 miles. This letter did not travel anything like 300 miles.

You will note that the cover is addressed to "A.S.Lincoln, Esq - Bank of Commerce Boston." Back in July 1947 I was informed by Mr. Coes that a Boston directory had been consulted and that the "Bank of Commerce" was not listed in the 1850 edition or previously, but the Bank was listed in the 1851 edition with "A.S.Lincoln" as paying teller. I do not know if this report is true or not but if it is, it would indicate that the use was Apr 10 1851, at a time when there was no triple rate.

The Vermont & Mass. R.R. terminated at Fitchburg, Mass. (Brattleboro to Fitchburg), that is, it ran from Fitchburg to Brattleboro, Vermont, a total distance of 69 miles. By rail from Fitchburg to Worcester was 27 miles and from Worcester to Boston was 44 miles, so you see this letter did not travel much distance.

In a letter that I wrote Frank Coes dated July 24, 1947, I stated that "Sir Nicholas sent me a photograph of the cover last spring and he noted on the back that the R.R. marking was in orange" and also quote, "I noted at the Cipex that the

#2. Mr. Raymond Weill - Oct. 4, 1955.

cover really is not superb - It has a faded out appearance and the stamps showed very faint pen marks. I doubt if these were actually acid removed but more likely a poor grade of ink that simply faded out to quite an extent. They don't show in the photograph that I have. Waterhouse never advised me of the year of use but if this Boston bank was not listed in the 1850 Boston Directory, then perhaps the use was "Apr 10 1851" (unquote).

I also added that I would write Sir Nicholas and give him the data about the Boston Directory.

This cover was a "Way" letter, that is, a letter mailed direct to the U.S. Mail Agent traveling the railroad route of the Vermont & Mass. R.R.

In the P.M.G. Report dated Nov. 1851, R.R. contract mail route No. 472 was listed from Fitchburg, Mass. to Brattleboro, Vermont. The same route was listed in the 1850 Report.

I am not sure whether a route agent had the authority to rate mail that was handed him enroute, but I judge that the letter would have been properly rated when it reached the Boston P.O.

If the use was April 1851, and the letter weighed over one ounce (as the writer assumed?) then I would think that Boston would have rated it "Due 5¢."

Frank Coes died April 20, 1954.

I had a letter from Dr. Bacher today regarding the block of 3¢ 1861 Pink and he stated that they would probably wind up by sending the block to me for my opinion. I will keep you advised.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

D26



Blue
Black

5



BLUE
COLUMBIA S.C.
MAY 8

South Carolina R.R.

care of Miss Lucilla Haskell
Olias Burr Esq
~~1414~~
~~1414~~
Charleston S.C.

Nothing On Back