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Introducing Spencer Anderson

Spencer Anderson, an active collector for more than 25 years, formed the Reliant Stamp Co. in 1925. "Reliant" fully described his policy, as he was absolutely reliable in all his dealings.

Since 1935, the business has been conducted under his personal name. His yearly trips to the principal cities of the U. S. have given him the pleasure of personal acquaintance with his clients and has widened his viewpoint so that he is better able to judge accurately their needs and varied interests.

Mr. Anderson, as sole proprietor, supervises all the major activities and is very capably assisted by Munson B. Wallace and Willis F. Cheney, both of whom became associated with the firm in 1932.

Spencer Anderson's outright cash purchases of the John H. Clapp $100,000 collection and the O. J. Olson collection during 1942 startled dealers all over the country. This foresight is due to his years of experience in buying and selling at the proper time. He is aggressive and alert to all opportunities. Many dealers were wary of the war market, but Mr. Anderson, sensing the vast possibilities of the increased purchasing power, stepped into the market and by the purchase of these two outstanding United States collections gave his firm one of the most complete stocks of fine items in the country. Outstanding purchases of British Colonies and Foreign collections during the past few years balance his stock to fill the varied wants of collectors.

Meteels

L. G. BROOKMAN

BRIDGEPORT 2969

Member
C. C. N. Y.
T. M. P. S.
T. C. P. S.
S. P. A.
A. P. S.

BROOKMAN STAMP COMPANY

121 Loeb Arcade - Fifth and Hennepin
Minneapolis, Minn.

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October 20, 1941

Stanley B. Ashbrook,
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

When I wrote to you the other day I said that I would forward a list of the illustrations I thought should be used in the first part of the article. As you know, this is not to be a really technical article but it is intended to be written so that the collector can, thru the use of the article, properly identify his stamps. I think it is adviseable to include certain of the major varieties that have long been of interest to collectors. This is the list that comes to mind at the moment on the first few stamps that would be considered in the article;

1847 Issue (5¢)

1. Photo of normal copy
2. Drawings of 4 major double transfers, A,B,C,D
3. Drawings or photos of Dot in S and Dot in U varieties
4. Photo of Government Counterfeit

1847 Issue (10¢)

1. Photo of normal copy
2. Drawings of major double transfers
3. Photo of Knapp shift
4. Drawings of "Stick Pin", "harelip" and "line thru F of Office" varieties
5. Photo of bisect varieties
6. Photo of Government Counterfeit

1851 Issue (1¢)

1. Photos or drawings of all Scott types plus type 1c.
2. Photos or drawings of the various types of recuts on type IV.

(Students wishing specialized information on this stamp and on other stamps which have been well written up in either article or book form will be referred to the original source.

1851 Issue (3¢)

1. Photo of normal copy
2. Photo or drawings of "Gents", "Line thru three cents", recut button, recut bust, and

L. G. BROOKMAN

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"Gash on shoulder" varieties.
3. Illustrations of various line recuts in the triangles.

Can you furnish any or all of the above? I have told Kimble that I would insist that payment be made for such illustrations as are used and I know that he sees eye to eye with me in this matter.

Two things are bothering me in the 1847 issue. These are "Copper vs Steel plates" and the "Knapp Shift". I have read your article on the plates very carefully and I must admit that I fail to find any flaws in your reasoning. However, my personal knowledge of this particular problem is so limited that my opinion might be formed entirely on the way the article was written. In other words, you might have stated your case in favor of steel plates and sold me on the idea. I am not so certain that all reputable students feel that the '47 plates were coppper. It is probably impossible to offer documentary evidence (of value) as proof that the plates were or were not made of copper. Such being the case, the stamps themselves will probably offer the only evidence that is of value. I do not know that anyone can build up a plausible case in favor of steel plates but if such can be found I would like to offer it as well as the "copper plate" theory. On any subject where there is any reasonable chance that either of one or two solutions is the correct one I feel that it is interest of all concerned to state both sides of the question.

In regard to the Knapp Shift I must admit that I have never seen the stamp and have an open mind on the question as to whether it is or is not genuine in all respects. I know the so-called "solder up" theory that has been advanced in regard to this item. The regular Post Office Shift is about as strong as the Knapp and it seems to me that this position should also have had the solder treatment (providing of course that it occured when the plate was first made which is the theory behind the Knapp shift). Some students have a bad opinion of the Knapp item.

I know that it would not be necessary to go into detail at all in the article in regard to either of the above questions but I do think that both should be mentioned to some extent.

Will probably start first draft of the article as soon as I hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

L G Brookman

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Oct. 26, 1941.

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

Dear Mr. Brookman:

Yours of the 20th received. Regarding cuts for the types of the One Cent 1851 - 1857. To avoid duplication of effort, I suggest you pick out the cuts you would like to use from my One Cent Book and request the loan of these from Harry Lindquist. Stowell has all of the cuts so it would be a very simple matter. All you would require is Lindquist's permission.

Re - 1847 Issue. 5¢ value. I suggest you illustrate (A) a very early impression as compared to (B) a worn plate. I will have to make new drawings for you of the four double transfers.

Have you a copy of the Chase 1916 Article? If so perhaps you would like to illustrate the Bank Note from which the heads of Washington and Franklin were taken. You will note that Chase thought the plates were only 100 subject plates. See "Stamp Specialist" with my article illustrating the Emerson gutter copy. I can furnish fine photo if you wish to use.

What about mention and illustration of original plate proofs? I can furnish a fine photo of the large Emerson block showing Dot in "S." I have no photos of the Government imitations so I will have to borrow some proofs from Brazer and photograph.

10¢ 1847. I will have to make new drawings of the D.T.'s I have no photos of the "stick pin" - "hatchlip" or "line thru F." Copies will have to be borrowed and photographed. I suggest you write Perry and ask him who has superb copies. If you will attend to borrowing, I will photograph.

Bisect varieties. See no use to illustrate. You might mention but only casually. I have photos however if you wish to use.

Knapp shift. This I would ignore. Clark wanted to list it and I advised him not to do so. Some say it is genuine, some say it is a fake. As only one copy is known its real status has not been determined, so I advise you to avoid any argument on the subject.

One Cent 1851. I would not illustrate the various Type IV recuts.

Three Cent 185h. I suggest you confer with Cabeen and have him furnish you with all the drawings you need of varieites and recuts. I could do this but lack of time prevents.

Copper Vs Steel. 1847 Plates. Nothing has been published to contradict my firm conviction that the 1847 plates were copper. Some disagree with me, but so far they have not presented any sensible arguments in favor of steel. I doubt if it would be necessary to enlarge upon this subject in your article because after all it is not of great importance to the average collector. I think the

strongest argument I presented was a comparison of the two Confederate stamps from the same steel die (A) the Frame Line, from a copper plate (B) the 10¢ Die A from a steel plate. Here the actual difference between copper and steel is most noticeable. No competent student of plate reconstruction could possible disagree with me that the 1847 plates were copper. But all ~~of~~thdsts is of little interest to any except the advanced student.

Your articles should be absolutely independent and not be influenced in the slightest degree by anything that anyone has stated regardless of the fact that assistance was given you by them.

One more word on the Knapp shift. Don't be influenced by what so and so says. The story behind this stamp is a long one and a number of irresponsible self-appointed experts have expressed opinion pro and con. Take all such stuff with a grain of salt. So far as the "solder theory" is concerned, well that is also a long story and should not be taken seriously unless one understands thoroughly all the details. I can tell you this and you can depend upon it. The Knapp stamp is either one of two things. It is either a fake or it is genuine. If it a fake it is either a painting or second, an overprint from a specially prepared fake die. If it is genuine it is and can only be a plate variety. In other words by no possible chance is it an "imitation shift" or a kiss, as Perry once stated.

One can take their choice (A) Fake (B) Genuine. I am enclosing herewith some of my remarks on the stamp in a recent Bulletin of the Research Group.

Because the subject of this stamp is so controversial I think it advisable to omit all mention of it in your article.

Cordially yours,

FINAL LIST

Illustrations needed for 1847 article

5¢

1. Original
2. Government Imitation
3. Double transfers A, B, C, D.
4. Dot in "U"
5. Dot in "S"
6. Bank Note showing use of stock dies of Franklin and Washington
7. Photo of one of the late die proofs showing characteristic dot in forehead.
8. Photo showing Wheeling Grid
9. Photo of largest known piece
10. Photos of recent "New York Find"
11. Straddle pane copy
12. Photos of Confederates #209 & #210
13. 5¢ and 10¢ used on same cover
14. Creased paper variety
15. Original die proofs

10¢

1. Original
2. Government Imitation
3. Dbuble transfers of R1, R2, R31, R41
4. Knapp Shift
5. "Short transfer"
6. Vertical line thru "P"
7. "Stick Pin"
8. "Harelip"
9. Bisects
10. Largest known pieces if it is possible to show the items in the Frank Sweet collection
11. Items from late New York City find.
12. Original die proofs
13. "1890" die proofs

5¢

If you don't already have them, I think I can obtain items listed under #8, 9, 10 and will make an effort to obtain any others you don't have.

10¢

Have written Perry in regard to #6, 7, 8. Think I can get #11 from Norman Serphos--wrote him yesterday about them.

If you will advise me what you need in the way of material to make the above illustrations I will try to obtain it or photos of it.

I believe you realize how much I appreciate your efforts.

L. G. BROOKMAN

BRIDGEPORT 2969

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November 23, 1941

Stanley B. Ashbrook,
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am hereby enclosing the article on the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 issue and would be very much pleased if you would go over it and make any comments you see fit to make.

If you feel that such comments as I have made on your article on the "copper plate" theory, or rather such information as I have included in this article regarding the copper plate theory should not be included here, I will eliminate it from the article. I feel that it has a place here and would prefer to include it.

I do not believe that you will feel that there can be any reasonable objection to the way I have handled the paragraph on the "Knapp Shift". I have good reason to think that I can obtain this item for my own examination but I can see no object in trying to do this except that I might form a personal opinion about it. Whatever my opinion was, it would carry little if any weight. At this moment I have no opinion, one way or the other, about this stamp. I do say this, if it is a fake, I believe that such faking as was done on the stamp can be demonstrated. Furthermore, if the shift is faked, such faking was almost surely done via the fake die method. I don't believe anyone could have painted in the fake in such a manner as to deceive you. I paid $5 one afternoon just to sit and watch a fellow repair stamps in Italy. He was exceedingly clever and his work would fool most dealers and 99% of all collectors. As a matter of amusement, (or so he said), he was faking one of the early rarities, I don't recall just which one, and he was starting from a piece of blank paper and painting the whole stamp line by line. Very clever job but it wouldn't fool all of us.

I am enclosing what I feel sure is the "Final list" of the illustrations needed for the '47 article. I would appreciate it if you would check the duplicate list which I enclose and return it to me at your earliest convenience. Check the items you can or have done so that I can get to work getting material for the balance.

Blue pencil the article as much as you please---my sincere desire is to present it in as accurate a form as possible.

Will start in on the 1851 Issue very shortly. When I come to the 1¢ I shouldn't have too much trouble --fellow by the name of Ahhbrook wrote a little about this stamp.

Best regards,

LGB Brookman

Nov 24th
Had a letter from Gerard Gilbert this A.M. and I think the portion of the article that refers to "Solomonsky" will have to be revised or eliminated.

any possible chance that Knapp shift could have occured via "Jacobs" theory as expressed in your book-- chapter on inverted transfers. At least that is our idea I haven't heard discussed as yet.
LGB

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 28, 1941.

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

Dear Mr. Brookman:

Yours of the 23rd with the article safe to hand. First - regarding the three photos that Elliott sent you. These are small and do not show the varieties very plain and I think it would be a mistake to try to retouch them. I am enclosing three (envelope "B") blue prints herewith with the varieties drawn in. I suggest you use these rather than the Perry photos, but when you have the photo engraver make the half-tone cuts, be sure and instruct him to fade the blue. If he follows instructions, you will get a half-tone like the ones for example in my One Cent Book, Vol 1., pages 290, 291 - Figures 26D - 26E - 26F - 26G - 26J and 26K. The bluer the blue print the better the half-tone, for example 26J. All of these cuts were made in this manner. In order to cut down the cost, I wouldn't illustrate the whole stamp, for example, I would use only the medallion for the stick pin and harelip and just the top, say the whole "Post Office" for the "line in F." On the other hand, if you would prefer to illustrate actual stamps, I can supply a fine photo of 68R, but I haven't any good photos of the other two.

I note you have written to Norman Serphos for permission to illustrate the 5¢ and 10¢ blocks. I made very fine photographs of these and if Norman will give you permission, I will supply you with fine prints.

Note Envelope "A" - Strong evidence of copper plate. Practically no one outside of Knapp and myself ever made any study of the Confed Frame Line plate, hence none, so far as I know, are familiar with the characteristics of this plate. The same characteristic scratches are found on the 10¢ 1847 plate and the Confed Frame Line plate and if fine half-tones are produced from the enclosed photographs, the similarity can easily be noted.

I have never illustrated this important point in any of my articles as I was reserving it until some future time. I pass it on to you to use as you see fit. A side by side comparison of a 10¢ 1847 R4R1 and Frame Line #80 is very convincing.

Re - Envelope "E" - Straddle copy - There are two straddle copies of the 5¢ and one of the 10¢. Of the 5¢ one was in the Emerson collection - ex - E.R.Jacobs, the other is in the Sweet collection - ex-Doc Payne of Greenfield. The 10¢ is also in the Sweet collection - ex-Ackerman.

Re - Envelope "F" - Original plate proof. I think this vertical pair is sufficient to illustrate. I have photographs of the only blocks known including the large Emerson "Dot in "D" block (now in the Burroughs collection). If you wish a list I will furnish but doubt if it would be necessary to include.

Re - Envelope "G." The Herringbone is a much sought after marking. It is known in red, black and green. Green is very scarce and was not listed by Chase. The Housatanic R. R. is most unusual. The

cover is more beautiful than the photo shows and West paid $250 for it, but don't quote this.

Re - Envelope "J." Stock Dies. Here are two Bank Notes, (Ihhave others but these will suffice) also enlargements of the stock dies, also enlargements with stamp photographed side by side to show same size. Use what you like out of the set. In treating this subject be sure to mention that a slight re-touching was done on the lay-downs used for the dies for the stamps.

Re - Envelope "K." Here ix a very fine photo of a very, very early impression. I would stress the great difference between early impressions and the average run of 5¢ 1847 copies. The latter printed after the plate was worn. This stamp is a marvelous example of a stamp printed from a copper plate. Early prints looked like the Die but later printings due to a fading and merging of background lines lost much of the appearance of the original engraving. Other photo shows a worn plate Dot in "S" copy.

Re - Envelope "L" - Confed Frame Pair. Use your judgment about using. If you use, the sole feature to emphasize would be the "soft warm" appearance of the engraving.

Re - Envelope "P" - This is an original plate proof on India in brown without specimen. These are very rare.

Re - Envelope "Q" - 5¢ 1847 Double Transfers. You will note there is only one copy known of the "D" shift. I originally discovered this pair in the Emerson collection in 1921. Bob thought it was simply a duplicate of the "C" shift. In twenty years time, I have not been able to locate a duplicate. Steve Brown always insisted the "D" was a kiss. There is no doubling in the stamp to right. You will note the impression is slightly warn. Because only one copy has been discovered leads to the conclusion that the "D" comes from Plate 2. If this pair is from Plate 2, then the slightly warn condition indicates that more impressions were struck from this plate than Chase supposed in stating the plate was not made until late in 1850.

Re - Envelope "R" - Dot in "U." I do not happen to have a copy or a photograph of the Dot in "U" variety but I am enclosing a plate proof of the probable position. I suppose this is Chase's Dot in "U" as he stated the dot occurs "near the top of the left half of the 'U'. This photo is from a Steve Brown item which he had labeled "Plate proof Dot in U position." Note this proof, as it shows very plainly one of the horizontal lines which were drawn very lightly on the copper plate. (Thru the guide dots). These lines soon wore away and only the earliest of impressions show traces. I think these lines were first ruled on the plate then the guide dots were placed on the lines at carefully measured intervals. I suppose all 1847 students take it for granted that the Dot in "U" comes from Pl. #1, but I am not so sure because I have seen very few examples, this perhaps indicating Pl. 2. Inasmuch as the proof is exactly like Plate 1 proofs, the chances are the variety came from Plate #1.

New Varieties. From time to time I have discovered some new varieties on the 5¢ and it has been my intention to publish them at some future date. However, I am going to turn these over to you. No mention has ever been made of these varieties in print.

Mr. L. G. Brookman, Nov. 28, 1941.

Envelope "S" - This is what I call Double Transfer "E". I have located five different copies of this position proving the variety is consistent and an actual plate variety. Further I located a copy on a cover used in 1848, proving that it comes from Plate #1.

Some of the lines may be scratches but the principal ones are evidently traces of a former entry. Note the curve in the left "5". The photograph does not show this curved line but others I have do show it.

Note Envelope "T." Here is a position showing some remarkable plate scratches. These are consistent as I have located three different copies. I think the stamps come from Pl. #1 and that the plate became scratched rather late in its life.

Note Envelope "U" - Three plate varieties. The dash to right of "S" is the position to the right of the above double transfer "E." The "curl in S" is quite nice and this mark lasted for quite some time as slightly worn copies show it. The third shows two dashes in the right margin of the design. Note what an early impression. I am rather sure that this is a Plate 2 variety.

Regarding the curl in "S" copy. As you are probably aware the small curve in the top bar of the "5" was on the die, hence on all original plate proofs and also on all early impressions.

Envelope "V" - A remarkable ink shift - probably not exactly like the variety known as a kiss.

Re #12 on your list of 5¢. I am sorry but I do not happen to have a fine photo of Confed Die A or #210. If you wish, I'll pick out a fine sharp engraving and make a photo for you.

Re #14 on your list of 5¢. I do not have a photo of a creased paper variety. I don't think much of such items as they are freaks.

Re - the 1875 counterfeits. I have looked high and low but cannot locate any prints. I suppose I still have negatives but it would take less time to make new ones than to look for the old. If you select copies to send to me to photo be sure and select fine sharp engravings. Perhaps proofs would be best.

Re - 10¢ 47 list #12 and #13 on your list. I have no photo of 13 and cannot locate any prints of #12 - If you will borrow from Brazer I will make the photos.

Re - Gilbert. I have had quite a bit of correspondence with him on the subject of copper and steel plates. He is an awfully nice chap and while he may be one of the World's authorities on French stamps and many other foreign, he is typical of the European, that is, he don't know a darn thing about 19th Century U.S. I see no need to quote anything he has written or said on our 1847's or steel vs copper plates. You might as well quote H.R.Harmer on the Knapp shift.

Knapp shift vs Jacobs theory in 1¢ book. Here we have copper vs steel Double transfers from steel plates are entirely different in make-up from double transfers from copper plates. One point I have tried to

impress on Perry is this. If the 10¢ 1847 plate was steel, as Perry contends, (or at least at last account he did) then it is an absolute cinch the Knapp stamp is a fake. No doubt when you see the photos I am sending you of the Knapp stamp your first impression will be that it is an outright fake. Well that was my first conclusion, so be careful. If you can borrow it I suggest that you do so, and make a careful examination. You certainly have as much right to express your opinion as anyone else and I know of no reason why you shouldn't do so.

I note you mention the "faked die" method. This was a theory originally put forth by Perry but it never did seem plausible to me. The stamp in my opinion is only one of two things, either a genuine plate variety or a painting. As Perry is positive it is neither one, then my conviction is that Elliott is 100% wrong.

So far I haven't had time to go over your article carefully as I dropped everything to search out the photographs and cuts for you. I haven't my originals of the 10¢ Double Transfers so I will have to make new ones and will forward them to you later.

May I offer a suggestion? Would it not be wise to elaborate on cancelations? Much interest is taken in this branch.

I will go over your manuscript carefully and write you as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--Since writing the above I have made up drawings of the four 10¢ 1847 double transfers. These you will find in envelope "W". Note Envelope "X" - here are four samples of recut errors on the 10¢ plate. If you think it worth while to illustrate the prominent errors on the plate, send these four back to me and I will make up a set. Note the large card in this envelope. This is a compposite diagram listing a few of the prominent plate varieties. Inasmuch as Perry knowsthe plate far better than I do, you might ask him to make up a card or several cards showing all the plating marks on the plate.

S.B.A.

Envelope A - Memo

Copper Plate. A number of positions on the 10¢ plate show "scratches" in the margins of which 44R1 is a typical example. On the Confed Frame Line plate, we find in the margin to right of 70 - 80 - "scratches" with exactly the same characteristics. Other positions on this plate show similar scratches. I have never seen any stamps from the steel plates with scratches with like characteristics.

COPY COPY COPY

Comments on Article

Page 5 - Last paragraph - earliest known use of 5¢ 1847. The earliest actual use with a 5¢ stamp tied by a town postmark is "Philadelphia Jul 14" (in blue). The stamp is also canceled by a grid (tying) in blue and by two crossed pen marks. Inside the letter is dated 1847. Two positive uses are known on July 15, 1847. In the Waterhouse sale (1924) was a cover described as used on Jul 10 1847, but I have never seen this item.

Page 6. Second paragraph - The stock dies were used for years previously on many different Bank Notes.

Page 10. Third line - I am practically certain that the delivery made in Feb. 1850 contained a large percentage of Pl. 2 stamps. I have positively identified uses of Pl. 2 stamps in May of 1850.

Page 11. Sixth line - "were made of copper" - I suggest you change this to read "made of copper, or a combination of copper with some other metal, of which copper was the principal metal." I never meant to infer that pure soft copper was used.

Page 16. Last paragraph - No legal uses of the 5¢ 1847 are known on cover from California. Ward had a cover with a pair used from Tehama, Calif. During the life of the 1847's the rate was 40¢, not 10¢. In addition, there was no Tehama P.O. in 1850 or 1851, in fact there was no Tahama office until as late as 1853. The Ward cover shows the 1855 - 10¢ rate and the use was undoubtedly in the Spring of 1856. It is an illegal use of the 5¢ 1847 that "got by" the postmaster at Tehama.

Page 18. Blocks of 4 of the 1847. Quite a few unused blocks are known - perhaps as high as a dozen to fifteen. Several unused blocks of six are also known.

Page 19. Unfortunately this block of 12, duplicated positions in the ex-Emerson plate proof block of 30. There is no possible chance that either of the plates will ever be plated. It simply cannot be done - the reason is - copper plates. No question about this at all. We cannot even identify used copies with the aid of large plate proofs except in isolated cases. For example, we have not as yet been able to identify the exact positions in the Emerson plate proof block - yet the 9th vert. row of this block are all "Dot in S" stamps. Someday we will be able to plate this proof block but so far only slight progress has been made. Compare this to a possible plating of 400 positions on two plates. Why we haven't even been able to identify all the corner copies - 8 to a plate - 16 in all. No, the 5¢ will never be plated and no one need kid themselves that such work is possible. If the two plates had been steel they would have been plated years ago. Consider the 5¢ New York plate - only 40 subjects, yet it took years and years to accomplish the reconstruction of these 40 positions. Why? Because it was a copper plate, and made by the same firm that made the 1847's.

Plate 19. Second paragraph - last line - the Waterhouse block of 8 went to Emerson back in the 1920's.

Page 19. Third paragraph. The Knapp block of 4 on cover was far from beautiful. In fact it was quite lousy looking. Half of the block was oxidized and the other half was badly faded. The auction description was wholly misleading.

Page 20. Third row from bottom - Chase made this statement but I am not sure he was right - the Emerson plate proof block, shows about equal intensity from top to bottom.

Page 21. To illustrate this you will have to obtain permission of Mr. Karl Burroughs - 46 Langdon Ave - Watertown, Mass. I can supply photograph.

Page 21. Cancelations - One of the rarest is the target - so far known but from two towns - Greenwich, N.Y. and Hanover, N.H. Both red - Also the Binghamton "herringbone" in red - black & green. Cancelations of "circles of short red dashes," red & blue "series of dots" Trenton Star,
Color of Cancelations - Outside of Boston, black is rare as a killer.

Covers to foreign countries with 5¢ 1847 are scarce and very desirable.

Page 22. First paragraph - July 13 1857 is the correct date.

Page 23. Second paragraph, 8th line. Why may I ask, do you think that the plates mentioned were steel plates?

13th line - Steve Brown identified more than 4 corner copies from Plate 2. 10th verticals from left pane contain different characteristics from 10th verticals from right pane.

Steel plate for Plate 2? The fact is the Plate 2 stamps have no characteristics of a steel plate, and differ very, very little if any, from early impressions from Plate #1. I believe that Plate #2 was made in the latter part of 1849. Note covers showing use in May, June or July 1849. Many of these show terribly worn plate copies.

My opinion is that your comments are pure speculation and not based on any evidence or facts. Dietz at one time suggested that the copper plates were sawed in two and that the ones mentioned in the affidavit were panes. It is possible that the other panes were destroyed at an earlier date and that R W H & E had kept a pane of say Pl 2 - 5¢ and a pane of the 10¢. The Government insisted these be destroyed also and this was done in Dec. 1851. This is speculation also but it may reconcile the plate part of the affidavit.

Page 30. First paragraph - 7th line. Earliest use known - a cover in the Emerson collection from New York on July 9, 1847. This a right sheet margin copy tied by a red square grid.

Page 34. Knapp shift. I am just wondering if your comments are a bit dangerous. Knapp threatened to sue anyone who, in public print, called his stamp a fake. Perry prepared an article in 1936 for the A.P. and Knapp threatened to sue both Perry and the A.P.S. if the article was published. I would be very careful because Souren may go even farther. Souren has gone on record in stating the stamp is genuine. If I were you I would get Souren's permission before I would publish any reference that the stamp is fraudulent.

Page 35. 10¢ used from Canada. I suggest you read Fred Jarrett's book on B.N.A. A full explanation is given.

Page 35. First paragraph - 15th line. Several covers (only) are known used to Canada with combination use of the Beaver (issued Apr. 23, 1851) and 5¢ 1847. I know of four covers but I wouldn't advise you to mention them.

(1) One is a use in June 1851 - Probably O.K.
(2) " " " " " Sep. 1851 - After demonetization
(3) " " " " " May 1851 - Some say this is a fake.

4th - Perry can give you data. This was from Canada. You will find mention of #1 and #2 in the Jarrett book.

One should be very careful about covers from Canada with 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 - Many fakes exist - some very clever - practically all are from the Kennedy correspondence - originally stampless covers with 1847's added.

It is well to remember that the U. S. rate to or from the border to New York was 10¢ not 5¢. New York was over 300 miles. We see covers to New York with 5¢ 1847's.

Page 36. First Paragraph - last three lines. It is hardly reasonable to suppose U. S. post offices would have recognized any of our stamps canceled in a foreign country - yet we see such items. Perhaps some are good, perhaps otherwise.

Page 37. I do not think much of the long quotation of Rellim. Souren would tell you it is out of date. I think the space devoted could be used to much better advantage.

Page 39. Bandholtz block - Phil Ward could supply you with a fine photo.

Page 40. Only known cover showing use from California is a cover from San Francisco to New York Jan. 1, 1851. This has a h. strip of four, 40¢ rate. As this cover is very beautiful and is unique I consider it as among the finest of 10¢ 1847 covers known. Dan Kelleher can supply you with photos of several very remarkable covers in the Sweet collection.

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December 2, 1941

Stanley B. Ashbrook,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I would sound like a Hollywood press agent if I used the terms that come to mind when I look over the illustrations at hand. The most mild description is that they are A #1 PLUS.

I worked last night until after midnight correcting the article as per your suggestions. Didn't finish the job but will go at it again tonight. Despite the fact that the Rellim article is not the last word in the scientific detection of fakes it is probably of some value to collectors who do not have access to modern equipment. I really believe it will be of some interest to the average collector and as such I will leave it in the article.

Regarding Knapp Shift--I intend to write Souren today. I want to present this matter in an absolutely fair manner. I can honestly say that I have no idea whether the item is genuine or not. Such evidence as has been presented supports the fact that it is genuine. I know that Perry doesn't like it but I'll be darned if I can get him to tell me why. I can realize that he may consider that he is not in a position to do so. He has helped me a lot and if he never told me another thing I wouldn't have a kick in the world.

One more thing in regard to the shift--if I had only the photo to go by I would not have much faith in it. The shifted lines show up too well. Furthermore, they give me the impression that they do not exactly duplicate the other lines. However, since you were not favorably impressed with your first view of the photograph, I will reserve judgment. Frankly, I doubt if I could tell much about it even upon a direct examination.

I think that you know you are to send Kimble a bill for the illustrations when the deal is completed. I want you to know that I understand that there are things in this world that can't be bought only with money and that your help must certainly be classed among these things. If this article is of any value to collectors I am only being honest when I say that the biggest portion of the value will come from the illustrations.

Had lunch with Kimble in Chicago last week--we believe the article will start to run in the February A.P.

Will probably send you one or two small things to photograph in the next day or so. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

Sincerely yours,

L. G. Brookman

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December 3, 1941

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

No answer to this letter is necessary--just wanted to advise you that I have written Karl Burroughs for permission to use your photo of the Emerson Plate Proof block.

In examining photo of Steve Brown Cover--Buffalo to Lockport with a single of the 5¢ and single of 10¢ on cover--I note that the 10¢ has a specular appearance in the area Northwest of the "U" and the whole area along the top of the stamp. If you will examine your photo you will note that the top of the "OF" of OFFICE seems to have been cut off. This entire area across the top of the stamp appears to have been terribly heavily recut or the stamp appears to be a repaired stamp. It is difficult to tell much from the photo but the stamp almost looks as if it were an extremely thin front mounted under pressure on a background. Examine the area southwest of the lower left X and the area under the right X. Something is wrong with the photo or the stamp and I have a hunch it is the stamp. Examine along right frame line--looks like a cut line for nearly the whole distance. Could it be possible that Zaresky or one of his blood brothers played around with this cover? Here's hoping that my suspicions are groundless.

I do not quite understand what you mean in your reference to envelope "X" unless you mean that you will make up a set of larger drawings of the recut errors. The drawings look O.K. to me "as is" but if you have something else in mind please go ahead with it. Will write to Perry regarding showing all the plating marks and will forward the two blank cards you enclosed so that he can use them if he so desires.

If you will make a photo of Confederate #210 I think it would be well to illustrate #209 and 210 so that difference in appearance can be noted by collectors.

Best regards,

Brookman

P.S. Enclosing Scott Quotations -- SF is a proof but will be O.K. 10¢ not so hot but best I can do to know. FLB

The American Philatelist

AMERICA'S OLDEST AND LEADING STAMP JOURNAL
CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED SINCE 1887

Official Organ of the
American Philatelic Society

RALPH A. KIMBLE, Editor

8118 Dante Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

7 December 1941

Stanley B.Ashbrook
434 South Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas,Ky.

Dear Stanley-

Brookman is down here today and has shown me the very lovely illustrative material that you sent him in connection with his coming articles on the 1847(s. The photos are surely tops,and he will want to use the major portion of them--perhaps all--in making the necessary cuts for the articles.

This brings up a couple of matters that I'd like to get straightened out now. First, do you want these original photos back after we have had cuts made from them? Second, in order that I may budget our AP expenses(we have to work fairly closely on this you know,and I have to watch my monthly expenditures), can you let me know what your charge is for the use of this illustrative material?

Another thing: of course we will give printed credit to you as the source of each cut made from your material,in addition to the cash payment for its use. Also, would the half-tones themselves,after we have used them,be of use to you?

I still have on my desk your letter of some time ago with reference to the catalog matter,but that requires a more detailed answer than I have been able to work out yet. I'll get at it soon.

Sincere regards

PS:-I should explain that when we send these photos to the engraver we usually mount them with glue on heavy card, both to prevent cracking and to enable us to write directions on the card for the engraver. This means that the photos come back on these cards,and are not in very nice condition to go back in your files.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 11, 1941.

Mr. Ralph Kimble,
8118 Dante Ave.,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Ralph:

Yours of the 7th received and I was pleased to learn that you liked the various illustrations I sent Brookman. I am very anxious to do all that I can to assist him to make his 1847 article outstanding, because there is a tremendous interest in the 1847's and a real good article is certainly in order. So if one is to be published, suppose we give the members something out of the ordinary.

I made no suggestions as to the size of the cuts but if I were you I wouldn't make any of them too large. I think most of my photos are sharp and clear and will show the essential points without over-enlargement. For example, I do not think it is at all necessary to devote a full page to one stamp or cover. A cover can be cut down to less than natural size.

In his manuscript Brookman devoted quite a bit of space to an article by Rellim on the detection of fakes. I suggested to him that he eliminate this as it really had no place in his article. In an article like this, I think the author should stick to his subject. If Brookman thinks Rellim's remarks are good, and no doubt they are, it would perhaps be best to make them the subject of a special article. If you agree with me, perhaps you can persuade him to devote all the space he has to the 1847 issue.

I am endeavoring to obtain permission for him to illustrate several very important and rare covers and if successful I think they will be of much added interest to his article.

One more point. He went into some detail about the "corner" in the 1847 stamps in past years. What do you think of such reference? Are present day collectors really interested in such stuff? Is it not best to confine his remarks to the stamps and to explanations of unusual covers? An article that is padded with a lot of irrevalent stuff isn't much good in my opinion. So much can be written about this 1847 issue that is instructive and interesting, so why inject a lot of small time stuff ala George Van Den Berg. Perhaps you can use your influence.

I warned Brookman to be careful in his remarks regarding the Knapp shift. To intimate that this stamp is a fake might be libelous. Knapp threatened to sue Perry and Fennel if Fennel published Perry's statement in the A.P. that the stamp was a fake. I have advised Clark not to list the stamp and it is not listed in the catalogue, therefore as an unrecognized variety I think the less that Brookman has to say about it the better. His article should be instructive, not controversial. Do you not agree?

Yes, Ralph I would like to have the photos returned to me and request that they be turned in as good order as possible. I have literally

thousands and thousands of photos and it is utterly impossible to keep duplicate prints of all on hand at all times. Some of the prints I sent Brookman were out of my own reference lot, and I seldom remove any of these under any circumstance. I would like to have the originals returned so I can check up on them and make new prints where necessary for my reference collection.

As to the charge for the material, I really had not thought of this. It isn't the prints which are valuable but the time consumed in digging them out, making new prints, drawings etc. We won't bother about this at present and you need have no fear that any charge I make will embarrass you or upset your budget, so don't worry about this angle at all. I want to see a damn good 1847 article in the A.P. and that is about all that concerns me at present.

Re - the matter of an A.P.S. catalogue. I had a brief letter from Stowell in which he stated I simply had no idea of the cost of publishing such a book, that the cost to the Society would be prohibitive. Perhaps he is right, but I couldn't help but wonder if his remarks were an effort not to offend our good ffiend Clark in any way.

Perhaps we could obtain desired reforms in the S.U.S. by discussions in the A.P. as to the advisability of the A.P.S. publishing a catalogue. Surely a fair discussion of the subject could do no harm. What do you think of this angle?

Sincerely yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Oct. 8, 1941.

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

Dear Mr. Brookman:

Yours of the 2nd and 3rd received. Will reply to the latter. What you noted on the 1847 Brown cover is due to photography, as the stamp is perfectly O.K. You see in making a negative of a cover of several different stamps of different colors we get different density of the stamps on the negatives. In making prints, one stamp is apt to print very deep, another very thin, hence over the under-exposed stamps on the negative I paste a piece of tissue paper to retard the printing. If this piece of paper is cut to the exact size of the stamp it can hardly be noticed but I seldom take the trouble to do this. In the case of the 10¢ 1847 I pasted a hinge on the glass side of the 10¢, which was not the exact size as the stamp, hence the difference you noted. The idea is to get the general effect.

Regarding the four cuts of the 10¢ which I sent you and which I return. These are four samples I sent as a suggestion in case you wanted to illustrate the principal recut errors of the 10¢ - that is, those which are outstanding and can be readily identified by cuts such as these. Perhaps you could get Elliott Perry to have John Sherron make a set for you. John is familiar with all the recuts and could pick out all the positions and make cuts like the enclosed for you. I will be glad to supply the printed diagrams if you will advise me how many he would require.

The 5¢ and 10¢ Reprints received and I will make prints, also of the Confed #210.

I have written Elliott about a wonderful 5¢ 1847 cover which I would like to see illustrated. It is, in my opinion, one of the finest 5¢ 1847 covers in existence. I have written Elliott that if he can borrow it, I will make a very fine photo.

Re - 5¢ 1847 shift "D." What do you think of this? Only one copy is known, ala Knapp shift. Steve Brown claimed it was a "kiss" which claim I thought absurd. I have written Elliott inquiring if he agreed with Brown. Perhaps if Elliott thinks the Knapp is a "kiss" perhaps he thinks the "D" is the same.

Elliott won't tell you what the Knapp shift is, so don't waste effort. He says it is genuine but not a plate variety, meaning I suppose, it is a printing error. Now you can look at the photograph which I sent you and needless to state, you will agree with me that the stamp is no printing error. That is a positive cinch. It is either a "painting" or a genuine plate variety, but don't jump to conclusions. If you would jump to the conclusion it is a painting I could show you many things which could not be explained. If you would jump to the conclusion it was genuine I could also point out some things which would be difficult to explain.

Yours etc.,

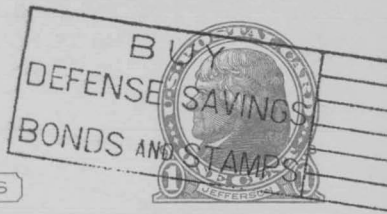
12/9/41

Dear Mr Ashbrook

Pardon hasty card. Just back from Chicago a few minutes ago. Letter from Karl Burroughs at hand giving permission to use your photo of his block of troops. Kimbel thinks photos are swell.

Best regards

Brockman



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Stanley B Ashbrook
434 S. Broad
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

L. G. BROOKMAN

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December 10, 1941

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letter returning Govt. Imitations is at hand and I am glad to note that you have the photos made of them and the Confederate stamp #210.

Am glad to find that the Brown cover is O.K.--shows that things are not always what they seem to be at first glance.

Had a letter from Elliott yesterday. He doesn't feel that he can do the work suggested on the 10¢ plating diagram and says that his assistant is so busy with some job that he can't afford to take him off of it. I know that he has just given a solid month of his time to the Essay book and I have an idea that he has a lot of things that he has laid aside for so long that he simply must get at them without any further delay. He makes this statement; "I started to codify the 10¢ 1847 markings but didn't get far when it seemed that it would take me longer to find the variety in the code thanto locate the stamp on the plate."

I think I am disclosing no information that Elliott would object to my disclosing when I repeat what he has just writtenme in the following lines; "You can say anything you want to about the Knapp shift and copper, steel or cold molasses plates. If the article is published in handbook form the Committee will make its own comment and assume the responsibility for it." To a certain extent this places me behind the "8 ball". My entire object is to get at the truth and to present this truth to the collectors. If the only way that I can get it is to write exactly what I please and then let people who know a whole lot more about it than I do stand off and take pot shots at me and my ideas, I suppose that is what I might morally be bound to do.

In a nutshell, my ideas about the 1847 plates are as follows; 5¢--copper or a copper alloy, 10¢---copper alloy, possibly for some reason somewhat harder than the 5¢ plate. I have long been inclined to think the 10¢ plate was of steel and the 5¢ of copper and even at this minute I must admit that my mind is as changeable as a woman's when it comes to this plate. I have reason to think that even at this minute something is in the wind regarding these plates. Gilbert's C.C.P. articles have been haywire up to now but I have some reason to think that he is writing another one that may have factual information which will prove that the plates were not steel. I prefer that you do

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not mention this to a living soul--we will just have to wait and see if anything comes up. I have some reason to think that the next issue of the C.C.P. may have something to say about it.

In regard to the Knapp shift--I have my own ideas about it and I can honestly say that they are mine in the sense that neither you, nor Elliott, nor Souren, or anyone else, have had anything to do with the forming of my ideas. I recognize the fact that mere speculation and I also recognize this--I believe that Souren has made an honest and intensive effort to find out the truth in regard to this particular item. In other words, my speculations are pitted against the finest of philatelic equipment which is, normally at least, a one-sided proposition. Perry has never told me anything about this item that amounted to information but I don't blame him at all.

I do not know the position of the Knapp shift unless it is 23L. It is not easy to compare the photo of the item with the illustrations from Perry's article in the C.C.P. but it seems to me that 23L fills the bill. If this deduction is correct, then this is what I assume to have happened; At some time during the late life of the plate, 33 L was reentered. At the time of this reentry, the pressure on the transfer roll was not completely relieved and and unintentionally a partial reentry was made on position 23L. at the time the plate was removed from the transfer press. This would have permitted only the deepest lines on the plate to have been thus unintentionally reentered on the plate. In this theory I am assuming that the lines of the Knapp shift are the deepest on the plate and that the pressure between the plate and the roll was just sufficient to reenter these lines. I have no doubt but that this theory can be shot full of holes. If you, or anyone else, can show me that it is impossible I will be glad to have you do so. If it is possible I certainly like it better than the "solder" theory. I think it would be a fine thing if this did turn out to be the right answer because I think all concerned would be satisfied with it. As a genuine plate variety the item would not lose in value, no one would lose "face" over the deal and calm could be restored to the Eastern Philatelic Front! So far as I know, the question of whether or not the plates are copper or steel would not be concerned as I see no reason why it would not have be possible on either type of plate.

According to the radio at the minute the most important plate in the world is ARMOR PLATE.

Best regards,

Brookman

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 12, 1941.

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

Dear Mr. Brookman:

Yours of the 10th received. The Handbook Committee seems to be two committees in one, first a committee to publish handbooks for the Society, second an Expert Committee to pass judgement on any statements made by the authors of articles.

Now I have no desire to critiose the Committee because aside from their "comments" I think they are doing a grand work, and I would not want to hamper them in any way.

But there is one idea which occurred to me while reading your letter. I suppose it is the intention to issue your 1847 and subsequent articles in handbook form. If so, I think you should have it distinctly understood that they are to be published as written by you and without any "comments" inserted by the Handbook Committee. As you well know, Perry is the whole committee, and he is the only one of the three on the committee who is qualified to comment. Hence any comments or criticism are Perry's and not the Committee's and as such I do not think his personal opinions should be inserted in any A.P.S. handbook.

Suppose for example that I give you some data that you would include in your 1847 article. I certainly wouldn't want any "comment" by Perry on any of my stuff. So I think we had best have a very clear understanding. If you intend to permit any censorship of your articles, that is, inserted "comments" then I wish to withdraw all the assistance I have given you.

I want a guarantee from you that none of the illustrations, drawings, data etc. that I have given you will be used in any article or handbook which includes any comments whatsoever by any Expert Handbook Committee. I think you should take this matter up with Mr. Kimble for I certainly want it distinctly understood that if you use any material furnished by me in your article and it is published in the A.P.S. that it is not to be published later by the Handbook Committee if any wording is changed by anyone but you, or if any "comments" on the contents of your article or articles are included in the book by any committee, or self-appointed expert.

If the A.P.S. believes that their handbooks should contain authoritative "Comments," then I suggest that the Board appoint a Board of Experts to make such comments, thus guarding against the insertion of biased opinions and personal theories.

I think Perry's attitude is very high handed. You are permitted to make any remarks you please but the Committee (Perry and Perry alone) "will make its own comment and assume full responsibility." I wouldn't stand for such high handed stuff for one minute. If Perry wants to make any comment I would permit him to make same in your article, but I would reserve the right to criticise his opinions and to quote other authorities who differ with him. I would not permit a "comment" which

assumes to be final and the last word. Such stuff is positively nuts and absurd.

I note your reference to Gilbert. I am in correspondence with him and have a very clear idea as to what he is doing. I wouldn't take his stuff very seriously. You must remember that he knows practically nothing about our stamps. He is a dealer and he is, (in my opinion) endeavoring to establish a reputation for himself. You need not wait for any stuff to be published by him.

May I also offer the following suggestion. If you haven't a very firm conviction about the 1847 plates don't spoil your article by expressing theories which you have arrived at in haste. Are you sure you are at all qualified to form a worth while opinion as to whether the plates were of steel or copper? Opinions arrived at after meager study are of very little value. Note how a person like Gilbert went haywire when he tackled a subject about which he knew nothing. Conclusions arrived at in haste and put in print may kick back in later years and make one appear very foolish. I speak from experience.

Perhaps Gilbert can produce some evidence indicating that the 1847 plates were not steel, but he cannot produce any evidence to prove they were steel. Again re - the Knapp shift. The S.U.S. does not list this double transfer, hence why devote any great space to it? Your article is for the average collector, not for the advanced specialist or student. To the latter class do you think that any personal opinion you would express would carry anyygreat weight or change any opinions now held? Ask yourself these questions and then use your own judgement as to how you care to handle the subject. As for Souren I wouldn't pay any special attention to anything he has said about the Knapp stamp. The chances are he don't know anything more about it than you do, and Perry is in the same class. If he wasn't he wouldn't have made a dozen guesses, all of which have been wrong. Believe it or not.

The Knapp stamp unquestionably came from 23L1 and if Perry knew his 23L1 as thoroughly as he should know it, he would not have made some of his foolish guesses.

In your comment on the Brown cover you stated that things are not always what they seem to be at first glance. This is one of the truest things that can be said about philatelic research work.

In all seriousness I wouldn't theorise if I were you about how the Knapp stamp happened. If the stamp showed certain characteristics which it does not show, then there might be some basis that your theory might be correct. Consider this point. Suppose some day that the stamp was proved to be a "painting" then how would your theory look in print?

I have found that plate varieties are a very deep study, especially double transfers. One cannot acquire a comprehensive knowledge unless one has had access to the study of a large amount of material. Sometimes a problem looks very simple when the fact is, it is quite complicated.

Barr's solder theory is not quite so silly as Perry would have us believe. It does at least account for several important points which I could very easily demonstrate to you by conversation but hardly

in a letter. I think you can better employ the space in your article to constructive information regarding the 1847 issue and the postal markings of the period than in theorizing on how the Knapp stamp occurred or whether the plates were copper or steel. I doubt if the average collector gives a damn about either.

I note that it will be impossible for Perry to make up a set of diagrams for you of the 10¢ showing the outstanding plate varieties. I suggest that you return the dieagrams I sent you and I'll see what I can do. If you publish these, it must be with the understanding that the showing is not complete but only of certain outstanding and easily identified positions. I note from your card that Burroughs has given you permission to illustrate his large block of proofs, so I will send you a print. How about Serphos?

I have asked permission for you to illustrate a very remarkable cover. This is a cover used from S.F. to N.Y. and it is the only known use of the 10¢ 1847 from California. If I obtain permission, I will send you print and a complete description of the cover. It has never been illustrated and I have been reserving it for a special article as I consider it one of the finest of U. S. covers.

Sincerely yours,

COPY COPY COPY

L. G. BROOKMAN

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December 14, 1941

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The above salutation seems a little stiff when I consider the help you have been giving me and the friendly and much appreciated advice you offer in the letter just at hand.

In regard to the Handbook Committee, I took up this matter with Kimble when I was in Chicago just a week ago. I told him at the time that I did not intend to permit the Committee to take any pot shots at you, I, Souren, or anyone quoted in the article.

I gather from your letter that you would not object to any comments that the Committee might make if they are made in the A.P. and I, or the authorities concerned, have a chance to reply to them. Such comment should be in our hands at an early date and I believe the Committee comment and the rebutal comment should appear at the same time. If I am right in my assumption, please inform me and I will write Perry at once to this effect. I feel certain that he will agree to this reasonable proposition.

You know that I consider Elliott one of my best friends and I don't believe that he would ever do anything that would hurt me if he could prevent it--and the reverse of this is true. On the basis of evidence at hand I think I can assume that I also have a friend in Ft. Thomas, Ky. Both you and Elliott have given me so much of your time and the benefit of your experience and knowledge that can tell you truthfully that I am actually ashamed to ask for further help. I'm fed up with this article on the '47's and if I wasn't a stubborn fool I'd say to H--- with it.

Of course I could eliminate the source of the arguments by forgetting the plates and the Knapp Shift. However, I consider these to be integral portions of the article and I don't believe they should be considered taboo. I only want to present what FACTS are known and what REASONABLE THEORIES exist.

So far as I am able to gather from your letters you are firm in your conviction that the plates were copper, or, as is more likely, some form of copper alloy. I have no reason to feel that your position is untenable in any respect or I would have no desire to bring it again to the attention of collectors. As a matter of fact, the logic of your deductions has caused me to rewrite the part of the article dealing with plates and this portion of the article is (here given in condensed form) about as follows;

1. Your conclusions in brief form
2. "So far as I am concerned, I am not in any position to offer any positive evidence as to whether or not the plates were copper since my knowledge of this field is limited. Such evidence, or apparantly reasonable speculation, as has been offered to me indicates that the plates were probably of copper that was alloyed with some other material which would tend to make the resulting

metal harder than pure copper. I consider it quite probable that the 10¢ plate was harder than the 5¢ because it did not seem to wear as much, in proportion to the number of impressions made from it, as did the first 5¢ plate. I also think that the second 5¢ plate made have been harder than the first 5¢ plate."

3. "There has been some talk that the 1847 plates were made by the "Galvanoplasty" method as were certain of the early French plates. Very briefly, Galvanoplastic plates are plates made of very thin metal which are "backed up" by a deposit of metal deposited on the back of the plate by an electrical process. At the moment I do not believe that the best American students are much impressed with this theory but should any reliable information come to light by the time this article goes to press I will be glad to include it here."

4. Invitation extended writers to give their opinion if they feel the plates were steel plates.

I really believe you will feel the above is O.K. which is the way it should be. Furthermore, I don't think that Elliott can object to the way it is written. I've really never been able to understand just why he hasn't set forth his ideas about the '47 plates. He has, of course, the highest regard for you and I'll be darned if I know whether he is afraid that he couldn't prove his theory or that he doesn't want to tear down your theory!

The Knapp Shift certainly seems to be a thin ice propostion.

Perry----"Not what it seems"

Souren---"Absolutely genuine shift"

Harmer---"A painting"

Jacobs---"Absolutely O.K."

Hennan---"A fake"
ashbrook ????
Brookman---What Brookman thinks is of no importance. So far as I am concerned, the question is not what I think but whether or not I have sense enough to mention this item in such a manner that I won't be (1) Shot at sunrise, (2) Sued by Souren, (3) Ridiculed to my grave, (4) Combination of (1), (2), (3).

Frankly, I don't give a tinker's dam what anyone thinks of MY opinion of the Knapp Shift so long as there is any chance that I may be able to bring to light the real truth about this item. If there has been any faking done in connection with the item the truth should hurt no one---if faking has been done that is a much different story. I have no desire to hurt anyone--except in the broad sense of the word it would be none of my business what anyone did with this item. As a matter of fact, if I thought it was a fake, or rather if I thought this might lead to someone proving it to be a fake, I think I would prefer, under the circumstances, to dismiss the item with the most brief mention.

I wonder if it would be a good idea for me to copright the article in my own name. I know that either you or I could have the cuts for the asking. Looks like such action would take care of about 51% of the Capitol Stock! Advise me about this.

I sent the diagrams of the 10¢ '47 to Perry--will ask him to forward them to you.

I have photos from Serphos in my possession. These cover the block of 6 of the 10¢ and the blocks of 8 and 12 of the 5¢. The 10¢ block has been shot thru a filter which gives it the appearance of an unused block--regular photo showing cancellation would be better.

Hope you get permission to illustrate the 10¢ cover from California.

I'm plenty tired and I'm going to bed. This has been a hard letter to write. One last question comes to mind--did plate 2 of the 5¢ wear as much in proportion as plate 1?

Sincerely yours,

Brookman

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 15, 1941.

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

Dear L. G.:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter received today from Gilbert and I will leave it to you as to whether or not this fellow Gilbert is squirreley.

You will note he mentions Horace Barr. Well Horace is a darn nice chap but he knows about as much about stamps as a kindergarten pupil knows about Greek.

If you quote any of these squirrels in your article, you will have occasion to regret it at some future date.

If I can read English, Gilbert states Perry's plating of the 10¢ 1847 is bogus. I don't know what he means by this, as Perry's plating is 100% correct.

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 21, 1941.

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

Dear L. G.

Replying to yours of the 14th. Elliott is one of my closest friends but this does not mean that I haven't the right to differ with him or to criticise severely any statements he makes. I grant him the same privilege. I do not approve of his personal comments in A.P. handbooks because they are not Committee comments but Elliott's own personal opinions. Elliott has, I am sure, been very gracious to you, he is very gracious to all who are seriously interested in stamps. But I do not think that the assistance he has rendered you places you in a position where you are obligated to accept all his opinions as final. I don't think the A.P.S. granted him authority to insert comments in A.P. handbooks. Surely Ralph can clear this point up definitely for you. I think he assumed such authority and I think something should be done about it. I do not object to any comments or criticism if provision is made to reply to same in the same number of publication, but to insert comments in a handbook with no opportunity of rebuttal is high handed, wuly unbitrary, and very unfair. If Perry inserts any comment on any of my stuff I want the opportunity to reply at the same time.

Regarding the changes made in your article. First - Gilbert and his galvanaplasty stuff. If I were you, I would ignore him completely. His article appeared in the C. C. P. hence few A.P.S. members know anything about it. Not having read it your remarks will not be understood by A.P.S. readers. I think Gilbert has demonstrated that he don't know what he is talking about.

Re - the 1847 plates. What makes you think that the 10¢ plate was harder than the 5¢? I have never found the slightest bit of evidence to this effect and unless you have some good evidence, I wouldn't inject a personal opinion.

There was only one 10¢ plate and from it only 5250 impressions were struck. Of the 1,050,000 printed, only 891,000 were issued to postmasters. So you see we are only concerned with this 891,000. This is only 4,450 impressions. Have you evidence to show that the first 4,450 impressions of the 5¢ showed any greater wear than the 4,450 ten cents impressions? If only 4,450 impressions had been struck from both plates, then perhaps we could make a comparison.

You also state that you believe the 5¢ Pl 2 was of a harder netal than Plate 1. I have found no evidence to this effect. Every student has had the idea that all Pl 2 stamps that were issued were fine early engravings and that the plate showed very little wear. This is not true because I have identified Pl 2 stamps which show quite a lot of wear. I certainly do think that you should have your article copyrighted.

Perry has returned the 10¢ diagrams to me and I am sure that he

hasn't the time to devote to making the drawings.

I note that Serphos sent you photos of the 10¢ block of 6, but not of the block of 3. If you want the latter, I can send you a print. All my photos were made thru a filter so I have none showing the cancelations.

Again re - Gilbert. I have just written him in a nice way that I have no idea what he is trying to develop but will be glad to read his article when published. I really haven't the time to devote to his various theories.

Re - the 5¢ 1847 "D" shift. Note catalogue quotation in comparison to the other three. For twenty years after its discovery, no duplicate was discovered. Steve Brown said it was a kiss. Perry is not familiar with it. With only one copy known what is your guess? Is this from Pl 2 or is it a very late re-entry on Pl 1? If a duplicate would be discovered wouldn't you then believe that a duplicate of the Knapp might turn up? Or would you?

I think the less said about the Knapp, the better. Remember I don't say it is good nor do I say it is bad, so you can't quote me. Elliott says it is not what it seems to be which means that he don't know what it is. Harmer says its a "painting" but Harmer is a silly old English fool. Jacobs says its "O.K." but if I said to Jake, go slow he wouldn't bet a dime he was right. Hennan is no authority and his opinion is valueless on this stamp. Souren believes it is genuine but things are not always what they seem to be. So you see if you quote any of the above it will be ink wasted.

Re - 1847 copper plates. I sent you photos of the 10¢ Confed Frame Line (copper) showing scratches, and these scratches are identical with scratches found in the margins of a number of positions in the right pane of the 10¢ 1847 plate. In the Dietz book on Confeds is absolute proof that the Frame Line plate was made of copper. Had Perry known his stuff when he was plating the 10¢, he would have known that steel plates don't produce scratches like occur on the 10¢ 47 plate. He don't even know about this at the present time. Now you show me any Toppan Carpenter stamp or any National Bank Note stamp with scratches like we find on the 10¢ 1847 and I will throw up my hands and admit that the 1847 plates were made of steel. So if you would quote Perry's opinion on steel vs copper you would be quoting someone who didn't know his stuff.

There are other bits of evidence just as strong as the above which I have never mentioned. What's the use? If anyone wants to believe that the plates were steel why should I argue with them. The earth is not flat and the moon is not made of green cheese but some people believe that way. Elliott's crack about molasses plates wasn't a damn bit funny.

Under separate cover I am mailing you a photo of the Burroughs proof block. This does not show the filtered out "Specimen" which was printed on each position. The last time I heard from Karl he had not been able to determine the exact plate positions, nor have I. Perhaps by this time he has solved the problem. I would find out if I were you.

I am enclosing a photo of a 10¢ Bisect, ex-Knapp collection and

genuine, as history is known.

I am also enclosing you a print herewith which is a photo of a photo Elliott loaned to me. This cover cannot be illustrated without Elliott's permission and I request that you do not mention that I sent you the enclosed, which please return. I have written him asking him to please try and borrow the cover from the owner and send it to me so I could make a fine photo for you to use in your article.

Sincerely yours,

COPY

L. G. BROOKMAN

BRIDGEPORT 2969

Member
C. C. N. Y.
T. M. P. S.
T. C. P. S.
S. P. A.
A. P. S.

BROOKMAN STAMP COMPANY

121 Loeb Arcade - Fifth and Hennepin
Minneapolis, Minn.

We are always in the market to buy Stamps

December 23, 1941

Dear Stanley:

The best of friends not only have the right, but the obligation, to disagree if there is not an actual meeting of minds. The obligation is also present to exchange ideas for the common good and on a common ground. This I know you are willing to do and if we cannot find means to do this with the 1847 article we will make definite arrangements so that comments will not be made so that we have no opportunity to reply to them.

Elliott does not seem to be disposed to make comments in the A.P. and has not as yet told me that he would refrain from making comments in case a Handbook is published. Kimble is in perfect agreement with you and I that no comments are to be published in the handbook. Of course, if the Handbook Committee wanted to make a token comment that did not condemn any point of importance, or in any way reflect on statements or opinions made by anyone quoted by me, I wouldn't be bothered by such comment. I will absolutely refuse to permit a handbook to be printed if it contains any comment that you object to in any way, shape or form. I enclose a carbon copy of a letter I mailed today to Kimble.

