

	Scrapbook No. 35 January 1, 1955 to March 23/1955
1.	Geo. E. Myers Dallas Be 30¢ 1860 Cover to Argentine
2.	Philatelic Foundation re 5¢ 10¢47 Cover Lot 63 Dunham sale
3.	Jere H. Barr Re Listing 24¢ 1873
4.	Dr. O. Bacher Re Lot 66 in Dunham sale
5.	Sidney A Hessel Re Carrier Cancel on 24 1860
6.	Bob Laurence 1¢ 1851 – P1.4 Type ?
7.	C.W. Remele Re R.R. cover to California
8.	Henry Meyer re Louisville & Cin S.B. Other "S.B." Marks
9.	Henry Meyer Re Fake Packets
10.	Raynor Hubbell 2¢ C.S.A. 1863 Red Brown Cover
11.	Eugene Jaeger Re 24¢ 73 & 3¢ Env to France
12.	Ezra Cole – 4 covers 3¢ 51 to France Boston ship 8
13.	Millard H. Mack 1¢ 69 1875 1¢ 69 1850
14.	U.S. Treasury Circular Re Stamp illustrations
15.	Jack Molesworth Re 2¢ 69 Bisect Cover Re Livingston Re 5¢ N.Y. cover Boston Re 5¢ N.Y. Cover to Austria
16.	Gray Muzzy Re 15¢ Rate Cover to France Re 5¢ 56 Plus 10¢ 1855
17.	E. Cole Re 5¢ - 10¢ 1847 FAKE from Gerber
18.	E. Cole Re Cover to Spain RE 5¢ -10 47Cover Robson L.
19.	Edwin Trachsler Re 10¢ Confed Cover is it a K&B
20.	Lee Chadwick Re 5¢ Taylor
21.	Millard Mack 24d 1869 OFF 1¢ 1869 Re-Issue 1880
22.	Millard Mack
23.	Marcus J Brown Re Comb Morton Letter & Ben Ashbrook
24.	Alfred H. Caspary Re Death
25.	J.G. Fleckenstein 5¢ 1857 + 1857=V Ex. Gibson
26.	Re. S.B.A. Atlanta Confed P.M.P.
27.	Ezra D. Cole re 10¢ 1847 H.S. of a – Yellowed
28.	H. Schuyler Cole re 1¢51 - & RR1E 9R1E also 3¢ 51 BISECT - LOWELL
29.	H.R. Harmer Inc. Re 5¢61 Butt Cover Fake
30.	Jack Molesworth 5¢57 on cover brown Type I - Earliest Use
31.	Ezra D. Cole 3 covers from Perry Fuller sale 2/23-1955
32.	Yahan Mozian Die Proofs – 10¢ 1855 30¢ 1860
33.	H.G. Duckworth Re Confed Cover Express mail?
34.	S.G. Rich Re "Essays"
35.	Lee Chadwick Re Various Items
36.	R.M. Moltz – 1 51 Pl. 1 ^E – IIIA.
37.	John A. Fox 24¢ 1869 cover - 2¢ Missing
38.	Judge H.J.Lemley – 3 covers
39.	Millard H. Mack Re: 90¢ 1869 Re Issue
40.	Raynor Hubbell – Re C.S.A. 20¢ Green
41.	Maj. John C. Avery Re Lodge KY
42.	Geo. N Malpass Re 2¢ B.J. Bisect
43.	L.J. Heyman Two Confeds – Off

44.	Philatelic Foundation 10¢ 47 to Toronto
45.	Tracy W. Simpson Re Fake 3¢51 Bisect Lowell
46.	M.C. Blake Re. various covers
47.	Raynor Hubbell Re 14 Stampless covers
48.	Paul Christopher Re 1¢57 – 7R16
49.	Lee Chadwick Re 10¢ 1847
50.	Geo. W. Linn Re: 3¢61 + 1¢51 Carrier
51.	E.C. Krug Re 5¢ 1857 Brick red Re 24d61 Red Lilac
52.	Jack Molesworth 10¢57 Type V 5¢ 56 Henna?
53.	D.W. Garber re \$300 -400 Columbians
54.	Pat Herst Jr. Re Cover 10¢ 47 Plus 5¢47
55.	Marcus Brown Re 10¢ CSA Bisect Chapel Hill Texas
56.	Dan Kelleher Re 10¢ 57 Block Re1869 Inverts
57.	Jack Molesworth re 1¢ 1851 on cover Re 1¢51 – 4R1 ^L Cover
58.	M.C. Blake Re C.S.A. Flag of T. Cover Savanna Geo.
59.	M. Jamet 16 Covers to Pass On
60.	Nelson La Ganke Re Cover Lost in Mail
61.	B.F. Evans Re 5¢ 57 Henna
62.	D. Pollard Re Don Grieve Cover Donahue California



SCRAP BOOK

No. 951

**For Extra Sheets Ask For
FILLER No. 951-F**

MADE IN U. S. A.



BELMONT STAMP COMPANY

5843 VICKERY BOULEVARD
DALLAS 6, TEXAS

GEORGE E. MYERS, *Proprietor*

January 3, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing herewith for your examination and comment a cover originating in New York City in 1860 and addressed to Buenos Aires, Argentina, which, according to manuscript notations and postal markings traveled via the steamer "BREMEN" via London and Southampton. The cover is franked with 33¢ in postage, represented a single copy of US # 26 (tied) and a single copy of US # 38, which latter is not tied to cover but is overlapped by the low value.

The cover is submitted for an opinion as to its probable genuineness before submitting it to the Philatelic Foundation for a formal certificate of authentication, in the event that it should pass muster with you.

Should there be a charge for your examination and opinion it will of course be paid in advance or after return of the cover as you may prefer.

We enclose 33¢ in stamps for its return by registered mail.

Yours very sincerely,

George E. Myers

25065

REGISTERED

25064

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



SPEEDED TO YOU

VIA AIR MAIL

REPLY BY AIR MAIL



Jan. 5, 1955.

Mr. George E. Myers,
Belmont Stamp Company,
5843 Vickery Blvd.,
Dallas 6, Texas.

Dear Mr. Myers:

Herewith I am returning the 33¢ rate cover to the Argentine in November 1860, with a 3¢ 1857 Type II and a 30¢ 1860. I am pleased to inform you that in my opinion this cover is genuine in every respect, and I have so endorsed it on the back.

The rate to the Argentine Republic at that time was 33¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. Inasmuch as there was no direct U. S. mail line to South America at that time, mail was sent Via England, and thence by British Packet.

The New York postmark (red) on the back shows, "New York - Nov 24 - Am. Pkt." My records show that on Nov. 24, 1860 a ship of the "Bremen Line" sailed with the U. S. mail for Bremen Via Southampton & Havre. Mail by this line was at the expense of the U.S. P.O.D., thus "Amer Pkt." Of this 33¢ rate, the share of the U. S. was 21¢ under the U.S.-British Postal Treaty - Britain's share was 12¢, thus the red pen "12" on the face of the cover. This was the U. S. credit of 12¢ to the British P.O.D. It represented carriage by British Mail Ship to the Argentine of 6 pence sterling (12¢ U.S.).

Everything is perfectly regular and in order about this cover, hence there is no question in my mind but what it is absolutely genuine.

Incidentally, covers to the Argentine from the U. S. at this early period are very much rarer than generally supposed. My files contain very few records.

My fee for the above authentication and analysis is \$5.00.

Sincerely yours,

PAID



BELMONT STAMP COMPANY

5843 VICKERY BOULEVARD
DALLAS 6, TEXAS

GEORGE E. MYERS, *Proprietor*

January 8th, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

We are pleased to enclose herewith our Check No. 1173 in the amount of \$ 5.00 to cover your fee for examining and authenticating the 1860 cover, New York to Buenos Aires.

With the detailed history of the cover as given by you we do not consider it necessary to have the cover further authenticated as your original letter will undoubtedly suffice for all purposes.

Thank you for the information and the promptness in returning the cover.

Yours very truly,

George E. Myers

P.S.

We are enclosing herewith for your records and with our compliments a photo-stat of the front of the above cover. The item was submitted by a client in Buenos Aires, who found it among the correspondence of the addressee, for offering in our next Mail Sale which is scheduled for sometime this Spring - possibly April or May. We will offer the item with a \$ 35.00 reserve which takes into account the condition of the stamps and all other factors that need to be taken into consideration. We mention this in case you might be interested in the cover or might know of someone who would be.

G. E. M.

Jan. 13, 1955.

Mr. George E. Myers,
% Belmont Stamp Co.,
5843 Vickery Blvd.,
Dallas 6, Texas.

Dear Mr. Myers:

Yours of the 8th received with check for \$5.00 for which please accept my thanks, also thanks for the photostat print of the cover. In my opinion, this is a rare cover and I certainly think it should bring much more than \$35.00. A 30¢ oh cover cats @ \$100.00 and a rate to Argentine is much scarcer than the ordinary 30¢ cover.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Primen via Southampton



A. Bohmer Esq

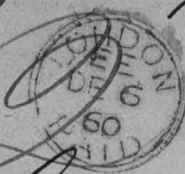
Genoa & Lyons.



Primer via Southampton

By Geo E. Myers
See SB 35-1

Red
12



Red



Red
Grids

*A. Bohmer Esq.
Buenos Ayres.*



3 3

on Basic New York Nov 24
Am Pict

GRIDS SEEM DIFFERENT NO DOUBT DUE TO STRIKES

Re - P.F. #5320

5¢ - 10¢ 1847 on cover
From Buffalo, N.Y.
May 22, 1848 -

To Lockport, N.Y.

In my opinion, these stamps were not used originally on this cover. Covers with the 5¢ stamp used as early as May 1848 (Issued July 1847) show early impressions of the stamp. This copy of the 5¢ is not an early print - it is not the correct shade for a use in 1848, and in my opinion, could not have been used on this cover.

signed _____

January 10, 1955

Re - P.F. #5320

5¢ - 10¢ 1847 on cover
From Buffalo, N.Y.
May 22, 1848 -

To Lockport, N.Y.

In my opinion, these stamps were not used originally on this cover. Covers with the 5¢ stamp used as early as May 1848 (Issued July 1847) show early impressions of the stamp. This copy of the 5¢ is not an early print - it is not the correct shade for a use in 1848, and in my opinion, could not have been used on this cover.

signed _____

January 10, 1955

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

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January 1, 1954.

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

Dear Stan :

I have your very interesting and informative letter of the 29th. I admit I did a bit of "sloppy" work in making a note of Phil's cover with 90¢. I have looked up my notes and and I find it reads :

"Phil H. Ward: 24¢ stamp from Galveston, Tex.; June 1873; Nat'l 90¢, 3 10¢."

I should have examined the cover more carefully but was interested in talking to Hollowbush at the time and I am pretty sure that Phil said the 90¢ was a "National" and very rare. I did not examine the back of the cover, or I would have noticed the 1875 date I am sure. It has taught me a lesson to be more careful and I admit my error.

When Frank showed me the cover with the same shade of 24¢ I examined the cover carefully, and noted the Ty.III SEAPOST and knew it must be later than 1872 and before we got thru we found it to be 1875, within 3½ weeks of my cover.

You may remember you took a photo of a 90¢ on a small square piece about 2 inches in diam. with NEW ORLEANS cancel and NEW YORK PAID ALL/JAN/30/VIA ENG(LAND) & OST^e (OSTENDE) which you thought was addressed to Germany. The red N.Y.Paid ALL I do not think was used later than 1876 or 1877 at the very latest, so I believe this is a Continental. It does not appear to be in a deep enough shade to be National.

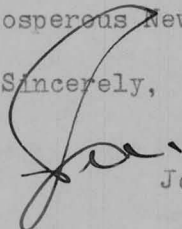
I note your reference to "Court House" covers. Two of my domestic covers with 24¢ stamps have notes that the documents were received and filed by the Clerk, with the date and hour. I would presume that many of the high-value Bank Notes were used on this type of correspondence.

Cooper of New Castle Indiana also has one with 24¢ which was registered. Neither of my two appears to have been registered.

Did I tell you I have a fairly large piece to Germany with a block of four of the 90¢ purple and a 30¢ brown, New York, May 4 1889. It is on heavy linen backed paper. But I believe the 90¢ purples are not as rare in blocks as the earlier 90¢ stamps.

My best wishes for a very Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,



Jere. Hess Barr.

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34-52 73rd Street
Jackson Heights, N. Y.

First Vice President
and Congress Editor
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GEORGE T. TURNER, Jackson Heights, N. Y.

January 5, 1955.

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

Dear Stan :

I have this morning your letter of the 2nd. I should be delighted to have a copy of Phil Ward's cover. I am keeping all of these covers with multiples together and I may sometimes get ambitious and begin making a list of same, together with those of foreign countries. I have a photo of a lovely first issue Sweden with four stamps. I have gotten together a few items .. a 1851 cover with the entire first issue on it...a letter to the Courtt of Appeals; Appellate Court; also I have the entire 5th Issue on a commercial cover; pairs of all but the 10 soldi. I have Netherlands first issue on two covers (one with seven stamps I had to pay \$250 for) and it is a lovely item. I have Baden on one cover and I have a cover which unfortunately has suffered from dust with all of five stamps of one issue of Austria; if it could be cleaned it would be a marvelous item. Edwin Mueller says it is unique. I have lovely covers from

Wurttemberg, Austria, Austria used abroad, etc. Where I can get the higher values on covers I like them best. But they are scarce as hen's teeth. There was a Great Britain cover with the 1d. and 2d. 1840 on one cover but I doubted it being genuine (in the Congress Newark Show); I took Phil Ward over and he agreed with me. Phil said he offered over a thousand dollars for a 1d. and 2d. on an early Gr. Britain cover and he has never been able to find one. Same is true of the 5 and 10¢ 1847 U.S. I have seen one with a 10¢ stamp put on originally; for over 300 miles; then the letter was forwarded and a 5¢ stamp put on for forwarding under 300 miles. But both stamps were not affixed at the same time.

I think your idea of listing the 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢ might be considered. However, if one has a cover with any of these three stamps dating prior to May 1 1873, it must be National. In my opinion almost any 24¢ used after July 1 1873 from New York is likely to be Continental regardless of shade. Boyd, the Stamp Agent, took all the Nationals to his own vault, and the Nationals and Continentals were never mixed. At least a letter which Phil Ward had in Mekeel's from the Third Asst.P.M.G. states this as a fact. And the records show that in 1871 and 1872 Boyd sent the same number of 24¢ stamps to P.O.s as he received. As I think I wrote you, the 24¢ on a Dec 23 1874 cover in a bright violet, matches a Frank Hollowbush cover of Jan 18 1864, 3½ weeks apart; and I have a third copy off cover in exactly the same shade. I am trying to date the blue cross cancellation but haven't succeeded so far. I think it is definitely not a New York Foreign Mail as none of the foreign mail cancellations are known in blue.

Charles Phillips sold me my 24¢ steel blue and from the day I received it it never quite satisfied me. It doesn't look like the real "McCoy."

I should be glad to have your article to read and will return it promptly. I guess there is still chance for research; the field has not been yet fully covered.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Jere.

Lombardy-Venetia

Jan. 9, 1954.

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

Dear Jere:

I have your two letters of the 1st and 5th.

Re - your large piece with a block of four 90¢ purple and a 30¢ 1869, I may have a memo of this among my photographs but I did not have any record in my files. I apparently have no record of a block of four of the 90¢ purple on any kind of a cover, or piece. Thanks for the record.

Regarding the listing. I believe it is rather absurd to omit a listing of the 24¢ Continental, and list the 30¢ and 90¢. Why should we have 30¢ and 90¢ values and no 24¢? I don't think it makes sense. But in a listing we are concerned with singles stamps, not the stamps on covers. Of course, we can be sure of Nationals on cover if the use is prior to July 1, 1873, but covers with any of the three high values are scarce. Many collectors don't like large covers - or what are known as court house covers and refuse to have them in their collections. Because of this, I think that there is no question but what high values were removed from large covers and wrappers, and the latter destroyed. Thus it is possible that covers with any of the three high values used before Jan. 1, 1876 are much more rare than is generally supposed. I believe there are two solutions to the listing. Include the 24¢ along the 1873 Continental the same as the 30¢ and 90¢, with a notation that because of the absence of any secret marks on the three high values it is not possible to definitely distinguish the difference between the products of the two companies. Or, perhaps the best solution is to list separately the three values under one heading, as "Printed by the National & Continental Bank Note Companies," with a proper notation. By this method there would not be any confusion. I may be wrong but I do not believe the products of the two companies can be definitely distinguished one from the other by the shade or the color, and of course I refer to all three values.

Consider the 90¢. If every sheet turned out by National was in the same rich carmine and if every sheet of the 90¢ produced by Continental was in an entirely different color - rose carmine or yellowish carmine then we might have a situation as indicated by the S.U.S. and a method that is used by those who believe they know every National or Continental submitted to them. But do you believe every 90¢ National was in the same shade and color? The same facts apply to the 30¢ and especially to the 24¢, the latter, a delicate color subject to great changes in the course of years. I agree that the 24¢ Continental should be listed but would the situation be improved by merely including it in the catalogue as #164? How would a collector be able to tell whether he had a 153 or a 164?

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 8, 1955.

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

Dear Les:

Thanks very much for yours of the 3rd. In my Service Issue mailed today I had quite a bit of comment on the three high values, 24¢ - 30¢ and 90¢ without grill of the National and Continental. I sure would value your further comment on the "stuff" I submitted. I would not expect anyone to agree with my suggestion for a revamp of the listing but I believe it is sensible and honest.

Regards-

Yours etc.,



THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

MANAGING DIRECTOR: O. BACHER, D. PHIL.

MEMBER BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN, PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY, LONDON,
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LONDON, W.1.

BANKERS:
BARCLAYS,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

TELEPHONE:
GERRARD
4900

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

15-12-57.

Many thanks for yours of Dec. 10, crossing mine
of Dec. 10.

Bought the over for stock and unless my
attorney here who is a great collector wants it (decision
in a few days) I am well prepared to let you have
it for some friend and client of yours, should it be
wanted. Would be satisfied with a commission on purchase
price, say 10%. Of course you know that this is the only
10c St. of 3 + 5¢ over to G. B., the other one, to Belgium
and the Watohouse & Gibson is well in your memory.
Durham had another combination like this (lot 66) which was
in impossible condition.

Always prepared to answer your questions, old
friend, because you never did and never would ask me any-
thing unreasonable! Forgive awful longhand. Am deep in
the Watohouse job and the days are too short.
Kind regards
Yours sincerely O. Bacher.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



Henry B. Stalworth Esq.

33 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.

FORT THOMAS

Kentucky.

99 St.

← First fold here →

← Second 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.

THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER

Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/1K

To open cut here

To open cut here

Dec. 21, 1954.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
London, W. 1, England.

Dear Doctor:

The following is confidential. It does not seem to be much of a secret in New York about the Waterhouse sale. One dealer wrote me that he had known about the sale since Dec. 1st, that the sale was to be June 27-28 and that he intended to fly over and had already applied for plane reservation. I figure if he and others know about the sale it is no longer a secret, though as yet I have not noticed any mention in the press.

Re.- Lot 66 in the Harmer sale of Dec. 6th. I suppose you examined this. It was shown to me several days ago by the collector who obtained it. As you will doubtless recall, it was routed by Cunard "America" - the date Aug 1848. One shilling due in Scotland. How did you figure that this required 34¢ (35¢ paid). If by American Pkt. the rate was 34¢ but not by Cunard. The cover looks okay but why 35¢? I note in yours of the 15th, you stated: "Denham had another like 65 which was in impossible condition." Would you still state that 66 was like 65?

I note that if your friend and attorney does not wish to acquire No. 65 that you will send it to me. I can assure you that I will greatly appreciate the favor.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Cordially yours,

Jan. 3, 1955.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
Regency House,
1-4 Warwick St.,
London W. 1, England.

Dear Doctor:

Herewith I am enclosing draft on London payable to your order for 418 pounds sterling, same in payment for Lot #65 in the Dunham sale by Harmer last month.

I have your air letter of Dec. 21st which I have carefully noted. I really think it would be very wise for the Harmer firm to have me okay any covers that you consider doubtful. I am quite sure that there are a number of Zareski covers, especially 1869, in the collection that N.W. acquired from Stuart Anderson who handled a lot of Zareski material in the middle 1930's.

I suppose a number of Waterhouse covers will come to me after the sale and if I condemn them no doubt they will be returned. So perhaps trouble would be avoided by having me sign them before the sale. I believe such signed covers will bring much more in cash than the fee for my okay. At least such is the case over here.

I note that you did not pay much attention to Lot 66 in the Dunham sale. I have it on my desk as I write this. It is so terrible looking it must be good. I don't think any faker could make an item as llusy looking unless he threw it down a toilet and then rescued it. The due of a shilling shows not over 1/2 oz. in G.B. - and the 35¢ shows 10¢ + 24¢ in the U. S. - a use in Aug. 1848 but no sign of postmark or origin. In addition, it is routed by British Packet. Well, if the rate is correct, it went "Amer Pkt" or did it? Can you suggest anything?

I note your letter was written Xmas Eve. We had a very wonderful holiday season - quite a family reunion - the only missing member - a grandson with the army in Japan.

Many thanks for your NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

May 1955 be awfully good to you and yours.

Sincerely yours,

SIDNEY A. HESSEL
NETTLETON HOLLOW
WASHINGTON, CONN.

12 - 14 - 54

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 North Ft. Thomas ave
Fort Thomas. Ky.

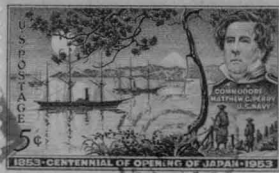
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I keep my collection in N.Y.C. and as Washington Conn is well out of regular commuting distance go there no more than necessary. Hence the delay in responding to your letter of Nov 28.

In any event, here is the item you mentioned desiring its loan. Its condition is somewhat lacking perfection.

With kindest regards and best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

Sid Hessel



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



Dec. 21, 1954.

Mr. Sidney A. Hessel,
R. R. 1,
Washington, Conn.

Dear Mr. Hessel:

Thanks very much for your kindness in the loan of the 24¢ 1860 with the Carrier postmark. I suppose there is little if any doubt that the S.U.S. listing was taken from this particular copy. I am wondering how you feel about this item? Is it your opinion that it is a genuine strike? Please do not misunderstand me - I certainly am not questioning it, merely inquiring if you have any reason to be a bit suspicious of it. In addition to the Carrier marking, it also has a part of the New York marking which reads, "N. YORK AM. PKT." This was supposed to be a back marking but of course is found on faces of covers but rarely as a killer or cancellation.

If this stamp is genuine, I suppose it was on a letter to Great Britain dropped in a letter-box with 1¢ + 24¢ postage. In the Carrier Dept. it received the Carrier marking and then transferred to the Foreign counter where it got the "N. YORK AM. PKT" etc. Surely this carrier marking on this stamp makes it an item which is unique - I have never heard of another 24¢ 1860 with a Carrier marking. Where only one item exists with an unusual postal marking, the question arises in my mind if such an item is entitled to a catalogue listing? If only one is known, of what interest could such a listing be to the general public? It appears to me that the listing of cancellations should be for the purpose of giving collectors what markings might be expected on certain stamps.

The above are just thoughts that occur to me and I will greatly appreciate any comment you care to make.

With my kindest regards and sincere thanks,

Cordially yours,

Dec. 21, 1954.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,
§ Scott Publications,
580 Fifth Ave.,
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

Several weeks ago I wrote you about the listing under the U. S. 24¢ 1860 of "Carrier Cancellations." Perhaps it might be of interest to you to learn that I wrote to Mr. Sidney Hessel, who owns this off cover item, and had him send it to me as I had never seen it. I thought perhaps you would like to see a copy of the letter I wrote to Mr. Hessel when I returned the stamp.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Cordially yours,

SIDNEY A. HESSEL
NETTLETON HOLLOW
WASHINGTON, CONN.

6 Jan 1955

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for the prompt handling and letter about the N.Y. carrier marking on the 24 cent 1860. Also, it was really quite unnecessary to reimburse me for the postage. I am more than delighted to stand that much expense in my co-operation. I realize that has been your standard practise and mention now for any future occasion that as far as I am concerned it is not expected.

I regret that I cannot add much of definite nature about the history of the stamp which was acquired by my father. I have added very little since his death. Nevertheless, in many instances I do know the story behind pieces as I did grow up with the development of the collection. In fact, father's interest began when he couldn't sit idly by and watch me play with his boyhood collection which had been given me by my grandfather. When he acquired pieces we often mounted them together. I attended auctions with him etc. This much I can say- I very much doubt that the stamp was acquired as a single piece for what now seems important. Any single item for which even a very small price was paid was almost invariably lightly pencilled in code. Besides this the condition of the stamp is such that it likely would not have appealed to him if the price at all recognized its significance. From time to time he acquired relatively small collections when they had sufficient items of interest for the collection, discarding the bulk. Under such conditions a few pieces in very poor condition found their way into the collection. The great mass of the carrier material was accumulated before there was even a S. U. S. catalogue and although carrier stamps themselves were recognized as rarities the significance of markings was not very generally appreciated.

No doubt, I have always been too prone to believe the genuineness of something essentially unattractive. In the absence of observing anything incorrect in the markings themselves and with the above background I really believe the item to have been legitimately used, presumably as you state. A certain percentage of the high value denominations must surely have fallen into that category and finding the pkt strike on the 24 cent value on the face of the stamp does not seem to me to be so very remote. I have often mis-positioned a rubber stamp in going through a pile of material of different sizes, perhaps coming upon some of it upside down etc. Even the conscious use, for convenience, of the packet or carrier impression can quite conceivably ^{have} occurred on occasion upon noticing the omission of a deletary strike. One can speculate forever.

As to your question of the desirability of a catalogue listing, that it seems to me depends upon the purpose of the catalogue. Any item, whether marking or stamp itself, unique or even just very rare, cannot be acquired by many but its listing records philatelic knowledge and history for the "general public". In the case of a strike a greater number and variety of accidents are sure to happen. To distinguish what is to be expected on certain stamps from other known actualities is surely worthy. Whether the latter category be included at all I believe, as said above, depends on the intended scope of the catalogue and, of course, the

satisfaction on the part of the authority of the genuineness of the unusual manifestation. The striking of a postal marking on the stamp proper where it had no particular postal significance is itself an accident of a sort, though not necessarily uncommon. As an accident it might be omitted, but then for all such occurrences. Extreme rarity alone I definitely feel is not a valid disqualification. Such is bound to occur in direct proportion as the stamp itself is rare.

For a long time now only complete covers have appealed to me but obviously a student is not justified in neglecting information available only from other material.

As you have said, "the above are just thoughts that have occurred to me". I do not feel that I have exhausted the matter.

With sincerest best wishes for 1955,

Cordially yours,

Sidney Al Kessel

Jan. 14, 1955.

Mr. Sidney A. Hessel,
R. R. 1,
Washington, Conn.

Dear Mr. Hessel:

It was most kind of you to write me at length regarding your copy of the 24¢ 1860 and I want you to know that I sincerely appreciate your kindness.

In expressing an opinion on any item submitted to me I try very hard to be as careful as possible. I would hate like the very devil to cast suspicion or condemn an item that might be good - and I would dislike very much to okay as genuine some item that had been "fixed up" or manufactured by some philatelic crook.

After a careful consideration I am disposed to believe that the markings on your stamp are genuine and if so, then the item is no doubt unique.

I suppose the S.U.S. should attempt to be not only a catalogue but in addition a sort of reference work and as such it is no doubt right and proper to list an item such as yours, though it may be the only one known.

I was pleased to have your views on this point.

Again my sincere thanks.

Cordially yours,

Dear Stan:

I consider this type III plate 4
Is it a fact that all plate 4 broken at B
are automatically broken at T.

Would appreciate your listing
Postage enclosed for return

My most sincere wishes
for Christmas and happy & healthy new
year. from both of us.

Bob.

Catalog No. 9

LAURENCE & STRYKER

Lot No. 588

Cat. Value 4500

7 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

CARE IN HANDLING STAMPS, AND TURNING THE PAGES, WILL BE APPRECIATED.

Dec. 21, 1954.

Mr. Robt. Laurence,
% Laurence & Stryker,
7 East 42nd St.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Bob:

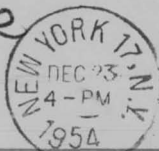
Re - the 1¢ '51 on the enclosed cover -
Too bad this is cut so bad at the top. Otherwise
it would have been a very fine Type III. As it is,
it is what I call a was type, in other words, it
was a Type III before the cut at top destroyed the
type. Something that was cannot be something that
is, for best example, a eumuch. This stamp came
from Plate 4 - "C" relief - position 67LA. See chart,
my 1¢ book, Volume 1, page 234.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to Stryker and you.

Cordially yours,

P.S. In view of the Holiday rush of mail will you please
acknowledge receipt of this on the enclosed post card.

Bob Larrence



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



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

Dec 22, 1954

K 11/ Stan:

The cover arrived safely

Again best wishes

Bahl

Bob Lawrence

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

Santa Barbara - Dec. 30

Dear Stanley:

Thanks very much for yours of November 13 with information about Confederate R. R. covers. I shall look into the subject further.

Enclosed is a cover you may like to see - a railroad route agent postmark on a cover to California - not exactly a common combination. The marking is BUFFALO & ERIE R. R. I wish it were a little more legible.

I suppose this cover went to New York and then by steamer via the Isthmus, but I would like to have your analysis. The memo date in pencil appears to read Oct. 27/58 and if that is correct it has to be by steamer, doesn't it, as the overland didn't start until Sept. 16, 1858? However, isn't 29 days a very short time from western New York State to a place in the mining district in northern California? Of course there is no proof that the pencil memo is genuine, but it does look so - to me, anyway. If you can identify the plate that the 1¢ stamp came from, that might be a clue to the year date. Whatever comments you may have will be very much appreciated.

A little surgery caused me to spend ten days in the hospital early this month but I was home in time for Christmas and am rapidly getting back to normal.

One other question I have been saving - in the Fox sale of the Lehman collection late in October there were two or more lots that were described as being postmarked with "red Mobile Paint" - lots 93 and 109, and perhaps others. I have never run across this expression before. Is it a recognized description of a special color?

Hope all goes well with you. No hurry about sending the cover back - just whenever you get around to it.

Sincerely,

Chuck

Jan. 9, 1955.

Mr. C. W. Remele,
14 East Carrillo St.,
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Dear Chuck:

Herewith the R. R. cover to California as per yours of the 30th. This is indeed most unusual, in fact, I do not recall ever having seen a similar item. For all I know it may be unique. I have long contended that an outstanding collection is one that includes unusual items - items the other fellow does not possess. Such items may be in most any category - just so long as it is most unusual. For example, a foreign rate cover - a cover going abroad with 1847 stamps. A fine collection can show a cover to Britain but what about one to France? Or especially one showing a rate to Havana. The rate was 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, hence one had to use a 10¢ and a 5¢. I never heard of a 10¢ plus a 5¢ bisect. The above are what I class unusual items and your cover is in that category.

There is no question but what this was sent Via the Ocean Mail - to go overland it had to be routed "Via Overland". It was sent to New York and thence Via Panama. The Overland Mail was intended largely for mail originating in the middlewest, but even so the great bulk was sent to New York to go Via Panama even after the Overland was put into operation.

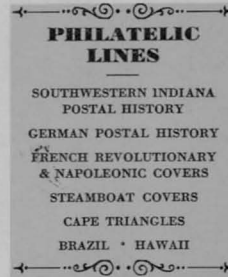
No, 29 days was not too short a time. The postmark date is "Sep 3" which means the letter departed from New York on Sep 5 - Sailings were the 5th and 20th. My guess is that it reached San Francisco along about the 29th or 30th - possibly a day or two ahead and could have reached the addressee on Oct. 2nd.

I suppose I could plate the 1¢ stamp but it would require quite a bit of time and the result would not be worth it. I have no idea the pencil memo is okay and the use no doubt 1858 or 1859. It would make little difference which is correct.