In regard to the plate 2 of the 5¢--no doubt the reason most students seem to think that all copies from this plate show little wear is because they are unable to tell worn copies that come from this plate. Perhaps I just took a left-handed way of getting your opinion on the matter!

In regard to the 10¢ plates, I think you would find that the concensus of opinion (which of course proves nothing) is that the 10¢ did not wear as much as the 5¢ in proportion. I don't think that it did but the reason for this may very well be due to a difference in the abrasive quality of the inks used for the 5¢ and the 10¢. I have so stated in the article.

Approximately how many stamps do you believe were printed from the first 5¢ plate? Do you feel that wear on a plate is, under normal conditions, evenly gradual? The phrase seems a little awkward. What I mean is, does each succeeding impression wear the plate to approximately the same degree or does this wear accelerate or decelerate at some point in the life of the plate?

Regarding the "D" shift on the 5¢---; I haven't seen it so can't give much of an opinion of it. I can say this--I've never seen a kiss that I thought looked so much like a shift that ~~it~~ I thought it should fool anyone. The kiss lines are too fuzzy and are not

L. G. BROOKMAN

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likely to cover small scattered areas over the stamp. I have no idea as to the appearance of the "D" shift so far as wear goes. If plate 2 was used ~~from 1848 on~~ (my notes are home and I may be wrong on this--1849 seems the right date although I recollect that you told me of an early use of plate 2) for nearly as long a period as plate 1, then it seems obvious that it was a rather late reentry on one plate or the other but I know of no way that such could be told unless by the shade. Unless the entry seems pretty fresh we might have another "Knapp" item on our hands. If the impression is worn to any appreciable degree it seems that more ~~entries~~ copies would have turned up unless the solder ran out of this one!.

Elliott has told me that the 10¢ unique shift he purchased in auction some time ago was for a client and that he thought it might have occured in the same way as the Knapp item--whatever he meant by that. Perhaps he intended that remark to be confidential although he didn't say so so I suppose we had better treat it as such.

I can't recollect that I have ever seen any stamps known to have come from steel plates that had scratches that had the same appearance as those found on the 10¢ '47 and on the Confederate #209. Such items would unquestionably catch my eye.

Any chance that #54 was printed from a copper plate? Or have I asked you this before?

Glad to get the photo of the bisect. Would like to have the photo of the cover with the strip of the 5¢ and the Beaver on it so hope you can get a photo. I am returning the other photo.

Best regards

Brookman

L. G. BROOKMAN

BRIDGEPORT 2969

Member
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T. M. P. S.
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BROOKMAN STAMP COMPANY

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Dear Ralph:

Enclosed you will find an article on the "Thom" grills.

I have had a letter from the Chicago Chief of the U.S. Secret Service saying that such an article should be written and he has requested that a copy of the article be forwarded to him when it is printed. His name is Thomas J. Callaghan, P.O.Box 88200-A, Chicago, Ill. Send him a copy of the A.P. in which the article appears.

Now as to the article on the '47's: I have this article just about ready to go. Am waiting for a very few more illustrations and have just a little bit to do on the text. I want it distinctly understood that this is not to be reprinted as a Handbook without my express permission and it is not to be reprinted as a handbook with the permission of Stanley B. Ashbrook since he has given me permission to use his drawings, photographs, and information only with the understanding that no comments are to be made on such portions of the article as are of concern to him. If you cannot assure me that you can and will withold authority to reprint this article I feel that under the circumstances it would be unfair to Ashbrook for me to let it be published in the A.P. unless it was copyrighted by me so that I could under all circumstances maintain control of it. If you will give me an official assurance, as Editor of the A.P. that the article will not be reprinted without my permission, I do not feel that I should copyright it as some of the material and the photos are from other sources than Ashbrook and myself.

Writing this in considerable haste.

Best regards,

L. G. Brookman

Dear Stanley:- Looks like I need a new carbon! This letter should go to the Smith.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 26, 1941.

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

Dear L. G.:

Yours of the 23rd received and I am glad to know that Ralph is in agreement with us on the subject of the Handbook "Comments" Lest their be no misunderstanding on Perry's part I have written him very frankly on the subject and told him in no mistaken terms that I entirely disapprove of such high handed stuff.

As an example, note my One Cent Book, Vol. 1, the Brazer chapter on Essays. Note Brazer's remarks re - the 1¢ Essay. Note the illustration of the 1¢ original die with the layout guide lines. Brazer stated that "It appears" the 6¢ Essay came before the 1¢. I disagreed with Brazer, hence the "Committee" comment in the Brazer A.P.S. Essay Handbook. This lousy comment is Perry's and Perry's alone because neither Hall or Stowell know a damn thing about the subject. Now note the second paragraph of the comment (under the illustration of the 6¢ Essay). Here a positive statement is made. A positive statement that the 6¢ Essay die had layout guide lines. Would you be surprised if I told you that this is not a fact? At least, no 6¢ Essay proof is known to exist which has any trace of guide lines. Wouldn't you think that this is fairly good evidence that there were no lines on the 6¢ Essay die? Perry's statement of a fact is not a fact but merely his own personal theory, just an assumption, because as he wrote me, what evidence he had led him to believe the 6¢ came before the 1¢.

Re - the wear on the 5¢ 47 Plate #1, and the 10¢ plate. Because these plates were both made at the same time I suppose there was very little difference if any, in their composition. I doubt if the difference in the two inks had any effect in making one wear down any faster than the other. If we had the 44th hundred impression of the 5¢ and the same of the 10¢ and could lay them side by side I doubt if the 5¢ would show any more wear than the 10¢. It is merely an assumption that the 5¢ wore down faster than the 10¢. We certainly have no proof that it did. If we compare 5¢ stamps which may have come from sheets printed after 8,000 impressions can we compare these with impressions of the 10¢ which came before 4400 impressions? Up to and including Mar. 20, 1849 2,400,000 of the 5¢ had been delivered. This was 12,000 impressions. No doubt all of these or at least the great majority came from Pl. 1. We assume there were but two plates of the 5¢ but how do we know there were not three? So you see when some smart Aleck takes the total number of 5¢ which were printed and assumes that all these stamps came from only two plates, he jumps to the conclusinn that the plates could not have been copper because so and so told him it would not have been possible to get so many impressions from two copper plates. If we could identify all the corner positions of two plates we would have sixteen that were different. If we could make this number 17 then we would know there were three plates. So far we haven't been able to identify the 16 but we have more than 8. The above will give you some food for thought.

#2.

Mr. L. G. Brookman, Dec. 26, 1941.

Re - the "D" shift. I was under the impressi on I sent you an enlarged photograph of the H. pair that belonged to Emerson. In this pair the "D" was the stamp to left. If I didn't send you a photo advise me at once and I will run off a print for you.

Re - the 10¢ 1855 shift. Elliott probably hasn't divulged anything to you about this stamp which is unknown to me. He bought this stamp for Harry Jefferys of Ardmore and the sole and one reason for its acquisition was an endeavor to prove me wrong. He and Jefferys together with Horace Barr wanted to prove it was an "imitation" shift and not an actual plate variety as I had gone on record in stating.

Re - #54 -the 90¢ 1860. Toppan Carpenter never used any copper plates for their postage stamps. The "burrs" on the 90¢ are typical of steel plates, not copper plates. Further the scratches are typical of steel plates, not copper plates.

I didn't tell you before that I will have a very short article in the coming "Stamp Specialist" on the 5¢ 1847, detailing an important discovery, Ilrecently made. If the "Specialist" comes out before your article you have my permission to use any of the data in the "Specialist" article. I considered this discovery of enough importance to write it up myself otherwise I would have given it to you to include in your article.

I may have some word soon on the cover with strip of four 10¢ from California. Its up to Elliott to get permission on the Beaver cover.

Yours etc.,

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

Dear L. G.

Yours of the 23rd received and I am glad to learn that Ralph is in agreement with us on the ~~my~~ subject of the Handbook "Comments"

Lest there be no misunderstanding on Perry's part I have written him very frankly on the subject and told him in no mistaken terms that I ~~utterly do~~ entirely disapprove of such high handed stuff.

As an example, note my Own Casebook, Vol 1, the Brazer chapter on Essays. Note Brazer's remarks re the 1¢ Essay. Note the similarities of the 1¢ Original die with the lip and guide lines. Brazer stated that "It appears" the 6¢ Essay came before the 1¢. I disagreed with Brazer, hence the "Committee" Comment in the Brazer A.P.S. Essay Handbook. This Louey Comment is Perry's and Perry's alone because neither Hall or Stowell knew a damn thing about the subject. Now note the second paragraph of the Comment (under

the illustration of the 6th Essay). Here a positive statement is made. A positive statement that the 6th Essay did had lay-out guide lines. Should you be surprised if I told you that this is not a fact? At least, no 6th Essay proof is known to exist which has any trace of guide lines. Should not you think that this is surely good evidence that there were no lines on the 6th Essay die? Perry's statement of a fact is not a fact but merely his own personal theory, just an assumption, because as he told me, what evidence he had led him to believe the 6th came before the 1st.

~~Now I don't like such stuff~~

Re-the wear on the 5th 47 Plate #1, and the 10th plate. Because these plates were both made at the same time I suppose there was very little difference if any in their composition. I doubt if the the difference in the two rolls had any effect in making

one wear down any faster than the other.
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that it did. If we compare
5¢ Stamps which may have
come from sheets printed after
8000 impressions can we compare
them with impressions of
the 10¢ which came ~~apt~~ before
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and including Mar 20 1849
2.400.000 of the 5¢ had been
delivered. This was 12000 impressions.
No doubt all of these or at least
the great majority came from
Pl. #1. We assume there were
but two plates of the 5¢ but how
do we know there were not three?
Do you see where some Branch

about fifty the total number of 5¢ coupons were printed and assumes that all these stamps came from only two plates, the jumps to the conclusion that the plates could not have been copper because Do and Do told him it would not have been possible to get so many impressions from two copper plates. If we should identify all the corner positions of two plates we would have duplicates that were different. If we could make this number 17 then we would know there were three plates. Do you see have it not been able to identify the 16 but ~~two~~ we have more than 8. The above will give you some food for thought.

Re - the "D" slip. Since under the impression I sent you an enlarged photograph of the H.

pair that belonged to Emerson. In this pair the "D" was the plump to left. If I could send you a photo advise me at once and I will run off a print for you.

Re - the 10¢ 1855 Issue. Elliott probably has not divulged any thing to you about this stamps which is unknown to me. He bought this stamps for Harry Jeffreys of Ardmore and the sale and one reason for his acquisition was an endeavor to prove me wrong. He and Jeffreys together with Horace Barr wanted to prove it was an "imitation" stamp and not an actual plate merely as I had gone on record in stating.

Re #54 - the 90¢ 1860. Toppan Carpenter never used any copper plates for their postage stamps. The "burrs" on the 90¢ are typical of steel plates, not copper plates. Further the scratches are typical of steel

Plates, not paper plates.

I decided to use before that I will have a new chart Article in the Feb. issue of "Stamp Specialist" on the 5th 1847, detailing an important discovery. I ~~made~~ Made. results of the "Specialist" comes out before your Article you have my permission to use any of the data in the "Specialist" Article. I considered this discovery ~~of~~ enough to write up ~~for~~ myself other wise I would have given it to you to include in your Article.

I may have some more, soon on the cover write up of from 10 to 15 Cancels. Its up to Elliott to get permission on the Dealer cover. Yours Etc

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 3, 1941.

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

Dear L. G.:

After a lot of trouble I succeeded in locating the owner of the 5¢ 47 - Beaver cover that was in a Bartels sale about two years ago. Today I made a fine negative of the cover and I'll send you print in case you wish to use it. This cover was questioned but I think it is absolutely O.K. Both stamps are canceled with the same red grid, the 5¢ is tied, the Beaver is not.

I had a letter from Elliott re - Committee Comments. He takes a very arbitrary stand. The Committee reserves the right to insert comments but will not permit anyone to comment on their comments, so that is that.

Yours etc.,

January 5, 1942

Dear Stanley:

I sent the article to Kimble yesterday. Talked to him Sunday by phone and he told me that he was going to start it in the February A.P.

Hope the next Specialist is out in time so that I can use information from your new article if it is something that should appear in my article. Am naturally curious to know what is in it--my guess is that it concerns the plates. Gilbert indicated to me that he had obtained documentary evidence of great importance concerning the plates but he wouldn't tell me what it was. I understand that he will have an article about this in the next C.C.P. and I am anxious to see what he has to say.

15 below zero here today so I think I'll just stay right here at home. I'm glad it is Sunday so I don't have to go to the office.

I have written Stowell and told him to forward you a galley proof of the article as soon as he has one ready. Phil Ward sent me 5 more illustrations which I included with the others and the article now has the remarkable number of 85 beautiful illustrations. Thanks to you this will be, I feel quite sure, the best illustrated article that has yet appeared in the A.P.

Nothing else at the moment.

Best regards,

Brookman

P.S. Nearly forgot what I started to write this letter for--in regard to the "D" shift on the 5¢ '47, I do have your photo of this item. So far as I can tell from the photo, the stamp is from a late impression of either plate 1 or 2. The 2nd entry must have been an EARLY entry, aasuming of course that this is a genuine shift and not a kiss. My impression is that it is a genuine shift although I would like to see the stamp before I would give a definite opinion. If a second copy of this item turns up (and I now begin to "smell a mouse") I would have more faith in the Knapp item. The chance of any freak or phony being reproduced exactly is nil so a second copy of either the "D" 5¢ or the Knapp should prove that they are genuine plate varieties.

P.P.S. Your letter of the 3rd just arrived. Would like to have Beaumont cover with your short description of same. Will settle this comment deal at the Convention if necessary.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 7, 1942.

Mr. L.G. Brookman,
280 Elm St.,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear L.G.:

Under separate cover, I am sending you a copy of the latest Research Group Bulletin. Please note that these Bulletins are confidential and no one outside of the Group is supposed to receive one. Perhaps you will be interested in my remarks on the A.P.S. Handbook Committee's "Comments."

Re - your letter of the 5th. I made a fine negative of the 5¢ 1847 - Beaver cover (Bartel's sale) but so far haven't had time to make any prints. Its down to zero here and my "laboratory" is rather chilly in such weather. Nevertheless I'll try to get a print to you in the next few days.

Lindquist advises me that the "Stamp Specialist" is being rushed and will be issued as soon as possible. I think it is rather doubtful that it will be out in time for you to use anything in it for the February A.P. I doubt if the matter is of sufficient interest to include in your article. It has nothing to do with any of Gilbert's stuff. I don't take much stock in Gilbert's documentary evidence. I would have to see what he has, before I would take him seriously.

Re - the "D" shift. You mention Plate 1. If from Plate #1, it would have to be a very late re-entry on this plate, otherwise it would be as common as the two "A" & "B" of which planty of copies are known. Suppose we assume it is not from Plate #1, then it must be from Plate #2. If you think it is a plate variety then note the impression. I have stated right along that more impressions were struck from Plate #2 than all former students of the 5¢ suspected.

Re - Committee "Comments." I think Elliott's position is entirely wrong and I don't think the A.P.S.Board will support him. At any rate, regardless of what happens, I intend to force a show-down on this matter, even if it means his resignation from the Committee. In my opinion, the Editor of the A.P. should be the Chairman of the Handbook Committee and the Editor should be paid a commission or be compensated for the extra work entailed. Elliott thinks he knows it all but he don't.

I sent him a photograph of the Emerson "D" pair and asked him point blank - "What is this, a genuine plate variety or one of your 'imitation shifts'." Here was his reply:

"I shall try to answer your questions about the "D" shift later. All I know about imitation shifts is what I have been told by people whose business it is to know about such things."

One could assume from the above that his opinion on the Knapp shift is not his own opinion but the opinion of someone whose business is to know about such things.

The fact of the matter is Elliott don't know what the Knapp shift really is, and that's the reason he can't tell you what he thinks.

Again I repeat, the Knapp copy is no "imitation shift." It is one of two things - (A) A genuine plate variety or (B) a fake.

But of all things, note the following paragraph from his letter:

"Your evidence certainly points to "C" shifts as coming from the second plate. But I can see no reason why one position on the first plate should have been re-entered late in the life of that plate. Isn't it more reasonable to assume the original entry was soldered up and that after a while the solder fell out, revealing the "D" shift?"

Now I must confess that I don't know whether he was kidding or not. I was under the impression he thought the solder theory was a huge joke. Didn't he read a "funny" paper at a meeting of the C. C. in which he made fun of Barr's solder theory? Did he mean that perhaps the Knapp shift fits Barr's solder theory? If so, then he must believe it is a genuine plate variety.

Here is the paragraph from his letter regarding Committee Comments:

"We are not running a debating society and neither Arthur Hall nor myself favors additional comment by anyone who does not bear our responsibility to the Society. Even if I were in favor of it I am sure Arthur would not consent and as long as he said "no" such additional comment would not be printed in an A.P.S. handbook."

I think this matter should be definitely settled, and all irresponsible "comments" barred from A.P.S. handbooks. In the first place, they are a reflection on the author and it is entirely possible a comment could be wholly wrong and an author be right.

I still maintain that Arthur Hall is only a yes man to Elliott and inasmuch as Stowell don't count, Elliott is the whole Committee.

You are the author of your 1847 article and you have a perfect right to make any statements you wish. So far as I am concerned, you can criticise any statements I have made or differ with me on any points wherein you think you are right and I am wrong. If you want to grant anyone the right to differ with you and to include in your article such comments you certainly are entitled to refute such comments if you so desire. Thus readers have both sides of the picture and can form their own conclusions.

To follow any other course is wholly unfair and makes a fool out of the author. I am positive the A.P.S. never intended that such a course be permitted. I cannot help but believe that Ralph Kimble will agree with me.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

L. G. BROOKMAN

BRIDGEPORT 2969

Member
C. C. N. Y.
T. M. P. S.
T. C. P. S.
S. P. A.
A. P. S.

BROOKMAN STAMP COMPANY

121 Loeb Arcade - Fifth and Hennepin
Minneapolis, Minn.

We are always in the market to buy Stamps

January 14, 1942

5¢
1847
"D"
Note

Dear Stanley:

How in the world can the "D" shift be a very late re-entry when the impression is obviously quite badly worn?

I think that this item either occurred in the same manner as the Knapp item or it is a kiss as suggested by Steve Brown (or was it Knapp that said this?).

Just had a letter from Kimble and he says that the article will not start until the March A.P. due to the fact that he was unable to get it ready (cuts, etc.) in time for the Feb. issue. He seems to be well pleased with it and he says he has forwarded it to Stowell. We should have galley proofs in a few days—have told Stowell to forward a set to you.

Have you made a print of the "Beaver" cover? We can and should work this in.

I wonder if I should have Harold Brooks send me a photo of the "Scarab" cover out of the Brown sale? I know he would be glad to do this for me. Nice fellow and a lucky gambler. I was playing roulette at the same table with him in New Orleans and he took them for about $775--and left with the money! He had taken them for about the same amount two nights previously and he told me in Buffalo that he never went back so he got about $1500 altogether. Them as has gets!

Nothing more at the minute.

Best regards,

Brookman

We Carry a Full Line of Stamps and Philatelic Supplies

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 17, 1942.

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

Dear L. B. :

Yours of the 14th received and I note your article has been postponed until the March A.P., which makes it possible to include several additional items if you wish to do so.

As soon as I receive a proof from Harry on my short 1847 article for the next "Stamp Specialist" I am going to send you a copy but in doing so I request that you treat same as strictly confidential as I do not wish anyone to see the contents before publication. When you read this proof you will understand fully why it is published at this time. Harry is including some very fine large illustrations and it is quite possible you might want to use some of these. If so, I think the A.P. should purchase them outright from Lindquist. I might add that you have my permission to use anything in the article that you wish with due credit to the source. Before doing this, it will be necessary to obtain Harry's permission. I have already written him that you have my permission agreeable to him.

I have several fine negatives of the Bartels Beaver cover, but it has been so cold I haven't tarried long in my dark room recently. I will get you a print in plenty of time. I will also send you a photo and description of the 40¢ rate cover from California. (only one known). Owner has just advised, "anything you do is O.K. with me." This cover is practically unknown and has never been illustrated. I intended to make it the subject of a special article but will turn it over to you as I think it will be quite an addition to your article.

Above all, I do not want a word to go to Elliott on my "Stamp Specialist" article. This may sound queer but you will understand. I never withhold anything from good old Uncle Ike but this case is an exception because I am sincerely trying to find out how good he is. By this I mean, can he really distinguish the difference between a genuine "double transfer" and an "imitation shift." So far I have not been able to get him to commit himself. I want to prove definitely to Elliott that when it comes right down to plate varieties, that things are not always what they seem to be. Elliott doesn't realize that there is a damn wide difference between a double transfer from a steel plate and one from a copper plate. It is quite evident that Steve Brown had similar opinions to Elliott on certain points.

I haven't a photo of the cover that Brooks bought in the Brown sale, but if you will write him to send it to me, I will make a photo of it. I think this would be more agreeable to Harold, and you can write him I made the suggestion. Yes, they don't come any finer than Harold Brooks and anyone is indeed fortunate to be classed as his friend. I have heard from his own lips his streak of luck at New Orleans in 1938.

Re - the Bartels Beaver cover. There is quite a story behind this item. Some say it is good, some say it is bad, but I say it is good. I have

the permission from the owner to write it up. I have also dug up another unknown 5¢ 47 plus Beaver, but it is only a piece of a cover but good as gold. I have made a negative and will obtain permission of the owner for you to illustrate it if you wish.

Sincerely yours,

COPY

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 20, 1942.

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

Dear L. G.:

I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter just received from Gilbert.

This is just a sample of the letters I receive from him. He is either NUTS or he has something. What is your guess. Frankly mine is the former.

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 22, 1942.

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

Dear L. G.:

As promised, I am enclosing herewith proof of the 1847 article which will appear in the coming "Stamp Specialist." Lindquist's office advises me that they will furnish you any or all of the cuts provided the A.P. share the cost of same. Kindly return these proofs after you have finished with them.

I am also enclosing photos of the 10¢ 1847 cover from San Francisco and the 5¢ '47-Beaver combination cover.

Re - the former. As you are aware, no supplies of the 1847 stamps were sent to California post offices, hence any use of same from out there were stamps carried out privately.

This cover is a folded circular announcing the formation of a new commercial house with several partners, and in the notice, each partner signed his name, hence the notice was sent sealed with a 40¢ rate, because it contained writing. Some wise person once said the cover was a fake because it was a printed circular. The markings on face are all in the same red orange, that is, the postmark, the "40" and the "Paid." The strip is hit a number of times with the same read orange "paid" and this same paid ties the second stamp from left. The postal clerk first canceled the strip with the "Paid" but noting it was rather pale on the black, he then canceled the strip by pen marks. There was oil in the red orange ink, hence where the pen marks crossed the "paid" the black ink did not register. You can detect the breaks in the pen lines in the photograph.

The strip comes from positions 83L1 - 84L1 - 85L1 and 86L1. The cover went from S.F. on the Pacific Mail S. S. "Carolina" which the records show sailed from S.F. on Jan. 1, 1851. Also note it is addressed to the famous firm of Howland & Aspinwall, the firm who in 1848 owned the "S.S.California", the first U.S. mail steamship to carry mail to California.

Regarding the 5¢ '47-Beaver cover. I examined this cover very carefully and there is no doubt in my mind that it is perfectly O.K. The grid on the Beaver by my very careful tracings show it to be the same as the grid on the 5¢. You will note the 5¢ is tied by the grid and also by the Queenstown p.m. This cover was in a Bartels "Rarity" sale of April 1940 and was reported to have sold at $410.00.

Yours etc.,

L. G. BROOKMAN

BRIDGEPORT 2969

Member
C. C. N. Y.
T. M. P. S.
T. C. P. S.
S. P. A.
A. P. S.

BROOKMAN STAMP COMPANY

121 Loeb Arcade - Fifth and Hennepin
Minneapolis, Minn.

We are always in the market to buy Stamps

December 17, 1941

Dear Stanley:

I am still chuckling about the Gilbert letter--I should not laugh at his English as it is still 1000% superior to my French but I can't help but wonder if this is his idea of English as she is spoke or English as she is writ!

Poor Elliott--- to think that a Frenchman can come over here and throw his plating of the 10¢ out the window. However, I am afraid that M. Gilbert will find the window to be an optical illusion and the theory he advances will return like a boomerang and neatly but thoroughly decapitate him.

It is certainly strange that Gilbert doesn't know about the law permitting illustrations. I wonder how he thinks the various magazines continue to avoid the toils of the law since they illustrate so many U.S. stamps?

I think I told you in my last letter that I had cut down the space devoted to Galvanoplasty to two or three sentences and I have stated that this theory is not believed to apply to the U.S. stamps.

Have also rewritten dope on Knapp Shift and I am certain that it will please you. As a matter of fact I have said very little about it.

I now offer no statements in favor of steel plates for the '47's but have stated that the plates were almost certainly of a copper alloy: that the 10¢ plate may possibly have been a little harder than the 5¢ as it did not appear to have worn as much in proportion to the number of impressions as did the 5¢ but I further state that since the wear on a plate is due to a very large extent to the abrasive action of the ink, it may be that the difference in the wear may have been due principally to ~~the~~ a difference in the abrasive actions of the inks used for the two stamps.

I feel that the article is in about its finished form and I hope that it will prove to be O.K. I need a very few more illustrations, some of which I believe you now have for me, and the others I am supposed to get from other sources. Among these are the Bandholtz items, the big block from Ward, the essays that appear in Brazer's new book and perhaps the 10¢ late ~~plate~~ die proof. When I can round up these last few illustrations I can get the whole thing in Kimble's hands in a day or so.

Best regards
L. Brookman

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THE

American Philatelic Society

This is to Certify that

Stanley B. Ashbrook No. 2497

is a member in good standing to July first, 1942

Signature of Member

H. A. Davis

Secretary

MEMBERSHIP CARD

Chicago Philatelic Society

Organized October 8, 1886

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook *No.* 174

This Card Expires December 31st, 19 41

P J Koenig

Secretary

THE Collectors Club

OF NEW YORK

is pleased to certify that

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

is a member in good standing

Paul T. Bodanis

SECRETARY

1941 No. 443

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

This is to Certify that NO. 47

Stanley B. Ashbrook

WHO HAS SIGNED HIS NAME IN THE MARGIN

IS A MEMBER OF THE

Pacific Philatelic Society

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

ORGANIZED 1884

DUES PAID TO Dec. 31. 1941

M. C. Drilling Secretary

SECRETARY

UNITED STATES
Notes And Comment

By PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

Plating the 1847 Issue

A few years back, a wonderful piece of work in plating the 1847 10c was completed by Elliott Perry. This was made possible mainly by the facts that most of the frame lines of these stamps were recut, and secondly, the stamp was black, enabling one to see the recuts clearer. Then, too, a goodly number of the stamps had distinct short transfers at top.

Plating the 5c will be much more difficult. Recuts and the like cannot be seen so clearly on a brown stamp, especially a lightly printed copy. However, Stanley B. Ashbrook has been studying the 5c here of late, and when the result of his studies are published, we may expect much new information and increased interest in our first series, possibly along with the 1869 emissions, our most popular issues.

Mr. Ashbrook has gleaned much information from plate proofs which exist in fairly large blocks, such as the Emerson block of 30, a block of 16 and several other smaller pieces. Dr. Chase discovered some years back a block of 50 of the 5c plate proof. Its present whereabouts is unknown, and Mr. Ashbrook would like very much to see this piece, if available, or would be satisfied with a good photograph, if one is around. Smaller pieces of these proofs for examination would also be welcome. We are, of course, referring to the proofs from the original plates, usually surcharged "Specimen". He is not interested in seeing proofs from the reprint plate of 1875, which are around in complete sheets.

The block of 50 just described is undoubtedly the largest piece known in the way of 1847 plate proofs. In the issued stamps, a block of 16 of the 5c in beautiful mint condition is the largest piece believed to exist. This famous item rested in the Lord Crawford Collection for many years until it was brought to America by John Klemann and sold to Senator Ackerman.

While on the subject of the 1847 issue, we must refer our readers to the excellent article which has been appearing in the *American Philatelist* by Lester G. Brookman. Fortunately, this will soon be available in book form.

ADOLPH D. FENNEL.

Active And Honorary Pallbearers Announced—Rites Tomorrow.

Services for Adolph D. Fennel, Treasurer of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy and President of the Maketewah Country Club, will be held at 11 o'clock tomorrow at the Clarence M. Baiter funeral home. Burial will be in the German Protestant Cemetery, Walnut Hills.

Active and honorary pallbearers were announced yesterday.

Active pallbearers will be Dr. Walter Griess, John Reinhart, C. J. Goetz, John Connolly, George Bausewine, Harry Ritter, Robert Ahern, Samuel Ritchie, and W. H. Stanton.

Honorary pallbearers representing the Maketewah Country Club will be M. R. Greiser, William A. McKenzie, R. R. Fey, Sanford Brooks, John Finn, Jr., C. McVicker, E. H. Hoelscher, and Frank C. Kareth.

From the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy will be Otto Kohl, Charles Ehlers, Rudolph Paul, Leo Langfels, Edward Plagman, Charles Hanke, Jr., Stanley Dosser, Fred S. Kotte, L. J. Klotz, Carl A. Schwisser, and John Beatty.

Honorary delegations from Beta Pi and the Cincinnati Bar also will attend the

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 7, 1942.

Mr. Morrow J. Allen,
4470 Marcy Lane, Apt. #74,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Mr. Allen:

I am pleased to report that the covers stayed put and I take pleasure in enclosing my check herewith for $130.00.

If you have any further items and care to send them to me, perhaps we can find a place for them.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

COPY COPY COPY

Indianapolis, Ind.
December 12, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 South Grand Ave.
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Mr. Hugh M. Clark of Scott Publications, Inc.has suggested that you might be able to give me some idea of the value of an old cover I recently found.

The envelop is buff and of average letter size. On the upper left hand side is a picture of a stage coach and six horses and printed beneath it is "Published by Randall & Co., Marysville, California". In the upper right hand corner is a pair of stamps that I have tentatively identified as Scott #46. They might be #45. They are lightly cancelled in blue and are well tied to the cover by this.

Both stamps and cover are in very fine condition. Any help you may be able to give me will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Morrow J. Allen

MJA:a

MORROW J. ALLEN

4470 Marcy Lane, Apt. #74
Indianapolis, Indiana

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 15, 1941.

Mr. Morrow J. Allen,
#4470 Marcy Lane, Apt. #74,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Mr. Allen:

Referring to your letter of the 12th, it would be practically impossible to give you any reäiable opinion on the cover mentioned unless I could see it.

If you care to send it down to me, I will be only to glad to give you any information I can.

Sincerely yours,

COPY

Dec. 19, 1941

Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky..

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

Enclosed is the cover I mentioned in my letter of the 12th. The pair of five cent brown. I am also sending for your inspection four covers with the ten cent green stamp, which I believe is Scott No. 50. I have quite a few of these. The cover with the brown threes and one cent Franklin I thought might be interesting because of the number and combination of the stamps, even though they are quite common off cover.

Any information you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Morrow J. Allen

Morrow J. Allen
4470 Marcy Lane, #74
Indianapolis,
Indiana.

Dec. 23, 1941.

Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

Thank you very much for your letter of the 21st. It is very interesting to hear that you have seen other covers that seem to be from the same source. In fact they must be if addressed to the same person. There is a bit of a story wrapped around them. I imagine that there were two previous small lots dispersed over a period of several years and then I recently scraped the bottom of the trunk. In all there must have been between 20 and 25 of the Marysville covers but the stamps had dried and fallen off a number of them and while there were a few loose stamps about I wasn't able to match them with envelope cancellations. There still remains 15 or 16 covers with the ten cent green attached and while all from Marysville with the blue killer there are only a few "pictorials." The rest are plain envelopes of various shades with "By way of Panama", or "By Overland" written on them by hand. I think I have two of the Scott 49b green, one a pictorial and in good shape, while the other is plain and a corner of the stamp is torn. There was one of these stamps loose and in good condition. Also one Scott 49a badly torn. There were also a few of the ten cent green envelope stamps.

There wasn't a great deal else of exceptional interest. Probably about 35 covers of the civil war period, some civil war patriotic, with the imperforate 3, #33, if I remember, as I dont have the covers or my catalogue here at the office, and quite lot with the common 3¢ (#6- something or other), some of the later showing year date.

If you think you could dispose of the 5¢ pair cover, which, of course, is potentially of the greatest value, and the others I sent you, it would be quite agreeable to me. Even though I am a stamp collector and am particularly interested in the early Americans and not a cover collecter, I am loath to spoil so nice a cover by removing the stamps! I would not expect you to sell these without a suitable commision for it is of course necessary to locate the person who wants it and has the money to pay for it I leave it entirely up to you to say. Sounds like passing the buck, doesn't it?

As to what price------that's a bit difficult. I know what Scott Catalogue values mean but going on them as a basis, #46 single on cover is listed at $50.00, evidently with the usual black cancellation, while a pair, which I imagine means off cover, is listed at $75.00. So it seems to me that a pair on cover--with blue canellation--and on a Route cover should ring the bell--but maybe not. I notice that Scott lists the #50 on cover @ 3.00 and with blue cancellation at $4.00. Would a Route cover be worth more? As to the value of the one with the 3 centers and 1¢ I imagine that it would be worth what could be obtained for it; and if that isn't beating around the bush I'd like to know what is.

In fact I'm not going to state a price now. Perhaps if you got in touch with a few of the collectors you know we could start a little bidding. What do you think? Maybe we could both get a little more out of it.

As to the other covers that I have, we might wait and see how we fare with the ones I sent you.

Looking forward to hearing from your, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Morrow J. Allen

Morrow J. Allen,
4470 Marcy Lane #74
Indianapolis,
Indiana.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 26, 1941.

Mr. Morrow J. Allen,
4470 Marcy Lane #74,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Mr. Allen:

Yours of the 23rd was not received until this morning, though I note it was postmarked at noon on Tuesday. Xmas cards certainly do clog up the mail at this time of the year.

Regarding your covers. Suppose we do this. Put prices as follows on covers:

Pair #46 - -	$85.00
Two #50 "Via Panama"	15.00
" #50 "Overland"	20.00
10¢ rate - three 3¢ one 1¢	5.00
	$125.00

or if taken as a lot for $115.00

The above on the understanding that the prices be net to you. In other words, if a buyer really wants these items, he should be willing to pay a small commission for the privilege of having them submitted to him first. In this way I can save you the expense of paying me any commission. At least we can try out the above prices and if they don't stick, we can use our judgement about reducing them. Now the above are my suggestions and if the prices I have named are not satisfactory fix them at any sums you wish and I will submit to the collector friends of mine whom I know are the most logical buyers in the country.

Before sending them out, the covers should be cleaned, torn places repaired and pressed. This generally takes several days as the pressing requires about 48 hours between plate glass. A nice neat cover has much more appeal than one which is dirty, creased and torn.

If we can dispose of these in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, then we can see what we can do with any others you have, that is, if agreeable to you.

Pen notated covers, such as "Overland" or "Via Panama" are rather common, hence do not bring any premium over what the stamps are worth on ordinary covers.

I will await your reply before doing anything.

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 21, 1941.

Mr. Morrow J. Allen,
4470 Marcy Lane #74,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Mr. Allen:

Yours with the covers received.

The pair of 5¢ 1857 is the red brown Scott's #46. All of the 10¢ are Type V, Scott's #50.

It is quite a coincidence about these covers. I have seen others of the same find, in fact quite a good friend of mine in New York has a similar item to yours with a pair of the 5¢ 1857, Type I in the rare Indian red shade, tied with the same blue killer and blue postmark of Marysville and addressed to the same party at Knightstown, Ind. I don't know where he got his items but he has had them for three or four years to my knowledge.

Items like these are known as Western Pictorials and more specifically as Route Covers. They come under a specialized class and are eagerly sought after by collectors of "westerns."

I think their real value would depend largely on locating the principal collectors who would be interested in acquiring. I really don't know what would be a proper appraisal for the pair of 5¢ cover. It is quite unusual because the 5¢ pairs were very seldom used to pay the 10¢ rate, whereas covers with the 10¢ Type V are rather common. Only small supplies of the 5¢ were sent out to California post offices.

Plain covers showing three 3¢ and a 1¢ make a very pretty combination but they are not unusual. The blue Marysville killer on your cover gives it some extra significance.

I know many of the prominent collectors of Westerns thruout the country and if you desire to sell these covers, and any others you may have, perhaps I can place them for you to excellent advantage. If you can give me some idea as to what you would like to obtain for them it would give me a basis upon which to work.

The 5¢ to right in the pair is damaged in the extreme right corner so this will prevent it realizing what it would have, provided this stamp was as fine as the one to left, however the stage coach should make a buyer overlook this defect.

I was very much pleased to see these covers and if I can be of assistance to you in disposing of them to good advantage kindly advise me. In the meantime I take the liberty of holding them until I hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Dec 29, 1941.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand A ve.,
Fort Thomas, Ky..

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

Thank you for your letter of the 26th.

The prices are O. K. with me except let's put the price of the #46 Pair at $100.00 even and see what happens. That would make it total $140.00, or if taken in the lot knock off ten dollars and bring it down to $130.00

Thank you very much for your interest and I hope success attends the efforts.

Let me know how things progress.

Sincerely yours,
Morrow J. Allen

Morrow J. Allen,
4470 Marcy Lane #74,
Indianapolis, Ind.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 2, 1942.

Mr. Morrow J. Allen,
4470 Marcy Lane #74,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Mr. Allen:

Yours of the 29th received and I will follow your instructions on the pair cover. No doubt if someone wanted it bad enough to pay $85.00, he would probably not hesitate to stretch it to $100.00. At any rate I have sent the lot to quite a wealthy friend and we will await results. He is quite a crank on condition and I am keeping my fingers crossed and trusting he won't be too critical of the upper right corner of the 5¢ to right. Sometimes a few missing perfs mean aye or no. Its really too bad that some people are that way.

I will report to you as soon as I receive word which in this case I requested a reply by return mail.

Sincerely yours,

Jan. 8, 1942

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Ave,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook;

Thank you very much for your letter of the 7th and the enclosed check. I fully appreciate your contacts and the efforts you have made to dispose of these covers.

I trust that you have so arranged things that you have obtained a suitable remuneration for your interest.

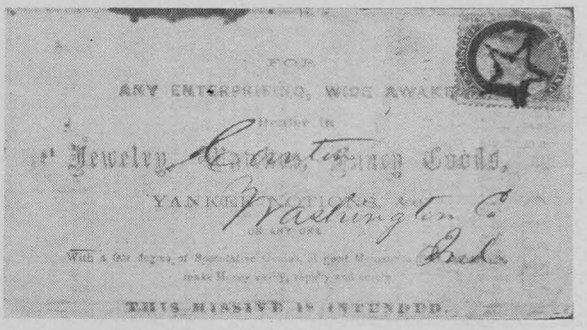
I will dig around in the covers that I have on hand and if I can find anything more that seems interesting I will send them along very soon.

Sincerely yours,

Morrow J. Allen

Morrow J. Allen
4470 Marcy Lane #74
Indianapolis, Ind.

The Cover Collector



Another Precancel In the 1850's

Quite a few early stamps of the United States having certain postal markings are looked upon as being precanceled stamps by many collectors and it is seldom that they are found on their original cover or circular. Illustrated here is a 1-cent 1857 canceled with a "hollow star," about 17mm across, on a circular of The Hubbard Brothers—Wholesale Jewelers and Importers of Watches. Salesroom located at No. 10 Custom House Street, Providence, R. I.

In their circular they offer on two closely printed pages, 7½ x 12 inches in size, a number of articles including chains, rings, lockets, bosom studs, sleeve buttons, bracelets, watches, etc. The circular is addressed in manuscript "Canton, Washington Co., Ind. (Indiana) as can be seen by the illustration. In addition and printed in gold on the face appears:

"For
Any Enterprising, Wide Awake
Dealer In
Jewelry, Watches, Fancy Goods,
Yankee Notions &c
or anyone
With a Fair degree of Speculative Genius of good mercantile tact anxious to make money easily, rapidly and sure
THIS MISSIVE IS INTENDED."

The very nature of the circular would indicate that the stamp used was a precancel. A search of the larger collections of the postal markings of Providence, R. I., made at the suggestion of Stanley Ashbrook and Stephen G. Rich fails to show such a cancelation from that town. This fact would indicate that the "holow star" was used only for the purpose of precanceling these stamps at the time—or that the town of origin would be other than Providence, say some town where the circulars were printed if other than Providence.

The writer firmly believes that the stamp originated at Providence but would appreciate hearing from anyone who has seen a similar "hollow star" cancel used in the 1850's from Providence or any other town. Communicate with A. H. Murchison, 877 Tremaine Street, Los Angeles, Calif.

COVERS AT FAIR PRICES
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Dayton Stamp Dealer Arrested

ACCORDING to a letter under date of July 17, 1942, sent to Edson J. Fifield, Secretary of the *American Stamp Dealers' Association,* by the Chief of Police of Lebanon, Ohio, Wilburn Unthank, 200 Lansdowne Ave., Dayton, Ohio, who is also mentioned under the alias of Grant Beisling, was recently arrested in that city and will probably be turned over to the Federal Postal Authorities in Cincinnati, Ohio, for investigation.

Further information regarding the matter appears on the front page of the *Dayton Journal* for July 18, 1942, in which it states that Mr. Unthank, who is 27 years of age, is accused of using the mails to attempt fraud. His process of operation, as outlined, was to send an order to a dealer enclosing an unsigned Lebanon City National Bank check in payment. Usually, the firm would send the stamps and return the check for his signature and would then hear no more about it. The matter is still pending and if any of our readers have any claims against Mr. Unthank, they are requested to send them to Edson J. Fifield, 500 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 10, 1941.

Mr. J. M. Bartels,
17 John St.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear J.M.:

Again I am coming to you for a little information. In your sale of April 27, 1940, lot #7 was a cover with a combination use of the 5¢ 1847 and a 3P Canada Beaver. The 5¢ was tied but the Beaver was not. I recall that someone mentioned at the time, that there was some question about this cover, but from the illustration I could find no fault. The date of use was right and the 5¢ rate to the border was correct. In addition, there were no Canadian due markings. What bothered me at the time, and I find I made a notation, was that the Beaver was apparently canceled at Rochester, that is, if the grid on the Beaver was the same as that on the 5¢ 47. It seemed strange to me that the Canadian postal authorities would have recognized a Canadian stamp canceled outside of their country. I have seen covers with U.S. stamps which were mailed and the stamps canceled outside of our borders but in each such case, our postal officials refused to recognize the canceled U. S. stamps.

Perhaps I assumed too much on the Rochester cover in taking it for granted that both grids were the same. If not too much trouble may I inquire if you have any recollection regarding this point. Further do you have any idea where this cover came from and where it is at present. Any information you give me will be treated strictly confidential.

With my kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

POSTAGE STAMPS - U. S. & FOREIGN
SPECIALISTS IN U. S. ENVELOPES

MONTHLY PUBLIC SALES
CATALOGUES FREE ON REQUEST

J. M. BARTELS COMPANY, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1892

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

17 JOHN STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE CORTLANDT 7-0690

CABLE ADDRESS, BRIEFMARK, NEW YORK

November 17, 1941.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

My dear Ashbrook:

I am in receipt of yours of the 10th inst. and have looked up the subject of the Canada 3¢ Beaver on cover with an 1847 5¢. This envelope was examined by several well versed parties and the concensus of opinion was that it was genuine, though the combination cannot be so easily explained and I am not sure that anyone made a special effort to solve it. If it is any help to you, can say that it is now in the possession of Mr. H. Wollenberger, 105 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. who might be willing to submit it to you for further study.

Regarding the 1¢ Carrier stamp used in conjunction with the regular 3¢ 1861, can say that nearly all that I have seen have been postmarked New York. However, I am sure that I have seen some from smaller offices, possibly could dig out one or two of them, even if the stamps are not fine but they might help in study.

As you know, I am always willing to help and have now on my desk several letters asking me for what I know about Alexandria, Hawaiian Missionaries, &c.

I am very pleased to see you doing such good work and be assured that I will help whenever possible.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. Bartels

JMB:EN

J.M.BARTELS

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 21st, 1941.

Mr. H. Wollenberger,
105 So. La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ills.

My dear Mr. Wollenberger:

I trust you will pardon this intrusion but I am writing you at the suggestion of my good friend, J. M. Bartels, to inquire if you will be so kind as to permit me to see and photograph a cover that was in one of the Bartel's sales a little over a year ago.

This was a cover to Canada with a 5¢ 1847 and a Canadian Beaver, used from Rochester, N.Y.

I am preparing quite a lengthy article on the U.S. 1847 Issue and inasmuch as covers used to or from Canada with combinations of U. S. and Canadian stamps are very rare and unusual items, I would like to illustrate the known outstanding examples.

If you will forward your cover to me, I will greatly appreciate the favor and will return it promptly.

Sincerely yours,

COPY COPY COPY

C O P Y

Hermann Wollenberger 1765 East 55th Street

Chicago November 24, 1941.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have your letter of the 21st regarding a letter from Rochester, N.Y. to Canada with U.S. #28 and the Canadian Beaver imperf on the same letter. I no longer own this rare piece which I adquired over twenty years ago from Alexander in Winnepeg.

However you may be helped. Some years ago Lichtenstein of New York borrowed my letter with my permission to have it photographed and he told me at the time that he possessed a similar letter from Canada to the U.S. Were double postage letters are mentioned in Kohl's catalog of 1926. I trust this information may prove of help to you. What is your ideas of the value of such a piece?

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Hermann Wollenberger.

HERMANN WOLLENBERGER
CHICAGO

1765 EAST 55TH STREET

November 24, 1941.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:—

I have your letter of the 21st regarding a letter from Rochester N.Y. to Canada with U.S. #28 and the Canadian Beaver issues on the same letter. I no longer own this rare piece which I acquired over twenty years ago from Alexander of Winnipeg.

However you can be helped: Some years ago Lichtenstein of New York borrowed my letter with permission to have it photographed, and he told me at the time that he possessed a similar letter from Canada to the U.S. Here double postage letters are mentioned in Kohl's catalog of 1926. I trust this information may prove of help to you. What is your idea of the value of such a piece?

Sincerely yours,

Hermann Wollenberger

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 26, 1941.

Mr. Hermann Wollenberger,
105 South La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Mr. Wollenberger:

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 24th. No doubt I misunderstood Mr. Bartels' letter as it was my impression that you were the purchaser of this cover in a sale held by Mr. Bartels a year ago last May.

I have no idea of the value of such a cover, but it was reported at the time, I believe, that the cover sold at $410.00. What I would like to know is, where is the cover at present.

I have had some correspondence with Mr. Lichtenstein in recent weeks on the subject of covers showing use of U. S. and Canadian stamps. If Mr. L. has a photograph of the cover in his files I feel sure he will be glad to loan it to me.

Again may I thank you for your prompt reply to my letter.

Sincerely yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 26, 1941.

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

Dear Ez:

Re - the Bartels "Rarity Sale" which had the cover from Rochester to Canada with a 5¢ 1847 plus a Canadian Beaver. I wrote Bartels I would like to see this cover, to examine it close, and to photograph it.

Note the reply herewith from Bartels. I immediately wrote Wollenberger. Note his reply. Now I ask you, what kind of funny business is this?

I am more anxious than ever to see this item and wonder if you have any suggestion to make.

Yours etc.,

COPY COPY COPY

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 8, 1941.

Mr. John A. Kleeman,
43 Madison Ave.,
Montclair, N.J.

Dear John:

In the Bartel's rarity sale of April 27, 1940, lot #7 was a 5¢ 1847 cover with a Canadian Beaver used to Canada. I have been trying to locate the present ownership of this cover, hoping I could borrow it and make a photograph of it. Mr. Bartels referred me to Mr. Wollenberger of Chicago, but it seems he was not the buyer but had originally owned the item.

By any chance did this cover belong to you and do you still own it? If you can help me out I certainly will appreciate the favor.

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 8, 1941.

Mr. John A. Kleeman,
43 Madison Ave.,
Montclair, N.J.

Dear John:

In the Bartel's rarity sale of April 27, 1940, lot #7 was a 5¢ 1847 cover with a Canadian Beaver used to Canada. I have been trying to locate the present ownership of this cover, hoping I could borrow it and make a photograph of it. Mr. Bartels referred me to Mr. Wollenberger of Chicago, but it seems he was not the buyer but had originally owned the item.

By any chance did this cover belong to you and do you still own it? If you can help me out I certainly will appreciate the favor.

Cordially yours,

Stanley B. Ashbrook

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
434 S. GRAND AVE.
FORT THOMAS, KY.

JOHN A. KLEMANN
43 MADISON AVE.
MONTCLAIR, N. J.

Dear friend. Dec 10 1941

I saw this cover several times & did not think it was genuine.

Do not know who has it now as near as can remember some small dealer in N.Y.C. had it. If find out will communicate

Yours faithfully

John A Kleemann

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 15, 1941.

Mr. J. M. Bartels,
17 John St.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear J.M.:

Re - the 5¢ 1847 cover with Canadian 3 P. Beaver - Bartels Rarity sale - April 27, 1940 - lot #7.

As you suggested I wrote Mr. Wollenberger regarding this cover and I am enclosing a copy of his reply. You will note that this was not of much help.

If by any chance you would not care to disclose the name of the buyer may I inquire if you have the original photograph from which the illustration was made for the catalogue? Naturally I would like very much to see the cover itself but if for any reason this is impossible, I would like to have a photographic print. If you could borrow the film from the photographer I could easily make a print myself.

Quite a nice article for the A.P. is in preparation to appear in the February issue and if there is no objection, I would like to illustrate this cover, if perchance you can obtain permission from the present owner.

I hate to keep bothering you in this way and I trust you will have forbearance with me.

Cordially yours,

HERMANN WOLLENBERGER
CHICAGO

1765 EAST 55TH STREET

December 26, 1941.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Surprise! Enclosed herewith please find the letter which is of special interest to you to photograph and dignify with a write-up in your forthcoming article on U.S. 1847. The letter belongs to Mr. Robert N. Friend, 5436 Hyde Park Boulevard Chicago to whom I must return it within a reasonable time or else deliver him a Bankdraft for $1000.— Nearly two years ago this letter was in Bartels sale but the best bid was only $410 and therefore not sold. My bid was for $1000. Some 15 or 20 years ago Elliot Perry thought he had a buyer for it at $1500, while my price then was $2000. Of course conditions and values have changed and will change again. This is the time to buy, not sell, 19th century Imperforate. — If you deem it proper, you may mention the owner's name of the letter, which was 20 years ago came from Alexander, Winnipeg a collector-dealer, head of a Trust Company in Winnipeg. Not necessary to say to please handle the letter with care and return it without undue delay.

Wishing you all the good things of life,

Sincerely yours,

Hermann Wollenberger

POSTAGE STAMPS - U. S. & FOREIGN
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J. M. BARTELS COMPANY, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1892

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

17 JOHN STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE CORTLANDT 7-0690

CABLE ADDRESS, BRIEFMARK, NEW YORK

December 27, 1941.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

My dear Ashbrook:

I regret being a little late in replying to your kind favor of the 15th inst.

I am enclosing the best illustration we have of the Canadian 3p Beaver, used with 1847 5c, the one which was in the sale. This is an excellent printed reproduction of the cover in question and is a proof impression from the cliché used in our auction catalogue. No separate photograph was made at that time as the reproduction was made directly from the original.

If it would be helpful to you, we could probably supply you with the cliché itself which must be somewhere in the office but is not very easy to find. The cover was fully illustrated also in "Stamps" on April 20, 1940.

I shall look forward with pleasure to your article in the A.P. and you deserve much credit for the excellent work you are doing and the little help which I may be able to give from time to time is only a small contribution compared with the great value of your work. Do not hesitate to call on me when you think I can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

J. M. Bartels

J.M.BARTELS

Enc.
JMB:EN

P.S. Regarding the 3c plus 1c, I have searched my rather limited material and find several letters from Philadelphia to outside towns but none from cities not mentioned by you. I fear therefore that for the present I cannot help you in this respect.

HERMANN WOLLENBERGER
CHICAGO

1765 EAST 55TH STREET

January 7th 1942.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:—

That letter with the U.S. #28 and Canada Beaver has been received. Thanks for your promptness. In your write-up of the letter it might be well and you have the owner's permission, which I have secured, to mention the owner, namely

Robert N. Friend
5436 Hyde Park Blvd Chicago

This thought has come to me, remembering that Kohl's Catalogue of 1926 mentions a similar cover from Canada to the U.S. and the owner's name: Alfred Lichtenstein New York. As I recall, Kohl's catalogue of 1926 contains quite a lengthy description and explanation. In case you do not possess such a catalogue, I believe Henry Kuhlmann of the Stamp Auction Service may still have it, at least I hope so.

I look forward to seeing in due time your pamphlet or book on U.S. #'s—

Thanks in advance.

Sincerely yours,

Hermann Wollenberger

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 19, 1942.

Mr. J. M. Bartels,
John St.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear J.M.:

Just a line to inform you that Mr. Wollenberger sent me the 5¢ 1847 - Beaver cover and I made a photograph of same. Many thanks for your kindness and co-operation.

I made a very careful examination of this cover and I think it is genuine beyond any question of a doubt. I heard of a remark to the effect that the Beaver was on wove paper, not laid, but if the Beaver is not on laid paper then I must confess I don't know the difference between laid and wove. I can't understand why A.F.L. passed up the opportunity to acquire this cover. Surely he could not have questioned it. Perhaps the answer is that it was just not pretty enough for his requirements. However, a Beaver-1847 combination is some scarce item, in any passable condition.

I made minute comparisons of the two grids and found that they were a positive match. The one that struck the 1847 surely struck the Beaver and no one would be so foolish as to assert that the 1847 was not used originally on this cover.

Again many thanks for your assistance.

Cordially yours,

DON HOUSEWORTH'S

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FORMS CLOSE 20TH OF EACH MONTH

Entered as second class matter Jan. 6, 1938, at the post office at St. Joseph, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879

Summary of Facts About 1861 Issue Is Needed

By JED JONES

PURPOSELY, I am going to keep that matter of the U. S. 1861 issue stamps and Stan Ashbrook's article on them that upset so many people, before the eyes of you readers. The matter of these stamps intrigues me, and I only wish I knew enough about U. S. stamps to be able to do a job on that issue for publication. But I don't know their detailed specialization, etc., etc.....I just have a nice lot of ordinary specimens of them, minus the real rarities, and with of course a few cancelations that I like, in my collection. Anyway, I have other philatelic fish that I want to fry.

Somebody who understands all the points involved ought to devote his evenings and Sundays for a month or so to going through everything on them that has appeared—Stan's article; the C. Brazer article in the Collectors Club Philatelist, which is mostly on the 24-cent 1861 but sheds much light on some other values; the recent article in Mekeel's by L. Brookman; the many articles on this issue by E. Perry in Pat Paragraphs for some years back, and his recent one in the American Philatelist. Chances are he could work it all up into one really adequate treatment. Each of these men has hold of aspects that the others do not consider fully. That is natural, since each is primarily interested in a different side of the questions involved.

If each of these men could be gotten to admit that on certain points he has been working with insufficient data, and if each could have his writings combed for the information rather than the deductions, we could have a fine understanding of the entire matter.

Each of these men has his own criteria as to what constitutes a **stamp** as contrasted to an essay, proof, trial, sample, etc. And all

three of them seem to Jed to neglect the factor of human fallibility or an occasional obvious confusion, as a fact in the story. It just can't be taken that everything happened "as per the records." Now and then we can expect, for the sake of complying with government or corporation red-tape and routine, some "postdating" and "antedating" of documents—usually shown by some internal contradiction such as an affidavit date months after the date of the document.

But the important thing for us collectors is to keep the question of the 1861 issue and its story in fluid condition. If agitating the matter does nothing more than get the Scott catalogue people to be ready to change the existing statement of setup when the evidence is all marshalled, that's worth while. The great and sincere John N. Luff did the best he could with what evidence he had; and now that we have more to go on, his conclusions must be treated just as he himself treated many of his own—he changed quickly when he got new facts.

•

Jed has been asked by a correspondent interested in meters to give some publicity to that phase of collecting. It's rather hard to do this, especially as there is a good meter column in The Review. But if you collect any country, the meters of that coutnry ought to be shown somehow as part of your collection. Most of us, I sort of reckon, will be satisfied with showing each type and a few of the more striking slogans used with meters. If you watch for earliest date of use of each type, you may have some extra enjoyment.

•

One point I'd like to keep hammering to you who may read this. The stamps of the British countries along in the period of 1865 or so to maybe 1890, often come with wide margin between printed part and perf. on one side. These are not badly centered copies, but some from the gutter between two panes as the sheets of stamps were made. The perforating machine was set to run one line of perfs. down the gutter, instead of two with a narrow blank strip between. So these are really plate position pieces.

YOU NEED OUR SERVICE!

No matter what countries you collect, from Abyssinia to Zululand, we have approvals to suit you. U. S., British Colonies, Central and South America, Europe, etc., at prices that are guaranteed to please. Your request will receive prompt attention. References, please.

J. E. RASDALE, Elsie, Michigan

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WARD-IN MERKEL

1857, 1c III 99R2, Perforated

In the 1851-1857 issues, both imperforate and perforate, the 1c type III is a scarce stamp. The 99th stamp on the right pane of plate 2, better designated as 99R2, is the finest example known of this variety. The breaks in the outer lines at the top and bottom are substantial and distinct. The specialized catalogue lists this exact stamp separately.

In imperforate used condition it is priced at $600, and we have seen a dozen or more copies, which is comparatively few for an U. S. variety. What we cannot understand is why Scott lists the same stamp perforated, which is much rarer, at only $500. We recall that Hugh Clark paid $1000 for one of these on cover in the Chase Sale, and if we remember correctly, the corner perforations were missing.

We have never seen but one other copy of the perforated 99R2, and this was in the Steve Brown Collection. It is said that three copies exist. Has anyone else this stamp? We are taking a census. OVER

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 11, 1941.

Mr. Gerard Gilbert,
℅ Hotel Great Northern,
118 W. 57th St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th. I note you are preparing an article for publication which requires illustrations of fine examples of worn plate impressions of the following:

5¢ 1847
3¢ 1851 - Plate 1
1¢ 1851 - Plate 1
12¢ 1851 - Plate 1

Is this correct?

Regarding the 5¢ 1847. From Plate #1 we have many fine examples of the worn down condition of this copper plate and copies in this class prove conclusively that no steel plate could have produced such examples with the comparatively few impressions which were printed. However there are copies of the 5¢ in circulation which are called worn plate copies, but their appearance is misleading. Many of these are not actually from the worn down condition of the plate but their condition is due to a deterioration caused by exposure to dampness, etc.

3¢ 1851. Worn plate copies are quite plentiful.

1¢ 1851. Plate One Late - Impressions made late in 1856 and early in 1857 are very fine examples of a typical worn steel plate. This plate was in constant use from 1851 until late in 1855. It was the only one cent plate in service during that period.

12¢ 1851. This plate showed very little wear during the long period it was used for imperforate stamps. Perforated printings from it in 1858 and 1859 are not as sharp as earlier printings but is due more to a dirty condition, a poor grade of paper, inferior quality of ink and more or less careless printing. I wouldn't cite any 12¢ 1851 examples of a worn plate. I have reconstructed this plate and have a rather comprehensive knowledge of practically all of its features.

I am sure you will have no trouble in securing any necessary copies you need in New York City but if I can give you any further assistance, please advise me.

Regarding the 1847 plates. Anyone without a thorough knowledge of stamps from copper plates and also stamps from steel plates is foolish to make the assertion that copper printed stamps came from steel plates or that steel printed stamps came from copper plates. Elliott Perry reconstructed the 10¢ 1847 plate yet he thought he

was working with steel printed stamps. The reason for this is that this is the only plate he ever reconstructed, hence he didn't know the difference between steel and copper. There are markings on steel plates that never occur on copper plates and likewise there are markings on copper plates that never occur on steel plates. A person who denies this simply don't know what he is talking about or do such people have any conception as to how foolish their arguments sound to one who has devoted many years to the study of the most minute details of plate characteristics.

It is all right to argue in favor of the 1847 plates being of copper but it is simply presenting an argument that the world is round. Why argue with people who believe the world is flat or that the moon is made of green cheese?

The 1851 contract specified "steel plates" and steel plates at that time meant steel plates similar in all respects to the plates being used by Perkins Bacon & Co. of London. Similar as to quality of steel, methods of engraving, transferring, inks and printing as well as gumming. If you have a thorough knowledge of the British methods of Perkins Bacon then you can apply this knowledge to the Toppan Carpenter stamps. It is simply absurd for anyone to state that there is any similarity between the 1851 stamps and the 1847 stamps. One might as well compare soft pine wood to ebony. The only comparison is that both are called wood.

Sincerely yours,

C O P Y

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

You are a philatelist and I feel that you want the truth to be known. I would not chance my reputation of 45 years philately if I could not bring proofs. I shall print how I can be checked, myself; please help me.

For the penny black I have a superb worn unused copy of Plate I A, which alone is enough for an expert in metals engraving to decide. But I have printed text as reference, even for U.S. I could not find them in Europe. I am now working further to publish one day the steel plate discovery and first patent taken.

Now further 1847 - only one plate of each value existed. But remember that Great Britain, 1 p. black exist Plate IA and B. It is possible that 10c 1847 - exist Plate A and B, but one plate of 100.

Plate was printed twice on one single sheet of paper. You now guess it is possible to check up, through the pairs with gutter between. (2 panes reconstructed in a fancy way) The reconstruction of 10c 1847 is a bogus.(up to now). There are 52 pairs in N.Y. Library, 3 strips of 3 - one of 4. Impossible to fit photos to prove I am right. The law forbids photos of U.S. stamps, they showed me the law, confirmed circular 1941. I cannot make the work. You shall do it and you shall prove I am right. I rely on your knowledge to do the work. As a philatelist I appeal to you for truth. Percy Doane is now feeling I have something new about stamp plates in old days. Horace Barr knows I may be right (I am of course), he intends manufacturing such a plate. I know more about this subject. Please help me, these early plates are electric copper and zinc mechanic manufacture, from atoms of copper and zinc grain. You shall have the proofs of everything through my 14 pages article. From A to Z.

Perkins never discovered steel plates of multiple subjects.

I worked this for 15 years but to be sure I had to check up patents in the U.S. which I did being here since July 1949.

Please send me a 1c imperf or perf worn state, 3c do and a 12c black perf 1857 from Plate I, the deep black. Compare plate III 12c to Pl I, Pl. III's steel, the other is not.

Plenty of subjects in 42 St. Miller collection but I cannot get any photo.

When you shall read my article with printed proofs, you shll be bound to agree I am right. Just wait and help me till proofs shall strike you.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) E. Gilbert.

C O P Y

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

You are a philatelist and I feel that you want the truth to be known. I would not chance my reputation of 45 years philately if I could not bring proofs. I shall print how I can be checked, myself; please help me.

For the penny black I have a superb worn unused copy of Plate I A, which alone is enough for an expert in metals engraving to decide. But I have printed text as reference, even for U.S. I could not find them in Europe. I am now working further to publish one day the steel plate discovery and first patent taken.

Now further 1847 - only one plate of each value existed. But remember that Great Britain, 1 p. black exist Plate IA and B. It is possible that 10c 1847 - exist Plate A and B, but one plate of 100.

Plate was printed twice on one single sheet of paper. You now guess it is possible to check up, through the pairs with gutter between. (2 panes reconstructed in a fancy way) The reconstruction of 10c 1847 is a bogus.(up to now). There are 52 pairs in N.Y. Library, 3 strips of 3 - one of 4. Impossible to fit photos to prove I am right. The law forbids photos of U.S. stamps, they showed me the law, confirmed circular 1941. I cannot make the work. You shall do it and you shall prove I am right. I rely on your knowledge to do the work. As a philatelist I appeal to you for truth. Percy Doane is now feeling I have something new about stamp plates in old days. Horace Barr knows I may be right (I am of course), he intends manufacturing such a plate. I know more about this subject. Please help me, these early plates are electric copper and zinc mechanic manufacture, from atoms of copper and zinc grain. You shall have the proofs of everything through my 14 pages article. From A to Z.

Perkins never discovered steel plates of multiple subjects.

I worked this for 15 years but to be sure I had to check up patents in the U.S. which I did being here since July 1949.

Please send me a 1c imperf or perf worn state, 3c do and a 12c black perf 1857 from Plate I, the deep black. Compare plate III 12c to Pl I, Pl. III's steel, the other is not.

Plenty of subjects in 42 St. Miller collection but I cannot get any photo.

When you shall read my article with printed proofs, you shll be bound to agree I am right. Just wait and help me till proofs shall strike you.

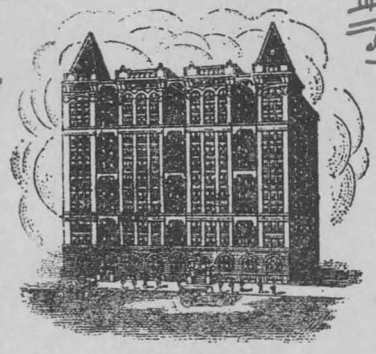
Yours sincerely,

(signed) E. Gilbert.

Please return
STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
434 S. GRAND AVE.
FORT THOMAS, KY.

Plenty of subjects in 42 St. Miller collection but I cannot get any photo

Please send me a 1c imperf or perf worn state. 3c do and a 12c black perf 1857 from Plate I, the deep black. Compare plate III 12c to pl. I, pl. III is steel, the other is not. Dec. 13th. 41



HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN
118 WEST 57TH STREET
111 WEST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY
TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-1900

Mr Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas Ky.

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Confidential

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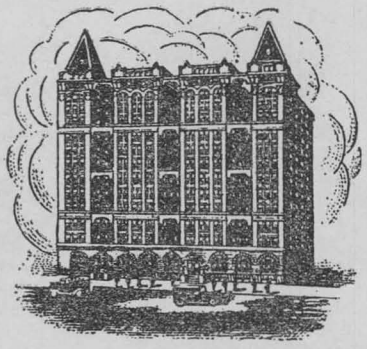
N.B. When you shall read my article with printed proofs, you shall be sure to agree I am right. Just wait and help me. Till proofs shall strike you.



HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN
118 WEST 57TH STREET
111 WEST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-1900

Dec. 25. 41

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
Fort Thomas - Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

Yours of the 21st. to hand. In my last letter, I wrote the word bogus. It is a heavy one, after all, we all made made mistakes; and the more we learn, the more we feel we know nothing.

When I finished writing you, I thought you could send me a photo of 1c. and 3c. worn copy 1851. and a worn 12c. perf. photo. P.I. I know that, one day, you were very close to my discovery. But the 1c. Franklin proved to be of so much interest, that after all, you gave it up. Proof of all this stands in your own book page 129 - 14th. line of "The alteration of Plate I, early": You write: "I wonder etc." - I appealed to you, thinking you would guess.

Some french galvanoplasty plates, typographic engraving, could be used for the printing of 76000 sheets without being damaged. When these plates are of recess engraving, at first they wear out after 12000 up to 20000 sheets, this is the statistic I made. 5c. 1847 U.S. was the best U.S. plate, after that plate, for one reason I do suspect, recuts had to be made.

The 1 penny black are real steel plates, they did wear out after 20.000 to 30.000 sheets. Plate I had to be punched again for the lettering. It had also to be reconditioned for the engraving. But it could never be recut, being hardened steel. Today it is possible, 90 years ago it was not, it would have spoiled the recess engraving.

U.S. 1851, 3¢ Plate I, is recut before first printing, (12000 sheets); recut before 2nd printing (20.000) sheets; recut before 3rd printing, then suddenly it can print 300000 sheets.

This was too much for me, I had to find out which discovery was applied to that plate. For over a year I made researches here. Having first studied the Miller collection in 42nd St. library. One day I was paid for my work, I was sure U.S. 1851. Some values were copper. 18 plates are copper. I shall bring material proofs, and the old discovery which was buried shall come out.

Confidential

Yours very sincerely
C. Kiefer.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 2, 1942.

Mr. C. Gilbert,
% Hotel Great Northern,
118 W. 57th St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Yours of the 25th received. I must confess that I do not understand exactly what line of research you are attempting to work out, but if you are trying to work on the theory that any of the Toppan, Carpenter plates of 1851-1855-1857-1860 were made of copper, then please count me out. I am always glad and more than willing to co-operate with any serious student who is working along sensible lines, but I really haven't the time to devote to every amateur who writes me regarding problems which I consider have been fully solved.

I am not trying to discourage you in the slightest degree. If you believe you have some proof that some of the 1851 plates were copper, then I trust you will go ahead and prove your theories. I for one, would be among the first to congratulate you and approve of any important discovery made.

Regard my comment on the 1¢ 1851 Plate One "Early" - Vol. 1 - p.129 in the One Cent Book. I think I made it quite clear that I was and still am of the opinion that this plate was steel, that it was not hardened until after the plate was re-entered and recut in May of 1852. Up to this time no proof whatsoever has been produced to refute the above in the slightest degree. I do not wish, nor have I the time to waste in trying to convince anyone that the above statement is undoubtedly a fact. Let anyone who doubts it produce some sensible argument to the contrary and there will then be plenty of time to reconsider the point.

I merely call your attention to the terms of the 1851 contract made with Toppan, Carpenter & Co. This contract called for steel plates.

I also call your attention to the fact that the 1¢ 1851 plate was the only 1¢ plate in use until 1856, hence knowing approximately how many stamps were issued up to Jan. 1, 1856, we have a fairly accurate knowledge of how many impressions were taken from this plate. I am merely repeating to you data which is contained in my book and this I would rather not waste time in doing.

Regarding the 3¢ plates. The figures of the number of impressions printed from each 3¢ plate as given in the Chase book were merely guesses, as we have no records which show how many impressions were printed from any of the plates or any states of each plate.

To make the assertion that any of these plates were copper seems to me to be utterly ridiculous but I have no objection to your attempt to prove such a theory.

I think that it is wrong to break into print and publish theories as facts. You have a reputation in the philatelic world, hence when

an article appears under your name some credence is given to the statements made. Your remarks in the July C. C. P. should not have been published and if the editor of the magazine had possessed any knowledge of philately, as an editor should certainly possess, he would not have published such inaccurate information.

We all make mistakes but we should at least try and confine our philatelic errors to privacy and not publish them to the world. Therefore if you make any discoveries which you consider important I do trust that you will be very sure you are right before you rush into print with them.

You will doubtless note that I have been very frank with you, but I wish you to know exactly how I regard the subjects mentioned.

For sometime past I have been anxious to find some Frenchman who had some knowledge of U.S.-French mail of the period 1850 to 1876, that is, rates, postal markings, and the actual meanings of such markings. May I inquire if you have any real knowledge of the subjects mentioned? If so, I would like to collaborate with you.

No doubt you have a copy of the catalogue of the second Knapp sale. If so, please refer to the following covers: Cover 1776. May I ask what you think of this item and the markings. Is the rate correct? Lot 1788, does the rate agree with the markings? Lot 1778, is this marking correct? Lot 1715, is this rate correct, and does it agree with the New York marking? Why "6" in this marking? Lot 1671, why 4¢. Lot 1666, Why 4¢.

I am not asking these questions because I want the information. My study of U.S.-French mail of this period has been rather thorough and I would like to find someone with whom I could collaborate.

Sincerely yours,

HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN
118 WEST 57TH STREET
111 WEST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-1900

January 11. 42

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

Your last letter duly reached me. All I can say is to ask you to read my article. I had luck on the first january to learn that perhaps the single plate in private hands, being such as described in my article, is here in New York at my disposal. This plate is of copper, manufactured in London 79 years ago, and had the discovery I am writing about, (the second discovery) applied to it, before printing.

I did not look at the covers you speak of, except one, N° 1778. It is perfectly genuine, as the cover was handed over to the french boat which applied its sea marking on same day the N. Y. one was applied to the U. S. stamp. I checked up this cover, a few. In the small rectangle should be the letters PD P. D. not P. P.

This letter is the finest one amongst the 1869 issue of Knapp's collection.

Yours very sincerely

C. Kiellert.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 20, 1942.

Mr. G. Gilbert,
% Hotel Great Northern,
118 West 57th St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Your letter of the 11th received. I certainly will be more than delighted to read your article and if you wish I will gladly go over the manuscript before publication.

Re - the 1869 covers in the Knapp sale. I note that the only one that you examined was 1778. You are quite right, this was a gem and in my opinion it was the finest 30¢ cover in the sale. I especially recommended it to Mr.---- as the one cover in the 1869 section which he should purchase, but he did not take my advice and it went to Ezra Cole for a mere trifle.

While you may have not examined the 1869 covers you surely have a catalogue and I am wondering if you couldn't comment on some of the markings and rates as illustrated. Surely for example, lot #1788.

I would like to find some Frenchman who knows something about U.S.-French rates and the markings, because I would like to collaborate with him. Not for the purpose of abstracting information but in a sense to verify my work. Yes, I am thoroughly familiar with the markings on cover 1778, and have made some study of the French Line.

Sincerely yours,

The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1942.

DEALER CONVICTED IN STAMP FRAUD

Guilty of Selling Canceled Articles, After 'Washing' Them, at Discount

The alertness of a postal clerk, combined with the scientific sleuthing of a stamp detective, resulted yesterday in the conviction of a dealer in "washed" and "pieced" stamps. The clerk, Benjamin Goldberg of the postoffice at 103 Pine Street, noticed almost imperceptible irregularities in stamps on packages he was handling and started the hunt that led to George Pappas in his stamp shop at 40 West Eighteenth Street.

Yesterday, on the basis of testimony by Y. Souren, head of the Philatelic Research Laboratories, Inc., and other evidence presented by Clayton D. Hollinger, assistant United States attorney, Pappas was found guilty by a jury in Federal court.

Mr. Goldberg's tip led Postal Inspectors Marlin A. Brown and Louis J. Bader to the Theon Company, Inc., at 160 Crosby Street, wheer they found Harry Geller, shipping clerk and part owner. Geller on April 10, admitted having purchased the stamps Mr. Goldberg had noticed at a discount of 10 per cent. He said Pappas allowed discounts, at times, of as much as 30 per cent.

The inspectors gave Geller, against whom no accusations have been made, a list of stamps, and some $1 bills, and sent him to Pappas. Geller came back with the stamps, which had a face value of $6. He had paid $2.75, giving Pappas three $1 bills, two of which were found in his possession when he was arrested.

In his testimony concerning these stamps, Mr. Souren produced photographs made with ultra-violet light, in which could be seen traces of the cancellation marks which had been removed or "washed." Some of the stamps had been made up delicately from fragments of other stamps. The Federal authorities are continuing their investigation to get at the source of these stamps, which have turned up in the possession of a number of dealers recently. Pappas, convicted under the counterfeit laws, faces a possible penalty of ten years in prison and a fine of $5,000 when he comes up before Judge Clarence G. Galston for sentence Monday.

Dear S. A.

Know you will like to see this. Thank God I fought successfully on the stand against the word "Expert".

In haste

Y.

NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1942.

DEALER CONVICTED IN STAMP FRAUD

Guilty of Selling Canceled Articles, After 'Washing' Them, at Discount

FACES 10 YEARS IN PRISON

Sharp Eyes of Postal Clerk Bring Discovery That Traps the Culprit

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434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Oct. 27, 1941.

Mr. Spencer Anderson,
65 Nassau St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Spence:

Herewith the two covers as per yours of the 24th. I really wouldn't know where to offer them but Wiltsee might be interested but probably not at the price.

Naturally these items are a little late for me as I do not do much in the Bank Notes simply because there isn't a lot that can be done.

If covers bearing these combinations are rare perhaps the real reason is that there was no actual rate such as shown on the covers. The treaty of July 1, 1870 provided that prepaid mail was to be exchanged by two methods;

First - To and from by subsidized U. S. Mail Steamships, at U.S. expense.
Second - By sailing vessels, or an occasional steamship, to and from, at the expense of Hawaii.

Postage - All letters had to be prepaid or not forwarded - the rate 6¢ - payable by stamps in either country, and each country to retain all postages collected.

Thus according to the treaty the 6¢ Hawaii would have carried either letter to the destination without the 3¢ U. S. I therefore judge the covers simply show an overpayment. There was no charge for "forwarded" letters at this time, hence the 3¢ U. S. could not have been for such a payment though it is possible the sender didn't know this and put the 3¢ stamps on for that purpose. All of which seems not very plausible.

Yours etc.,

SPENCER
ANDERSON
SIXTY FIVE NASSAU STREET . . . CORTLANDT 7-2572 . . . NEW YORK, N. Y.

Collections bought and appraised.

Nov. 4th

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Avenue,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan-

Just back from a 10 day trip including New Orleans and the St. Louis show.

I take it you don't think my covers are much good. What is your opinion of lot #2495 in the Knapp sale this week? I haven't seen it but it seems to me that the rate is identical.

Then, too, I seem to recall reading Henry Meyer's translation and notes from Kohl handbook in a recent issue of The Collector's Club Philatelist (have looked all over the place but can't seem to locate it) that the 1870 treaty called for 6¢ from Hawaii to San Francisco, and 3¢ additional anywhere in U.S. or 5¢ additional to England. I cannot recall seeing any previously with rate as mine are (except Knapp lot 2495) but have seen some with 6¢ Hawaii plus 5¢ blue Taylor to England.

You have certainly taken on your shoulders a lifetime task in trying to dope out rates and markings and get them to make sense. There are so many covers one sees that apparently are either underpaid or overpaid, and yet which come from virgin sources and are undoubtedly authentic that I have come to one of two conclusions. Either the senders and/or the postal clerks of that period were awfully stupid, or else there is still an awful lot of additional knowledge to be unearthed.

Stan, did you ever sound out the chap who was interested in the Columbian color error and the blue paper set? I still have Bill's set intact if you think you can do anything with them at present.

Haven't seen or heard from Bill in over a month but am going to make it a point to hunt him up next time I'm in Philadelphia.

Nothing much else to report, all is quiet on the Potomac. Have you heard from Harold Carhart whether or not he expects to get out whole on the Knapp collection? Apparently there is a 3rd sale to come later on.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Spence

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 6, 1941.

Mr. Spencer Anderson,
65 Nassau St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Spence:

Re - yours of the 4th. Yes, I noted Lot 2495 in the Knapp sale and it did seem strange to me.

I have before me, the full text of the U.S.-Hawaii treaty of 1870. The wording is very plain and the rate was six cents. In other words, a letter from any point in the U. S. to any point in Hawaii, required 6¢ U. S. postage and no more. Likewise a letter from any point in Hawaii to any point in the U. S. required 6¢ in Hawaiian postage. On mail from Hawaii to a foreign country thru the U. S., the foreign rate from the U. S. was required in addition to the 6¢ rate and this foreign rate had to be prepaid with U. S. stamps. Thus a letter from Hawaii to London required 6¢ Hawaii plus 6¢ U. S., and a letter from London with 6 pence in postage was delivered free to any point in Hawaii. This is in line with covers you have noted with 6¢ Hawaii plus 5¢ blue Taylor.

I note the Knapp Lot 2495 mentions a "ship letter" but I have no idea what this means. I know of no ship rate in line with a 6¢ Hawaii and a 3¢ U.S. A ship letter at that time was supposed to come in unpaid and was rated at double postage. There seems to be some disagreement in opinion on prepaid "ship letters" but I am of the opinion a prepaid rate was regular postage plus 2¢. If lot 2495 was deposited in an Hawaiian post office, it was not a ship letter and all the postage it would have required was the 6¢ Hawaii. I am frank to admit that I cannot find any reference to such rates as your two covers or the Knapp 2495. I admit it seems odd that three such items would show up. I have searched the P.M.G. Reports between 1870 and 1876 and cannot find any record of any change in the treaty of 1870. The P.L. & R. of 1873 lists the rate to Hawaii as 6¢.

Re - the Munk article in Oct. C. C. P. This is a fine article except those portions relating to the rates. Munk was all at sea, and so was Luff and other writers. Meyers confesses he couldn't make heads or tails out of the subject and wondered if anyone could explain the rates on the covers in the May Knapp sale. I have made quite a study of the U.S.-Hawaii rates from 1850 up to the 1870 treaty. Never considered there was any mystery about the rates after the treaty. I can explain every cover in the Knapp sale and the odd ones fall into two classes - (1) overpays or (2) fake.

I didn't meant to give the impression that I didn't think much of your covers. I simply considered that the 3¢ Greens were not necessary. If they were necessary then surely they are out of the ordinary.

Mr. Spencer Anderson, Nov. 6, 1941.

If the Knapp 2495 was deposited in a Hawaii P.O., then the 3¢ U.S. was not necessary, so far as I am aware. If it was brought in by a private ship and no ship fee was paid, then the 6¢ Hawaii was not necessary. Perhaps I could figure this cover if I could see the markings. I'll write Souren for a photo and advise you later.

You are quite right, the study of foreign rate covers is an intricate puzzle. It wouldn't be so bad if we had no fakes to muddy up the water. It takes more time to solve the fakes than it does to figure out the genuine. Some people figure they can tell the good from the bad but they are only living in a fool's paradise. Take Knapp for example. He was supposed to be an authority on 1869 rates and my God look at the 1869 covers in his collection. The catalogue price of 24¢ 1869 covers refers to "fakes" not to genuine covers. Just bear that in mind, because if all the fake 24¢ 1869 covers were eliminated it would be surprising how few genuine items are in existence. In this connection, I might mention that Saul Newbury does not possess a 24¢ 1869 cover.

There sure is a lot to be learned about foreign rate covers but I doubt if the postal clerks were as dumb as one might suppose.

My Big Shot who wanted a lot of fine things is very quiet these days. The only reason I can imagine is that Colson may have got hold of him and used some of his hypnotic power.

No, Spence, I have not had any reports on how the syndicate expects to come out on the Knapp collection. If we knew the truth about how the transaction was handled we might be able to figure the approximate loss, but after all, what's the use.

I can't imagine what they have left to put in a third sale. Hotel corner cards perhaps.

No word lately from Bill and his interest in stamps must be very low.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--Note lot 2485 in Knapp sale - This purports to show the rate under the 1870 treaty - 6¢ Hawaii to the U.S. with the 6¢ rate - U.S. to Canada paid by 6¢ in U.S. postage.

S.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 29, 1941.

Mr. Spencer Anderson,
65 Nassau St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Spence:

Herewith the 5¢ 1847 cover.

I submitted it to the one who I thought might like it but back it came - stew bad. Perhaps better luck next time.

Best wishes and regards.

Yours etc.,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
434 S. GRAND AVE.
FORT THOMAS, KY.

O.K. no harm done. By the way Tows bought my 2 Hawaii covers after much examination of inks and cancellations and is convinced they are 100% O.K. even if rate cannot be explained. I am sure he would be glad to send them on to you for photgraphing if you drop him a line.

Happy New Year to you all.

Spence

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 6, 1942.

Mr. Farrars H. Tows,
Norfolk, Conn.

Dear Mr. Tows:

Several months ago Spencer Anderson sent me two covers showing 6¢ Hawaiians and pairs of the 3¢ Green Bank Notes. At the time I was unable to figure out why the pairs had been added to the covers. Later I wrote to Spencer asking him to kindly return the covers but he replied that he had sold them to you and that no doubt you would loan them to me so that I might photograph them.

If you will be so kind as to grant this favor I will certainly appreciate same.

I understand you are very much interested in covers showing combination uses of U. S. and Hawaiian stamps. Such items have long been of interest to me, especially the meanings of the various rates.

I noted with interest the catalogue descriptions in the First Knapp Sale, also Meyer's translation of the Munk article on Hawaii in the recent C. C.P.

It appears that many of the rates have proved quite a puzzle to many past students whereas the fact is the explanation is really very simple.

I am enclosing herewith some remarks of mine which were contained in the August Bulletin of the "Research Group."

Sincerely yours,

vignette portions, as well as a complete sheet of the finished stamp. This exhibit was examined with great interest by numbers of the visitors to the show as it portrayed all the steps used in the production of flat-bed press issues.

Messrs. McCoy and Heath attended the Congress and were kept busy explaining the various items in the case and answering questions about the Club and our Library.

The local newspapers gave the display a very good write-up, especially the Christian Science Monitor, which even had illustrations of the clay tablet.

The case, at the end of the show, was removed to the rotunda of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where it will remain as a loan exhibit until the end of the year. Any of our members who did not see the case at the Congress and expect to be in Boston prior to New Year's are urged to visit #77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, and see for themselves what the Library Committee is doing to create interest in our Club and Library.

19TH CENTURY U. S. AT FIRST DECEMBER MEETING

The meeting of December 3rd featured a showing of Nineteenth Century United States stamps and covers by Farrars Tows and Stephen G. Rich. Due to a slight indisposition Program Chairman Sidney F. Barrett was unable to be present and in his absence Ernest A. Kehr presided.

Mr. Tows had a magnificent group of early United States used from Hawaii, generally in combination with Hawaiian stamps of the period. As each exhibitor's showing was limited to twenty pages it was impossible for Mr. Tows to show more than a very small portion of his collection but the pieces shown included some of the great rarities of the world in this category. Many of the items shown had recently been acquired from the estate of the late Edward S. Knapp. The addition of these items to Mr. Tows' already outstanding collection makes his present holdings without a peer in this particular field.

Mr. Rich showed a number of pages tracing the evolution of the 1890-98 issues. He identified the earliest colors in these stamps and showed chronologically the various changes made throughout this interesting period.

Chairman Kehr took a few moments to discuss the matter of the fake cancellation dies found in the estate of a former Chicago dealer, a subject which has recently been under extensive discussion in the Philatelic press. Mr. Kehr was able to enlighten the members considerably in this connection and concluded his remarks by showing those present photostat copies of most of the designs which had been found and turned over to the Federal Government.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Malcolm C. Dizer was given the opportunity to exhibit and talk on the Pictorial History of the Life and Reign of King Edward VIII which he has prepared and which is to be sold for the purpose of devoting a substantial part of the proceeds to Britain's war effort.

Though the meeting was somewhat more brief than usual it was an extremely interesting and instructive one, thoroughly enjoyed by all those present. — L. B. G.

Board Has Busy Session

The regular meeting of the Board of Governors was held on November 26, at 8:00 P. M.

PRESENT: Arthur W. Deas, President; James B. Kremer, Vice-President; Thomas F. Morris, Treasurer; Clarence W. Brazer, Hugh M. Clark, George R. M. Ewing, Robert L. Graham, Jr., Alfred F. Lichtenstein, Harry L. Lindquist, Theodore E. Steinway.

The minutes of the informal meeting of October 29th were read and upon due motion the recommended actions of the Board at that meeting were ratified and approved.

Considerable discussion took place as to ways and means of increasing our revenues. It was voted that the President appoint a committee to examine in detail the financial statements for

Board Has Busy Session

(Continued from page 3)

the last five years with request that the committee upon the completion of its analysis make recommendation to the Board as to the ways and means of maintaining efficient operations.

The President appointed as the committee, Messrs. Hugh M. Clark, Robert L. Graham, Jr., Theodore E. Steinway and James B. Kremer.

It was further moved, seconded and carried that the President appoint another committee to make recommendation as to a program which in the opinion of that committee would have a greater or more attractive appeal to the club members.

The President appointed Messrs. Robert L. Graham, Paul F. Berdanier, James B. Kremer, Sidney F. Barrett.

It was further voted that the President appoint a committee to study and make recommendations for the possible improvement of the **Collectors Club Philatelist** by the publishing of more interesting articles, such committee to make a report at the next Board meeting.

The President appointed Messrs. Robert L. Graham, Jr., Paul F. Berdanier, Clarence W. Brazer, W. R. McCoy and L. B. Gatchell.

The following were elected to membership:

Non-resident

Name	Address
J. D. Funk	Santa Monica, Calif.
Proposed by C. W. Brazer	
Paul C. Livingston	Syracuse, N. Y.
Proposed by C. W. Brazer	
John E. Bourne	Rochester, N. Y.
Proposed by A. W. Deas	
Denwood N. Kelly, Jr.	Baltimore, Md.
Proposed by Sol Glas	

The following resignations were accepted:

A. H. Murchison,	Los Angeles, Calif.
Charles Beamish	Los Angeles, Calif.
Lee M. Larson	Duluth, Minn.
Henry Walton, Jr.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Cyrus F. Adams	Chicago, Ill.
Walter C. Littwitz	New York City

The death of Dr. Emilio Diena of Rome, Italy, was reported, and on motion it was voted to set aside one page in the minutes to his memory, inscribed with a brief history of his Philatelic life.

It was voted that in addition to the listing of elected and resigned members, all members dropped for non-payment of dues be published in the Bulletin and posted on the Bulletin Board.

The following is the list for this year:

Paul Ashburn	Winston-Salem, N. C.
E. G. Bauer	Rochester, N. Y.
Mrs. E. Boylston	Baltimore, Md.
Maurice S. Breen	Chicago, Ill.
C. W. Brown	Flint, Mich.
C. F. Carpenter	Waterbury, Conn.
Joseph G. Dreve	Memphis, Tenn.
Seymour Dunbar	New York City
Isidore Goldberg	Los Angeles, Calif.
Todd Harris	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Raymond A. Hasbrouck	New York City
Tim Healy	New York City
F. H. Herrick	San Francisco, Calif.
Wm. H. Jensen	Browns Valley, Minn.
Charles A. Kenny	Washington, D. C.
Jos. E. Kreling	San Francisco, Calif.
Richard Lonsdale	San Diego, Calif.
Samuel S. Lord	Gardner, Mass.
Irving Margulies	Brooklyn, N. Y.
S. R. McCoy	Miami, Fla.
E. W. Monrose, Jr.	Tampa, Fla.
Gardner D. Pond	Wellesley, Mass.
F. R. Rice	Arlington, Va.
John Roberts, Jr.	Yonkers, N. Y.
Rowland E. Roberts	Bryn Mawr, Pa.
Henry W. Salisbury	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Daniel J. Schoonmaker	Bethel, Conn.
Roland S. St. Pierre	Houston, Tex.
L. J. Schwartzmann	E. Orange, N. J.
Joseph M. Wise	Forest Hills, N. Y.
Irwin M. Yarry	Woodside, N. Y.

Upon motion it was voted that Mr. S. G. Rich's offer relative to establishing a "Rich Room" in memory of his father be accepted with thanks. It was also moved, seconded and carried that a committee of this board be appointed for the purpose of developing the plan of this room with co-operation of Mr. Rich. The President appointed Messrs. Clarence W. Brazer, Chairman, Hugh M. Clark, W. R. McCoy and Theodore E. Steinway as such committee.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 P. M.

Next meeting of the Board of Governors will be held on Friday, December 26, due to the fact that the fourth Wednesday falls on Christmas Eve.

December, 1941

BULLETIN

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, EXCEPT DURING JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER AT ALBION, PA., BY THE COLLECTORS CLUB, INCORPORATED, 22 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Philatelic Round Robin To Feature Pre-Christmas Meeting

The last meeting of the calendar year 1941 will be held at the Club on Wednesday, December 17th, and on that occasion members will be asked to come with a few pages representing their own particular specialties or indicative of things which they have found of peculiar or especial interest in Philately. The meeting will be entirely informal in character. Some may find one page or perhaps one cover sufficient to kindle an interest in other members in the particular phase of collecting they may be currently following—others may wish to show more than this in order to develop their particular topic. No one should come empty-handed—however, it is asked that because of the time available no one bring more than ten pages for exhibition and discussion. Surely an evening devoted to an informal exchange of ideas concerning the multitudinous phases of Philately should be highly interesting and and provocative.

The first meeting in the new year will be held on Wednesday, January 7th, to be followed one week later by the Annual Corporate meeting of the Club. The Annual Meetings are always well attended—as they should be—as on these occasions matters of vital interest reflecting the welfare and progress of the Club are open to full and free discussion. The Annual Election of Governors also takes place at that time, Wednesday, January 14th. The report of the Nominating Committee will be found elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The second and final regular January meeting of the Club will be held on January 21st.

Report of the Nominating Committee

December 3, 1941

Mr. Paul F. Berdanier
Secretary, The Collectors Club
22 East 35th Street
New York City
Dear Mr. Berdanier:

The Nominating Committee appointed by the President, in accordance with provisions of Article 8 of our Constitution, to present nominations for members of the Board of Governors for the term of three years ending December, 1944, herewith presents the following names:

Mr. Paul F. Berdanier
Mr. Arthur W. Deas
Mr. Edwin E. Elkins
Mr. Theodore E. Steinway

Respectfully submitted,
George Camnitzer, Chairman; Julian Gros, Joseph C. Martin, Phillip F. Robbins, Frank J. Zeltmann.

ARTICLES about stamps are not the only things which make a philatelic journal desirable to its subscribers. They expect more than just expository treatises regarding paper and perforations, printings and pigments, countries and commemoratives.

Subscribers demand in addition advertising of high quality, and it is a foregone conclusion that the philatelist who really is interested in his hobby will read all the advertisements as well as all the features, notes, and chronicles which constitute the bulk of the publication.

High-class advertising is certain to attract high-class clients, and it is axiomatic that the more extensive the offer, the greater the variety of stamps on an advertiser's philatelic menu, the more orders he will get, and the more worthwhile and permanent customers he will make.

Nothing demonstrates this more conclusively than a full-page ad published in PHILATELIC GOSSIP on May 16, page 225, by the Y. Souren Co.

This announcement, dealing exclusively with the 3c U. S. of 1869, was considered sufficiently important and exclusive as to merit being copyrighted, and results fully demonstrate the truth of this.

We have received numerous letters commenting on the copyright feature, with observations regarding the advisability of this. Other people, who clip articles important to them, and make scrap books, have intimated that the advertisement will find a permanent place in their U. S. reference books, as indeed it should: the advertisement lists a multitude of things not mentioned in the specialized U. S. Stamp Catalogue, and of course prices them. Furthermore, much valuable data is included in the ad, and this is something of an innovation.

But beyond all this, the advertisement has demonstrated positively that when you have something to advertise that is worth while, and you can really deliver the goods, you'll get the business, and plenty of it.

We have no records of such things, but it seems reasonable to believe that no single U. S. item has ever been offered in a philatelic magazine previously at any such a price as $5000.00; or if it has been offered, that it has been sold.

The 3c 1869 offered in the ad. has changed hands, and right here we have the definite evidence that a dealer can offer a $5000.00 item for sale in PHILATELIC GOSSIP, *and sell it.*

That's just *one* item. We have not taken into account the vast number of other orders which Mr. Souren received as a result of the offer, but several hundred came in from dealers, who wanted to buy wholesale quantities of the low-priced varieties. But the advertisement was a *retail* announcement, and all of these orders were refused and returned, and no one received over one item of a kind.

Another dealer, name deleted, and not by censor, wanted to buy 1000 copies of the 3c '69 *with straight edges.* We wonder just exactly why. That is, we wonder rhetorically. We *know* why certain people will buy quantities of straight-edged copies, and we know that such things are becoming scarcer all the time, and that eventually there won't be any such thing in existence. But the gentleman didn't get the straight edges.

Now we are publishing a two-page advertisement for Mr. Souren, in which he devotes the space to the 2c Black Jack of 1863, with its shades, papers, cancellations, plate and printing varieties, and as usual, all the interesting data and pertinent information concerning the "Black Jack."

There isn't any $5000.00 item in this offer, but there is one of $750.00, and another of $1000.00, and it's our guess that they will be sold soon, as well as thousands of other things not so expensive. Don't lose sight of the fact that more than 350,000 (three-hundred-and-fifty THOUSAND) "Black Jacks" have entered into the investigation and compilation of the offers in the advertisement, and this in itself is an astounding fact.

We expect, as a result of this series of comments, that we shall be chided (or chid, or even chidden) or possibly, even, taken to task for giving Mr. Souren this publicity.

But to anyone who contemplates such a course, we advise restraint! What we are doing is an editorial for professional consumption: for dealers. They are entitled to know something about what is going on.

In addition to that, we are telling *you* what *we* have always known, that PHILATELIC GOSSIP can and will get you plenty of business; but you have to have the goods, and YOU HAVE TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE.

We have the goods, and we are telling you!

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 3, 1941.

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

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Your card received and I know you are busy but can you drop me a line on the following:

Hawaii article - C.C.P. page 257 - second paragraph -5th line - reference to a U.S.-Hawaii Postal Treaty of Aug. 19, 1850 - Reference is "A.J.P."- 1892 - page 337.

I wrote to Mr. Heath, librarian of the Collectors Club and requested him to give me this reference but he replied that there was no such reference in the American Journal of Philately of 1892 on page 337. In fact he stated he had searched thru the whole 1892 series and checked two previous years but could find no such reference.

I am wondering if you can help me out on this.

Sincerely yours,

COPY COPY COPY

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Oct. 28, 1941.

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

My dear Mr. Meyer:

I have just read with much interest your translation of the Munk article on Hawaii in the current number of the Collectors Club Philatelist. The subject of U.S.-Hawaii mail has been of much interest to me for the past five or six years, and I have gathered together quite a lot of data, including many photos of covers in various collections thruout the country. My old friend, Edward S. Knapp, as you are well aware, gathered together quite a fine lot of U.S.-Hawaii covers and I note you were somewhat puzzled on certain rates of these covers in the sale.

I made a careful study of each cover and was able to reconcile most everyone. Some show overpayments of a cent or two but practically all are perfectly regular. Dependence cannot be placed in the catalogue descriptions of certain lots, as wrong dates were given. It would be quite a job to take all the covers in the sale and carefully explain the rate of each one. It would be easier to list the correct date of each cover and then furnish a list of rates in effect at the different periods. In order to properly analysi the rates one should have a thorough knowledge of U.S. rates, and U.S. ship rates from 1850 to 1868.

I mention "rates" but this is not the proper term because we had no postal treaty with Hawaii until 1870, hence "rates" were not fixed by treaty, but were subject to our different domestic rates - ship rates - and the local Hawaii rate. There is a great deal on the subject of U.S.-Hawaii mail which has never been published but I can say this. How much more authoritative was the Munk study than any other that proceeded it. Luff was all at sea on the "rates," though this should not have been the case because surely he understood U. S. domestic and ship rates. I might also add that there were several covers in the Knapp sale which Iddidn't like, though they looked perfectly good.

Knapp himself never knew much about the rates, because I recall can evening I spent with him six months before he died and we were going thru his U.S.-Hawaii covers. The rates of the fifties didn't bother him a great deal but those of the middle and late sixties were quite a puzzle to him.

All U.S.-Hawaii covers should be divided into the following periods:

1850 to April 1, 1855
April 1, 1855 to July 1, 1863
July 1, 1863 to October 1868
October 1868 to July 1, 1870.

Mr. Henry A. Meyer, Oct. 28, 1941.

We frequently run across covers from Hawaii to this country which show an odd "rate,"but these are exceptions. Someone "overpays" because the right denominations of stamps were not available (U.S.) and some show part payment in cash and stamps.

These U.S.-Hawaii covers are an intensely interesting study and it is truly remarkable how very few collectors or dealers have any conception of what rates were proper and regular at all periods as listed above.

I was extremely pleased to see your studious translation of Dr. Munk's article and I congratulate you upon your fine work.

Cordially yours,

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for your very friendly letter received today. I am just in the midst of three extra heavy weeks in my school work, but as soon as I can see my way clear, I want to write you further about Hawaiian-U.S. rates. And right in the middle of the three terrible weeks comes the World Wide at St. Louis. I will go over Friday night after working all evening at a public performance of our school; will return Sunday P.M.

Two days ago I received a friendly letter from Ezra Cole advising me to correspond with you about these rates, which I had already done about a month ago. I wrote him that I would correspond further with you as soon as I saw a way clear. I want to include in the next installment all such new information and corrections as I am able to supply.

Henry A. Meyer

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

EVANSVILLE 2 IND. OCT 30 11 AM 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

434 South Grand Ave.

Fort Thomas, Ky.

343 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 17, 1941.

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

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Your card of the 14th received. I think the plan you have in mind is excellent and in all probability each of the parties you mentioned can offer valuable suggestions. So far as Cole and Perry are concerned, I think I have, on various occasions explained the 1860 rates to both of them. I don't know how much Mannel knows about U.S.-Hawaiian rates but I think he has a good knowledge of ship rates and he could no doubt figure out the rates on covers for most any period. At least I see no harm in submitting your manuscript to all who make any claim to a knowledge of the subject, but I would like to have a final look before publication, because I do think I have devoted more study to the subject than anyone else I know of.

I am enclosing you several photos which kindly return at your leisure. Note the one with the Hawaii 13¢. This cover had a pair of 3¢ 1851 pasted over the Hawaiian stamp. The photo shows one of the 3¢ folded and laid back. I have seen three such covers and inasmuch as they are quite rare, I am wondering if you ever saw one before.

Now the party who wrote this letter paid the entire rate with the 13¢ stamp but the Hawaiian postmaster either put the pair of 3¢ over the 13¢ and gave the ship captain 2¢, or he handed the letter to the captain with 8¢. It is possible the letter might have been sent to San Francisco with just the 13¢ stamp and turned over to the Hawaii Agent there, who put the pair of 3¢ over the 13¢ and handed the captain 2¢. However, all of this is beside the question, because the item shows that the Hawaiian Post Office received 13¢ for the stamp and out of this sum, 2¢ went to the ship captain and 6¢ to the U.S. The 3¢ pair is canceled San Francisco.

The other photo shows Lot 2064 in the Knapp sale (May). I believe I wrote you about this cover. Now the Hawaii shore to ship rate was 5¢, hence the only way to figure this item is that 2¢ was paid by stamp and 3¢ paid in cash. The U.S. 5¢ shows 3¢ plus 2¢ ship. The 5¢ 1862 has the S.F. "Cog" cancelation.

Mr. Heath sent me the Nov. 1902 Issue of the A.J. of P. On page 336 is an article headed, "The Postal Laws of Hawaii from 1852 to 1878," and states, "This article was written by Sir Daniel Cooper, at the time, President of the London Philatelic Society, and was read at the International Congress of Philatelists, held at Paris in 1878" - "Translated from the French by M.H. Lombard." I note Dr. Munk's reference to this article on page 256 of the current C. C. P. This article contains the following:

"The sending of mails between the Hawaiian Islands and the United

States was regulated by an agreement between the two governments, dated August 19, 1850, and this lasted until May 5, 1870. The Hawaiian tax for foreign letters being 5¢ and that of the United States 13¢.

Dr. Munk on page 257 mentions a "postal treaty of Aug. 19, 1850." I was rather certain there was no Postal Treaty in 1850 but rather an arrangement for the interchange of mail. You will note that Cooper used the wording "Arrangement."

In addition there was no 13¢ rate in 1850. Up to July 1, 1851, the total rate from Hawaii to the eastern states was 5¢ Hawaii, ship 2¢, U.S. 40¢, a total of 47¢.

The total rate of 13¢, was from July 1, 1851 to April 1, 1855, as follows: Hawaii 5¢ - ship 2¢ - U.S. 6¢. From April 1, 1855 to July 1, 1863 it was a total of 17¢, as follows: Hawaii 5¢, ship 2¢, and U. S. 10¢.

In my last letter, I mentioned covers showing the 6¢ Green Hawaii plus two U. S. 3¢ Green (Bank Note Issue) and stated I could not account for such rates.

In the Cooper article, I find the following (page 337):
"This postal agreement (referring to the 1870 treaty - S.B.A.) with the U. S. was changed Jan. 1, 1876, by the provisions of the Postal Union. The old foreign rate of postage of 6 cents is preserved and 6 cents are added for all letters of one half ounce, xxxxx for the U.S. and all countries of the Postal Union etc."

I have been unable to find any reference to a change in rates on Jan. 1, 1876. I am wondering if the above meant that letters to the U.S. had to bear 6¢ in Hawaii stamps and 6¢ in U. S. Have you any information on this point?

I don't see what the Postal Union had to do with mail from Hawaii to this country. Hawaii was not admitted to the Postal Union until Jan. 1, 1882, though application was made to join several years previously. Perhaps we have the answer to covers with 6¢ Hawaii (Green) and 6¢ U. S. in the following:

The Treaty of 1870 was based on the U. S. Mail Steamship Line which was established in 1868. This mail contract was for ten years. In 1873 the service was discontinued by the Steamship Company. The 1874 P.M.G.Report states: "No service has been performed under the contract referred to since the 18th September 1873, the date of the last arrival at San Francisco of the Steamer Costa Rica, of said Line, with the U. S. Mails from the Hawaiian Islands."

With the discontinuance of the regular mail line, the mail for a certain undetermined period was carried by private ships and so far as the U. S. was concerned, were doubtless treated as "ship letters" and subject to the ship letter rate of double postage. All of this in face of the fact we had a postal treaty with Hawaii. I cannot find any reference that the treaty was annulled. These are important points to be investiaged.

#3.
Mr. Henry A. Meyer, Nov. 17, 1941.

The P.M.G. Report of 1850 makes no mention of any "agreement" with Hawaii, but the 1852 Report states that Hawaiian mail is dispatched in sealed packets by each mail steamer from New York and conveyed thru to Honolulu without being opened. Postage required was the U.S. rate to San Francisco which was required to be prepaid.

Sincerely yours,

Many thanks to all good friends for several hundred beautiful and clever Christmas greetings received.

I take this means of announcing that my father has had a series of paralytic strokes, beginning on Dec. 26, and his illness has completely disrupted my plans for the coming weeks and months. Whether he lives as an invalid, or dies soon, I will have innumerable details to handle.

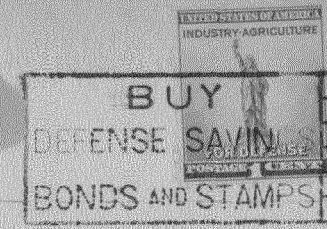
All stamp purchases and stamp studies are off; please discontinue all price lists, approval selections, stamps for examination, requests for information, requests for articles. Likewise all river history studies and writings are postponed.

All S.P.A. and other organization work must wait until I can get around to it; it will have priority when I can do it.

To all good personal friends: I have over 500 unanswered letters. I will never get to answer them, so I am filing them. When this situation has cleared up, I will take a new start. Write whenever you can, but don't expect an answer. Meanwhile, I am not forgetting you.

Henry A. Meyer

HENRY A. MEYER
516 Rea[illegible]
Evansville [illegible]



1942
IND.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

434 S. Grand Ave.

Ft. Thomas, Ky.

June 15 * 1942

COLONIAL-MINDEDNESS

The American stamp collecting public is probably much larger than that of England, or than that of any nation on the continent of Europe. Nevertheless, there is a regrettable tendency on our part to defer to the prestige of British and other oversea collectors. American stamp periodicals and American stamp catalogues long ago surpassed the circulations of those in other countries by many thousands. Nevertheless, there was and still is, a regrettable tendency on our part to believe that the British publications in our field are of more worth than our own.

This relic of the colonial attitude is unworthy of American philately of today.

The colonial attitude of admitting one's own inferiority is neatly shown by the way in which American stamp people accept the classification and terminology of British listers.

Some years ago, our chief American catalogue maker decided to bring order into the use of "overprint" and "surcharge". We might have expected that he would have followed the good, solid, American usage of considering the two words identical in meaning,

and have simply chosen the one of them he thought best to use in all cases. But, no — this firm followed British usage, making "surcharge" signify an overprint that changed a stamp's face value. That's a foolish usage indeed — especially as a monetary "surcharge" means an additional charge, and most stamp overprintings reduce instead of increasing a stamp's face value.

The colonial attitude has been shown lately by the way in which our well-informed philatelists have fallen for Mr. G. Gilbert's attempt to introduce the French word "galvanoplasty" for what has long been known in good American as *electrotyping*. The introduction of this word has created confusion where none existed. It isn't needed: it has been a definite disservice to American philately to introduce it; it ought to be forgotten pronto.

There is still among us a widespread belief in the superior scholarship of the more learned British stamp magazines, as compared with our own. Yet a candid comparison of *London Philatelist, P. J. G. B.*, etc., with *Collectors Club Philatelist, American Philatelist*, etc., will show that guesswork and suppositions are distinctly more frequent in the British papers. Clear-cut and systematic arrangement of the material is more frequent with us. Gross errors are more frequent in oversea philately than ours. The translators of the various sections of the Kohl Handbook can tell us of many a case where the great scholars who made that book have committed errors that any American collector of one year's standing would avoid.

We of North America are not only the majority of the users of the English language, but also the majority of the English-speaking stamp collectors. Let us not defer to the prestige of any minority elsewhere.

—STEPHEN G. RICH.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 12, 1942.

Mr. Vernon E. Baker,
Elyria, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Baker:

Herewith the items as per yours of the 7th.

The Confed cover is a fake, both stamp and cover. It was made by a crook by the name of J. H. Scruggs of Birmingham, Ala. The address is in his hand writing. This crook is a member of the A.P.S. and I filed charges against him three or four months ago. I suggest you send this cover to President Flower. There is no telling how much of this fake stuff Scruggs put out. The facsimile stamps were supplied to him by The Tathem Stamp Co., who are likewise to blame for this sort of stuff. I have marked the types for you but beg to be excused on expressing any opinions on values.

My fee for this examination is $2.50.

Fine stamps at present should be a good place to put away some money for those who have an over-abundance. Naturally the war will have quite an adverse effect on the stamp trade, but any price we pay will be worth what we are surely going to get in the end.

Sincerely yours,

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.

Office of ROLLIN E FLOWER President

259 Wardman Road Kenmore, New York

Hearing adjourned case postponed to Dec 19, 1941

DECEMBER 1? 1941.

MR. STANLEY ASBROOK,
434 S. GRAND AVE.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.

DEAR MR. ASHBROOK:

THE BOARD OF VICE PRESIDENTS IN CLEVELAND HAS PREFERRED FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST J. H. SCRUGGS, JR. I DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE HEARING HAS BEEN SET FOR, BUT IT SHOULD BE SOON NOW.

MR. PALMER SHOULD NOT RETURN ANY OF THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM. SCRUGGS HAS BEEN MOVING HEAVEN AND EARTH TO KEEP FROM BEING EXPELLED - PROBABLY TO NO AVAIL.

WITH KINDEST REGARDS TO YOURSELF,

Rollin E. Flower

ROLLIN E. FLOWER, PRESIDENT.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Sep. 3, 1941.

Mr. Rollin E. Flower,
259 Wardman Road,
Kenmore, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Flower:

Under separate cover, I am sending you via registered mail evidence in the case against A.P.S. member

#16118 - J. H. Scruggs, Jr.,
Box 175,
Montgomery Ala.

This case pertains to an attempt on the part of Scruggs to defraud A.P.S. member

Chancy B. Palmer,
Bradshaw, Nebr.

I am forwarding the papers to you at the request of Mr. Palmer. I think the evidence in this case is conclusive and it is my opinion that this fellow Scruggs should be expelled from the Society. It is quite evident that Scruggs used the U. S. mails to defraud and I think the Society should file a charge against him with the Federal authorities.

There is too much of this sort of stuff going on and every effort should be made by the Society to put a stop to it.

Among the papers submitted you will note that Mr. Palmer answered an advertisement in the Western Stamp Collector inserted by Scruggs. In reply, Scruggs sent the three faked Confederate covers representing them to be from original finds whereas the fact is, he made them himself.

Mr. Palmer called my attention to this case last June and I immediately got in touch with my good friend Emmerson C. Krug of Birmingham, who wrote me under date of July 26th as follows,(The Acton mentioned in the letter is W.M.Acton - Birmingham dealer, A.P.S. 15086):

"I called up Acton about the counterfeit covers at once so I could write you today before I leave this afternoon. Here is what he said. Scruggs is an A.P.S. member listed under Montgomery, Ala. from where he must have moved here. He buys stamps from Acton although I have never seen him that I know of down there. He makes no bones about the fact that he buys these facsimile stamps from Tathem Stamp Co. (I think that is the name Acton gave me) and uses old court house documents to make envelopes. He sells the finished products to the 5 and 10¢ stores here for 6¢ each and they retail them at a dime. Seems as though he has in an application to join the local society here. I do not belong myself. So far he has not been admitted. The society I understand has given up as not

possible to stop him from making and selling confederate stamps under the law.

I think your party in Nebraska could possibly stop him or even prosecute him for sending the things thru the mail. But of course no one here has received them thru the mail. In other words, Stan, there is a desire on the part of the collectors here to stop him but no one has been damaged directly enough to try to prosecute with its terrible consequences. One of Acton's men, Bill Darden writes for Mekeel's every once in a while. He had prepared an article for publication on the subject. I have asked that he send you a copy which will state the case better. This is about all I can do for you about it."

I do not know anyone connected with the Tatum Stamp Co., but I have heard of a number of complaints regarding their sale of facsimile Confederate stamps. I have little doubt but what August Dietz of Richmond can furnish any information you require regarding the Tatum Co.

Sincerely yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

July 30, 1941.

Mr. Chauncy B. Palmer,
Bradshaw, Neb.

Dear Mr. Palmer:

The following extract is from a letter from Mr. Emmerson C. Krug, of Birmingham, Ala., under date of July 26, 1941:

"I called up Acton about the counterfeit covers at once so I could write you today before I leave this afternoon. Here is what he said. Scruggs is an A.P.S. member listed under Montgomery, Ala. from where he must have moved here. He buys stamps from Acton although I have never seen him that I know of down there. He makes no bones about the fact that he buys these facsimile stamps from Tathem Stamp Co. (I think that is the name Acton gave me) and uses old court house documents to make envelopes. He sells the finished products to the 5 & 10¢ stores here for 6¢ each and they retail them at a dime. Seems as though he has in an application to join the local society here. I do not belong myself. So far he has not been admitted. The society I understand has given up as not possible to stop him from making and selling confederate stamps under the law.

I think your party in Nebraska could possibly stop him or even prosecute him for sending the things thru the mail. But of course no one here has received them thru the mail. In other words, Stan, there is a desire on the part of the collectors here to stop him but no one has been damaged directly enough to try to prosecute with its terrible consequences. One of Acton's men, Bill Darden writes for Mekeel's every once in a while. He had prepared an article for publication on the subject. I have asked that he send you a copy which will state the case better. This is about all I can do for you about it."

I trust you will present all the facts in the case to Mr. Rollin Flower, President of the A.P.S. and demand that this fellow Scruggs be expelled from the society. If you will do this, I will write to Flower and urge that this action be taken. I am sure the society can get all the evidence it requires from Birmingham members.

This fellow Scruggs certainly tried to defraud you and he used the mail to do so. The A. P. S. should take the prosecution in hand and see that Scruggs is punished. I have no use whatsoever for crooks like Scruggs.

Sincerely yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

July 22, 1941.

Mr. Chancy B. Palmer,
Bradshaw, Nebr.

My dear Mr. Palmer:

Many thanks for yours of the 18th. I do not think this party is as innocent as he would have you believe, therefore, I do not think you should drop the case. He should explain how he came into the possession of the fake covers and he should be made to prove that he didn't make them himself which I have little doubt that he did.

I think he should be expelled from the A.P.S. if he cannot clear himself and I will see that this is done if you would like to have my assistance. I see so much of this crooked stuff that it is disgusting.

Innocent collectors are robbed and they get disgusted and quit trying to collect.

I'll wager most anything that this fellow Scruggs is guilty. I am having several friends in Birmingham look him up. I do hope you won't drop the matter.

I'll see if I can dig up medium priced covers for you.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

P.S. Since writing the above I find that Scruggs is not a member of the A.P.S. or S.P.A., at least he is not listed as a member in the latest membership lists. I note he claims he has been an A.P.S. member for two years.

S.B.A.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

July 22, 1941.

Mr. Emmerson C. Krug,
3201 Sterling Road,
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Em:

I wish you would help me out on a little matter. Perhaps you can secure the assistance of Mr. Acton.

There is a man in Birmingham by the name of J. H. Scruggs Jr. who operates under the name of "Alabama Stamps" no street address, only "P.O. Box 3064 - Avondale Sta. Birmingham."

This fellow claims he has been a member of the A.P.S. for two years but he is not listed as an A.P.S. or S.P.A.

Last month he sent a friend of mine a batbh of faked Confederate covers and I have an idea he made them himself, because so far he has refused to divulge where he obtained them.