Re - the term "Mobile paint," this is a term that goes way back before my time. In the 1850's the Mobile P.O. used a red canceling ink that was a bright vermillion and a thick substance that left a heavy impression much the same as if some sort of a thick, quick drying paint. It is quite well known on the 1¢ '51 Type IV - the 3¢ '51 and the 10¢ 1855. Also on the 1847's but such uses would probably date in 1850 or 1851. No doubt it is also known on stampless covers of the early fifties. I can send you several examples if you would like to see them.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



Jan. 10, 1955

Dear Stan:

The "LOUISVILLE & CIN. S.B." cover came back O.K. today. Re scarcity: I have three copies of this mark recorded, two in blue and one in black. I have watched the auctions very carefully the last six years, and don't think I have overlooked any; but how many are in collections, and how many are or have been in dealers' stocks and were not submitted to me, is anybody's guess. I would list it as one of the scarcer marks.

LIVILLE.

In the same style I have ~~LOUISVILLE~~ & EVANS. S.B. and EVANSVILLE & CAIRO S.B., and my records show only one copy of each--both my own. One of my friends in Washington found the EVANSVILLE & CAIRO in a Weeks weekly auction for me; John Fox was in town and was going to bid on it, and my friend talked him out of it for me. Ezra Cole had bought the LIVILLE & EVANS. for a railroad mark, mistaking S.B. for R.R. I told him what it was, whereupon his client didn't want it (he collects only railroads) so Ezra was able to make a deal for me by which I gave his client a couple of railroad marks outside my area of interest and therefore of no great consequence to me.

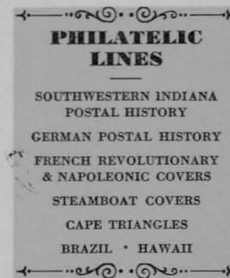
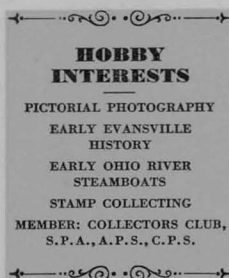
Marks in this style in the 60's are normal. There are a good many varieties on the Mississippi, only one of which ("MEMPH. & VICKSBURG U.S.M. PAKT.") is even reasonably plentiful; all the rest are extremely scarce, and that one is not common. You know there is also a "LAKE CHAMPLAIN S.B." in the same style; and curiously, the extremely early R.P.O. marks in the late 60's also come in that style. It is very instructive to observe the trend in styles of marks by periods, and that goes for town marks on the one hand, and for route marks on the other. I'm sure you have often been intrigued by such observations.

Don't report this to Dolores; she is not recording such marks. Eugene recorded only "packet marks" (more properly, purser's marks) and steamboat corner cards, and Dolores is continuing in the same way. Marks of the route agents are my field; Dolores and I agreed that we would each go on as we had begun, and not compete with each other. But if ever you find an unrecorded purser's mark or corner card, make an exact-size photograph and send it to her, as she hopes to issue a supplement in the next couple of years.

No doubt you knew about the death of Mrs. Newbury immediately when it happened; it made the Evansville papers because she has a number of nephews here; the men are my friends, and the boys were my pupils. Mannel Hahn died on the last day of 1954; he had been paralyzed for some five years.

As ever,
There will be more prints as soon as I can steal an evening to make them.

Henry



Jan. 8, 1955

Dear Stan:

I have here most of the correspondence relating to forged steamboat markings which have come my way in the last two years. I spent at least six hours today going through correspondence, which I certainly had no business doing today, as I have many jobs of importance to me, and this one is of no importance whatever to me, individually, though very important for future scholarship in our line. I will now quote names and dates and enough facts to give you the needed information.

1. A letter from you, dated Nov. 2, 1952, replying to mine of Oct. 31, which was a postal card and therefore I have no carbon copy. It referred to a lot in a Harmer catalog, which we agreed was bad. You advised not telling Harmer that it was bad. I can't recall now what the cover was.

2. A letter from Cahrlie Roser, sending me a cover of the "Kenton" for listing and one with the fake mark "NEW ORLEANS/CAIRO" around the circle and ~~dataxxxxxxxniddler~~ "STEAM/BOAT" and date in the middle. Since the two covers with this mark were both from Louisville to Pennsylvania (via Cairo and N.O.!) and both with 3c 1861 and the fake mark, I can no longer tell which one Cahrlie sent me. The one has a very clear Louisville town mark and target; the other has a town mark which appears to be Louisville, but in the print the stamp is so dark that I can't read the town mark. Charlie did not say who sold him or submitted him the cover.

3. A letter from J. Hubert Scruggs of Birmingham, enclosing two covers for my opinion, and also enclosing a letter from Gordon Bleuler offering him the covers for sale. Hubert's letter was dated Feb. 4, 1953, and I replied on Feb. 8. From the carbon copy of my reply I see that the two covers were the "NEW ORLEANS/CAIRO" "STEAM/BOAT" (the other copy than the one sent me by Charlie) and the "NEW ORLEANS & CAIRO WEEKLY MAIL" "STEAMER TRAVIS." It was because Hubert enclosed Bleuler's letter that I knew from whom they came; and I am telling you the exact truth when I say that that letter was my first knowledge that a man named Gordon Bleuler exists.

4. A letter from Prof. Walter G. Moore of Loyola University in New Orleans, enclosing the "U.S. MAIL-SHIP/DETROIT" cover. In this case I was mistaken; Prof. Moore got it from a fellow-member of the faculty, a Mr. Kail; Mr. Kail got it from a man whose name he could not recall; and that man got it from Larry Bornstein when Larry sold out the Old Quarter Stamp Shop.

Correction: Prof. Moore enclosed two such covers: one west-bound, from New York to Green Bay Mission in 1832, and the other east-bound, from Fort Winnebago to _____ in ~~1833~~ 1834. Right now I can find only the photograph of the west-bound letter; I think I could find the other if I spent another six hours hunting. The east-bound cover was apparently privately carried, as it had no postmark, not even Ms., and no rate mark.

Comment: I was mistaken about Prof. Moore getting these covers from Bleuler; but it is still very possible that Larry B. got them from Bleuler.

Another comment: Bleuler denied both covers whose photographs you sent him; but he did not deny the "U.S. MAIL-SHIP/DETROIT" nearly so emphatically as he denied the "NEW ORLEANS/CAIRO" "STEAM/BOAT."

In the carbon copy of my letter to Prof. Moore, I stated that I had had a copy of the fake mark sent to me from Cleveland; That causes me to wonder, did a third copy come to me from Cleveland, the covering letter of which I did not find in my correspondence, or was I thinking of the Roser copy? Probably the latter.

5. A letter from Edward B. Murphy of Fort Worth, dated Sept. 10, 1954, sending me a "NEW ORLEANS & CAIRO/WEEKLY MAIL" "STEAMER TRAVIS." At the time I received the cover, I recognized it as the same mark and of the same vintage as the cover I had previously recorded, but I did not recognize it as the identical cover which Hubert had refused on my advice. I later discovered that it was the same identical cover. Mr. Murphy told me that he had bought it from Gordon Bleuler.

Question: Do you think we ought to ask Charlie Roser to try to recall from whom he got the fake "NEW ORLEANS/CAIRO" "STEAM/BOAT" cover? I don't know whether he could now recall, as it was a little over two years ago. If he does not say it was Bleuler, we would then have to write to that person and ask him to try also to recall. Perhaps it is not worth the trouble; but it is a sure thing that Charlie's cover and the cover which Hubert refused were made by the same faker, and they probably reached the market through the same person, whether Bleuler or somebody else.

In one letter you wrote me that you suspected who made them. You don't think it was Pelletier, do you? I think Pelletier faked only "packet marks" which were at that time collected, and I think Eugene Klein managed to get a complete listing and description of them. Those covers (I believe five in number) kept coming up a few years ago at bourses and in stamp stores; the last time I heard of any coming up was when John L. Norbeck bought several of them in New Orleans when he and Ardyce were down there on their honeymoon. There was quite a quiet spell between the dying down of those covers and the popping up of this whole epidemic of faked "STEAM" etc. marks, the first of which, I believe, was the "WAY 2" which we agree is bad.

In these two pages I have given you all I can at present. In one more page I'll try to clean up all other matters pending for action.

I am enclosing in this letter: (1) The letter from Bleuler, (2) the photographs of the two covers which he gave to the Foundation, (3) the photographs of the two covers which he denied, all of which you ought to keep together in one place; (4) prints of the two fraudulent "7" covers belonging to Joe Herbert. All the correspondence which I fished out of my file and quoted on pp. 1 and 2 is available if you ever need it. I think it won't hurt for us to watch Bleuler; we may hear of more covers coming from him. If they were pretty widely distributed before you wrote to him, they may be reaching us for several more years.

It is O.K. that you sent my "LOUISVILLE & CIN./S.-B." to a friend for study. Don't worry if he keeps it a few weeks. I have covers here on loan which I have had entirely too long; but no human being could keep up with my incoming correspondence, if he had absolutely nothing else to do. I will be very glad to receive a photograph of the fraudulent mark. The description sounds very bad. 21 mm. is abnormally small. The big route agent marks were sometimes (perhaps often) struck in red, but the small marks were not; they occur occasionally in blue, but part of the reason for their monotony is the fact that they practically always come in black. We are certainly having more than a normal number of fake steamboat mail markings.

Re "MAIL ROUTE" covers: You know I got the Savannah cover from Doc Chase. It was by far the finest cover of the four, and also the rarest of the four, yet it was priced the same as the rest. After I had written you about them and you had replied, I wrote Doc again and asked him to send me the Providence; and while I was getting that one, I also got the Philadelphia. So I now possess 1 Savannah, 2 Philadelphias, 2 Providence, and a good many New Yorks. I now have complete data on more than four times as many covers as I reported in my article in STAMPS of Aug. 14, 1954. When the call comes for my annual article as an S.P.A. research contribution to STAMPS next summer, I can really report progress. When you commented on the photograph of the Providence cover which was lent to me by Carl W. H. Cowdry, you asked me, "How do you account for the 111?" I hunted up the photograph, and I find that you referred to the rate mark. It is not 111; it is 10, and the quill pen performed awkwardly. I just hope I can make some sense out of the rates by next summer.

Although I finished the school centennial history in May, and we finished mailing out orders during summer vacation, this fall I have been abnormally busy. I have been harder driven just doing my regular work, with no extras, than I was last year while doing the book. The rest of this year I will be still busier. The annual summer meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics will be in Bloomington, Ind., just before the S.P.A. convention, which will be in Louisville. I am to be chairman of the publicity committee for the mathematics meeting, in which capacity I am to prepare news releases and publicity stories for the convention, and am to compile a list of names and addresses for mailing publicity material which will run well over 4000 names. So you see I will not be able to do very much about covers this year. Write me when there is anything of interest, and I'll try to answer.

I have some more interesting cover photographs and will send prints as soon as I can get an evening to make them.

As ever,

Henry

Dec. 3, 1954.

Mr. Gordon Bleuler,
2115 Barberry Drive,
Dallas 11, Texas.

Dear Mr. Bleuler:

I am enclosing two photo prints presented
to me by my good friend Henry Meyer of Evansville.

Please note the memos on the back. I have
seen other faked covers with the "Detroit." Can
you give me any information as to the origin?
Have you any record as to whom you sold these two
covers.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 10, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

Herewith letter from Gordon Bleuler and the two photo prints, enclosed so that they can refresh your memory. Do you suppose you could find out who sent them to you. Bleuler stated he does not remember them. This could be - yet, I wonder?

I am beginning to think this fellow don't ring true. What do you think?

Regards.

Yours etc.,

December 7, 1954.

From: Gordon Bleuler
2115 Barberry Drive
Dallas 11, Texas.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.....

Well I had thought that this business of faked covers was at an end, but now you show up with two more covers. My reaction after looking over the photostat items is that it just isn't true that these items came from me. To the best of my knowledge these covers were never in my hands. I have an extremely good memory for covers that I have owned and these make no impression whatsoever.

It is possible that I have sold the remainders from time to time of various large cover lots that I have purchased at auction, but even here I would have kept out covers such as these with steamboat markings; so frankly I just cannot reconcile the assertion that they were even owned by me.

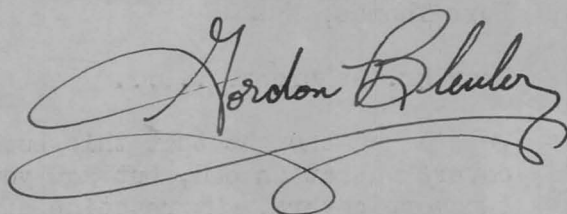
I wonder would you mind contacting Mr. Henry A. Meyer and see if he will find out for you who submitted these covers to him. It is probable that this person never had any dealings with me whatsoever. If it is someone I have traded with I would like to find out a little more information as to the details of the sale or trade.

One thing seems a bit peculiar to me and that is the steamboat marking on this New Orleans - Cairo cover postmarked Louisville, Ky. Isn't this marking a whole lot like the one on the other cover that you sent in to the Foundation recently for me. Since both of these had 3 Cents 1861 Issue, markings that

were similar, perhaps Mr. Henry A. Meyer may have confused the two covers.....

I am returning these photostats. I hope you will advise if you are able to turn up any more information as to the actual origin of these items.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gordon Bleuler". The signature is written in dark ink and features a large, sweeping loop at the end of the last name.

Jan. 13, 1955.

Mr. Henry A. Meyer,
516 Read St.,
Evansville 10, Ind.

Dear Henry:

I have your two letters of the 8th and 10th. Thanks very much.

On page 2 of yours of the 8th you inquired if we should write Dr. Roser about the "New Orleans / Cairo" cover. I would agree if I thought it would be any good but I think it would be effort wasted as I doubt if we could learn the source of these fakes. In such cases, I think we should notify the Philatelic Foundation Expert Committee and furnish photo prints. You and I cannot put a stop to such faking. Perhaps an article in STAMPS would do some good. It would warn buyers.

Re - Gordon Bleuler. I have no evidence that he is guilty in any way, but one can never tell. I mentioned in a former letter that I suspected a certain person. I referred to Scruggs because he faked a lot of Confederate covers in the nineteen thirties and I had him expelled from the A.P.S. I understand he is on very friendly terms with Bleuler. This may not mean a thin. No, I do not think Pelletier made these fakes. The stuff he turned out was not so amateurish. I furnished Gene Klein with the evidence on Pelletier back in the middle thirties. In the Richey collection of "Packets" were covers he bought from Pelletier. I have several of these in my reference collection.

Thanks for the prints that you enclosed. I will file all this data together for future reference.

Mail Route. Thanks very much for putting me on the right track on the rate on the Providence cover of Jan. 7, 1827 - a rate of "10" instead of 111. Fine.

Re - yours of the 10th. Again thanks very much for all the information contained therein. I will abide accordingly.

I was shocked to learn of the death of Mannel Hahn. I had not heard of it before. Yes, I was advised of the passing of Mrs. Newbury. She was surely one of the top business women of the country. Too bad she did not leave her money to some charity. Saul was generous to default. She was the reverse. She had very few friends and she trusted no human. In other words, she was really hard.

I have a memo in my files - "Packet Fakes - Bart Able - Francis - Natchez - see A.P. Vol. 43 - page 306 - Mar 1930 -" No doubt you have this reference.

Re - "U.S. Mail ship - Detroit." Several years ago Fred Schmalzreidt

#2. Mr. Henry A. Meyer - Jan. 13, 1955.

showed me three or four of these faked covers that he had acquired. I suppose quite a number were put into circulation. I have a recollection that Konwiser mentioned it as a fake in his column at one time.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

3 MAIL-SHIP
DETROIT

Rev. R. F. Cadd

Green Bay, Wisconsin

M. T.

For by Mr. Lott.

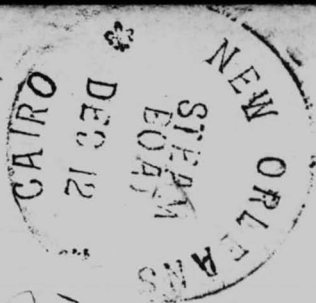
Stan

One of the fake waterways covers
coming on the market via Gordon
Bleuler. I could find, but don't
remember, who submitted this.

HENRY A. MEYER

516 Read St.

Evansville 11, Ind.



Mrs. Wm. Verbeck
East-Cray Bradford County
Pennsylvania

Stan

One of the fake waterways covers coming
on the market via Gordon Bleuler.

I could find, but don't remember,
who submitted this.

HENRY A. MEYER

516 Read St.

Evansville 11, Ind.



ORLEANS

ST. AM
BOAT

Dec 22

Miss Hanna H. Hayes
Cedar Springs
Clinton County
Pennsylvania

One of the fake waterwarp covers coming on the
market via Gordon Bleuler. I could find,
but don't remember, who submitted this.

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

NEW ORLEANS & CAIRO
WEEKLY MAIL

STEAMER TRAVIS



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

Steen

One of the fake waterways covers coming
on the market via Gordon Bleuler.
I could find, but have forgotten, who
submitted this.

~~Takeover~~

HENRY A. MEYER

516 Read St.

Evansville 11, Ind.

RAYNOR HUBBELL

SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



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

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

Jan-12-1955

Mr Stanley B Ashbrook

Box-31-

Fort Thomas-Ky.

Dear Stanley:

Will you please Authenticate the enclosed Red Jack Cover,
for me, for my account.

Do not write on the back of it, please, as it is offered to
me, but in not my property as yet.

Looks O.K.to me as an unsealed circular, but I wish to have
back my judgement before trying to buy it.

Sincerely,

Raynor Hubbell

RH:grh

*Stamps
for
Gratton
and
Raynor*

Jan. 14, 1955.

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

Dear Raynor:

Herewith the 2¢ 1863 cover from Greenville, S.C. as per yours of the 12th. In my opinion, the cover is genuine in all respects. I see no reason to question it. It was apparently a 2¢ unsealed circular rate from Greenville, S.C. to Darlington C.H., S.C. in January - probably 1864. With the scarcity of paper and envelopes in the C.S.A. one wonders how the printer got the supply for this above.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 3, 1955.

Mr. Eugene Jaeger,
34 Summer Avenue,
Morwood 7, R.I.

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Here is a color slide that I made of a
cover to France. After I had photographed it
I realized I had made an error in my description.
I am sure you will note the error.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

Enclosed:
A21 - #29

January 10, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for yours of the 3rd and color
slide which I return herewith.

Judging by the N. Y. 12¢ Credit this cover appears
to be at least 7¢ overpaid on a weight of 1/2 to 2/3 oz.

There is, of course, also the possibility that it
weighed only 1/3 to 1/2 oz. in which case it would be
11¢ overpaid.

I have not seen many covers from this period and
with these rates. They must have been rather confusing
to Post Masters of small towns such as Pioche, Nev. and
I think the N. Y. rating should be made the Standard by
which to judge these covers.

Of the 2 mentioned in the Boston book, one is Short
Paid, this particular one is overpaid and you sent me a
photo of another one from New Orleans which was also
overpaid. It appears that errors are more the rule than
the exception.

I see the Waterhouse collection will be sold.
May be you will get a look at the controversial 15¢
cover we have discussed previously.

Best regards

Sincerely yours

Eugene Jaeger

BUSINESS BOND

Jan. 13, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

I have yours of the 10th with return of the slide of the cover with 27¢ to France in 1872. (I assume that was the year of use and that no change was made in the year date).

I note that there was a Pioche, NEV. in 1870. I agree that the letter was probably 7¢ over paid, that New York therefore credited 12¢ to Britain. I believe that New York found that the letter was over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. but not over $\frac{2}{3}$ oz., which weight required 20¢ with a credit of 12¢. No doubt the Nevada office figured it was over $\frac{2}{3}$ oz. - not over 1 oz., hence required 26¢. In such a case, the credit would have been 18¢. A letter of $\frac{1}{3}$ - not over $\frac{1}{2}$ also received a credit of 12¢ (as you stated) with postage required of 16¢, so it is possible the rate could have been over paid 11¢.

I am enclosing for your records, a photo of the cover, which has my error re - the rate.

I have been advised that I will be requested to examine a number of the Waterhouse covers so no doubt I will have a chance to study that controversial item.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 13, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

I have yours of the 10th with return of the slide of the cover with 27¢ to France in 1872. (I assume that was the year of use and that no change was made in the year date).

I note that there was a Pioche, NEV. in 1870. I agree that the letter was probably 7¢ over paid, that New York therefore credited 12¢ to Britain. I believe that New York found that the letter was over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. but not over $\frac{2}{3}$ oz., which weight required 20¢ with a credit of 12¢. No doubt the Nevada office figured it was over $\frac{2}{3}$ oz. - not over 1 oz., hence required 26¢. In such a case, the credit would have been 18¢. A letter of $\frac{1}{3}$ - not over $\frac{1}{2}$ also received a credit of 12¢ (as you stated) with postage required of 16¢, so it is possible the rate could have been over paid 11¢.

I am enclosing for your records, a photo of the cover, which has my error re - the rate.

I have been advised that I will be requested to examine a number of the Waterhouse covers so no doubt I will have a chance to study that controversial item.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Copy Sent To M.C. Blake

11 Mason Street
Brookline 46, Mass.
January 18, 1955

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

Dear Stanley:

Herewith I return your correspondence with Mr. Jaeger.
May I venture some comments on the Pioche, Nev. 27¢ cover of Nov. 1872.

From such evidence as I have I think your original description of 1¢ overpaid may be correct. My covers and source data indicate that the credit progression at New York may have been changed after the 10¢-16¢-20¢-26¢ rates went into effect during 1872, starting on the basis of 6¢ credit for each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. as stated in your letter to me of Jan. 3, 1955, quoting from U.S. Mail & P.O. Advisor, that is credit 6 for 10¢ rate not over $\frac{1}{3}$ oz. and for 16¢ rate $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., correspondingly credit 12 for 20¢ rate $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ oz. and for 26¢ rate $\frac{2}{3}$ -1 oz., but then by some date in 1873 changed the better to conform with French triple rate (internal progression per 10 gr. weight) so that the U.S. credit progression in 1873 stayed 6 for 10¢ rate to $\frac{1}{3}$ oz. (10 gr.) and for 16¢ rate $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; 12 for 20¢ rate $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ oz. (i.e. 12 for 10-20 gr.), but credit 18 for 26¢ rate $\frac{2}{3}$ -1 oz. (20-30 gr.).

If the above change is correct, then Mr. Jaeger's suggestion of 11¢ overpay for possible $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. with credit 12 is not applicable to this Pioche cover of Nov. 22-Dec. 4, 1872, nor would your correction from 1¢ overpay to 7¢ overpay for $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ oz. because of 12 instead of 18 credit be applicable.

For example, I have a cover from New York with strip of three 10¢ 1870 stamps tied by N.Y. Foreign Mail cancels with red NEW PAID YORK-OCT 25- 12 in 1872 apparently 4¢ overpay of 26¢ rate via LONDON PAID and ANGL CALAIS 6 NOV. 72 PARIS A BORDEAUX same date to Angouleme. Here is credit 12 on the early basis of 6¢ credit per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. about a month before the same credit 12 on the Pioche 27¢ cover 1¢ overpay of 26¢ rate $\frac{2}{3}$ -1 oz.

Also I have 16¢ cover, 10¢ plus two 3¢ 1870 stamps tied by red NEW PAID YORK-JUL 5- 6 in 1873 showing retention of credit 6 to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., even though the credit for the French triple $\frac{2}{3}$ -1 oz. had become 18, as shown on Babcock cover (L.&Stryker Oct. 18, 1943, Lot 117) with two 10¢ plus 6¢ '70 from S.F. APR 16- NEW PAID YORK-APR 24- 18- LONDON PAID 5 MY 73 to Bordeaux which is in my collection. I have other 16¢ covers credit 6, but none with credit 12, as Mr. Jaeger suggests. Do you have any such or any 18 credit earlier than July 1873?

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

I thank you for the Pioche cover print.

Jah. 20, 1955.

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

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the four covers as per yours of the 17th. Here are some comments:

Pair 3¢ 1851 to France. This is merely the 5¢ rate overpaid by a penny. This was not a rate but properly "the U.S. Internal under the U.S.-British postal treaty." In other words, the sum (per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) provided under the treaty for the U.S. internal - not domestic. Incidentally, this "G.B." marking was not used on such mail to France from the U. S. prior to Jan. 1, 1857 and as the treaty with France went into effect April 1, 1857, it is most unusual after March 31, 1857. In short we should expect to see it during the first quarter of 1857.

3¢ 1857 - New York with "LOCTS" A stamp used by error on this cover - It was used on stampless mail - unpaid 10¢ rates. Meaningless on this and the "10" probably crossed out by the clerk. Just a 3¢ 1857 cover with a wrong stamp.

Boston Ship 8. Note per "John Gilpin." In the fifties one of the most famous of clipper ships was the "John Gilpin." It ran from Boston and New York to San Francisco and Honolulu (around the Horn). However this famous ship was wrecked by an iceberg off Cape Horn and abandoned by her crew on Jan. 30, 1858. Maybe the John Gilpin that carried this letter was a successor. I have no record later than 1859. This use was Boston Nov. 2, 1860. In lower left corner is "Mohican - Loanda - Sep 8 60." There is a "Loanda" in Angola and an island off the coast named "Loanda." This might have originated there and brought into Boston by a private ship, the "John Gilpin." A ship letter was charged with regular postage plus 2¢ ship fee. I assume this was a triple rate - (heavy enclosure) of 3 x 3¢ plus 2¢ ship fee - total 11¢. Inasmuch as 3¢ was paid, there was 8¢ due - thus, "Ship 8."

S.S. St. Louis - 1866 - This was a ship of the Pacific Mail S. S. Co. which ran between San Francisco and Panama 1861-1866. Whether she was on the Line at the time of this letter I do not know. I do not think the Due is 31 but rather 3 in a box. With 9¢ paid and 3¢ due - the rate must have been 12¢ and the only way I can account for it, is that this was a quadruple rate of 4 x 3¢. All of the above on the supposition the "St. Louis" was still a mail ship between S.F. and Panama in March 1866. I have no record of what became of the ship after she was taken off the Line in 1866 or when that happened. "N.York Steamship" indicates carriage from the Isthmus to New York by U. S. mail ship. The single rate was 3¢ - the same as from S.F. Via Panama to the East (in 1866).

Again re - the 3¢ 1857 New York Nov 19; 1858 - 10 CTS. See my 1¢ book Vol. 2, page 126. I illustrated a strike without year and one with year (Sep 21 1859). This cover had a 1¢ 1857 - Type V - unsealed to "Chester Hill, O." - A most unusual use.

Colson. Okay I will send any of his Bulletins to you that are sent to me. Krug used to receive them but evidently he is off the list. Perhaps because he is my friend. The redhead hates me worse than poison and of course the feeling is mutual.

#2. Mr. Ezra D. Cole - Jan. 20, 1955.

Caspary. I read the Sloane column and it gave me a pain. That damn little squirt would like to give the impression that he was Caspary's closest friend and philatelic adviser. What a damn fool he is to write such crap. Nuts.

Re - The Sperati methods. When Sperati first produced his Confed "TEN," Gus Dietz explained fully in one of his catalogue supplements the method he used to produce by photography a reproduction that appeared to be a line engraved stamp. Of course Dietz must know the printing business and all features of it because he has always been a very smart German. Have you got a copy of the Dietz explanation?

With regards -

Yours etc.,

P.S.--I find that the Dietz explanation of the Sperati "TEN" was contained in a "supplement" to the C.S.A. "Bulletin" issue #23 of Dec. 1949. If you do not have a copy write Dietz for one. No doubt he can supply.

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Friday

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I am enclosing a copy of S.V.S. #123
and S.V.S. #133. Would you be kind
enough to examine them and sign them
on the reverse side if they are genuine in
every respect, also indicating the
catalogue number (i.e., whether it is
123 or 133).

Let me know what I owe you
and I will remit immediately.

With best wishes,

Sincerely

Millard H. Mack

Jan. 17, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the two 1¢ stamps as per yours of the 14th. The copy marked #133 is the 1¢ Re-issue of 1880 on soft paper. The S.U.S. gives the impression that this stamp was printed by the National Bank Note Company, though it is generally believed it was printed by the American Bank Note Company. It is not believed that National printed any stamps on soft paper.

Regarding the other stamp marked #123. If you will hold this to the light you will note it has some thin spots. Under the microscope it appears that an attempt was made to fill in these defects with some foreign substance. Because of this defect I judge you would not care to acquire this copy, hence I am not signing it.

I am enclosing two reference copies of the hard and soft papers of National, Continental and American, which accept with my compliments. Some American paper is very soft, such as that used for the Columbians. We also find some American, used early is a much better grade and quite similar to the paper used by Continental in the last half of the seventies.

There is no fee.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

FACTS ABOUT POSTAGE STAMP ILLUSTRATIONS

United States Stamps

Illustrations of canceled or uncanceled United States postage stamps are permitted by law when the illustrations comply with all of the following conditions (title 18, U.S.C., sec. 504(b), and regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury issued thereunder, published in 31 CFR, part 400):

- (1) They are in black and white.
- (2) They are printed and published for philatelic purposes.
- (3) They are printed in articles, books, journals, newspapers, or albums (including the circulars or advertising literature of legitimate dealers in stamps or publishers of or dealers in philatelic or historical articles, books, journals, or albums).
- (4) They are of a size less than three-fourths or more than one and one-half times that of the genuine stamps.

All other illustrations of canceled or uncanceled United States postage stamps are prohibited by title 18, U.S.C., section 474, which prohibits the making of any print, photograph, or other impression in the likeness of any obligation or other security of the United States, or any part of a United States obligation or security, except by direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Foreign Stamps

Illustrations of canceled and uncanceled foreign postage stamps are permitted by law when the illustrations comply with all of the following conditions (title 18, U.S.C., sec. 504(a)):

- (1) They are in black and white.
- (2) They are printed and published for philatelic purposes.
- (3) They are printed in articles, books, journals, newspapers, or albums (including the circulars or advertising literature of legitimate dealers in stamps or publishers of or dealers in philatelic or historical articles, books, journals, or albums).

Illustrations of foreign postage stamps complying with the foregoing conditions may be printed in any size.

All other illustrations of canceled and uncanceled foreign postage stamps, except illustrations of demonetized postage stamps, are considered prohibited by title 18, U.S.C., section 481, which prohibits the making of any photograph, print, or impression in the likeness of any obligation or other security of a foreign government, or any part of such obligation or security.

The foregoing restrictions do not apply to illustrations of demonetized foreign postage stamps, i.e., foreign postage stamps which are no longer valid for postage in the country which issued them, and illustrations of such stamps may, for example, be in color. However, the counterfeiting of demonetized foreign stamps or the fraudulent use of illustrations of demonetized foreign stamps is prohibited by title 18, U.S.C., section 502.

Slides and Other Transparencies

Illustrations of postage stamps for any purpose or in any manner other than as set forth above are prohibited except by special permission of the Secretary of the Treasury. Persons wishing to make slides, motion picture films, and other transparencies of United States or foreign postage stamps for philatelic, educational, or historical purposes should request special permission therefor from the Secretary of the Treasury, Treasury Department, Washington 25, D.C. The request should describe the specific stamps which it is desired to illustrate, and explain the purpose for which the slides or other transparencies are to be used. Permission is not granted when the slides or other transparencies are to be used for advertising or other commercial purposes.

Inquiries relative to the illustration of postage stamps should be made to the United States Secret Service, Treasury Department, which is the agency charged with the enforcement of laws and regulations applicable to postage stamp illustrations.

COPY

Refer to File No.
710.70

Office of the Chief
U.S. SECRET SERVICE

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

August 27, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have your letter of August 23, 1954, requesting authorization to make color transparencies of 19th Century U. S. postage stamps of the general issues for philatelic purposes.

In view of all the facts and circumstances, you are hereby authorized to make and project on a screen colored transparencies of the stamps specified. It is understood that the slides will remain your personal property and will not be rented or sold to others, and, further, that no opaque enlargements or prints will be made from the transparencies for any purpose.

The set of slides should include one bearing a printed notice to the effect that they were made by special permission of the Chief, U. S. Secret Service, Treasury Department, and that further reproduction, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited.

This authority may be revoked at any time.