I had my friend take the matter up with Mr. T. C. Gibbs, Postal Inspector of the B. Area. If you or Mr. Acton know Gibbs or the U. S. District Attorney, will you please take the matter up with them and impress on them how very important it is that crooks who use the mail to defraud should be prosecuted to the limit. My friend is a bank cashier in Bradshaw, Nebr., a Mr. C. B. Palmer, in case you wish to mention his name.

Yours received with the 1¢ 1851 from the Harmer sale and I will give it the works. Em, I have been so darn busy I have been compelled to neglect my mail for a week, but I was glad to hear that there is still a prospect of your coming up soon. You are quite right, I haven't opened your package as yet, because I thought you were not in a hurry and I would finish up several big jobs whibh simply had to be cleaned up.

I noticed the remarks regarding an Expert Committee for the Collectors Club, but I didn't think much of it. An Expert Committee means covering the Catalogue from "A" to "Z" and in this age of intense specialism I don't think anyonne man or committee of men are competent to cover U. S. and foreign from "A" to "Z". Colson claims to be an A to Z but he isn't, he is only a big windbag. Personally I do not think much of philatelic experts, including myself, because at times I have been accused of being in that class. So don't worry about the dealers getting control of expert committees. After all the best of them are better qualified than the collector class. In addition, dealers would employ the services of such a committee more than collectors, hence should lend financial support. My name was suggested by some of my friends to head such a committee but this I would never consider at any price. I do not know 20th or foreign

but a chairman wouldn't necessarily have to, because all valuable items would be submitted to a leading specialist.

Best regards.

Yours etc.,

PALMER STAMP CO.

C. B. Palmer (A. P. S. No. 15174) *Bob B. Palmer*

BRADSHAW, NEBRASKA

July 18 1941

Stanley B.Ashbrook
434 So.Grand Ave.

Ft.Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr.Ashbrook:-

The enclosed letter seems to clear up the fake Confederate Cover deal. However I am asking him for further informati information as to where he got them.
Please return the letter at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Got any covers or stamps in the medium and lower priced field on which the Palmer Stamp Co. might make a few honest dimes?

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BRADSHAW

BRADSHAW, NEBRASKA

JUN 21 1941

In reply to your letter of _____ 193____

WE CREDIT	WE DEBIT	ENTER FOR COLLECTION
I have sent everything to: Post office Inspector, Birmingham. Will advise you later.		

CHANCY B. PALMER, Cashier

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

June 18, 1941.

Mr. Chancy B. Palmer,
% The First Nat'l Bank,
Bradshaw, Neb.

My dear Mr. Palmer:

Referring to yours of the 16th. Each one of the covers you sent me is a fake in every respect. Each stamp is an imitation, each postmark is counterfeit.

The crook who sent these to you used the U. S. mail to defraud and you should report the case to the U. S. District Attorney at Birmingham and to the P.O.D. at Washington as well as to the Stamp Dealers Association. Mr. Sidney Barrett,% Edw. Stern - 99 Nassau St. can put you in touch with the latter officials.

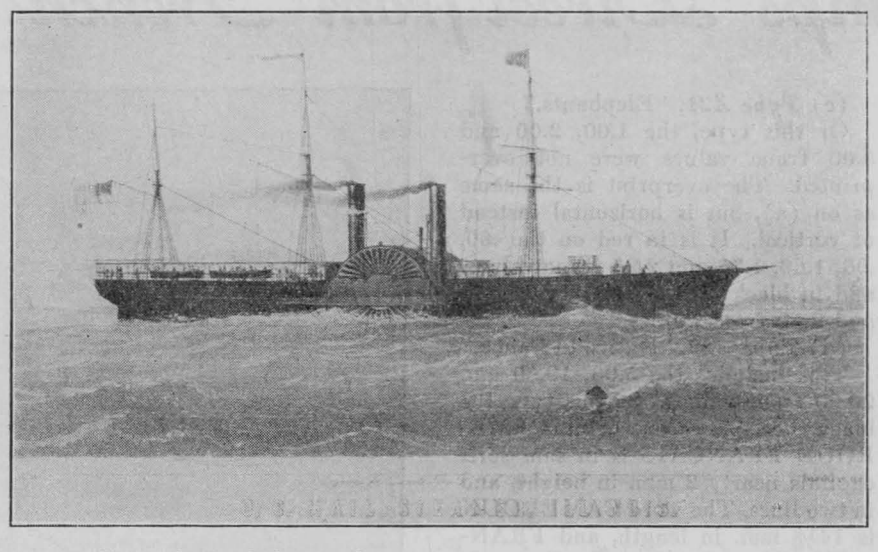
Do not return the specimens to the crook but turn them over to the U. S. Officials. This party should be prosecuted and put behind bars and if proper pressure can be brought I think the officials will be glad to do so. You should also advise The Western Stamp Collector that they are carrying advertisements of a brook.

I do hope you will do all you can to put this fellow where he belongs.

Sincerely yours,

The Steamship Illinois

By ERIK HEYL



AMONG the stamped envelopes illustrated in connection with Stanley Ashbrook's article on *First Stamped U. S. Envelopes* in the April 4th issue of STAMPS, there is one particularly which should be of more than passing interest to New Yorkers.

The cover in question is the one addressed from New York to Amos Cullen in Sacramento City, California. Inscribed in the lower left hand corner is the direction that it be carried by the S.S. *Illinois*.

It is of this steamer that I want to set down a few facts, being so closely bound up with the general history of New York City.

The *Illinois* was built by the famous New York shipbuilding firm of Smith & Dimon. Originally named *Louisiana,* being constructed for another party, the vessel was purchased before completion for George Law's U. S. Mail Steamship Line, operating between New York and Chagres, Panama.

The *Illinois* was a wooden side-wheeler 268 feet long and 40 feet wide. She entered the New York-Chagres service in 1851 and very quickly became noted for her superior speed. In fact she held the record for the fastest passage from New York to Chagres, making the run in 6 days and 6 hours at an average speed of 12½ knots.

When the U. S. Post Office mail subsidy contracts expired in 1858 and were not renewed, the liners operated by the Collins Line between New York and England were laid up. In the meantime Commodore Vanderbilt of New York had purchased the *Illinois* from the U. S. Mail Line and operated the ship for several round-trips between New York and Southampton.

On the outbreak of hostilities between the North and the South in 1861, the *Illinois* was chartered by the U. S. Navy as a troop and supply ship; she continued under intermittent charter until 1865. In October, 1861, the *Illinois* was one of a fleet of warships and transports under command of Rear Admiral Samuel F. Dupont, which transported General Sherman's expedition of 20,000 men from Fortress Monroe to Port Royal and Beaufort, S. C., and which resulted in the capture of Fort Walker and Fort Bauregard at these places.

In November, 1862, the *Illinois* was in General Banks' expedition along the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi and Red Rivers.

In January, 1865, the Quartermaster General purchased the ship for the U. S. Army and she saw extensive service along the Atlantic Coast.

After the war, the *Illinois* was leased from the War Department by the Quarantine Commissioners of the State of New York. Her machinery was removed and she was fitted up as office and living quarters for the Deputy Health Office of the Port of New York. She became the boarding station for all suspected vessels entering New York Harbor.

From November to March the *Illinois* was stationed at Staten Island; from March on the ship was towed to the Lower Bay and remained at anchor there until November. She became rather notoriously known as the Pest Ship and there were even remonstrances from the aroused citizens of Stapleton, Staten Island, who feared being infected by the ship when tied up for the winter.

The *Illinois* was kept in the Lower Bay during the entire winter of 1880. But when in March of that year the ice swept out of the harbor, her hull was so badly cut by the floes that she was towed in a sinking condition to Stapleton. Practically her entire stern had been carved away by the ice.

The ship was taken in hand for a complete and thorough overhaul. New ribs were put in, new planking, a new stern, new stanchions, etc., were also fitted. Then the entire interior was given a glistening coat of white enamel paint. After the repairs were completed the *Illinois* was again placed on her post of duty off Stapleton and the Lower Bay and here she remained until 1888.

In that year the hull literally began to crumble to pieces; the Quarantine Commissioners thereupon returned the wreck to the Quartermaster General, it being of no further use to them. She was towed to Brooklyn and there she was scrapped after being auctioned off for the sum of $1,100 on January 14th, 1888.

It would only weary readers, were all the various trials and tribulations enumerated which beset the Quarantine Commisioners of New York, and especially the Deputy Commissioner, who was aboard the ship during the time of her service in New York Harbor. Those interested can read them in the New York State Legislative reports for the years 1865 to 1888, from which the above is a brief extract.

The accompanying photograph, showing the *Illinois* in her prime, was taken from an engraving.

●

Gist of the News

The **Elmer R. Longs** of Harrisburg, Pa., are being congratulated by their friends on the arrival of William Reese Long, on May 11, 1942.

The **Stampeders Club,** conducted in the *San Francisco Examiner* by **Sydney E. Goldie,** has recently celebrated its sixth birthday. Congratulations to Mr. Goldie on the steady progress this fine stamp column has made since its start.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 26, 1941.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
250 Park Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Re - "Stamps" Dec. 20th, page 418 - the Adams cover. Do you think the Nashville originated on this cover? Did you ever see that "Postage Paid" before? I do not recall any such type. It is stated to be in blue which would be quite O.K.

If the cover is O.K. then it undoubtedly originated in Nashville. Does it not seem strange to you that the Confed P.O. at Nashville would turn it over to the Adams Express to convey to Louisville? Henderson is down the Ohio River from Louisville below Evansville.

If the Nashville did not originate on the cover, we could then figure that it was not deposited in a Southern P.O. but handed direct to the Adams Co. to carry thru the Lines to Louisville.

The date is quite late and near the dead line.

If you happen to write August about this inquire if he ever saw that "Postage Paid."

Yours etc.,

THE RICHEY, HALSTED & QUICK CO.

CC MR. LARRY SHENFIELD

QUALITY LUMBER

CINCINNATI

Dec. 31,1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Ave.,
Ft. Thomas,Ky.

Dear Ashbrook:

When Larry Shenfield was in office here a short time ago he suggested some eastern dealer, believe in New Haven, was offeringfor sale the "EMERSON COLLECTION - 158 HAWAIIAN COVERS"; it being his understanding these covers,in addition,carried U.S. Stamp - the price about $3,500.00.

The writer told him that if as above the price was indeed cheap and would be interested in same.

Attached copy of Larry's letter of the 29th.

If you think it worth while would be glad to have you advise Larry direct. He can then either arrange to have the collection sent on to you for examination or would, no doubt, advise as to the dealer, whose name has escaped me, so you could handle with him direct.

With very kind regards and best wishes for the New Year,

Sam

SWR:C

New York N.Y.
Dec. 29,1941

Dear Sam:

Thanks for letting me study the bunch of Prisoner-of-War faces which I brought back with me. You were right - there isn't a great deal in them but there are a few items I would like to have for reference and not for my collection. Do you think you could spare about ten of them so I could round out my reference file?

Had a letter from Stan and he mentioned that he came across that package of Prisoner-of-War letters of yours but he did not think there would be much in it forme to study. Have just completed the article and it will appear in the next issue of Stamp Specialist.

Now as to the Emerson Hawaiian Collection. I have the following information on it. There are 158 covers in the lot and the period is right up to 1898. Therefore, not all the covers are combinations. The collection has not been touched and the condition, it is claimed, is fine to superb.

Emerson paid between $6000 and $7000 in putting it together and the price quoted to me is $3500. in the two volumes intact just as Emerson had it. It is suggested that it be left with me for inspection and I am going to have that done and if it passes me for condition, I will send it to you.

The present situation is that somewhat more than $3500.00 is definitely offered for it through another dealer but the present dealer who holds it would have to pay a commission which would net him less than $3500 he asks. I rather imagine that if it came to a clutch the collection mould be bought for somewhate around $3250. with a little haggling.

However, knowing your friendship with Stan, I am wondering whether if you were interested you would not want Stan to consult with you on it and in that case he couldhandle the deal direct with the dealer and get something out of it himself. What do you suggest be done in the matter?

With best regards and wishes for a great New Year,

LARRY SHENFIELD

CC STANLEY ASHBROOK

PEDLAR & RYAN, INC.
ADVERTISING
250 PARK AVENUE
New York, N.Y.

December twenty-ninth
19 41

Dear Stan:

I hope you have had a very pleasant holiday and thanks for yours of December 22. Your comments on the article were invaluable and I took the liberty of using a few of them which I hope will be to your satisfaction.

I return herewith the photographs you sent which were extremely interesting, especially the one marked "Forwarded by Louisiana Committee at Mobile" on the back. For your inspection I enclose a photograph of mine of Ned Knapp's block of 12 of the 2¢ Red, and a cover of mine which bears "Forwarded by the Louisiana Committee at Mobile".

Note that your cover and my cover were sent to the same party. The rate on my cover is a strange one but notice on the back it is marked in pencil "Approved -- then some initials, P.M." I have a feeling that this might have come across the lines in some way just as the cover of your photo.

I wonder what the Louisiana Committee at Mobile was. Evidently from the photograph of Knapp's piece, it was a relief committee and since Knapp's piece enclosed 12 circulars, it evidently had something to do with forwarding reading matter as well as important mail under special circumstances. I don't ever remember reading anything about this committee in any books, do you? If you have any ideas, I should love to have them and of course please return my photograph and my cover.

When I was in Cincinnati, Sam let me have for study that great bunch of Prisoner-of-War Cover faces which he has had for years. There isn't anything in it for collecting but there were several examples of censors' initials, etc. which I wanted to have for reference.

By the way, have you read "Reveille in Washington" -- the new book about Washington in 1861? It's full of chatterbox stuff about Old Capitol Prison and I found it very fascinating.

TELEPHONE: *PLaza 5-1500* CABLE ADDRESS: *Ryanola*

If Sam would like to send me the batch of Prisoner-of-War covers that you are holding for him, I would like to go over them.

Thanks again for your counsel and help and with all good wishes for a bright and interesting 1942.

Sincerely,

Gary

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 South Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

P.S. Just have yours of the 26th about the Nashville cover. I am glad to be able to answer you specifically:

(1) I have seen that postage paid cancel before but only on a cover used exactly the same way as this is and tying a Nashville stamp. To my mind it is perfectly valid and should be catalogued.

(2) It does not seem strange that the post office of Nashville turned the cover over to Adams because I don't believe it worked that way. I believe the sender of the letter turned it over to Adams who took it to the Confed post office, bought the stamp, had the cover cancelled which fulfilled the requirements of the post office that the postage be paid regularly even on privately carried mail, and that then Adams sent it on its way via their messengers through Louisville.

(3) There is no doubt in my mind about the oval on this cover. I have a very similar cover with a 5¢ Nashville which, however, happens to be cancelled with the Adams Express oval but which originated in Nashville and went through to Providence and was received.

Perhaps it seems strange that this postage paid has only been observed when Nashville stamps were used on Across-the-line covers. However, I am beginning to think that it was a special cancel that might have been used for this purpose only. It always has been my belief that these Across-the-lines covers were either enclosed to an Adams office or to an Adams agent and that they took care of the rest, fulfilling the obligation to either the U.S. or the Confederate post office to pay the postage. That's why an envelope stamp was used going from North to South because that kind of stamp indicated the postage prepaid if it was sealed even though the stamp remained cancelled.

I have just finished an interesting article on a unique Adams Express marking and I am giving quite a bit of the history of these Across-the-lines covers in the article. But as I say,in my opinion the item illustrated is perfectly valid and good. I only wish I had the Adams cover. I tried to buy it but found out that someone -- I know not who -- was ahead of me.

L.L.S.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 3, 1942.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
% Pedlar & Ryan,
250 Park Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

First permit me to thank you for the beautiful pipe. It is just my style and I couldn't have picked out one any better to my liking. It is nice and light and I went to work on it immediately. Many, many thanks.

Re - the Emerson Hawaiian collection. Sam sent you a copy of his letter to me under date of the 31st. I surmised the New Haven dealer was Harry Keffer and as he works hand in glove with Dan I guess there is no doubt but what Dan has the final word on the collection.

I wired Dan as follows:

"Understand either you or Keffer have the Emerson Hawaiian collection consisting hundred fifty eight covers for sale stop Richey is interested if lot is worth while stop can you forward."

I trust this is perfectly O.K. with you. If perchance they send the collection to you, perhaps it would be best to get Harry's permission to send it direct to me rather than to Sam. I can tell in a few minutes if Sam would be interested and if he would not, it would be no use to have him take the time to look it over. Thanks so much Larry for counting me in on this and I hope its all they say it is and that it will prove a worth while buy for Sam.

Up to this writing I have had no reply from Dan.

Re - that photo I sent you - "Louisiana Committee." Somewhere in my files or scrap books I have some data on this subject but Lord only knows where it is. As near as I can recall, Ned tried to dig into this, but at the time I wasn't interested to any great extent as I was busy to the limit of my time on plating and couldn't be bothered with such subjects which I considered were beyond spedial philatelic interest. As I recall, Ned acquired this cover and then wrote to the postmaster at Prattville, Ala. and inquired if any descendants of Mrs. M. E. Pratt, still lived in Prattville. It seems to me there was and that he got into communication and managed to get several additional items. I think I have a copy of a letter he received. I'll try to locate it.

Later

The almost unbelievable happend. I did manage to find the copy of the letter Ned received from Prattville and it was from no other than the lady to whom the cover was addressed. I am enclosing copy and also the photo which I sent you in order to refresh your memory. I am sure Ned sent me further information re - the "Committee" but evidently

this part of the data has been destroyed. I suppose my only reason for hanging on to this copy was its association with the two photographs. You are welcome to use it in any way you wish.

I am sending you herewith 56 covers from Sam's lot, also a memo of same. After you are through with these please mail them direct to Sam. This is all there were in the lot I had except three with pen "Fort Warren." In this lot you will note the stampless item "Fort Pulaski" of which I sent you a photo.

Again the "Committee." How very odd that you would have one of the "Mrs. M. E. Pratt" covers. Why the 15¢ rate? Don't you suppose that this was a strip of four and the stamp to right was cut off to make the cover look better? It must have been a strip of four and placed on the envelope after the Committee notation. The stamp to right, extending beyond the edge was golded over and pasted on the back. In opening the letter the stamp was damaged.

Note Mrs. Pratt's letter. Both of these letters were from her husband while he was a Prisoner of War at "21 Rampart St., New Orleans" She said he was held there until sometime in Oct., so your cover must be Sep. 3, 1863.

Quite a nice story - a P of W cover and from New Orleans. Evidently the Louisana Relief Committee working from Mobile attended to the wants of Prisoners, forwarded mail etc. - yours has "approved - J.C.D. - P.M." My photograph has the same notation. Who was "J.C.D."? He must have been the P.M. at Mobile. I have no list of C.S. postmasters but didn't Dietz publish such a list in "Stamps"? That is, the P.M.'s who issued C.S.Provisionals. Perhaps Dietz has some data on the Committee, so why not inquire.

I may be wrong but it seems to me that Ned wrote an article on the Pratt cover. If he did, it must have appeared in the A.P.

My guess is that I made the Pratt photo along about 1920 or 1921. There was no year date on Mrs. Pratt's letter to Ned. I always wondered if the Confederate collector Pratt was related to the Prattville Pratts.

Re "Reveille in Washington." I haven't read the book but did read with much interest the condensed version in the Reader's Digest. I thought it was excellent and a very graphic and correct picture of the times.

Don will probably send me the Nashville cover. I'll make a photo and send you a print. Thanks for your comment on it. I will note same carefully when I examine the cover.

Again many thanks for the pipe, and by the way, it don't bite a bit. Natural wood, no varnish - fine.

Cordially,

P.S.--I return your Pratt cover and photo. I wonder if you could send

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
Jan. 2, 1942.

me a duplicate print as I would like to have it for my files, also show the whole mess to Sam. Perhaps he has a "Louisana Committee "but I think not. Just imagine a block of 12 of the 2¢. No doubt unique. I never saw its equal.

S.B.A.

COPY COPY COPY COPY

C. G. Alton Means STAMP AUCTIONS, OUR SPECIALTY Harry B. Keffer

THE COLLECTOR'S SHOP

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280 ELM STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Telephone 7-4495

Jan. 3, 1942

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.
Fort Thomas. Ky/

Dear Stan;

I must apolgize for not answering you very nice letter of Nov. 17th before this date but I have been doing a little work on that 30¢ cover and thought I would wait until I had something of some interest to say about it. To date I have nothing but hope to in the near future.

Last evening Dan Kelleher called me advising you had inquired about the Emerson collection of Hawiian covers which I have owned for some time. He passed along the information that you were interested for a client and wanted to see it. At the present time it is not available but will be so in a few days. I have,however,shipped you under separate cover photographs of the entire collection just as I bought it page for page. I think you will find them very helpful but I will be pleased toship the collection as soon as available. On the other hand your client might find that after looking at the photographs it was nothing that he wanted. The price is $3500.00 net to you which is just about 50% of what they cost Judge Emerson. I might add that altho I have owned the collection for quite some time I have made no effort to sell. One or two parties have come after me for it and it has been shown to only three people with any idea of selling it. I neglected to state above that I offer it only subject to prior sale. I have to do this because it is out for inspection but I firmly believe it will come back.

I have noted in your letter your reference to the Research Group. I would like very much to join it but before saying yes I would like to know a little about the cost. If it is over my head I will have to pass it up but I would be very happy to join if it were within my means. It is along the lines of what I have been studying and trying to increase my meager knowledge of. With best wishes for a very pleasant New Year.

Sincerely

Yale College, the Old Brick Row, 1840

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 7, 1942.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer,
280 Elm St.,
New Haven, Conn.

My dear Harry:

Yours of the 3rd received, together with the photographs. The dope that I had was that Dan had the collection for sale, hence my wire to him.

As you probably know, the U.S.-Hawaiian rates are right down my alley as I have devoted quite a bit of research to this branch and think I have all the answers. Much has been written about Hawaiian stamps but I haven't been able to find one writer who understood the rates. Luff was all befuddled about them and so were many others. Even Knapp couldn't explain a lot of covers in his collection. I suppose you read Meyer's translation of the Mundt Handbook in the October C. C. P. Since this appeared, I have given Meyer quite a bit of information as he seemed to be all mixed up and made a lot of guesses.

Larry Shenfield told Richey about the collection and Richey asked me to look into it and if it was as Larry had stated, he would be interested, provided I thought the collection was worth the price. So you see Harry, I am not trying to interest Richey in it as he is already interested.

After looking over the photographs, I wondered if there wasn't too much straight Hawaii stuff. You see Richey only collects 19th U. S. and Confeds. It is possible, however, that he might decide to take the lot on and have it form a basis for a new branch of collecting. Personally, I would like to see him obtain it, because in such an event, I would take it in charge and re-arrange it and mount it, adding to it all the material he has at present. I could then use the collection as the basis for a comprehensive article on the subject of U. S.-Hawaii mail.

Richey instructed me to investigate with the understanding that I was to obtain a commission. So in the event a sale takes place, Richey will remit direct to you and you can then pay me a commission. Please advise me how much you can allow me, together with the lowest price you can name Richey.

Regarding the Research Group. Just between ourselves, I really do not think it would pay you to join. This Group is really for the purpose of raising funds to finance the cost of obtaining data. Initial donations are limited to ten bucks and members are supposed to kick in with additional donations from time to time.

The Bulletins which I issue are simply for the purpose of keeping up interest and to encourage Group co-operation. I kick in like every other member and make no charge for all the work I do. There is no financial gain in this work for anyone.

In my work I frequently have to have data which can only be obtained

from the files of old newspapers. The best way to get this data is to hire someone to go to libraries and copy it. To pay for this work, the Group keeps on hand plenty of cash at all times. I frequently have to have photostats made at the Congressional Library. Any member of the Group is likewise entitled to this service provided they are working on worth while subjects, and on any work they are doing they get my full co-operation.

Thus you will appreciate that the Group is a swell idea and if you still think you would like to join, all you have to do is to let me know and I will see that you are elected as a member. It is therefore entirely up to you.

Re - that 30¢ cover. I have been doing a lot of research work on the U.S.-French Mail - period subsequent to Jan. 1, 1870. It is a terrible mess but I am gradually getting to the bottom of the subject. No student that I know of has the slightest conception of the subject.

I am sending you a copy of the latest Bulletin wherein you will note I made some remarks on some covers in the recent Knapp sale. I would appreciate your comment and needless to state, I will be glad to explain any points, that are not clear to you. That is, if I can.

By the way, Harry, tell me about Tows. What sort of a chap is he? I never met him nor have I ever had any correspondence with him. I note by the C. C. Bulletin that he exhibited his U.S.-Hawaiian covers at the Club and his collection was stated to be one of the finest in existence. Does Tows know his stuff? Does he know rates? Can he explain the markings on his covers?

If he has a fine collection of U.S.-Hawaiian items and has any knowledge of what he owns I would like to collaborate with him, but if he is just a collector who collects I wouldn't care to waste any time with him. How come he was not interested in the Emerson collection?

In the event of a deal, could you obtain for me a set of the photographs?

With best of wishes for the New Year, Iam

Cordially yours,

P.S. The Group Bulletins are <u>confidential</u>. Sending you copy #41 under separate cover.

S.B.A.

THE COLLECTOR'S SHOP

Postage Stamps - Small Antiques - Paintings - Curios
Coins - Prints - Books

Collections Purchased, Sold or Appraised

280 ELM STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Telephone 7-4495

Jan. 10, 1941

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

Dear Stan:-

Thanks very much for your letter of the 7th. You have no doubt received the collection by now as Larry Shenfield had it and has sent it along to you.

I note your remarks about how the collection is to be billed and that the commission is to come from me. I have already quoted you a price of $3500.00 which was net to you. That is the same price I gave to a dealer who showed it to one party and was the lowest price I had set for the collection. I have one party in mind for it but at the present time I cannot quote them but if I have to sell it to them my price would be $4000.00 net. I don't know if you have told Mr. Richey my price is $3500 or if you have even talked price with him yet. I can't do much on it but will bill him any amount you state, from say $3650.00 to $4000. and all over $3400.00 will come back to you. I wish I could say that I will bill Mr. Richey $3500.00 and send you back $500.00 but I just can't. Please advise me what you want it billed at over $3400.00 and our understanding is that you will receive all over $3400.00 that Mr. Richey sends me. In case you are at all interested the collection cost Judge Emerson a trifle short of $7000.00

Advise me concerning the above. I want to be as fair as possible and still I know you are entitled to a fair commission. I sincerely trust the above will be interesting to Mr. Richey.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. It also might be of value to know that if Mr. Richey had written in to me for it he would not have been quoted less than $3750.00 in any event, and most likely it would have been $4000.00 but my former quotation to you was as to a dealer.

Yale College, the Old Brick Row, 1840

I will write you more about Mr. Rows.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 12, 1942.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer,
280 Elm St.,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Harry:

Yours of the 10th received.

When Shenfield first mentioned the collection to Richey he stated a price of $3500 had been named. Now I don't know anything about that angle other than what Richey told me.

When Larry learned that you had sent me the set of photographs, he immediately advised me that he would hold the collection until he heard from me, as the chances were that Richey could decide from the photographs whether or not he would be interested.

I turned the set of photos over to Richey and will advise you immediately of his decision.

As Richey does not collect Hawaii, it is possible that he may find that there is too many straight Hawaii covers in the lot. I told him I thought Hawaii would be a nice side line in which he might care to specialize and in such an event, the collection would be a nice foundation on which to build.

As explained above, Shenfield and Richey talked the collection over before I knew anything about it, but please don't blame Larry if he did any talking out of school as no doubt he figured that Richey was really a very logical prospect.

More later -

Yours etc.,

PEDLAR & RYAN, INC.
ADVERTISING
250 PARK AVENUE
New York, N.Y.

January the sixth
19 42

Dear Stan:

Awfully glad to get yours of the 2nd.

I have in my hands here the Emerson Hawaiian collection which Harry Keffer sent to me when I indicated interest on behalf of Sam. Parenthetically, I was curious also to see the collection. Keffer told me weeks ago that he bought this collection outright from Dan so perhaps that is the reason why you did not hear from Dan. I mentioned the collection to Sam when I was last in Cincinnati and had in mind all the time that the deal, if any, should go through you because I had no interest except to help Sam and you if you wanted to get it.

I have today written Harry asking him whether I may send the collection to you and I have told him in the letter that my sole interest was in order to have you see it for one of your clients. So that you may be fully posted, I enclose the letter from Harry with the collection and you can see how your inquiry has been magnified somewhat.

Now about the collection -- I don't want to say too much except that I was terribly disappointed. Stretching my figures I cannot give it more than $2000. or $2200. worth -- but enough of that. I guess I don't know much about this class of merchandise. The moment I get word from Harry, I will send the collection to you direct.

Thanks a million for the dope on the Louisiana Committee. That gives me enough material for an article and I will do one shortly. I will return your cover when finished. Also thanks for the Prisoner of War covers which I examined with a great deal of interest. There are several in here I could use for reference but I don't think I will say anything to Sam about it.

I don't know who Don is who is going to send you the Nashville cover. Who is he? I will be delighted to have a print of it. And I will send you a duplicate print of my Pratt cover. The block of 12 of the 2¢ is of course the old Knapp block which was left over from Scott's sale of his Confederates. I believe Scott still has it

TELEPHONE: *PLaza 5-1500* CABLE ADDRESS: *Ryanola*

but the block has been ironed out and the price is too high. It is of course the largest block known.

I am sending Sam's Prisoner of War covers direct to him, as you suggest.

Best regards and you will hear from me in a day or so.

Gary

Mr.Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 South Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

PEDLAR & RYAN, INC.
ADVERTISING
250 PARK AVENUE
New York, N.Y.

January the eighth
19 42

Dear Stan:

I have just heard from Harry Keffer who says that he sent you a photographic copy of the collection. So I will hold the collection here until you see whether the photographs give you enough of the good news or the bad news.

Regards,

Carry

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 South Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

P.S. That was a wonderful bulletin for the Research Group. I read every word of it and want to say that although it is not in my line at all, I did enjoy it. Enclosed please find check for $5.00 toward the worthy cause, and thanks for the ad on the Prisoner-of-War covers. I would support this Research Group much more than I do, Stan, if I did not have quite a few expenses in connection with my own writing on Confederates.

LLS

TELEPHONE: *PLaza 5-1500* CABLE ADDRESS: *Ryanola*

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 20, 1942.

Mr. L. L. Shenfield,
250 Park Ave.,
% Pedlar & Ryan,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Larry:

Sam decided there were too many straight Hawaii covers in the collection, so he was not interested. He is returning the photographs to Harry today. It is lucky that you held up on sending the collection. Looks like Sam smelled a bargain. Imagine nearly 158 U. S. Hawaii combinations for a mere $3500.

Thanks for the dope on Tows. I suppose he is not particularly interested in combinations. He recently bought two combinations from Spence that I would like to see and I wrote him and asked if he would forward them. So far, no reply. It is reported that he bought quite a few U. S. Hawaii covers in the Knapp sale.

Yes, I think the majority of collectors prefer to buy individual items but Sam is an exception. He undoubtedly likes job lots. Good old Sam.

Re - your Baltimore to Libby Prison. Seems to me I have seen covers addressed to Libby, and that they were in a lot that Colman obtained from old waste at Washington. You know the lot, the ones with red pen notations. My recollection is vague but if I recall, those that I saw had very late dates, for example in 1865 when everything was breaking up. What is your date? I may have a record somewhere in my files but my Confed dope is in a terribly neglected state. Here, there and everywhere.

The present owner of the Nashville - Adams cover is Donald Malcolm (R.G.member). Don sent the cover to me last week and I made a photograph. I guess it is O.K. but I never saw that "Postage Paid" before and does it occur to you that this wording was never used? Just think "Postage Paid." Yes, indeed "Paid" but not "Postage Paid." Did you ever see a U. S. stampless with "Postage Paid?"

I suppose the cover is O.K. and that the handstamp was one that belonged to the Adams Co.

Sloane guaranteed this cover but I wouldn't unless I knew more about that handstamp. Perhaps he has more dope than I possess but did you ever see an Adams cover with a "Postage Paid" handstamp? All of this discussion is between ourselves.

#2.

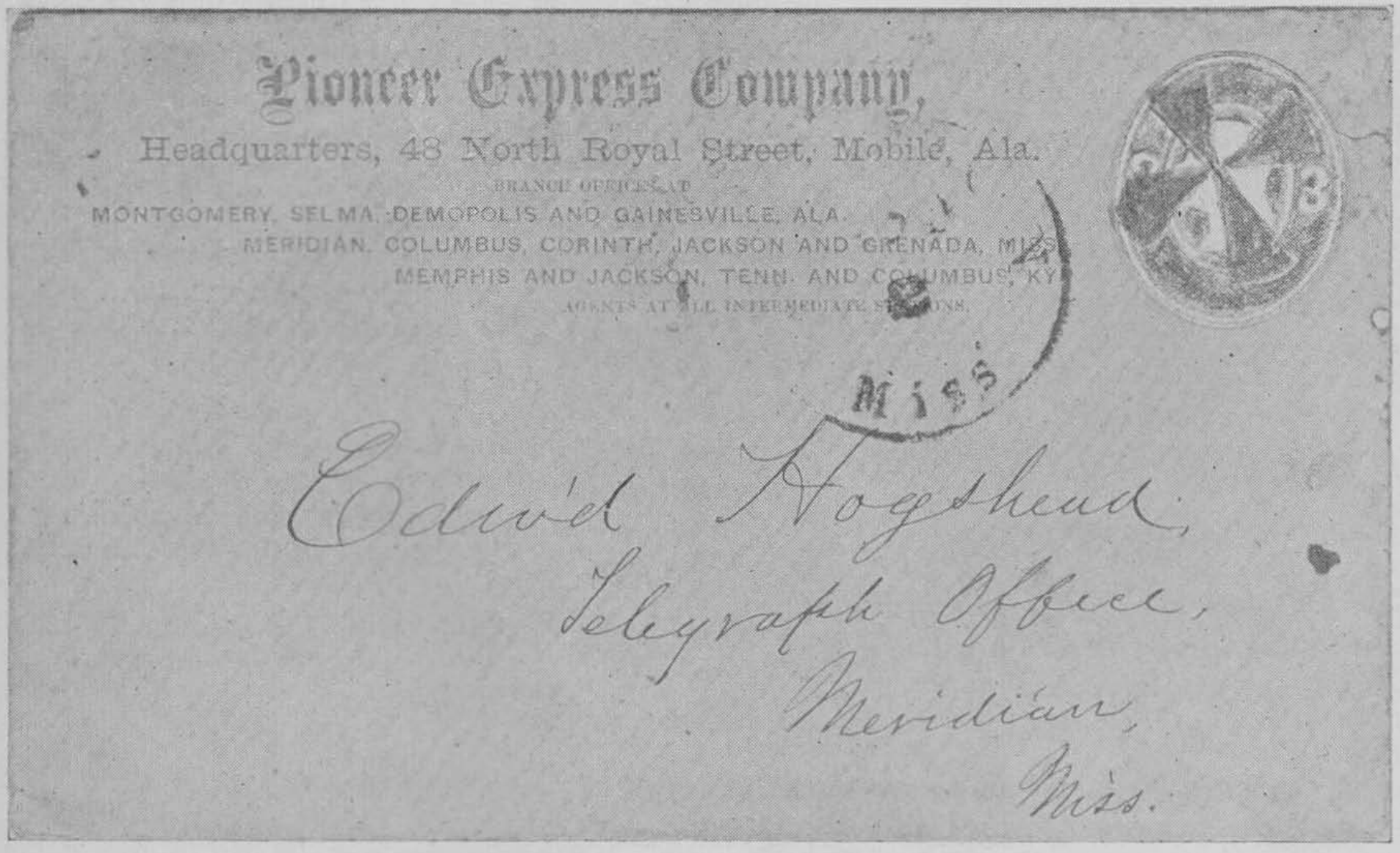
Mr. L. L. Shenfield, Jan. 20, 1942.

Commenting on the last R.G.Bulletin, Mac expressed the wish that I include more references to Confeds.

You and Mac are better qualified to do this than I am, so if you will send me any remarks you would like to have inserted, I'll be only too glad to include them.

Best regards.

Yours etc.,



Who Knows the Story of the Pioneer Express Company?

Mr. Alfred F. Lichtenstein, of New York, has come in possession of the cover here illustrated. A United States 3-Cent stamped envelope, it went through a Southern post-office (Jackson, Miss.) without a Confederate stamp or a "Paid."

Who can tell us more about the Pioneer Express Company, of Mobile, Ala.?

11/26

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

I have one item you can add to your records of 1847 items. I have a type D (no question about it) double transfer in a block of 4---this being the #1 stamp in block.

It is currently out on approval but I may be able to supply you owners name & address for a personal examination, if you wish.

Block is unused, only average cut. The DT stamp is decent as it has 8½ margins, cuts half of left T frame only.

LWG

You are at liberty to use my block #25 or info. on it in any sense you desire. I imagine a NJ party will see red if a strong article is written around it !

Dear Sir:

We regret to report that we were unable to secure any of the lots upon which you bid in recent auction, higher bids having been received.

We greatly appreciate your interest and hope to have the pleasure of serving you to better advantage in our future sales which will be conducted on a regular monthly schedule.

LAMBERT W. GERBER

Tamaqua, Penna.

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Stanley B. Ashbrook

434 So. Grand Ave.

Ft. Thomas, Ky.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 29, 1941.

Mr. Lambert W. Gerber,
Tamaqua, Penna.

Dear Mr. Gerber:

I was very much pleased to receive yours of the 26th. For over 20 years I have been searching for a duplicate of the 5¢ 1847 "D" shift with no success. To find one would almost be like discovering a duplicate of the "Knapp" 10¢ 1847 shift or the 10¢ 1855 "Brown" shift.

I certainly would like to see the block you turned up because I have always contended that this "D" was an actual plate variety and not any sort of an "imitation shift" (Perry) or "kiss" as several prominent students have contended that it is. If you can arrange to have it submitted I will greatly appreciate the favor.

Sincerely yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 30, 1941.

Mr. Lambert W. Gerber,
200 Rowe,
Tamaqua, Pa.

Dear Mr. Gerber:

I am enclosing herewith copy of an article which will appear in the next number of the "Stamp Specialist." May I inquire if you have any objection to any statements made? I am enclosing with my compliments a photograph of the Emerson pair with the "D" shift, and also one of your block.

Will you kindly return copy at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

COPY

. . MEMO *from Lambert W. Gerber* . .

12/31

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:-

I read your article with interest; your new notes with the rehash on your stand make it an outstanding article. I hope you can turn up some new evidence. I hada type C transfer about 3 years ago: I searched my records but can't find where I placed it. Possibly it was one of the recorded copies as I believe it was from the Forkner collection.

I have no objection to any statements in the article. I gave you blanket permission to use my name, block or what-have-you in any manner you desired...and that stands forever.

Thanks for the photo's; they go with my collection of extra-curiculla items on US.

L. W. Gerber

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 12, 1942.

Mr. Karl Burroughs,
46 Langdon Ave.,
Watertown, Mass.

My dear Mr. Burroughs:

Yours of the 7th received and I am pleased to inform you that the conclusions you reached on the Emerson 5¢ 1847 pair with the "D" double transfer were correct. This "D" is no printing error but a regular and consistent plate variety, because I recently had submitted to me a mint block of four, showing the upper left stamp quite a fine example of the "D". Thus we have two known examples.

In the next "Stamp Specialist" I will have a profusely illustrated article commenting on the "C" and "D". I might add that Steve Brown was not the only one who pronounced the Emerson "D" a printing error. It would appear that we have a surplus of incompetent experts.

Years ago it was rather the custom to call every crack and scratch a "cracked plate." I do not recall what Steve's opinion was on the 1847 plates, i.e., whether they were steel or copper. I do recall, however, that I frequently reminded him that copper plates do not crack. I have seen plenty of plate scratches on the 5¢ and 10¢ but never have I seen any scratch that resembled in the slightest degree, a surface crack. Considering the period of manufacture of these plates and the methods then in use, I think this fact to a certain extent corroborates my claim that the 1847 were copper plates.

In the February A.P., Mr. Lester Brookman will have quite a lengthy article on the 1847 Issue. It will include numerous fine illustrations. I extended some help to Mr. Brookman on his article and furnished him with numerous illustrations among which were several of the more prominent "scratch" varieties of the 5¢. I call this article to your kind attention when it appears.

In my plating work, "plate scratches" are of immense assistance, but naturally there is a decided difference between "scratches" on copper plates and "scratches" on steel plates.

For example, permit me to cite the Confederate "Frame Line" plate. I started to work on the reconstruction of this plate in 1916 and have been with it ever since. We know that this was a copper plate but I doubt if anyone outside of myself is aware that the "scratches" on this plate are absolutely identical with similar scratches found on the 10¢ 1847 plate. Although I have worked on many steel plates, I have never seen such scratches on steel plate printed stamps.

I am enclosing herewith a portion of the current Research Group Bulletin, thinking that perhaps some of my remarks therein might be of passing interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

46 Langdon Ave.
Watertown, Mass.
Jan. 7, 1942.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 South Grand Ave.
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The photograph of the 5 cents 1847 pair is in hand for which I thank you. I believe you are warranted in describing the left position a double transfer, I assume the original entry, incompletely erased, was bad. Imean it was not displaced enough to have mattered but was a messed up re-entry transfer probably twisted. If this assumption is good I can see no criterion which could serve to prove the item a printing error.

Brown was gifted with better than average deductive reasoning power but he was not in fallible any more than the rest of us. The item appears to have a larger linear displacement at "S" than at the upper left corner of the frame. Some might consider this evidence of a printing shift but I merely deem it signifies a very poor original entry.

You may recall that in the Brown sale were several items which he noted as cracked plate. Such ot these items as I noted were for me scratches or abrasions that may occur when a plate is transferred. For instanceI bought Lot#118 a #1 psition from Pl.#1 noted cracked plate by Brown. There are superflous lines either side of the left frame line which I consider to be scratches.

My reason for this is that these lines are similar to those we see on plate proofs where after transferring the gutters were not cleaned up by burnishing. Scratches of this sort show on some of the 1861 Issue proofs and again on one of the 2 cents 1873 plates. That is where Brown considered these marks cracks I infer that PL. #1 was not carefully cleaned before going to press.

To you this may be trite or perhaps I make it out worse than Brown. With best regards, Iremain,

Yours sincerely,

Karl Burroughs.

46 Langdon Ave.
Watertown, Mass.
Dec. 29, 1941.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 South Grand Ave.
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I do not know of a duplicate of the "D" double transfer nor am I famliar with the Emerson item and have no idea as to its status. I consider it questionable to catalogue a variety when there is no known duplicate. I have seen printing shifts on 5 cents 1847 stamps in the left numeral.

I have yet to see an item that I could positively allocate to the right pane of Pl. 2 which together with the scarcity of Pl.2 stamps makes me wonder if the plate had more than 100 positions.

With best regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
Karl Burroughs.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 2, 1942.

Mr. Karl Burroughs,
46 Langdon Road,
Watertown, Mass.

Dear Mr. Burroughs;

Many thanks for your prompt reply to my recent letter. I was under the impression that I had sent you at one time a photograph of the Emerson pair which had the unique "D" double transfer. I am enclosing a print herewith with my compliments.

I quite agree with you that unless we are fairly positive of a consistent variety, such items should not be listed in the S.U.S. if only one copy is known. However there has never been any doubt in my mind that the "D" was a consistent plate variety, hence I advised Mr. Clark to list it some five years ago. In contrast I have consistently advised him not to list the Knapp 10¢ 1847 Double Transfer.

Regarding Plate 2. When we consider that over 4,000,000 of the 5¢ stamps were printed it hardly seems logical to suppose that a plate of 200 and a plate of 100 could have supplied that number, unless of course, one is disposed to believe the 1847 plates were made of steel.

I seriously doubt if Pl. 2 stamps are as scarce as some suppose. We are not positive that there were only two plates of 200. It is not beyond the range of possibilities that there were three in all.

In regard to the enclosed photograph. Do you see how Brown could have confused this variety with a kiss?

With the Compliments of the Season, I am

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 26, 1941.

Mr. Karl Burroughs,
46 Langdon Ave.,
Watertown, Mass.

Dear Mr. Burroughs:

I am writing a special article for the next issue of the "Stamp Specialist" on the 5¢ 1847 and I would like to be sure on one point, viz., is there a duplicate known of the "D" double transfer? Will you kindly let me know if you have ever been able to locate a copy.

As you recall, the only known example was a horiz. pair, the "D," the stamp to left, in the Emerson collection. This pair was discovered about 1920 or 1921 and since that time I have never been able to locate a duplicate. Steve Brown was of the opinion the "D" was a printing error, probably what Perry calls an "Imitation Shift," or in common parlance, a "kiss."

I will greatly appreciate a prompt reply.

With the Compliments of the Season, I am

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 8, 1941.

Mr. J. W. Sampson,
Foute #1,
Hollowell, Maine.

Dear Mr. Sampson:

I was wondering if you were ever able to dig up a copy of the 5¢ 1847, "D" shift. I illustrated this Double Transfer in the A.P. several years ago and stated that the only copy known was in the Emerson collection. It might interest you to know that the late Stephen Brown, who by the way, was quite a thorough student of the 5¢, made an examination of the Emerson stamp and came to the conclusion that it was not an actual plate variety but that it was an error of printing, that is, an ink shift or "kiss" as some call such varieties. I could never agree with him and have always contended it was an actual plate variety and due to its extreme scarcity it undoubtedly came from Pl. 2. By the way, it is a lovely double transfer and it would indeed be nice to turn up a duplicate just to prove that because only one copy of a variety is known that such a thing does not prove the variety was not constant.

May I inquire if you have had any luck?

Cordially yours,

J. WALDO SAMPSON
P. O. BOX 284
SAN ANSELMO, CALIF.

Dec. 17, '41

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Avemue,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Your letter dated Dec. 8th has just reached me via Hallowell, Maine.

Stephen Brown's opinion of the Emerson "D" shift is new to me. Unfortunately, I have never been able to get a glimpse of the stamp in question. And while I have been more or less earnestly seeking it for some years, I have never run across another example of the "D."

Reasoning from another angle, Brown's opinion that the Emerson stamp is a "kiss" seems more probable. How many copies of the "C" shift have you seen? I have three of them, acquired without special effort, which indicates either unusual luck or that mild degree of scarcity one would naturally expect where one subject exists on the relatively little-used Plate 2.

All right. Now isn't it odd that only one "D" should show up in these several years, when Steve Brown and you and I and God knows how many other ardent collectors have been earnestly looking for it? Doesn't this rather lend weight to the theory that "D" is not constant?

But I am in no position to argue about it, for you have seen the stamp and I haven't.

Any chance of your coming out this way this winter? If so, I hope we can have a talk. My 1847's, however, are all back on the east coast.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,
J. WALDO SAMPSON

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 30, 1941.

Mr. J. Waldo Sampson,
P.O. Box 284,
San Anselmo, Calif.

Dear Mr. Sampson:

Many thanks for yours of the 17th.

I am enclosing herewith a photograph of the Emerson pair of the 5¢ 1847 with the "D" double transfer to left, which kindly accept with my compliments.

Regarding the "C". I have never been able to locate myrnetond five copies of which my record shows, three are in your collection. In addition, I located a single with a part of the stamp to right and this small part shows it was a "C". However, I can hardly count this as a sixth copy, but it does serve the purpose of a pair and shows the nature and character of the impression.

I am anxious to obtain your reaction to this photograph. Steve Brown saw the pair and examined it carefully. I also furnished him with a print same as the enclosed. I could never agree with his conclusion because I do not think it possible to confuse a printing error with a consistent plate variety.

No, there is no prospect that I will get out to the Coast any time soon though it would be a pleasure to visit with a lot of friends in California.

With the Compliments of the Season,

Cordially yours,

J. WALDO SAMPSON
P. O. BOX 284
SAN ANSELMO, CALIF.

Jan. 5, '42

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 So. Grand Avenue,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Yours dated Dec. 30th received today, and I am very greatly obliged to you for this "Jumbo size" print of the Emerson pair.

I cannot claim to be expert in determining the fine points of difference between printing slips and true plate varieties, but judging solely from what this photograph shows I really see nothing to indicate that Steve Brown was right. And I'd like real well to believe him right,---that would so easily explain the whole matter!

Your part-copy of Shift C is an interesting addition to the group of known examples. I am still hoping to run across something that will serve to link the two,---C and D. Probably a vain hope, but miracles do happen to those who hustle while they wait, and the increasing publicity this issue receives (thanks largely to you) makes the discovery of new material more probable.

I am starting east tomorrow morning, going as far as Chicago and probably to New York, on a short business trip, returning here in a couple of weeks if all goes well. I'll let you know "if or when" anything turns up relative to these two positions.

Sincerely,

J. WALDO SAMPSON

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 12, 1942.

Mr. J. Waldo Sampson,
P.O.Box 284,
San Anselmo, Calif.

My dear Mr. Sampson:

Yours of the 5th received.

Your deduction was correct on the "D". It is indeed a consistent variety, a regular plate variety.

Due to a lot of hunting and inquiry, I recently turned up a duplicate of the "D" and in the next number of the "Stamp Specialist" I will have an article with full details of this important find, together with large illustrations. Please don't miss it and after you have read it, I will greatly appreciate your comments.

I might add that the new find was most unusual as it was a block of four (unused) with the upper left stamp a fine "D".

I trust you had a pleasant eastern trip but you probably ran into a lot of cold weather.

Cordially yours,

COPY

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 26, 1941.

Dr. Ralph W. Payne,
Greenfield, Mass.

Dear Doc:

I am writing a special article for the next issue of the "Stamp Specialist" on the 5¢ 1847 and I would like to be sure on one point, viz., is there a duplicate known of the "D" double transfer? Will you kindly let me know if you have ever been able to locate a copy.

As you will recall, the only known example was a horiz. pair, the "D," the stamp to left, in the Emerson collection. This pair was discovered about 1920 or 1921 and since that time I have never been able to locate a duplicate. Steve Brown was of the opinion the "D" was a printing error, probably what Perry calls an "Imitation Shift," or in common parlance, a "kiss."

I will greatly appreciate a prompt reply.

With the Compliments of the Season, I am

Cordially yours,

COPY COPY COPY

Cambridge, Mass.
Dec. 29, '41

Dear Stan:

I have never seen a copy of the 1847, 5¢ "D" shift other than the Judges. When he showed it to me, he said "you are now viewing the only known example of this shift." Have you a photo of it? I don't recall whether it showed in a pair or single. Best regards

Dave.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 2, 1942.

Mr. Dan'l F. Kelleher,
7 Water St.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dan:

Herewith a photograph of the Emerson pair with my compliments.

Yes, Bob was quite proud of this pair and if my memory serves me correctly I discovered it in his collection but at the time I thought it was the "C" ofwhich only one copy was then known. (Hammatt).

I had Bob send this pair to me and when I compared it with a photograph of Dan's "C" I found it was entirely different. Later Bob acquired Dan's "C" of which now there are five known.

Perhaps you will recall how Steve argued with me that Emerson's "D" was no plate variety but just a kiss. Steve had several similar cracked notions. I never owned a "C" or "D" and neither did Jake so far as I know.

I have the original negative I made in 1921 of this pair but the print enclosed is from a negative I made in February 1936, when I again had Bob send it to me. Just think in all those years no duplicate, but this is confidential and please don't mention to anyone, because I want to get some of those "kiss" experts out on a limb.

Recently I discovered a "D" and what do you think it was in? Of all things in a mint block of four. Can you beat that for luck?

So you see Dan it is a genuine plate variety but it took me 20 years to prove it beyond all question.

Happy New Year to you and Bill.

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 26, 1941.

Mr. Dan'l F. Kelleher,
7 Water St.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dan:

I am writing a special article for the next issue of the "Stamp Specialist" on the 5¢ 1847 and I would like to be sure on one point, viz., is there a duplicate known of the "D" double transfer? Will you kindly let me know if you have ever been able to locate a copy.

As you will recall, the only known example was a horiz. pair, the "D," the stamp to left, in the Emerson collection. This pair was discovered about 1920 or 1921 and since that time I have never been able to locate a duplicate. Steve Brown was of the opinion the "D" was a printing error, probably what Perry calls an "Imitation Shift," or in common parlance, a "kiss."

I will greatly appreciate a prompt reply.

With the Compliments of the season, I am

Cordially yours,

Dan'l F Kelleher
7 Water St
Boston Mass

Understand either you or Kepper have the Emerson Hawaiian collection consisting hundred fifty eight covers for sale stop Richey is interested if lot is worth while stop send upon forward

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
~~134 S. GRAND AVE.~~
~~FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY~~

Paid

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 26, 1941.

Mr. Frank A. Hollowbush,
17 Spier Ave.,
Allenhurst, N.J.

Dear Frank:

I am writing a special article for the next issue of the "Stamp Specialist" on the 5¢ 1847 and I would like to be sure on one point, viz, is there a duplicate known of the "D" double transfer? Will you kindly let me know if you have ever been able to locate a copy. As you will recall, the only known example was a horiz. pair, the "D," the stamp to left, in the Emerson collection. This pair was discovered about 1920 or 1921 and since that time I have never been able to locate a duplicate. Steve Brown was of the opinion the "D" was a printing error, probably what Perry calls an "Imitation Shift," or in common parlance, a "kiss." I will greatly appreciate a prompt reply.

With the Compliments of the Season, I am

Cordially yours,

Mrs. William Gordon Harrison

and

Mr. Frank Abercrondie Hollowbush

announce their marriage

on Saturday, the first of November

nineteen hundred and forty-one

Allenhurst, New Jersey

At Home

after the fifteenth of November

17 Spier Avenue

Allenhurst, New Jersey

Turning Back The Clock

—Courtesy of Raymond Ashbrook, 3577 Raymar Drive.

These two gentlemen gave the theater-goers of bygone years many a "belly" laugh. They used to come pretty regularly to the old Grand Opera House, now but an active memory to those who enjoyed its comforts and pleasures along about the turn of the century and before. The actors depicted are Dabol and Wilson in "Erminie". The incomparable Francis Wilson is seated.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky,

Dec. 15, 1941.

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

Dear Ez:

Take it from me the Red Head has no system nor any key. I doubt if he knows as much about foreign rate covers as you do. There is no particular key to spotting faked covers. One has to know rates and the exchange markings, this is the only safeguard. The faker has no knowledge of such data, hence hs is bound to trip up. Only in the last six months have I really buckled down to the rates and uses of the period subsequent to 1863 and believe me, I am daily getting my record in better shape. As to Colson, he hated Knapp, hence in his opinion all of Knapp's 1869 covers were fakes. Naturally this is not true. He has seen a lot of Zareski's work and it is quite possible that Zareski has on hand a lot of fake handstamps. Colson has an uncanny memory and remembers fakes. On the other hand, he does not know rates of the meanings of exchange markings.

I never examined the Knapp 1869 covers carefully - just glanced thru them and checked off those I thought were good and bad, then later I checked the uses, dates, markings, etc., as best I could from the photographs. How far is my guess wrong on lot 1779? You probably bought this for Moody, who sent it to Colson and Colson said it was bad. Moody thinks Colson is a God and believes everything the Louse tells him.

If Colson knows genuine 1869 covers why did he try to sell that 30¢ fake to Martin which Souren illustrated? Colson has a system of condemning every cover which does not show on its face that it is perfectly good beyond any question. His whole game is to kill every sale he can by any dealer in the country. No, EEz he is no wizard and he is not half so damn keen as he claims he is. Any item Colson has is good, no matter how lousy it is, any item any competitor has is a fake.

A damn degenerate (you know what we called them when we went to school) will lie and resort to any lousy trick to harm someone he hates - its their chief characteristic to hate all normal human beings.

Consider cover 1779. Surely the whole thing is not a fake. That "PD" and the London are not fakes, neither is the French. If this cover is a fake, then the 30¢ was substituted for some other stamp. The New York p.m. is illegible, hence I can't form any conslusion from the illustration. I don't want to ask Souren for a photo of this cover but could you get one from him for me?

I know, damn well that mail could be sent thru England after Jan. 1, 1870 at the former French rates but I have no data on hand regarding the U.S.-British arrangement. There are plenty of genuine uses to France in 1870 of 15¢ and 30¢ rates. I can't be wrong on this but suppose I am, and that mail could not be sent to France at former

rates thru England. If this was a fact and Colson knows it to be a fact then of course every cover to France after Jan. 1, 1870 with 15¢ - 30¢ and 45¢ rates would be, (in his opinion) fakes.

I can't understand why lot 1778 sold so low. This cover is as good as gold.

I had to smile at your suggestion I get all my photographs together (1869 covers) and study themlotlotI have every one arranged and card indexed as well as every marking and records of covers that have been in numerous sales clear back to the Seybold sale in 1910. I have a double check with uses by months to compare markings, etc. When I can get a cover to my desk and study it by my records I can generally come to quite a positive opinion. No one else has such a record I am sure. All I need is more detailed Government records.

Here is what John wrote me about the Beaver cover: "I saw the cover several times and I did not think it was genuine. Do not know who has it now. As near as I can remember some small dealer in N.Y.C. had it. If I find out will communicate."

I take it that John was not involved. If he was, he would have sworn it was O.K. Bartels could tell me a lot if he only would. I think it is J.M. who is giving me that run around. Bad stuff and he should know better. I haven't written him as yet but I am going to do so and send him Wallenberger's letter. Someone better come clean or else I am going to write a story on this cover.

There is too much of this funny business and its about time someone was dragging it out in the open. I can do so to the Queen's taste and tell them all to go to hell.

Re - the Rust 7R1E. Could you arrange to send it to me so I can make a photo and include it in my record? You know I have a detailed record of every 7R1E I have ever been able to locate, regardless of its condition. If you can't send the item, will you send me a complete description.

The Newark Valley must be a gem. Sure would love to see it and record it.

What about the 5¢ 1847 - Are there many 1847 uses? What about 1850 uses with stamps with fine sharp early impressions - fine engravings? How about any fine engravings - do any show plating marks? What about any sheet margin copies? I don't care for cancelations but am awfully anxious to see fine engravings on cover gagardless of condition. Were there any pairs with "Dot in S"? Is it true that the whole collection is going in a Harmer sale?

Guess that covers everything.

Yours etc.,

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
COLLECTORS CLUB

EZRA D. COLE RARE POSTAGE STAMPS
NYACK, N. Y. - - - *Telephone Nyack 964*

December 16, 1941

Mr. S.B. Ashbrook.

Have you given up on the Carrier research? I haven't and look at the enclosed cover. This is quite an interesting cover. Do you have a copy of Lambert W. Gerber's auction catalog of the Dr. Wolfe collection? The sale is to be held January 22nd and 23rd. If so, look at lot 736, or better yet, write him and ask him to send it on inspection. I can't quite figure it out from the photograph. Don't get anyone else all excited about it, for I would like to try and buy it myself, for my own collection.

Several things have turned up in the Rust lot. Will write you about these when I get them all in shape. One nice thing is a supplimentary mail cancellation on a 10¢ 1857, that should be good, for he bought it in 1901. Not a wonderful copy or strike but a nice one to have for reference purposes.

Please accept the enclosed block of "intermediate" Pony Express stamps with my compliments. Merry Christmas.

EDC

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
COLLECTORS CLUB

EZRA D. COLE RARE POSTAGE STAMPS
NYACK, N. Y. - - - *Telephone Nyack 964*

December 18, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 So. Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

The enclosed cover was sent to me by Ed Bauer and see his letter. Have you checked this for the type or is he kidding me? It looks like the type Ia stamp to me, but there is not enough of the bottom to be absolutely sure. In any event, I am only offering him $25.00. If he accepts the offer, can we make some money together at this price? I am going to continue this in the hope that some day, we can sell something and make a profit.

Everything about lot 1779 in the Knapp sale looked all right to me. Of course, you realized that, or I would not have bought it. After examining it carefully, I think that all of the postmarks on the cover are probably all right, with the exception of the Castorville,Texas postmark. This of course, makes the whole cover doubtful again. I also bought lot 1715 for a check and I think this is bad too.

With reference to the 1870 rates and the 1869 issue, is it not possible that we have both over-looked something.

How about the war of 1870?. Paris was besieged and possibly there was no mail during certain periods. This is something that Colson would know and at least I did not think of it before. Possibly the Encyclopedia Britannica would be our clue.

You know perfectly well that I do not care for Colson but I do think that he was pretty near right about Knapp's 1869 covers. I bought the one that I thought was surest of being genuine and it turned out to be a fake. Of all the rest, only 1778 was above reproach. The reason it did not sell at a bigger price was because it did not look too attractive. As I remember it, the stamp had a washed out look and the red postmark instead of making it look better, made it appear worse than it was.

Mr. S. B. Ashbrook

Believe me, you are getting the run-around on that Beaver cover. I would like to bet you 50 to 1 that it belonged to John Klemann when it was put in Bartels' sale. I did quite a lot of investigating, for I tried to buy it for Ed Jessup, until of course, I found out that at best, it was very doubtful.

You are perfectly right, there is too much funny business going on and because a lot of people are involved, everybody says hush, hush. It reminds me of an ostritch sticking his head in the sand. I think that all of these things should be smoked out and get the fullest publicity. I think that an entirely wrong attitude was taken on the fakes from Chicago.

Everything in the Rust collection is going to be sold at auction. I have still a world of work to do. The only reason I can't send the items on you want right now, is because I have to keep the lots in order at least for the time being until they are numbered and the descriptions written. I would like to be able to bring the collection out to Cincinnati, then up to Chicago and back home via Detroit and Cleveland. If this cannot be done, I certainly will see to it that you have the 7RIE cover to photograph as well as all of the other interesting varieties. I know I will find a few more things you would like to see.

Sincerely,

EDC:AS

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 21, 1941.

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

Dear Ez:

Herewith the 3¢ plus 1¢. This is more of a Forwarded drop - though it is possible that it was dropped in the post office and that the 1¢ was intended to prepay the carrier delivery fee. On the other hand it might have been dropped in a box and the 1¢ paid the collection fee to the P.O. How are we to tell? No, I haven't given up the 3¢ plus 1¢ research by a long shot and am still searching for covers and data. I am sure there is valuable information on file at Washington if we only knew where to find it. The memo of the date on the back of your cover is probably correct. The 1¢ is a Pl. 2 stamp and the 3¢ is in the claret class.

I am enclosing two bum photos of two covers Bill Homan sent me. I never saw a 3¢ plus 1¢ use from Portland outside of this one. Note the 3¢ rate has no street address - whereas the 3¢ plus 1¢ has. This may be a prepaid "Way" into Portland but I think the chances are that the 1¢ paid the delivery fee in Boston. The date is sure Sep - Oct 1860 though there was no memo. So far as I know, Portland did not have any carrier service in 1860 so this couldn't be a collection fee.

Gerber sends me his auction catalogues but I haven't received one of his sale for Jan. 22-23. I'll watch out for it and note the lot you mentioned and may write him to send it to me. He has been quite nice in submitting items in the past. I won't say anything about it so go after it yourself.

Would you like for me to check the 10¢ 1857 Supplementary Mail? I think I can tell the difference between the genuine Type A and the fakes. I have made enlargements of markings from covers I know are genuine and several letters have distinguishing characteristics.

Many thanks Ez for the block of the Wells Fargo Ponies. I will put these in my "reference collection" with the compliments of "E.C." Xmas 1941.

Please let me know what Y.S. replied to your letter.

No - the cover you returned. Note the enclosed cards from my file, and return.

I can't figure out why 30¢ and 10¢ rates, (if genuine) have the same markings. The principal marking is the N.Y. with "6," this a credit to G.B. of 6¢. Why credit 6¢ and a 10¢ rate, and only 6¢ on a 30¢ rate? Figure that out. Maybbe O.K. and in line with data I do not possess, but I wonder.

The P.O.D. made rulings in January 1870 respecting French mail, also other rulings later. I haven't this data. If I could get it, I could clear up the whole mess.

#2.

Mr. Ezra D. Cole, Dec. 21, 1941.

Best of Wishes for a Merry Xmas to Jean, the fine pair and yourself.

Yours etc.,

COPY COPY COPY COPY

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 3, 1942.

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

Dear Ez:

Maybe we were wrong on Bartels - Note the enclosed which came with the Beaver cover. I have made an excellent photo and will send you a print if you wish. Ez, I think you are undoubtedly wrong on this item. I examined it carefully under my lamp and while the Beaver stamp has shifted its position slightly it certainly did originate on this cover. The lamp proves this as the letter paper has an age stain beneath the stamp. In addition, the grid on the 5¢ is the same as the one on the Beaver. And finally there is no Canadian due marking. There certainly would have been had there been no Beaver stamp.

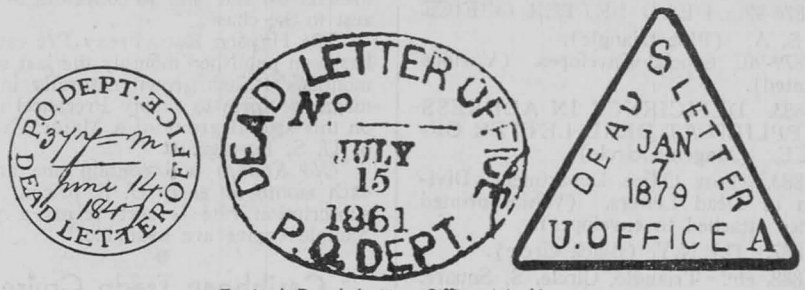
I made careful tracings of both grids and they are a perfect match.

The auction sale was phony as this letter proves. It must have been entered with a limit of $400. Why didn't J.M. be frank and tell me this? Please keep this confidential. All I wanted was to see the cover and examine it. As I succeeded I have no axe to grind.

Yours etc.,

Dead Letter Office Markings

By HARRY M. KONWISER



Typical Dead Letter Office Markings.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, as deputy Crown Postmaster General for the American Colonies, instituted many workman-like improvements in the post office. Most of these advances in postal service resulted from Franklin's experiences as Postmaster at Philadelphia.

Franklin instituted a uniform accounting system, he introduced local delivery on letters not called for at the post office—for delivering these letters an extra fee was charged (creating the so-called "penny post"). Franklin instituted the system of printing, in the *Gazette,* his newspaper, a list of letters unclaimed.

This may not be the beginnings of what is currently known as the Dead Letter Office of the United States Post Office, but there is no doubt it had its influence on the members of Continental Congress.

That body on July 26, 1775, established the postal system for the Thirteen Colonies. The need for definitely better postal service, for the benefit of the newly-created union, was soon obvious, and so was the need for what might be termed "censorship." The Continental Congress by Resolution of October 17, 1777, created "an inspector of dead letters" whose duty it was to examine dead letters, also "to communicate to Congress such as contain inimical schemes or intelligences, to preserve letters containing valuable articles, and not to divulge the contents of letters to any but Congress."

This Act, and later supplemental acts, created the Dead Letter Office in the United States Post Office, but it was not until 1825 that the Dead Letter Office was "set up" as a separate division of the United States Post Office. (At least the official records seem to point to that deduction, despite the fact that the term "Dead Letter Office, P. O. Dept." is known as a handstamp on mail returned to senders, prior to 1825).

Detailed reports of the 1825-35 period are not to be had, but the record indicates there were 380,000 letters handled by the Dead Letter Office in 1830, and 500,000 in the next year, with 900,000 for 1839. The transactions increased from year to year.

While prepayment became compulsory in 1856 and the use of adhesives became compulsory in the following year, the regulations were violated to the point where the postal officials gave notice, in 1860, that unstamped letters would be sent to the Dead Letter Office.

Later, a penalty was imposed on letters returned to the senders, from the Dead Letter Office, in Official Envelopes, printed "Due 3 cents" or "Due 6 cents." Cover Collectors are familiar with these covers, of course. In 1935 the fee for returned mail, from the Dead Letter Office, was made five cents.

During the years of the fee system, large sums of money have been paid into the Post Office Department, and it may be stated as a fact that while the United States Post Office system has improved to the point of being one of the most efficient public bureaus in the world, the users of the postal system are still careless, in their letter-addressing.

This story is not now, however, that of the Dead Letter Office. Data on this system, from its beginnings, has been assembled by this writer for many years and is now being whipped into shape for a "big story" for this paper, self-scheduled for sometime during the coming year.

At the moment the thought is to gather in every possible type of marking employed by the Dead Letter Office, and to that point is shown, herewith illustrations of the three "most common markings"—in the sense these were used for many years. Readers who collect covers are cordially invited to advise the writer, care STAMPS, of handstamps not listed below. These marks are dated.

1817-51. DEAD LETTER OFFICE P. O. DEPT. (Red or black circle).

1828. DEAD LETTER OFFICE. G. P. OFFICE. (Red circle).

1852-58. P. O. DEPARTMENT DEAD LETTER OFFICE. (Black circle).

1858. SAINT LOUIS, MO., JAN. 1, 1858. DEAD. (Black circle).

1858-64. DEAD LETTTR OFFICE. P. O. DPT. (Black or red oval).

1861. DEAD LETTER P. O. DEPT. (Black oval).

1862-64. P. O. DEPARTMENT DEAD LETTER OFFICE. (Blue oval).

1862-68. Post Office Department, Return Letter Office. Due 3 cents. (Due 6 cents). (Printed Official Envelopes with "Notice to the Postmaster" at the right.)

1863. DEAD LETTER OFFICE. (Blue circle).

1863. Post Office Department, Dead Letter Office, Due 6 cents. (or FREE). (Official printed Envelopes).

1865-72. SENT D. L. O. (Red circle).

1867. U. S. D. L. O. 1867. (Blue circle).

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1866. SENT **20 1866. (Three lines, boxed. (On Official Envelopes).
1863. CHICAGO ILLS. DEAD. (Blue circle).
1865. DEAD LETTER OFFICE U. S., MAY, 1865. (Blue circle).
1868. Spelling as 1865, with "U.S." at bottom. (Circle).
1876. DEAD PHILA. POST OFFICE. (Magenta circle).
1876-97. DEAD LETTER OFFICE U. S. A. (Blue triangle).
1879-90. Official Envelopes. (Various Printed).
1883. DEFICIENCY IN ADDRESS SUPPLIED AT DEAD LETTER OFFICE. (Magenta circle).
1883. Post Office Department, Division of Dead Letters. (White printed notice attached to envelopes).
1887. D.L.N.Y. (Black circle).
1888, etc. Triangle, Circle, S, Square, Six-pointed Star. (As printed on Official Envelopes, indicating Division handling the letter).
1890. D.L.O. RECORD No..... (Magenta, boxed).
1890-1905. DEAD LETTER OFFICE, Minor Letter, etc. (Four lines Red).
1891. REGISTRY BRANCH—CORRECT—JAN. 20, 1891—P. O. Dept.—DEAD LETTER OFFICE. (Magenta oval).
1897. DEAD LETTER OFFICE F. D. (Magenta circle).
1901. DEAD LETTER OFFICE—RECEIVED IN BAD CONDITION—OCT. 30, 1901—FOREIGN DIVISION. (Four lines, Red).
1903-06. Post Office Department, Dead Letter Office. (Printed form).
1938. DEAD LETTER BRANCH. LAWRENCE, MASS. (Two lines, Magenta).

These markings have all been seen by the writer for the years noted. Readers who help complete this list will be given full credit in the "big story" now in the making.

Rio Parana Launching

THE second unit of the fleet of four new passenger and cargo ships which are under construction for the South American service of Moore-McCormack Lines was launched Dec. 18, 1940, at the yard of the Sun Shipbuilding & Drydock Company, at Chester, Pennsylvania. This ship, named the Rio Parana for one of the great rivers of South America, went down the way a month after her sister ship, the Rio Hudson, bearer of the name of a great North American river, and we are indebted to Justin L. Bachrach for a launching day cover specially cacheted for the event.

The Rio Parana will be followed by two sister ships, the Rio de la Plata and the Rio de Janeiro. Each of these ships is 17,500 tons displacement, 492 feet long, 69 feet 6 inches beam, and 27 feet 4 inches loaded draft. Each ship will accommodate 196 passengers and have 440,000 bale cubic feet cargo space, including 40,000 cubic feet for refrigerated cargo.

Parker Haydon Publishes "Old Stamps"

OLD STAMPS is the name of the Haydon News Sheet which will supply the Buro Fan with a complete report of Prexy and Defense Buro's. Each month they will add the new ones reported issued.

Says Parker Haydon—

"October was feast month for U. S. collectors with eight new U. S. Stamps to chase. November gave the Buro Fan thirty eight new Defense and ten new prexys to chase and forbid the postmasters to 'Sell 'Em' to collectors to lend zest to the chase.

"The Haydon Buro Prexy Pre catalog has been published monthly the last seven months. It has grown naturally into a magazine form to supply Precancel news on this special group of a Major Variety of U. S. Postage.

"*Old Stamps* will contain one article each month on early U. S. prices. The subscription rate is sixty cents a year. Sample copies are available."

Caribbean Trade Cruise

SAILING from Havana in January, an Official Transport of the CUBAN Government is to go on a Commercial Cruise carrying an Economic Mission and an Exhibition of exportable Cuban Products. It is to visit all the ports of Mexico, British Honduras, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Curacao, Trinidad, Martinique, Guadaloupe, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba. On board this Official Transport of the Cuban Government there will be in operation a Post Office which will handle covers with special stamps and cancellations with special marks from all ports of call. Further particulars can be obtained from Colonel J. K. Ross-Duggan, Headquarters House, Hillsboro, N. C.

Kent Stiles on WWRL

KENT STILES, Stamp Editor of the *New York Times,* spoke on *A Philatelic Review of* 1940 *with a View to* 1941 during his guest appearance on Walter Kaner's *Stamp Man* program presented over WWRL, 1500 kilocycles, New York, on Sunday December 29th at 8:45 P.M.

As has been his custom for many years, Stiles, who conducts the stamp page in the *American Boy,* reviewed the important events in the stamp world during 1940 and discussed their significance and effect on the hobby. An analysis of the stamps issued by the various governments during the past turbulent year was made, and a look into the stamp picture as it appears for 1941 was offered by the veteran stamp writer whose annual review of philately has become an event awaited by collectors throughout the country. This marked the first time the annual review had been broadcast for the benefit of the thousands of stamp collectors in the metropolitan New York area.

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#125A Sheet of 5.....	5.00	6.00	....

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These three sets are all for German-Occupied Poland—Prices may be lower someday and they may be higher—Who can tell?

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EAST NATICK
MASSACHUSETTS

TELEPHONE
NATICK 1731

Sept 25th 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

Many thanks for your letter. I intended that you should retain the stamp sent on approval but I was endeavoring some further items, and when I can find time to dig in can send you more.

I venture to disagree with you as to that my covers would be better off in a private collection. I chose to think (it is my baby) that my covers verge on National interest and should be accessible to the public. The ultimate owner of course would decide that the Marquises may buy the lot.

I don't know when or if ever I can find time to write a much needed article on the collection. As in my sceptres with a helpless wife to care for and all the household chores is my job. The clipping from the Boston Globe written by a non stamp man is a pretty good account of the lot and with a little ability might do for a stamp paper. In the interests of Philately you have my permission to use any of my material if you wish to write or comment on my lot.

Faithfully D A Brosnan

N. B.
You did not send me a copy of that Bulletin of yours recently [illegible] mentioned in Stamps.

Sam Inigo ?

I knew him well long before he came to the U. S. A.
cannot write anything about "Fakes"

18 Whittier Rd. E Natick Mass

Jan 8. 42.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

I got a letter this week from a U.S. Specialist - whom I had not heard from for years - enquiring about my Fort Bridger col. It seems he is writing up Territorial Cancellations. This brought to mind that I have not received a reply from you to my Reg letter of Sept 28th last which contained some Fort B. data which you could retain also some items marked for return & postage endosed.

In this letter I said that if you wished to write anything on my lot you were at liberty to make use of my material I am wondering if you have considered doing so. Faithfully Yours.

S. A. Brennan

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PHILATELIST
18 WHITTIER ROAD
(WORCESTER TURNPIKE)
EAST NATICK
MASSACHUSETTS

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS
PICTORIAL ENVELOPES AND COVERS
OF HISTORICAL INTEREST POSTALLY USED
NINETEENTH CENTURY ONLY

TELEPHONE
NATICK 1731

Sept 13. 1941

W. Stanley B. Ashbrook.

Dear W. Ashbrook

I read with interest in "Stamps" Sept 6th about your "Research group" I would appreciate a copy of your Bulletin referred to ~~in~~ if available. I am toying with the idea of writing for "Stamps" (other papers) an article re my collection of Army of Utah covers with some allied historical data. I am enclosing some data - duplicate - which you may retain if you wish. I consider that this series of covers ranks in importance with any other series of covers extant, particularly, the Fort Bridger cover I think one of the outstanding Philatelic items in U.S Postal history. My ambition is that this collection should find a home at the Fort Bridger Museum Wyoming. My means are very limited. I thought perhaps an article in a stamp paper might arouse interest with some wealthy collector who might buy it and donate it to the Museum. I am entirely out of the stamp game W.H.R Hammer of London bought my stock in 1936 and took it to London an accident in 1930 rendered me hors de combat and forced me to close my store in Boston in 1931

Cordially yours
D A Brosnan

A Chip Off the Old Block

THE following contribution to his monthly school paper by Stanley B. Ashbrook, Jr., indicates that he may in time follow in the footsteps of his father, Stanley B. Ashbrook, one of our foremost philatelic students:

"My hobby is stamps. I go with my Dad all over the country to stamp conventions. I buy stamps there. When I was in the Third Grade I saved my lunch money until I had $3.50 to buy a stamp album. I got $2.00 for my birthday and my mother gave me $4.60 which I spent on stamps. At Buffalo I bought some important stamps. I like my hobby very much. I collect stamps because it is fun."

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Telephone 7-4495

Nov. 14, 1941

Stanley Ashbrooke, Esq.
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrooke:-

I am herewith enclosing the 30¢ 1869 on cover that I talked with you about when you were last in N.Y. at the Knapp sale. I had hopes of seeing you at this past sale and talk with you about it.

This cover was sent to you about a year and half ago by Edgewood Stamp Co. of Milford, Conn. for examination. The information that I have is that you O.K.'d it. I wish that you would check it again. The reason that I am involved is because Edgewood first sent it to me and after I checked it over I condemned it. They then sold it to a local customer and when I found it in his collection I turned it down. He then sent it backto Edgewood and had him check it with you. When it came back from you they turned it over to me and asked me to check it elsewhere which I have done. No one seems to think it any good.

In my opinion the ink of the tie is different than the ink on the stamp. The New York pmk. is to irregular to be a pmk. that was struck and also the address seems to be over the pmk. The Phila. pmk. seems to be over the French mark. The French mark also shows a double frame and a double 6 but no other letter or figure is doubled. Also the address and hand writing is French which while possible there is more chance that it would be American.

Return registration and postage is enclosed and I will be pleased to hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely

Yale College, the Old Brick Row, 1840

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 17, 1941.

Mr. Harry B. Keffer,
280 Elm St.,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Harry:

I was glad to get yours of the 14th and to have another look at the 30¢ 1869 cover. When this cover was submitted to me some months past, I studied it very carefully from all angles and came to the conclusion that it was absolutely good. Naturally it is quite possible I was wrong. I did recognize that it was quite possible that the 30¢ had been substituted for say a 10¢ 1869, but this did not seem logical because the letter was transmitted by a French packet. In considering covers such as this, it is very easy for persons to express opinions which may be contrary to facts. In other words, it is easier to say such and such a cover is bad, without giving serious consideration to all the evidence.

For the sake of argument, suppose I agree with you and say the cover is a fake. Thus in agreement let us proceed to try to prove it is a manufactured piece. You seem to think that the Philadelphia marking was applied over the French postmark. Now if this is true, then both of these strikes must be fraudulent. The Philadelphia is dated "Aug.4" and the French is "Aug.16." If the French is genuine then the Philadelphia is fraudulent. Considering this point from all angles, why would a faker make such an obvious mistake? That is to put an "Aug.4" marking over one of "Aug.16?"

If either one of these markings are faked then the whole cover must be a fake. If so, where did the faker get the envelope? Did he print the corner card on the envelope? I doubt this because it hardly seems logical that a faker would go to all of this trouble and then place an "Aug.4" postmark over one of "Aug.16." If the corner card is genuine then it is quite possible the cover originated in Philadelphia, and the cover could have been addressed by a Frenchman. It could have been mailed at Philadelphia on Aug. 4, and postmarked at New York on Aug. 5, and it could have reahhed Brest in 11 days by French Packet, or on "Aug. 16," (1870). A search thru the files of New York newspapers would reveal whether a ship of the French Line departed from New York on Aug. 5. I suggest that this be done.

I heartily agree with you that it surely does look like the black Philadelphia was applied over the blue French postmark, and I noted this point and made a memorandum of it at the time, but I think this is an illusion. I have noted many similar cases, where I was absolutely positive that certain postmarks were applied first although they appeared to be over a second postmark.

I have re-examined the cover under my lamp, and I can see no evidence of a sbustitution. I do note however that there appears to be a slight difference between the black of the postmark and the black of the killer on the stamp. The former appears more reddish

under the lamp, hence there is a chance that there was a substitution.

Consider the period. Aug. 4th to 17th, 1870. The Franco German war had broken out the middle of July. The U.S.-French postal treaty had expired on Jan. 1, 1870, hence we had no treaty with France at this time, and, so far as I know, there was no "agreement" or "arrangement" whereby a letter from this country could be prepaid to a destination in France. This being the case one would expect that a letter like this would have a French "due" marking on it, but I have seen plenty of other covers of this same period which are undoubtedly genuine and which have no French due markings.

How about Knapp second sale, lot 1919? Now I didn't examine this cover but if it is genuine here is a 30¢ rate to France in Oct. 1871, by French Packet and there are no French due markings on the cover.

Regarding the New York postmark. I cannot believe this is a fake. This red ink matches exactly the red ink used at New York at the period. I cannot at the moment lay hands on a duplicate of this marking but I am almost certain I have seen other examples.

You will note that there are no British markings on this cover which is proof that the cover was carried direct to France by a French ship. Let us consider some of the points you raised.

(1) N.Y. postmark to irregular to have been struck? If this wasn't struck then it must have been painted. I suggest you examine this very carefully. I don't think this shows any evidence of a painting. Consider the shading of the letters "RK" - surely these were not painted but struck with a handstamp.

(2) Double frame and 6 of the French marking. I think this is entirely possible. A doubling may show in some parts and not in all. The contents of an envelope may have something to do with this. I have studied too many postmarks and have traced literally thousands and I must admit I see nothing irregular with this doubling.

Harry, I have no desire in the world to try to prove this cover is either good or bad, but my opinion is that if there is anything wrong with it, that the 30¢ stamp was substituted for some other value. I firmly believe that the corner card is genuine, second, that the envelope originated in Philadelphia in Aug. 1870. The Philadelphia p.m. with "7 A.M." is right for this period.

The cover is addressed to a suburb of Paris, "Vaugirard" and the "Vaugirard - Paris" postmark is shown on the back. I think this strike is genuine and proves the date is correct - "17 August 1870." The New York marking would not be correct for 1869 or any earlier year.

Perhaps if the 30¢ stamp was removed it would show some point which we cannot see while it is on the cover.

I suggest you examine this cover under a fine quartz lamp. I have an expensive "Hanovia" which in my opinion is much more proficient than the cheap models on the market. I cannot explain in a letter several points which my lamp discloses to my eyes but I think you will find

a certain aging around the lettering of all three postmarks.

Again I suggest that you look up the newspaper files and see if a French ship sailed from New York on August 5th, 1870. I would almost be willing to bet 7 to 5 that there was such a sailing. You might also find a notice as to the exact date this ship arrived at Brest. If these two points could be proved then I would be of the opinion that the envelope with the corner card is genuine, second that the New York and Brest postmarks are genuine. The questions then that would arise are these:

(1) Is the Phila. p.m. genuine? Was it faked to agree with the corner card?

(2) If this p.m. is a fake then the letter originated at New York and not at Philadelphia.

(3) Did this 30¢ originate on this cover?

There was certainly some U. S. stamps on the cover originally because otherwise the letter would not have been forwarded but would have been returned to the West End Hotel.

Go ahead and see what you can develop and let me know. If I am all wrong I want to know where I am wrong. In the meantime don't pay any attention to a lot of irresponsible opinions, and remember that any ignorant fool can say a cover is a fake.

With my best regards,

Cordially yours,

Confederate Blockade Letters

BY THE EDITOR

IT is a well-known fact that the Confederates succeeded in sending and receiving letters through the blockade, both from England and France, as late as 1863, and probably 1864. Occasionally such covers will be found with British or French postal markings which, confirmed by the dating of the correspondence within, present incontestible evidence of authenticity, but not one of these blockade-run covers—to or from Europe—that I have ever seen, or have been told about, carried either a Confederate stamp or a Southern postmark of origin.

The reason for the absence of Confederate stamps on letters going abroad is obvious, and has been stated repeatedly. The Confederate States failed to gain recognition as an independent government from either Great Britain or any of the Continental Powers, and in consequence her stamps were not honored in the foreign mails. Resort, therefore, was had to blockade-runner service.

The sole means of getting a letter to or from countries abroad was to entrust it to an officer of a blockade-runner. No stamps were affixed. Upon arrival in a British or French port, the bearer would either deliver the letter in person, or frank it with the stamps of that country and forward to its destination by regular post. Neither Britain nor France would have "passed" a letter bearing a Confederate States postage stamp. And they did not.

Experience has taught me that the unexpected—yea, the improbable—*may* turn up in Confederates; but when that blockade-run cover appears, franked with a Confederate stamp, postmarked in some Southern city between 1861 and 1865, it will make a wonderful companion-piece to another submitted to me some years ago, franked with a 2-cent Columbian and postmarked "New York, Jan. 8, 1846" in red.

However, three covers have lately been submitted to me for examination, which, undoubtedly, "ran the blockade." They are interesting enough to tell their story.

A lady in South Carolina sent two covers—practically identical—that carried unmistakable Confederate identification on their faces. They were found among old family correspondence. They were official envelopes, and addressed to "Edwin de Leon, Esq., Paris, France." The letters they contained evidently reached their destination, for they were brought back to America after the war and are now among the preserved family correspondence of the present owner.

These covers contained official communications to the Confederate Agent in Paris, and if they existed today, might disclose some interesting phases of the diplomacy of that period. But such letters were probably destroyed, as a matter of precaution, for the agents of the Confederacy were not recognized as the accredited representatives of their government by the European chancelleries. However, the envelopes remain, and they are interesting in themselves.

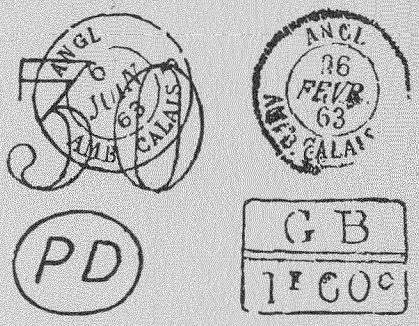
It is impractical—on account of their size—to illustrate the entire covers, wherefore a description, accompanied by slightly reduced tracings of the various postal markings, must suffice.

In the upper right corner of both envelopes appears the imprint of the Department of State, here illustrated.

Confederate States of America,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

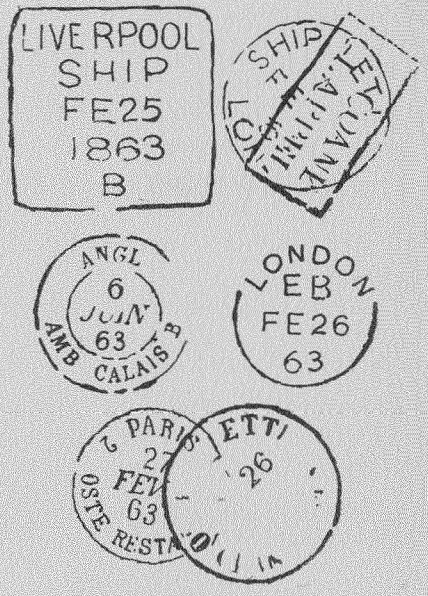
THE FIRST COVER

On the face of the first cover under discussion appear the following five (six, if we include the *"Non Reclamée"*) postmarks all in black.



MARKINGS ON FACE

Distributed over the back of the cover appear the seven (plus the same *"Non Reclamée"*) postmarkings here shown—three of which are in brilliant vermilion and the rest in black.



MARKINGS ON BACK

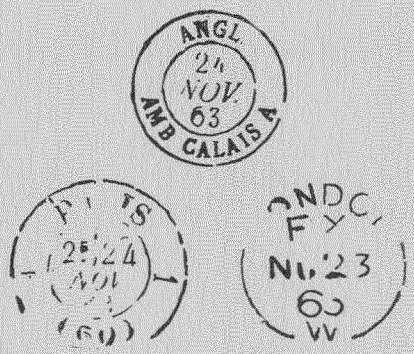
The imprint of the Department of State evidences that the letters were sent from Richmond. The postmarks of Liverpool and London, Calais and Paris, attest to their arrival, first in England, from

whence they must have gone "on a wild-goose chase," backward and forward across the Channel, as indicated by the following markings:

London, (Ship Letter) Feb. 3 (on back of cover) black;
Calais, Feb. 6 (on front of cover) black;
Liverpool, (Ship Letter) Feb. 25 (on back of cover) black;
London, Feb. 26 (back of cover) vermilion;
London, (Dead Leter Office) Feb. 26 (back of cover) vermilion;
Paris, Feb. 27 (back of cover—twice impressed) black;
Calais, June 6 (front of cover) black.

Two of these markings, unfortunately, are too indistinct to decipher.

THE SECOND COVER

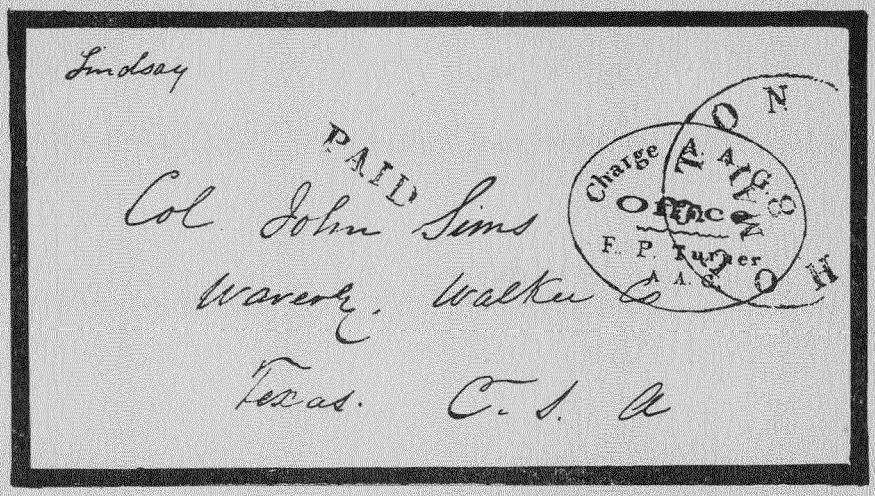


MARKINGS ON BACK

The second of these two covers, addressed as the first, but with the addition "48, Avenue Gabriel," shows but two postmarkings on its face: "P D" in an oval, in red, and the Calais cancellation "24 Nov. 63" in black. On the back we have the Paris postmark with indistinct date, but apparently Nov. 24, in black, as well as the London, Nov. 23 cancellation in red. An additional notation in manuscript reads: "Rec'd 23d Nov.—H. H."

The face of this cover shows the section of a postmark, which appears to have cancelled some stamp, for there is that rectanguar white space, indicative of its one-time presence, and the surface of the envelope in that small area appears scarred, as if a stamp had been removed.

It could hardly have been a Confederate stamp, for there was no need of passing through a postoffice



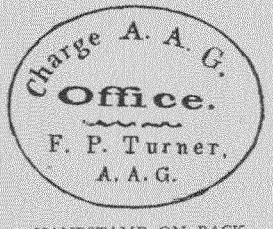
BLOCKADE-RUNNER—LONDON-HOUSTON

—hence there could be no Confederate cancellation. Besides, a Confederate stamp would not have passed the letter through either the British or the French mails. It may have been a British stamp which was removed as a matter of precaution.

These two covers are unquestionably Confederate Blockade-Runners, but—there is no Confederate stamp.

THE THIRD COVER

And now to the third cover. This was submitted from Texas, and still contained the war-time letter, written in England and evidently entrusted to a blockade-runner. I am illustrating the address side of this cover. It carries the Houston, Tex. postmark of May 8, in addition to a handstamped "Paid," plus a "charge" marking, which also appears on its back. Perhaps some of my readers can identify and explain this "E. P. Turner. A. A. G." As near as I can guess it may stand for "Acting Adjutant-General."



HANDSTAMP ON BACK

And thus we see that while these three objects are actual, real blockade runners, beyond the shadow of doubt—the first two going from Richmond to London and Paris, the third coming from London to Houston, Tex.—neither of them was franked with a Confederate postage stamp. And this has been my contention right along—that Confederate blockade-runners, going or coming, were never franked with a Confederate stamp. It had no franking value.

* * *

It would be interesting to hear from all collectors possessing Blockade-Runners, and correspondence is invited.

The Lauenstein Cachet

Mr. D. W. Graveman, 634 Morris Park Ave., New York City, sends first-day cover from the 42nd Annual Meet of German Philatelists which took place this year in Lauenstein, Upper Franconia, from the 6th to the 7th of June. The cachet-postmark here illustrated is somewhat different from that appearing in the official notices. "Lauenstein (Oberfr.)" has been changed from Gothic to block letter.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Aug. 6, 1941.

Mr. Harold W. Carhart,
120 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Harold:

Yours of the 1st received with check, for which kindly accept my thanks.

I am wondering if there still is any chance to borrow those negatives which belonged to Ned. You will recall that these included photographs of many covers which were not in Ned's collection. If I could obtain the loan of these negatives they would be of immense assistance to me and I cannot imagine any reason why such a favor would be refused. I will greatly appreciate any help you can give me along this line.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 31st, 1941.

Mr. Harold W. Carhart,
% Carlisle & Jacquelin,
120 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Harold:

I have located a cover which I am trying to acquire and no doubt you would be interested in it as it is a companion to your cover with the pair of 5¢ 1857 Indian Red. It is from the same correspondence, addressed to Knightstown, Ind. and has a

pair of 5¢ 1857 - Red Brown Type I

and is on a Randall "Via Overland Mail" - pictorial cover with 6 horses same as Knapp first sale, lot 1492.

If I succeed in obtaining this cover I can name you a price of $150.00.

Will you please advise me by return mail if you would be interested, subject to examination, etc.

With the Compliments of the Season, I am

Cordially yours,

CARLISLE & JACQUELIN
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

January 7, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Avenue,
Fort Thomas,
Kentucky

Dear Stan:

Please excuse my not answering your letter before this but I have just returned from Florida.

I am practically giving up stamp collecting and have lost interest for more reasons than one. The first is on account of world conditions and the real one is because of the Knapp sale, for reasons that perhaps you can guess, and which I was going to tell you and Ed Jessup about after the sale.

If you come to New York I would like to see you and have a talk with you about this; therefore I am sorry but right now, I am not interested, as I said before.

Very sincerely,

Harold W. Lauer

P.S. I am enclosing my check for the Rigrauch Knapp.

$25.00 credited

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Jan. 12, 1942.

Mr. Harold W. Carhart,
% Carlisle & Jacquelin,
120 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Harold:

Yours of the 7th received.

I suppose that many of us get disguested at times and feel like pulling up stakes and quitting, but generally the lure pulls us back again and I sincerely trust that this will prove true in your cawe.

I am praying that you won't part with a single item in your collection but for the time being that you will lock up your material so that it will all be intact when the time comes that you feel the urge to take it up again.

On my next trip to New York I want to lunch with you and we can then discuss several points mentioned in your letter. I am, in the meantime, hoping that the experience of the Knapp transaction did not in the end prove as serious as I thought it might.

Did you receive the last R.G.Bulletin and may I ask did you read my remarks? I tried to be as conservative as possible because I was conscious that you were in a way connected. I am sure however that none of your friends will attach the slightest blame to you.

Many thanks for your check for $25.00 for the Research Group, which has been duly credited.

I am not taking your remarks real seriously, so I will communicate with you from time to time, but will refrain from offering any items. And by the way, that cover was indeed a lovely item and was snapped up by quite a nice chap who likes westerns very much. Not Jessup.

With all good wishes, believe me

Sincerely yours,

An Interesting Cover

MR. CHARLES L. HOFMANN of Richmond, Va., has come in possession of the unique cover which is here illustrated. It will prove interesting to specialists in Confederates. The owner, himself an enthusiastic collector of war-time covers, comments as follows:

This cover bearing the black handstamp cancellation "MURFREESBOROUGH N. C. JUL 6" and "PAID 10" indicates the posting of the letter from that place on July 6th, 1861, its destination being Richfield Springs, N. Y.

On May 31st, 1861 the stamps of the United States ceased to be "good for postage" in the Southern States, by reason of an order of the Postmaster General of the United States, reading in part as follows:

> There are now no postmasters of the United States, in the seceded States, authorized to sell stamps or collect postage, since the 1st of June for this government. Postmasters, therefore, must treat all matter since the 1st of June coming from the seceded States, and mailed within these States, as unpaid matter to be held for postage. All such matter is ordered to be sent to the Dead Letter Office at Washington to be disposed of according to law.

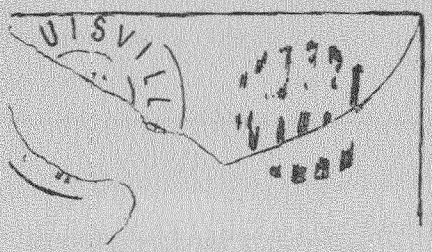
The use of United States postage stamps was forbidden within the Confederate States by an order issued by Postmaster General John H. Reagan, of the Confederate States, on April 13th, 1861, as will be noted in the following extract:

> All postmasters are hereby required to render to the Post Office Department at Washington, D. C., their final accounts and their vouchers for postal receipts and expenditures, up to the 31st of this month (May), taking care to forward with said accounts all postage stamps and stamped envelopes remaining on hand belonging to the Post Office Department of the United States, in order that they receive the proper credits therefore, in the adjustment of their accounts.

Thus the postage stamps of the United States became obsolete and "not good for postage" as applying to all issues prior to that of August 1861.

Here, then, we have a cover posted in Murfreesborough, North Carolina, on July 6th, 1861, Confederate territory, on which was affixed a three-cent 1857 stamp of the United States and the "PAID 10" showing a prepayment of ten cents additional as Confederate postage.

Who can say by what route or means it was carried to Louisville, Ky., where, instead of its being "sent to the Dead Letter Office in Washington, D. C.," it was backstamped in the United States post office at Louisville, and in the same deep cobalt blue. There it was postmarked as shown "SOUTHN LETTER UNPAID." and "DUE 3"' finally reaching its destination in Richfield Springs, New York.



BACKSTAMPED AT LOUISVILLE, KY.

Dr. Carroll Chase, in his work, "The 3c. Stamp of the United States 1851-1857 Issue" illustrates a similar postmark in which the abbreviation "SOUTHN" is shown with letters of even height. On this postmark it will be noted that the "N" of "SOUTHN is of a lesser height and has a dash under the same—a type which I have not seen before.

An interesting cover from the viewpoint of the collector of the 1857 three-cent, or the Confederate handstamps.

CHARLES L. HOFMANN.

Nov. 10, 1941.

Mr. Fred Jarrett,
Box 214, G.P.O.
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr. Jarrett:

My good friend, Harry M. Konwiser, suggested that I communicate with you relative to covers showing uses of U. S. stamps with Canadians, such as the 5¢, 10¢ 1847 and Beavers and the 3¢ 1851 and Beavers.

I have your book on B.N.A. and note the covers you mentioned. I have also had some correspondence with Mr. Lichtenstein regarding his two items as mentioned by you. Briefly one of these is June 8, 1851, the other Sep. 23, 1851.

Regarding the first. This is stated to be from Montreal to New York, but the U.S. rate from the border was 10¢ not 5¢.

Regarding the second. The 1847 stamps were obsolete after June 30, 1851.

I suppose you noted the cover in the Bartels' sale of April 27, 1940. I didn't see this cover but I have the catalogue with the half-tone illustration. The 5¢ 47 was apparently tied but the Beaver was not tied. I note that the cover does not show any Canadian due markings. Some have suggested that the Beaver did not originate on this cover, but had this been the case, surely there would have been a Canadian rating of the postage due.

Harry wrote that you mentioned that you thought the Reford collection probably had four or more covers showing combination uses.

At some future time, I intend to publish a handbook on the U.S. 1847 issue and I am gradually accumulating all the date I can with this purpose in mind. I think covers showing the combination uses are extremely interesting and I would like to include in my book all the information I can regarding any genuine covers that are in existence.

May I apologize for this intrusion, and add, that I have greatly enjoyed your fine book and marvel at the thorough manner in which you handled your subject.

Cordially yours,

The Gregg Publishing Company

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE FIRM

FRED. JARRETT
MANAGER

30 Bloor Street West
Toronto

GREAT BRITAIN
THE GREGG PUBLISHING CO. LTD.
51 RUSSELL SQUARE
LONDON W.C.1

December 3, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am sorry I have to write you rather hastily as I have been out of town and have to leave again in the morning.

Really, I am not qualified to say much about the use of the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847's from Canada. I think there are only two men whose remarks would be worthwhile and they are Dr. Louis Reford, University Tower Building, St. Catharine Street West, Montreal, or our good friend Alfred Lichtenstein.

Yours very truly,

Fred Jarrett

FJ/h

lus

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 8, 1941.

Mr. Fred Jarrett,
30 Bloor St. West,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr. Jarrett:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 3rd. May I ask that if at any time you see any covers with U. S. and Candian stamps used in combination that you bear me in mind.

Perhaps you might be interested in knowing about the following cover, which you might have seen at one time. At any rate here goes -

A cover with a Beaver and a strip of five 5¢ U. S. 1847 from ? Canada to London via New York, May 7th, 1851. London receiving is May 19th. Beaver tied by target, strip by red grids. In lower corner curved "Canada." The exchange credit is "3" showing the letter went via American Packet (Collins Line), hence had to go from New York.

I think this is one of the finest 1847 covers that I have ever seen.

Sincerely yours,

That 3c. Nashville

BY THE EDITOR

UP to some ten years ago American collectors accepted—albeit with occasional grumblings and unheeded protests—the listings and arbitrary classifications of Confederate Provisionals ("Locals") in our standard catalogs. The British as well as the Continental authorities—habitually more circumspect in their compilations—were content to accept our *dicta,* copy our text and illustrations and pricings—and let it go at that. And thus we find in our own standard as well as in the foreign catalogs a blissful harmony in matters Confederate, absent in the listing of every other country's stamps. They have simply been content with *status quo,* conveniently oblivious to the evolution that has taken place in the last decade or two.

Then dawned the era of research and investigation with its merciless searchlight and the dissecting scalpel, led by such students as Gerald Curtis, Edward S. Knapp, George Walcott, Stanley B. Ashbrook and a few others. Their forum was *The Southern Philatelist* and its successor publications. STAMP AND COVER COLLECTING is still carrying on this work. The actors have changed. Younger enthusiasts have enrolled in the cause, and step by step we are clearing away the debris that hides Philately's Pompeii and Herculanum.

Among the mooted questions concerning Confederate Locals that of the Three-Cent Nashville has occupied a prominent place.

Aside from the fact that it represents the sole Provisional of that denomination known in the Confederacy, its authenticity has never been successfully challenged. Like the One Cent De La Rue stamp of the General Issues, it is acknowledged to have been prepared for use but never placed in circulation. The reason for this is identical in both cases: an advance in the postal rate. Thus, while both stamps are eligible to the catalog, accompanied by the proper explanatory notes, there has been no evidence of their postal use up to this time.

In view of these facts—and I shall continue to believe them to be facts until incontestable evidence to the contrary is forthcoming—what could be more tempting to the unscrupulous than the fabrication of a postmarked specimen of the Three-Cent Nashville Local? And this has been repeatedly attempted.

During the past twelve-month I have had two such pieces submitted for examination and opinion. And in each instance, as in the case of other deceptive Confederate fakes, there were the opinions of well-known "authorities" who pronounced these pieces genuine! This phase of the matter is strange and incomprehensible to me.

Both pieces were fraudulent, and it is in the interest of all those who collect Confederates that I am essaying to tell their story and describe these dangerous pieces.

It is to be particularly noted that no used copy of this stamp has, as yet, turned up on the entire envelope. They are either off cover or on small pieces of alleged "covers." This seems strange in view of the fact that by far the greater number of Locals exist on cover.

But "let's get to business," as the Devil said, when he received a fresh consignment of philatelic "experts."

The first consisted of a pair, off cover, of course, but beautifully postmarked in blue "Nashville, Ten., Aug. 2, 1861". The stamps were genuine but the postmark was planted there long after the surrender at Appomattox. Its type is unknown among Nashville's cancellers.

And now comes the latest culprit, represented by a single on a small piece of canary cover 1½-inch square and postmarked in bright *red* "Nashville, Ten. Aug. 7, 1861". This piece is an outright fake—both stamp and postmark being fraudulent—and so obviously fraudulent that I am surprised at its being sent to me for examination!

In this case the "manufacturer" attempted to reproduce the genuine stamp by means of photo-engraving. He evidently made an enlarged negative from a Nashville and then worked over a blue-print with pen and india ink, again reducing his drawing to normal size for the zinc etching. But he was a careless draughtsman, and failed to "follow

copy", with the result that detection is instantaneous — provided, of course, that one is a student of types and printing methods. Let us analyse this case.

Heading this discussion is an illustration of the five types of the Nashville Three-Cent carmine. Were you to submit this to any skilled printer, he would tell you that five separate forms were set in types, surrounded by brass rules (lines). These strips of brass rule were mitered at the corners so that, when placed around the type-set form, they would "frame the picture". Now, this framing rule was made up of eight pieces on each stamp. You may verify this by noting the colorless "breaks" in the framing lines. Remember this, for it is one of your identifying marks. Next, note the large figure "3" in the genuine. There is a "break" in the lower loop, near the lower left "ball". And finally, familiarize yourself with the style of letter in the word "NASHVILLE". Note that there are "fat" lines and hairlines in the characters, which seem crowded together. This type is called "Condensed Boldface Roman", because the style is unadorned, plain Roman; the downstrokes are excessively heavy in comparison to the hairline up-strokes, therefore it is called Boldface; and finally, because each character is compressed—narrowed—it is called "Condensed." Aside from a dozen or more minor identifying marks on the five types of the originals, these are the outstanding characteristics of the genuine stamp.

And now turn to this counterfeit. Note that the framing rule is not alone narrower (thinner), but there is no "break" in its continuity. Next, take up the figure "3": There is no break in the lower loop, and the spur points precisely in the center of the two balls, while in the genuine the spur points above the center, nearer the top ball of the figure "3". And finally, note the word "NASHVILLE": the downstrokes are much thinner, the "H" lacks its crossbar, the serifs of "V" and "I" join at the top, while the final "E" is excessively broadened, and "CENTS" is somewhat smaller.

These deviations from the genuine type are sufficient to establish the counterfeit. It is therefore hardly necessary to point out the earmarks of the fake postmark in this case. It is not very probable that a genuine postmark could find its way to a counterfeit stamp at this late day. Besides, Nashville never cancelled in red.

Now you know as much about detecting Nashville counterfeits as I—save probably a dozen or so additional "minor points" of ink and paper and such—and may join the proud, high-hatted Order of Confederate Experts. I am not a member of their fraternity. I merely have lots o' fun sitting under my banyan tree and kicking the very stuffin's out o' their wise decisions.

And finally, let me repeat: In sending me Confederate pieces for examination and opinion it is unnecessary to tell me the history of the object, or that the owner is distantly related to General Lee or "Stonewall" Jackson. All such bedtime stories have no bearing on the case. I am so callous in these matters that even link-ups with George Washington or President Roosevelt would not influence my decisions. On one occasion where a writer stated that a certain Confederate stamp had lay hidden in the family Bible for fifty years, my good friend Wm. S. Ahern, to whom I read the letter, opined that the Good Book evidently had not suffered from use in a long time.

Long association with decent people will sometimes redeem human derelicts, but even a thousand years' contact with the New Testament will not cleanse a counterfeit Confederate stamp.

Mr. Sheriff, trot the next case into the arena.

Joel H. DuBose

Joel H. DuBose was born in
bert County, Ga., May 29, 1
His real activities in the stamp h
started in 1895, when he becam
engrossed with the hobby that
got into correspondence with co
tors all over the world, many
whom have become prominent
ures in philatelic and professi
fields, and with many of whor
kept in constant touch to the

Several months before he be
interested in collecting he n
an advertisement in the local
office of a stamp company of
to buy used stamps. As h
access to a vast amount of
spondence he decided to save s
for the company. After getti
gether several thousand he
sorting them for shipment
various colors and designs
tracted him that he decided t
a collection; and as friends h
his new hobby stamps began
ing in from all quarters.

He wrote to consuls in all
more important countries
them to send him the nan
stamp collectors interested
changing. Because this wa
in the game and at a time
public officials took special p
comply with such requests, th
quiries brought in a flood
sponses, and many of the
themselves sent him some
from their personal and
correspondence.

He joined the S. P. A. i
and for several years took
active part in the society's ac
In 1902-03 he served as Pr
of the society.

He was also interested in
relics, paper money, autog
books and curios and continu
handle all lines until his death

Mr. DuBose was a prolific v
for the stamp papers up to
1925, and there are practically
of the old time publications
did not carry some of his a

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 26, 1941.

Mr. Y. Souren,
394 Park Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Souren:

When Teddy was herewith the Knapp sale, he mentioned that among Knapp's papers, was a memorandum regarding a 10¢ rate to France in 1870, and promised to send me a copy of it. Now that the rush of the sale is over, I would appreciate seeing this reference. It evidently referred simply to the usual ship rate of 10¢ to the frontier.

Will you be so kind as to send me a good photograph of lot 1776. My memo shows a date on this of 1870 and I cannot reconcile the rate of 27¢ to Belgium. There was no 27¢ rate to Beglium, after Jan. 1, 1868, and I am wondering if there is any possible chance that an earlier date on this cover was changed to one apparently reading 1870. For example, could the 24¢ 1869 have been substituted for a 24¢ 1861. This cover has the N.Y.Foreign Exchange marking of "7 Paid" and so far as I am aware, this was not used on any mail after Dec. 31, 1867. In addition a use of a 3¢ 1861 in 1870 seems most unusual.

I would also like to have a good photograph of lot 1788. Note the N.Y.Foreign Exchange credit on this cover is only 3¢. This is perfectly O.K. for a single 15¢ rate but does not agree with a triple rate. Is it possible that the 30¢ 1869 was added to this cover?

Sincerely yours,

PHONE PLAZA 3-6077

PHILATELIC RESEARCH LABORATORIES, Inc.

394 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y.

November 28, 1941

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.
434 S. Grand Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

As soon as we come across the memorandum regarding the 10¢ rate to France among Knapp's papers, I certainly will send it to you.

As per your request, I am enclosing photographs of Lot 1776, front and back, which we happen to have, and Lot 1788.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

PHILATELIC RESEARCH
LABORATORIES, INC.

By J. Daurem

YS:ijp
Enc. photos

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 4, 1941.

Mr. Y. Souren,
394 Park Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Souren:

Re - the "Knapp Shift." Back in 1936, when my article on this stamp appeared in the A.P., Elliott Perry was so upset because my opinion did not coincide with his, he made a special trip to Cincinnati in order to try and convince me that I had made a great mistake, and failing to make me see his line of argument, he repaired to his hotel room and wrote a very acid article, condemning the stamp from every angle, which he handed over to Fennel, the Editor of the A.P. to publish as his reply and criticism of my article. I might add that his opinion in the notes he had penned was that the stamp was a "painting" and a most obvious fake. As proof, he cited the fact that he had plated the 10¢ 1847 and that the plate of 200 did not produce a double transfer of this variety.

Fennel submitted Perry's manuscript to me and because the article was so bitter and libelous I advised Fennel that it would be wise to first obtain Knapp's permission before he went ahead and published the Perry remarks. Fennel submitted the article to Knapp and inquired if Knapp had objection to the publication. Knapp immediately replied that if the remarks were published, he would bring suit for damages against Perry, the A.P. and the A.P.S. and that Henry C. Needham would handle the case. Naturally the article was never published which was very fortunate for Perry. My only regret is that I failed to keep a copy of Perry's manuscript.

My reason for relating the above to you is this. Lester Brookman of Minneapolis is preparing an article on the 1847 Issue for the A.P. and he recently submitted the manuscript to me. He saw fit to make special mention of the "Knapp shift" and some of his remarks I had reason to believe were influenced by opinions expressed to him by Perry. As Brookman stated that he had never seen the copy, I thought that some of his remarks were perhaps ill-timed and might possibly prove a basis for a libel suit. I therefore advised him, that in my judgment it would be best to obtain permission from the owner of the stamp and also permission from you before publishing.

If there is no question that the stamp is genuine, I have wondered why no suit was ever instigated against H.R.Harmer. Surely his remarks were libelous, and he set a precedent that probably Brookman believes he can safely follow.

Brookman has advised me that he has written you as I suggested, hence this letter in explanation. I might add that in my opinion Brookman is quite a nice chap and I am sure he has no desire to take sides one way or another in this controversy. No doubt he will tell you that he has endeavored to get Perry to tell him exactly how the Knapp "imitation shift" originated but so far has met with no success. I advised Brookman to abandon this effort because Perry himself does not know, hence how can he tell Brookman.

#2.

Mr. Y. Souren: Dec. 4, 1941.

In the current issue of "Stamps" I note Perry's advertisement re - "Pats" #42, wherein he mentions the "Soldier shift of 1847." No doubt this is supposed to be a funny twist for Barr's "Solder" theory as to how the Knapp double transfer originated.

He seems to be devoting Issue #42 to a contradiction of several of my writings, to wit:

(A) The Knapp Shift
(B) The 6¢ Essay of the 1¢ 1851
(C) The 3¢ plus 1¢
(D) Copper plates of the 1847's and others
(E) "Fpignashus philatelic facts.

I might add that our opinions differ widely on the first four subjects.

Regarding the second - He agrees with Brazer that the 6¢ Essay was the original die, and that the 1¢ 1851 die was an alteration of the 6¢. In other words, it was the original intention in 1851 to produce three values - a 3¢, a 6¢, and a 12¢. This in spite of the fact that while the act of 1851 had provided a 1¢ rate for Drops and circulars, no 1¢ stamp was to be issued. Such a course also contemplated no provision to prepay by stamps the 5¢ shore to ship rate on foreign mail. I call your attention to Brazer's remarks on the 6¢ Essay in his chapter in Vol. I of my One Cent Book.

I am in receipt of yours of the 28th in reply to mine of the 26th but I note you overlooked my comments on lots 1776 and 1778 in the recent Knapp sale. I certainly would appreciate your comments. Now, I have no desire to start any arguments on these or any other covers. Whether they are good or bad is of no concern whatsoever to me, but I am interested in the study of rates and markings and inasmuch as the rates and markings on these two covers do not agree with the data I have, I am naturally interested in finding out where my data may be incomplete. I was of the opinion that you are also interested in scientific philately and naturally assumed that you would be interested in the points I raised on these items or any others that might come to my attention. If perchance I am wrong, be so kind as to advise me and I won't take the trouble to bother you with such subjects in the future.

Mr. Harold Brooks was kind enough to send me the photographs and opinion which you recently submitted to him after examination of his 1¢ 1851, Type I, 7R1E on cover. I had previously expressed to him that it was my opinion that this stamp had been damaged in some way, both in the background in back of the head, and in the background in front of the eye, and that both of these damaged areas had been painted over. I think the question on this stamp revolves itself down to one point and one point alone. Are the two smudged areas, (in back and front of head) the result of natural cases, or artificial? If the latter, then we are safe in assuming the two damaged areas were "painted." I firmly believe that it is possible to distinguish the great difference that exists between a painted area and one that resulted from any natural cause.

I spent the whole of yesterday afternoon with this stamp under various power microscopes (100 to 500) and was more convinced than ever that

the smudged areas were painted. I thought you might be interested in these observations because I note your opinion was not conclusive.

Later I intend to remove the stamp from the cover to see if any further evidence exists, but I have little hope that I will be able to learn more than the stamp shows on its face.

Will you be so kind as to forward me a copy of your photograph #1881 (marked "blue filter").