Very truly yours,

(signed) U. E. Baughman
Chief, U. S. Secret Service

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



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

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

January 25, 1955

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your letter of January 20th. The Livingston cover certainly is a beauty. I would like very much to hold this photo to show my best prospect for such an item who is currently out of town. I shall not send it to him until I receive your permission to do so and will hold here until hearing from you. I would be happy to buy it outright myself, but feel that its price is now fairly near the maximum that I could ever hope to secure so that the possible ultimate profit would not make the investment worth while. I understand that you cannot give me a firm offer on it and will also understand if it should be sold by the time I might develop a client for it.

Though it is possible that you may wish to keep the source of this material confidential which I would understand, I am interested in the "name" behind the material since such will assist in its sale and be a question asked me whenever I offer the cover. Is it the Stark material? I have been hoping that you would be given this material to sell ultimately. I probably would be more interested in the other nice Confederate postmaster provisionals that you mentioned from the same collection. Would it be possible for you to send along a list of them, or better yet, all of the covers with your prices? I might be able to use quite a few of them as my current stock of provisionals is quite low.

Also another on very dark paper. - Is it Blue?

Enclosed is a #9X1 used from Boston on the original cover. I have no reason to doubt it, but one client of mine whose knowledge in this field I consider to be somewhat in the embryonic stage has questioned it. Your comments will be appreciated.

I understand from Mr. Rust that you have succeeded in convincing him of the merit of certain rare U.S. covers outside of his current field of specialization and commend you for so doing.* I have tried without success to do this myself and have found that he is quite reluctant to buy covers wherein the major portion of the value is in the cover and markings rather than the stamps attached. He will pay the price on off cover material, but seems to be unduly price conscious on covers as you may have noticed yourself.

With kind regards,

Jack

Jack E. Molesworth

* not mentioning source, at time he recently asked my opinion of value of the 1868 Combin. Cover photographed in your service. Apparently my est. was near your Retail Price to him, according to subsequent comments. That is the type of cover he should buy.

JEM/pww
Enclosure

(over)

P.S. ~~Enclosed~~ Enclosed is 2d 1869 D. B. on document. Was this occasionally used as Ruminus like 1861 D. B. sec? would this appear D. B. to you? Doubt anyone could be definite on it.

Jan. 27, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - the Livingston. I have made no further effort to dispose of the cover because I am leaving town Friday morning to visit a good friend whom I am sure will buy it. However, one can never tell and I may bring it back with me together with the other covers. In the meantime I have no objection to you offering it subject to sale. I will probably be away until Wednesday of next week. I can assure you it is not from the Stark collection and the chances are you never heard of the owner. He is an old friend of mine.

The boys down East might as well forget the Stark collection as Mrs. S. was left with plenty of money and she wants Harold, Jr. to have the whole collection. It is like the Newbury - neither will be sold so everybody might as well forget both. Mr. Stark did not collect Confederates especially P.M. Provisionals. I believe he had a few things like Prisoner of War, Blocade and such specialties.

Re - Mr. Rust. Yes, it is indeed nice that he is becoming more interested in covers. It will prove a very wise step.

Sincerely yours,

Re
Livingston

Re
Stark
Collection

Jan. 27, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

Here with the three items as per yours of the 25th.

Re - the 2¢ 1869 Bisect. I have seen similar items in past years and I never had occasion to doubt that they were genuine. However, there is no actual proof that this piece of stamp was used as it appears - no postmark, etc., so I could hardly express an opinion that it is genuine. I am sure your guess would be just as good as mine.

Re - the 5¢ New York cover to Austria. I remember this as a cover from the Gibson collection. Gibson certainly knows the 5¢ New York and had he regarded this as the blue paper it would have been offered as such in his sale. In my opinion the paper is the regular bluish. I suppose this copy was used on this cover but I cannot express an opinion to that effect or authenticate it as a genuine cover. I would think a buyer should be satisfied that it came from the Gibson collection and is as described in the catalogue of the sale.

Re - the other cover. About all I can say about this is that it certainly looks good but I would be assuming too much to state that in my opinion it is a genuine cover.

Naturally no charge for the above.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

} 2¢ 1869
Bisect

} 5¢ N.Y.
To
AUSTRIA

} From
Boston
5¢ N.Y.

A.H.S.
S.H.A.
C.C.N.Y.



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

Jack E. Molesworth
Philatelic Dealer and Broker
102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

February 1, 1955

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

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your two letters of January 27th. I can, of course, understand your feeling that it is impossible to express an opinion on the 2¢ 1869 bisect. I also appreciate your comments on the 5¢ New York cover from the Gibson collection, as well as the one used from Boston.

I would greatly appreciate your letting me know upon your return from the trip you mentioned whether or not the Livingston is still available and also if possible sending along a list, or better yet, the other Provisional covers that are still available as I would be quite interested in them. I was quite sorry to hear that the Stark collection is being maintained for the son as I had hoped that it would be given to you for sale.

Have you ever suggested to Mr. Rust that collecting Confederates would be an interesting field for him? With his Georgia location it would be a natural.

Hoping that you had an enjoyable and successful trip,

With best regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww

Feb. 2, 1955.

Mr. H. Gray Muzzy,
% Federal-Mogul Corp.,
11031 Shoemaker Ave.,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Gray:

Herewith I am returning to you the 5¢ 1856 plus 10¢ 1855 cover from New Orleans on Feb. 21, 1857. I find that I had some correspondence with Ezra Cole about this cover but up to this writing I have been unable to locate the file. I have a photo print that I evidently made in the spring of 1951, which states that this cover was Lot 538 in the Brown sale in 1939, also Lot 106 in the Harmer Rooke sale on April 16, 1951.

So far I have not been able to arrive at a definite analysis. I am convinced that the use was from New Orleans on Feb. 21, 1857. It went via New York and British Packet to England. However, at that time there was no 15¢ rate under the U.S.-British treaty. If a letter by this rate weighed 1/2 ounce or under the rate was a single or 5¢. Over 1/2 oz., but not over 1 oz., the rate was 10¢, over 1 oz. and not over 2 oz. it was 20¢, there was no rate over 1 oz. but not over 1 1/2 oz (no triple or 3 x 5¢). So much for the U. S. pay of 15¢. The French postage due is 64 decimes, or the U. S. equivalent of approximately \$1.22. Such a due would have required 20¢ by "Br. Pkt."

I have made new photographs, front and back, and hope to make a correct analysis of the cover later.

Mrs. Ashbrook joins me in kindest regards. I did enjoy going thru your Confederate collection and wish to again express my appreciation.

Cordially yours,

Feb. 9, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Here are two photo prints - one is of a folded price current with description on the back. The other is of a cover with a 3¢ 1851 which had a pair of 1¢ '51 (removed). Both of these went by the same mail to France - By British Packet on March 4, 1857 (Wednesday - regular sailing day of Cunard). The 3¢ cover proves that the other cover went by this mail (in my opinion).

As you are aware, there was no 15¢ rate and the French due is "64" decimes. According to your table a French due of "64" decimes would require 4 x 21¢ by Amer. Pkt. to England. The French "6" and "4" seem to be in the same ink and made at the same time. There is no evidence that there were any other stamps on the cover. I have no evidence that either New Orleans or New York used a red ringless grid in 1857. The New Orleans postmark on the stamps appeared to be genuine, and in holding the inside back of the stamps to a very strong light there was no evidence of any nature. On the 3¢ cover the red New York postmark is very faint - much fainter than in the photograph. A comparison of the two indicates the one on the 15¢ cover is genuine.

The only explanation I can offer is that this communication had an enclosure that required 20¢ by Cunard and 64 decimes due in France. That the extra 5¢ that should have been paid was either paid in cash or charged to the business firm whose handstamp is on the cover. New Orleans should have marked "Paid 5¢" or put on another 5¢ stamp. Or else the P.O. clerk at the N.O. thought 15¢ was sufficient and let the letter go thru. Perhaps this is the most logical solution. No doubt New York noticed the short payment of 5¢ but what could they do? Let it go thru or return the letter to New Orleans for the extra 5¢. Have you any explanation for the French "54" (?) in the upper left? Maybe New York did use a red ringless grid in March 1857 - They did use such a "killer" in 1861.

I will greatly appreciate your comment.

It is possible that I sent you photo prints of this 15¢ cover in 1950 or 1951 as it first came to my notice at that time but I cannot find any record that I discussed it with you, hence this letter.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Feb. 9, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - the Gray Muzzy cover with the 5¢ and 10¢ to France.
Here is a copy of a letter that I have written to Eugene Jaeger
together with two photo prints, all of which you can return to
me at your convenience.

Jaeger is a most proficient student of rates and markings
on mail to France having made a special study of French due
markings on mail from the U. S.

After a very careful study of the cover, I am convinced that
my analysis is correct.

Later I will write Gray after I hear from Jaeger and if the
latter agrees, then I will be glad to sign the cover on the back.

If there are any points you do not understand be sure and let
me know.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

HOWARD GRAY MUZZY

Feb. 15, 1955.

Dear Stanley,

Thanks for your letter
of Feb. ~~2d~~. Will be glad to hear
again when you have something
more definite on that particular

covers.

Your February letter told
a good story about the Livingston
Provisional.

Mrs. Ashbrook is very patient
when you and your friends go over
a collection. I enjoyed making
her a acquaintance.

Sincerely
Ernest Whiggin

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

COPY

Feb. 9, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Here are two photo prints - one is of a folded price current with description on the back. The other is of a cover with a 3¢ 1851 which had a pair of 1¢ '51 (removed). Both of these went by the same mail to France - By British Packet on March 4, 1857 (Wednesday - regular sailing day of Cunard). The 3¢ cover proves that the other cover went by this mail (in my opinion).

As you are aware, there was no 15¢ rate and the French due is "64" decimes. According to your table a French due of "64" decimes would require 4 x 21¢ by Amer. Pkt. to England. The French "6" and "4" seem to be in the same ink and made at the same time. There is no evidence that there were any other stamps on the cover. I have no evidence that either New Orleans or New York used a red ringless grid in 1857. The New Orleans postmark on the stamps appeared to be genuine, and in holding the inside back of the stamps to a very strong light there was no evidence of any nature. On the 3¢ cover the red New York postmark is very faint - much fainter than in the photograph. A comparison of the two indicates the one on the 15¢ cover is genuine.

The only explanation I can offer is that this communication had an enclosure that required 20¢ by Cunard and 64 decimes due in France. That the extra 5¢ that should have been paid was either paid in cash or charged to the business firm whose handstamp is on the cover. New Orleans should have marked "Paid 5¢" or put on another 5¢ stamp. Or else the P.O. clerk at the N.O. thought 15¢ was sufficient and let the letter go thru. Perhaps this is the most logical solution. No doubt New York noticed the short payment of 5¢ but what could they do? Let it go thru or return the letter to New Orleans for the extra 5¢. Have you any explanation for the French "54" (?) in the upper left? Maybe New York did use a red ringless grid in March 1857 - They did use such a "killer" in 1861.

I will greatly appreciate your comment.

It is possible that I sent you photo prints of this 15¢ cover in 1950 or 1951 as it first came to my notice at that time but I cannot find any record that I discussed it with you, hence this letter.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

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

February 14, 1955

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

The Muzzy Cover

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have yours of the 9th enclosing 2 photos.

Yes, you did send me a copy of A602 which we discussed in April 1951. At that time I was (and still am today) against the theory that a Triple rate existed during the Pre-Treaty French Mail period applicable to 4 known covers showing a 15¢ prepayment.

A602 was one of them \leftarrow \rightarrow genuine, but underpaid by 5¢
The other had a 5 & 10¢ 1847 genuine but overpaid by 10¢(?) (Newbury?)
The third was the Waterhouse cover
The fourth was a fake withdrawn from the Meroni Sale.

None of these showed French Dues that would correspond in weight to a Triple U. S. rate.

A602, according to the French Dues collected, weighed between 1.86 and 2 ozs. or 52½ to 60 grammes and U. S. Postage should have been 20¢(4x5¢) by British Packet. It is, of course, not the chart rate "x" which would have required 4 x 21¢ by an American Packet. A602 went under the "Z-reduced" rate from Jan. 1, 1857 to March 31, 1857 as per Anglo-French Treaty, the 13 dec. having been reduced to 8 dec. (See Paris Memo). The 8x8 or 64dec. due is absolutely correct for British transatlantic service. } Correct

In the U. S. this cover was either underpaid and passed by the P. O. or as you suggest it may have been possible that the 5¢ difference was charged to sender or even paid in Cash in which case it should have been so marked. } Underpaid And Passed

As to the red grid killer I'm afraid I cannot help you. It is possible that N. Y. had such a killer in 1857. New Orleans did use a ringed grid about this time. } ?

I cannot explain the French 54 in upper left. I have seen similar markings on other covers (see your photo B207 also Athens, Ga. cover). They are probably some sort of code used by French clerks but I admit I can't make any sense or pattern out of them.

I have no doubt that A602 is a genuine cover. \leftarrow Correct

A603 with the pair of 1¢ would be normal. It's weight: between 7½ and 15 grammes and 2 x 8 dec. due. (U.S. single but French double). } A Cover That Went By The Same Mail

I return your photos enclosed and hope I have been of some help.

Sincerely yours

Eugene Jaeger

Feb. 19, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Thanks very much for yours of the 14th. We seem to be in complete agreement on the 15¢ cover. After I wrote you, I realized that I had overlooked the reduction in the French dues of the first quarter of 1857, and that the "Z" dues for that quarter were the same as your "X" column. I feel sure that the cover is genuine and that it was underpaid by 5¢. The P.O. clerk could have charged the 5¢ to the New Orleans firm and could have collected it later, but if this was done, he should have marked it as "Paid 20." At any rate, the French due of 64 decimes shows the way the French weighed the letter and this proves that 20¢ pay was necessary in the U.S.

All of this is very interesting and all students who are interested in covers of this class owe you a debt of gratitude for your fine article that appeared in "STAMPS" and its accompanying table of ounces and grammes. A very fine contribution.

I am enclosing herewith four (4) color slides of the two Waterhouse covers. These were sent to me last month. Because I refused to authenticate them as genuine they were returned to Sir Nicholas and will not be included in the sale next June by H. R. Harmer & Co. in London. The slides show front and back of both covers. I believe you can obtain a good view of these by holding them against a strong light with a good magnifying glass.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Feb. 19, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

Here is the letter from Eugene Jaeger
regarding the Muzzy cover. You will note
that our opinions are in agreement.

Kindly return this at your convenience

With best wishes -

Yours etc.,

Feb. 23, 1955.

Mr. Gray Muzzy,
Lowell Court,
Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Dear Gray:

Yours of the 15th received last week and I promptly forwarded you a copy of my Confederate booklet with my compliments. I am, therefore returning your check herewith but I thank you nevertheless.

Jack wrote me over a week ago that you had contributed to the expense of our trip to Detroit and that he had turned your check over, with his, to Charlie Shierston. I have not had any word from Charlie which is the cause of the delay in acknowledging receipt of your letter. Charlie hates to write letters, in fact, prefers attending to things on the morrow rather than today and in so many cases, tomorrow is very slow in arriving. I will have Jack remind him.

Regarding your 5¢ plus 10¢ cover to France. I am pleased to inform you that I made a most thorough study of that cover and I am convinced it is genuine. The correct solution is in brief as follows - The firm that mailed this letter thought that 15¢ was the proper sum to pay, whereas they should have paid 20¢. The New Orleans P.O. was aware of the identity of the firm and no doubt charged their box with the 5¢ short payment. Or the P.O. clerk may have overlooked the short pay of 5¢ and permitted the letter to go "as is." The letter shows postage due in France of 64 decimes. This meant that the letter was weighed by the French in excess of 52.50 grammes or the equivalent in ounces of over 1.852 ounces.

As stated in my previous letter, this letter was transmitted Via England to France under the terms of the U.S.-British postal treaty, and payment was required as follows:

Not over 1/2 ounce 5¢
over 1/2 ounce but not over 1 ounce 10¢
over 1 ounce but not over 2 ounces 20¢.

You will note there was no 15¢ rate, no rate between 1 ounce and 1½ ounces.

Further, another complication about this cover and its French due marking is the fact that the 64 decimes applied to mail by this transit only during the first quarter of 1857. We see covers to France with payments of 15¢, but such a rate was during the U.S.-French treaty period. The treaty went into effect on April 1, 1857.

Incidentally, this letter must have had enclosures to weigh in excess of 1.85 ounces. And further, to require a U. S. 20¢ payment with 64 decimes due in France by British Transit would apply, as stated only during the first quarter of 1857. I have never seen such an item.

#2. Mr. Gray Muzzy - Feb. 23, 1955.

If the addressor paid an extra 5¢ at the time of mailing or if 5¢ was charged to the firm, such a payment should have been noted on the letter.

I have a friend down East who is a very competent and thorough student of mail to France of the eighteen fifties. I sent him a photograph of your cover and my final analysis as given above, and he agreed that my solution was correct.

I might mention that while the U. S. and Britain rated mail in ounces, the French rated in grammes. Their single rate was $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes which, while approximately a quarter of an ounce, was actually 7.09 of an ounce rather than 7.50 of an ounce.

I sold the Livingston cover and it has gone into a collection below the Mason & Dixon Line.

When and if I hear from Charlie I will write you.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

January 28th, 1955

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

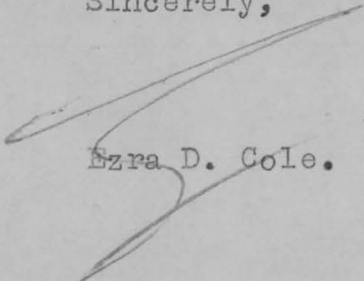
Dear Stan:

Here is a very poor combination cover that was sent to me. The owner wants \$300.00 for it. Perhaps you will want to take a photograph of it. Any way and if there is anything you think we can do with it, keep it and we will split.

I will let you know if I hear anything about the Gerber cover. If he still has it we can get it.

Sincerely,

EDC:mk1



Ezra D. Cole.

Feb. 2, 1955.

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

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the 5¢ + 10¢ '47 cover as per yours of the 26th. This thing is a fake as the original rate was 48¢. I doubt if this was any sort of a large wrapper or cover with 48¢ (50¢ - 2¢ overpay) paid in 1847 stamps. What a miserable looking thing it is and your client should be ashamed of himself in asking \$300.00 for it.

Hurriedly yours,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964
February 1st, 1955

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

Dear Stan:

I am enclosing a copy of "The Philatelist" Robson Lowe's magazine. Please return this for I want it. I think you get copies but I just wanted to be sure that you seen this.

I particularly call your attention to the last paragraph on page 100 which bears out what I have been writing you about.

The cover on the front is very interesting but it is not as rare as Robson Lowe thinks.

I missed the cover illustrated on page 110. Did you see it? I am going to write Robson Lowe today and see what I can find out about it.

Sincerely,

EDC:mk1


Ezra D. Cole.

Feb. 3, 1955.

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

Dear Ezra:

Herewith I am returning the Robson Lowe publication. Thanks very much. My subscription expired last September and somehow I failed to get it renewed but I am doing so with a request for back numbers.

Re - the cover on page 110. I am sure I have an illustration of this in my files and it seems to me this must have been in a U. S. sale at one time.

In the British "Stamp Collecting" of June 3, 1950, it was illustrated in an ad by the London Harmer Rooke. Back in Mekeel's of May 13, 1946 Ward mentioned it as having sold in a London sale in the previous March @ 230 pounds (then about \$925.00). I haven't had time to search further in my records.

Re - the cover on the face. Here is a photo that I made of it prior to July 1951. Possibly about 1949. There was a batch of others from the same correspondence. Please return these two prints as they are from my files. It is my recollection that Win Boggs loaned the batch to me.

This is Thursday afternoon and I have not had any further word about Les. They say no news is good news. I am terribly busy so I will write you later.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

18 Belle Ave., Paterson 2, N. J.

February 3, 1955.

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

Dear Colonel Ashbrook:

The enclosed Confederate cover, received from an auction sale, was described as a Keatinge & Ball print. According to its enclosure, the cover is postmarked October 21, 1864, whereas the earliest known use of the K. & B. print is December 4, 1864.

Will you kindly advise if, in your opinion, this is a Keatinge & Ball print so I can make payment or return the cover to the auction house.

Self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

With thanks and appreciation for your courtesy, I am

Cordially,

Edwin Trachsler
Edwin Trachsler.
C. S. A. 317

Feb. 6, 1955.

Mr. Edwin Trachsler,
18 Belle Ave.,
Paterson 2, N.J.

Dear Mr. Trachsler:

Referring to yours of the 3rd, I am returning the 10¢ 1863 Confed cover herewith, with the suggestion that you submit it to Van Dyk MacBride 744 Broad Street, Newark 2, N.J., who is the present Chairman of the Expert Committee of the C.S.A. I believe the Committee charges an expert fee for examinations and the funds received go to the Treasury of the Society. Further, I believe their fees are much more reasonable than mine.

Sincerely yours,

Feb. 6, 1955.

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

Dear Mac:

A person by the name of E. Trachsler of Patterson, N.J. sent me a Confed cover with a 10¢ 1863 Type II postmarked Columbia, S.C. Oct. 21 (blue). The letter inside is Oct. 20, 1864. Trachsler stated that he bought this cover at auction as a "K & B" and would I please advise him if it was a "K & B." No offer to pay me a fee, and I don't like his name, probably trying to obtain something for nothing. I returned the cover to him and suggested that he submit it to you, as Chairman of the Expert Committee of the C.S.A. and that you would charge him a fee for the Society.

It is my opinion that the stamp is an early K & B print, therefore, the cover is the earliest known use. I am conscious of the fact that the impression is rather sharp for a K & B but I think the paper and color of ink and the brown gum (shown around edges) is typically K & B.

If he sends it to you be sure and charge him a good fee because as the "earliest known" the cover has value.

I am sending copy to Larry.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield, Inc., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

c.c. Mr. Van Dyk MacBride
Mr. Stanley Ashbrook ✓

February 23, 1955

Mr. Edwin Trachsler
18 Belle Avenue
Paterson 2, N.J.

Dear Mr. Trachsler:

Mr. MacBride has forwarded to me your deep blue 10¢ Type II #12 on cover. The question is whether it is a K&B print. Careful examination of the impression shows that it is not a K&B. but is that very scarce deep blue color that I have noted came out sometime in October of '64.

gum This color is actually rarer than K&B but the impression lacks the grainy quality of K&B printings. Although the cover appears brown, the sender probably chewed tobacco. It is of course possible that this very deep blue color was the first of the K&B deliveries, but of this we have no proof and the stamp does not show the impression of true K&B prints.

I note that Mr. MacBride has advised you to send your check for \$2.00 for this service to the CSA.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence L. Shenfield

Feb.27, 1955.

Mr. Lawrence L. Shenfield,
40 Highland Circle,
Bronxville 8, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Thanks for the copy of your letter to Edwin Trachsler. As you probably know, he sent the cover to me but I did not express any opinion on it, advising him to send it to Mac. I then wrote Mac what I had written Trachsler but I stated in my letter to Mac that the stamp in my opinion was an "early K & B" print. I note you do not agree. I hate like the devil to differ with you but I do not think this stamp came from any sheet of stamps that was printed by A & D. Of course, it is not a typical "K & B" - that is quite evident, and that is the reason I classed it as an "early K & B."

The above just for the record.

With regards.

Cordially yours,

Copy to
MacBride

Sheffield Male

Mar 8 1955

You have copy of my letter to Trachsler on the alleged K & B print. I stand by my finding for the following reason. Since K & B stamps are much rarer than common prints of Archer & Daly we have got to make some sharp line of distinction. This distinction to me lies in the characteristic Grany impression of all true K & B prints plus the completely filled in background behind the head. In reference to the dark blue of October and November '64, I have seen perhaps 25 copies all in the same intense blue but none of them showing the characteristic Grany impressions. You remember I made a long study of K & Bs and have a census of dates of use of some 200 copies.

With warm regards -

Craig -

TELEPHONE: BRyant 9-0445

Special Memo

from

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE
8470 Blue Ash Road
Rossmoyne, Ohio

ORIGINATORS of
STAMP MARKET



The BID and ASK
Established 1936

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763

To: Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

2/7

Dear Stanley:

Just to double check and passing the enclosed along. It certainly doesn't appear to be the same as the soft papers I customarily but seldom handle, and yet the characteristics of the paper seem different from the wove of the 1875 issue yet not that of the white wove of the reissue.

Will appreciate your identification of this for me.

Kind regards,

Lee Chadwick

LC:ta

Feb. 8, 1955.

Mr. Lee Chadwick,
% Mint Sheet Brokerage Co.,
8470 Blue Ash Road,
Rossinoyne, Ohio.

Dear Lee:

Herewith the 5¢ Taylor as per yours of the 7th. In my opinion, this is the regular American on soft paper, S.U.S. #185. Continental #179 did not use any soft paper such as this and the Special #181 by Continental was on a hard white paper. I have no reference copy of #204, hence I cannot assure you that this is not that stamp though I doubt that it is. If you feel there is a reasonable doubt send it down to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation or better still to Phil Ward. I suppose Phil may own a copy of the \$204 and the chances are the P.F. would have to submit it to someone who owns a copy. Opinions on the Special Printings should be made by direct comparison with certified originals. I am no better judge of such trash than you are.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

from the desk of

Millard Henry Mack

Saturday

Dear Mr Ashbrook,

I am enclosing for your examination the following items :

(A) # 133 unused - no gum, and

(B) # 120 used (24¢ 1869)

If the stamps are genuine in every respect I would appreciate your signing them as such on the back. The centering on the 24¢ stamp is rather attractive but when put in benzine there seems to be a crease that shows the entire length of the stamp close to the left hand side - and yet the paper doesn't seem to have any fibres broken. I would like to have your comments on this stamp as I would like to

from the desk of
Millard Henry Mack

page 2
include it in my collection
if it is genuine.

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

Many thanks for all your
helpfulness

Sincerely,

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

200
Feb. 8, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the two stamps as per yours of
the 5th.

244 1869. I examined this carefully in
tetrochloride and also under my binocular micro-
scope. I am of the opinion that the vertical line
at left is an ironed-out paper crease, rather than
any defect in the manufacture of the paper. I be-
lieve that the absence of evidence of breaks in the
fibers can be accounted for by the application of some
sealing material in covering up the crease. I think
the stamp shows other evidence of fixing.

14 1880 on soft paper. In my opinion, this
is a copy of S.U.S. #133, and I have signed it as
such on the back.

My fee for the above is \$2.00.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

PAID

FEB 10 1955

3930 Red Bud Avenue
Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Dear Mr Ashbrook,

Many thanks for your
letter of February 8th.

I enclose my check to your
order for \$2.00.

I have placed a bid on lot # 703
of the forthcoming Robert Siegel sale.
It is a combination cover to Spain
(two #116; two #114; and one #113) and
I believe it is from the Knapp collection.
I hope I am able to obtain it and if I
do I'll send it over to you.

Again many thanks,

Sincerely

Willard H. Mack

Feb. 25, 1955.

Mr. Marcus J. Brown,
160 East Mitchell Ave.,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

Dear Marcus:

I have just finished reading your interesting article in "GOSSIP", issue of Feb. 19th and I wish to extend my congratulations to you for a nice bit of research work. You most assuredly have the right idea about covers, because, truly "it is the story behind the cover that makes the cover." This is a slogan that I have used for years. I read every word of your article with much interest.

Mail such as your cover was from the blockading fleet and such mail was picked up daily by a mail boat and forwarded to Philadelphia for mailing. The marking, "U. S. Ship" denoted origin, that is, from a "U. S. ship" or to be more explicit, from a "U. S. war ship." I believe this marking was used exclusively for such mail.

I recall that last September you stated that you had a Camp Douglas in which he stated that "Ben Ashbrook" was there. There is little doubt that he referred to my father. I would like very much to borrow the cover and letter so that I can make a photograph of it, and will thank you very much if you will loan it to me. I enclose a stamped envelope for that purpose. If, by any chance, you would consent to part with it I would like to purchase it.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

160 E. Mitchell Ave.,
Apartment 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.
February 27, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I considered it quite a compliment to receive your very nice letter of the 25th with reference to my article in the Feb. 19th issue of GOSSIP. This was my first attempt at such a thing, and your kind words make me feel amply repaid for the time and effort put into the article. Thank you also for your explanation as to how the cover reached Philadelphia, and the meaning of the U.S. SHIP marking.

I am happy to enclose herewith the cover and letter from Camp Morton, Ind. in which reference is made to Ben Ashbrook. It is regrettable that the stamp was damaged in opening the letter, and that there is no oval Camp Morton Prisoner's Letter handstamp on the cover. There is only the handwritten endorsement "Ex'd. E.J. Robinson A.C.P." to indicate that it was a prisoner's letter. If, indeed, it does refer to your father, then it should by all means be in your collection, I would be quite willing to trade it to you for some other Confederate item. I believe that you once mentioned to me that you had a telegram addressed to, or written by, my grandfather, Gov. Brown of Ga. during the war period. If you still have this telegram, would you consider swapping it for the enclosed cover and letter?

If you do photograph this cover, I would appreciate your sending me a copy. I have a number of prisoner of war covers addressed to Wm. Conrad at Williamstown, Ky., and I have been thinking of writing an article on this correspondence. Apparently, Wm. Conrad was a fairly well-to-do Baptist preacher, and some of the letters to him are very interesting. Most of them contain requests for money. Only recently I learned that a friend of mine is a great grandson of Conrad, and this friend is going to let me read an autobiography that Conrad wrote and which I believe will provide interesting background for this correspondence.

Would it be asking too much for you to give me your opinion of a cover I have from Chapel Hill, Tex. franked with a horizontal bisect of the 20c green? I have shown it to a number of Confederate collectors and there seems to be a divided opinion as to its authenticity. If not too presumptuous on my part, I would be glad to bring it over to you, at your convenience, or if you prefer, I could mail it to you.

Thank you again for your encouraging words. With very best regards-

Sincerely yours,

Marcus J. Brown

March 1, 1955.

Mr. Marcus J. Brown,
160 E. ~~W. 17th~~ *W. 17th*
Apt. 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

Dear Marcus:

I am in receipt of yours of the 27th enclosing the Camp Morton cover and enclosed letter. There is absolutely no question but what the "Ben Ashbrook" was my father. The letter is signed "John Conrad" but is dated July 28, 1862. This was an error as the year was 1863. I have an idea that this John Conrad joined Morgan's Cavalry at the same time as my father, because my father was a private tutor in the family of John Conrad whose farm adjoined the north end of Dry Ridge, Ky. As I recall, Father joined Morgan's command a few miles north of Dry Ridge in the latter part of August of 1862. I suppose this "John Conrad" was a son in the John Conrad family.

I regret that I only have several photo prints of some blockade covers addressed to your grandfather, nothing original. Perhaps I can dig up something else that you would like to have. In the meantime, I will hold your cover and letter as I wish to make photographs of both.

I will be pleased to examine the 20¢ green bisect for you, and you can either bring it over or mail it, whichever is most convenient.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

March 2, 1955.

Mr. Marcus J. Brown,
160 East Mitchell Ave.,
Apt. 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

Dear Marcus:

I wrote you a letter yesterday and misdirected it to 160 E. McMillan Ave. Luckily there was no enclosure. It will probably be returned to me which event I will forward it to you. In the meantime I enclose my carbon copy which you can return to me for my files.

I am enclosing herewith five photo prints from my records. I made these many years ago, possibly in the nineteen twenties. These were blockade covers in the Richey collection which I dispersed for him in the early nineteen forties. I haven't the slightest idea to whom I sold them and it would be quite a task to search thru old records which are now stored away. I have no recollection where Mr. Richey obtained the items. I may have a set of duplicate prints but that is doubtful as the exposures were made so long ago. Kindly return these at your convenience. About the best that I could do would be to make photographs of any of these prints but of course such reproductions would not be as good as the original prints.

By the way, I am wondering if you have a copy of the following book -

"Life and Tunes of Joseph E. Brown
by H. Fielder - Springfield, Mass. 1883"

Again re - your Chapel Hill. I have a faint recollection of examining such a cover at sometime in the past and making a photograph of it. Offhand I cannot recall who submitted it, when and what my analysis was. If I did see it, I surely have a record.

Sincerely yours,

March 7, 1955.

Mr. Marcus J. Brown,
160 East Mitchell Ave.,
Apt 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

Dear Marcus:

I am leaving this afternoon for the East on a bit of unexpected and important business which may keep me down there until the latter part of the week. I will call you upon my return and fix another night for you to come out.

Yours sincerely,

March 16, 1955.

Mr. Marcus J. Brown,
160 East Mitchell Ave.,
Apt. 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

Dear Marcus:

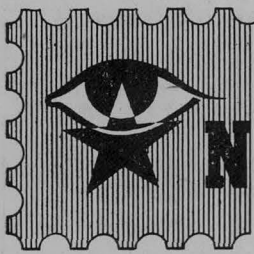
I have been extremely busy since our return from Boston, in and out of town, etc., working on securing the disposal of quite a large collection of 19th U. S., the property of an estate.

I never got around to making a photograph of the "Camp Morton" cover and letter until this morning, so I am returning it herewith. Thanks very much for your kindness. Perhaps later on we can make some sort of a swap for it.

Just as soon as I get settled back in the rut, I will give you a ring and fix a night for you to bring Mrs. Brown and run over.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,



News, Views and Comments

STAMPS • VOL. 90 • NO. 4

JANUARY 22, 1955

Alfred H. Caspary Dies

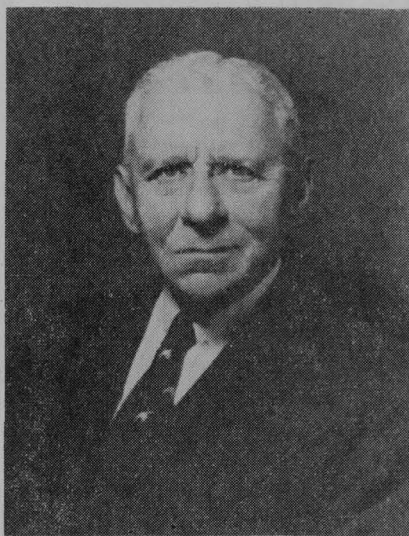
PHILATELY has again lost one of its most important devotees. *Alfred H. Caspary*, after a long illness, passed away at his home, 71 East 71st Street, New York City, on Friday evening, January 7, 1955, at the age of seventy-seven.

Mr. Caspary was a native of New York and became one of the youngest members of the stock exchange at the age of twenty-one. He was owner of the firm of *A. H. Caspary & Co.*, at 50 Broad Street, and for many years was one of the most important operators on Wall Street.

Just last year he donated \$1,000,000 to the Margaret H. Caspary Clinic, as a part of the New York Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. It was named in memory of his wife who had passed away just two years ago, in January 1953. His winter home, known as *Bonnie Doone*, in Ritter, S. C., was one of the show places of the South; it was sold after the death of his wife.

Mr. Caspary undoubtedly had one of the finest collections of classic stamps that was ever gathered together. His postmasters' provisionals of the United States and the Confederate States are particularly noteworthy and contain many unique items. When the collection of Judge Emerson was put on the market, he bought the entire Confederate section, in order to get just one or two items from it. He was a real student of his stamps, and his knowledge of the early classics was outstanding. He served as an advisor on the expert committee of the Philatelic Foundation, and so respected were his opinions that his decisions were usually accepted without question. He had all of the original special printings of the United States, and it was a big asset to the expert committee to have these originals for comparison.

He took an active interest in many of our international exhibitions. His modesty prevented him from taking any official part in these



Recent photograph of Alfred H. Caspary
(Courtesy George B. Sloane)

exhibitions, but he willingly cooperated.

Few people had any conception of the extent of his holdings, although he had a few close philatelic friends who had ready access to him at all times. Among these are *George B. Sloane*, our famous columnist; *Ezra Cole*, who handled many important collections for him; *Warren Colson* of Boston, who secured many great rarities for Mr. Caspary; *John Boker*, who visited him frequently during the later years; and possibly one or two others whom he welcomed as personal friends and associates.

Last year he was elected to the *Roll of Distinguished Philatelists* by the *Philatelic Congress of Great Britain*. It is customary for those given this honor to go to England to sign the Roll amid impressive ceremonies. On only two occasions has the Roll been permitted to leave the country, once to the United States in 1947 to be shown at CIPEX and receive signatures of some nominees; and again to Canada's CAPEX in 1952.

A rule was recently made, however, that the Roll could never again leave England, but since Mr. Caspary's physical condition made it impossible for him to travel there,

it was ruled that his signature could be secured at his home and then transferred to the Roll by photography.

Theodore E. Steinway and the writer were assigned by the *Philatelic Congress of Great Britain* to secure this signature, and fortunately this was accomplished just a couple of weeks before his death. All who knew him will feel grateful that the name of this illustrious philatelist was added to the Roll, and that in his last days he had the pleasure of knowing his great contributions to the hobby had not been overlooked, nor his memory forgotten despite his long illness. Signing the *Roll of Distinguished Philatelists* is probably the most coveted honor in philately anywhere in the world, and we are glad that it was accorded and achieved in time, for certainly his nomination was well deserved, and his name belongs among those other famous philatelists who through the Roll are to be remembered for all time.

Services were held at Campbell's Funeral Parlor in New York on Tuesday, January 11, and the following philatelists were noted in attendance: *George B. Sloane*, *Mrs. Louise Dale*, *John R. Boker Jr.*, *Norman Serphos*, *Lawrence L. Shenfield*, *Edwin Mueller*, *Ezra Cole*, *Mrs. Florence Brown*, *Herbert Block*, *Bernard D. Harmer*, *Elliott Perry*, *John A. Klemann*, *Percival Parrish*, and *Gordon Harmer*.

The entire philatelic world will be much interested as to the disposition of his collection, but no one that we have contacted seems to have any inkling as to what provision he has made for it.

He is survived by a brother, *Howard Caspary*; and a sister, *Mrs. Alice C. Salomon*.

Imperforated Varieties of New Stamps Proposed

UNDER the above heading in his column of January 2, 1955, *James Waldo Fawcett*, stamp editor of *The Sunday Star*, Washington, D. C., writes that high

Post Office Department officials, anxious to accommodate the philatelic public, are asking whether collectors "would be interested in obtaining imperforate sheets of stamps now being printed off-center in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing." Mr. Fawcett states: "If enough demand were manifested, arrangements could be made to stock supplies of such panes in the Philatelic Agency. This, of course, would mean that there would be at least two varieties of each individual stamp—perforate and imperforate. Some collectors most certainly would object to being obliged to double their investments, but others conceivably might prefer to spend twice as much rather than to have to tolerate sub-standard specimens."

Inasmuch as collectors would have to have the perforate varieties in their collections, anyway, however, we cannot see that putting them in the position of having to buy both perforate and imperforate is going to avoid their having to "tolerate sub-standard specimens." It is our opinion that collectors will overwhelmingly object to having the stamps issued both ways, but the best way to determine this is to let collectors speak for themselves. Mr. Fawcett has asked his readers to advise *Assistant Postmaster General Albert J. Robertson* how they feel about it, and we would suggest that our readers do the same. We are sure that the Post Office Department wishes to cooperate with collectors to whatever extent is practical, as we have had much evidence of that. So our only suggestion would be that

when you write, make your letter as short as possible so as to enable them to quickly tabulate the pros and cons, and just say whether or not you favor issuing the stamps both perforate and imperforate. We have not personally had any information to the effect that the Department is considering such a move, but we presume that Mr. Fawcett has authenticated it before publishing this information.

—H. L. LINDQUIST

Brandeis University Receives Important Part of Abrams Collection

AN important part of the Abrams Stamp Collection was turned over to Brandeis University recently by its owner, *Joseph Abrams*, prominent Boston attorney and noted philatelist.

This was the latest portion of yearly donations which will eventually turn over to Brandeis the entire collection of several hundred albums, and many individual varieties in exhibition frames. The outstanding collection is worldwide in scope but especially strong in United States stamps and covers.

Among the collection items which have already been placed in the Treasure Room of the Brandeis Library are one album from the Colonel Green Collection of Canada and Great Britain Stamps; one double error in a block of 42 (No. 463B); one ten cent Green of 1851, ex-Hamilton, recut top and bottom; one No. 122 "Specimen;" one block of ninety cent No. 218 (12) in exceptionally fine condition; a large collection of miscellaneous U. S. Civil War, Spanish American covers; a large collection of cacheted FDC's; a large collection of U. S. in singles, blocks, strips and sheets including many used with fine fancy cancellations.

Forthcoming Issues

1955 U. S. ISSUES

Jan. 15—Philadelphia, Pa.—150th Anniv. Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

Feb. 12—3c 100th anniv. Land Grant Colleges—East Lansing, Mich.

Feb. 23—8c Rotary International—Chicago, Ill.

Dates and Cities not yet announced for the following:

Soo Locks Centennial.

Ordinary Series to be continued.

1955 U. N. ISSUES

Feb. 9—Int'l Civil Aviation Organization

May 11—UNESCO

Oct. 24—United Nations Day

Dec. 9—Human Rights Day

Also included are various U. S. Zepelins on cover; full sheets of mint four cent Philippines; 40 full sheets of five cent China; an album strong in Papua, regular and air mail and miscellaneous air mail covers and stamps; U. S. stamps with historical annotations made by Mr. Abrams; a collection of 19th Century (many imperfs) catalogs.

The latest consignment turned over to Brandeis University by Mr. Abrams consists of an additional 110 exhibition frames with collateral information of historical importance. The collection which Mr. Abrams has donated to the six-year old, 200-acre University is worth at least \$20,000 at this time.

Club Cachets

(This column lists cachets sponsored by stamp clubs for special events not related to first day sales of stamps, and costing not more than 10c, including envelope, postage, cachet, and service. Advertising columns are available for all others.)

February 21-25, 1955—The *Arrowhead Stamp Club* is sponsoring a cacheted cover in connection with its annual exhibition. Available at 10c each from *Mrs. Glenn Loyd, 2218 Hughitt Ave., Superior, Wisc.*

New Price Lists

The annual price and check list of used airmail stamps for 1955 has been published by *George Herzog, Inc., 68 Nassau St., New York 7, N. Y.* The booklet consists of seventy-seven pages and it costs 50c, which entitles the buyer to all issues of *Philatelic Trends* for 1955, and which is deductible from the first order of \$5.

* * *

The Crane List, which is published every two months by *A. B. Crane, Box 351, Altoona, Penna.*, consists of twelve pages listing mint plate number blocks priced by position. The single copy is \$1, and the subscription for the next eight issues is \$2.

January 22, 1955 ☆ STAMPS

FREE! VALUABLE CATALOG



In this valuable catalog you will find "Everything for the Stamp Collector"—beautifully illustrated, clearly described, priced to save you money!

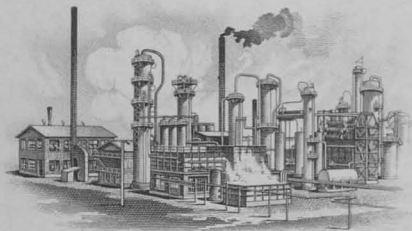
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CRYSTAL *Refining Company* OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, February 25, 1955.

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

Dear Stan:

Will you please examine and sign the enclosed cover on the back as being genuine in your opinion and mention the orange brown and its rarity, and send me advice on fee when you return the cover. This is an item I have been trying to acquire on cover for a long time and I assume this Ex-Gibson cover must be OK - it was lot #134 in the Gibson sale. Regards.

JGF/
Enc:Spec Del'y.

Sincerely,

J. G. Fleckenstein
J. G. Fleckenstein.

Feb. 26, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

Your Air Special came at 4 P.M. this afternoon - Postmarks as follows:
Ionia 2/25 - 11:30 A.M. - Newport - 2/26 - 1:30 P.M. Seems to me this is very slow - Special Delivery out of the New Port office is slow on Saturday afternoon and Sunday because the P.O. closes at noon. Fort Thomas is merely a branch of the Newport office, but S.D. letters come direct to me from the Newport office. I suppose Air letters go direct to Cincinnati, then to Newport, then out here. However, I am not sure.

Re - the cover you enclosed. I remember this cover when it came up in the Gibson sale. I would not think of putting my name to such an item, and even if it was genuine I would surely advise you not to buy it at any price because it would not add a thing to your collection but would be a detriment. There is not a bit of evidence that either of these stamps were used originally on this cover - the 10¢ might have, but, every bit of evidence indicates this 5¢ was a substitution, and further, this is the brown not the orange brown. The paper around the 5¢ is "warped" and under the microscope there are traces of "mucilage" which should not be there, etc., etc. The "61" date in the marking on the back looks like it had been changed. Zareski would never have turned out a job like this. I had nothing to do with the write-up of the Gibson sale but I told Ward at the time that there were plenty of fakes.

I don't know what the day date of the New York postmark is, but it looks like 15(?) - 23(?) - or 25(?).

No "Hamburg Packet" sailed from New York with U. S. mail on any of these dates in September 1861. The New York Post Office was not supposed to recognize the use on domestic mail of any "Old Stamps" after "Sep 17." I don't know whether any exception was made to this ruling for foreign mail, but no doubt it also applied. Hold the back of the 5¢ to a strong light. Don't you think it shows a thin spot? Incidentally, Herst paid \$41.00 for this cover in the Gibson sale. Do you think Ward would have let him have it at that price if Phil thought the 5¢ was an orange brown or the cover might be good?

I will write Ruth about the various items you mentioned, including the 3¢ Bank Note collection. Of course, the stamps themselves have little intrinsic value. In 1907 I bought close to a million 3¢ Greens tied up in bundles of 100 - Someone told a Methodist minister he could get a lot of cash for a million stamps. He had everyone in his congregation saving stamps for him - banks, business houses, etc., etc. He wanted to build a new church. In 1907 I bought the whole lot for \$50.00, and I sold the bundles 5¢ each. I sold the last lot of about 20,000 to Bill Stewart of Chicago in 1937 for a few dollars. I went thru thousands and thousands and I do not recall that I ever found any cancelations that had any special value. So much for a big collection. However, maybe I can sell Harold's work rather than the stamps. I believe that I sold that pane of the proof 24¢ to Harold. The proof sheet of the 3¢ can be sold to good advantage but the best way to handle such a lot is to take a bit of time. I can also sell all of Harold's Library but the material should be priced separately and gradually sold to buyers who really want the items and are

#2. Mr. J. C. Fleckenstein - Feb. 26, 1955.

willing to pay top prices. Auction catalogues don't bring much unless it is some outstanding sale like the Hind, Brown or Knapp - etc.

Again re - the enclosed cover - Compare the 5¢ on this cover with a copy of the orange brown - You will see that this is brown not orange brown. I made slides front and back for you.

More later.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

(S.B.35-25)

Sam Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

February 24th, 1955.

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

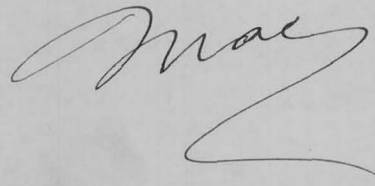
Dear Stanley:

Thanks for yours of the 22nd covering a copy of your letter to Gordon Harmer about listing the 5¢ Atlanta P.M. Provisional envelope which you own. As you will see from the enclosed I endorsed your recommendation and have no doubt that Larry Shenfield will also. However, I have recommended that the 10¢ denomination of that same type of marking also be listed, as you will note.

I have had two rumors regarding the placing of the Heathcote collection, one to the effect that it went to a "rich Texas oil man" and the other that it went to "a newcomer from Tennessee and that he plans to go in for Confederates". Don't know who either of them might be, or that either story is true, - but it is interesting to learn from you that the price was around \$40,000., - and that there is someone, new or otherwise, with that kind of money to put *mostly* into Confederates!

Thanks for telling me about that remarkably fine facsimile of Lee's famous Order No. 9. However, copies were sent to each member of the Manuscript Society and I received one that way. Incidentally, you may be interested to know that in my collection of Confederate autograph and manuscript material, that I have an original contemporary copy of that order! Mine was written on an official Confederate States letterhead and also includes a copy of General Joe Johnston's surrender address to his troops. It is one of my most prized possessions.

As Ever,



MacB/HK

c.c: L.L. Shenfield
T.W. Crigler, Jr.

COPY

February 24th, 1955.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,
c/o Harmer, Rooke & Company,
560 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Gordon:

This is in reference to Stanley Ashbrook's letter to you of February 22nd about the listings of the Confederate P.M. Provisional envelopes of Atlanta, Ga. I gladly endorse his recommendation therein that the Atlanta, Ga. PAID 5 marking, now listed as Type III in the Dietz Confederate Catalog, and of which he owns an example, be added to the listings. Also that the note in the present catalog referring to this as "Another type* * * *" be eliminated.

I also note that no illustration now appears in the Scott Catalogs, of the Atlanta Provisional marking with "Ga." at the bottom of the circle. This would provide an illustration of one such, but I also wish to call your attention to the fact that this marking exists in a 10¢ denomination, and is so illustrated and listed in the Dietz Catalog as 10¢ Type I. I have seen examples of this marking, which were on amber envelopes, as is the 5¢ which Mr. Ashbrook wrote you about. Therefore, if you accept the 5¢ marking as recommended, and list it as Type E3 in your catalog, I think it would then be possible to also list the 10¢ denomination of the same design, without requiring a separate illustration. In the latter case a note might be added that the "10" was printed upright rather than sideways.

These markings with "Ga." at the bottom of the circle are definitely more rare than the others, and I would recommend a value of \$40. for the 5¢ and \$50. for the 10¢ envelope.

Sincerely yours,

MacB/HK

c.c.: S.B. Ashbrook
L.L. Shenfield
F.E. Hart
T.W. Crigler, Jr.

Van Dyk Mac Bride
744 Broad Street
Newark 2, N. J.

Feb. 27, 1955.

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

Dear Mac:

Re - the Confed - Atlanta P.M. Provisional. Thanks very much for the copy of your letter to Gordon Harmer. The only part I objected to was the price. As far as I am aware my cover is unique and I am sure that I would destroy it before I would think of selling it @ \$40.00. What right has Dietz or the S.U.S. or you to put such a figure on something that you do not own? I believe that where there is no actual record of a sale - then the price should be left blank. Dietz prices my cover @ \$75.00. By what right has he to put such a valuation on my property? I believe I would have a just cause for a lawsuit claiming damage to the value of my property. Suppose I asked \$250.00 for my cover - Do you suppose anyone would pay that price if they looked in the S.U.S. and saw it was quoted @ \$40.00? You may not think a cover such as this is not worth over \$40 or \$50, but that is merely your opinion. The above is something to think about when suggesting price quotations for the S.U.S. or the Dietz catalogue.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Copy to
Gordon Harmer
L.L. Shenfield

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

February 17th, 1955

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

Dear Stan:

A customer of mine owns this strip. It is quite a piece at that. It is not for sale.

I am wondering whether or not you think it could be improved. If you can freshen this up and make it look better go ahead and do it. I have full authority from the owner and whatever you would charge anybody else for this charge me for I will send him a bill. If you don't dare tackle it let me know and tell me why and I will return it to him. I think that even just some careful soaking might possibly make it look better.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

102 1847

4	5	6	R
R			7

This Was Lot
38 In Sale
By Bruce
Daniels

10/23 - 1954

Feb. 20, 1955.

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

Dear Ez:

I have yours of the 17th enclosing the 10¢ 1847 H.S. of four. This is a nice strip, and the only trouble that I can see at first glance is that the paper is yellowed. I believe that I can remedy this defect and restore some of the whiteness to the paper without any harm to the black, the red grids or the paper. By the method that I use I have obtained excellent results in the past. If I was not sure that no damage would result I would not experiment. Incidentally this is a top row strip from the right pane, the plate positions are 4R1-5R1-6R1 and 7R1.

I also have yours of the 18th and note you intended to drive down to Williamsburg for the weekend. Hope you had nice weather though we had a lot of rain last night and it is headed east.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Answered

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964
February 23rd, 1955

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

Dear Stan:

Have several letters of yours. We went down to Williamsburg over the weekend and had three lovely days away from stamps, the mailman and the phone. I am paying for it this morning for my desk is loaded.

Harmer acknowledged the receipt of that cover and that is all. No comment from them. Harry Lindquist has had some letters from Les Brookman. He is home now. I understand the bullet has been removed and he is alright again.

I am going to try to pick up some bargains at the Siegel sale but I am afraid there is going to be too much competition and some people are stupid alright.

Thanks for the clip of your Service Letter. There are some missing links in this Livingston Provisional business. Harold Brooks did have two. It is not the off-cover Livingston ~~ex-apt~~ Hind, the same one that was in Miss Heathcote's collection. I am not sure whether Ward bought it in the Hind sale or not, and then he may have sold it to Perry Fuller.

I do not think that John Hall had a Livingston although it is possible. I think that Caspary has the pair that you write about and I think a single on cover. Add this to the two Brooks covers and this makes four covers known. I guess that it is an even money bet that this is all of them although there might be one more which would make five. Why don't you drop a line to Frank Hart who is writing up Provisionals for Lindquist and see what he can tell you.

Go ahead and fix up that 10¢ 1847 strip. I know you will make it look a lot better and my customer will pay me for this work, so let me know what your charge will be. I have his authority to go ahead.

Sincerely,


Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mkl

Fun 7 Hcn Rc Livingston

I'll guess 5 Coven's

INC AHC PAIR

AND ABOUT 5 OFF COIN

STAMPS - 70 IN ALL

E2

Feb. 27, 1955.

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

Dear Ezra:

Just a line re - the 10¢ 1847 strip. My guess is that this strip was turned yellow by contact with some kind of yellow oil but I believe that I can get it out and perhaps bring back a whiteness to the paper. It already looks 100% better.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

March 1, 1955.

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

Dear Ezra:

Here is the strip of four of the 10¢ 1847. I did the best that I could on this and though I think it looks 100% better, still I was unable after many tests to restore the whiteness to the paper. I believe this strip must have come in contact with some heavy oil, because it was at first very resistant to very hot water. Several soakings in tetrochloride eliminated the oil but much of the yellow stain remained. There may be some way to remove this. Sometimes sour milk will accomplish results but I have even a more successful method but even with it I was not able to eliminate all of the yellow stain. Had this strip been on the same grade of paper that was used by Toppan Carpenter in the middle fifties I believe I could have entirely eliminated the yellow stain.

Incidentally, this strip is from the top row - positions 4R - 5R - 6R - 7R. I made a black and white photo and also a color slide, which I can supply to your client if he cares for copies. Inasmuch as I spent a lot of time on this item I am making a charge of \$5.00.

Yours of the 24th. Okay on Mr. Bohle. Neinken still has the 1¢ '51 painted V. pair of yours.

Re - your query about the bottom row of Plate 3. I have most of the 20 positions plated, so am mighty sure there were no Type I stamps in this row - Further, there is absolutely no question but what this pair is a paint job. Notoonechance in a million the bottom stamp was not a Type II when printed. When I can find a little time, I will plate the thing. Incidentally, I wrote this pair up in a Service Issue sometime ago but nothing was stated that you do not know.

Yours of the 25th. I note your remarks about Rust. Don't worry about him. He has plenty of money and the only way to learn stamps is to buy all kinds of crap. He buys a lot of things for reference. To hell with the cost. Besides he wants the smart boys to think he is just a country boy trying to get along. I never offer any advice. The best way to learn is the hard way.

Siegel Sale. I overlooked it entirely thinking it was not to take place until sometime this month. I am very anxious to see a list of prices. I'll bet Rust bought a lot of items - thru others. Didn't you have any of his bids? Did many from New England attend the sale?

In case your client wants black and white photo of '47 strip, \$1.50
Color slide of strip, \$1.50

With regards -

Cordially yours,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 7th, 1955.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for fixing up the 1847 strip.

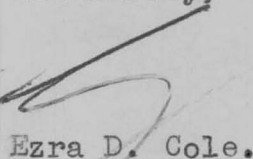
I cut a portion of your letter out and mailed it right to the owner and I know he will be pleased.

I know you are right about that plate 3 pair. I was just thinking about all the possibilities.

Our friend Rust is a funny fellow. He was at the Siegel sale himself and he still bought junk.

I have a lot of lots to straighten out yet. If you want to send your catalogue I will price it right here and mail it back to you.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

January

Feb

500

for lot 47

PAID

over

PAID

35-27



B611

AT 15-GREEN-F128-30 SEC
BY E. COLE FEB 23-55
RED GRIDS

B611

Feb. 23, 1955.

Mr. H. S. Cole,
% The Procter & Gamble Co.,
Gwynne Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Cole:

Herewith I am enclosing the U. S. 1¢ 1851 H. pair 8R1E - 9R1E. I am pleased to report that I examined this pair very carefully and it is sound and not damaged or repaired in any way that I could detect. It is in the scarce dark blue shade and therefore much more desirable than the usual Plate One early pale blue. I enclose a typical example of the latter so that you can note by comparison the difference.

I had a vague recollection that I had seen a pair of 8-9 within recent months but could not recall when and where, but after you left this morning I searched my files and found that this pair came up last October in a sale by Daniels in Boston. I sent for it before the sale and made a color slide of it and made a notation - Dark blue exceptionally fine. I enclose the slide which you can return. I have no record of the prices realized at that sale.

I am taking the liberty of sending you a 3¢ 1851 bisect on a piece of an envelope used at Lowell, Mass. This was in the Carroll Chase collection for many years and Dr. Chase illustrated it in his book which was published in 1929. It is signed on the back by Chase and it is unconditionally guaranteed by me. Such an item is listed in the S.U.S. but is unpriced. With it is a 3¢ 1851 on cover from Lowell which shows a strike of the same postmark. The use was apparently a 1¢ circular rate. This is the way the item was acquired by Chase many years ago. I can offer this to you @ \$250.00. In case you are not interested, I enclose postage for the return.

My fee for the examination of the One Cent pair is \$3.50. In order to carefully examine the stamp I removed the old hinge and gum from the back and pressed the pair between glass. I think it appears much more attractive.

I am today writing Ezra Cole, as a favor to me, to kindly give special attention to any correspondence from you.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

H. SCHUYLER COLE

WILLOW HILLS LANE
CINCINNATI 27, OHIO

March 1, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 23, returning the pair of 1¢ 1851 8 and 9 RLE. I am delighted you felt as you did about this pair as I was anxious to buy it, and as a result of your letter, it now reposes in my collection.

I have been very much intrigued with the 3¢ 1851 bisect which you sent me with your letter. In fact, I am delayed answering you because I wanted to live with this piece a few days. At the present moment I am rather undecided on it. I would like to have it because of its rarity and the fact that it really represents a 1¢ rate and therefore ties in with my 1¢ 1851's. The only negatives are that it is not representative of my real interest in the 1¢ denomination, and secondly, that I am very reluctant to spend that amount of money at this time on one item. This latter point is in no way a reflection on your price, since certainly, based on rarity, the price at which you offer it is eminently reasonable.

I am therefore returning it to you at this time, although it is very conceivable that I may change my mind and telephone you on this within the next few days. However, this is so uncertain that you should not hold it for me if anyone else is interested.

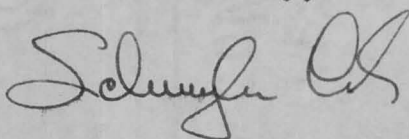
I am attaching my check for \$3.50 covering your examination of the 1¢ pair. Thank you very much for doing this and for removing the old hinge and gum from the back. I agree that this enhances its appearance.

Thank you also for writing Ezra Cole in my behalf. I have also written to him and I plan to see him the next time I am in New York and he is available.

I enjoyed seeing you again in your home, and look forward from time to time to bringing you items to look over for me. I also appreciate having had the chance to see the 3¢ bisect.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



350

H. SCHUYLER COLE

WILLOW HILLS LANE

CINCINNATI 27, OHIO

March 1, 1955

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

After sealing the letter to you, being directed by Registered Mail, I realize I have omitted my check for \$3.50 which I mention. It is accordingly enclosed herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Schuyler Cole

H. S. Cole
4700 Willow Hills Lane
Cincinnati 77, Ohio

REGISTERED

42518

No. _____



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



March 5, 1955.

Mr. H. S. Cole,
4700 Willow Hills Lane,
Cincinnati 27, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Cole:

Please pardon my delay in acknowledging receipt of yours of recent date with check for \$3.50, the return of the 3¢ 1851 bisect, the color slide and the single 1¢ 1851 pale blue, Plate One Early. Thanks very much.

At any time that I can be of any assistance don't hesitate to call me up or drop in for a chat.

Herewith I am sending you a copy of my current Service Issue and a photo print. Please accept these with my compliments.

Sincerely yours,

PLAZA 7-4460

TELEPHONE
~~PLAZA 3-6461~~

APPRAISALS FOR SALE,
PROBATE & INSURANCE

DIRECTORS

H. R. HARMER B. D. HARMER
F. T. BUCK MARGARET MAHONEY

H. R. HARMER, INC.
INTERNATIONAL STAMP AUCTIONEERS

~~32 EAST 57TH STREET~~
~~NEW YORK 22, N.Y.~~

ALSO AT 41 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.I.
AND 25 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

AT OUR NEW ENLARGED GALLERIES
6 WEST 48TH STREET
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

CABLES
HARMERSALE, NEW YORK

LEADING AUCTIONEERS OF
RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONEERS OF THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" COLLECTION

March 7, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

We are forwarding to you herewith Lot 160 of our March 14th
sale and would like to know whether in your opinion the stamp
belongs on the cover.

Please return with your bill at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

H. R. HARMER, INC.

Herbert J. Bloch
Herbert J. Bloch

HJB/MM

Enc. - Lot 160

Fake 5d Buff on Cover to France
See Color Slides A37 - #1 Front #2 Back

March 10, 1955,

H. R. Harmer, Inc.,
6 West 48th St.,
New York 36, N.Y.

Attention: Mr. H.J. Bloch

Dear Mr. Bloch:

Herewith I am returning Lot #160 in your
sale of March 14th - a cover with a 5¢ 1861 buff. I
can assure you that this cover is fraudulent - that
this stamp did not originate on this cover.

My fee is \$3.50 plus return postage of 39¢ -
or \$3.89.

Sincerely yours,

MAR 10 1955

Charge

H. R. Harmer 3 89

See 35 - p 29

PAID
MAR 24 1955

PAID
MAR 24 1955

PAID
MAR 24 1955

MAYNISTON BOND

A.P.S.
S.P.A.
C.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

March 4, 1955

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

Dear Stan,

Enclosed is a #29 cover postmarked July 6, 1859 which according to Scotts specialized and your Special Services is the earliest known date. I would appreciate your examining it and signing the reverse to that effect if you agree that it is such and okey in every respect.

I wonder when you will be publishing another index for your Special Service? For those that are as pressed for time as I am it is impractical to sort through to find articles desired and therefore the portions of the Service not covered by the index are becoming increasing less useful. I sincerely hope that you can have an index starting where the last one left off published very soon as it is urgently needed.

With kind regards,

Jack
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/p
encl

See Polar slides
A 37

March 10, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 5¢ 1857, brown, Type I cover as per yours of the 4th. I have endorsed it on the back not only as genuine in all respects but also, as the earliest known date of use of the Type K brown. I note that I did not have a description of the Waterhouse cover, merely that he had advised me that he had a cover with a use on July 6, 1859. Whether this is the same, I do not know. At any rate it is quite a nice item.

It was nice to see you in Boston and in the next few weeks I will explain why I had to make a hurried trip to New Hampshire.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

P.S. My fee for the enclosed is \$3.50 plus return postage - total \$3.86.

MAR 10 1955

Molesworth

Charge 3 86

Rec 213 35

Page 30

PAID

MAR 17 1955

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 3rd, 1955

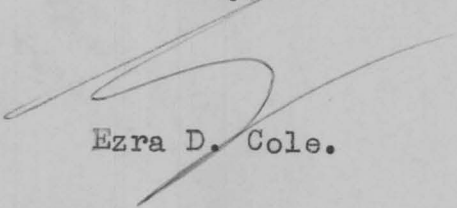
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P. O. Box 31,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

I bought these three covers at Perry Fuller's sale. Whose collection did they come from? I know you have seen Lot 31 and 72. Do you think Lot 31 is right? The Patriotic.

Sincerely,

EDC:mkl



Ezra D. Cole.

See Palmer photos - A36

March 10, 1955.