Sincerely yours,

COPY COPY COPY

PHONE PLAZA 3-6077

Y. SOUREN CO.

POSTAGE STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS
394 PARK AVENUE
BET. 53RD AND 54TH STS.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 8, 1941

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.
434 S. Grand Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

In regard to the Knapp shift, I have decided to say nothing more about it except what I wrote you in my previous letter. If someone is willing to keep the question open, it is within his right and I am not going to waste any more of my time on this.

Also, I have decided not to enter into any controversy about stamps during this period of emergency. Hereafter the only reason that I will stay in the business will be to sell enough stamps once in a while to keep me on the go, and the balance of my time will be devoted to purposes which, in my estimation, are a little higher than philately. Under the circumstances, I do not wish to offer any explanation regarding the few Knapp lots about which you write.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,
Y. SOUREN CO.
By Y Souren

P.S.1 Thank you for your check.
P.S.2 I am enclosing a photograph of Lot 1881, which you requested.

Y.S.Co.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 11, 1941.

Mr. Y. Souren,
394 Park Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Souren:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 8th.

I understand and respect the attitude you have taken at this critical period and will be governed accordingly. I had no wish to start any argument unless of course it was most welcome and agreeable to you.

The photo I requested was not lot 1881 in the Knapp sale but on the contrary photograph #1881 which you made for Mr. Harold C. Brooks of his 1¢ 1851, Type I, 7R1E.

If you are too busy to grant this favor I assure you it will be perfectly O.K. with me.

Sincerely yours,

COPY COPY COPY COPY

TELEPHONE
BEekman 3-0592

GEORGE B. SLOANE
Postage Stamps for Collectors

MEMBER: AMERICAN STAMP DEALERS ASSOCIATION ★ AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY ★ COLLECTORS CLUB NEW YORK

116 NASSAU STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.

November 16, 1940.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 S. Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Stan:

Have you noted that Harmer Rooke's are going to sell a 30c 1861 this month, listed as an August issue, used?

Didn't know whether or not you had overlooked it, but in case you did, and have not seen the auction catalog, I have given the description verbatim in my column of November 16th.

Whether it is good or not, I don't know, but it must be an interesting item, and if it hasn't come to your attention, I thought you should at least take a look at it and make notes for your records. I haven't seen it myself, but it is given a good send-off in the catalog and it will be interesting to see what it brings. If they can support it, it certainly is an extraordinary stamp.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

George B Sloane

AUCTION SALES
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Consecutive Sales

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British North America

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Correspondence Invited

Philatelic Expert

USED 30¢ August

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 20, 1940.

Mr. Geo. B. Sloane,
186 Nassau St.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear George:

Thanks for your good letter of the 16th. Yes, I saw the stamp in question as I was the "leading authority" quoted in the catalogue. My comments were contained in a personal letter to Konwiser, which I might add I considered confidential. I was surprised as well as chagrined to see what use he had made of them. In the first place, I deny emphatically that I am any sort of an authority and I honestly dislike to be referred to as such.

While I had no 30¢ unused August with which to compare the Harmer stamp when Harry sent it out to me, I did and do believe it is a shade which probably is identical or at least very similar to the real 30¢ August color. This was purely from memory however, and my opinion is in no manner authoritative on this question. Assuming the color is similar then I assumed the obliteration to be genuine for surely no one would intentionally apply a fake cancelation to an unused 30¢ August even if the stamp had no gum. I really did not think the discovery of this item was in the least extraordinary or in any way sensational but only what might be expected under the circumstances. I do not see how it could have any effect on what we now know about the August Issue, or as you stated change any of the many theories etc.

We have the 10¢ Green Type II (Sept) in colors which match almost perfectly the recognized August color of this stamp, hence there may have been printings of the 30¢(#71) in a deep red orange which were a good match to the 30¢ August - such printings being regularly issued.

One used copy don't make an issue no more than one swallow makes a summer and in reality has nothing to do with the fundamental question as to whether the Augusts should or should not be listed in the catalogue in the place they now occupy.

We must not permit individual and insignificant points obscure the main issue at stake in the controversy over these so-called stamps. The main question is simply this: Did the Government ever issue for postal purposes the following:

55 - 56 - 57 - 59 - 61 and 62?

If these were not regularly issued, then they have no rightful place among regularly issued stamps but should be put in the "Proofs and Essays" section. The 10¢ #58 should be delisted as #58 and listed as Type I under the Regular Issue, and #68 should be

listed as Type II. The 24¢ #60 should be delisted as #60 and given first place in the 24¢ listings under the Regular Issues, with the 24¢ steel blue raised from a minor listing to a major listing. #66 and #74 should be delisted, thus we would have plenty of spare numbers for a new set-up in the 1861 issue, because the following would be available: 55 - 56 - 57 - 58 - 59 - 60 - 61 - 62 - 66 and 74.

Unlike the Konwiser letter there is nothing personal or confidential about the above remarks.

With best regards,

Cordially,

Wed

GUENNOL,
GLEN HEAD,
LONG ISLAND.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Under separate cover please find U.S. stamps nos #30 - 142 - 164. Please expertize these "mint" stamps and take necessary pictures if possible to justify your claims.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Alastair Bradley Martin

Stanley B. Ashbrook Esq.
434 South Grand Ave.
Fort Thomas
Ky.

Air Mail

A. B. Marten. "
"Jacinvol"
Glen Head.
L.I.
N.Y.

J. C. MORGENTHAU & CO., INC.
1 WEST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook Esq.
434 South Grand Ave.
Fort Thomas.
Ky.

526470
REGISTERED

Return Receipt Requested

Registered
Return Receipt Requested

A. B. Martin
"Greenwood"
Glen Head.
L.I.
N.Y.

Nov. 7, 1941.

Mr. A. B. Martin,
Guennol,
Glen Head,
Long Island, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am returning herewith the three items as per yours of the 5th.

Item marked #30 This is not the #30, (1¢ 1851, Type I, 7R1E, but rather a plate proof from the Reprint plate of 1875. The plate had 100 subjects. The item enclosed is from position #28 on this plate.

Item marked #142 This is not the #142, (24¢ 1870-71, with grill) but rather the National print without grill, Scott's #153. While I am no authority on gum, it is my personal opinion that the gum on this copy is not original.

Item marked #164 This is not the #164, (24¢ Continental) but rather the National print without grill, Scott's #53. It is my opinion that the gum on this item is not original.

I did not make any photographs of the above items because they are common place items. I do quite a lot of philatelic photography, but this is simply an adjunct of my research work, and it is not commercial in any way.

There is no fee for the above information, but you may reimburse me for the return postage if you wish to do so.

Regarding the listing #164. Some claim that the Continental Bank Note Co. issued 24¢ stamps and that there is a way to distinguish the paper from the National. This I seriously doubt, and so far as I am concerned, I would not buy any 24¢ stamp which was represented as a Continental printing. Further, it is perfectly absurd to pay high prices for rare Nationals with faint grills no matter whose guarantee they bear.

There are plenty of fine authentic and scarce items in our early postal issues to collect without wasting time on faint punches in paper, drug store mucilage, sample labels, proofs, essays, and items in this class which are represented as "regularly issued stamps" of the United States. Collectors

who invest money in such trick make it possible for the criminal element in ~~platelY~~ Philately to survive and prosper.

If I can be of any assistance to you at any time, I trust you will not hesitate to communicate with me, though I must confess I am no expert or authority on any subject.

Sincerely yours,

COPY

who invest money in such truck make it possible for the criminal element in philately to survive and prosper.

If I can be of any assistance to you at any time, I trust you will not hesitate to communicate with me, though I must confess I am no expert or authority on any subject.

Sincerely yours,

COPY

PROGRAM

SEVENTH AMERICAN PHILATELIC CONGRESS

NOVEMBER 28 - 30, 1941

HOTEL STATLER

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

including a non-competitive Exhibition of Stamps and Postal Markings of the World, contained in 60 frames entered by New England collectors, a bourse of 24 dealers' tables and a branch post office to service collectors' covers with a special Congress cachet and cancellation.

ADMISSION TO CONGRESS SESSIONS, BOURSE AND EXHIBITION IS FREE TO ALL.

A card of membership in the Seventh American Philatelic Congress may be obtained at the registration desk for 50c. A single copy of the Seventh Congress book, containing the printed texts of the nine papers specially-prepared for and read at the Congress, is $1.00. Membership and copy of the book may be obtained for $1.25.

FRIDAY — November 28

2:00 P. M.—Registration opens in corridor near Georgian Room.

2:00 P. M.—10:00 P. M.—Exhibition, Bourse and Branch Post Office open, Georgian Room.

7:15 P. M.— 8:00 P. M.—Informal Reception to President Klein and the Council, Parlor B. After-dinner coffee served.

8:00 P. M.—10:00 P. M.—FIRST CONGRESS SESSION, Parlor A.

"Old Maine Postal History and Postmarks," Sterling T. Dow.
"Massachusetts Embossed Revenues of 1755," Leland Powers.
"United States Specimen Envelopes," Marcus W. White.

SATURDAY — November 29

10:00 A. M.—10:00 P. M.—Exhibition, Bourse and Branch Post Office open, Georgian Room.

9:30 A. M.—Visit to Dard Hunter Paper Museum, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts, exhibition and demonstration of hand-made paper-making implements and methods by Mr. Hunter.

11:00 A. M.—12:00 M.—Junior Congress Program. Illustrated Lecture, with natural-color slides, entitled, "The Pageant of History as Shown on the World's Postage Stamps," by Stephen F. Harris of Boston. Parlor A.

2:30 P. M.— 4:30 P. M.—SECOND CONGRESS SESSION.

"Cubiertas Insured Letter Stamps of Colombia," Earl Apfelbaum.
"Honduras, Comayagua and Tegucigalpa Surcharges of 1877," Judge Harrison Hale Schaff.
"Towards Philatelic Criticism," Ernest A. Kehr.

7:00 P. M.—Annual Banquet. Informal. Every one welcome. Parlor A. Heyliger deWindt, chairman.

SUNDAY — November 30

10:00 A. M.— 6:00 P. M.—Exhibition, Bourse and Branch Post Office open, Georgian Room.

1:00 P. M.—Philatelic Writers' Luncheon, Parlor A. Messages will be read by and from a selected group of writers who are well-known for their philatelic writings. Open to all. Ernest A. Kehr, Stamp Editor, New York Herald-Tribune, chairman.

2:30 P.M.— 4:30 P. M.—THIRD CONGRESS SESSION.

"Early Nippon Cancellations," James B. Hatcher.
"Morton Danube and Black Sea Covers," Eugene Klein.
"Nesbit Envelopes," Prescott H. Thorp.

4:30 P. M.—Adjournment.

"Ahead of the Mails" VIA PANAMA

By A. R. ROWELL

FOR many years students of early postal markings have been aware of certain very rare covers, originating in California and addressed to the Atlantic States, bearing in a large double-lined oval, the legend:

"INDEPENDENT LINE
AHEAD OF THE MAILS
YANKEE BLADE AND NORTH STAR
VIA PANAMA."

There is another form of the marking in which "UNCLE SAM" replaces "YANKEE BLADE." These covers bear stamps of the 1851 issue and are postmarked "New York," from which it is evident that they were carried from California in a non-contract vessel, and not deposited in the post office until they reached New York.

What is the origin and meaning of this postmark, which, though it so strongly suggests Commodore Vanderbilt's "Independent Line" and his slogan "Ahead of the Mails—via Nicaragua," nevertheless goes not "via Nicaragua" but "via Panama?" And how, going by the longer Panama route, could any steamship line truthfully claim to be "ahead of the mails" when the major vessels of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, the contract mail carrier, such as the *Golden Gate, John L. Stephens, Sonora* and *Golden Age,* were generally conceded to be the fastest steamers on the Pacific Coast? And who, anyway, would have the temerity to steal the doughty Commodore's pet slogan "Ahead of the Mails"?

These questions, unanswered so far as the writer could determine, intrigued and challenged to research. Taking as a starting point the fact that, from the six cents postage used on the covers, the marking must have been used during the period of that rate, that is from July 1, 1851, to April 1, 1855, and Dr. Carroll Chase's opinion, based on the shade of the three-cent stamps employed, that their use was in the years 1853-4 ("The Three Cent Stamp of the United States of 1851 and 1857," page 304) an investigation of the contemporary San Francisco shipping news was undertaken, which resulted in the identification of the postmark.

The first light on the problem appeared in the shipping columns of the "Daily Alta California" of Sept. 20, 1853, when, under "Arrivals," it chronicled the appearance on the previous day of the

"Independent opposition steamer Uncle Sam, Mills, 16 days from Panama, with passengers &c., to W. F. Babcock & Co."

Other intelligence in the same issue indicated that she had left New York on June 22nd, reached Panama by way of Cape Horn in a total elapsed time of fifty-six days, and left Panama for San Francisco on Sept. 3.

On October 8, 1853, and later dates, the following advertisement appeared in the "Alta":

"INDEPENDENT OPPOSITION LINE
For New York and Panama
At Reduced Rates
Through to Panama without Stopping.

"The new and unrivalled steamship Uncle Sam, 2000 tons burthen, W. A. Mills commander, will leave Jackson St. wharf on Sunday morning, Oct. 16th, at 9 o'clock, connecting on the Atlantic with the new and splendid steamship America, 1400 tons burthen, C. B. Mitchell, commander.

"The Uncle Sam has no rival for speed, comfort or ventilation. Her extraordinary passage 'round the Horn of 44 days stamps her as the fastest steamer on the Pacific. It is confidently expected that she will make the passage to Panama in twelve days. For freight or passage apply to

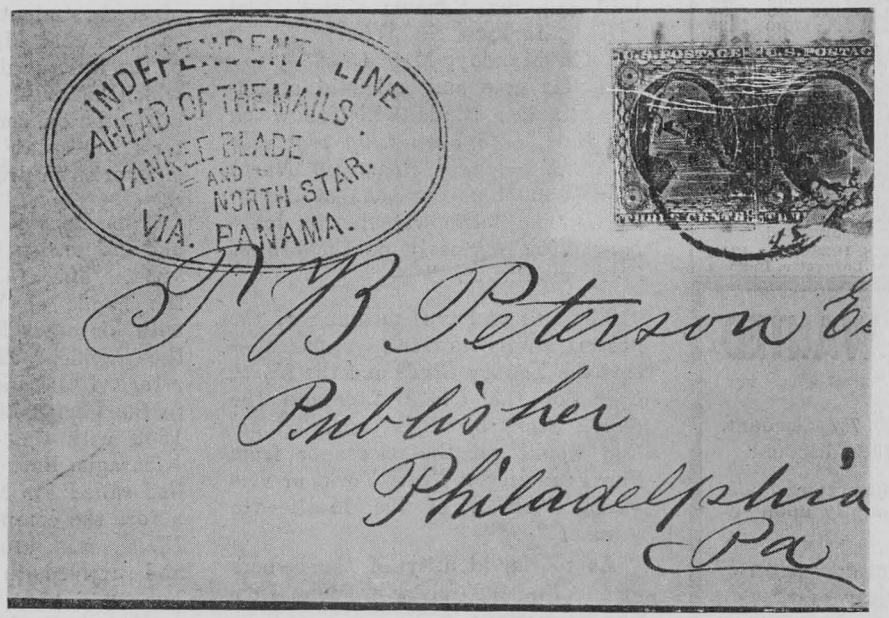
G. B. Post & Co., Agents . . ."

It will be noted that the emphasis of the advertisement is laid on speed. It must have been a blow to the *Uncle Sam's* pride, then, when on the return from Panama on her first trip, the *Golden Gate* took her on for a race and beat her by a full day!

The information thus far obtained indicated the names of two vessels of the new line, the *Uncle Sam* and the *America,* but gave no hint as to their owners. That came first in the "Alta" of Nov. 17, 1853, in this notice:

"The new steamer America, the first of Mr. Edward Mills' opposition line on the Atlantic side, reached Aspinwall with 250 passengers. They embarked on board the Uncle Sam, which left for San Francisco on the 3d instant."

Then who was "Mr. Edward Mills"? We put that question aside for the time, until the other vessels involved in the postmark could be located. What and where were the *Yankee Blade* and the *North Star*? The *Yankee Blade* was not long in coming to light; but contrary to expectations she appeared on the Atlantic instead of the Pacific. The two forms of the postmark



Independent Line "Ahead of the Mails" Cover

Copy of Mr. Michael's Will

INSTRUCTIONS RE MARKETING OF
MY PHILATELIC HOLDINGS.

Kansas City, Missouri,
June 10, 1938.

In my will I have bequeathed all of my stamps and philatelic things to my wife, stating that I hoped she or my executors would respect my last dated instructions, which would be found among my papers in a separate instrument, respecting the disposition and marketing of my stamps. These instructions supersede any instructions bearing date earlier than this date.

The marketing of a stamp collection, or even a single, valuable stamp, nearly always presents a problem. One can ship all of his stamp holdings to some auction house with instructions to "do the best you can" and, in such case, the result would be, usually, disastrous. Or an executor or legatee, anxious to quickly convert philatelic holdings into money might offer all of the collection, duplicates, etc. to some dealer, without really knowing a thing about the then market or the real value of the collection or the scarce pieces therein. Even with all of my experience of over fifty years I would not attempt a liquidation without first consulting men in whose integrity and in whose judgment of values and market conditions I had full confidence. At the time these instructions are prepared the country is in an economic depression and, along with nearly everything else, stamp values are down, in some instances considerably down, and I would not consider marketing any choice pieces at this time.

I have the fullest confidence in the integrity and in the philatelic knowledge of my good friend, Stanley B. Ashbrook, of Fort Thomas, Kentucky. It is my earnest suggestion that he be selected as the appraiser of my stamp holdings, both for inheritance tax purposes and any other purpose. He should be asked to come on to Kansas City to go over things. Wilson D. Wood and Allen Logan know considerable about United States stamps; Eldon Michaels has the best knowledge of my holdings and he knows something about values; the men named, and no others, should be consulted; but Mr. Ashbrook's advice as to values and marketing should control. Most assuredly Mr. Ashbrook's expenses and proper compensation for his services should be paid. He will know whether this or that item, or group, or line of items should be auctioned or sold at private sale. I think D. F. Kelleher and Percy Doane are the best auction men in the country. They are, in my opinion, entirely reliable, and on the finer things would probably realize more than any others; special arrangements can be made with either. However, time and circumstances govern largely in making conclusions and what appears to be the best course to pursue today may be entirely altered by future circumstances; indeed, Mr. Ashbrook may decide to, himself, auction my holdings, or parts, preparing the catalogue, etc. It might well be he will be established in New York and his name and fame are such that, I feel sure, he would get as good or better results than either Mr. Kelleher or Mr. Doane.

Then I feel, too, that Mr. Ashbrook, because of old friendship, and the help he has given me in my early items, would take more than a purely commercial interest in the undertaking.

(signed) Wm. C. Michaels (SEAL)

MEMBER
AMERICAN PHILATELIC
SOCIETY No. 2497
COLLECTORS CLUB OF
NEW YORK
PACIFIC PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF SAN FRANCISCO

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
64 ARCADIA DRIVE
FORT MITCHELL
COVINGTON
KENTUCKY

FELLOW
ROYAL PHILATELIC
SOCIETY OF
LONDON

PHILLIPS DRILLING COMPANY

338 MILAM BUILDING

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

February 25, 1941

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
Grant Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed, herewith, you will please find two covers; the first one being a strip of four of Ten Cent Blue Confederate. I understand that this strip has been taken off for repair once, but think that this cover could be cleaned and fixed up. It is of some value in as much as the signature of J. L. Riddell, P. M., is on the back. If this can be done for a cost not exceeding $10.00, I will be pleased to have you do it and it might be well to give, if you do not mind, a slight estimate on the value of this just for my own information.

I am also enclosing, herewith, another cover with four Coleman & Law Book Labels on same. Simply am sending this up for your inspection.

Stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Phillips

H. H. Phillips

HHP/w
encls.

REGISTERED
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Feb. 28, 1941.

Mr. H.H. Phillips,
338 Milam Bldg.,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Yours of the 25th received enclosing the two covers. The one with the strip of four 10¢ Confed H. & L. is quite an unusual item. In my records, which are far from complete I have no record of a strip of four of this stamp on cover and there is no such an item in the famous Richey collection (Cincinnati) of Confeds.

The signature on the back of Postmaster Riddell adds quite a bit of interest.

My advice to you would be to leave the cover as it is. I believe that a certain class of covers which are badly folded, torn, or dirty can be improved by cleaning but I am strongly opposed to making any artificial repairs to covers. The whole top of this strip was damaged and in the repair job paper was added to fill out the top and an attempt was made to paint in the missing parts of the tops of the stamps. No repair could ever restore the strip to its original condition so my opinion is that it is just as good as it is and no value or interest could be added in an attempt to make it look better. I think the value in the cover lies in the fact that it shows a most unusually high rate (for this exact period) paid by the 10¢ blue H. & L.

However if you wish I will be glad to remove the strip from the cover, remove the repaired part and carefully replace it, patch up the cover by filling out the torn parts in a proper manner etc. My charge would be $5.00 but as I stated above, if the cover was mine, I would leave it as it is, with a notation on the face calling attention to the repair of the strip.

Regarding the other cover. My quartz lamp shows that a horizontal strip of three stamps was removed from the bottom part of this cover. The strip extended to left to the word "Answers" and to the right under the first label.

I note the notation at top right is signed "A.G.Evans." This must have been one of the clerks in the post office which was located in the drug store of Colman & Law. John V. Law was the postmaster. We frequently see him referred to as John B. Law. The date of this cover is Apr 8, 1861. The Confederate P.O. took over on June 1, 1861.

#2.

Mr. H.H.Phillips, Feb. 28, 1941.

My lamp shows that these labels were not on the cover when it was mailed. I make no claim to being any sort of an authority on Confed Provisionals. Is it your opinion that these labels are genuine?

I will hold the two covers pending your reply which I trust will be satisfactory.

Assuring you of my appreciation of seeing these two items, I am

Sincerely yours,

PHILLIPS DRILLING COMPANY

338 MILAM BUILDING

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

March 5, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 S. Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Am in receipt of your letter of February 28th and was very pleased with your advice in regard to the strip of four Confederate Cover. However, before the writer got the cover an attempt had been made to repair same and, therefore, under the circumstances believe that it would not hurt anything if you do make a proper repair job, and, therefore, would suggest that you fix it up in any manner that you see fit. I am pleased to enclose, herewith, my check in the sum of $5.00 to cover same and if there are any further charges in appraising these covers, mailing cost, etc., just let me know.

With reference to the other cover, was quite aware that same was a faked job, but simply sent it along as a matter of interest. My understanding is that the labels are genuine.

Incidentally, there are two items which I am acquiring, if can get them at a price that am willing to pay. The first, am on the outlook for a fine copy of a Columbus Blue ("The Error"), have in mind about four or five hundred dollars. The second, would like to get a set of the "Blue Paper". If cannot purchase a whole set, it might be advisable to pick up several at a time, but have the one and two cent now, and want it in fine mint copies.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Phillips

HHP/w

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 8, 1941.

Mr. H.H. Phillips,
338 Milam Bldg.,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Yours of the 5th received. After a further careful study of the strip of four cover I have come to the conclusion that this item is much too frail, so far as the stamps are concerned, to make any attempt to restore the condition. I cannot help but believe that it would be ill advised to disturb the present condition. Therefore I am returning it to you together with the Gonzales cover and your check. I fear that if I attempted to repair the cover in any way that I might damage it in some way which would be unsatisfactory to you. I appreciate the confidence you placed in my ability to improve it but I feel convinced it is far better to leave the cover as it is, rather than to permit anybody to tamper with it.

The top of the strip is missing and if I removed the strip from the cover, cleaned it and replaced it, it would show up the damaged part much plainer than at present, in spite of the fact it has been repaired.

I note the items in which you are interested in acquiring, and if I can be of any assistance to you I will welcome the opportunity, as I act in an advisory capacity to a number of collector friends thruout the country. Among these, are those who never purchase any valuable items without first submitting them to me for advice as to genuineness, variety, condition, etc. In addition I frequently assist in acquiring items which are difficult to obtain.

I also arrange and mount collections, with descriptions which are accurate.

If you think I might be of assistance to you I would appreciate a reply, giving me an idea of what branches you are collecting, that is, U.S. 19th Century (singles or covers), 20th Century U.S., Confederates, etc. - U. S. and Confed Provisionals etc.

I would also like to know if you have copies of my books on various U. S. stamps as well as the Luff and Chase books on U.S. and the Dietz book on Confeds.

Also may I ask if you are aububscriber to "Stamps," "Mekeel's" and "The Stamp Specialist" for which publications I am a contributor of articles on timely subjects of interest to serious collectors of 19th Century U. S.

Sincerely yours,

PHILLIPS DRILLING COMPANY

338 MILAM BUILDING

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

April 3, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 S. Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

In reply to your letter of March 8, please be advised that the cover arrived and appreciate very much your comments on same, which coming from you carry a weight of authority.

With reference to the writer's collection of stamps, please be advised that it quite a meager one but have been collecting for a number of years. My specialty is Nineteenth Century U.S., and I like to collect mint stamps in fine to superb condition and, of course, am interested in unusual items. My collection does contain possibly a little better than the average number of envelopes, a branch in which there is not the usual interest; and as stated before, am on the outlook for a Columbus blue error and would like to fill in a set of the blue paper issue. In fact, am in the market for an entire set, if necessary.

I do not correspond with dealers and have bought stamps from them in somebody else's name, thereby keeping my name in the background, which may or may not be a wise policy.

Very truly yours,

H. Houghton Phillips

HHP:IS

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

April 10, 1941.

Mr. H.H. Phillips,
338 Milam Bldg.,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 3rd. No doubt I can be of some assistance to you in acquiring fine copies of the Columbian Error and the Blue Papers, but in the meantime if any copies are submitted to you, I will be only too glad to have you send them to me, provided you would care to have my comment on condition as well as values.

May I inquire if you have copies of my booksoon the One Cent of 1851-57, The Ten Cent of 1855-57 and the Twelve Cents of 1851-1857?

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

PHILLIPS DRILLING COMPANY

338 MILAM BUILDING

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

April 18, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 S. Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am mailing you today, under separate cover, a collection of stamps. Please advise me how much you would charge to make an appraisal of this collection.

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,

H. H. Phillips

ls

June 26, 1941.

Mr. H. H. Phillips,
338 Milam Bldg.,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I have located a very fine mint copy of the 4¢ Columbian Blue Error. The price is $750 net. If you would like to see this copy, kindly advise me by return mail and I will be pleased to forward it to you.

Sincerely yours,

PHILLIPS DRILLING COMPANY

338 MILAM BUILDING

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

June 27, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

In this morning's mail we received your letter to Mr. Phillips in regard to the mint copy of the 4¢ Columbian Blue Error.

As Mr. Phillips is in route to Canada, expecting to arrive there either Wednesday or Thursday of next week, we have forwarded your letter to him.

Very truly yours,

Louise Small

ls

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXX

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

July 2, 1941.

Miss Louise Small,
Office H.H.Phillips,
Phillips Drilling Co.,
338 Milam Bldg.,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Miss Small:

May I acknowledge receipt of your kind note of the 27th in reply to my letter of the 26th to Mr. Phillips.

Under date of Apr. 10th I inquired of Mr. Phillips if he had copies of my books but no doubt he overlooked my query. I am wondering if you could tell me.

Sincerely yours,

PHILLIPS DRILLING COMPANY

338 MILAM BUILDING

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

July 7, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrock
434 South Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of July 2, and I am sorry that I cannot furnish you with the information requested.

Mr. Phillips will probably return to the office for a few days the latter part of this month, and I shall be glad to ask him if he has copies of your books.

Very truly yours,

H. H. PHILLIPS

By Laurie Smith

ls

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Aug. 11, 1941.

Mr. H.H.Phillips,
338 Milam Bldg.,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I am enclosing herewith some photographs of the two most important finds of the year so far. Some unique used blocks of the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 and six unused strips of the 10¢ 1855, among the latter is a strip of six of the Type I stamp, the largest Type I piece known.

I do not know whether you are interested in such items as these but if so and you would be interested in acquiring them, I will be glad to offer my services toward that end.

Will you kindly return the photographs at your convenience.

Under date of June 26th last, I wrote you regarding a fine mint copy of the 4¢ Columbian Error. This copy is still in my hands if you would care to see it.

Cordially yours,

MICHAEL L. EIDSNESS, JR., "Father of the Philatelic Agency," Dies

EVER thoughtful of his friends, unto his last act, Michael L. Eidsness, Jr., took responsibility into his own hands. A man of limitless energy and activity who could not adjust himself to the thought of invalidism and the possibility of being a burden to others, he acted according to the dictates of his own conscience on August 3, 1937. His pride in self-independence prompted him to a last act which few men take. "A year to live," was the ultimatum recently given by his medical advisers. The period of dependence on those whom he loved, he felt, was more than he had a right to impose. He relieved them of that task.

He was born at Graettinger, Iowa on March 31, 1893, and lived an outdoor life which brought him to boyhood health and an imposing manly stature. His mid-western training and associations gave him a friendly personality which in later life attracted an endless host of friends.

Engaged in sundry occupations he drifted to the Nation's Capital as a young man and became associated with the Post Office Department. His limitless energy and endless effort in the performance of assigned tasks soon won recognition and merited promotion. As the years passed his assignments assumed great proportion. From clerical service he rose from a responsible position to another and was ultimately appointed Superintendent of the Division of Stamps in 1921. Shortly after having been inducted into office he visualized a new service which the Post Office Department might render to a vaguely defined and uncertain group of citizens interested in the collection of postage stamps.

With his superior, Irving Glover, Third Assistant Postmaster General, Michael Eidsness spent many hours in laying plans to establish and conduct a service almost foreign to the American Postal Establishment. Skepticism, doubt and the normal governmental hesitancy to inaugurate new departments, rendered his task more than difficult. A minimum allotment of postal funds and unbending regulations curbed his ambitions, but little daunted by the dissent of those who failed to visualize the possibilities of the great service the Department was in a position to render, Eidsness pressed forward with his idea. He visualized the number of stamp collectors who, in their exacting demands usurped time local Postmasters the nation over might have devoted to more basic postal services. He recognized the loss which the service might suffer if their desires were wholly discouraged. He appreciated the opportunity of the Department to enter a new field, offering a specialized service — one dedicated to the stamp collector. He foresaw that by a single stroke he could relieve a strain on efficiency in one direction and at the same time establish a new service for a group of American citizens, which would grow in proportion with the efficiency of the new service. By a single stroke two objectives could be accomplished. Michael L. Eidsness seldom planned along single lines of thought. Sustained perseverance finally yielded results and a Philatelic Agency was established in 1922. Its functions were limited, its appropriation small and its activities circumscribed by the usual handicaps associated with an experiment. At the end of the first six months its sales totaled $20,900. But behind it stood Michael L. Eidsness, a dominant figure, possessed of creative imagination, a leader and a dramatic organizer, and success followed, until now the Philatelic Agency is the greatest of its kind in the world. It stands today a notable monument to the man who desired to serve others. The title of "Father of the Philatelic Agency" has appropriately clung to Michael L. Eidsness for many years. In the attainment of his object, he was frequently obliged to battle fervently and did so fearlessly with no thought of himself.

Michael L. Eidsness, Jr.
Former Superintendent of Division of Stamps, Post Office Dept.

The real man was but little known to stamp collectors at large until he cast aside his mantle of official life during October of 1933. Then it was that he mingled socially with those whom he had impartially served for a decade. He was accepted into the fold enthusiastically and seldom was a function of importance undertaken but that he held the central position of merriment. Distance meant little to him, for philatelic gatherings, whether at the Nation's Capital, New York or Omaha, held forth the same lure of fellowship. The American Philatelic Society a number of years ago enrolled the "Father of the Philatelic Agency" as an Honorary Patron. He was an Honorary Member of the Washington (D. C.) Philatelic Society, of the Westchester (N. Y.) Chapter of the American Philatelic Society, of the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club of Cleve-

By ALBERT F. KUNZE

land, and a member of many other stamp organizations.

At the recent National Stamp Conference he participated in the discussions, disclosing a vast fund of postal knowledge. Figures, statistics, specifications, dates, and quantities of stamps for years back, postal regulations and practices rolled unhesitatingly from his tongue despite the extemporaneous nature of his remarks. Then it was that he disclosed the fact that years ago governmental investigators, after an extended survey of the situation, recommended that the high speed rotary presses of the Bureau be discarded. On the occasion of the Conference, Eidsness displayed one side of his character which many newcomers in the field had never realized, namely a man well grounded in all of the facts which go to make up stamp production, although distribution of stamps rather than their manufacture had been his main contact, while in the Government.

His broad experience in postal matters and his close contacts with moving forces, both political and departmental, qualified him beyond all others in reporting United States philatelic news and information through his column in *Stamps* under the caption of "Michael L. Eidsness Says—."

Philatelic circles have suffered a severe loss in the death of the one man who was perhaps more widely known personally in philatelic circles than any other, and ever affectionately referred to as "Good Ol' Mike."

• •

Four Great Men

NETHERLANDS issued the four stamps shown herewith, on June 16, and they were removed from sale

July 17. The surtax on these stamps is to be used, says the Netherlands' government "for social and cultural ends."

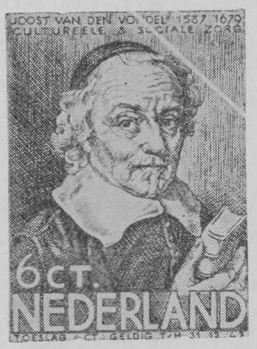
The denominations are 1½ plus 1½ cents brown gray, 5 plus 3 cents green, 6 cents pl cents dark violet, and 12½ cents 3½ cents blue. The portraits o 1½c and the 12½c were engrave S. H. Hartz; the other two wer ecuted by Mrs. E. Reitsma-Val

We append biographical sketch given by William C. (Billy) Sto the Springfield (Mass.) *Union*:

JACOB MARIS (1837-99) was a p er famous for his landscapes. painted bridges and windmills, quays, massive towers and level b water, misty skies and rolling c Born in The Hague, he worked ly in Holland, though he studi Antwerp and Paris. In all his water-colors and etchings, the ject is subordinate to the effect.

FRANCISCUS DE LE BOE SY (1614-72) was a physician, c teacher and close student of chen and anatomy. He described pa the brain so vividly and accu that his name became identfied four portions of the nervous sy

Born of French parents in H Germany, he studied in several u sities, took his medical degree in and settled in practice in Amste He joined the University of L faculty at 44 as professor of me and was highly successful there a turer, teacher, investigator and titioner.



JOOST VAN DEN VONDEL (1679) was a poet and dra Though he was born in Cologne, his father was temporarily in because of religious opinions, his

(*Please turn to page 790*)

SOUVENIR SHEET OR FIRST DAY COVER

To be issued in connection with the

Society of Philatelic Americans Convention

AT ASHEVILLE, N. C. AUGUST 26TH FIRST DAY

AT FACE, with order for any of the following articles:

1000 Blue Ribbon Hinges	$ .15
1000 Monarch Hinges	.10
500 Columbia hinges	.05
Perforation gauge embossed	.25
Bronze Perforation Gauge embossed	.30
Leather gauge case	.10
Small stamp tongs	.10
Medium stamp tongs	.15
Large stamp tongs	.25
Large imported heavy tongs	.35
Genuine leather tongs case	.10
Small magnifying glass	.10
1¾ inch magnifying glass	.40
Mint block file	.10
Mint block file leather cover	.15
Mint sheet file 10 pages	.25
Mint sheet file 20 pages	.35
Mint sheet file 50 pages	.75
(Has leather cover.)	
100 space approval books 2 for	.05
250 space approval books	.10
500 space approval books	.15
1000 space approval books	.20
Stock Books	
7 x 11 Pages (12) pages	1.00
Pages (18) pages	1.50
Large bakelite watermark tray	.25
Complete line of Scott Albums.	

Scott Watermark Tray	$ .50
Crown Watermark Tray	.50
Coin Collector Cards 25c	
Lincoln penny, Indian penny, each.	
Liberty nickel, Buffalo nickel.	
Liberty dime, Mercury dime.	
Quarter 1895-1906.	
Quarter 1906-1916.	
Quarter 1916 to date.	
Half dollar.	
Half dollar.	
Half dollar.	
Commemorative 50c card	.25
Vest pocket stock book	.15
Combination stock book and file	.30
Cover album Window pockets	.40
Cover album Window pockets large	.75
Cover album Window pockets size	1.00
(Has leather cover.)	
First day cover catalogue, 1937 edition	.25
Great Britain Edward set Cpl.	.18
Roumania Exhibition Sheet	.40
Approval Cards, per dozen	.25
Martins Standard Catalogue of Air Baggage Labels and 5 rare and obsolete labels with catalogue value of $2.50 or over. A bargain at	1.00

All prices above are net, post paid.

Each 10c worth of merchandise entitles you to buy either a cover or sheet at face (10c); an order for 50c entitles you to order 5 covers or sheets; order for $1—10 sheets or covers, etc.

Dealers Attention

Any amount of covers serviced for dealers for $1.00. Sheets, any amount for $1.00 plus postage. All orders and remittances must be received by August 23rd. No orders accepted after that date.

CHANDLER'S INC.

(STAMP DEPARTMENT)

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Volume VII.

Collection of postal stationery and including four used Wells, Fargo envelopes 258 items

PLATE XXIV.

Some rare blocks in Lot 23.

Volume VIII.

AMERICAN COLONIES

CANAL ZONE : A choice collection, including scarce mint, THE OUTSTANDING PIECE BEING A BLOCK OF FOUR OF THE 1905 8 CENTS ON 50 CENTS, ONE STAMP WITH PANAMA REVERSED.

CHINA : 1919 $2 on $1 double surcharge, fine used on cover.

GUAM : Including the rare $1 Type 2.

PHILIPPINES : Including $1 Type 1 and 2, and $2 of the 1899 set ; 1903 $1 mint and used ; 1906 10 pesos mint ; 1911 4 pesos mint (2) and 10 pesos mint ; 1928 LOF Air Mails complete mint to 1 peso.

PORTO RICO : 1898 COMAO, A PAIR OF BOTH TYPES—A VERY RARE PIECE ; 1926, the mint set of the Madrid—Manilla Air Mails, including the rare 16 centavos, 1, 2 and 4 pesetas 952 stamps

THIS COLLECTION WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY £1900 TO DUPLICATE AT TO-DAY'S PRICES. It should be noted that many modern issues fetch full Scott catalogue prices in American auctions In all, 9495 stamps

(Offered by the order of Alexander Clifford, Esq.)

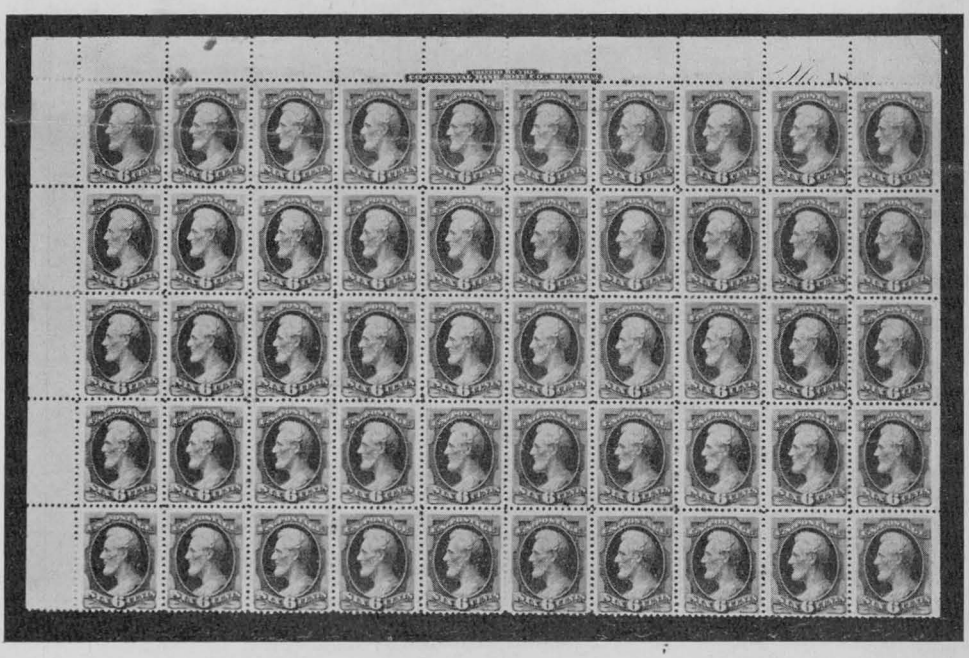
Lot 24 United States of America

1873 6 cents dull rose, printed by the Continental Bank Note Company, a brilliant mint half pane of fifty from the top left corner of the sheet, comprising five horizontal rows of ten ; the margin is imperforate at right and there is the full margin at the left and at the top ; the latter includes the inscription " Printed by the Continental Bank Note Company, New York " and " No. 18 ". This block is beautifully centred, only the last row being slightly off centre at the bottom.

Listed at £75 in Gibbons' catalogue as single stamps, it is probably unique in so large a piece. In 1936 Scott listed a mint block of four at $45.00 and to-day would certainly list such a piece at $750.00

50 stamps

PLATE XXV.



Lot 24.

18A

"Way" Markings in United States Postal System

Nov 20 1937

By HARRY M. KONWISER

"Way" markings, in the United States postal service in 1792 by the act of Congress of February 20, 1792, effective June 1, 1792, reading:

"Sec. 15. The deputy postmaster shall duly account and answer to him (the postmaster general) for all bye and way letters, and shall specify the number and rates in the post bill."

Timothy Pickering was postmaster general of the United States at the time and in rendering his official report to Congress referred to and defined Way Letters as follows:

"Way-letters are such letters as are received by a mail-carrier on his way between post offices, and which he is to deliver at the first post office he comes to; and the postmaster is to enquire of him at what places he receives them and in his postbills charge the postage from the respective places to the offices at which they are to be delivered; writing the word WAY against such charges in his bills. The word WAY is also to be written upon each Way-Letter."

Timothy Pickering who had been appointed chieftan of the post office department on August 12, 1791, taking office one week later, remained in office until June 2, 1794. President Washington appointed Pickering secretary of War, January 2, 1795, and secretary of State, December 10, 1795, holding the latter period in the Jefferson cabinet, where he was succeeded by John Marshall on May 13, 1800. Pickering was requested to resign and refusing was dismissed.

Pickering's instructions to postmasters were in part as follows:

"The name of the post may be written or stamped upon each letter. If the letter is exempt from postage it should be marked FREE.

"You are to permit any person who so desires it to pay the postage of any letter which he deposits to be sent by the post; marking upon it the rate of postage and against the rate, the word PAID at full length.

"When letters are to be sent beyond the sea, the land postage must always be paid at the office where they are first lodged, and without such previous payment they are to be rejected."

Congress on May 8, 1794, enacted post office legislation to become effective June 1, 1794. Way letters were defined as follows:

"Sec. 15. The deputy postmaster shall duly account and answer for all way letters, which shall come to their hands. And for this purpose the post-riders and other carriers of the mail, receiving any way letter or letters (and it shall be their duty to receive them if presented more than two miles from a post-office) shall deliver same, together with the postage, if paid, at the first post office, to which they shall afterwards arrive, where the postmaster shall duly enter same, and specify the number and rate or rates in the post bill, adding to the rate of each way letter, one cent, and letters directed to persons living between post offices, may be delivered, and the postage thereof duly collected, it shall be the duty of the carriers of the mail, to take charge of, and deliver such letters, as shall, for that purpose, be committed to them, by any deputy postmaster, and collect the postage thereof, which shall be paid over to such deputy postmaster on demand; and for every letter, so delivered the mail carrier delivering the same, shall be allowed to demand and receive two cents to his own use, besides the ordinary postage."

Gideon Granger, as postmaster general, in his July 12, 110, regulations said:

"Way letters. You are to pay the post rider 1 cent for each Way Letter he delivers you, and add that cent to the ordinary postage on the letter."

Collectors of stampless covers (folded letters of the period when envelopes were not in general use) note these Way markings, and these Way markings are also seen on envelopes of the 1845-55 period. Compulsory prepayment was not begun until June 30, 1855.

The Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department, as printed by order of the postmaster general (Cave Johnson) in 1847, says:

(Way Letters.) Sec. 20. The deputy postmasters and other agents of the Postmaster General, shall duly account, and answer to him, for all way letters which shall duly come to their hands; and for this purpose the post riders and other carriers of the mail, receiving any way letter or letters (and it shall be their duty to receive them, if presented more than one mile from a post office) shall deliver the same, together with the postage, if paid, at the first office to which they shall afterwards arrive; where the postmaster shall duly enter the same, and specify the number, and rate or rates, in the post bill, adding to the rate of each way one cent, which shall be paid by the postmaster to the mail carrier from whom such way letters shall be received.

The 1847 regulation under "Letter Carriers" (chapter 32), states that on letters brought by a mail carrier to be mailed, called way-letters, one cent is charged, in addition to the usual postage, to be rated from the place where the carrier received the letter. These were to be marked "Way" and one cent paid the carrier.

Section 20 of the 1852 post office act referring to Way Letters indicated the carrier was to receive one cent for each way letter he delivered, and the post office regulations defined Way Letters as such mail as was received by a mail carrier on his way between two post offices. The word "Way" was ordered to be written on the letter.

In addition to the Way markings mentioned herewith, there are other varieties as:

RAIL ROAD WAY. Oval, known on cover from Detroit to Utica, N. Y., with 3¢ 1861 stamp.

WAY. The word in center of circle, known on cover postmarked Upper Stroudsburg, Pa., with 3¢ 1861 stamp. Also known from other points.

WAY 1. Handstamp on cover, Batavia, N. Y. to Alexandria, N. Y. (circa 1850).

WAY 5. Two lines.

Boston Library

147 Hillside Street
Roxbury, Massachusetts
July 11, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 S. Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

I have read several books and articles written by you on the postal history of the United States, and I think that all your work will be a great aid in securing a greater future for philately. I would like to do what I can to help you.

I am a librarian in the Boston Public Library and an active philatelist. After seeing the notice in a recent issue of "STAMPS" telling the philatelic world that you wanted certain books on postal history, I checked around and compiled the following list.. This is not a complete list as I only spent about an hour on it and I am sure it could be greatly enlarged if I really worked on it.

Now here is the object of my letter. These books can not be taken out of the library (at least, not to Kentucky) but if there is anything that you want to check in them, just drop me a line and I would be only too pleased to check it for you.

I would not expect any compensation for this service because I am a firm believer that your work helps me as much as it helps you.

Hoping to hear from you, I am,

Yours truly,

John McGovern

John McGovern
147 Hillside Street
Roxbury, Massachusetts

Enclosure.

Books of interest to the Philatelic Reasearcher in the Boston Public Library:

Post Master General's Report. 1854. 56-97, 99, 01-26, 28-to date.
Instructions to Deputy Postmasters. Philadelphia. 1792. signed by Tim. Pickering. PMGen.

Laws and regulations for the government of the Post Office Dept. 1843.
Postal laws and regulations of the U.S. of America. 1866,73, 79, 87, 92,98, 02,13, 24, 32,

Laws relating to the postal service passed by the 32nd congress. 1852.
Letter from P.M.G. Joseph Habersham accompanying draught of two bills, with explanatory remarks, relating to the post-office and the post roads within the U.S. pursuant to a resolution of this House of the 14th of June, 1798; also, his Report on the petition of Ezekiel Williams, referred to him by order of the House, on the same day.

List of the post-offices in the U.S.; with the counties in which they are situated, and their distances from Washington City. 1803.
The post-office law, with instructions ~~of~~ and forms, published for the regulation of the post-office. 1810, 1817.

Report of the 3rd P.M.G. 1890,91,98,99.
Report of the Superintendent of foreign mails, 1898/99

Report of the Superintendent of the Dead-Letter office to the 1st. asst. P.M. Gen. for 1898/99 1902/03.
Official Postal Guide. 1874 to date.

Post office dept. and American postal machines. 1890 published by Am. Postal Mach. Co.
Remarks on a motion to reduce postage on all letters to two cents. Made in House of Reps. 1850.

Dead letter office sale. Catalogue of articles accumulated to be sold at auction....1899.
U.S. Fines and Deductions imposed on Mail Contractors 1883.

Report on the mail service of England and France made the U. S. Gov't by E.A. Knapp 1879.
Letters to the P.M. Gen explaining a proposed modification fixing the compensation for the transportation of mails on Railroads. 1876.

N.B. A specialist in the postmarks of Maine who visited the library recently, told me that there were only three known copies of the "List of the post-offices in the U.S." published in 1803. The seventh book listed above. He said one was in Washington (the Lib. of Congress, I believe), one in the New York City Library, and whe had the third.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

July 22, 1941.

Mr. John McGovern,
147 Hillside St.,
Roxbury, Mass.

My dear Mr. McGovern:

It was very kind of you to write me and I greatly appreciate your offer of assistance and the list of references which you enclosed.

Regarding this list. I limit my research work to the period to 1880. The field up to that year is about enough for one person to handle thoroughly. I have a complete set of Postmasters General Reports from 1845 to 1880 inclusive with the exception of several in the late 1840's and the 1869 Report.

I might also add that anything earlier than 1825 is of little interest.

I also have most of the P.L. & R.'s including the early ones which you listed. I have none between 1859 and 1866, however and if you could locate any copies will you kindly advise me.

I am especially interested in tables containing the "rates of postage to foreign countries," especially Official Lists between 1859 and 1866.

We obtain much valuable data from old newspaper files. Can you tell me if the library has files of New York papers, say from 1845 to 1870?

Again thanking you for your kind letter, I am

Sincerely yours,

4858 Park Boulevard,
Oakland, California.
February 8, 1938.

Mr. Edward S. Knapp,
300 Park Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Your letter of the 6th inst. just at hand. I have not a great deal of data on the Pampero, but enough to show that your deductions are entirely correct. The Pampero ran between New Orleans and San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, the eastern terminous of the Nicaragua crossing. She was taken off in the early summer, I believe, of 1854. I believe your cover originated in California, went down to San Juan del Sud on the Sierra Nevada, crossed Nicaragua, went by the Pampero to New Orleans, where the stamps received the "Steamship" cancellation (that being the first point where the letter would hit a postoffice), and then was reshipped South on a local vessel to Mexico.

The following is the only contemporary data on the Pampero I can find in a hurried search of my notes:

> "WITHDRAWAL OF STEAMERS FROM NEW ORLEANS.
> The N.O. Crescent of a late date says that the steamships between there and Aspinwall are to be taken off in a few days. The "United States" was to make one more trip between that city and Aspinwall, and then commence running between Havana and Aspinwall. The "Ed Dorado" will leave for New York, and go into some other trade. Thus all direct communication with California by way of New Orleans and Aspinwall will be closed. The "Daniel Webster", "Pampero" and "Falcon", the two former of which ran between there and San Juan, were taken off some months since, and are in New York repairing. The Crescent says that these ships have not paid, for some time since, much more than half their expense, and that self-preservation required their removal."
>
> (San Francisco Alta, Oct. 23, 1854)

Yours is indeed a most interesting cover, and I am glad to be able to throw even a little light on it. I really feel that I know you, for I hardly ever get a letter from Stanley Ashbrook but that he mentions you and enthuses over some wonderful cover you have. I've owed the poor fellow a letter for so long I'm almost ashamed to write.

Sincerely,

(A. R. Rowell)

January 27, 1938.

Dear Stanley:

Your special delivery letter just received relieves me of a very great embarrassment. I know you have sweat blood over your 1c book and it adds no joy to my life if I have stumbled upon a fundamental fact which you may have overlooked.

John and I have checked through Chase's 3c book carefully, and also through your 1926 booklet on the 1c - and believe me, Stan, it's * the sort of thing that grows on one - and also through your 10c green book, and I find no evidence that the idea has ever occurred to anyone.

There are about 50 plates of the 1851-60 stamps. The two 12c are single relief jobs and I know nothing about the reliefs on the first 5c plate. The others are all multiple relief jobs and this idea of mine fits on every last one of the multiple relief plates, including both states of plate 1 of the 1c.

I still hope I'm wrong and that you have covered this in your book and so I am sending 18 questions for you to ponder. Nearly all of these questions, and many others, can be answered by one very simple statement.

In my opinion we have all been fundamentally wrong from the beginning because we were mislead by evidence that was so obvious we never thought to check it and see if it actually was correct.

If you don't get the answer within a few minutes I don't believe you have covered it in your book and I'll spill it. You will find it enclosed.

Sincerely,
(signed) Elliott Perry

* I mean your 1926 booklet.

(A) - 65 R on plate 1 early of the 1c has the entire lower part of the design doubled. This stamp is from a B relief. Was the shift caused by entering the B relief twice?

(B) - Regarding 89 R on plate 2 - the big shift - this relief is stated to have been placed too low thus becoming the primary cause for 99R being Type III. Is there any difference in the distance (spacing) between 79 and 89R as compared with 79 and 69R, and if so, which is the wider spacing?

(C) - Chase page 82, last paragraph; - why does the C relief occur on positions 21 and 45 L and 8,9 and 46 R altho all other positions on this 3c plate are from A or B reliefs?

(D) - Chase, page 85, first paragraph; - why does the C relief occur on positions 63 L and 10 and 44 R altho all other positions on this 3c plate are from A or B reliefs?

(E) - Chase, page 86, fourth paragraph; - why doesthe C relief occur on positions 8 and 10R altho all other positions on this 3c plate are from A or B reliefs?

(F) - Chase, page 89, fourth paragraph, also same paragraph on page 94; - why are some stamps in the top row from the C relief and others not?

(G) - Chase, page 96, fifth paragraph; - why does relief C appear only on position 10R?

(H) - Chase, page 113, seventh paragraph; - why does the C relief appear only on positions 3L and 4,6,9 R?

(I) - Chase, page 115, second complete paragraph; - why does the C relief occur in some but not all positions in the top row and also on 60 L and 37, 68 R?

(J) - Chase, page 117, fourth paragraph; - why does the C relief occur on some (but not all) positions in the third, fifth and seventh horizontal rows, and not elsewhere except throughout the top row?

(K) - Chase, page 119, fifth paragraph; - why does the C relief occur throughout the top row and not elsewhere on this plate?

(L) - Chase, page 121, seventh paragraph; - why does the C relief occur throughout the top row and not elsewhere except on 21 L of this plate?

(M) - Leaving out of consideration three positions on plate 5 (late) of the 3c, why does relief C appear only in the top row, or when elsewhere on a plate, only in the 3rd, 5th or 7th rows?

(N) - Why are the usual shifts on 10c plate I and those on the 30cplate, found in the top of the stamps, while on 1c plates (I early, II and III) and the 90c plate, they occur in the lower part of the stamp designs?

(O) - On the 30c and 90c plates why do the common shifts occur only in the 4th and 7th rows?

(P) - Why did the six relief rollers contain one more relief than was necessary to enter a complete vertical row of designs with only two settings of the transfer roll?

(Q) - Why did the three relief rollers contain one more relief than was necessary to enter a complete row of designs with five settings of the roll?

(R) - Do the position dots actually control the position of the entries or do they only appear to do so?

Hypothesis.

In the body of the plates the odd relief ("T" of the 1c, "C" of the 3c and 10c), was used as a guide for properly spacing the other reliefs for subsequent entries by setting it into the last previous entry and moving the plate to turn the transfer roll into proper position for the next entry. For the odd bottom rows (top row of the first 10c plate), and for the lower part of the six relief plates two reliefs were lapped on previous entries instead of one.

Results.

Because of this lapping whenever the guide relief did not coincide exactly with the last entry an overlong rocking in the new entry caused the guide to produce a D.T. on the last entry.

On some early 3c plates relief B evidently was normal in the top row. C reliefs in the top row of such plates and in the body of any 3c plates were caused by overlong rocking when entering the A relief. When the guide relief C was exactly superimposed on a B entry no D.T. resulted, but the swing could go far enough to enter the characteristic "gash" of C on a B entry.

#3.

Conclusion.

Most of the positinn dots were used as a secondary or approximate guide - not as the primary or sole guide for locating entries.

Memo.

Seems to me someone told me - maybe you or Jake - that 65 R on #1 early was caused by rocking the transfer toofar upward. Which shows how close it is to approach the truth without realizing it. Or am I wrong?

The Chase National Bank

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

TRUST DEPARTMENT
11 BROAD STREET

New York March 13, 1941

IN REPLYING PLEASE REFER TO

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
434 South Grand Avenue,
Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook: Re: Estate of Edward S. Knapp

As you probably know, Mrs. Edward S. Knapp and this Bank are the administrators of the Estate of the late Edward S. Knapp. In a recent conference in regard to estate matters, Mrs. Knapp mentioned a letter that she had lately received from you which mentioned the so-called Morgan Collection and said that one of your friends might possibly be interested in acquiring it. She also said that you felt that if you could have the matter that there would be a greater likelihood of interesting him.

Unfortunately it is so voluminous that it seems impractical to ship it and unless Mr. Brooks is interested enough to inspect it here, it seems unlikely that it can be sold to him.

However, we are naturally anxious to take whatever action is most advantageous to the Estate and as neither Mrs. Knapp nor we wish to impose upon you, we thought it might be advisable for us to write directly to Mr. Brooks and ascertain whether or not he has any interest in the collection.

May we trouble you to advise us if you have any objection to our doing so and if not will you be so kind as to furnish us with his address in Miami Beach?

Very truly yours,

Alfred D. Snyder
Second Vice President

ADS:MSC

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

March 17, 1941.

Mr. Alfred D. Snyder,
Trust Dept.,
The Chase National Bank,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Snyder:

Re - Estate of Edward S. Knapp

Regarding your letter of the 13th. Mr. Brooks was merely a prospect whom I had in mind as one whom I might personally be able to interest in Mr. Knapp's lot of the E.D.Morgan correspondence. It would therefore be inopportune for either Mrs. Knapp or yourself to address him on the subject, because he has no knowledge of what the collection contains and I seriously doubt if either you or Mrs. Knapp could describe it in such a way as to evince the slightest interest in it on his part.

Mr. Knapp, for several years prior to his death made repeated efforts to dispose of the correspondence, both personally and thru Mr. Clark, Mr. Lindquist and several others, but the nature of this collection is such that, as a lot it would be of little interest except to some one particular collector, and in my opinion it would require special salesmanship to effect a sale.