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

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the following lots from Perry Fuller's
sale of last Feb. 23rd, Nos. 31, 40 and 72.

I did not look up my record of 31 and 72, but from
the memos on the back it is my guess that these two covers
came from the Krug collection that I broke up in 1949 and 1950.
I suppose I have the record to whom they were sold. I have been
out of town since Monday, hence the delay in the return. I did
not examine the Patriotic very carefully but I note no reason
to question it.

Thanks for yours of the 4th re - Colson. You are
correct, the effeminate redhead did try to get in with P.R. but I
sure put the kibosh on the effort. However, my tip came from
Jessup who Colson visited last month.

Regards

Yours etc.,

VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

DEALERS IN RARE POSTAGE STAMPS • ESTABLISHED 1901

505 FIFTH AVENUE AT 42ND ST. NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PHONE VANDERBILT 6-0162

3/7/55

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Would you be so kind as to give
us your opinion on the 2 proofs: 10c & 30c.
Our belief is that they are Scotts Proof, small
Die #13P & 38P. Tappan, Carpenter Co. Contract
of April 30, 1861.

Send your invoice and will remit
by return.

With kindest regards,
Valued yours,
H. Mozian

March 10, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Mozian:

Herewith the 10¢ 1855 and the 30¢ 1860 Die proofs. In my opinion, these are original die proofs on India "cut close." I enclose a 30¢ from my reference collection which you can return at your convenience. For the 10¢, may I refer you to my book on the 10¢ 1855-57, page 55. I do not know when these proofs were printed because I never considered that of much importance. However, I have little doubt Clarence Brazer could give you such data.

There is no fee.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

DEALERS IN RARE POSTAGE STAMPS • ESTABLISHED 1901

505 FIFTH AVENUE AT 42ND ST. NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PHONE VANDERBILT 6-0162

March 11th 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Many thanks for your letter of March 10th returning the two proofs which we sent you for your opinion. We did want to pay you for your trouble in this particular case. We also appreciate your sending the 30¢ Large Die on India, which you sent for reference.

You mentioned that the two Proofs were original die cut close on India. It is our belief that they are the small dies on a thin hard paper, similar to the 12¢ Essay, which we are enclosing herewith. This particular essay is one of six essays of the 1861 contract of Toppan Carpenter, along with the two die proofs which they put out at the same time. For this issue, we refer you to your book on the 1¢ 51's Volume I Page #60 in which you write the 10¢ and the 30¢ were submitted in their original designs and six other die essays were submitted at the same time.

The 12¢ Essay, which is an example of the paper that the 10¢ and the 30¢ proofs were on, you may have for your reference, if you need same.

Many thanks for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

VAHAN MOZIAN INC.

Huant Mozian

HM:SL

March 14, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Mozian:

Thanks very much for yours of the 11th re-
turning the 30¢ die proof and the 12¢ 1861 Essay.
I will be pleased to add this to my reference
collection with your compliments.

I feared I was out a bit over my head in my
letter of the 10th as I am no authority on "proofs."
This demonstrates that unless one is absolutely sure
he should respectfully decline an opinion.

Again thanks very much.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

350
Feb. 22, 1955.

Mr. H. G. Duckworth,
% The Vinoy Park Hotel,
St. Petersburg 1, Fla.

Dear Mr. Duckworth:

Herewith the Confed cover as per yours of the 18th. I would not think of authenticating a cover such as this where the evidence of genuineness is so very meager. In this present day and age of scientific faking of philatelic items one must admit that it would be very easy for a faker to manufacture or fix such an item. On the other hand, if a faker had in mind to produce a Trans-Mississippi Express cover, the chances are he would have made it much more convincing because, after all, the object of such a crook would surely be to get all the cash possible for his product.

About the only evidence that the origin was "Shreveport" is the inside back, but I am not familiar with this postmark. It is my recollection that Shreveport used a double circle postmark in late 1863 and 1864. However, on that point I may be wrong. Of course, because the printed form inside shows "Shreveport" is no evidence that the letter, if genuine, was actually mailed at Shreveport. As you are aware, the 40¢ rate did not actually go into effect (as far as known) until the fall of 1863. It seems rather odd that a pair of the 5¢ Litho would be used from an office west of the Mississippi so late, still such a use would of course be possible. The Richmond "ADVERTISED 2" is well known and is genuine.

To sum up - it is my opinion that the cover could be a fake, and it is also possible it might be perfectly genuine. For anyone to state positively either way would be assuming too much. My fee for the above is \$3.50.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a "clip" from my current "Service Issue."

Sincerely yours,



THE VINOY PARK HOTEL

S T . P E T E R S B U R G I , F L O R I D A

Feb 18/55

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Here is a cover just
purchased at the Fox sale.
I wonder if all the stamps
were applied at the same time.
The cancel on the pair of 5¢
does not look like Shreveport.

Sincerely yours,
H. G. Quettworth.

A.P.S.
S.P.A.
C.C.N.H.



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

Jack E. Molesworth
Philatelic Dealer and Broker
102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

May 20, 1955

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

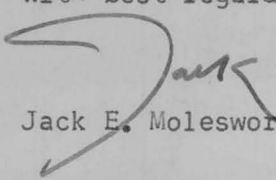
Dear Stan,

Enclosed is a Confederate cover which I believe was sent you before by a Mr. Harold Duckworth in Springfield, Mass. As I understand it, you did not feel that you would care to render an opinion on it and returned it to him. However, he has since sent it to the Philatelic Foundation who also declined to render an opinion, mostly I believe because Shenfield is in Europe and there is no one else there that knows much about Confederates. Duckworth purchased this lot in a Fox auction several months back and in view of his inability to get anyone to authenticate it would like to return it, but Fox will not accept it merely because experts have refused to render an opinion and insists that there be a derogatory opinion before he will accept its return. Therefore, I am returning it to you and wonder if it might be possible for you to re--examine it and give some sort of a more definite opinion that would either satisfy Mr. Duckworth of the probability that it is all right as I frankly suspect it is myself or a derogatory statement that would give him sufficient basis for returning, as the present situation is making him quite unhappy.

Anything you can do to alleviate the above situation will be greatly appreciated and considered a personal favor by me as Mr. Duckworth has been a customer of mine for sometime and I would like to help him out of this unfortunate situation if at all possible. Possibly, if you can ^{not} render a definite opinion, you could give a few facts which would indicate the possibility of the cover being genuine or vice versa which might help him to be satisfied.

Thanking you for your assistance on the above,

With best regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww

P.S. Please advise your fee and I shall be glad to remit.

May 22, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 20th, I regret that I cannot add anything to the report that I made to Harold Duckworth. If I authenticated a cover such as this, would people have any confidence in my judgment? What evidence is there on which I could base any worth while opinion? On the other hand, would I, or would I not, be guessing if I condemned this cover?

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Stephen G. Rich

P. O. BOX B
VERONA, NEW JERSEY

PUBLISHER OF:

UNITED STATES SLOGAN POSTMARK CATALOG
HANDBOOK OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE METERS
CANADA & NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPLESS COVER
CATALOG

(Formerly of Mitchell-Hoover Bureau Print Catalog, 1933-1953)

March 7 1955

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

Dear Stan:

An article on which I am now at work off and on, but which will be some time in completion, involves a discussion of the vexed and vexing question of the term "essay" in stamps matters. I shall have to refer to your statement, some dozen years or so ago, in which you propose the term "sample label", and mention that your dictionary does not give the philatelic use of the term.

In order that I may be completely fair to you, I think it would be only right to mention, if possible, which dictionary you referred to on that occasion. So, while the section in question of the article is not yet in form, I am asking this information.

Please let me have, at your convenience, the exact name, and if possible copyright date (latest if there are several given) of the dictionary. It may be that I can establish a good case for limited use of the word "essay" if your dictionary is of sufficient accepted authority to carry weight. On the other hand, I may have to accept the wider use, if it is not a comprehensive and authoritative record of usage, specially of present usage.

Apropos of the term you advocate, perhaps the enclosed page 67 from the U.S. Telegraph Handbook of 1947 has not come to your notice. The term "sample label" fits the items shown at bottom and discussed in the last paragraph so patly, that you may perhaps even feel flattered at the treatment. I would, were our positions reversed.

With all good wishes, and hoping no annoying ailments are bothering you now.

Sincerely yours

SGR

Besides the typographed booklet cover, we have the publicity release and the "mat" sent out for casting cuts showing the design in magazines and newspapers.



The colors are not well described in the Scott catalog. The 1c is not yellow green at all but green; the 2c is orange-brown, not chestnut; the 5c is a bright blue rather than a deep blue; the 10c is very definitely pale orange; and the 25c is hardly a bright carmine but almost exactly carmine rose.

The 1939 prepayment stamps are easily the most beautiful of all U. S. telegraph issues.

In the 1890's four "curious labels" were seen by the senior author and reported in his 1900 book, with the picture which we reproduce here. They are printed in black on salmon paper, imperf., presumably gummed, and differ only in denomination—5, 10, 25 and 50 cents. Nothing was learned of their nature or use, despite the request for any information published in the American Journal of Philately. The suggestion that they were used in place of cash for refunding of overcharges was made; but never was verified. We therefore have no choice but to consider them as essays, never put to actual use. Any interested reader should watch the stamp journals for some time after the publication of this handbook, in the hope that some writer may take this revived mention as occasion for contributing information on these essays. Perhaps we at last have something to which the term "sample label," advocated by Ashbrook in place of "essay" might rightfully apply!



Chapter 5

Puerto Rico

Only under the Spanish regime before 1898 were any telegraph stamps used in that territory. The Spanish issues fall into two groups: those of the post office telegraphs in the period 1871 to 1881, and those of the municipal telegraphs in 1888.

The post office telegraphs issued stamps of types similar to those in use in other Spanish colonies in the same period, and after separate telegraph stamps had ceased to be issued and used in Spain. Each year there was a new issue, all dated except 1875. The types are pictured ahead of the issues in each of them. All the telegraph stamps are known both perf. 14 and imperf. The imperfs. are scarce. The usual cancellation is a punched hole.

The reader should notice that until 1876 the name of the country does not appear on the stamps.



- 1871 2 pesetas lilac
4 pesetas pale yellow brown
- 1872 2 pesetas blue
4 pesetas green
- 1873 2 pesetas blue
4 pesetas grayish purple
4 pesetas lilac
- 1874 2 pesetas green
4 pesetas carmine



- 1875 2 pesetas black
4 pesetas yellow-brown

March 10, 1955.

Mr. Stephen G. Rich,
P. O. Box B,
Verona, N.J.

Dear Steve:

Replying to yours of the 7th and the term "Sample Label." I have no recollection that I found this in any dictionary. As near as I can recall, I coined the term myself. I applied it to the so-called "Premieres Gravures" of 1861, and to those items alone. I did this because I was convinced that they were in a different classification than items which are called "Essays." It was my desire to brand these "samples" for what they actually are and to try to prevent uninformed collectors from buying them from the effeminate Colson and others as regular U. S. postage stamps that were regularly issued. I had no desire other than this.

The P.O.D. in 1861 requested that bids for a new contract be submitted and that "samples" of work accompany the bids. Well, of course, you know the rest. The National Bank Note submitted "samples" and these were samples not only of an artist's design, but samples of perforating, paper, ink, gum and engraving, etc. They were in fact small gummed labels, hence I coined the term "Sample Labels." I believe I was severely criticised by some at the time my article was published but what difference did it make? I was content that I was right and that sensible collectors would find no fault with my study of the "Sample Labels."

There is no question but what they should be removed from the S.U.S. but after all, it is immaterial to me. I was the first student to give the true story of Luff's fairy-tale.

No Steve, I had not seen page 67 from your new book. If you will have a copy sent to me with a bill I will be glad to remit by return mail. Due to rush of work I neglected to obtain a copy for my library. I thank you for calling this to my attention.

With every good wish, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Stephen G. Rich

P. O. BOX B
VERONA, NEW JERSEY

PUBLISHER OF:

UNITED STATES SLOGAN POSTMARK CATALOG
HANDBOOK OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE METERS
CANADA & NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPLESS COVER
CATALOG

(Formerly of Mitchell-Hoover Bureau Print Catalog, 1933-1953)

March 12 1955

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your March 10th letter. I am sending you separately a copy of the U.S. Telegraph book, and enclose bill. Price to members of S.P.A. was reduced some time ago so we might clear out a good part of the supply on hand.

I guess I didn't make things clear in my request as to what dictionary you use. I can't proceed with the paragraphs in the article in question till I know the exact full name and date of copyright of the dictionary you were using around 1943--presumably you still use it. The point involved is that if the dictionary is authoritative I can put up a strong case for your stand.

I didn't mean to imply that you found the term "sample label" in any dictionary. Reference to the article in question shows only that you stated your dictionary did not give the usual philatelic use of the term "essay." Naturally, the question is--"What dictionary did he use? Was it an unabridged one? Which one, then?"

I understand, and agree with, your point in trying to get the 1861 so-called "Premiere Gravures" recognized in their true nature as other than issued stamps (Barring the 10c, which of course was a late printing, I think Oct. 1861 from what evidence I have seen, when they needed more 10c's than one plate could produce). I am not at all convinced that the alleged cancelled 24c Premiere is anything of the sort at all.

Yes. Colson and others did stick collectors on these. It is too bad John Luff's ingenious guess, based on too little evidence, ever got into print and then into acceptance. On the basis of what he then knew, the guess was really ingenious. I think "fairy tale" is rather an odd term, not wholly explanatory, for what Luff said.

The question whether the 1861 Premieres could or could not be included under the term "essay" doesn't now seem to me nearly as important as to make clear, sure to everyone, that save for the 10c they are not stamps. I'd settle for any term that would emphasize that.

Sincerely yours

SGR

March 25, 1955.

Mr. Stephen G. Rich,
P. O. Box B,
Verona, N.J.

Dear Steve:

Pardon my delay in replying to yours of the 12th. I enclose \$1.00 for the booklet. Thanks.

Re - the dictionary that I use. I have several but I suppose the one that you had special reference to is an old one that I purchased about 20 years ago at a second-hand book store. I sent this to the basement sometime ago and had trouble finding it to copy the title page, which is as follows:

"STANDARD DICTIONARY
Isaac K. Funk D.D.
Editor in Chief
Published by FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY
NEW YORK - LONDON - TORONTO
1896"

I regret to state that I do not own a Websters. Perhaps someday when I pick up a few extra dollars (of which there is little prospect) I may purchase one.

Regarding the 10¢ 1861. In my opinion, it is absurd to refer to this stamp as the "August" and "September." My God what could be more ridiculous? The stamp should be listed as Type I and Type II. Could a more sensible suggestion be made? Why in the name of common sense do editors of catalogues refuse to adopt sensible suggestions?

My earliest record of the Type I is Sep. 17, 1861 - (This, the so-called August). My earliest record of the Type II (September) is Aug. 20, 1861. Why do I call the former Type I rather than the latter? Simply because the Type I plate was made before the Type II plate.

I believe that the "August" plate was originally a "sample plate" - Later the Department permitted stamps to be issued to the public from it. If anyone has a better theory, I have no objection to its adoption. I think the same thing applies to the 24¢ plate. I believe it is an established fact, no guess-work, that no issued 24¢ 1861 stamps were issued in the same color as the stamp known as the "Premiere" or what I call the real 24¢ sample. I believe these are perfectly sensible suggestions but if anyone can come up with any better solution, I haven't the slightest objection.

I disagree with you that Luff's guess was ingenious. He had no evidence that the "samples" were issued to the public. His whole story was guess-work and I think the term "fairy tale" does rightly apply. Regardless of his good intentions, his story did serious philatelic research work a lot of harm and cost those innocent collectors who purchase the samples at high prices, quite a loss. We still suffer from his fairy tale by having these bits of paper still included in the Scott catalogues along with regularly issued legitimate postal issues. They are still there

#2. Mr. Stephen C. Rich, March 25, 1955.

so that the effeminate Colson can still sell them to people with more money than philatelic knowledge. How many serious students have raised their voice or pen about such a listing? Outside of Ward and Colson, I don't think any sensible person in philately today believes a word of the Luff story. And if that pair would tell the truth, they would admit they do not believe the samples were ever issued to the public. I am positive that they rully realize the truth but the almighty dollar will not permit either one to admit same.

MacBride advised me that you believe that the 1¢ Confederate should be classed as an "Essay" and removed as a "stamp" from the Scott catalogues. If this is true, I wish to disagree. First, I do not see what good this could accomplish and second, the stamp is not an essay, because it is a matter of record that the Agent of the Confederate Government in London approved the design and ordered large supplies from the De La Rue firm. This fact, in my opinion, bars them from being classed as "Essays," because I believe from a purely philatelic viewpoint, an "essay" is a stamp design that has not been approved. I don't give a rap what any dictionary states to the contrary for the simple reason that any serious philatelic student knows a darn sight more about a philatelic essay than any dictionary editor.

Some of the shipments of the 1¢ ran the blockade and reached Richmond. Other shipments were catured by Federal naval vessels. However, by the time the shipments reached Richmond, Confederate postal legislation had changed and there was no such a thing as a One Cent rate, and as a consequence the stamps were never put on sale in any of the post office. It seems to me that the supplies could have been issued, and two used to pay the 2¢ rate, and five to pay the 5¢ rate, and even ten to pay the regular rate. To sum up, I consider the 1¢ stamp a regular Confederate postage stamp that was ordered and delivered but so far as we know was never issued to the public.

Sincerely yours,

(35-34)

March 25, 1955.

Mr. Stephen G. Rich,
P. O. Box B,
Verona, N.J.

Dear Steve:

Pardon my delay in replying to yours of the 12th. I enclose \$1.00 for the booklet. Thanks.

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I regret to state that I do not own a Websters. Perhaps someday when I pick up a few extra dollars (of which there is little prospect) I may purchase one.

Regarding the 10¢ 1861. In my opinion, it is absurd to refer to this stamp as the "August" and "September." My God what could be more ridiculous? The stamp should be listed as Type I and Type II. Could a more sensible suggestion be made? Why in the name of common sense do editors of catalogues refuse to adopt sensible suggestions?

My earliest record of the Type I is Sep. 17, 1861 - (This, the so-called August). My earliest record of the Type II (September) is Aug. 20, 1861. Why do I call the former Type I rather than the latter? Simply because the Type I plate was made before the Type II plate.

I believe that the "August" plate was originally a "sample plate" - Later the Department permitted stamps to be issued to the public from it. If anyone has a better theory, I have no objection to its adoption. I think the same thing applies to the 24¢ plate. I believe it is an established fact, no guess-work, that no issued 24¢ 1861 stamps were issued in the same color as the stamp known as the "Premiere" or what I call the real 24¢ sample. I believe these are perfectly sensible suggestions but if anyone can come up with any better solution, I haven't the slightest objection.

I disagree with you that Luff's guess was ingenious. He had no evidence that the "samples" were issued to the public. His whole story was guess-work and I think the term "fairy tale" does rightly apply. Regardless of his good intentions, his story did serious philatelic research work a lot of harm and cost those innocent collectors who purchase the samples at high prices, quite a loss. We still suffer from his fairy tale by having these bits of paper still included in the Scott catalogues along with regularly issued legitimate postal issues. They are still there

#2. Mr. Stephen G. Rich, March 25, 1955.

so that the effeminate Colson can still sell them to people with more money than philatelic knowledge. How many serious students have raised their voice or pen about such a listing? Outside of Ward and Colson, I don't think any sensible person in philately today believes a word of the Luff story. And if that pair would tell the truth, they would admit they do not believe the samples were ever issued to the public. I am positive that they rully realize the truth but the almighty dollar will not permit either one to admit same.

A MacBride advised me that you believe that the 1¢ Confederate should be classed as an "Essay" and removed as a "stamp" from the Scott catalogues. If this is true, I wish to disagree. First, I do not see what good this could accomplish and second, the stamp is not an essay, because it is a matter of record that the Agent of the Confederate Government in London approved the design and ordered large supplies from the De La Rue firm. This fact, in my opinion, bars them from being classed as "Essays," because I believe from a purely philatelic viewpoint, an "essay" is a stamp design that has not been approved. I don't give a rap what any dictionary states to the contrary for the simple reason that any serious philatelic student knows a darn sight more about a philatelic essay than any dictionary editor.

Captured

Some of the shipments of the 1¢ ran the blockade and reached Richmond. Other shipments were ~~captured~~ by Federal naval vessels. However, by the time the shipments reached Richmond, Confederate postal legislation had changed and there was no such a thing as a One Cent rate, and as a consequence the stamps were never put on sale in any of the post offices. It seems to me that the supplies could have been issued, and two used to pay the 2¢ rate, and ~~five to pay the 5¢ rate~~, and even ten to pay the regular rate. To sum up, I consider the 1¢ stamp a regular Confederate postage stamp that was ordered and delivered but so far as we know was never issued to the public.

Sincerely yours,

Special Memo

from

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE
8470 Blue Ash Road
Rossmyrne, Ohio

ORIGINATORS of
STAMP MARKET



The BID and ASK
Established 1936

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763

TO:
Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

3/10/55

Dear Stanley:

In some 19th placed with us for sale are the enclosed items. The two prepresented as #85C I can't make anything of but #88. The 3¢ Pink doesn't look pink enough to me; the #27 could just as well be #28 and the #118 Type I 1869 looks and feels as though it must be a cleaned cancel. Now how wrong am I?

Certainly would appreciate your opinion on these--nothing detailed necessary--just proper identification.

Kind regards,

Lee Chadwick

LC:ta

Est. 1936. Publishers of the Original Quotation Bulletin.

3/15/55

Dear Stanley:

Many, many thanks for your letter of the 11th and the returned items. Also good to know Les Brookman is up and around again--we hadn't heard back to the time when ~~he~~ was reported "out of danger."

Best regards from us both to you and Mrs. A.

Cordially,



MINT
SHEET
BROKERAGE

8470 Blue Ash Rd.

ROSSMOYNE, OHIO



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



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

March 11, 1955.

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

Dear Lee:

Herewith the five items as per yours of the 19th.

Re - the two 3¢ 1867. I regret that I never give an opinion on grills. If you think these might be something unusual, I suggest that you send them up to Brookman. He is up and around again.

As I noted on the card, this 3¢ is a "faded near pink." In my opinion a copy such as this is not worth much more than a Rose. The 5¢ '57 is a Type I Brick Red.

Re - the 15¢ 1869. Did you try it under a lamp? It does have a rather faded look. In examining a stamp for a "cancel removed," rather than trust my eyesight I make an enlarged photo on a panchromatic plate by ultra-violet. Even then an item could show no trace. It depends on who did the cleaning.

My regards to Warren and you.

Cordially yours,

SHIPPER

Stanley Ashbrook

ORDER NO.

976

33 N. Fort Thomas Ave

DATE

2-15-55

Fort Thomas, Ky.

LAURENCE W. MOLTZ

318 E. North Ave.

Balto. 2. Md

Dear Sir -

Perry Fuller suggests you give me
your opinion on the enclosed. Complete
information as to plate, etc, will be
appreciated.

Very truly yours
A. P. S.

A. P. S. 13314, etc.

Feb. 18, 1955.

Mr. Laurence W. Moltz,
318 E. North Ave.,
Baltimore 2, Md.

Dear Mr. Moltz:

Herewith I am returning the U.S. 1¢ 1851, single off cover, as per yours of the 15th. This stamp comes from Plate One Early, and is a Type IIIA, that is, "top line broken - bottom line not broken". See 1955 S.U.S. page 31 - #8ac - listed 1¢ dark blue - Plate 1E - unused \$125.00, used \$60.00. This is an "A" relief, the plate position is 35R1E. Is it unused? I examined it under the ultra-violet but could not detect by the eye whether a cancelation had been removed, but such a test is by no means positive. To be reasonably sure, would require an enlarged photo by the ultra-violet ray. I charge \$2.00 for such a photograph. Regarding the gum, to be quite frank, I am very dubious that it is genuine original but on this point I may be mistaken.

My fee for the above is \$2.00. I regret I do not have any fees of \$1.00. I have, therefore, credited your account with \$1.00.

Sincerely yours,

1.00

Due

PAID

JOHN A. FOX

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

=====

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

February 19, 1955

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

Dear Stan:

Thank you for your letter of February 3rd. Sorry for the delay in answering but I have just returned from Florida. Relative to the Livingston cover I have a faint recollection of their being one in a European collection. It is only a recollection and I do not have notes on it.

I enclose herewith an 1869 cover on which I would like your opinion. I believe it came out of an H. R. Harmer auction some years ago. I'm not sure about this however. Would appreciate your opinion and a return, together with a bill for your services. Please do not forget to include the bill.

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

Sincerely,


JOHN A. FOX

Enclosure

JAF:C

New York Office and Auction Rooms

• 116 Nassau Street, New York 38

• N. Y. Tel. BArlay 7-4943

Feb. 23, 1955.

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

Dear John:

Herewith the 24¢ 1869 cover as per yours of the 19th. The cover is okay with the exception that a 2¢ 1869 is missing - the rate was 28¢. This cover is from the collection of the late Dr. Potter (Dr. Lester F. Potter) formerly of New Bedford, Mass. According to my recollection he made the original find of the "Cottle" correspondence at New Bedford. He sent me from time to time a number of items for recording from that correspondence. He sent this particular cover to me in 1942 and I made tracings of the back stamps and photographs, copies of which I enclose herewith. Keep all of these, if you wish, with my compliments. They are as follows:

"A" - A photograph of the cover = (reduced size). The red 24 to right was applied at New York and was the U.S. credit to Britain. Their share 24¢ (a shilling) - the U.S. share 4¢.

"B" - Natural size. I put a 2¢ 1869 in upper corner to show the rate before the 2¢ was damaged and removed. Tracings of back markings photoed on front.

"C" - Another cover from this correspondence. Spence Anderson offered this to Newbury. It is my recollection he turned it down. This to Singapore - same rate - same 24¢ credit - August 1870 (one 2¢ badly damaged)

"D" - A Cottle cover in a Laurence sale in 1943 - This to St. Helena in Jan. 1871 - Note "24" credit.

No fee for the above and darn glad to give you the correct data.

Thanks for comment on the Livingston. I sold the cover that I had but I have not been able to find a collection that owns any other than the three I mentioned. Do you suppose John Hall owned such a cover?

Seems like an age since Mildred and I saw Virginia and you. Perhaps someday you two can come out and spend a little time with us.

Our best to you both.

Cordially yours,

JOHN A. FOX

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

=====

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

February 26, 1955

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

Dear Stan:

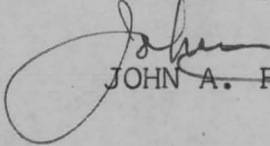
Thank you very much for your letter of February 23rd. I enclose herewith check in the sum of \$15.00. Please, no arguments.

I am taking the liberty of keeping the photographs as per your suggestion and want to thank you very much.

Virginia joins me in sending our best to Mildred and yourself and we too wish we could see you folks. Perhaps some time in the near future.

With kind personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,


JOHN A. FOX

Enclosure
JAF:C

Feb. 29, 1955.

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

Dear John:

Yours of the 26th received. I advised you in my letter re - the 24¢ '69 cover that there was no fee. How the devil do you think I am every going to get a bit even with you unless you give me some chance? I am returning your check herewith with many thanks. If you refuse to let me charge you what is fair I'll be darned if I will give you any more dope.

At any rate, our best to the Fox family.

As ever yours,

Feb. 16, 1955.

Judge Harry J. Lemley,
% U. S. District Court,
Hope, Arkansas.

My dear Judge:

Herewith the three covers as per yours of the 12th. Here are some comments:

SELMA, ALA. JULY 17. 3¢ Star Die envelope. In my opinion, this is Confederate. As proof, this envelope -- the 3¢ Star Die was issued in August 1860. As of July 17, 1861, Selma was a Confederate P.O. As of August 1861, this envelope was demonetized. I mention the latter to disprove a possible use in 1865 or later. I am inclined to believe the use was actually July 17, 1862 rather than 1861, because a single rate in 1861 would have been 5¢, whereas of July 1, 1862, the C.S.A. single rate was 10¢.

Holly Springs, Miss. This use had to be Jan. 1861 or later. If 1861 then it is U.S. use. If 1862, it would be Confed. It is my opinion, the use was 1861 because of the absence of a stated rate. In other words, the 3¢ envelope was proof of the rate.

Long View, Ark. - July 2. There was such a P.O. in 1851. Prior to July 1, 1851, the postage -- (single) was 5¢. There is no proof that this use was not July 1849, but it could have been (as far as I am aware) July 1861 or later. Envelopes were not generally used in small towns in the west in 1849 and earlier. I am disposed to believe this is Confederate use, 1861 or 1862, might be later.

My fee for the above is \$2.50.

PAID

FEB 21 1955

I trust that my analysis agrees with opinions you had formed.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

HARRY J. LEMLEY
DISTRICT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE'S CHAMBERS
EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF ARKANSAS
TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS

Toke, Ark.

Feb. 12, 1955.

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.,

P.O. Box 31,

Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Will you please give me your opinion as to whether the three enclosed covers, or any of them, are Confederates. I bought them separately and over a considerable period of time, and for insignificant sums.

The Long View, Ark. "Paid 5cts" has the pencil notation "1862" when I acquired it. You will note that it is directed to an Ark. post.

The Selma, Ala. Stamped envelope bears the Selma post-mark illustrated on p. 313 of Britz' "Postal Service".

I have thought that the "Paid" on the Selma opening, Miss. envelope might have significance since it was mailed the day before that State seceded.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE'S CHAMBERS
EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF ARKANSAS
TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS

HARRY J. LEMLEY
DISTRICT JUDGE

If you will return these with your
bill I shall be pleased to remit.
With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Harry J. Lemley

P.S. Please return to my Hope, Ark.
address.

HJL

HARRY J. LEMLEY
DISTRICT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE'S CHAMBERS
EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF ARKANSAS
TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS

St Louis, Ark.,
Feb. 18, 1955.

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.,
H. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of the 16th containing your comments on my Selma, Ala., Holly Springs, Miss. and Long View, Ark. cases, with which you returned the same. I enclose my check for \$2.00 in payment of your most reasonable fee.

May I further impose upon you by inquiring as to what County in Ark. Long View was located and from what record, ^{and if possible where obtainable,} you obtained the information that this town was a post office in 1857. I enclose stamped envelope for reply.

With high esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Harry J. Lemley

3930 Red Bud Avenue
Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Enclosed is a copy of the
908 1869 (The 1875 re-issue).

I would appreciate your examining
it and, if it is genuine in every
respect, I would appreciate your
signing it as such.

I haven't seen too many of
these used and this one looks
especially attractive.

I'll remit your fee as soon as
I hear from you

Best wishes

Sincerely

Millard H. Mack

Feb. 19, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the 90¢ 1869 as per yours of the 17th. This may be #132 but I doubt it. It is a faded copy and the paper is more yellowish than white. The fakers can iron out the grill and do an almost perfect job. If I were you I would put the burden of proof on the seller. Before accepting such a copy why not require the seller to furnish you with an Expert opinion that the stamp is what he claims it to be. Why should you be put to the expense of finding out if the article he is trying to sell you is genuine? I could make a photograph by ultra-violet but this would cost you \$2.00 in addition to my fee. Such a photo might give some positive evidence - and it might not. I am a bit prejudiced against used copies of any of the "1875 Reprints."

Sincerely 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.
COLLECTORS
CLUB OF
NEW YORK

BOX 573 GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

Feb-II-1955,

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

Box- 3I-

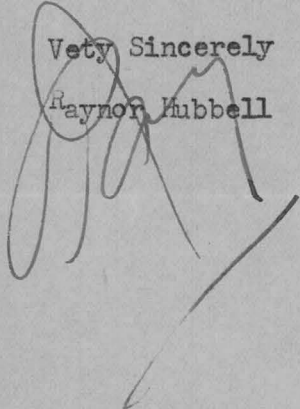
Fort Thomas-Ky.

Dear Stanley:

Is this 20¢ Green on cover O.K.? Charge me for opinion, and if O.K., write it on the back.

But please do not write on the back if not O.K., as in that case I will return it to the party offering it.

Very Sincerely
Raynor Hubbell



RH:grh

Feb. 14, 1955.

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

Dear Raynor:

Herewith the Confed 20¢ Green cover postmarked Raleigh, N.C. There is no question but what this cover is genuine in every respect and I have accordingly authenticated it on the back.

My fee is \$2.00 (very modest).

I understand that the Metz Heathcotte collection of Confederates was recently sold intact thru Perry Fuller to the Weill Brothers of New Orleans who in turn placed it intact. The rumor has it that a wealthy Texas oil man was the buyer. You should learn his identity and hop over and see him.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

JOHN KINNER & ASSOCIATES

General Contractors

POST OFFICE BOX 180
CORNING, N. Y.

Ithaca, New York
February 7, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

About three months ago I was fortunate enough to run across a "find" of old envelopes, mostly 3¢ 1851's and 1857's. I acquired some 250 items and may get the rest.

There was only one cover with the 1¢ blue strip of 3 of the 1851 and I am enclosing this one with the hope that you can verify my opinion as to what it is.

It looks to me that the stamps are positions 78 -79 and 80 of Plate No. 1 recut. If I am right-it is a rather nice strip of three, particularly because of position 79 with recuts of twice at the top and twice at the bottom. While the cover is somewhat battered up I think it a nice item.

As stated above I would appreciate your opinion which I know is considered the last word so far as these 1¢ blues are concerned. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for the return of this cover.

I am also enclosing another cover which might interest you- for you to keep or do with what you wish. I do not know just what the balloon postmark is other than it is Kentucky. However, the printing on the back may be of interest. Incidentally JOHN L. LEWIS JR. was at one time beside being a rather high up JUDGE- THE GRAND MASTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE LODGE OF THE MASONIC LODGE. All the envelopes referred to above were addressed to him.

I very much appreciated your going over my 1¢ blues in 1951. for the CAPEX show in Toronto, Canada. I don't know whether I told you or not- that I received a Silver Award at the show for my 1851 & 1857 frames of U.S.

It goes without saying that whatever your charge is to give me your opinion on the enclosed cover I will be glad to pay it.

ADDRESS: 119 Thurston Ave.,
Ithaca, N.Y.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Avery
James C. Avery,
Major, AUS. Retired.

Feb. 10, 1955.

Major James C. Avery,
119 Thurston Ave.,
Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Major:

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 cover as per yours of the 7th. You are quite correct, the plate positions are 78LLL - 79LLL - 80LLL, the center stamp being the double recut top and bottom. This is certainly an attractive strip with the double strike of the rating stamp "PAID 3" - I judge the postmark is "OVID N.Y." - A very fine center line strip. Shade and impression seem to indicate a use sometime in 1854. I have signed it on the back for you.

Regarding the other cover - the 3¢ '51 is tied by a postmark which reads, LODGE, FULTON CO. KY? (Ky). I have never seen this postmark before. I suppose it was the home of Kentucky Masonary. I note the office was not listed in the official list of post offices in 1854, but appeared in the 1855 list, with Robert Morris as postmaster. I have a good friend down in Louisville, Dr. Roser, who specializes in Kentucky postal history. I am sending the cover down to him, hoping it is something new to him.

A postmark with a county name such as this is indeed most unusual and I thank you very much for sending it to me. It is nice to pick up something new from my home state.

My sincere thanks and kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Post Office Department

Received from:

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

One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to Dr Chas L Roser
629 S. First St
Louisville 2 KY

THIS RECEIPT, WHICH MAY BE USED FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL,
DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION



Feb. 10, 1955.

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

Dear Doctor:

Here is a Kentucky item that is new to me and I am hoping it might be new to you. The postmark reads -

LODGE - FULTON CO KY

APR 7

I suppose the "Ky" is Ky. but the Y don't look much like that letter. The memo at the end indicates the use was April 7, 1857. The office was not listed in my 1854 list of offices but appears in the 1855 list with Robert Morris as Postmaster. Not in my 1863 list. The envelope is addressed to "Hon. Jno L Lewis Jr." Penn Yan, N.Y. I understand that Lewis was quite a prominent judge and the "Grand Master" of the New York State Lodge of the Masonic Lodge. Evidently "Lodge Ky" had something to do with Kentucky Masonary though I have no data on that point.

I haven't heard from you for some time but I trust you have been in the best of health and that your interest in the postal history of our state has not lagged in the slightest.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--If you would like to have a photograph of the cover I will be pleased to make one for you.

LOUISVILLE EYE, EAR, NOSE & THROAT CLINIC

629 South First Street

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Feb. 16-1955.

Dear Mr Ashbrook:

So nice to hear from you again and thanks for showing me the interesting cover. I have a beautiful strike of this town on a Stumpless Cover - the same as illustrated in Ronwiser. Enclosed is a drawing of the "balloon-type" postmark. There is a pencil notation on the reverse of the cover stating "enclosure dated Sept. 1, 1855". This may or may not be the true year date but it does go along with your findings.

The town name was "LODGETON, Ky." and as you state Robert Morris was Postmaster. He was also in charge of the "Imperial Masonic Library" which was evidently located at or sold Literature from Lodgeton, Ky. He specialized in a republication of all the standard literature of Freemasonry in sets of 30 volumes and sold for fifty dollars.

My health and spirits have been excellent however my work has been heavy and confining since the death of my Partner (Dr. Craddock) about one year past. Haven't lost interest in my Ky Postal History and Confederate Kentuckyman in my only complaint being that this material just isn't around any more. Either I must have most of the available Ky. covers or this material is in collections that haven't been broken up as yet. At least the Auction market or New York dealers are not finding anything worth while.

Thanks for the offer of the photograph for which you will find an enclosed envelope. Enjoyed our little chat and perhaps I'll have the pleasure of seeing you at SPA in Louisville this Fall. My Best Regards, Sincerely Yours
Charles Roser.

Feb. 18, 1955.

Mr. Charles L. Roser,
629 South First St.,
Louisville 2, Ky.

Dear Doctor:

I have your interesting letter of the 16th with the return of the 3¢ '51 cover. I am sure that this cover would fit into your collection much better than in mine but inasmuch as it was presented to me I can hardly sell it or give it away. I will, however, see what can be done about it by consulting my friend Major Avery of Ithaca, N.Y. who very graciously made a present of it to me.

I am enclosing three photo prints that I made of it, one being a tracing that I made. Kindly accept these with my compliments. I sent prints to Mr. Tracy W. Simpson and gave him permission to use them in the 3¢ '51-'57 Chronicle if he desired to do so.

I note that you have a stampless with an apparent date of 1855, (Sept. 1). I have little doubt the use was 1855 because the use of postage stamps became compulsory as of Jan. 1, 1856. We rarely see a stampless cover after 1855. As I mentioned in my letter, this office was not listed in my 1854 list of Post Offices, but appears in my P.L. & R. of 1855, which contained a list of offices as of July 1, 1855. It did not occur to me to refer to the Konwiser Stampless Catalogue. I note his listing and tracing is taken from your cover.

I am also enclosing a print of a 1¢ 1857 cover of "Shelbyville, Ky." The cancelation seems to be either a heart or an indian head. I never saw this before but no doubt you are familiar with it. My knowledge of the postal markings of my state is indeed very meager, I regret to state.

Colonel Heyman was kind enough to extend an invitation to me to attend a meeting of your local Society this month but I had to decline because I couldn't spare the time at present.

It was nice to learn that all goes well with you and I assure you I appreciated your letter.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

GEORGE N. MALPASS

5401 9th Street, North
St. Petersburg, Florida

February 8, 1955

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed is a cover reputedly from the Crocker sale. One of my cartons became lost in moving down here, including much philatelic literature, so I am not in a position to verify this.

The important thing is whether the use is genuine. I should like to have your opinion as an expert, and will be glad to pay the fee.

It is important to me that I have the answer at your earliest convenience, so I shall appreciate any "priority" a busy man can give.

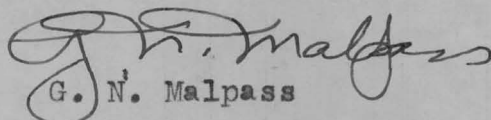
I have not yet thanked you for your Christmas card. Have put it off expecting that I would write you before this. At any rate, I do appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Am working on a paper for the LINCOLN HERALD, published at L.M.U. It will be on the "Anti-Lincoln" Patriotics, of which there are but few. I'll be pleased to send you a copy when it appears.

With kind regards, and thanks for all past favors,

I am

Sincerely,


G. N. Malpass

P.S. If the verdict is in the affirmative, I would appreciate a statement to that effect, on a separate sheet, as I expect to transfer this to my friend who collects B.J.

Feb. 14, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Malpass:

I am enclosing a photo print that was sent to me by my good friend Dr. Pollard, inquiring if I could give him any information on the large marking "M" and "4." I informed him that I had seen similar items in the past and it was my impression they had been applied at the Dead Letter Office at Washington for filing purposes. I note this cover is addressed to "Fort Pickens" and remembering your interest in that Fort I thought you might like to see this print hoping you might give me some definite data on the markings in question. It is my recollection they were applied in red.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Feb. 10, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Malpass:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 8th. I regret that I cannot authenticate it for you because in my opinion, the item is not genuine. If perchance it might be there is no actual evidence that it is good, hence an item such as this should certainly not be sold with any assurance that it is or might be genuine. It is addressed to "Boilings Springs" which is in Cumberland Co., Penna. It was apparently sent sealed, hence if genuine it must have been a "Drop" and as such it would have originated at Boiling Springs. There is no evidence whatsoever that it might have originated there. The postmark is so indistinct it is not readable. I doubt if I can add anything more. Personally I do not like items such as this and I think they should be destroyed. It is much better not to add a single item to a collection where any apology for it is necessary. Surely such an item adds nothing but rather detracts.

The memo inside is only a piece and one wonders if it was part of the original enclosure? So very often a "faker" destroys evidence that he knows will damage his fixed-up fake and he leaves a "piece." In this case he left very little and that little proves nothing that is at all convincing, in my humble opinion.

I doubt very much if this came from the Crocker sale - I don't think Crocker would have owned such a miserable thing and if he did he should certainly have known better.

And one more word. The "Regulations" forbid recognition of halves of stamps - damaged stamps - etc. This regulation dates back to October of 1853, so after that date a "bisect" had no standing. In cases where they got by it was ignorance on the part of the postal clerk. A tobacco tag would have served the same purpose provided the postal clerk let it get by.

If I have been much too critical I offer my sincere apologies.

I am a subscriber to the Lincoln Herald so I will watch for your article.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,



JEFFERSON STAMP CO., INC.

COL. L. J. HEYMAN, A. U. S. RETIRED
A. P. S.-S. P. A. ETC.

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

438 SO. 5TH STREET

WABASH 9939

LOUISVILLE 2, KENTUCKY

March 5, 1955

Stanley Ashbrook
33 Fort Thomas Ave
Fort Thomas, Ky

Dear Stanley.,

In an old collection, which I just bought, I ran across the enclosed two items; one of which I think that you would like to see.

The 2¢ Job looks to me definately like a fake cancellation and the 20¢ stamp maybe; if not it is a honey.

I do not recall ever seeing the Norfolk cancellation looking like this. What do you think of them?

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Ashbrook, in which Mrs. Heyman joins.

Sincerely yours,
Laurence

March 7, 1955.

Mr. L. J. Heyman,
% Jefferson Stamp Co. Inc.,
438 South 5th St.,
Louisville 2, Ky.

Dear Larry:

Herewith the two Confeds as per yours of the 5th. There is no question but what the postmark on the 2¢ is fraudulent. Norfolk never used any such a type as this.

Re - the 20¢, there is not much to go by, but I doubt if there is one chance in a thousand that this "cancel" is genuine.

We are leaving in a few hours for a trip East but I wanted to get these back to you.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Re'
The Philatelic Foundation
Certificate #5460

10¢ 1847 cover to Toronto

HUDSON RIVER MAIL Nov. 28, 1849

See Color Slides A37 - 8 to 13 inc.

P.F. Certificate dated March 7, 1955 read:

"Very fine copy on cover

"Hudson River Mail N.Y."

"Is this stamp used on original cover,
and genuine in all respects."

Very many thanks

Sincerely

(signed) Ethel Harper

S.B.A.'s report was:

"In my opinion this cover is genuine.

A superb stamp - a rare cover."

(signed) Stanley B. Ashbrook

March 12, 1955

Re
The Philatelic Foundation
Certificate # 5460

1041847 Cover to Toronto

HUDSON RIVER Mail Nov 28 - 1849

See Color Slides ~~A37~~ A37-8 To 13 inc
Dated March 7 1955

P.F. Certificate, Read

"Very fine copy on cover
" Hudson River Mail N.Y."

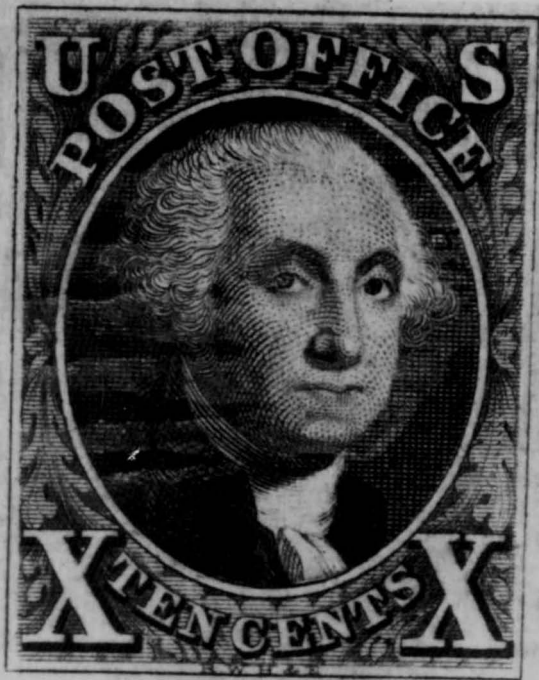
"Is this stamp used on original
cover, and genuine in all
respects"

Very Many thanks
Sincerely Ethel Harper

S.B.A.'s Report was

"In my opinion this cover
is genuine - a superb stamp
- A rare cover

Steven B. Smoot
March 12 1955



March 16, 1955.

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

Dear Tracy:

I have just made an important discovery and I can prove it. Re - the 3¢ 1851 bisect, vertical half, illustrated in the Chase book of LOWELL, MASS. This item is fraudulent - Years ago, some faker, either got hold of the old stamper or had a facsimile made, and turned out this bisect and also one on a 12¢ 1851, diagonal half. I had every confidence in this 3¢ and never doubted it, in fact, in recent months I offered it to several friends, to whom I will offer my abject apology.

If you wish, you can mention this in your next Chronicle.

Yes, we had a flood from the river but it was of no inconvenience to us high up in the Kentucky Hills.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S. I have a pretty mourning cover with a fine copy of the 3¢ 1857 Type I - 47R6. Do you suppose I can get anything like the catalogue for it?

MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

March 9, 1955

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

Dear Stanley:

Your letters of February 9th and 15th were duly received and I thank you for the photo of the Brookline cover with pair of one cent 1861 tied by encircled PAID accompanying concentric postmark of JUL/30, presumably in 1863 or later for the two cents local rate. I have a small group of Brookline covers, including one with circle 30mm. BROOKLINE MASS. FEB 8 in one line with attached 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ outside circle in red on a folded letter which records the wreck of the Ship "Hudson" en route from Calcutta at sea December 18, 1831 and rescue of some of the crew by the "Volant" on January 24th, 1832, bringing the survivors into New York. This Brookline postmark is listed in Konwiser for 1837, mine being five years earlier. The double red oval FEB 2 in 1847 occurs on stampless with slanting red PAID and 5 in small oval; on DEC 9 in 1851 with red grid on 3¢ o.b. (Plated by C.C. as 57R1ⁱ); the same double oval in black DEC 4 in 1858 with unframed slanting black PAID on 3¢'57, also the same of APR 30 (no year) on 3¢'51; a few fancy cancellations on 3¢'61 with single rim postmark BROOKLINE Ms. black 32mm., but not the concentric and encircled PAID of your photo.

Enclosed are a few rated covers which need not be returned by registered mail: (1) NEW YORK BR. TRANSIT debit 4, leaving 6¢ to Gt.Br. in June-July 1874, but insufficient for France; (2) N.Y. debit 10 in circle "p America" in Nov. 1849 double U.S. 5¢ without any N.Y. Br. Pkt. which is new to me on a Treaty cover; (3) from Rotterdam 14 Mar 1852 "par le Havre" evidently misstruck by N.Y. encircled 6 and corrected but not crossed out by SHIP 7cts when sent on to Rondout, Ulster County, N.Y.; (4) 1s. from Liverpool NOV 4 1847 "p Acadia", which arrived in Boston Nov. 20, 1847 "with sixty-four passengers", but I did not include the small encircled red 7 in the Boston book, on the theory that it might have been applied in N.Y. on letters not handstamped in Boston with a Boston SHIP postmark, perhaps an error on my part ? ; (5) a group of four covers into Boston, two rated in blue ink (which some insist was of the N.Y. P.O.) triple 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1844 and double 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ JUNE 1845, with one in black 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ Feb. 1845, all three without any Boston handstamp, yet the fourth cover has the blue 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ with BOSTON MS. SHIP/MAY/19 in 1845 in red, so could the blue 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ be Boston ? (6) 3¢'61 from PEMBROKE ME. /NOV/13 inland rate to Eastport, Me. whence it went by private ship(?) to GRAND MANAN N.B. /NO 16/1862 SHIP LETTER 5/CENTS evidently correctly from U.S. to N.B. for total of 8¢ instead of 10¢; (7) SAVANNAH GEO. 10 in black "Flag of Truce" to Virginia, perhaps an adhesive stamp missing, if there should have been one on such a letter ?.

I trust this is not imposing too many questions on your kind consideration. With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 9, 1955

Dear Stanley,

This morning I put a group of covers in an envelope with letter to you, in which I described the Brookline workuigs I have. I sealed this up hastily after luncheon and mailed it in Boston. Upon my return I cannot find the lot of Brookline items I described. Perhaps I enclosed it unintentionally with the covers about which I asked some questions. If I did this, including your photo of the pair of 1861, please pardon it.

Sincerely,
Maurice

Post Office Department

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



One piece of ordinary mail addressed
to Maurice C Blalce
11 Mason St
Brookline H6 Mass

THIS RECEIPT, WHICH MAY BE USED FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL,
DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

March 16, 1955.

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

Dear Maurice:

Herewith I am returning the various covers as per yours of the 9th.
Comment follows:

No. 1. Debit to G.B. of 4¢. This was prior to the U.S.-French Treaty. I am a bit hazy about - unpaid - Br. Transit - 4¢ debit, but I think you will find the explanation in the U.S. British Treaty. Was there some penalty because of unpaid?

No. 2. It is unusual but the New York P.O. did this at times all thru the 1850's.

No. 3. The encircled "6" should have been crossed out. The P.O. clerk at first thought this was addressed to New York City as you stated.

No. 4. I agree that this arrived in Boston but I am not sure that I ever saw this small encircled "7" before. As you are aware Cunard service to New York did not commence until December 1847.

No. 5. Blue ink. It sure looks like New York but I don't know the answer, unless this was sealed mail sent on to New York and rated there instead of at Boston.

No. 6. I fear that you are in a better location to solve this problem than I am. It seems to me that your solution is very logical. The 3¢ paid the U. S. postage to Eastport, but would the U.S. hand such a letter to a private ship for transmission? It appears that "5 cents" was collected from the addressee. This was 1862. Sort of a "Paid to the lines" but no such arrangement existed so late as 1862 as far as I am aware.

No. 7. This is addressed to Harrisonburg, Va. This town is in the western part of the state, northeast of Staunton, in Rockingham County. One wonders if this letter originated at Savannah and if so was Harrisonburg in Federal hands at the time of mailing? Confederate mail could not be forwarded without payment of postage, unless from a member of the armed forces, in which event the letter had to be signed by an officer. It does appear that a stamp was removed. There is no Federal postmark or evidence this letter was ever handled by Federal authorities. If it had a Confederate stamp why the "10?" This type of Savannah postmark was used during the war and for many years previous. Will you please send this cover back to me as I would like to show it to Shenfield and MacBride.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

March 16, 1955.

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

Dear Maurice:

Yours of the 9th with enclosures came safe to hand. I also received your penned note of the same date. I am wondering if you unintentionally enclosed the Brookline covers? If so, I am returning them herewith.

I am also returning the photo print because I intended that you should have this.

You inquired if you enclosed a memorandum. The answer is no.

My kindest regards.

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.
COLLECTORS
CLUB OF
NEW YORK

BOX 573 GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

3/14/55,

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

Box-3I-

Fort Thomas-Ky.

Dear Stanley:

Here is an original bunch of covers, not previously in Philatelic hands, that I want to have you analyze for me. I send the entire lot, obvious lot, because one of the/covers may have a bearing in considering the others.

First of all, I figure the 2¢- Chattanooga Provisional used as a drop letter, listed in Dietz 1945 Catalogue on orange paper only.

Then ^{are} there/two Chattanooga fancy envelopes, Oct. 13- and Sept. -1-. Hand Stamps not listed like these, either pre war or Confederates.

And some other interesting covers, some of which sure got forwarded around.

Sincerely,

Raynor Hubbell

RH:grh

14 Covers

MAR 17 1955

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 **Raynor Hubbell**
Box 573

GRIFFIN Georgia

THIS RECEIPT, WHICH MAY BE USED FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL,
DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION.

POSTMASTER.

March 17, 1955.

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

Dear Raynor:

Herewith the 14 covers as per yours of the
14th. I have put notations on them. I do not
think much of the Chattanooga Paid 2. In my opinion,
even if a C.S.A., it is a "H.S.P." and of course
every color of an envelope cannot be listed.

No fee

Regards.

Yours etc.,

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 Paul P Christopher
42 Yale Ave
Wakefield Mass



THIS RECEIPT, WHICH MAY BE USED FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL,
DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Paul P. Christopher



*42 Yale Avenue
Wakefield, Massachusetts*

March 14, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Enclosed is a 1¢ 1857, Type IV recently acquired which I believe to be position 7R1L.

I would greatly appreciate your examining this stamp and if it is 7R1L, I would appreciate your signing the back to that effect.

Please advise your fee and I shall remit promptly. I am enclosing a stamped reply envelope for your convenience in replying.

With kind regards,

Paul P. Christopher
Paul P. Christopher

encl



Paul P. Christopher

S.P.A.

42 Yale Avenue

Wakefield, Mass.

Mar 20, 1955

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

My thanks for yours of the 17th returning
my 1¢ 1857 which you signed as being Position 7R1L
as requested.

My check for \$2.50 is enclosed to cover your
fee.

With kind regards,

Paul P. Christopher
Paul P. Christopher

March 17, 1955.

Mr. Paul P. Christopher,
42 Yale Ave.,
Wakefield, Mass.

Dear Mr. Christopher:

Herewith the 1¢ 1857 as per yours of the
14th. You are quite correct, this is Type IV,
Plate position 7RL and incidentally quite an un-
usually nice copy. I have signed it on the back.

My fee is \$2.50

Sincerely yours,

PAID
MAR 23 1955

Charge
Paul Christopher
2 50

MAR 17 1955

PAID
MAR 24 1955

See 35
p 48

PAID
MAR 24 1955

PAID
MAR 24 1955

MARCH 24, 1955.

MR. PAUL P. CHRISTOPHER,
42 YALE AVENUE,
WAKEFIELD, MASS.

DEAR MR. CHRISTOPHER:

MAY I THANK YOU VERY KINDLY FOR
YOURS OF THE 21ST WITH CHECK FOR \$2.50.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Special Memo

from

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE
8470 Blue Ash Road
Rossmoyne, Ohio

ORIGINATORS of
STAMP MARKET



The BID and ASK
Established 1936

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

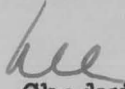
March 19, 1955

Dear Stanley:

We surely would appreciate your opinion on the enclosed
10¢ 1847 because of the accompanying letter which is
self-explanatory.

Kind regards from Warren and myself.

Sincerely,


Lee Chadwick

LC:ta

March 21, 1955.

Mr. Lee Chadwick,
% Mint Sheet Brokerage,
8470 Blue Ash Road,
Rossmoynne, Ohio.

Dear Lee:

Herewith the 10¢ 1847 as per yours of the 19th. Note my diagram herewith. There is some sort of a defect thru the "O" and in the "U." Put a glass on these two spots and you will see what I mean. Whether the former is a closed tear or a defect in impression is hard to state without removing the gum from the back and making a more thorough examination. There is also a "stuff" in the back of Washington's head, and in the bottom margin is some white substance that looks like "cement," the kind that the repair boys use. This paper was originally "bluish" but due to exposure it has bleached out a gray white. The fact that it was white can be identified by the small blue specks of dye used in bluing the paper pulp.

My fee for the above is \$3.50.

If your friend returns the copy maybe I could place it with a friend of mine who is reconstructing the plate and does not require superb or fine copies.

With best wishes - to Warren and you,

Cordially yours,

Special Memo

from

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE
8470 Blue Ash Road
Rossmyne, Ohio

ORIGINATORS of
STAMP MARKET



The BID and ASK
Established 1936

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763

March 23, 1955

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

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for your letter of March 21st, your opinion on the Sc#2 and return of the item. We are referring the matter to the owner and if he is agreeable will send the item to you for your client's offer.

Enclosed is our check in amount of \$5.50, the extra \$2.00 to cover your postage and out-of-pocket costs in handling the other recent lots you were kind enough to go over for us.

The best from Warren and myself to you.

Sincerely,

Lee Chadwick

LC:ta

March 27, 1955.

Mr. Lee Chadwick,
Mint Sheet Brokerage Co.,
8470 Blue Ash Road,
Rossmyrne, Ohio.

Dear Lee:

I have yours of the 23rd with check for \$5.00 for which please accept my thanks. It was indeed most thoughtful of you to include the extra \$2.00.

Lee, I have a collection of unused o.g. copies of U.S. 1890 to 1898-99 issues complete - all singles. I don't know exactly what to do with the lot. I haven't the time to go over each stamp and check it but I suppose all are fine copies. I do not believe you could make an offer that my client would accept because he expects me to sell the lot to a collector. Have you any suggestions?

Regards to Warren and you and again thanks.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE W. LINN

PRESIDENT

CARL P. RUETH

VICE PRES. AND

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

GEORGE W.

LINN

INCORPORATED

COMPANY

LEWIS F. TURLEY

SECRETARY-TREASURER

ADVERTISING MANAGER

PUBLISHERS OF

LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS



PRODUCERS OF

LINN PHILATELIC PRODUCTS

119-121 EAST COURT STREET

Sidney, Ohio, U.S.A.

OFFICE OF

GEORGE W. LINN

EDITOR

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY:

HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS

FLORIDA

March 19, 1955

Dear Stanley:-

I have picked up a cover which I think you would like to see. I take it that this is a cover with a 1c stamp used for "WAY" as explained on page 54 of Volume 2 of your book.

Since it is so unusual with a 3c 1861 along with a 1c of 1851 it is perhaps something that you may not have seen before.

Cordially,

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 *Geo W. Linn*
Howey - In The - Hills
Florida

THIS RECEIPT, WHICH MAY BE USED FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL,
DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

March 22, 1955.

Mr. George W. Linn,
HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS,
Florida.

Dear George:

Thanks very much for your kindness in sending me the enclosed cover. It is indeed quite interesting. It is not a "Way" but a "Carrier" - that is, the writer put on a 1¢ stamp so she could drop the letter in a lamp-post box. The 1¢ stamp was of course not legal but evidently the post office clerks thought it was easier to let the letter go thru "as is" rather than to try and collect the 1¢. You see this 1¢ was a "Carrier fee" and as such the 1¢ could not be sent as a postage due. There was no indication as to who mailed the letter so the "Regulations" provided in a case such as this, for the New York Office to notify the addressee that they were holding a letter which had been dropped in a "lamp-post box" with an illegal 1¢ stamp and if the addressee would forward 1¢, the letter would be forwarded, otherwise it would be sent to the Dead Letter Office. In which case, it would have been opened and returned to the writer with 4¢ due. Why "Julie" put an old 1¢ stamp on this letter is a mystery but females, at times, do strong things, trusting to luck that they will get by. That certainly happened in this case and there is little doubt that the clerk in the N.Y. P.O. thought the easiest way was to ignore the demonetized stamp and permit the darn thing to go thru to the Reverend Gentleman.

So many covers have interesting stories to tell when one can read their language. Stamps are nice to collect but covers are an entirely different avocation.

Nice to hear from you and again thanks.

Cordially yours,

P.S.—I left the pencil marks on the cover. You can erase if you wish. They are all important to the story of the cover.

S.B.A.

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY
INCORPORATED

March 21, 1955.
Birmingham, 5, Alabama.

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

Dear Stan,

I hate to bother you when I know you are so busy with the "X" collection but these two stamps were sent me on approval by my old friend, Theodore Reinhardt, formerly of Chicago and now Los Angeles. I have as you may recall from time to time obtained some nice things from him. I have found him always honest and Ezra Has also and speaks well of him.

We have passed this 5¢ brick red back and forth. I thought it had a thin spot or a closed tear at the top but he doesn't think so. What do you think? But what is more important what do you think of the red PAID in circle. Is that a cancel that could rightly appear on this issue? Does it look like a good cancel? He asks \$62.50 for it. Of course the centering for this stamp is near superb and if the cancel is good and there is no closed tear or thin at the top, the price is very low.

Also he sent me this 24¢ 1861 listing it as a #70. Do you think it the true red lilac? And what do you think of the red type "A" S.M. cancel? He asks \$25.00 for this one.

Sincerely,



Enclosed

#27	@	\$62.50
#70	@	25.00
		<u>\$87.50</u>

MARCH 23, 1955.

MR. EMMERSON C. KRUG,
3008 - 113TH AVE., SOUTH,
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

DEAR EM:

I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THESE TWO BISECTS. THE 3¢ WAS PURCHASED FROM BRUCE DANIELS AS GENUINE. WOULD YOU BELIEVE THAT HE REFUSES TO REFUND THE PURCHASE PRICE? I AM INSTRUCTING HIM TO REMOVE MY NAME FROM HIS MAILING LIST AND TO NEVER COMMUNICATE WITH ME IN THE FUTURE. HE HAD NO EXCUSE IN THE WORLD TO REFUSE A REFUND ON THE FAKE 3¢ BISECT. IF EVERY HONEST COLLECTOR WOULD HAVE NO DEALINGS WITH SUCH GYPS THEY COULD NOT DO BUSINESS. I INTEND TO WARN EVERYONE I KNOW TO BE ON THE GUARD AGAINST THIS LOUSE.

YOUR REGISTERED OF THE 21ST CAME THIS A.M. WITH THE TWO STAMPS WHICH I AM RETURNING HEREWITH.

5¢ 1857 WITH RED ENCIRCLED PAID. I DO NOT THINK THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE BRICK. FACT IS, IT IS A SORT OF CROSS BETWEEN A RED BROWN AND A BRICK, SORT OF A NEAR BRICK, SAME AS A NEAR PINK WHICH IS AS YOU KNOW, A CROSS BETWEEN A ROSE AND A PINK. I PUT IT IN TETRO BUT FAILED TO NOTE A CLOSED TEAR. I WONDER IF THE S.W. CORNER PERF IS WEAK? THIS COPY LOOKS WASHED OUT AND THAT COULD BE DUE TO A CLEANING. BOSTON AND PROVIDENCE USED THIS TYPE OF CANCEL BUT NOT IN THIS COLOR. BOTH WERE RED - MORE OF A VERMILLION. TO SUM UP I DON'T LIKE THE COLOR OF THIS STAMP AND I DON'T THINK ANYONE COULD GUARANTEE THE CANCEL IS GENUINE. IT IS POSSIBLE A PHOTOGRAPH BY ULTRA-VIOLET MIGHT SHOW WHETHER IT HAD BEEN CLEANED.