I quite agree with you that the lot is so voluminous that it would be impractical to ship it to me, nor would I care to have this done, as I am far from sure that I could interest Mr. Brooks.

Several years ago Mr. Knapp gave me an option on the entire lot and he sent me a complete inventory of the collection together with various exhibits, including the Subscription Book of subscribers to the Lincoln Memorial at Springfield.

In my letter to Mrs. Knapp, I suggested that if she could locate the inventory list, she might send it to me and that on my next visit to Mr. Brook's I would be only too glad to attempt to arouse his interest in the collection.

Sincerely yours,

The 24c Invert--Aftermath of the Find

By Capt. A. C. Townsend

MR. ROBEY'S story of the actual finding and handling of the sheet of the inverted 24c Airmail is so delightful that the readers of GOSSIP will perhaps enjoy a P. S. to the tale. Here it is:

The writer at that time was in charge of the Military Post Office at Hoboken and in addition had certain confidential duties that occasionally took him to Washington to see a high War Department official. On such trips he always dropped in to see his old friend H. F. Colman if time permitted.

One day shortly after the great find, Colman said, "Say, you stand well with the New York Postmaster, don't you? You take over all the A. E. F. mail from him. Could you ask a big favor of him?" Being assured it would probably be granted he took me into a back room and told me the story of the big find. He also said that Col. Green had been powerful enough to go to the Treasury Dept. officials and have the entire stock of the stamps in the Bureau examined and have the other sheets that were found destroyed. "Leavy heard of it and went up and begged for *one stamp* for the government collection, but he couldn't get it."

"So what?" said I.

"Just this," replied Colman. "There were 550,000 of those stamps sent to New York before the search was made and no one thought of it. Can you get the postmaster to let you go over them for Inverts?" I was sure I could. "Wait a minute," said Colman. "They will all be in sealed packages. So long as they are sealed the contents are accepted as given on the packages in taking an inventory monthly, but when the seals are broken every sheet has to be checked." "Just the same," I replied, "I think I can get permission."

"Fine! Now here is the big point. You won't have to take them out of the wrappings. That sheet of Inverts has the plate number printed twice, in both blue and red. You can open the packages just enough to go over the edges for that double number."

We talked the matter over fully and I went back to my job, wildly excited, of course. I was to see the postmaster just as soon as possible. If he agreed I was to phone Colman and he would have Mr. Leavy come over and join me for the search. "No reason why some of them shouldn't be there," said Colman, "and if they are we'll all be rich." I wanted to know about selling them. "We'll either sell them to Col. Green or you and I will make a world tour a bit later, selling a sheet at a time. I know where to find buyers!"

A couple of days later business took me to see the postmaster. After completing that I said, "Mr. Postmaster, I want a big favor from you." He smiled and said, "You can have anything in my power, Captain." Telling him that I wanted to go over a quantity of stamps in his vault, he waved his hand and said, "That's all right. You know Russell. Just tell him I said it is all right."

"You come and tell him, will you?" I explained how it would make much future work for Mr. Russell. He went with me to the wholesale department and smilingly said to him, "The Cap'n wants to look over a lot of stamps in the vault, Russell. Let him do it, please." He shook hands and went back to his office.

I explained to Russell what I wanted and apologized for the work involved. He was very courteous and assured me that if the postmaster said O. K. it was O. K. So I arranged to come in the next afternoon to do the work. Back at my office I phoned Colman and arranged where to meet Leavy for lunch the next day.

After lunch we went to the post office and to see Mr. Russell. It was a piping hot afternoon. We were taken into the vault, fortunately large, for there was no air in it except from the open door. We were seated on opposite sides of a large table and Mr. Russell brought the packages of the 24c stamps from a shelf. We proceeded to break pack after pack and go over the sheets.

With only three packages left to open sweat broke out all over me as I looked at mine. I saw those double plate numbers! I kicked Leavy under the table and laid the pack aside and reached for another. A moment later Leavy gave me a return kick and laid his package aside. We both sat back and mopped off the perspiration. Together we looked at the last package. Nothing in it.

Then I said to Russell, "Mighty sorry, but we want to open these two entirely. Looks as if there are some of the things we want." Perfectly all right with him, so we carefully skinned the wrappings off the first one and went over sheet by sheet. There were several with the double numbers all right, but the airplane was not inverted! We wiped our faces again and went to the other package. More of the double plate numbers all right, but not an Invert! We sadly packed them up again, thanked Mr. Russell and departed, I for my office and Leavy for Washington. No big sale to Col. Green, no world tour or trip abroad—no anything. By pure bad luck all the Inverts had been in the stock that was left in Washington!

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Nov. 26, 1941.

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

Dear Elliott:

Re - yours of the 17th. Thanks for memorandum of the Chicago 3¢ plus 1¢ to St. Joseph, Mich. I am wondering if you could borrow this for me so that I can make a photograph. I would like to have a photo record of all the Chicago items I can locate. If the year is 1865, then I have no guess. If it is 1863, the writer may have intended the 1¢ to pay a collection fee. I don't know a thing about the carrier conditions there at this or any earlier period.

Regarding the re-entering of the 24¢ plate. You asked what possible reason could there be for re-entering before any issued stamps were printed. My theory is imply this. I believe that the proofs blocks from a first state of the plate came from the plate while it was being made. In other words, after the first entry of the 200 designs, proofs were struck. These were gone over carefully and it was found that the 200 (?) designs were too lightly transferred and a second entry was ordered. I don't think these <u>first state</u> proofs have any relation to issued stamps.

It was no doubt foreseen that there would not be a great demand for the value, hence the one plate was expected to last a long time, which it certainly did. I think that the first state proofs are perhaps nothing more than printers waste. I base this theory on several reasons but principally on the fact that at the time these proofs were struck, the plate was <u>unfinished</u>, it had no plate number.

Now it is possible but rather improbable that a sheet was printed on the thin Premiere paper and that this sheet was gummed and perforated and used to make up the "Sample" sets sent abroad, but on this I have no information. I think if Clarence could prove this theory it would be fine because it would at least put 24¢ Premieres in a class with the 1¢, 3¢, 5¢, 12¢ and 90¢. I have never seen a 24¢ stamp that I believed came from the unfinished plate, that is, what Brazer calls the first state. I refuse to recognize this two-state theory because I prefer to deal with postage stamps, not what I consider printers waste. I think that when Brazer picks out a 24¢ stamp and states, "that stamp came from the first state of the plate," I do honestly believe that he imagines he sees things which did not exist, i.e., that he is mistaking the issued state of the plate for an imaginary first state, the same as his printer's waste proofs.

Now Elliott it is possible as I stated above, that I am wrong, but at present this is my opinion of the two states. You agree with me that its almost a cinch that the same transfer roll that was used to originally enter the plate was used to re-enter it. Second - Brazer himself is not sure that every position on the plate was re-entered. Now it is quite possible that after the 200 positions were originally entered that certain positions which were lightly transferred were marked for re-entry and were re-entered. Thus we don't really have first and second conditions of the plate but rather just some re-entered positions. How can we distinguish these re-entered positions?

Mr. Elliott Perry, Nov. 26, 1941.

In two ways; first by a strong double transfer, second by a strong entry. But suppose a stamp shows no re-entry and is rather lightly printed. Is it correct to guess that this stamp came from a first state? The fact is it may be a lightly printed stamp from a re-entered position which had a very minute double transfer.

Re - the Brooks cover with the Black Jack. This is a very rich color and if any printing was made in this color in 1863 or 1864 it certainly upsets all of our theories regarding the 24¢ Violet of 1861. This copy is no fade or changeling - it is fresh and bright looking. I cannot help but believe it is an early 1861 printing and a hold-over use. I cannot tell anything about the paper but I would like to know if it is thin or thick. I would say that the paper is entirely different from the pair of 2¢. The latter is whiter, and in comparison the paper of the 24¢ lost some of their original brilliance thru exposure to any cause which caused a slight deterioration.

Of the 294,175 copies issued up to the end of September 1861, my guess would be that many more than "some" were steel blues, grays, and steel grays. The chances may be that there were more of the latter than there were of violets.

I thoroughly agree with you that some of the known grays and steel grays may have originally been violets, but I think the real rich genuine Steel Blues are original colors, not changelings in any sense. That is the reason I think there is a world of difference between the real steel blue and all sorts of off colors and changelings which are sold as the steel blue. I am quite sure that the real violet and the real steel blue are very rare stamps.

If the Brooks copy was off the Black Jack cover, and if the paper is real thin, I would jump at it as a single, as simply a marvelous 1861 violet. But suppose this copy is not a hold-over and came from a printing as late as 1863, where would all of my theories be?

I would like to have an accurate list of all the known 24¢ covers used in 1861. A careful check-up of these would be most interesting.

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 8, 1941.

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

Dear Elliott:

The handbook came in yesterday and I wish to heartily congratulate you and your associates on a most excellent piece of work. Now this is a real handbook and a work of the highest merit.

May I also tell you that I have no objection whatsoever to the way in which the 6¢ Essay was handled. This question has not been settled, hence I suppose anyone has a perfect right to voice their honest opinions. I have no desire to force mine on others. If the statement made can later be proved wrong, then all that can be said would be that a mistake was honestly made. So much for the notation in the handbook.

Now between you and I. It is stated - The original Six Cents Die had layout lines. Is this a theory or a fact? Do you know of any 6¢ Essay that shows the guide lines? I have never seen such an item and if such a proof exists I would like to know about it. I have before me a trimmed proof of the 6¢ and the trimming is not so close as to eliminate certain "guide lines" if they existed. If there are guide lines on any known proof or proofs I certainly would have to admit that my argument is not as strong as I thought it was. In the second paragraph of the Committee comment, the positive statement is made that the 6¢ was the original, and the 1¢ was an alteration.

If you haven't positive proof of this, should a positive statement have been made? Now for another matter.

I have been giving some assistance to Brookman on his forthcoming 1847 article, and in making diagrams for him of the 5¢ double transfers I recall what Steve Brown always contended about the "D" shift. As you will recall only one copy of the "D" has ever been discovered, this being the left hand stamp in a horizontal pair owned for many years by Emerson. Steve always claimed that the "D" was not a double transfer but an ink variety - one of your imitation shifts, I suppose. I have always claimed this "D" was an actual plate variety, regardless of the fact that only one copy had ever turned up. May I ask you, what you think of the " D?" If this is not a plate variety perhaps Brookman may see fit to make mention that it might be a "kiss." If you don't recall its characteristics I'll be only too glad to loan you an enlarged photo. I am positive it is a genuine shift. If so, the scarcity indicates it came from Pl 2, unless of course we wanted to consider a re-entry in the late life of Plate One.

I contend that the stamp comes from Pl 2. It is <u>not a sharp engraving</u>, and no doubt most anyone would assume that the stamp to right (which shows no D.T.) comes from Plate One because it shows (?) plate wear. However this fits into my theory that many more impressions were struck from Plate 2 than is generally supposed. Chase stated that Pl. 2 was made "late in 1850." This is certainly not true because I have identified Pl. 2 stamps used in the Spring of 1850.

As there is some similarity between the "D", the Knapp 10¢ and the 10¢

#2.

Mr. Elliott Perry, Dec. 8, 1941.

1855, (only one of each known) may I ask if you have formed any conslusions of the "D"?

Will answer your letters shortly.

Again congratulations for a very fine piece of work. I have sent check to Arthur Hall.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--Thanks so much for the loan of the Beaver -1847 cover. What a perfectly magnificent item. I think beyond any question of a doubt that this is the finest 5¢ 1847 cover I have ever seen. Elliott it would be a knockout if Brookman could illustrate this cover in his 1847 article. Do you suppose you could obtain permission? If so, if you could borrow the cover and send it to me I'll make a very fine photograph for Brookman. This cover simply knocked me cold. I never saw anything to equal it. Do you suppose it could be bought? You certainly knew your stuff when you laid hands on this item. What a story it tells. I want to give Brookman all the aid I can because if his article can be made fine enough it will be a grand A.P.S. handbook. I know you will also give him the fullest of co-operation.

I am returning the 5¢ 47 photograph today under separate cover.

Again many thanks.

S.

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 26, 1941.

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

Dear Elliott:

Re - yours of the 28th in reference to the Hennan cover. If the date is "Jun 26 1865" the rate could only be a prepaid "WAY." If 1863, the chances are that it is also a prepaid "Way" rather than in the Carrier class.

I have checked thru your Carrier Chapter and can find no reference to the Act of April 16, 1862 - Sec. 1, whereby the P.M.G. was authorized to establish branch post-offices in cities and to charge 1¢ in addition to the regular postage for letters deposited in such branch offices. Thus a city might have one or more branch offices but no carrier system. For example, Chicago. Could the Hennan cover be in this class?

I am enclosing a photo of a 3¢ plus 1¢ (1857) from Portland, Maine to Boston. I judge the use was Oct. 1, 1860. Note that the cover has a street address in Boston.

I have been unable to find any record of a carrier system in Portland and if this is not a prepaid delivery in Boston, then it must have been a prepaid "Way." Did you ever see a Portland, Maine 3¢ plus 1¢? This was new to me.

I have unearthed three 3¢ 57 rates from Boston to different points with the Boston handstamp "Due 1 Cent." From these it would appear that Boston for a short period, took a short cut and for unpaid collection fees sent the letters on to destination with the Due marking. You are aware how New York handled such unpaid collection fee letters. Perhaps Boston considered this system too complicated and simply paid the carrier 1¢ and sent the letter Due 1¢. Perhaps Boston did this until Washington informed them that the practice was contrary to the Regulations. I also have similar examples from Philadelphia.

Regarding yours of the 10th in reference to the Committee comments in the Brazer Book on the 6¢ Essay. In the second paragraph a very positive statement is made. When I read this I did not think that the Committee was assuming that the 6¢ die had layout lines but rather that they were positive that this was a fact. I have a 6¢ Essay before me, and I have photos of two others, one that belonged to Chase and one I owned at one time. Now on all three there are enough margins to show there were no layout lines. In spite of this proof that I had I assumed that you had proof to the contrary, that is, that proofs might exist with layout lines which came from a different laydown than the one from which the three I had seen.

I think it was very unfair to make the statement in the second paragraph. Now my dear Elliott, you quote the Committee's comments but surely you are aware of the fact that I know that Stowell don't know anything about the 6¢ Essay and neither does Arthur Hall, except to yes you.

Now why call these comments, the "Committee Comments" when in fact they

are nothing more than Elliott Perry's comments. All I am asking, is this fair?

You stated in your letter that you couldn't make the "One Cent first" assumption fit at all. Well after all that is just your opinion. Because you cannot believe that the 1¢ came first surely does not prove that the 6¢ came first. In this game there are a lot of things which turn up all the time which seem contrary to facts. You further stated that "No theory which disagrees with facts can be right." I heatily agree with you on this point, but you have no facts to prove that the 6¢ came first. It is your belief that it did, and until positive facts are produced your belief is merely an unsupported theory. You have a habit of forming very positive opinions and such opinions appear to you as facts. Therefore if I disagree with you my ideas are theories and contrary to your ideas which you consider facts. With no proof you assumed that the 1847 plates were steel, and so far as I can recall you have never admitted the possibility that the plates were copper. Colson made fun of my copper plate story but that only goes to show how little he knows about such things.

Re - the 5¢ 1847"D" shift - In the Emerson collection was a horizontal pair with the left stamp the "D" shift. When Chase sold his 1847's he had no record of the "C" and "D." Later Dan Hammatt discovered the "C" and sent it on to me to photograph. As near as I can recall I discovered the "D" pair in Emerson's collection but I assumed at first it was a duplicate of the "C" and didn't discover that it was different until I had Bob send me the pair to photograph. This must have been about 1921 as I have the original negative.

Now in the intervening 20 years I have located and photographed five copies of the "C" and also a small piece of a sixth copy, but though I searched and searched I was never able to find a duplicate of the "D." Steve Brown studied the Emerson pair and came to a very firm decision that it was a "kiss" but I failed to see at the time how he could possibly form such a foolish opinion.

I assumed that because A and B copies were not scarce and that C and D copies were rare that the C and D came from Pl 2, but it does seem strange that six copies of C are known and only one "D." In addition I think that the "D" shows that many more impressions were struck from Pl 2 than all students have suspected. I have for some years believed firmly that this was a positive fact.

I am enclosing herewith an enlarged photograph of the Emerson pair and I want you to study this closely and tell me frankly what you think it is. Is it a printing error, one of your "imitation shifts" or is it an actual plate variety.

Elliott I do not agree with you that it is impossible to distinguish the difference between an actual plate variety and any variety of a printing error, no matter by what name you call the latter, such as a kiss, imitation shift or what-not. One is a constant variety, the other is not. Could it be possible that we are not able to distinguish the difference between the two? Well of course many so-called experts wouldn't be able to tell the difference but I doubt if one, like Chase, a deep student of plate varieties would confuse the difference.

Mr. Elliott Perry, Dec. 26, 1941.

You plated the 10¢ 1847 and you noted certain characteristics which were constant and enabled you to quickly identify certain positions, yet you didn't realize that these particular characteristics were common to copper plates and are never found on steel plates. Had you any extended experience in plating stamps from steel plates you would have soon recognized that in your plating of the 10¢ you were working with stamps from a copper plate. I can show you markings on the Confed Frame Line plate which are identical with similar markings on the 10¢ 1847 plate, but in all my work on the Toppan Carpenter plates I have never seen a similar example. Now the records show that the Frame Line plate was copper. If anyone can show me any stamps from a steel plate which has certain markings which are rather common to many positions on the 10¢ 1847 plate then I will admit there is a hole in my claim. But I don't think anyone can produce such an example because steel plates, because of the very nature of their composition do not and cannot produce such markings. I consider that I have absolute proof so when anyone says that the 1847 plates were steel they simply do not know what they are talking about.

I assume that you will agree with me that the "D" is an actual plate variety and if so, does it not seem very strange that we have only been able to discover one copy? Don't assume that a careful search has not been made. Steve Brown tried his best to find a duplicate, and so have others, not to mention myself. Dan Hammatt knew about the "D" for ten years before his death and tried his best to find a duplicate.

In all of the Ackerman lot I am quite sure there was no copy of the "D." Had there been you surely would have spotted it because it is so different from either the "A" and "B."

McDaniel was quite a student of the 5¢ 1847, yet the "C" and "D" were evidently unknown to him.

I note your remarks re - the Slater cover and I can well believe that the use could have been 1849.

What do you think of this theory. The "C" came from Pl 2 but the "D" was a late re-entry on Plate One. This is not a theory of mine but merely food for thought. What do you think of the impression of the Emerson pair? Would you say that this pair looks like what we have known as Pl 2 stamps?

Re - the 5¢ 1847 - Beaver cover. I made a 5 X 7 photograph of your large photograph and obtained quite a good negative. Would you like to have several duplicate prints for your files? I'll be glad to send the prints.

I do hope you can borrow the cover from the present owner so that I can make a fine photograph of it, as it should be illustrated in Brookman's article.

If it is decided to reprint the Brookman article as a handbook, I do not think you should insert your personal comments. You will note I eliminate Hall and Stowell. If you insist on inserting any final comment then perhaps you will give Brookman or myself the right to comment on your comment.

#4.

Mr. Elliott Perry, Dec. 26, 1941.

I have warned Brookman that I will not permit him to use any of my illustrations or original material if final "comments" are to be inserted in a prospective handbook by a handbook committee of one.

I suggest that you keep the "D" photograph herewith for your record and if you want any additional prints let me know.

How about Pats #42. I am looking forward to your remarks on the "soldier shift" and a few others of my pets and if I find any openings I'll go to the mat with you.

Yours etc.,

P.S.--One lone copy is known of the 10¢ 1855 Brown shift
" " " " " " " 10¢ 1847 Knapp "
" " " " " " " 5¢ 1847 "D" "

You believe that the 10¢ 1855 is a genuine plate variety, or do you? You do not believe the 10¢ 1847 is consistent - you do not believe it is a "painting," hence you must believe it is an error of printing.

Now in which class do you put the "D",?

THE PERSONAL EQUATION

in the Postal History Problem

NUMBER VI

By EMERSON N. BARKER

The following article is compiled (unless otherwise stated) from files of the *Rocky Mountain News* of the years 1859, 1860 and 1861, in the library of the State Historical Society of Colorado.

EIGHTY years ago, come March 21, occurred the ignominious capitulation of the great Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company.

Its surrender was occasioned by devitalizing conflicts on two fronts. Of these, the war of its Pony Express—against hostile Indians, unseasonable weather conditions and ever-mounting deficits—has been the greater publicized.

The other war—which began before the inauguration of the Pony Express and continued after its abandonment—brought forth all the emotions of men and nations when engaged in a struggle for survival.

* * *

A decade after the rush of the Forty-niners to California, gold again caused a stampede, to the Rocky Mountains.

"Pike's Peak or Bust." Adventure, great wealth, curiosity—these and a dozen other forces impelled tens of thousands on their headlong rush westward.

"Pike's Peak", however, was a misnomer. Focal point of the Argonauts was the confluence of Cherry Creek and the South Fork of the Platte River, seventy miles or more northward from the mountain, discovered half a century before by Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, that had given its name to the whole Rocky Mountain gold region.

Rival settlements sprang up on either side of Cherry Creek, just below the Platte, each with its real estate promoters, shop keepers and other business interests, to ignore the parasitical element ever present in such environments to prey upon the gullible.

Auraria, on the west bank of Cherry Creek, was the first established. St. Charles, its name soon changed to Denver City, avidly seized upon every opportunity to eclipse its rival.

Denver City and Auraria, however, were merely stopping and outfitting points for those bound for the mountains to the west, where gold was being discovered.

On only one thing were Aurarians, Denverites and fortune seekers agreed: Direct communication must be established—and immediately—between towns on the Missouri River and the gold fields.

The Cherry Creek settlements were two hundred miles from the Overland, or Oregon Trail, over which a semblance of mail lines were in operation. The Santa Fe Trail, too, was far away.

A direct mail and express line was needed. Speed was a requisite, with expense of no moment. Unlimited gold deposits would take care of that!

Stagecoach War

L. & P. P. Express

William H. Russell, head of the freighting firm of Russell, Majors & Waddell, was importuned to establish the fast express line so urgently needed. Pike's Peakers knew that the resources of the freighters were considerable, and surmised that charges levied against freight carried by their myriad ox-drawn wagons over Western trails was "easy money".

Russell, a frequent and well-known visitor to the gold regions, was just the man to take a chance (only a slight one at that), and richly deserved to reap the harvest that was certain to come from the fast express.

Eager and more than willing was Russell. His enthusiasm, however, was not shared by his partners.

Undaunted, Russell and John S. Jones surveyed and equipped an express line as near as practicable on a direct line from Leavenworth to Cherry Creek. Eight hundred mules and fifty Concord coaches were acquired, and an army of men employed.

Coaches were piled high with passengers, mail bags and express, and arrivals and departures were high points of interest, both on the Missouri River and the mountain gold region. Expenses, however, were far greater than receipts—no matter if coaches were crowded to capacity at top rates—and at the end of three months the line was on financial rocks. Russell, Majors & Waddell took over the line.

Denver City and Auraria had in the meantime attempted to outwit each other. By a clever real estate deal, Denver City had been designated as western terminal of Jones & Russell's Express. Aurarians, by much wire-pulling, obtained a postmaster appointment for a fellow citizen.

On July 9, 1859, the community newspaper published the following:

"MAIL NOTICE—Please inform your readers that I have made arrangements with Mr. Willis, one of the employes of the United States Express Co., to carry the mails from Auraria to the Missouri River, the contract to commence on Monday next and continue to depart every Monday morning until further notice. Therefore, three-cents postage will convey the letters to the States, and the same back, as soon as the agent gets through. —H. Allen, P. M."

The editor of the newspaper ob-

(Continued on next page)

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807	3c Purple	.01	.01	.01	.02
808	4c Mauve	.01	.02	.06	.11
809	4½c Gray	.02	.03	.07	.10
810	5c Blue	.01	.01	.02	.03
811	6c Orange	.01	.01	.01	.03
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822	17c Red	.02	.04	.31	.34
823	18c Carmine	.02	.03	**	.38
824	19c Violet	.06	.09	.35	.39
825	20c Green	.01	.02	.01	.04
826	21c Blue	.03	.05	.32	.39
827	22c Vermilion	.07	.11	.43	.47
828	24c Black	.08	.10	**	.54
829	25c Red Lilac	.02	.04	.14	.24
830	30c Ultramarine	.01	.02	.42	.55
831	50c Violet	.01	.03	.10	.18
832	$1 Purple Black	.04	.06	.18	.30
833	$2 Grn. & Blk.	.32	.40	3.45	3.85
834	$5 Carm. & Blk.	.50	.55	2.95	3.35
Complete Set		1.30	1.75	10.75	12.75

USED FAMOUS AMERICANS

1c Green	.01	.02	.06	.08
2c Carmine	.01	.02	.07	.09
3c Purple	.01	.01	.10	.12
5c Blue	.03	.05	.13	.16
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served editorially that business interests and others would be glad to know that the monopoly of the express company was to be broken, and regular United States postage rates would prevail. (The express charge was twenty-five cents for letters and ten cents for newspapers, in addition to usual postage rates set by the Post Office Department.)

Auraria had a post office and a postmaster, but no official contract had been let for bringing the mail, and Mr. Willis soon tired of his offer.

Soon Denver City and Auraria united under a single government, and again inhabitants of the region were united with a single purpose: To break the hold of the L. & P. P. Express Co.

Indignation meetings were held and the proceedings of such, with letters from aggrieved citizens of mountain and plain, filled the columns of the newspapers. It was the consensus that Russell, Majors & Waddell, controlling all of the mail and express and much of the freight, were a liability rather than an asset to the region.

The editor, from his sanctum *in* normally-dry Cherry Creek — the printing house being situated so that both Auraria and Denver City might be served — noted that all was not well; that express charges on mail matter as well as gold dust were out of reason, and that the conduct of employes of the express company could not be condoned.

C. O. C. & P. P. Express

Messrs. Russell, Majors and Waddell extended their interests in the mail-carrying field. The defunct L. & P. P. Express was reorganized and recapitalized as the Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express. They held a contract for transporting mail over the Oregon Trail via Salt Lake City, and the Pony Express was established in April of 1860 to demonstrate the value of the Central Route to California.

Denver City and the mining camps were served only by a spur that came off the main line. That was an added insult. Officials of the C. O. C. & P. P. could not be persuaded to route the main line by way of the gold regions in the Pike's Peak country.

Then the C. O. C. & P. P. rapidly extended its lines from Denver City into the mountains as mushroom camps sprang up near bonanzas. It seemed that the express company had its finger in every pie. Resentment mounted daily.

Independent competitors established other lines; the fight was furious if not for long. Resources of Russell and associates suppressed all competition.

Then came another challenge to the C. O. C. & P. P. Like many another declaration of war, its full import was not at the time realized.

The editor of the pioneer newspaper in Cherry Creek noted in the issue of May 30, 1860:

"Elsewhere in this issue will be found the advertisement of Hinckley & Co.'s mountain express. It is under the supervision of Mr. H. himself, who has had long experience in the business and is well qualified to render perfect satisfaction. Miners and others in the mountains will find a *material cheapening* of their postal tax."

A new express into the mountains! A cheapening of the postal tax! This was to be a war not only of speed but of cutthroat rates.

The C. O. C. & P. P. accepted the challenge. Its stage lines into the mountains were the most profitable of all; the origin of the golden treasure from the mines. The population of the mining camps was many times greater than Denver City and other towns on the plains. The miners had the money, and were not too particular as to its disposition.

Hinckley's campaign, reflected in newspaper advertisements, expanded rapidly, after its forces were assembled and equipped:

Aug. 30, 1860—Daily service to Mountain City and intermediate points. Tri-weekly service to Boulder City and California Gulch and intermediate points.

Sept. 6—Another route to Mountain City, serving many communities until then without service.

Sept. 29—Government stamped envelopes for sale, *for ten cents each.* These envelopes bearing the markings of Hinckley & Co. Express, will carry letters to any part of the United States.

Oct. 20—Western Stage Line, bearing Hinckley messengers, arrived from Omaha, making trip in four days and twelve hours—the *fastest time* yet made.

The struggle attracted the attention of the West.

Horses alather, jehus cracking their whips, passengers trusting their souls to the Almighty, as coaches careened down mountain trails, cutting minutes from schedules!

Then came a series of bombastic advertisements, sometimes on different pages of the newspapers, often side by side, as if the stage line enemies were engaged in a hand-to-hand struggle.

(Continued on page 188)

The Personal Equation

(Continued from page 180)

Hinckley & Co. advertisements, illustrated with a Pony Express rider sounding his horn, shouted that: It was the *Only Legitimate* Express Company in the Mountains—Its *Facilities* and *Reliability* Surpassed All Others—it employed "*Sober, Faithful* and *Reliable* Messengers"—it handled Light Freight and Packages on *Quick* Time and at *Less* Prices than any Other. Time to Omaha was four and one-half days; time to St. Joseph six days, and to New York nine days. Letters in government stamped envelopes taken from the mountains and Denver to the States for seven cents.

Officials of the C. O. C. & P. P. doubtless were puzzled and angered. While *they* were operating the Pony Express over the line to California at a great loss, Hinckley was using an illustration of the Pony Express rider to emphasize the idea of speed which *its* messengers were making in *stage-coaches*.

Making the best of an unfavorable situation, C. O. C. & P. P. advertisements show a coach at full speed, the driver cracking his whip characteristically at the ear of the lead horse.

This *old established* line offered the same Facilities, Despatch and Security as ever—Daily Trips to and from the Mountains, *Quicker Than Any Other Line — Efficient* and *Trustworthy* Messenger—To St. Joseph and Leavenworth from the mountains in seven days, from Denver in six. Government stamped envelopes, bearing our express stamp, for sale in the mountains and Denver; letters taken from the mountains to St. Joseph and Leavenworth for ten cents; newspapers five cents.

An End to the War

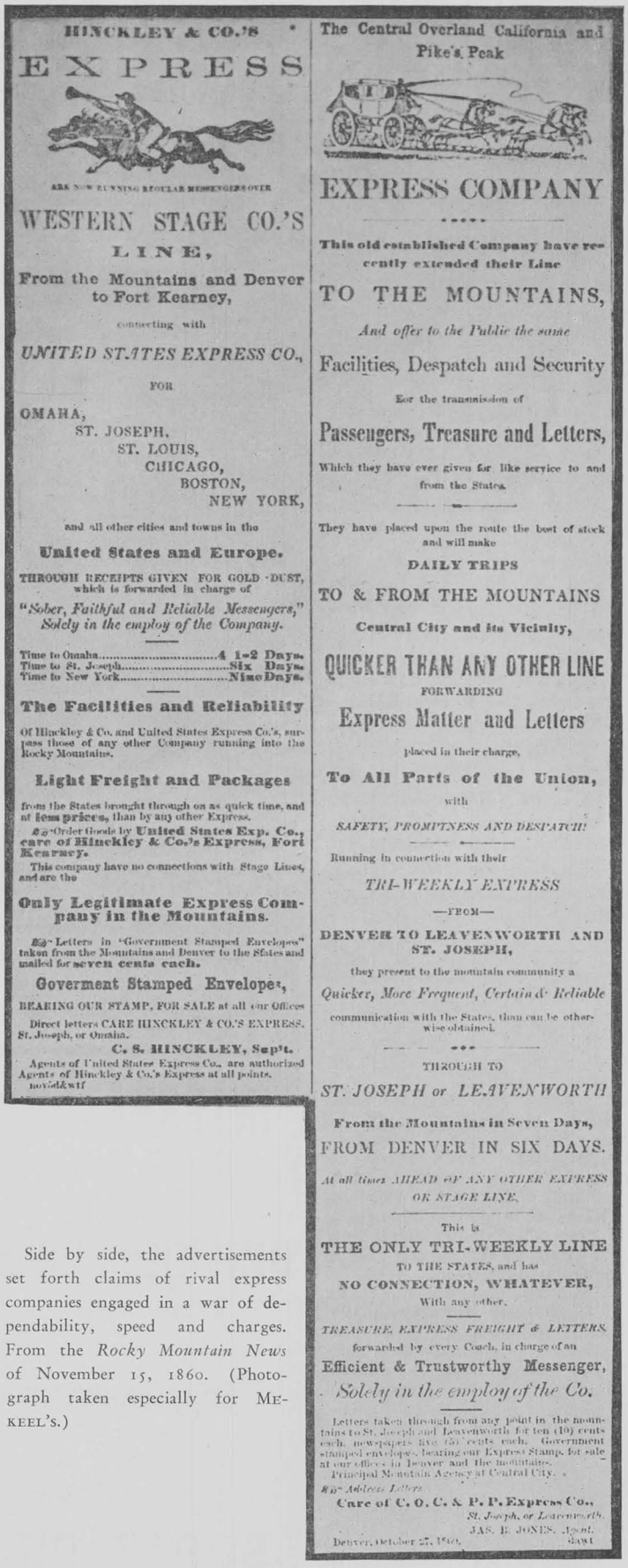
The price war also extended to passenger fares, and the pioneer newspaper said on Dec. 26, 1860:

"COACHES FOR GREGORY'S—Both the C. O. C. & P. P. and Hinckley Express coaches left this morning for the mountains, with over a baker's dozen passengers. It seems cheaper to take a trip to the mountains nowadays, at a *dollar* a head, than to loaf around town for nothing."

It was inevitable that the weaker should succumb. The last advertisement of Hinckley & Co. found was in the issue of May 14, 1861.

A little later the editor called attention to a change in the routing of the C. O. C. & P. P. mountain stage lines, to accommodate communities formerly served by its vanquished adversary.

The C. O. C. & P. P., too, had received wounds from which it never recovered. In less than a year the mighty had fallen.



HINCKLEY & CO.'S

EXPRESS

ARE NOW RUNNING REGULAR MESSENGERS OVER

WESTERN STAGE CO.'S LINE,

From the Mountains and Denver to Fort Kearney,

connecting with

UNITED STATES EXPRESS CO.,

FOR

OMAHA,
ST. JOSEPH,
ST. LOUIS,
CHICAGO,
BOSTON,
NEW YORK,

and all other cities and towns in the

United States and Europe.

THROUGH RECEIPTS GIVEN FOR GOLD DUST, which is forwarded in charge of

"Sober, Faithful and Reliable Messengers," Solely in the employ of the Company.

Time to Omaha.....4 1-2 Days.
Time to St. Joseph.....Six Days.
Time to New York.....Nine Days.

The Facilities and Reliability

Of Hinckley & Co. and United States Express Co.'s, surpass those of any other Company running into the Rocky Mountains.

Light Freight and Packages

from the States brought through on as quick time, and at **less prices,** than by any other Express.

☞Order Goods by **United States Exp. Co., care of Hinckley & Co.'s Express, Fort Kearney.**

This company have no connections with Stage Lines, and are the

Only Legitimate Express Company in the Mountains.

☞Letters in "Government Stamped Envelopes" taken from the Mountains and Denver to the States and mailed for **seven cents each.**

Goverment Stamped Envelopes,

BEARING OUR STAMP, FOR SALE at all our Offices

Direct letters CARE HINCKLEY & CO.'S EXPRESS, St. Joseph, or Omaha.

C. S. HINCKLEY, Sup't.

Agents of United States Express Co., are authorized Agents of Hinckley & Co.'s Express at all points.

nov6d&wtf

The Central Overland California and Pike's Peak

EXPRESS COMPANY

This old established Company have recently extended their Line

TO THE MOUNTAINS,

And offer to the Public the same

Facilities, Despatch and Security

For the transmission of

Passengers, Treasure and Letters,

Which they have ever given for like service to and from the States.

They have placed upon the route the best of stock and will make

DAILY TRIPS

TO & FROM THE MOUNTAINS

Central City and its Vicinity,

QUICKER THAN ANY OTHER LINE

FORWARDING

Express Matter and Letters

placed in their charge,

To All Parts of the Union,

with

SAFETY, PROMPTNESS AND DESPATCH!

Running in connection with their

TRI-WEEKLY EXPRESS

—FROM—

DENVER TO LEAVENWORTH AND ST. JOSEPH,

they present to the mountain community a

Quicker, More Frequent, Certain & Reliable

communication with the States, than can be otherwise obtained.

THROUGH TO

ST. JOSEPH or LEAVENWORTH

From the Mountains in Seven Days,

FROM DENVER IN SIX DAYS.

At all times AHEAD OF ANY OTHER EXPRESS OR STAGE LINE.

This is

THE ONLY TRI-WEEKLY LINE

TO THE STATES, and has

NO CONNECTION, WHATEVER,

With any other.

TREASURE, EXPRESS FREIGHT & LETTERS, forwarded by every Coach, in charge of an

Efficient & Trustworthy Messenger,

Solely in the employ of the Co.

Letters taken through from any point in the mountains to St. Joseph and Leavenworth for ten (10) cents each; newspapers five (5) cents each. Government stamped envelopes, bearing our Express Stamp, for sale at our offices in Denver and the mountains.

Principal Mountain Agency at Central City.

☞Address Letters

Care of C. O. C. & P. P. Express Co.,
St. Joseph, or Leavenworth.
JAS. E. JONES, *Agent.*

Denver, October 27, 1860. dawt

Side by side, the advertisements set forth claims of rival express companies engaged in a war of dependability, speed and charges. From the *Rocky Mountain News* of November 15, 1860. (Photograph taken especially for MEKEEL'S.)

MINT ONLY

THE AMERICAN WAY

ONLY MINT

BOLIVIA — ‡C82-C85 — HIGH VALUE AIR POST 5.75
BRAZIL — ‡480-483 — NEW YORK FAIR ..... .40
CHILE — ‡175-180 — NITRATE INDUSTRY ..... .65
CHILE — ‡183-184 — CONSTITUTION ..... .18
CHILE — ‡198-209 — PICTORIAL POSTAGE, 1938-40 ..... 1.20
CUBA — AMERICAN DEMOCRACY — New — 5 ..... .45
DOMINICAN REP. — ‡346-350 — TRUJILLO ..... .30
DOMINICAN REP. — ‡369-376 — TRUJILLO-HULL 4.50
ECUADOR — ‡398-399, C66-C67 — JOURNALISM 1.35
HONDURAS — POSTAGE OVERPRINTS on A. P. 7 ..... .38
MEXICO — ‡740-745 — HOUSING Postage ..... .55
MEXICO — GUADALAJARA 4TH CENTENARY — 6 ..... .57
NICARAGUA — ‡556-568 — BEFORE & AFTER — 13 ..... 1.35
NICARAGUA — ‡674-683 — DARIO PARK ..... .75
NICARAGUA — ‡C67-C71 — RIVAS RAILROAD 1.45
NICARAGUA — ‡C241-C252 — PRESIDENT SOMOZA 1.35
PARAGUAY — ‡C122-C123 — UNIVERSITY A. P. 2.25
SALVADOR — ‡516-519 — MENENDEZ CENTENARY 1.95
VENEZUELA — ‡367-374 — SIMON BOLIVAR ..... .75
VENEZUELA — ‡C64-C65 — LA GUAIRA HARBOR 1.25

THE HOME OF THE POSTAGE STAMP

J. Avery Wells
J. Van Kirk Wells

BOX 30, JACKSON HEIGHTS, NEW YORK

Telephone HAvemeyer 4-2209

Coming Issues

By J. AVERY WELLS.

Paraguay — Mr. W. H. Chippendale writes under date of March 7th to advise us that there will be a new set of stamps, printed by the American Bank Note Co., to celebrate the anniversary of the elevation of Asuncion to the status of a city. There will be three Postage values, 2p, 5p and 7p, and there will be three Air Post values, 20p, 70p and 500p.

Venezuela — Mr. F. Jacobi advises us that, according to previous plans, fourteen Air Post stamps have been reprinted. Whether there is variation in the shades to justify an additional chronicle, we are unable at present to say. The stamps reissued are: 5c (No. C80), 10c (No. C81), 15c (No. C136), 20c (No. C137), 25c (No. C87), 30c (No. C88), 40c (No. C139), 90c (No. C96), 1.20b (No. C100), 1.90b (No. C102), 1.95b (No. C103), 2b (No. C141), 3b (No. C109), 3.70b (No. C110). The quantity issued is stated as 20,000 copies each.

Trade Notes

—**J. C. Morgenthau & Co.**, 1 W. 47th St., N. Y. C., will hold an important sale of "Objects of Art" Tuesday afternoon, March 24, 1942.

—Don't forget the **Cosmos Sale**, March 28th at 116 Nassau St., N. Y. C., featuring United States, Philippines and Foreign stamps.

—**Ernest A. Kehr** advises us that his latest book "Twentieth Century Stamps of Egypt" is not available from the Chambers Publishing House but only from Ernest A. Kehr, 127-10 103rd St., Richmond Hill, N. Y.

—**H. R. Harmer**, Inc., 32-34 E. 57th St., N. Y. C., will sell an exceptionally fine collection of Great Britain and British Colonies at their auction sale March 31st. Lots may be viewed March 27, 28, 30, and the day of the sale.

—**L. W. Hudson**, P. O. Box 476, North Hollywood, Calif., will hold their 144th Auction Sale, March 31st. The sale will feature United States and Foreign, Lots by Countries, and Wholesale Lots.

—We wish to call our readers' attention to **Harry Ioor's** ad on First Flight Covers, in the March 16th issue. These covers were flown over F. A. M. 18. The "18" was left out by error.

Club Items

The Bison Philately Society has issued a patriotic sheet in commemorating their Ninth Anniversary, printed in red and blue on white. For complete information write to the society at 148 Blaine Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

The Passaic Stamp Club will sponsor a Stamp Bourse at the Y. M. C. A., Passaic, N. J., in the near future. All nearby collectors and dealers are urged to coöperate. The committee consists of R. Thomson, Wm. R. Leichter, E. Lerch and A. Gillardon.

The Cedar Rapids Stamp Club (Iowa) will hold their Banquet and Exhibit March 29th at the Hotel Montrose with the Cedar Rapids Coin Club as guests.

The Jack Knight Air Mail Society want you to submit a name, title or slogan for their Cartoon. Suitable prizes will be awarded. Copies will be mailed to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Sec., Earl H. Wellman, 3532 Oak Ave., Brookfield, Ill.

At the March 16th meeting of the **Heights Stamp and Hobby Club**, W. J. Doemick displayed his prize-winning Civil War Patriotic envelopes and material. The club is also putting up "Bundles for Buddies" and any service man interested in receiving back numbers of philatelic literature should write to the Pres. of the Club at 552 West 181 St., N. Y. C.

MINT PLATE BLOCKS

657 2c Sullivan .....(6) .30
655 2c Edison .....(4) .60
681 2c Ohio River .....(6) .40
683 2c Charleston .....(6) .60
649 2c Aero .....(6) .50
629 2c White Plains .....(6) .80

We have many other Blocks. Old and new issues. 52-page list free.

PRECANCELS

Many thousands unpicked — $3.00 per 1000

We do not sell precancels except in 1000 lots, so you get them as they come in. [7

NEW HUSSMAN STAMP CO. 1122 Pine, ST. LOUIS, MO

Clerleaf Interleaves

Transparent, Protective. No Cutting, No Fussing. Stays Flat. Does not discolor stamps. Clerleaf fits any standard 3-ring binder. No. XX (10 Interleaves) 50c.

Write for illustrated price list.

THORP & MARTIN CO. [S2
70 Franklin St. Boston, Mass.

FAMOUS FOR FIFTY YEARS

Whitfield King's NEW ISSUE SERVIC

Ask for leaflet giving full details and order form

WHITFIELD KING & CO., Ipswich, England
Established 1869. [I

1942 EDITIONS

INTERNATIONAL AIR POST ALBUMS

Bound Style $1.25 Loose Leaf Style $2.00

and

SIMPLIFIED ALBUM for UNITED STATES STAMPS

Bound Style $1.25 Loose Leaf Style $2.00

also

Supplementary Pages for 1941 Editions

NOW READY

Order from your dealer

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

One West 47th Street NEW YORK, N. Y.

Copy of A Letter Sent Ashbrook By Edw S Knapp — About 1921 or 1922
Original Copy Here

COPY

Prattsville, April 11th.

Mr. E. S. Knapp,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the Seventh, with photo of an old envelope reached me yesterday, and I was very much interested indeed in reading it. I must have misread your other letter, for in that you asked about a Mrs. M. C. Pratt, (as I read it) and not Mrs. M. E. Pratt, as I am the Mrs. M. E. Pratt of whom you are inquiring.

I think I can give you the information you want. My husband 1st. Lieut. M. E. Pratt of Company K. 1st Ala. Regiment and I were married on Nov. 2nd, 1862. In eight days he left, returning to his command at Port Hudson.

The seige of Port Hudson began in May, 1863 and lasted until July 9th, when the garrison was forced to surrender. The privates were paroled, but the officers were all taken prisoners and sent to New Orleans when they were kept in prison at 21 Rampart St. for three months, then they were sent by boat to New York and from there by rail to the Federal prison on Johnsons Island in Lake Erie.

Mr. Pratt was released from there about the middle of Sept. 1864, on what was called a "Dead Parole," as he was in wretched health, from chronic dysentery, contracted in prison. He was not expected to live to get home, but improved daily after his release and reached home safely about the last of Sept. 1864.

The copy of the old envelope shows that the letter was written while Mr. Pratt was a prisoner in New Orleans. However, the envelope was not addressed by Mr. Pratt-he very often got some of his friends to address his letters for him. It certainly was received by me for the "ans. 4th. of Aug." is in my hand-writing.

I would be delighted to have a copy of the photo of the old envelope, and will thank you very much if you will send me one. I would like to keep this one for a few days to show all of my children, four of whom live in Prattville, but the other one lives in Columbus, Miss.

Now I want to ask you a few questions. When and of whom did you get this old envelope? I cannot imagine how it got in to your hands unless it was through a Mrs. Cox of Mobile a friend of mine who visited me a good many years ago and we were looking over old envelopes as she was hunting old Confederate stamps.

I do not remember giving her any, but must have done so, for I surely have had that old envelope as I recognize my hand writing on the envelope and my daughter with whom I live also recognized it in the "ans. 4th Aug." Mr. Pratt died Nov.20th,1889.

If there is any other information that I can give you I will be very glad indeed to furnish you with it.

Thanking you for writing me again for information of Mr. M.E. Pratt, I am

Yours respectfully,

Mrs. Julia A. Pratt,

Prattville,

Ala.

I have a grand daughter by marriage who is now Mrs. M.E.Pratt.

Prattville, April 11th.

Mr. E. S. Knapp,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the Seventh, with photo of an old envelope reached me yesterday, and I was very much interested indeed in reading it. I must have misread your other letter, for in that you asked about a Mrs. M. C. Pratt, (as I read it) and not Mrs. M. E. Pratt, as I am the Mrs. M. E. Pratt of whom you are inquiring.

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Mr. E. S. Knapp #2.

I would be delighted to have a copy of the photo of the old envelope, and will thank you very much if you will send me one. I would like to keep this one for a few days to show all of my children, four of whom live in Prattville, but the other one lives in Columbus, Miss.

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I do not remember giving her any, but must have done so, for I surely have had that old envelope as I recognize my hand writing on the envelope and my daughter with whom I live also recognized it in the "ans. 4th Aug." Mr. Pratt died Nov. 20th, 1889.

If there is any other information that I can give you I will be very glad indeed to furnish you with it.

Thanking you for writing me again for information of Mr. M. E. Pratt, I am

Yours respectfully,

Mrs. Julia A. Pratt,

Prattville,

Ala.

I have a grand daughter by marriage who is now Mrs. M. E. Pratt.

COPY

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

May 2nd, 1951.

Mr. Thomas M. Parks,
Room #905,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York, N. Y. Personal

Dear Tom:

Of course Huber's letter to you of April 30th, - of which he sent me a copy I received this morning, - pretty well upsets the apple cart! Incidentally, I think you will agree with what I have always told you about Huber, - that he is patient and thorough, and always courteous and cooperative. Also, the way he worked out just who J. C. Denis was is an example of how we should all try to go back to original sources in research, rather than merely theorizing on the basis of apparent facts. I am guilty of doing quite a bit of the latter in my own writings, - but sometimes it can't be helped!

In view of all this I suppose you will have to consider whether to rewrite your article on the Louisiana Committee-Pratt covers, - a draft of which I annotated and returned to you only yesterday, - or agree to let Colonel Huber write it up himself. Of course he has the exclusive right to use the new information on J.C. Denis which he dug up himself, - although I know he would be most gracious in crediting you and me, as well as Ashbrook and Shenfield for our work in the subject. After all, it was the locating of the old Knapp-Pratt cover and letters by Ashbrook, plus my fortuitous finding of the stampless Pratt cover which determined who "J.C.D.-P.M." actually was!

But, in all these matters of philatelic research I am a great believer in working together with others, and personally I don't care who gets the credit or writes the story, - the big object is to help find the truth so that it can be written up properly for the good of philately. I imagine that this will be your view also, and that you will want to see that Colonel Huber gets all the aid that he can, and have him go ahead and write the subject up as supplementing his previous New Orleans articles which have been such a fine job.

In order that he, - and some of the others interested, - may have my views I am sending copies of this letter to those listed below. As for the photographs of both the covers involved, - prints of which I sent you only yesterday, - I am sure that Stanley Ashbrook will promptly send prints to Colonel Huber now. However, I don't think we ever did have the original letter enclosed in the Knapp-Pratt cover, - that all we had is a typewritten transcript of an old letter written by Mrs. Pratt to Knapp in 1922, of which I think Colonel Huber already has a copy.

As Ever,

Mac

MacB/HK

c.c.: L.V. Huber
S.B. Ashbrook
L.L. Shenfield

(2) Huber discovered that Adams was the Confederate Post Master at Natchez
not New Orleans

COPY

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

November 1st, 1950.

Mr. Lawrence L. Shenfield,
350 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Larry:

Here are the photostats of the group of covers I told you about on the phone this morning. When I read the reference to the Louisiana Committee in the copy of your letter of yesterday to Stan, it struck me as a great coincidence that something turned up recently on that subject, which I knew about. So, I thought that you and Stanley would like to hear about this, and I also would be much interested in hearing what you two already have on it.

These covers form part of a "find" of the Reynes correspondence, which our mutual friend Leonard V. Huber of New Orleans turned up recently. All of the covers originated in New Orleans in 1863 or 1864, from where they were smuggled out chiefly to Mobile, and sent on to the addressee in Augusta, Georgia, mostly by the Louisiana Committee. Some apparently were sent via messenger on blockade runners through Charleston and Savannah, where they were mailed. No photos of these are enclosed, as they were in a lot which was sold to a third party. Others, of which some photos are enclosed, were stamped and addressed, but apparently were taken right through to the addressee without being mailed.

On the enclosed please specially note the following: #1 is endorsed on the reverse "Forwarded by the Louisiana Committee at Mobile". #4 is endorsed on the reverse "Forwarded by Maj. W. Bosworth, Lewisburg, La." Another endorsement on it is dated Mobile April 4, 1864, is by John Thibaut and sends his regards, in French. #6 is endorsed "J.C.D., P.M.", - apparently the initials of the then postmaster at Mobile or elsewhere.

After you have looked these over will you please forward them to Stanley Ashbrook, and ask him to return them to me. Also will you please ask him to send me the old Louisiana Committee correspondence you refer to in your letter, so that I can read through

it. Of course I would also be happy to have comments on the whole subject from you and Stanley. Incidentally, our friend Huber is writing, - or has written, - an article based on these and other covers of the Reynes correspondence, and on translations of some of the French letters which they enclosed, - and I think it would be nice to make any additional information which might develop available to him.

As Ever,

Mac

MacB/HK

c.c.: S.B.Ashbrook.

P.S. By the way, you will note that there are several Mobile cancellations on these covers. #1 which was sent March 29, 1864, shows faint traces of the year date, although it may be a slug instead. In #4 the dating is indecipherable, but from the notations on the cover it appears to have been sent in April 1864. The cancel in #5 is dated Oct. 15, 1863, and while slightly smeary the year date can be deciphered. The cancel on #6 is dated August 24, which might be either 1863 or 1864, but I can see no signs of a year logo in that one.

Van Dyk MacBride
744 BROAD STREET
NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

April 18th, 1951.

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

Dear Stanley:

The enclosed copy of my letter to Tom Parks, will probably be self-explanatory. Please make a photo of the front and back of the enclosed cover as promptly as you can, and then mail it directly to its owner: Mr. C. W. Kanaga, 1217-23 Walnut Street, Kansas City 13, Missouri, to whom I shall write today. Please send and bill me for prints of the photo, and similarly send prints to Parks, Shenfield and Huber, who I imagine will be glad to pay you directly for them.

It certainly is interesting to see how this little cover links up with the old Knapp cover and his correspondence with Mrs. Pratt, and thereby we now know that the J.C.D.-P.M. endorsements meant J.C. Denis - Provost Marshall, at New Orleans!

I think the enclosed copy of Tom Parks' letter to me is very interesting and well worked out. I know that he and the rest of us would like your comments. My best.

Sincerely,

MacB/HK

c.c.:
L.L.Shenfield
T.M. Parks
L.V. Huber

Van Dyk MacBride
744 BROAD STREET
NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

April 24th, 1951.

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

Dear Stanley:

Thanks for yours of April 22nd. I had meant you to keep the copies of the Parks' correspondence I sent, for your files, and for that reason I am returning them herewith. If you don't want them, don't hesitate to destroy them!

My friend Tom Parks, - who is a really fine but somewhat odd person, - now tells me he does not need prints of the Kanaga cover which I sent you for photographing, - so omit sending him any. He also tells me that he has heard from you, and has decided not to ask you to make negatives and prints from your old photographs of the Knapp Frameline - Louisiana Committee cover.

Although we have corresponded about it quite a bit, I don't think I ever did see the photographs of that cover. Would you be good enough to send them to me to see, as soon as possible? Incidentally, I will certainly see that your request for a "credit line" is observed, if the photographs are used in an article on the subject by either Parks or me.

This whole Louisiana Committee-New Orleans-Blockade-Flag of Truce subject is a very interesting one, and it begins to look as if we were nearing the true story of it, at last!

Warmest regards as usual.

Sincerely,

MacB/HK

April 16,1951

Dear Mac: RE: "LOUISIANA RELIEF COMMITTEE AT MOBILE".

My deductions from the following covers are that the "Louisiana Committee" was the official mail agency recognized by the U.S.Army forces which operated the flag-of-truce boat between New Orleans and Mobile, and the unofficial agency of private persons who smuggled mail out of New Orleans, and [illegible] back into it.

Cover 1. From Confederate prisoner at New Orleans to his wife in Alabama.

Front:

10¢ Frame Line cancelled Mobile,Ala. Jul 30 1863, and uncancelled US 3¢.

"From Prisoner of War"
"Per Flag of Truce"
"exX" "(Ans.4th Aug.)

"Mrs.M.E.Pratt
Prattville, Ala."

Back:

"Forwarded by Louisiana Committee at Mobile".

"JCD PM"
"Examined and approved by Sgt.John Kane."

Cover 2. Reply from wife to above Confederate prisoner.

Front:

No stamp or postmark.

"Prisoner of War"

"Lieut.M.E.Pratt,
Co.H. 1st Ala.Reg.
Care Lieut.Haughton
No.21 Rampart St.
New Orleans"

Back:

"Appd-
J.C.Denis
Pro.Marl"

From the above I deduce:

1. Prisoners could write relatives, using a single envelope fully addressed to the relative, and deliver the letter to the Provost Marshal at New Orleans without any stamps if they did not have them handy. The Provost Marshal's staff took the letter to Mobile on the flag-of-truce boat and delivered it to the agent of the "Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile",(this was probably the early designation, later shortened to "Louisiana Committee at Mobile"), who supplied stamps when necessary, and forwarded the letter.

2. The relative, replying, addressed the outer envelope to the agent of the Committee at Mobile, and the inner envelope to the prisoner. The agent at Mobile delivered the inner envelope, without postage, to the Provost Marshal's man on the flag-of-truce boat and he delivered it to the prisoner. As it did not go through the post office, no stamp was necessary.

3. As indicated in Mr.Huber's splendid article in the Feb.1951 "American Philatelist", this service was not extended to civilians in New Orleans the way it was via Old Point Comfort, and they had to smuggle letters to and from the Committee at Mobile.

4. These covers were probably never many in number and the inconspicuous markings resulted in their non-recognition. Some years ago I purchased two, with both styles of the Committee endorsement, for a dollar apiece. Those smuggled into New Orleans probably had no identifying markings whatever.

Such are my views. I'd like those of yourself and other students.

COPY

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

April 18th, 1951.

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

Dear Tom:

I now have your letters of the 14th and 16th. Thank you for the clipping of the article "Gettysburg", - which I already had, and which I return herewith. Also, thanks for the other clippings, - did you know that they plan to re-enact the Monitor-Merrimac battle at Norfolk during the U.C.V. Reunion?

Thanks also for the tracing of your Camp Douglas cover, which I will send to Cabeen. You may recall him as the co-author with Dr. Carroll Chase of that fine series on territorial postmarks and history, which has been running in the "American Philatelist" for several years, and out of which they recently published a book. Richard McP. Cabeen is an excellent student and writer, is or was a newspaper man with the Chicago Tribune, is a C.S.A. Colonel, and is a fine, helpful, fellow.

In an earlier note you told me you had read something about the great number of deaths at Camp Douglas, - can you give me that reference to send to Cabeen? He is going to write an article on the subject for the 1951 American Philatelic Congress Book, which will be published at their meeting in Chicago in November. I am anxious to help him out on it in every way that I can.

Your letter of the 16th and its enclosures was most interesting. Isn't it odd how things tie together sometimes! First I locate a cover explaining that J.C.D.-P.M. notation which we have seen on the backs of several of the Louisiana Committee covers, and then we find that the cover is addressed to the very same Lieutenant M. E. Pratt who was the sender of that cover bearing a 10¢ Frameline which E.S. Knapp turned up many years ago! In the correspondence which Knapp had with Mrs. Pratt in 1922, she stated that her husband was First Lieutenant M. E. Pratt, and that he was "kept in prison at 21 Rampart Street (New Orleans)" which is the exact address on the cover I turned up!