I AM ENCLOSING A COVER FROM THE "MR. X" COLLECTION. THIS HAS A PAIR OF BRICK RED, THE CORRECT SHADE. COMPARE YOUR SINGLE WITH THIS PAIR AND SEE IF YOU DO NOT THINK THE SINGLE LOOKS MORE LIKE THE RED BROWN THAN THE BRICK. INCIDENTALLY THIS IS A VERY RARE COVER - THE 10¢ RATE TO CALIFORNIA PAID BY A PAIR OF THE 5¢ 1857 AND THAT PAIR BEING THE BRICK RED COLOR. THIS IS
COVER #113-PRICE \$250.00

IT IS FROM WAY UP IN MAINE - FROM EASTPORT AND I JUDGE THE USE WAS SEP 6 1859. THE YEAR 1858 WOULD BE TOO EARLY FOR THIS COLOR, THAT IS, SEP 6TH 1858. NOTE THE ADDRESS - JUST TO SONORA COUNTY. NO WONDER IT WAS ADVERTISED. NOTE THE CHARGE "ADVERTISED 1" (1¢). THIS COVER IS SIGNED BY ME ON THE INSIDE FLAP.

24¢ 1861 - YES, THIS IS A SHADE OF THE #70, BUT WHO CAN SAY THIS IS A GENUINE STRIKE OF THE S.M. CANCEL? I SURE WOULD NOT PAY \$25.00 FOR THIS COPY, NOR EVEN HALF THAT SUM. WHEN I BUY A STAMP FOR THE CANCEL I WANT IT PLAIN NOT FADED OUT. PLAIN ENOUGH TO GET SOME IDEA AS TO WHETHER IT IS GOOD OR BAD.

WE HAD A TERRIFIC STORM HERE, ALMOST A TORNADO EARLY TUESDAY MORNING. LUCKILY NO DAMAGE TO OUR PLACE BUT THE WIND ACTUALLY ROCKED THIS HOUSE AND THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE OUT HERE.

WITH REGARDS -

CORDIALLY YOURS,

ENCLOSED

"X" COVER #113 - PRICE \$250.00

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



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

Jack E. Molesworth
Philatelic Dealer and Broker
102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

March 15, 1955

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

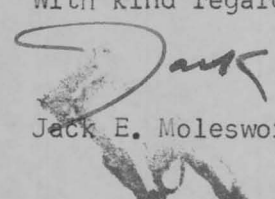
Dear Stan,

I certainly did enjoy seeing and talking with you and Mrs. Ashbrook when you were in Boston last week and am only sorry that it was not possible to spend more time with you. I presume that on your return from New Hampshire you probably called while I was out. Very sorry I missed you then. I did not feel that it was appropriate for me to inquire as to the nature of your business in New Hampshire and shall look forward with interest to your explanation when you are in a position to send same.

I appreciate very much your signing the back of the #29 cover as you did and enclose my check for \$3.86 to cover your fee..

Is the Livingston, Alabama cover still available? If so, is there any chance that the price might become somewhat more reasonable if a buyer does not turn up in the near future? Do you have any other Confederate Provisional covers that you can send along for my inspection? I am especially interested in them at present.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww

P.S. Enclosed is Receipt 10¢
5 Trip I had best have you
check in view of comments
made in Boston. Net to you \$200.00
if you can move it.

March 17, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 15th with the 10¢ 1857,
H.S. of 4. While I have only casually examined this,
and am not sure, it looks like a paint job. Did you
ever submit this to Philip Rust? If so, why did he
return it? Did he express any opinion as to whether
it was good or bad? I will not go ahead and make an
examination until I hear from you because to come to
a definite opinion I would have to charge you at
least \$10.00 as I would have to make photographs, etc.

Thanks very much for your check for \$3.86.

Re - the Livingston cover. I sold it the
latter part of January without any trouble whatsoever
as well as the other Confed. P.M.P.'s that I had. At
present I haven't a thing that I can offer you.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

March 18, 1955.

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

Dear Phil:

Here is a strip of four of the 10¢ 1857 that
came to me yesterday from Molesworth priced @ \$250.00.
Supposed to be

63 - 64 - 65 - 66II

I only glanced at it but wrote him that the recuts
looked queer to me. No doubt he sent this item to you
but just in case he didn't I am sending it down to you.
The recuts look phoney to me, the lines look much too
thick and don't look like they were engraved. If this
is a fake, then surely these paint jobs are of recent
vintage as too many seem to be turning up. I only glanced
at this casually, but those top "recuts" looked like they
were put on with a "white wash brush" (Ala Tom Sawyer).

With best etc.,

Cordially yours,

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

March 22, 1955

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

Dear Stan,

Replying to your note of March 17th regarding the 10¢ 1857 strip, I sent it to Rust about seven or eight months ago and he returned it not because of any doubt of its authenticity, but because he felt it had been immersed in some chemical solution in order to remove some discoloration from the paper, etc.. I found in his file his exact comments on a small slip of paper which I am enclosing for you to peruse, but would appreciate your returning with you reply. Actually, I personally felt there was no validity whatsoever in his comments as the strip in my opinion is obviously somewhat aged but certainly has not been tampered with in the manner which he suggested or the aging and brown stains would have been completely removed and the paper would be white rather than dark as it now is. I am sure he had no doubt about the authenticity of the strip at the time or he would certainly have mentioned it as he is always quite outspoken. I frankly have never had a great deal of respect for his philatelic knowledge and he seems to have moods where at times he feels everything submitted is reperfected and at other times everything submitted is regummed, etc., very little which has any actual factual foundation. I believe it is a case where a little knowledge is dangerous and if he had more he would not question nine out of ten items that he has in the past.

Anyway, if the strip is a paint job, I certainly want to know about it, though trust you will understand that I would be reluctant to spend \$10 to have you check it and find that it is genuine as I considered it to be prior to your evidencing suspicion of all such items. If it should turn out to be bad, I would consider the \$10 well spent and believe I could recoup it from my source on the item. Use your own judgment. Is it not possible to plate the stamp and determine if it is genuine by that manner without making extensive photos?

Glad to hear that you sold the Livingston cover and the other Confederate Provisionals you had. I would be interested in any you get at any time. In that regard, I have quite a few in stock myself that my customers have seen and wonder if your buyer on those you had might possibly be a good prospect for some of mine? If so, I would be pleased to send some along for your inspection. I have several that are rather scarce in the \$200 to \$650 each class.

Enclosed is a 5¢ 1856 imperf which I definitely consider to be the "Henna brown", but I just received it back from Mr. McInroy in Seattle who after comparing it with his Ridgeway color charts concludes that it is not this shade variety. Unfortunately, I do not have the Ridgeway book and have been attempting to secure one for sometime. However, I am wondering if any copy of this stamp would ever match that Ridgeway color exactly and would appreciate your comments on the enclosed.

With best regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww
Enclosures

(over)

P.S. Your 3rd letter just rec'd. About all
I can say re Daniels is That I
believe him to be honest, tho at
times careless. He is well heated
financially, but has far more money
than philatelic knowledge with
result he has frequently been
"Taken" himself.

MARCH 24, 1955.

MR. JACK E. MOLESWORTH,
102 BEACON STREET,
BOSTON 16, MASS.

DEAR JACK:

I AM IN RECEIPT OF YOURS OF THE 22ND, WITH THE MEMO FROM P. R. WHICH I RETURN HERewith. I NOTE THAT HE SEEMED TO THINK SOMETHING HAD BEEN DONE TO THIS STRIP BUT HE FAILED TO STATE WHETHER OR NOT HE THOUGHT THE RECUTS WERE GENUINE OR PAINTED. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO ENTER INTO ANY ARGUMENT WITH HIM OR ANYONE ELSE. I BELIEVE MR. R. HAS ALL SORTS OF EQUIPMENT FOR DETECTING REPAIRED MATERIAL AND IN ADDITION HE IS A GRADUATE CHEMIST. I THEREFORE HESITATE TO QUESTION CERTAIN OPINIONS THAT HE MIGHT GIVE. HE HAS A RECONSTRUCTED PLATE OF THE 10¢ PLATE ONE AND A BIG ACCUMULATION OF DUPLICATE MATERIAL FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES. I HAVE NOT. IF HE STATES AN ITEM COMES FROM CERTAIN POSITIONS ON THE PLATE, I CANNOT DISPUTE HIS WORD AS I NO LONGER POSSESS MY ORIGINAL RECONSTRUCTION, NOR DO I POSSESS ALL MY NOTES. THESE WENT WITH MY PLATE WHEN I SOLD IT TO NEINKEN SOME YEARS AGO.

SOME EXTREMELY CLEVER FAKED TYPE IV STAMPS HAVE BEEN SHOWING UP, AND BECAUSE I HAVEN'T THE EQUIPMENT OR A RECONSTRUCTED PLATE, I INTEND TO HENCEFORTH REFUSE TO PASS ON 10¢ TYPE IV STAMPS UNLESS I AM ABSOLUTELY SURE I AM RIGHT. EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF MOST OF THE EIGHT TYPE IV STAMPS HAVE PLATING MARKS THAT IDENTIFY THE PARTICULAR POSITION. I CAN EASILY IDENTIFY SUCH COPIES. ON BADLY WORN SPECIMENS WHERE THE PLATING MARKS HAVE DISAPPEARED, I HAVE NO WAY TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE. YOUR STRIP IS IN THIS CLASS. IT MAY BE GENUINE BUT TO BE QUITE FRANK IT HAS A SUSPICIOUS APPEARANCE. THE RECUT LINES LOOK WIDE, THICK AND HEAVY. EARLY IMPRESSIONS FROM THE PLATE DO NOT SHOW SUCH THICK LINES, INDICATING THAT THE LINES WERE NOT RECUT DEEP INTO THE SURFACE OF THE PLATE. PERFORATED STAMPS COME FROM A WORN STATE OF THE PLATE AND THE QUESTION ARISES, WHY SHOULD THE RECUT LINES APPEAR HEAVIER. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT A DEFINITE DECISION BY MAKING ENLARGED PHOTOS BY ULTRA-VIOLET BUT I CANNOT PROMISE A THING ALONG THAT LINE. I AM THEREFORE RETURNING THE STRIP TO YOU AND RESPECTFULLY DECLINE TO EXPRESS A DEFINITE OPINION. IF I GAVE ONE ON THIS STRIP I WOULD BE INDULGING IN SOME GUESSWORK AND OF COURSE ANYONE CAN GIVE SUCH AN EXPRESSION.

I ALSO RETURN THE 5¢ 1856. YOU SEEM TO THINK THIS IS A HENNA BROWN. UNDER THE 5¢ IMPERFORATE NO SUCH A COLOR IS LISTED. LUFF LISTS "CARMINE BROWN" FOR BOTH THE IMPERF AND PERF. I HAVE WONDERED IF THIS IS WHAT WE FORMERLY CALLED "INDIAN RED," NOW "HENNA BROWN." AS YOU ARE DOUBTLESS AWARE, THE HENNA FOLLOWED THE RED BROWN, AND MY EARLIEST RECORD OF A HENNA IS IN MARCH 31 OF 1858. MY EARLIEST RED BROWN PERF IS AUG. 28, 1857. ASSUMING MY RECORDS ARE CORRECT, HOW CAN YOU RECONCILE AN IMPERF HENNA? IN SHORT, I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT YOUR STAMP IS THE HENNA SHADE BUT IS IN FACT A RED BROWN. THERE IS NO DOUBT BUT WHAT THE 5¢ 1856 VARIES IN COLOR BUT I NEVER SAW AN IMPERF STAMP THAT MATCHED THE REAL "HENNA." IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED, I SUGGEST THAT YOU DO THIS, OBTAIN A REAL HENNA - ONE YOU ARE SURE IS THE HENNA AND LAY YOUR COPY ALONGSIDE OF IT FOR COMPARISON. IF YOU ARE NOT THOROUGHLY SATISFIED THEN SEND BOTH TO ME AND I WILL PHOTOGRAPH THEM SIDE-BY-SIDE IN COLOR. FAIR ENOUGH?

THE LAST RIDGWAY I HAD I SOLD @ \$50.00. THIS WAS ABOUT A YEAR AGO.

#2 MR. JACK E. MOLESWORTH, MARCH 24, 1955.

RE - CONFED PROVISIONALS. SEND ME A LIST OF THOSE THAT YOU HAVE AND I WILL LET YOU KNOW IF I CAN PLACE ANY OF THEM, INCLUDE LOWEST NET PRICES TO ME.

THANKS FOR YOUR COMMENT ON B.D. I WILL KEEP IT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. MORE ON THIS CHAP LATER.

REGARDS.

YOURS ETC.,

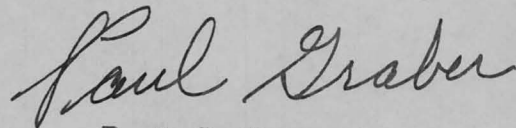
February 10, 1955

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas ,Ky.

Dear Sir:

In June, 1951 I sent a stamp to you for identification and you informed me it was a 1¢ 1857 type III, 99R2. At that time you asked if I wish to sell but I wanted to keep it for a while. If you are still interested, I have had much pleasure from this stamp and am willing to sell. I was going to advertise in the stamp magazines but my wife suggested that I write to you first. I am asking \$650.00 for this stamp. I do not have the new catalogue yet but this stamp was listed at \$800.00 two years ago. Perhaps I should have asked more but I have had much pleasure from this item and would like to pass it on. If you could get more that will be all right with me. If you are not interested at all please let me know so that I can advertise it.

Respectfully yours,



Paul Graber
Navarre, R. D. 3
Ohio

Paul Grady
Nashville Rd. 3
Ohio -



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

Feb. 14, 1955.

Mr. Paul Graber,
R.D. 3,
Navarre, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Graber:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 10th. I regret to state that I would not be interested in purchasing your 141857 - 99R2 at \$650.00. The stamp shows the perforations cutting the right side very badly and also cutting into the bottom of the stamp. If you would care to put a price on it that is in line with its condition, it is barely possible I might be able to place it for you.

It is well to bear in mind that collectors who have as much as \$650 to put into a stamp don't pay such sums for damaged copies and a badly perforated stamp is certainly a damaged copy.

Very truly yours,

(53)

The Shalimar
Leesburg, Florida

29 March, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 25th returning the Columbian stamps along with your report. Your examination was indeed thorough and the information is of genuine value to me - I am happy to enclose my check to cover your fee.

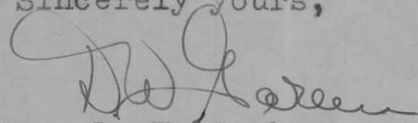
It was also a pleasure to have the letter addressed to you by your Canadian friend, Mr. Halliday. The excellent resume which he has made concerning the Hudson's Bay Company and the Express Service certainly enhances the value of the Oregon Mission material which I have - at least in my own estimate.

The correspondence has been copied and the originals are returned to you herewith. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

It has occurred to me that I might impose upon you somewhat additionally. The Montreal postmark has worried me and I would really like to return the photo copy which you made for me with the redrawing of the Wilbraham and Lachine handstamps and ask that you redraw the Montreal mark on the photo copy for use in my collection. The HBC cover would of course be sent along.

And while on the matter there is a little Indian story written on an old letter sheet with a US #1 which I wish to work into a short article one of these days, and a photo reproduction of a portion of it might add interest as an illustration. It would be just a normal black and white job which I could have done locally but am always hesitant about permitting such material in the hands of individuals unacquainted with philatelic values. If your time is available perhaps you could undertake this task also.

Sincerely yours,


D. W. Garber.

53
April 3, 1955.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
The Shalimar,
Leesburg, Fla.

Dear Mr. Garber:

I have your two letters of the 25th and 29th
and wish to thank you for your check for \$7.00.

When I wrote you in February I was not sure
whether you were in Florida so sent the letter to your
Ohio address.

Regarding the Montreal postmark on your cover.
I have just been studying a print of your cover and the
postmark is so faint there is a question in my mind if I
could trace it in on a print with sufficient accuracy.
I really doubt if I could.

Re - the other cover that you would like to
have photographed, I will be glad to make it for you but
I suggest that you wait a few weeks as I may leave on a
business trip next weekend that might keep me away until
around the 20th, of April.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

The Shalimar
Leesburg, Florida

16 March, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Am I correct in understanding that you are in a position to pass upon individual U.S. stamps - concerning their condition, etc.?

I am enclosing individual copies of the three and four dollar Columbian issue and would appreciate your judgement concerning them.

For instance do they have original gum?

Specifically the three dollar stamp - On the face are noted minute gum particles which suggest the possibility of regumming. And it may have been cleaned. In other words a lightly cancelled copy cleaned and regummed.

I do not have the facilities, nor the knowledge to determine about these stamps and will be happy to forward my check for your customary fee if you can let me have your opinion of these stamps. Their early return will be appreciated.

With cordial good wishes,

Very sincerely,


D. W. Garber.

March 20, 1955.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
% The Shalimar,
Leesburg, Florida.

Dear Mr. Garber:

I have yours of the 16th enclosing the
\$3.00 and \$4.00 Columbians. I will make a
careful examination of both and will report at
the earliest possible moment.

Sincerely yours,

March 20, 1955.

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

Dear Ezra:

Take a look at these two stamps -

\$3.00 Columbian

\$4.00 Columbian

What about them? Why is the \$3.00 so thin? Why is the \$3.00 so brown on the back? Has this been cleaned and regummed? What about the \$4.00? Do you think this gum is original? When it comes to monkey-business with these dollar values I am no good.

I enclose postage for return. Thanks in advance.

Regards -

Yours etc.,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

March 23, 1955

Dear Stan,

The "smart guys" do one hell of a swell job on these stamps these days. Collectors are so damn fussy they want UNHINGED stamps so they get them MADE TO ORDER, almost.

High value Trans-Miss, Columbians, some banknotes and Departments are general groups where these guys operate. The proofs are fairly common and can be bought in most any auction sale, and by the way they seldom go to any dealer in PROOFS Brazer and Fenster have a bale of the damn things. The rare proofs they buy. I don't know if the work is done in this country, I think so in some cases but some of them come from Europe.

Then besides this a lot of stamps have hinge butts, part gum or no gum so the same gang soak them and REGUM them also hide thin spots when necessary. Heck, besides reperforating straight edges, at least one dealer reperforates stamps to make them better centered.

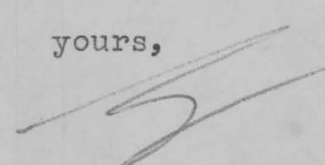
Re your two stamps

\$3 Columbian. This in my opinion is a gummed and privately perforated PROOF. Note perfs on ALL FOUR SIDES. Paper is too thin for the stamp. This is why it looks on thin paper to you. The \$3 with O. G. by the way has thin white gum when genuine.

\$4 Columbian. This is the stamp I am sure. It has been regummed. This has slightly toned the paper too. No O. G. on this stamp looks like the gum on this patient. The perfs on the left look queer but they may be o. k. Possibly when the stamp was regummed the faker had to prick out the perfs for sometimes the gum runs into the perf holes and shows too much. You can still see it.

You might tell the owner of these that its better to get hinged copies, they at least have been in some collections and possibly thru auctions. Chances that an unhinged copy is all right are 100 to 1 or better against especially on the high values.

yours,



March 25, 1955.

Mr. D. W. Garber,
% The Shalimar,
Leesburg, Florida.

Dear Mr. Garber:

Herewith the two stamps as per yours of the 16th. My report is as follows:

\$3.00 Columbian. This is a proof - gummed and with fake perforations. Paper is too thin for the genuine stamp. The genuine \$3.00 with original gum has thin white gum when genuine.

\$4.00 Columbian. This is the genuine stamp, but it has been regummed. No original gum looks like the gum on this stamp. The perforations at left look a bit queer but they may be OK. Possibly when the "fixer" put on the fake gum, he had to monkey with the perf holes due to his fake gum running into them, and of course this would indicate "re-gumming."

Proofs of the Columbians are fairly common and can be had in auction sales. I don't know whether the "fixing" business is done in this country or in Europe, possibly over there. The gang who do such work are quite clever and they spend a lifetime perfecting their work. American collectors are swindled out of thousands of dollars each year.

My fee for this examination is \$3.50 per stamp, which includes return postage. Total \$7.00.

By the way, I had a letter from a good friend of mine up in Canada about your cover. I am enclosing it herewith and will appreciate its return.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

March 25, 1955.

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

Dear Ez:

Thanks for your opinion on the two Columbian stamps. I am charging my friend a fee of \$3.50 per stamp and I will turn same over to you as I have no claim to it in any manner.

It really is ashame how the "fixers" cheat collectors out of thousands of dollars a year. It is my guess that most of this work is done abroad. Just a guess, because I have no knowledge of anyone who does such work over here. Souren claimed that Eusticke had a very clever repair artist up in Yorkville, and that the Captain, kept him employed by the week.

Again thanks. My opinion would not have been worth a darn.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Postage Stamps for Collectors

TELEPHONE
LAKELAND 8-8331

EXPRESS OFFICE
PEEKSKILL, N.Y.



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

I wrote our mutual friend, Mr. Rust, last week about the enclosed cover and he has asked that I forward it to you for your study and that you in turn, after you have looked at it, forward it to him.

I am therefore taking the opportunity to do as suggested and I shall await further word from either of you in the near future.

Thanks for sending me the notice about the 3c 1851 "bisect". It is odd how after all this time something like that should turn up but it is good to have the true facts on the record.

With kindest regards, I am,

Pat



A.P.S.

YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN THE BUSINESS

S.P.A.

UNDER AUTHORITY OF
ROBERT E. HANNEGAN, POSTMASTER GENERAL

IN COMPLIMENT
TO THE CENTENARY INTERNATIONAL
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

March 27, 1955.

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

Pat:

I am in receipt of yours of the 23rd, enclosing the 5¢-10¢ 1847 cover from Mobile, June 16, 1850, to Manchester, England. I assume that Mr. Rust wished me to authenticate the cover, and charge you with the fee of \$5.00 plus the registered postage to him of 36¢ or \$5.36.

For your information I made a very careful examination of the cover and I am pleased to inform you that the cover is unquestionably genuine in all respects. I have endorsed it inside as follows:

"IN MY OPINION THIS COVER IS GENUINE
IN EVERY RESPECT
STANLEY B. ASHEROOK."

I will forward it to Mr. Rust on Monday, the 28th.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

Copy to
P.G. Rust

March 27, 1955.

Mr. Phillip G. Rust,
Route 5,
Thomasville, Ga.

Dear Phil:

Herewith the cover from Herman Herst, together with copy of a letter I have addressed to him.

This is quite a nice item and I had a record of it in my files. It came up at a sale in London recently. I am assuming that my letter to Herst is correct. This was a use from Mobile in 1850 and the postmark and grids are the typical Mobile red "paint," or rather the forerunner of the thick "paint" which was vivid vermillion. Perhaps you have strikes on the 10¢ 1855. It is well known on the 1¢ 1851 Type IV and II.

This shows an overpay of 1¢ as the rate was 24¢. The rate had to be overpaid as there was no 1¢ stamp in 1850. The "19" is the Boston Exchange Office credit to Britain for carriage by Cunard mail ship. Everything is in perfect order, no monkey-business about this cover.

If you purchased it from Herst you should have obtained it at an attractive figure because he would probably not know the real value of a cover such as this. I note the pair is close at right bottom. However, in purchasing a rate, such as this, and one that is a darn sight scarcer than the majority realize, it is my belief that one must consider he is buying more than a pair of the 10¢, he is buying a scarce civer.

In short and to the point, I love a cover like this - no kidding.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

PHILIP G. RUST
WINNSTEAD PLANTATION
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

April 5th.1955

Mr. S.B.Ashbrook
33 No. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Ft. Thomas Ave. Ky.

Dear Stan:

I am happy to enclose check for \$5 in pay't. for your authentication of the 1847, Lot 401 Robson Lowe, Jan.19th/55 submitted to me by Herman Herst.(A pr. of the 10¢ plus a 5¢ single)

I concur heartily with all the conclusions reached by you in your letter to me bearing on this matter.

With best wishes to you and Mrs.Ashbrook,I am,

Sincerely yours,



Copy to Herman Herst

March 30, 1955.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co., Ltd.,
London, W.1, England.

Dear Doctor:

Will you be so kind as to advise me by return air mail what the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 cover sold at in a sale by Robson Lowe on Jan. 19, last. This cover was from Mobile on June 16, 1850 and addressed to "Wm Barber, Esq." of Manchester, England. It had a 5¢ '47 and a H. Pair of the 10¢ 1847. It was illustrated in the January 1955 Issue of the Robson Lowe "Philatelist." It was described as from the collection of Mr. A. H. Whelan. I believe it was stated that only two such covers are known which of course is entirely untrue.

Can you give me any information as to when the Waterhouse catalogue will be off the press? If you will send me half a dozen copies by Air Mail as soon as they are available I will gladly pay the postage. I hope that none of the fake 1869 covers were included in the sale and that you had them removed.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,



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.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS.

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

BANKERS:
BARCLAYS,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.
TELEPHONE:
GERRARD
4900

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

April 5, 1955

Send you by separate mail, printed matter, old Harmer Rooke catalogue of 1946 which I helped preparing. In there you will find the cover ex your inquiry with letter of March 30. The, it realised £ 230. Buyer was unknown to me. At Robson Lowe's on Jan. 19, 1955 it fetched £340. It's an old friend of mine. First bought it in 1943 from a collector and sold to the man who put it up at Harmer Rooke's in 1946. Since then I haven't owned it anymore and don't know who the present owner is. Do you?

Of course you can keep the old catalogue. If my memory serves me right, you had it from me at the time. I am positive that we discussed the cover and that you got a photo from me which should be somewhere in your files.

Have today arranged with Cyril Harmer that 6 copies of the Waterhouse catalogue will be sent you by air freight as soon as they come off the press, i.e. in about 2 days. I have seen to it that they will not be posted to anybody else before. So you will be "in first" with one or two other friends.

The preparation of the sale was team work. My say was not the only one. The owner and Harmer's had theirs, too. Since you know me for a good many years, you will have no doubt that I did my very best to have a "clean" catalogue prepared. Judgement whether I succeeded or not I have to leave to others. Any comments of yours will always be appreciated by me. So I might hear from you in due course.

Met Mr. Colson for the first time last week. He called on me, apparently in order to make my acquaintance. So he wanted to see "the beast in his cage". The small talk I was treated to did not impress me much and I am not interested in what Mr. C. thinks of others. To annoy him I rubbed it in how valuable your assistance had been with regard to quite a number of N.W.'s covers. The effect was highly amusing - to me anyhow. To go one better, he told me that he had two collections in his vaults "twice as good" as Waterhouse's. So it was no use for him to attend such a minor sale in London. I just laughed and added that without him I would at last see a chance to pick up all the bargains in the sale.

With regards

yours sincerely

To open cut here

April 12, 1955.

Dr. O. Bacher,
Westminster Stamp Co. Ltd.,
London, W.1, England.

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for yours of the 6th re - the 5¢-10¢ 1847 cover in the Robson Lowe sale of Jan. 19, 1955. It was sent to a good friend of mine early this month by Herman Herst, Jr. of Shrub Oak, N.Y. @ \$1,450.00. My friend referred it to me and later returned to Herst. I have no idea who bought it at the Lowe sale but it is my opinion he paid too much. Had it been superb it might have been different. Thanks for your kindness in sending me the 1946 catalogue. Strange to relate I had no 1946 record in my files though I have a vague recollection that we discussed this cover some years ago. The catalogue has not arrived but I will be on the lookout for it.

Also my sincere thanks for arranging to send me by air six copies of the N.W. sale. I will sure look forward to the receipt of same. Sir N.W. wrote me such a nice note of appreciation. What a grand character he is.

Re - the effeminate Colson. The S.O.B. hates me worse than poison. I suppose the reason is that I have called him to his face every profane word in my rather voluminous vocabulary. He is a rat if ever there was one. I do not know positively what his specialty is because he never made any actual advances toward me. He has a not a good word for anyone in American philately, and the reason is that no one who amounts to a thing has any use for such a product of the gutter. It is a great compliment to be hated by such a thing.

Again many thanks.

Cordially yours,

P.W. I understand Colson has parts of the Lapham collection for sale including a fake 90¢ 1860 cover. Somebody may get stung on it.

S.B.A.

April 12, 1955.

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

Dear Phil:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 5th with check for \$5.00 on account of the Herst cover. Thanks very much.

It is my guess that this cover was purchased by some dealer in London and sent to this country to be sold. I rather suspect that the sale was a "wash sale" made for the purpose of establishing a price. Before the days of the "S.E.C.," "wash sales" on the N.Y. Stock Exchange were a very common daily occurrence, especially back in the days of the "bucket shop."

I had a letter from Dr. Bacher stating that this cover sold @ 340 pounds at the Robson Lowe sale on Jan. 19, 1955. With sterling @ \$2.80, this was approximately \$950.00. Everything considered, I think the buyer paid too much and I don't think it would bring near that much in a New York auction sale. Bacher did not know who bought it. It looks like that after two months no one was begging for it over there so they sent it over here. It is my guess it will go back.

Bacher also stated that he discovered this cover in 1943 and that it came up in a sale by Harmer Rooke in London in 1946 at which time it sold at 230 pounds.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

March 25, 1955.

Mr. Marcus J. Brown,
160 East Mitchell Ave.,
Apt. 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

Dear Marcus:

Herewith your Chapel Hill, Tex. cover. I regret to inform you that in my opinion this half of a 20¢ green was not used originally on this cover. I believe that the portion of the postmark on the cover is genuine but that the parts on the half stamp are fraudulent. I examined this very carefully under my binocular microscope and especially noted among other points that, (1) the painted letters on the stamp are not in the same ink as that of the strike on the cover, (2) that the "painter" tried to merge his painted circle line at the top with the line of the genuine ink, (3) that the "L" of "Chapel" on the stamp is not a "strike" but painted and that this "L" is not in alignment as it should be with the "CHAPE", (4) the "UL" of JUL is surely hand-drawn rather than a "strike." The chances are that the "fixer" removed a 10¢ 1863 Confederate and substituted this half of a 20¢.

I am enclosing a few war time covers which please accept with my compliments.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

160 E. Mitchell Ave.,
Apartment 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.
March 31, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for your time spent in examining the Chapel Hill, Tex., cover for me. I was not too surprised that it proved to be a fake- it would have been a nice item had it been genuine. I shall mark it as such, and relegate it to my "Rogues' Gallery".

You were most generous to send me the four covers, and I certainly do appreciate your kindness. They will occupy a prominent place in my Confederate collection. I have never before seen a cover with the corner card of the Ga. State Guard, and as a native son, I can appreciate it all the more. The names of Pope and Cobb are well known in Atlanta. As for the 5c blues, they are very fine, and I never thought that I would own one postmarked only one week after the earliest known date of use. I have several soldiers' letters, both Confederate and Yank, and the Yankee patriotic you sent me will go with them very nicely. Thank you again for your generosity.

I believe that I now own all of the general issues on cover, with the exception of a 2c green which is rarely offered now-a-days either by dealers or in auctions. If, by chance, you sometime hear of one for sale, I would appreciate your letting me know.

I gave Walter Horst your message, and he was quite pleased that you should remember him so warmly. He asked that I convey to you his very best regards the next time I talked with you.

It was a most enjoyable evening for me at your home last thursday, and I only hope that I did not keep you up too late. I lost all track of time hearing about, and seeing, so many interesting philatelic items.

Enclosed you will find postage to defray the cost in connection with the P.O.W. and Chapel Hill covers.

Very sincerely yours,

Marcus J. Braun

160 E. Mitchell Ave.,
Apartment 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.
June 8, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I enclose herewith my Chapel Hill, Texas 20c horizontal bisect cover that you wish to send to Fox. If my memory serves me correctly, I believe that Fox was present when I showed the cover to Shenfield and MacBride last October in Richmond. The Dr. "M", who was given as the buyer of the cover in the Fox sale may possibly be Dr. James A. Miller of Atlanta, whom I have met, but only know casually. I saw lot 255 in the Fox sale catalog, but did not bid on it.

It may interest you to know that I bid \$152.50 for lot 55 in this same sale, but was over \$100 off, as the cover sold for \$265.00. This was the 2c green, strip of 3 and two singles, one of the covers we discussed on the phone. Lot 262, two 2c in combination with a single 5c local brought \$310.00. The only single 2c green, on a repaired cover, lot 54, sold for \$112.00. Looks as though I will have to set my sights higher if I ever hope to own a 2c green on cover. Some of the covers in that Grant sale certainly brought tremendous prices- I bid on several other of what I thought were more "common", and was quite a bit under the selling price on all. My experience has been that almost anything Confederate in a Fox auction will bring a top price.

There is no hurry about returning the cover, keep it as long as you wish- glad to be of service to you. With best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Marcus J. Brown

June 10, 1955.

Mr. Marcus J. Brown,
160 E. Mitchell Ave.,
Apt. 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

Dear Marcus:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt
of yours of the 9th which will have my
attention.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

July 14, 1955.

Mr. Marcus J. Brown,
160 E. Mitchell Ave.,
Apt. 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

Dear Marcus:

Just a line to let you know that I am still holding your Chapel Hill, Texas cover.

I received a letter from John Fox today stating he is trying to borrow the auction cover from the buyer. I have an idea that no great effort is being made and I suppose it is because they fear I might condemn it. If I do not hear anything within a reasonable time I will return your cover to you.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

July 15, 1955.

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

Dear John:

Thanks very much for yours of the 11th with check for \$222.50 and return of the balance of the covers that I sent Howard Lehman under date of June 22nd. last.

I would like very much to see that Chapel Hill, Texas cover and if you could obtain a loan of it for me I would greatly appreciate the favor.

Do hope Virginia and you can make the trip West. We will be up in Michigan the week starting July 20th.

Our regards to you both.

As ever yours,

July 28, 1955.

Mr. M. J. Brown,
160 E. Mitchell Ave.,
Apt. 28,
Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

Dear Marcus:

Herewith the two Chapel Hill covers, yours and the one that was in the Fox sale, and from the collection of my old friend Fred Grant of Los Angeles. I have examined the Grant cover very carefully and it has real "age" that cannot be counterfeited. I have made careful comparisons of the two covers and I must admit that if the Grant cover is genuine then I can find no fault with yours. I am, therefore, expressing my opinion on the reverse side.

Will you please return the Ex-Grant cover to me in the enclosed registered envelope.

With regards -

Cordially yours,



Memo

From
JOHN A. FOX

To

Dear Stan -

Enclosed is the
Chapel Hill Cover.

Sincerely

John

Aug. 2, 1955.

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

Dear John:

Herewith I am returning the Chapel Hill, Texas cover as per your registered of the 222nd. Many thanks for your kindness. This cover is genuine in all respects and enabled me to authenticate a similar cover which appeared quite doubtful.

I had a letter from Murl recently stating that he was too poor to afford a "TV" set so the only way he had to pass the long hot evenings out in Kansas was to read "STAMPS" - "LINNS" and "MEKEEL'S." Why don't we get up a subscription and buy him a second-hand TV?

With regards-

Cordially yours,

P.S.--We are having a long stretch of stifling weather.

REGISTERED

DANIEL F. KELLEHER
WILLIAM F. KELLEHER

DANIEL F. KELLEHER
Postage Stamps for Collectors
B. L. DREW & CO.
EST. 1885
7 WATER STREET • BOSTON • MASS.

TELEPHONE
LAFAYETTE 3676

3/22/55

Dear Stan:

The enclosed photos illustrate four items
offered to me for sale.

Cost to me.

10 "57 block \$1500. part gum and lower right stamp trifle
thin and small tear below "N" of "CENTS"

1869, 15", 24", 30" insets, unused without gum, nice fresh
copies, 30" good color. Cost \$17500.00 net to me.

Should you think of anyone for these, please advise.
I'll go fifty-fifty with you.

I'm obliged to return the photos.

Kindest regards

As ever

Dan Kelleher.

March 27, 1955.

Mr. Daniel F. Kelleher,
7 Water St.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dan:

Yours of the 22nd received and it was indeed nice to hear from you.

I am returning the photo prints herewith, and regret to state that I do not know of anyone at present who might be interested in the items. No doubt you have contacted Rust on the 10¢ block. This should be of interest to him but I suppose any price you would put on it would be considered too high.

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

Thanks very much for remembering me.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

April 9th, 1955.

Mr. Dan'l F. Kelleher,
7 Water St.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dan:

- Re - the photos you sent me recently. Did you offer these to a collector in New York by the name of Jack Dick? If not, may I do so?

With regards -

Cordially yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. BOX 31
33 NORTH FT. THOMAS AVENUE
FORT THOMAS, KY.

April 9th, 1955.

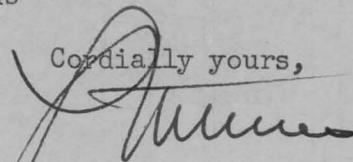
Mr. Dan'l F. Kelleher,
7 Water St.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dan:

- Re - the photos you sent me recently. Did you offer these to a collector in New York by the name of Jack Dick? If not, may I do so?

With regards -

Cordially yours,



4/11/55

Dear Stan:

I have not offered them to Dick,
but I have learned that the party
owning them is in contact with Dick.

Best regards
Stan.

A.H.S.
S.H.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

March 30, 1955

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your letter of March 24th. I fully realize that Rust has a great deal of expensive equipment for detecting repaired material, etc.. However, I believe you will agree that such is no substitute for experience and philatelic knowledge and can even be dangerous in the hands of a novice. Just give me carbon tet. and a black dish and I will compete with anyone who uses only a lamp, cleaned pen cancels being about the only area where a lamp is essential in my opinion. I will grant that he doubtlessly has the basis for plating the material you mentioned, but still do not feel that he has sufficient knowledge to detect reperfs, regums, etc.. Did you really feel that there was any basis whatsoever for his comments that the strip had been chemically treated? I am sure he had no question whatsoever as to its authenticity or you may be sure he would have been very specific in his comments concerning such. However, if you believe that plating would be the only way to determine the authenticity of this strip, would you suggest that I send it along to him for such purpose?

I appreciate very much your comments on the 5¢ 1856 and agree that the copy submitted does not match the perforated "henna brown" which I have in stock. However, I felt that if any imperf could be considered such that this copy would fill the bill, though from your comments can see that such a shade in the imperf probably does not exist. If you should run onto another Ridgeway book in the near future, I would greatly appreciate your giving me first shot at it.

At present I have in stock the following Confederate Provisionals which you might be able to place: (prices net to you) #77XU3, very fine appearing, slight repair, railroad corner card, net \$100; #79XU5, very fine appearing, slight repair, only recorded copy, net \$100; #5X1, used but not tied on slightly trimmed 3¢ star die U.S. envelope, net \$140; #47X1, fine copy on very fine small cover, net \$270; #49X1, fine copy, not tied, on very fine cover, net \$450; #52X1, fine copy tied on fine embossed corner card cover, net \$300; #61X2, 1 stamp wee tear, tied to very fine appearing corner card cover, net \$200; #62X3B, rare Ochre shade, fine copy tied to very fine cover, net \$60. I would be glad to send any of these along for your inspection that you might care to see, subject to prior sale.

Enclosed are three covers on which I would appreciate your opinion. One is an unused copy on cover that is supposed to be a Type III, though I seriously doubt it myself. Please sign the back of the cover if you feel it is a Type III. The other is supposed to have a position 4R1L in the center of two Type III's. Your comments on this plating and the typing of the two other stamps will be appreciated. The third cover with 90¢ bank note, #166, with blue target presumably of "Cincinnati, Ohio", but not tied. Do you feel this was used originally on the cover. If so, would greatly appreciate your signing the reverse side.

With kind regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

April 1, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

I have yours of the 30th.

Several months ago you inquired re - the Stark collection. The following is confidential. I have the entire collection for sale and I will handle it without any publicity. This at the request of Mrs. Stark. There is no hurry and I am to take my time.

I found the fake 12¢ bisect in the collection and Jack Fleckenstein has the impression that you sold it to Mr. Stark. Do you know anything about it? Mrs. Stark is checking his books and correspondence to find out from whom he obtained it.

Re - the Rust matter. I refuse to be drawn into any controversy, especially as it does not concern me in the slightest. I advise you not to dispute his word but ask him as a favor if he will let you know if he thinks the item is a genuine plate variety or a paint job. If he thinks it has been chemically treated you will not change his opinion by intimating he is wrong. Before sending it to him I believe it advisable to write and inquire if he will give you an opinion on it. Don't mention my name and please keep me out of it.

Have you ever had any correspondence with Henry Hill of Minneapolis? He is a very close friend of mine. He has quite a fine collection of the 5¢ 1856-57. Why not send your 5¢ 1856 to him and ask him if he thinks your copy resembles the real Indian Red. You can, if you wish, inform him my opinion of it.

I will bear you in mind if I run across a Ridgway book.

Re - the items that you submitted. Single One Cent. Of course, this never was a Type III. It is so washed out that it could not be plated. The stamp is from Plate One Early and it looks like someone washed out the bottom line. If it did originate on this cover, it may have never passed thru a post office or received a cancel. I note the writer states he was putting a 1¢ stamp on his letter. I beg to be excused from putting my name on such a poor item.

Re - the cover with three One Cent stamps. The center stamp is 4RLL - This was the only position on the Type IV plate that was not recut. This stamp is so badly cut into at bottom it does not show the uncut bottom line. Thus it - "was a type II before the damage at bottom destroyed the type." Stamp to left is a Type IIIA from Plate 4 - poor condition. Stamp to right was a Type IIIA from Plate 4 before perfs at bottom destroyed the type.

Re - the 90¢ cover. Yes, I believe the Cincinnati postmark and target (attached) is genuine. The chances are that the 90¢ is a National - the use probably from Cincinnati on Oct. 31, 1873. The 90¢ stamp is all washed out. One wonders why? I suppose the cover is OK but I ask to be excused from signing the cover.

#2. Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - April 1, 1955.

No charge for the above.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

MAR 22 1955

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 **Lawrence L. Shenfield**

40 Highland Circle

Bronxville (8) N. Y.

THIS RECEIPT, WHICH MAY BE USED FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL,
DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Cover belongs
to Blake

March 22, 1955.

Mr. Lawrence L. Shenfield,
40 Highland Circle,
Bronxville 8, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Here is a rather interesting cover that belongs to my friend Maurice Blake. With it is my notation made when I photographed it. It is addressed to Harrisonburg, Va., which may have been in Federal hands at the time this was mailed. If this had a Confederate stamp why the "10?" If it had a 3¢ 1861 how could it have been sent collect "10?" Even assuming it was from a Confed member of the armed forces, without an officer's endorsement.

I suggest you send this to Mac and request him to return it to me.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Sam Dyk Mac Bride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

March 28th, 1955.

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

Dear Stanley:

This is in reply to your letter to Larry Shenfield of March 22nd in which you sent me the enclosed cover belonging to our mutual friend Maurice Blake, for analysis. Larry passed it along to me, and I am happy to say that I am able to give you the definite story on it.

This cover was addressed by Lt. C. B. Eastham of the 10th Virginia Infantry, who was captured in the Battle of Spottsylvania C.H. on May 12, 1864. He was sent to Fort Delaware and became one of the 600 Confederate officers who were shipped to Union-held Morris Island in Charleston Harbor, where they were held in a stockade under the fire of the Confederate guns in Charleston. In October he was one of the group sent from there to Fort Pulaski near Savannah, Ga. which had been captured by the Union forces early in the war where he continued to be held as a prisoner.

On November 2(?) 1864 he wrote to his wife in Harrisonburg, Va. in a letter which was enclosed in this cover. This letter, doubtless together with others from the other prisoners, was carried to the Confederate lines around the city of Savannah, under flag of truce. It was then mailed from Savannah with the "10" representing Confederate postage due to be paid by the addressee upon delivery. There are evidences of an adhesive stamp having been removed from the corner of this envelope, but no such stamp was necessary in this case. As you will see from the above, at no time was this cover in the hands of the U.S. postal service.

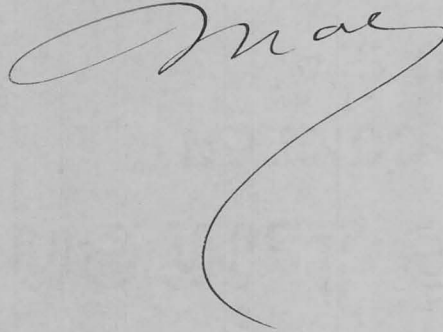
You will find the complete story back of all this in the two articles I wrote "Prisoner of War Covers of Morris Island and Fort Pulaski", which appeared in the American Philatelist of May 1946 (pages 680, etc.), and June 1948 (pages 696, etc.). On page 685 of the first story there are photos of two covers bearing this same "10" due marking, and one of them also has the same small type Savannah postmark, which also is dated in November. Sometimes these covers were endorsed "Via Flag of Truce" but not always. Incidentally, another cover addressed to this same Mrs. C.B. Eastham from Lt. Eastham while he was

in Morris Island, is illustrated on page 690 of the first article. The second article tells of the two books which were written on this whole story, containing lists of the prisoners, and Lt. Eastham is listed therein.

That seems to tell the story of this cover and I am enclosing an extra copy of this letter in case you want to send it along to Maurice Blake.

Best personal regards!

Sincerely,

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

MacB/HK


c.c.: L.L.Shenfield

Paris, the 29th of march 1955

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

Mr Stanley B. ASHBROOK

P.O. Box 31

33 N; Ft Thomas Avenue

FORT THOMAS, Ky (U.S.A.)

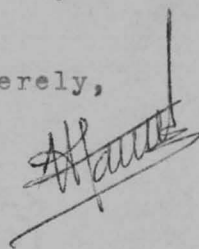
Dear Mr Ashbrook,

Please find herewith a few covers for which I should be very glad to have your opinion.

Some of them are obviously forged, but my customer being an american man living in Paris, he knows you very well by reputation as I very often mentionned your knowledge. He wants to have your opinion about each over as he will be strong towards his sellers. I think and hope ZARESKI will have some trouble.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Yours sincerely,




Paris, le 28 Mars 1955

MAURICE JAMET

timbres anciens

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

 Opéra 99-46

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

Mr Stanley B. ASHBROOK
P.O. Box 31
33 N. Ft Thomas Av.
FORT THOMAS, Ky (U.S.A.)

POUR EXPERTISE

Lettre N°1	Frs:30.000.-
" N°2	30.000.-
" N°3	10.000.-
" N°4	5.000.-
" N°5	30.000.-
" N°6	3.000.-
" N°7	30.000.-
" N°8	10.000.-
	<hr/>
	148.000.-

	Frs:148.000.-
Lettre N°9	20.000.-
" N°10	15.000.-
" N°11	15.000.-
" N°12	20.000.-
" N°13	10.000.-
" N°14	30.000.-
" N°15	20.000.-
" N°16	3.000.-
	<hr/>
	281.000.-
	<hr/>

Engagement de change N°6284978

April 4, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Jamet:

Herewith the sixteen (16) covers as per yours
of the 29th. My fee for the examination is as follows:

Four covers @ \$2.00 each	
(6 - 8 - 11 - 16)	\$ 8.00
Ten covers @ \$3.00 each	
(1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 7 - 10 - 12 -	
13 - 15)	30.00
Two covers @ \$5.00 each	10.00
Total	<u>\$48.00</u>

Herewith I am enclosing an analysis of each cover. You
will note that I have signed on the back, the covers
that I believe to be genuine in all respects. Those
not signed are either bad or doubtful. It is my guess
that the bad ones are some of Zareski's handiwork. Too
bad that fellow cannot be hung.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Cover No. 1 - 5¢ 1856, tied by a New Orleans postmark of June 22, 1857 - to Nantes. A Garnier cover. Thru Boston on July 1, 1857 - The rate on this cover was 15¢. It appears that this 5¢ stamp was used on this cover, so apparently a 10¢ 1855 is missing. It is entirely possible that the 10¢ was paid in cash, and this may be the explanation, as the use was only three months after the old 5¢ rate became obsolete. On the back, black "Boston JUL 1 Br.Pkt." The red credit is 12¢.

Cover No. 2 - This cover is fraudulent, the three stamps were not used on this cover originally. This was a stampless cover, forwarded unpaid. The various markings prove this.

Cover No. 3 - From San Francisco, August 17, 1866 - to Lima, Peru. S.F. p.m. on face is "Aug 18" - the Panama is "SP 1 - 1866." The cover has a horiz. pair of the 30¢ 1861 plus a horiz. pair of the 10¢ 1861 plus a 3¢ 1861. - Total 83¢. There was no such a rate or multiple. The single rate via Panama in 1866 was 22¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, of which 10¢ was U.S. to Panama and 6 pence British (12¢) to Peru. In red pencil is 4 - 88 - 48. In other words this was rated at 4 times 22¢ or 88¢ of which 4 x 12 or 48 was credited to Britain. This cover is short 5¢ in postage. None of these stamps are actually tied to the cover so it is impossible to state if these were the stamps that were actually used on this cover. I suspect that they were and that a 5¢ stamp is missing.

No. 4 (cover) - 34¢ Paid - 24¢ 1867 (grill?) plus 10¢ 1869 - from San Francisco Dec. 3, 1869. Letter inside dated S.F. Dec. 2, 1869. Is the 24¢ a genuine grill. As near as can be determined on the cover, my opinion is yes. The rate to Peru at this time was 34¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., as follows: 10¢ U.S. to Panama, one shilling (24¢) by British carriage to Peru. Thus the large "24" credit in magenta applied at S.F. I have endorsed this cover on the back as genuine in my opinion.

Cover No. 5 - 15¢ to France by American Packet to England. From Baton Rouge, La. - July 6, 1858. From New York July 17, 1858 (Saturday). (The correct sailing date) to Bordeaux. The credit is "6" which was correct. I endorsed this cover on the bac, "In my opinion this cover is genuine."

Cover No. 6 - To Havre, France from New York on Sep 2 1868. Cover has a 3¢ 1861 and a 12¢ 1861 (15¢). Markings show the letter weighed over $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, hence required 30¢ (double rate) in postage (2 x 15¢ or 16 decimes). Sent as entirely unpaid, with 16 decimes due. New York postmark in black (denoting unpaid), with a debit to France of 186¢ (2 x 3 plus 2 x 6). In my opinion this was a stampless cover, and these two stamps were not used originally on this cover. The cancelations on the stamps are not convincing.

Cover No. 7 - 45¢ rate - New Orleans Via New York to Paris - by Amer. Packet direct to Havre. New Orleans Dec. 4, 1857 - New York Dec. 12, 1857 - Havre Dec. 24, 1857. Credit to France is 9, which was correct. Rate was 3 times 15¢, credit was 3 x 3¢ (for French internal). Vertical strip of the 5¢ 1857 - Type I - red brown, center line, right pane strip of three. Vert. strip of three 10¢ 1857, Plate One, Types III, II, III. In my opinion this cover is genuine.

Cover No. 8 - Cover with a single 12¢ 1851 from New York March 18, 1857 to England. This cover is a fake, that is, the 12¢ stamp was not used originally on this cover. The cover was surely a prepaid stampless with a rate of 24¢ - with a credit of 19¢ to Britain - Transmitted by British Packet (Cunard Line).

Cover No. 9 - From New Orleans to Paris, France. 21¢ Paid. Pair of 10¢ 1855 - Type I plus single 1¢ 1851, Type IV. Dated New Orleans, La., Dec. 28, 1855, from New York by Am.Pkt Jan. 12, 1856. This was originally routed to go via England and prepaid 21¢ by that route, but was changed at New York and sent by the Havre Line "Direct to France." This only required a prepayment of 20¢. Six (6) decimes due from addressor. I endorsed this on the back, "In my opinion this cover is genuine."

#2.

Cover No. 10 - From New York to Lyon, France Oct. 15, 1853 (Saturday) - 20¢ Paid. This was the rate by direct steamer to France. This letter was sent instead by the Collins Line Via England - the rate by that route was 21¢. Routed "Pr Str. Baltic," a Collins Line ship, American Packet. The postage was short 1¢. In my opinion, the postal clerks permitted it to go as is. I endorsed the cover, "In my opinion this cover is genuine."

Cover No. 11 - 3¢ U. S. envelope (obsolete - demonetized in August 1861). 1¢ 1869 plus 2¢ 1863. Not a double 3¢ rate. In my opinion the cover is genuine and signed on the back.

Cover No. 12 - Cover with a 15¢ 1869 from New Orleans to Havre, France on Aug. 17, 1869. The 15¢ stamp was not used originally on this cover. This was a stampless cover, sent unpaid, a double rate of 2 x 15¢ with 16 decimes due in France. Forwarded by direct steamer to Cherbourg, U.S. share 24¢ (as per 24 in N.Y. postmark) and the French share 6¢. New Orleans never used a cancellation such as this.

Cover No. 13 - Cover with a 10¢ 1869 from New Orleans to Havre, France on May 4, 1869. The 10¢ stamp was not used originally on this cover. This was a stampless letter, sent unpaid, a double rate with 2 x 15¢ or 16 decimes due from the addressor. Forwarded by direct mail to Havre, the U.S. share was 24¢, (as per the 24 in the New York postmark). The French share was 2 x 3¢ = 6¢.

Cover No. 14 - From Honolulu Via San Francisco and New York to Paris. 5¢ Hawaii paid the Honolulu rate of not over $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. The 10¢ 1861 took care of the 2¢ ship fee. The letter then started from S.F. for France as a double 15¢ rate with 30¢ due or 16 decimes due from the addressor. From Honolulu June 24, 1866, from S.F. on July 10, 1866, from New York on July 31, 1866, by British Packet. Thru Calais on Aug. 13, 1866, and reached Paris the same date. The black encircled "30" was applied at San Francisco. The New York has a "6" the U.S. debit to France (2 x 3¢ - U. S. internal). I endorsed this cover on the back, "In my opinion this cover is genuine."

Cover No. 15 - Cover from New Orleans with a single 30¢ 1869. This stamp was not used on this cover originally. The 30¢ on this cover is rather silly. This cover originally was a stampless, which did not weigh over $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce and it was sent unpaid with 8 decimes due in France, which was about 15¢. If only 15¢ was due in France why do we find 30¢ was paid in the U.S.? This is what makes the 30¢ stamp on this cover quite ridiculous. New Orleans postmark of Aug. 8 (1869). New York black p.m. denoted unpaid, dated Aug 14 with a debit to France of 9¢. This meant it went American Packet to England, thence to France.

Cover No. 16 - 2¢ to France. Unsealed printed circular to France from New Orleans May 1, 1861. 15 decimes due in France (about 28¢ U.S.). This is an example of U.S. stamps used in the Confederate States of America, as Louisiana at that time was a member of the C.S.A. On June 1, 1861, the P.O.D. of the C.S.A. took over the operation of the postal service. I endorsed this cover as genuine.

April 3, 1955.

Mr. Nelson P. La Ganke,
Carnegie Hall,
1220 Huron Road,
Cleveland 15, Ohio.

Dear Mr. La Ganke:

I am in receipt of yours of the 29th.

The cover is quite unusual and if I ever run across it I am sure I would not forget it. I note you state it was "stolen in the mails." Does this mean it was sent by ordinary mail or by registered mail? No doubt you are familiar with the "3¢ 1851 Unit" and the "Chronicle" that they issue. I think it would be an excellent idea if you would have the loss publicized in that bulletin and if you have a photograph, I am sure they would be glad to illustrate it. My good friend Tracy Simpson of Berkeley, is the editor and I know that he owns several similar covers. Had he known that this cover was in the sale I am sure he would have bid on it. If you have a photograph you could loan me I will make a copy and publicize the loss in my monthly Service Issue.

If I can be of any assistance in any way please command me.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Nelson P. LaGanke's
STAMP-ADE CO.

CARNEGIE HALL - 1220 HURON ROAD

CLEVELAND 15, OHIO

MAin 1-0909

April 6, 1955

Mr. S^Tanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., P.O. Box 31
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have your note of April 3rd. Our HI-HAT Catalogs are produced by the offset process, wherein the actual Covers and stamps are photographed and reproduced on a zinc plate. We do not have any photograph of this Cover which we can send you, other than the reproduction in the Catalog which you originally received and a portion of which I sent you with the last letter.

The Cover itself was in a cellophane envelope, attached to our auction page, and between two cardboards and mailed in a 6x9 envelope, by parcel post, insured mail. When the customer received the package at the other end, he opened it in front of the postal clerk and discovered that the Cover was missing from the lot. It was, therefore, obviously removed somewhere along the line, ~~somewhere~~ between the time we mailed it and the time he received it.

Respectfully yours,

STAMP-ADE CO.

Nelson P. LaGanke
Nelson P. La Ganke.

NPL:k

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

I understand that you will examine and authenticate U.S. stamps and covers for a certain fee. I would appreciate it if you would state your fees. I have a couple of items that I wish to send you.

Would you also answer this question for me:

How does the value of an unused patriotic envelope (just northern not conf.) compare with the value of the same patriotic only this time with just the face of the cover or front? Does its value decrease? stay the same? etc. Is the design the main factor?

Thank you very much!

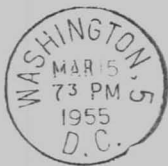
Sincerely,

B. F. Evans

1009 S. 26th St.
Arlington, Va.

(member - APS, CSA, Unit #11)

B. F. Evans
1009 S. 26th St.
Arlington, Va.



SAVE THE EASY
BUY U.S. BONDS
PAYROLL S



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

March 17, 1955.

Mr. B. F. Evans,
1009 S. 26th St.,
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Re - yours of the 15th. I suggest that you advise what stamps you would care for me to examine. I will then advise you regarding the fee. If they are 20th Century or of a common variety I suggest that you send them to the Expert Committee of the A.P.S.

I am not sure that I understand your query regarding "unused Patriotics." Such items are very common and have very little value. I enclose several with my compliments. I suppose a dealer would charge 5¢ or 10¢ apiece for such items. These same covers in used condition with stamps do have value. Have I answered your query?

Very truly yours,

4/1/55

Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. H. Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Kent.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

Thanks very much for
your letter and am
enclosing a stamp which
I hope you will examine
and then advise me as
to the fee. I am fairly
sure I will be able to
afford it.

I am also enclosing
a number of covers franked
with U.S. #26a (supposedly).
I don't wish these to be
authenticated, ^{or anything} but merely for
you to state if the stamps
are really, [#]26a and also ^{to note} the
cancellations on a couple of
them as to whether they are

② Orange or red. If you have time could you possibly return them the same day, as I have purchased these by mail and have not yet paid for them. I bought under the pretense that they were "# 26a" and having paid a price which would go only for # 26a, then being slightly confused, I would like to make sure and ask a competent authority. Please understand, though, that I am only trying to clarify matters for myself and possibly further my knowledge in this stamp. I will ^{also} send you the money for the stamps, or postage, as soon as the letter arrives.

The stamp that I am sending is # 28 and is of

③ the color variety henna brown, cataloging \$65-. Please note the stitch watermark and advise me as to what effect it has on the value. Would you also give me an estimate on its cash value "as is".

I also have one other item which I will no doubt send you. A strip of 3 of U.S. # 95, 5¢ brown on cover, but not tied. Please advise me as to your fee for this item.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

B. F. Evans

1009 S. 26th St.
Arlington, Va.

P.S. Stamp (U.S. #28)
will be in the
interior of the
smallest of the covers
that I am sending.

My 5¢ Henna
Enclosed

April 5, 1955.

Mr. B. F. Evans,
1009 South 26th St.,
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Herewith your 5¢ 1857 and the covers contained in yours of the 1st.

Your 5¢ 1857 is the "Henna" or what we formerly called the Indian Red years ago. It is a very close match to one of my reference copies which I am enclosing and which kindly return. Lay your copy alongside of mine and I think you will agree the colors are the same. I mounted my copy on the card several months ago to show a friend what the "Henna" was like. You will note that I stated that my color was not the ultra-fine shade of the Henna as it comes in a much redder color. However, the latter is scarce and worth considerably more than catalogue. I regret that I do not have an example at present. I never express an opinion on values, but I would be willing to sell my copy for \$60.00. I believe it is sound in every particular. Your copy is cut into at top and appears to have some damage under the "EN" of "CENTS."

Re - the 3¢ 1857 covers. While I did not examine each one carefully, I think all are the Type II not the #28A. If I were you I would buy a vertical pair or a vertical strip of three - then you can see very plainly what the 28A looks like. I believe I have a nice vertical strip of three that I can offer you @ \$10.00 provided I can find it.

There is no fee for the examination of your 5¢ 1857 but you can reimburse me for the registered postage I have expended, to you and return.

Very truly yours,

May 7, 1955.

Mr. B. F. Evans,
1009 South 26th St.,
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Thanks very much for yours of the 4th with the fee of \$5.00 for the 5¢ 1867 cover, which I am returning herewith. I have authenticated the cover on the back, and explained the rate.

Prior to January 1, 1869, the registered fee had been 20¢ but on that date it was reduced to 15¢. This is a Reay stamped envelope, first issued in July 1870. The date of your cover is "Jan 7," so the use must have been 1871 or later. I doubt if it was later. The registered fee remained at 15¢ until January 1, 1874.

As I noted on the back of your cover, this is a very rare use and I believe that my authentication on the back will add more value to your cover than the fee I charged.

May I assure you that I had no intention of making any reference to you in my last letter.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

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

3-23-55

Dear Mr Ashbrook:-

Many thanks for that
very nice Donahue cover. Although a late item,
it happens to be a very interesting historical
ghost tour, and not very far from where I
live.

The story of Peter Donahue is very
famous to any one who knows San Francisco
history. Arriving in San Francisco in 1849
he founded the first foundry and machine
shop, which today is the famous Union
Iron Works. He built the first gas works
in San Francisco which today is the famous
Pacific Gas and Electric Company. In addition
to that, he built the first workshop on the
Pacific Coast for the United States Navy. Not
being satisfied with only doing that, he
constructed the first railway between San Francisco
and San Jose. This later became part of
the Western Pacific Railway, for which he built
several locomotives. Because of the threat
to the monopoly of the Central Pacific, he

ALBERT BUILDING
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GLENWOOD 4-2451

A very satisfactory job.

About 1874 Donahue built the San Francisco & North Pacific ^{RR with} a rail. service from Santa Rosa to Donahue Landing. Donahue Landing was just south of Petaluma on the Petaluma slough, and here the passengers took boats which took them to San Francisco. About 1876 the railroad extended down to San Rafael and joined the San Rafael - San Quentin R.R. Donahue then took all of his machine shops and equipment from Donahue Landing and brought them down by barges and founded a new landing for his boats at Tiburon which is in Marin County. Some of the shops used for repairing the railroad are still in use at Tiburon, but the ferrisses have been ceased to run. Donahue on the cover

The postmark Donabone on the cover
you sent me was used at Donabone's Landing,
and of course you can appreciate its
significance, if you know the history
of this area. I greatly appreciate receiving it.
I talked to Jessup on the phone

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

today. He was supposed to go to an auction
with me this evening in San Francisco.
However, he got tied up in some meeting
with Henry Kaiser and he asked me to
bid for him. I gave the price up to
\$150 or an express cover he wanted,
but a Jay Hertz had bid Nathan
bidding for him with a reserve of 210⁰⁰.
Ed will be unhappy about not getting
it, but I had already accepted this
reserve. Prices are still terrific on
Western material; in fact so good I
am selling a lot of mine.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely
W. Scott Polland

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

MORNING AND SUNDAY
SUPERIOR AVE. AT EAST 6TH STREET

THE
FOREST CITY
PUBLISHING COMPANY
523-529 SUPERIOR AVE., N. E.
CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

CLEVELAND NEWS

EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY
SUPERIOR AVE. AT EAST 18TH STREET

STERLING E. GRAHAM
PRESIDENT
CHARLES F. McCAHILL
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN A. VAN BUREN
VICE PRESIDENT

April 1, 1955

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

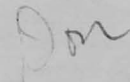
Dear Stan;

The Dr. really seems to know his California history and I am glad that the cover was of some use to him. It always seemed to me to be a good idea to let people who appreciate a cover more than I do to give it to them. This sentence seemed to start out alright but it sure ended up in a mess. I hope you get the thought of it.

Things are a bit dull here, at least in a philatelic sense, as nothing has turned up lately. I imagine that the collection you have been working on is a dandy and perhaps I might be able to buy a stamp or two out of it.

I trust that both you and Mrs. Ashbrook are in good health and that you missed the floods down your way. Best wishes,

Sincerely,



D. K. Grieve.