Now I think we should have a good photograph of this cover, front and back, and I am sending it out to Stanley Ashbrook today for that purpose. Along with it I am sending a copy of your excellent letter analyzing the Louisiana Relief Committee setup, and I am also sending copies of the letter and the tracings of the cover you sent me to Shenfield and Huber. An exchange of their comments on the situation will be interesting to us all. I will ask Ashbrook to return the cover directly to its present owner, and to send you, Huber, and Shenfield, prints of the photos for which each can then pay him directly.

Finally, I am enclosing to you my photostats of the Reynes correspondence covers, some of which bear the Louisiana Committee, the J.C.D.-P.M., and other markings on their reverse sides. Some of these were used for illustrations in Huber's recent New Orleans blockade mail article, - please return to me when you are through with them.

My best.

Sincerely,

MacB/HK

c.c.:
S.B.Ashbrook
L.V.Huber
L.L.Shenfield

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

April 14, 1951.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed is a copy of a cover which I had for years before I knew what the "La. Relief Committee" was. I have another addressed to a C.S. Navy Officer with endorsement on the back "Ford by Louisiana Committee."

I read Huber's story in the "American Philatelist" & MacBride loaned me a photo of a block of 12 - 2¢ on a circular wrapper with the same handwriting and address as my cover.

Do you have photos of "Louisiana Committee" covers other than those illustrated by Huber & the photo Mac has? If so, could I see them?

And do you have any info besides what Huber gives in the "Am. Ph." Feb. 1951? He says he has found nothing further in New Orleans or Alabama.

Regards,

Thomas Parks.

April 16, 1951.

Dear Mac:

RE: "LOUISIANA RELIEF COMMITTEE AT MOBILE."

My deductions from the following covers are that the "Louisiana Committee" was the official mail agency recognized by the U.S.Army forces which operated the flag-of-truce boat between New Orleans and Mobile, and the unofficial agency of private persons who smuggled mail out of New Orleans, and back into it.

Cover 1. From Confederate prisoner at New Orleans to his wife in Alabama.

Front:
10¢ Frame Line cancelled Mobile,Ala. Jul 30 1863, and uncancelled US 3¢.

"From Prisoner of War"
"Per Flag of Truce"
"exX" "(Ans.4th Aug.)

"Mrs.M.E.Pratt
Prattville,Ala."

Back:
"Forwarded by Louisiana Committee at Mobile."

"JOD PM"
"Examined and approved by Sgt.John Kane."

Cover 2. Reply from wife to above Confederate prisoner.

Front:
No stamp or postmark.

"Prisoner of War"

"Lieut.M.E.Pratt,
Co.H. 1st Ala.Reg.
Care Lieut.Haughton
No.21 Rampart St.
New Orleans."

Back:

"Appd-
J.C.Denis
Pro.Marl."

From the above I deduce:

1. Prisoners could write relatives, using a single envelope fully addressed to the relative, and deliver the letter to the Provost Marshal at New Orleans without any stamps if they did not have them handy. The Provost Marshal's staff took the letter to Mobile on the flag-of-truce boat and delivered it to the agent of the "Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile," (this was probably the early designation, later shortened to "Louisiana Committee at Mobile"), who supplied stamps when necessary, and forwarded the letter.

2. The relative, replying, addressed the outer envelope to the agent of the Committee at Mobile, and the inner envelope to the prisoner. The agent at Mobile delivered the inner envelope, without postage, to the Provost Marshal's man on the flag-of-truce boat and he delivered it to the prisoner. As it did not go through the post office, no stamp was necessary.

3. As indicated in Mr.Huber's splendid article in the Feb.1951"American Philatelist", this service was not extended to civilians in New Orleans the way it was via Old Point Comfort, and they had to smuggle letters to and from the Committee at Mobile.

4. These covers were probably never many in number and the inconspicuous markings resulted in their non-recognition. Some years ago I purchased two, with both styles of the Committee endorsement, for a dollar apiece. Those smuggled into New Orleans probably had no identifying markings whatever.

Such are my views. I'd like those of yourself and other students.

April 16, 1951.

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Such are my views. I'd like those of yourself and other students.

CONFEDERATE POSTAL HISTORY

"The Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile."

The attention of armchair detectives and mystery fans is invited to the possibilities occasionally found in the cryptic markings on certain Confederate covers which are not explained by the contents (if any) or the writings of earlier philatelic students.

Take, for example, the "Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile", one of whose covers is illustrated here.

The author once acquired a cover addressed in exactly the same handwriting, to the same person, different only in that the stamp was a common one and the notation was: "Forwd.by" instead of "From" the Committee. Finding nothing on it in available published material, it was laid away for future reference.

(show cut here)

Mentioning it, years later, to VanDyk MacBride, General Vice-President of the Confederate Stamp Alliance, I found that he had written: "Via Underground Railroad", in the August 1945 "S.P.A.Journal", and had the above photo as well as several of the covers from the "Reynes Find" which was so excellently described by L. V. Huber in "Blockade-Run Mail From New Orleans, 1862-64", in the "American Philatelist" for February 1951.

Furthermore, he had descriptions furnished by Stanley B.Ashbrook, ex-President of the "C.S.A.", of a cover and letter from a prisoner at New Orleans, and the cover of a reply to the same prisoner, with the following markings:

Cover 1. From a Confederate prisoner, in captured New Orleans, to his wife in Alabama:

Front: Back:

10¢ Confederate "frame line" stamp cancelled Mobile, Ala. Jul 30 1863 and uncancelled 3¢ U.S. stamp.

"From Prisoner of War"
"Per Flag of Truce"
"ex X" "Ans. 4th Aug."

"Mrs. M. E. Pratt,
Prattville, Ala."

"Forwarded by Louisiana Committee at Mobile"

"JCD PM"
"Examined and approved by Sgt. John Kane"

Cover 2. Reply from his wife to the above Confederate prisoner:

Front:

No stamp or postmark.

"Prisoner of War"

"Lieut. M.E. Pratt,
Co. H. 1st Ala. Reg.
Care Lieut. Haughton
No. 21 Rampart St.
New Orleans"

Back:

"Appd-
J.C. Denis
Pro. Marl."

Clues [redacted] from the above two covers are:

Cover 1. The "frame line" stamp, the rarest of Confederate general issues, was not available until a year after New Orleans' capture, and Mobile was one of the few cities in which it was available at the post office. The U.S. stamp was not cancelled. The U.S. Provost Marshal's staff and the "Louisiana Committee" both endorsed the back of the cover.

Cover 2. No stamp or postmark. Approval by the U.S. Provost Marshal.

Deductions from the above evidence are:

1. Prisoners in New Orleans, after its capture, could write relatives, using a single envelope without stamps, and deliver same to the Provost Marshal's representative, who took the letters to Mobile on the flag-of-truce boat and delivered them to the agent of the "Louisiana Committee", who added Confederate stamps and placed them in the Confederate mail. Since the U.S. post office was not involved, U.S. stamps were not necessary.

2. Relatives, replying, addressed an outer envelope to the agent of the Committee at Mobile, with a Confederate stamp, and an inner envelope to

the prisoner, with no stamp. The agent removed the outer envelope and delivered the inner envelope and letter to the U.S.Provost Marshal's man on the flag-of-truce boat who, after censoring same, handed it to the prisoner. No U.S.stamp or postal handling was involved.

3. Figure No.11 in Mr.Huber's article indicates that early in the occupation of New Orleans the U.S.Provost Marshal approved letters carried to Mobile. Later this permission was withdrawn and letters had to be smuggled back and forth. The penalty must have been severe as the correspondence quoted by Mr.Huber indicates that most of the mail was destroyed by jittery carriers to avoid its capture.

4. My conclusion from the above is that the "Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile", whose name was later shortened to "Louisiana Committee at Mobile", was the Confederate mail agency at Mobile officially recognized by the U.S.Provost Marshal at New Orleans and also the channel through which contraband mail was smuggled by travellers going back and forth between the two cities.

I have a cover from a prisoner at Camp Douglas, Chicago, Ill., bearing both U.S. and C.S.stamps, postmarked Chicago, Dec.15,1864,addressed to Homewood, Miss., marked "By flag of truce via New Orleans La.and Mobile, Ala." Apparently the prisoner had heard of a mail service via New Orleans but did not know that it had ceased. The Confederate stamp is postmarked Richmond,Va. Jan.17 (1865) and indicates it went via the conventional route through Old Point Comfort, Va. to Richmond.

The lack of conspicuous markings or stamps on these New Orleans-Mobile flag-of-truce and blockade-run covers has apparently resulted in their non-recognition until 1951, and probably in the destruction of many of their undoubtedly small number. Collectors are urged to re-examine their covers with Mobile markings. If you find one, mounting it with copies of this and the other articles referred to, should materially increase its value and philatelic interest. Those with the "Forwarded by" the Committee markings and no Provost Marshal approval are

undoubtedly covers which were run through the blockade in spite of the penalties involved and are among the most interesting relics of that interesting period.

Where, except in Confederate philately, can a person unravel an 87-year-old mystery on such slender but positive clues?

Copies to Van Dyke Mac Bride
L.L.Shenfield
L.V.Huber
Stanley B.Ashbrook ✓
T.W.Crigler
Peter Brannon
Raynor Hubbell

this is a draft of a proposed article.

Your comments and suggestions would appreciated.

T.M.Parks.
C.S.A.#132.

COPY

May 7th, 1951.

Mr. Leonard V. Huber,
4841 Canal Street,
New Orleans 19, La.

Dear Mr. Huber:

Thank you for your letter of May 4th. I think we have kept each other fairly well advised of developments in the matter of that article on the Pratt-Louisiana Committee subject, by means of carbon copies of letters. Tom Parks seems completely satisfied to have you write that story, and I am sure you will do a bang-up job on it, - as usual.

I note you have written Stanley Ashbrook for prints of the Kanaga and Knapp covers, which I am sure he will supply and charge you only his usual moderate prices. However, I now have these prints in my files, and if for any reason you wish to borrow them later I will be glad to loan them to you. In this connection please be sure to include the line "Photo by S.B. Ashbrook" in small type under the cut of the face of each cover, and in the descriptive captions include "Collection of C. W. Kanaga" and "From the Records of Stanley B. Ashbrook", respectively. Ashbrook writes that he doubts that either the original letter in the Knapp cover, or that which Mrs. Pratt wrote to Knapp in the 1920's, is now in existence. However, I think you have a typed copy of the latter, to which you may wish to make reference in your article.

I shall look forward to the appearance of your article, which I assume will be in the "American Philatelist", with keen interest. If I can be of further help to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

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

MacB/HK

c.c.:S.B.Ashbrook

Blocade

PEDLAR & RYAN, INC.
ADVERTISING
250 PARK AVENUE
New York, N.Y.

December the eighth
19 37

Dear Stan:

Thanks a lot for the photographs of the Blockade covers and your description of the rates. I find this confirmed in the back of Dietz's book but I would make only one observation -- no one has ever seen a Blockade cover with a 7¢ rate on it when addressed to someone in the port of receipt.

The rate both to the port of receipt and beyond unless forwarded seems to have been 2¢ plus 10¢ for the single letter. On a cover I recently found addressed to someone in Charleston and which came through Charleston the rate is "due 12" but when the letter was forwarded to Savannah, by scratching out Charleston address and adding the Savannah address a 10¢ stamp was affixed and cancelled in Charleston.

On the other hand, I have several Blockade letters addressed to people in towns far removed from the port of receipt which carry only the 12¢ rate. Therefore I would say that the rate was 2¢ plus 10¢ to either the port of receipt or any point in the Confederacy unless the letter was forwarded, in which case the 10¢ forwarding charge had to be paid.

Since the regulation section which I found in Dietz's book was passed very early in 1862 and was not changed throughout the War, the rate never changed. I am checking the names of the Blockade Runners in Sam's lot against a list of Blockade Runners I have, but I imagine with the hundreds of them I will not be successful.

I finally got the little find of Blockade Covers that I wrote you about -- about eight of them in all -- with one beautiful cover with a hand stamp forwarded by "H. Addersley & Co., Nassau, N.P. This lot of covers lists all rates from 12¢ to 32¢ with both steamship and ship cancellations and came in both at Wilmington and Charleston. They were addressed to OGECHEE, Ga., and the recipient marked the date of the original letter on each one so that I can get some good time elapsed data.

All the covers came from Liverpool and one of them is a beautiful letter sheet with a cotton price report from the Liverpool Cotton Exchange dated in 1864. There are some 1862,1863 and 1864 dates in all.

I also grabbed quite a stunning Block Ten used of the 10¢ Milky Blue -- the largest block I have ever seen of the real milky blue.

I am going to start the Blockade article as soon as possible and I am writing Mr. Kimble to see when he can publish it.

Expect to be in Cincinnati on December 15 and 16 for the Annual Meeting of the Procter & Gamble Company and I will call you while I am there and pick up the actual covers from Sam.

Kindest regards,

Gary

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 South Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

P. S. Will also talk to you about the Pony cover when I get there.

L. L. S.

STAMPS
by Richard McP. Cabeen

Chicago Sunday Tribune 3/15/42 Cabeen

The Stamp Collector

By Richard McP. Cabeen

Mr. Cabeen will answer questions about stamps but not value. The column in this page contains offers to buy and sell. Inclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for reply.

From about 1860 until 1865 the Chicago postoffice used handstamps on certain mail. They contained the inscription — "Chicago — Supplementary Mail," and the month and day dates. These handstamps were in two forms, one having a single circle inclosing the whole while the other had a double circle with the inscription between and nothing but the date within the inner circle. So far as known there was no year date in either type at any time.

Dr. W. L. Babcock of Detroit who has made a thoro study of the supplementary markings of the New York, Chicago, and San Francisco postoffices advances two theories for the Chicago mark, the first of which is undoubtedly the correct one. This suggests that the mark was placed on mail received after the regular closing hour which was taken to the station just before train time. The second suggestion was that the supplementary mail consisted of closed bags of mail for certain destinations.

The supplementary mark was used in New York City for foreign mail only which was carried to the postoffice after the regular closing hour for a certain ship. Upon the payment of a supplementary fee which amounted to as much as the normal postage on the letter, it would be delivered to the vessel just before it sailed. This in effect was a special handling charge and enabled correspondents to delay their letters several hours beyond the posting time required if the letters were to go in the ordinary way. This double fee never showed in the postage affixed to the envelope and from this it must be deduced that the fee was a prerogative of the New York postmaster and hence need not be accounted for in stamp accounts.

Much of the knowledge gained in the study of the New York supplementary mail was of no value in endeavoring to learn the secret of the Chicago markings. They were not found on foreign mail altho there now appears to be no good reason why some foreign letters should not have received this mark. From a study of known covers listed in Dr. Babcock's monograph of 1939 it appears that the marking was used on mail addressed to points east of Chicago, the only exceptions to this are two covers addressed to Galesburg and Cairo, Ill., respectively. It is possible that these were handled by the supplementary service by error. Included in the list is one cover addressed to Pittsburgh, Pa., and another to Baltimore, Md. These covers are interesting in view of the announcement quoted below.

The files of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE disclose that the postoffice announcement published on Nov. 3, 1861, lists the closing hours for mail for the various railroads leading in all directions from Chicago. This announcement had a special significance, for on the following day the winter service of the railroads with altered schedules was to go into effect. During the summer period the mails for the east closed generally at 6 p. m., and at 10 p. m., but under the winter schedules the mails for the same region closed at 4:45 p. m. and at 10 p. m. The closing hours for mails going south and west or north and west were generally later in the winter than in the summer. With these facts in mind it is rather easy to justify the following announcement which follows the list of closing hours:

"SUPPLEMENTARY MAILS for eastern cities [except Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington City] and Canada close daily [except Saturday and Sunday] at 5:15 p. m. Letters [and letters only] for these mails must be deposited in the chief clerk's room [up stairs] after 4:45 p. m."

This indicates that there was no extra charge for supplementary mail service and that its sole purpose was to enable business houses and others to post letters to the east after the normal closing hour of 5 p. m. Chicago was so small at the time that 15 minutes would be ample time to go from any business house to the postoffice. At other times of the year and in other years there may have been different regulations for the supplementary mail. The Cairo, Ill., cover may be accounted for by the fact that the mails for the Illinois Central railroad closed at 3 p. m. and at 11 p. m. during the winter and this line may have been included in those receiving supplementary service altho no mention is made of the fact. There appears to have been no excuse for the Galesburg cover for this city was served by the Burlington railroad with mails closing at 7 p. m.

This writer would account for the exclusion of the four eastern cities from supplementary service by the guess that the P. & F. W. railroad which served them had a fast mail train leaving at 10 p. m. thruout the year. Readers who have Chicago covers with supplementary postmarks will confer a favor on the editor of the Stamp Collector by listing them with the type of stamp, date and type of postmark, with year if possible, and with the name of city to which they are addressed.

COVER MYSTERY SOLVED

SOLUTION of a mystery surrounding a United States stampless cover owned by William C. Michaels, a Kansas City insurance attorney, was made known by him last week on his arrival to attend a national insurance convention at the Waldorf-Astoria. The cover has stumped leading philatelic experts during the twenty years it has been in his possession, and Mr. Michaels, who has been a collector for sixty years, says he finally unraveled the puzzle.

Two decades ago Mr. Michaels paid $2.60 for a miscellaneous lot of about 150 old U. S. covers, and among them was one bearing a "NATz, M. T." (Natchez, Mississippi Territory) postmark of 1812. It was addressed "Major Westcott, St. Francisville" and a notation on the cover showed that the sender had paid 15 cents in postage. The postmaster in St. Francisville was unable to deliver the letter to Major Westcott because the latter had meanwhile removed to Baton Rouge. The St. Francisville postmaster wrote "St. Francisville, O. T." and "10 Cents" (the postage rate from St. Francisville to Baton Rouge) on the cover and forwarded the letter to Baton Rouge, where Major Westcott paid the 10 cents.

It is the "O. T." in "St. Francisville, O. T.," which bothered the philatelic cover authorities, who agreed they had never seen "O. T." on another cover from this section.

Mr. Michaels arrived at his solution after studying the geographical and political situations resulting from Napoleon's sale of the Louisiana region to the United States in 1803. At that time no such division as "Louisiana Territory" legally existed. By act of Congress in March, 1804, the region below the thirty-third parallel was named Territory of Orleans. St. Francisville and Baton Rouge were in the Territory of Orleans, and this, Mr. Michaels says, explains the "O. T." written on the St. Francisville cover by the postmaster there.

The District of Louisiana, north of the parallel, was renamed Territory of Louisiana in 1805, and the State of Louisiana came into existence on April 30, 1812. It was just prior to the act of Statehood that the cover traveled from Natchez in Mississippi Territory to St. Francisville and Baton Rouge in Territory of Orleans.

WILLIAM R. STEWART
Publisher's Representatives
NINE SOUTH CLINTON STREET
CHICAGO

November 26, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 S. Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

I rather imagine the Cincinnati papers ran something about Thomas. You may not have seen it, but it seems to have run pretty widely.

The enclosed copy of a letter to one of the stamp papers gives the real McCoy. Off the record, he also had a perforating machine and a grilling machine. Properly used the perforating machine could have been used for re-perforating, but it was very crude and the grills were likewise crude. Where a grill measuring eleven M M should have about seventeen points, his grills - according to a report - are only five or six points - more of a stud than a grill.

The faking was all on cheap mint foreign. The U. S. cancels were stars, and so forth.

I enclose a cover about which I wish you would write me and return by return mail. Actually, there are three in the lot - all three to England and all with a 15¢ 1869 - all from the same correspondence - all at the same period of the last few months of the year.

Would appreciate your comments.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

WILLIAM R. STEWART

WRS:AP

November 21, 1941

Mrs. Eveleen W. Severn
MEKEEL'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS
P. O. Box 1660
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Severn:

I have checked Mr. Cabeen and also Mr. Olaf Nagle, who was called in by the government to expertize the stamps belonging to the estate of Mr. Thomas. The situation is by no means as serious as suggested by the newspapers. I suggest you run the following - and you can run this as a letter from me - as I think it would be advisable to counteract this publicity. It not only ran in full column space in the Chicago papers, but also went out in a shortened form on the Associated Press wire service all over the country.

"Preliminary survey of the stamps in the estate of Rudolph Thomas, former stamp dealer in Chicago, discloses that the newspaper publicity was hysterical in its estimate of possible loss to stamp collectors. The fake cancellation devices, according to the stamp expert handling the stamp estate for the government, were for cancellations chiefly from Middle European cities and could not be used on U. S. stamps to any avail. The few fake U. S. cancels found were of the ordinary star and paid varieties, none of which would add tremendously to the value of the stamps.

"Furthermore, the ink used was a sure give-away. All of the inks found in the late Mr. Thomas' house were of the current aniline varieties. These inks soak through the stamp and the cancel is seen as easily on the back as on the face.

"Thus, we can give you the assurance of Mr. Cabeen and of the stamp dealer expertizing the Thomas stamps that U. S. collectors need have no worries regarding pictorial or fancy cancellations coming from this source and being difficult to detect. They are easily detected and probably this has been the source of many of the cheap, phony cancels we have seen from time to time."

You are privileged to re-write this, but these are the facts. What the TRIBUNE story did not mention was that the perforating machine was homemade and poorly constructed. It could not possibly do a good job of re-perforating and, in comparison, it was nothing like the machine recently offered from a Detroit source.

There might be some danger in another fraud shown by the stamps and possibly difficult to detect unless the person examining really

knows grills. He did have a grilling device, but where the grill should be eleven points, his device made only five or six points. The grill was the wrong size and the points are in the wrong shape.

While we know these things in Chicago, I think it a good idea for you to know them, but I do not advise you to give them any publicity whatsoever, so I request you to keep this knowledge for your own information for future use in case this question should ever be raised.

Thus, this "great fraud" when examined becomes just another one of those fellows who didn't know enough about faking to do a job that would fool a man who has collected for a year or more.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM R. STEWART

WRS:AP

Re- 2 states - 24¢ 1861

Philatelic
Consultant
Mounting
Lettering
Examination

ELLIOTT PERRY
BOX 333
POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS
WESTFIELD
NEW JERSEY
SINCE 1915

Publisher—
"Pat Paragraphs"
The Philatelic
Reference
Library

November 4, 1941

Dear Stanley,

Regarding the 24c 1861 I shall try to show you the picture as I see it and let you decide where the facts stop and the guesswork begins.

Brazer's idea was that the premiers were printed BEFORE the plate was re-entered. Also that before any issued stamps were printed the plate was re-entered with the Type III design so the STAMPS would have the most complete or most satisfactory design. That he believed to be the reason for re-entering the plate, and making the re-entry with the design which was actually adopted, IF his sequence was correct.

But when you demonstrated - as have others - that the re-entry was done with Type II - the same design as used for the original entry - Brazer's reason for re-entering the plate was no longer tenable.

As I believe we are agreed that the plate was re-entered , I believe the fact must be that the re-entry was made for some other reason than the reason which Brazer advanced. Let that be Fact No. 1.

That brings us to the question as to what printings were made from the plate. Is it not clear that whether any printing - stamps or proofs - shows the original or the re-entered design depends upon <u>when</u> the plate was re-entered? Anything printed before the plate was re-entered will agree with that position on the original plate. Anything printed after the plate was re-entered will agree with that position on the re-entered plate. Let that be Fact No. 2.

If the so-called "premiers" ever existed as such they must have come from an early printing. If they were printed after the regular stamps they could not be premiers. Let that be Fact No. 3.

We know that impressions could be taken from the plate before it was re-entered because proofs exist from that state of the plate. A plate which could print proofs could also print stamps; therefore no mechanical reason existed to prevent the plate from printing premiers or other stamps. Let that be fact No. 4.

If Fact No. 1 is established we must seek the reason for re-entering the plate and the date when the re-entry occurred. Was there any reason for re-entering the plate before the premiers were printed? Let that be question No. 1.

Since we know the plate was re-entered and assume there were only two states (other than at least two conditions as regards or plate numbers in the first state), any premiers or other finished impressions suitable for issue as postage stamps must agree with either the first (original) or second (re-entered) state of the plate. In effect this is a re-statement of Fact No. 2.

All that needs to be done therefore, is to find and identify stamps or premiers with one or the other state of the plate.

After examining a considerable number of stamps it is my opinion that the plate was not re-entered until later than August 1861, that the premiers and some issued stamps came from the first state of the plate, and that other stamps came from the second or re-entered state.

Identification of stamps from the re-entered plate is apt to be easier than to identify those from the original state. I believe that the examination of a large number of stamps will confirm what I have found among those already examined, and will also reveal what I am confident was the real reason for re-entering the plate.

The only sequence which I am able to make agree with what I find on the stamps is that issued stamps were printed both before and after the plate was re-entered. I find no reason for re-entering the plate with the Type II design during or before August 1861, but an excellent reason for re-entering the plate after August 1861 is suggested to me by what I have found on the stamps, if not elsewhere.

Knapp shift; I have had no theory on this stamp for over five years. A theory is needed when the answer is unknown. When you know the right answer you don't need any theory. The correct answer has not yet appeared in print.

I still have some of your photos here and shall try to return them soon. The Texas to N.O. cover does not impress me as proving that something which might possibly have been permitted in 1851 was an established practice many years later. And with different stamps. The Texas writer may have thought the letter required 9c, stuck on the stamps he had handy (8c) and found 6c was enough when he got to the post office. Yesterday I received a 3c letter from New York with two 2c stamps on it. I assume the writer had no 1c stamps handy, but that obvious explanation may not be the real one.

495 post cars have come in. The percentage of yes answers on the Penny Black and Swarts books is increasing somewhat. One card came from Central America.

Sincerely,

Carroll Perry

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

July 2, 1941.

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

Dear Elliott:

Recently a friend, well versed on "Way" letters, asked me if I had ever seen a Way letter which was not marked WAY either manuscript or handstamp and I replied that I have seen several. Did you ever give this any thought? I think there is a nice point involved. I have before me a folded letter of Feb. 1852 with 3¢ 51 plus 1¢ 51. The letter is dated New Orleans, stamps tied by Mobile postmark, addressed to New York. Here is a prepaid Way letter but it has no "Way" marking. Why?

There is a very close connection between "Way" and carrier 3¢ plus 1¢. When this letter was brought into the Mobile P.O., the carrier was paid 1¢ by the Mobile P.O. Now you have asked me in the past a question such as this - Did the Mobile office collection this 1¢ from the originating P.O. and I replied, no, they charged the 1¢ paid out, to Washington. Now the point is this - If a Way fee could be prepaid by a 1¢ stamp, why couldn't a carrier fee be prepaid by a 1¢ stamp.

Consider my 3¢ 61 plus 1¢ 61 Fort Lee, N.J. cover. This came regular mail to the N.Y. office and he paid the carrier 1¢ to deliver it to the street address. This 1¢ be charged to Washington, the same as the Mobile Office charged the 1¢ on the above prepaid 3¢ plus 1¢ Way letter.

Also similar are prepaid ship (fee) letters. The most striking are the 10¢ plus 2¢ from Hawaii. Here the S.F. P.M. paid the 2¢ ship fee to the ship captain. Some weeks ago I wrote you about a 3¢ (51) plus pair of 1¢ (51), stamps tied by the N.Y. postmark. This is the only 3¢ plus 2¢ prepaid ship cover I ever recall having seen.

It is not logical to assume a carrier fee could not be prepaid to a street address when we know "Way" and "Ship" fees were permitted to be prepaid by 1¢ stamps.

Regarding yours of the 19th. I find by a careful search thru the P.M.G. reports that all offices having "B.S.Gov't" carrier service did not make regular reports. If for a certain quarter they took in the same amount as they paid out, certain offices thought it unnecessary to report the same credits and debits to Washington, and it is quite evident that Washington did not insist. Thus the reports are very incomplete. Just because Kensington did not report until 1861 is no sign they did not have carrier service before that date, and if there are no reports of carrier service at Kensington before 1861 could it not be possible that a special report of Kensington was not included in earlier P.M.G. reports? I am not stating this as what I believe but am merely asking you.

Consider lot 892. Here is a 3¢ plus Eagle. Note street address at New York. At the time this cover was used, perhaps Kensington did not have carrier service. If so, then could this not be a prepaid

carrier delivery at New York? In which event the 1¢ carrier fee was paid to the carrier by the N.Y. P.O. Perhaps this is a more correct solution than to assume the Eagle represented a prepaid fee to the Kensington P.O.

Re - Pats #31 - page 859. The figures given are incorrect for a number of the years. They are not as per the P.M.G.Reports.

You are correct in stating that no P.O. could pay out more than it received for carrier service - which clearly meant that the carrier service was at the expense of the public. But this did not mean actual cash transactions. That is, they could not pay out more in cash than they received in cash. If a letter mailed in a lamp post box at New York had a 3¢ plus 1¢, the N.Y. Office paid 1¢ in cash to the carrier, but they debited this 1¢ to Washington which of course was the same as actually receiving 1¢ in cash from Washington.

I was rather amgazed at the following statement in your letter:

"After postage stamps became available fromcarrier service each carrier department collected from its own post office for the stamps on letters which were collected in that city. If a letter was delivered because it bore a stamp that had been afixed elsewhere no fee would be collected and the carrier department was specifically prohibited by law from collecting that fee from Washington. That is a reason why I do not agree with you that a stamp affixed in one place could prepay a delivery fee elsewhere."

I cannot argue with you on this point because the question involved is one of simple accounting and bookkeeping. As long as the office paid out 1¢ to the carrier for his fee for the 1¢ stamp, it didn't make any difference where the stamp was bought or where it was affixed. N.Y. charged the 1¢ to Washington and no matter where the stamp was bought the P.O.D. had previously received 1¢ in cash for it, and it did not perform a postal service but rather a carrier service. Washington received 1¢ and they got a debit of 1¢ for the stamp from N.Y. Thus N.Y. was square and so was Washington. This is the simpliest form of bookkeeping.

Re - Cincinnati - Vol. 2 - page 163-164. You mention the notice of 1854 with the one of 1859. All eagles I have seen used at Cincinnati with 3¢ were covers with 3¢ plus one Eagle. Would you infer from the advertisement that the pick-up fee was 1¢ - one eagle - and the delivery fee was 2¢ - two eagles?

I am not greatly interested in the carrier stamps such as the Williams etc., because I don't think any of these stamps were officially recognized outside of the cities of issue.

I do not recall the Steve Brown items you mentioned. I do not believe a 3¢ 51 plus a 1¢ Brown could have been mailed at the Cincinnati P.O. and been recognized as paying the delivery fee in New York City.

Elliott I do not think that it is hardly fair to ask the following question:

Mr. Elliott Perry, July 2, 1941.

"But if letters were handled as you believe I see no reason why a Baltimore or Charleston carrier stamp, or that of any other city, could not have been used to prepay a delivery fee in say, New York or Philadelphia. The same bookkeeping in Washington would have done just as well for the special carrier stamps as for the ordinary postage stamps."

You know very well that the carriers received payment for these stamps, not Washington, so if Washington did not receive payment as in the cash of 1¢ postage stamps, why do you ask such an absurd question?

Clarence Brazer sent me a copy of his "Premieres" paper he read at the Collectors Club the early part of June. I note in his closing remarks that he submitted this paper to you before he read it.

May I inquire if you studied his work carefully and do you agree with his statements regarding the 24¢ first and second states of the plate, also the three types of the 24¢ Die etc. etc. Do you also agree with him that Die Proofs were submitted with the N.B.N.Co. bid? Is it logical to assume that his theory is anywhere near correct that after carefully examining the 3¢ August Die that the Board of Experts ordered a 200 subject plate of this unfinished 3¢ design (as well as the rest of the values) transferred then after examining the proof of the 200 subject 3¢ August plate they then ordered changes made in the 3¢ design and then ordered the regular (issued) plate.

Brazer stated his personal theories as facts, not as his theories, and your approval at the end of the article appeared to me as an endorsement of his theories. Is this correct?

I also noted your crack about the soldering iron. You know very well I did not invent the solder theory on the Knapp shift as outlined in the New Yorker. You will recall Horace Barr was the author and while I did not endorse it as the solution I certainly did think it was very very clever on Barr's part.

I understand the paper you read at the Club was quite funny as well as a bit sarcastic. May I see a copy?

Ezra Cole was here yesterday and he told me that Konwiser had showed you a 3¢ plus 1¢ cover with "Held for Postage" (hand-stamped) postmarked New York, addressed to Wm. H. Seward - Chester, N.J. Ezra was under the impression as I understood him, that the cover was held for the 3¢ postage. Is this correct? How did you figure this cover?

Hot as the very devil here and very high humidity. Little David Cole, age 6, fell off our front steps late Sunday afternoon and broke his left arm. He is still in the hospital and Ez is undecided about his plans for continuing his trip West.

Best of regards.

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

July 21, 1941.

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

Dear Elliott:

My 3¢ plus 1¢ notes seemed to have kicked up some interest as I have had a number of covers submitted. More on these later, also on your recent letters.

Last September Mr. H. F. Collins sent me a cover with a 3¢ 57 plus two 1¢ 57, Type V - postmarked Boston to Otis Center, Mass. He stated that you expressed the opinion that this was a pick-up Carrier with 1¢ overpaid. This reminds me how prone we are to assume a rate was overpaid when we have no other explanation. I recall the 5¢ plus 2¢ New Orleans item about which I wrote you some weeks ago. I have an idea we will turn up several 3¢ plus 1¢ plus 1¢ and if we do, it would seem odd, would it not, that so many people overpaid rates? Larry Mason has quite an interesting cover, a 3¢ plus 1¢ plus 1¢, photo of which I enclose. The date of use is July 24 1863, which kindly note. I believe I also wrote you about this cover, because it had me quite bothered at first. I doubt if you would call this a carrier, so it could hardly be a 1¢ overpay. It is a nice little study and if someone would submit such a cover to you for an explanation, what would you reply?

I also am in receipt today of a cover with a 3¢ 1857, Type II plus a 1¢ 1857, Type IA, Pl. 4, postmarked Chicago April 5 1858. It is addressed to a street address in New York City. This looks like one of those things to me, one of those things you feel convinced could not have happened. I am also on the track of two more which collectors have inquired if I wish to see them. One a compound, from a small town to New York City. I think we will eventually find that the reason we find so few Prepaid Carrier Delivery covers is because it was not the custom to prepay the delivery fee.

If a resident of New York City could prepay the delivery fee in New York City to some street address in New York City(and you admit he could), did it occur to you as strange that he was not allowed to mail a 3¢ plus 1¢ letter, say from some small town a hundred miles from New York City to a street address in New York City?

I also have before me a cover with a 3¢ 61 plus a 1¢ 61 postmarked, "Charlestown, Mass - June 28 1862," addressed to Brighton, Mass. Thus Charlestown with its own post office had a carrier service in 1862. Naturally it was part of the Greater Boston system, and in the same class as the Kensington, Pa. Don't you agree?

Petz of Albany sent me the two covers he owns, (5¢ 1856 plus 3¢) Registered(?). I think the explanation is that while the senders intended to pay the registration fee, the stamps were not accepted as payment, because when a clerk registered a letter, he had to put 5¢ cash in his drawer. If he accepted a 5¢ stamp he was 5¢ short in his cash account. The Post Office forms show cash receipts for registered letters. If I am

right, then these two covers are examples, that things are not always what they seem to be, because they surely have every appearance of being registered letters and perfectly good in every way.

Yours etc.,

PONY COVER
GARTER TYPE

INTERCITY TRANSPORT LINES, INC.

STATION MEMORANDUM

To:

Date San Jose Cal May 27-41

Subject:

Mr Stanley B Ashbrook
Dear Mr Ashbrook

I have your letter of the 14th addressed to me at Palo Alto Cal. hence the delay in answering. I will be glad to send you this valuable cover with its history however it will be 2 weeks or more before I can send it. I have accepted an invitation to show this cover with 20 other frames of western Brands before the Pacific Philatelic Society — at their June 18th meeting.

Yours respectfully.
E M Hackett

HH8 No. 15th St
San Jose Cal.

Signed

WRITE ALL MESSAGES
KEEP CARBON COPY

May 16th 1941.

Mr. G. M. Hackett,
Palo Alto, Calif.

My dear Mr. Hackett:

I was recently informed by several members of the Pacific Philatelic Society, of which I am a member, that you recently exhibited before the Society a very remarkable and unique cover.

This, a cover via Pony Express from Boston to San Francisco, with four 10¢ 1861 August type and four of the Wells Fargo $1.00 Garter stamps.

As this item is most unusual I would like very much to borrow the cover so that I can make a photograph of same, and write an article regarding it for the Philatelic Press and illustrate it. I am quite sure that many collectors thruout the country would like to know that such an item exists.

Several years ago I published a book on the U. S. 10¢ 1855-1857 in which is quite a little bit of historical data on the early establishment of mail service to the Coast and special mention of the Pony Express. If you do not possess a copy, I would be pleased to send you one with my compliments.

If you will be so kind as to forward your cover to me, I will return it the same day of receipt and will pay the express or registration charges both ways.

Sincerely yours,

ALFRED F. LICHTENSTEIN
GREENWICH & MORTON STREETS
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS
CHAMPIN, N. Y.

POST OFFICE BOX 994
CHURCH STREET ANNEX, N. Y.

May 16, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 South Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

My dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have your letter of May 14th and would certainly like to have a photograph of the item you refer to in your letter.

If the cover is authentic it is certainly a scarce item and I would be very much interested in hearing more about it.

Yours sincerely,

AFL:VT

QUEEN CITY STAMP & COIN CO. - - GOLDEN JUBILEE

— 1890 —

— 1940 —

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

TABLE NO. 1

OCTOBER 26, 1940

Re.

a. P. S.

Catalogue

H. L. LINDQUIST
PUBLICATIONS
2 WEST 46TH STREET NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 6, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 S. Grand Ave.
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

The idea of publishing a catalog to compete with Scott has, as you know, been discussed off and on over a period of a good many years. On several occasions, groups of influential collectors and dealers have gotten together with a view of getting behind such a movement, not only on United States stamps but on the entire catalog.

However, after due and careful deliberation, it was always decided that it would not be feasible to do such a thing, even in a restricted area, for a division of the catalog is more apt to disrupt collecting than to aid it.

A case in point is the Sanabria and Scott Air Post Catalogs. Instead of helping the airmail game, it has almost killed it, and it will take years before it can overcome the present situation. Scores of the best collectors of these stamps have quit in disgust, and I fear the same thing might happen if a U.S. catalog were gotten out under the auspices of an organization like the A.P.S., where politics is sure to play an important part.

Rollin Flower and the present administration may start in with all of the good intentions in the world, but in two years there will be a new administration and whether they fall in line or not is a matter that would then have to be decided. The catalog would have to be edited by some one person who is going to stick with it for life and not be changed at the whim of a new administration each two or three years.

I think it is far better to work from within than from without. During the past two or three years there has been a tremendous change in the attitude of Hugh Clark, and he is very receptive to suggestions made to him. Of course he does feel an obligation to the collectors and dealers who have invested money in the past in items that were listed in the catalog, and his views are shared by a good many, although there is a growing number that disagree with them. Of course it will take time to have all of the changes we want incorporated, but we are, I believe, making real strides in this direction, and personally I think it is far more hopeful to proceed along present lines than to try and set up an entirely new organization, which not only means editorial work but it means a selling job, a shipping job, and things of that kind.

Phone: MEdallion 3-3715 Cable Address: LINDPUBS

Moreover, if you undermine the Scott Publications it will also reflect on their other books and catalogs, which I think would be a catastrophe for the stamp industry unless there was something able to take its place, fully and immediately.

I have every confidence to believe that if we patiently go ahead, playing ball to the best of our ability, that we will eventually get everything we want.

Sincerely yours,

HLL:B

The American Philatelist

AMERICA'S OLDEST AND LEADING STAMP JOURNAL
CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED SINCE 1887

Official Organ of the
American Philatelic Society

RALPH A. KIMBLE, Editor

8118 Dante Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

10 October 1941

Stanley B.Ashbrook
434 South Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stanley-

Your letter of Sept.30th was followed by the three bulletins of the Research Group, all of which were exceedingly interesting. I'm frank to admit that the subjects discussed are outside of my immediate field of activity,but I can see that they are very much worthwhile,and that the work of the Group can be productive of real results.

I note that you do not wish any publicity given to matters discussed therein,and will act accordingly. However, would you like general publicity in the AP as to the existence and purposes of the Group? Such work should be properly noted I believe.

On another matter, I am enclosing for your perusal and eventual return to me a letter from Brookman which,I believe,is self-explanatory. It is part of a correspondence relating to a proposed series of articles on the 1847 thru the 1869 issues of US stamps. Brookman and I will,of course, appreciate very much such cooperation as you can give,in line with his letter.

Regards

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Oct. 13, 1941.

Mr. Ralph A. Kimble,
8118 Dante Ave.,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Ralph:

Yours of the 10th received.

Regarding the Research Group. I sent the Bulletins to you solely for your own information and not with any idea of publicity, but if you care to make some mention of the work we are doing there would be no objection. Lindquist has had several editorials in "Stamps" in the past few months and you might refer to his remarks regarding details of the Group work.

I am returning herewith Brookman's letter with due appreciation of his kind remarks regarding my efforts. I note he contemplates a series of articles on the 1847-1869 issues and I will be only too glad to give him any assistance I can. He is welcome to use anything he wishes from my books or articles. Please tell him not to overlook the Chase article on the 1847 issue which was published in the Philatelic Gazette in 1916. This is the best article that has ever appeared on the 47's. You should be able to get Doc's consent for Brookman to use anything he wishes from this article or the 3¢ Book but in case you need any help I'll lend a hand.

You know how I feel about illustrations. Better none at all than space fillers which do not show what is intended. Poor cuts are confusing. Perhaps I can help Brookman along this line if it would not require a great deal of my time which at present I can ill afford to spare. I suggest that he asks for what he wants and I'll see what I can do.

I am enclosing herewith a cut from one of my pen drawings of the 5¢. I have similar drawings of the 10¢, also the 1¢, 3¢, 10¢ and 12¢ 1851. He is welcome to any of these.

I am very much pleased with the present set-up of the Handbook Committee and hope that it will lead to greater things in the future on the part of the Society. I think the Society should eventually publish a U. S. Specialized Catalogue, edited by the best brains in the Society. Such a work would be authoritative and accurate in contrast to the present book which is turned out each year with so many oft of date listings. It should not be the province of one man, and one man alone, to have the say as to what goes in and what stays out of a work such as this.

Proofs and Essays which were never issued to the public should not be listed as regular U. S. postage stamps, regardless of whether dealers want this done or not. A catalogue published by the Society would not have to cater to any special interest

and if such a book could be published at a profit by the Scott Co., a much improved work could be published by the Society at no loss. The catalogue is the collector's guide, and it should be 100% accurate.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

The American Philatelist

AMERICA'S OLDEST AND LEADING STAMP JOURNAL
CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED SINCE 1887

Official Organ of the
American Philatelic Society

RALPH A. KIMBLE, Editor

8118 Dante Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

14 October 1941

Mr.Stanley B.Ashbrook
434 South Grand Avenue
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stanley-

I can not tell you how much I appreciate the kindly tone and expressed willingness to cooperate,in your letter of October 13th. I know that Brookman will be delighted,and am forwarding your letter on to him so he can properly answer it. Your action is a striking example of the mutual cooperation that CAN make philately a joy and an inspiration to those who labor in trying to propound its charms and intricacies to others.

As to the suggestions in the latter part of your letter--I fully agree that when and if the APS--or any other qualified national organization--can really go into an unbiased,thoroughly impartial and scientific specialized catalog,it will be the greatest blessing philately has had in eons. The non-dealer catalog scheme has been tried before,as you know,but not in a thorough manner,and without the qualified experts and the cash resources necessary to make it a success. It is so big a thing,and the initial cost so great, that most persons are afraid of the idea,forgetting that the returns can also be great--perhaps greater than anyone imagines.

Certainly our guides,as are the catalogs, SHOULD be written and published by those without any personal interest in selling stamps.That is.obvious,but to date there has been no concerted action,nor even agreement among those qualified to produce such a book or books,that makes possible an actual start. I'm for it,decidedly.

Sincere regards

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Oct. 16, 1941.

Mr. Ralph A. Kimble,
8118 Dante Ave.,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Ralph:

I know you are always busy but here are some thoughts relative to the catalogue proposition to bear in mind.

Whenever this subject has been broached in the past, it has been hushed up with the cry - think of the tremendous cost. Now I wonder?

The Scott people were able to bring out a U. S. Specialized and I never heard that they had any great amount of capital. If they could do it, perhaps the A.P.S. could finance such a work and instead of deriving a profit from same, throw the profit back into it each year to make it better and better. On the subject of initial cost, I have written to Stowell for an expression of opinion. If its his opinion it would break the Society then I would say suppose we forget it. My present kick is that Clark won't make any changes, nor does he seem to be disposed to take anyone's advice. Perhaps if a serious movement was started within the A.P.S. to publish such a work, he would wake up and at least attempt to give us an authoritative guide. This is the first step that I think is in order.

As Editor of the A.P. you should be the Editor-in-chief of the proposed catalogue and you should be paid a substantial sum for such extra work. I intend to get some facts and figures and then if the proposition looks good, how would it do for the Research Group to come out as sponsors of the proposition in a special article in the A.P.? This is just a suggestion to bear in mind.

In the next Stamp Specialist I will have a lengthy article on the "Premieres Gravures" of 1861. In this article I make certain sensible suggestions for catalogue revisions. May I offer this suggestion? You might write a special review of this article for the A.P. and especially emphasize the need of revisions in the S.U.S.Catalogue listings. It would sort of pave the way for events to follow, without any mention of a proposed A.P.S. catalogue, though of course, if you wanted to slip in such a suggestion, it would be fine.

We should not be running to Clark and begging him on our knees to make long needed revisions, regroupings and countless other improvements. On the contrary he should welcome all the assittance he can obtain.

Re - the Brookman articles. I am glad that you were pleased with my offer of co-operation, so if Brookman is likewise satisfied, we will put our shoulder to the wheel and do all we can to make his articles outstanding.

Cordially yours,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Oct. 16, 1941.

Mr. J. W. Stowell,
% J. W. Stowell Printing Co.,
Federalsburg, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Stowell:

On numerous occasions in the past it has been suggested that the A.P.S. publish a specialized catalogue of U. S. stamps, a work edited by the best brains in American Philately, but all such suggestions have been silenced by the assertions that the cost would be too tremendous for the Society to undertake. On this point I have my doubts and am therefore asking some information from you. What do you estimate the initial cost would be to publish a book similar to the Scott U. S. Catalogue, but somewhat larger, because of course, the additional data which could be included, would require more pages? May I also inquire as to your personal opinion on the advisability of the A.P.S. publishing such a work? I cannot help but believe, that such a book, issued every year, or every two years, would be such an authoritative guide for collectors that it would entirely supersede the present Scott U. S. Catalogue.

It is quite possible that some serious agitation of this suggestion would cause enough concern to the present editor of the catalogue to make him see the light, and for him to make some sincere effort to give American collectors an up-to-date and accurate listing of U. S. postage stamps. In which event it would not be necessary for the A.P.S. to undertake the work.

I am asking that you treat this letter as strictly confidential.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Stowell Printing Co.

LAW

PHILATELIC **PRINTING** NUMISMATIC

COMMERCIAL

FEDERALSBURG, MD.

November 4, 1941

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
434 S. Grand Ave.
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I received your letter in regard to the catalogue. I have looked over Scott's and think it is out of the question nearly for anyone except Scott to undertake to get out a catalogue that would pay expenses.

In the first place it would require an awful lot of capital to do it and an office like ours could not handle it to advantage as the pages would have to be electrotyped before printing. It would be nearly impossible to handle the job in any other way and make a uniform looking list as it could not be done from linotype slugs, and this is the only way we do our work here. The Scott people, I understand do their own electrotyping and composition and the only thing that they do not do is the binding which is put out to a regular book binder.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Stowell Mg.

J. W. STOWELL PTG. CO.

Per: R. C. S.

JWS:S

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Oct. 16, 1941.

Mr. Wm. C. Michaels,
906 Commerce Bldg.,
Kansas City, Mo.

My dear Will:

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter I have written J.W. Stowell which is self-explanatory.

As you well know, Hugh Clark turns down cold practically all suggestions for any improvement in the Scott U. S. Catalogue and I think the time has come when an effort should be made to do something about it.

For example, I think I made quite a strong case on the so-called "1860 Imperforates," but look what he did, followed the silly suggestion of Luff made over forty years ago and listed these trial printings as minor varieties of the perforated stamps. Now one thing is sure they are not minor varieties of the 1860 Issue, because such a listing infers that they are "errors," that is "sheets which missed perforating." The very fact that they are in entirely different colors proves conclusively the fallacy of any such an assumption as made by Luff.

Consider the Premieres. In the Specialized these are headed "First Designs" with the issued stamps headed "Regular Issue" but in the General Catalogue, the "Premieres" are still headed, "First Issue" and the regular stamps are headed "Second Issue." Is this not absolutely absurd? Everyone knows there was no First and Second Issues in 1861, but only One Issue. Why does Clark persist in trying to keep alive such a myth? The only reason is his allegiance to the dealing fraternity and also his loyalty to John Luff's memory, a loyalty which he carries to excess, that is in trying to perpetuate the errors of Luff at the expense of giving American collectors an accurate honest to God authoritative listing of U. S. stamps.

You will perhaps recall that I read a paper at the Buffalo convention which touched on this subject. In that paper I made the suggestion that the A.P.S. appoint a Committee to confer with Clark on the subject of necessary catalogue revisions, and later Flower appointed me as Chairman and instructed me to name my committee. This was after Flower had made a special trip to New York to see Clark on the subject. I started to go ahead with the work but soon became convinced that it would be wasted effort because I was in effect told that I could go ahead and make any suggestions I wished but that Clark would edit the catalogue as he saw fit. As a result, I concluded, what was the use to invite friends like you and about 25 others to join such a committee, carefully study suggestions, and then have them thrown into the waste basket. Now I really don't think that it would ever become necessary for the A.P.S. to publish a U. S. catalogue because I am sure that if Clark was convinced the Society was seriously considering such a thing that he would come to his senses and welcome assistance.

Mr. Wm. C. Michaels, Oct. 16, 1941.

I don't want to go off half-cocked on an idea like this, and to raise any ill-feeling or controversy. I have my heart set on a real catalogue, one that is honest and accurate, and one that will not cater to any special group or groups, but a work which will be a guide that collectors can depend upon.

Inaccurate listings assist the crook to dispose of his wares, for example, would Colson be able to sell his "Premieres" if they were not listed in a catalogue edited by the leading authorities in this country?

I have it on the highest authority that the sole reason why Colson made his attack on me in his bulletins was because he was forced to refund $10,000 to a wealthy Boston collector, to whom he had sold "as regularly issued U. S. postage stamps," a set of the sample bits of paper dubbed by Luff as the "Premieres Gravures" of 1861. And this refund was made after the Boston collector was shown some of my articles on the subject.

In the next number of the "Stamp Specialist" I will have a lengthy article on the "Premieres" giving their true history for the first time. This will be my answer to Colson's remarks regarding the iconoclast, but nowhere in my remarks did I refer to him in any way.

I am asking your candid advice on the subjects mentioned in this letter. If you agree that something should be done, perhaps we can find a way.

Cordially yours,

LAW OFFICES

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DELBERT J. HAFF
OF COUNSEL

October 22, 1941

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook
434 South Grand
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

My dear Stanley:

I have been giving some thought to the matter of your letter of the 16th. The same thing has occurred to me more than once, but my chief grievance with the catalogue is the matter of prices. On my desk at home are twenty priced catalogues of well publicized sales, also a lot of price lists and advertisements. From all these things it can be proved definitely that, with a very few exceptions, the prices of Nineteenth Century United States items in the catalogue are all wet, completely wet. In the catalogue Hugh said that the prices are for fine copies which "~~the~~ an informed dealer will charge an informed collector." But in a paper read to the Congress December 1, 1940 Hugh admits that since there is a prevalent custom by the dealers of giving fifty percent discount on stamps, therefore (it is argued inferentially) the prices in the catalogue must be double what the dealer expects to get. So you can see the direct inconsistency of Hugh's argument. He said "If I were to cut the prices of all early stamps by fifty percent, I do not believe this would have the slightest

effect in stopping the quoting of such fifty percent discounts." So there you are.

In his recent advertisement (September 20, 1941) Hugh said, "We believe that this edition reflects current market prices more accurately than any previous edition." I say, and there is not a chance of successful refutation, that the prices in the present catalogue do not reflect the current market prices. Hugh now says that the prices in the catalogue are for third grade material which he calls ~~fine~~ "Standard." His first grade are "gems." His second grade is "choice" and his third grade (the ones priced in the catalogue) are "standard," and then he says that they can be off-center, etc., etc. I doubt if he can point to a single sale in any well publicized auction of any "standard" stamp being sold at any where near the price in his catalogue. Occasionally a super-superfine stamp sells up to the catalogue and, very rarely, a little above it, but it is quite a different thing for a "standard" stamp to sell at catalogue or even as much as sixty percent of catalogue.

I am of the firm opinion that you should appoint that committee of twenty-five, subdivide the work, cover only Nineteenth Century items and arrange to publish the

catalogue in installments in the American Philatelist and give the matter wide publicity. But by no means have any dealers on your committee. The mere appointment of such a committee and its intentions will probably wake up Hugh Clark. The first announcement of such committee should distinctly state that it is solely in the interest of Philately and not for the aggrandizement of any person or any group of persons but merely to list and price and describe officially the stamps that are really stamps. I do not think you should go into the Twentieth Century things at all, at least at first, and for Goodness sake eliminate Red Cross Seals, Sanitary Fairs, Postal Cards, Telegraph Stamps, and a lot of other riff-raff and confine yourself entirely to the adhesive stamps regularly issued in the Nineteenth Century.

I, for one, would be willing to subscribe to a fund to circularize the membership of the A. P. S. to get their views or for such other purpose as may be deemed proper. A catalogue that undertakes to fix the market prices of stamps should put down the market prices and not double the market prices. Did you ever hear of a third class 99 R II selling for $600.00? And did you ever hear of it selling for $300.00 or even

$100.00? Of course, we know that superb 99 R IIs sell for more than $100.00 but not third class things, not "standards." And so all along the line.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

W. C. MICHAELS.

WCM/VB

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Aug. 8, 1942.

Dear Harold:

Re - the 21¢ cover. I guess there is little doubt that this use was Nov. 1869 and that it was a Registered letter. The registration rate at this time was 15¢, having been reduced from 20¢ to 15¢ on Jan. 1, 1869. A valuable enclosure would account for the double 3¢ rate. Your explanation seems quite logical that the 6¢ was first applied at upper right then removed and placed under the 15¢.

As this cover came to you in an original find and you know its history, your explanation seems to be the one which is correct. I can't believe that anyone would have left the gum traces in upper right if there was any intention of fraud.

The cancelations on the two stamps are different, of that there is no question, but I do think that the one that ties the 15¢ (at right) was repeated on the 6¢. Note the fine outer circle line. This reminds me of a similar cover I examined a few months back. Strange to state this cover also had a 15¢ Lincoln grill and a 6¢ 1869. It was mailed from Augusta, Maine to Mt. Vernon, N.Y. In upper left was "Reg 22." Now here is the funny thing. Both stamps were canceled with "star" markings, but the stars were different, as one had a ring around it. In every other respect the cover seemed absolutely O.K. It occurred to me at the time that perhaps the 6¢ was put on first and canceled, then the 15¢ stamps was put on and canceled by another clerk. This seems sort of far-fetched but I cannot help from believing the cover was genuine. The item was Lot 1708 in the second Knapp sale. It was bought by Dan Kelleher and he put it into his sale of April 11, 1942 (Lot 237).

Whether there is any connection between two different markings at Augusta, Me. and Detroit, I am sure I don't know.but the coincidence is odd to say the least. At least it is a point I won't forget in case a third turns up.

I think that Donald MacGregor of Detroit purchased the Kelleher cover. At least I recall that we had some correspondence regarding it, and MacGregor goes rather strong for registered covers. Perhaps Fred would like to get in touch with MacGregor and have a look at the item.

It is my guess that a registered combination such as this is quite a nice item and darn scarce because the 15¢ rate didn't go into effect until Jan. 1, 1869 and that was near the tailend of the use of the 15¢ Lincoln grill.

Yours etc.,

434 South Grand Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 23, 1942.

Mr. Lambert W. Gerber,
Tamaqua, Penna.

Dear Mr. Gerber:

Herewith the 30¢ 1869 face of cover. I believe this cover is perfectly good and I cannot find anything wrong with it. I see nothing queer about the "year" in the French marking, hence I believe the use was actually from New York on July 6, 1869. The combination of the French p.m. and the red New York prove that the rate on the letter was actually 30¢, hence the only supposition that all might not be right would be to suppose that the 30¢ 1869 was substituted for a 30¢ of the previous issue. I cannot find a bit of evidence after a careful examination under my Hanovia lamp that this was done.

This was a Seybold cover and while I have seen several fakes from his collection, I have every reason to believe this item is O.K.

In addition, I have seen other covers from this same correspondence which I had no cause to question, and I have also seen several covers from the same correspondence which I considered were bad.

For example, have you a copy of Souren's,

"Philately of Tomorrow"
Vol. 1 #2?

If so trun to pages 46 and 47 etc. Here was a "Seybold" cover from the same "Cotter" correspondence, a use from New York on Aug. 21, 1869. Warren Colson attempted to sell this cover (with a 30¢ 1869) to Bradley Martin for the sum of $275.00. Souren pronounced the cover a fake, and I think his opinion was correct, as the stamp originally used was undoubtedly a 15¢ 1869.

There is no charge for the above because I am only too glad to get a record of such items.

Sincerely yours,

BILLINGS, NELSON, QUEVLI
and other Collections

190 ✉ **30c blue & carmine; very fine to superb copy, lightly tied to full face of cover to France. July pmk makes this a very early use. Accompanied by letter from Ashbrook. Genuine covers are very rare & are worth over cat.** (121) **300.00**

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
APRIL 21st & 22nd, 1943

Lambert W Gerber

LAMBERT W. GERBER

200 Rowe Tamaqua, Pa.

DEFINITIONS OF CONDITIONS

SUPERB: perfection in all respects.

VERY FINE: not quite superb. Centering nearly perfect.

QUITE FINE or EXTRA FINE: perforations clear of design, free from any defects.

FINE: perforations touching or barely cutting design, free from any defects (tears, very heavy cancels, missing perforations, thin spots, creases). Certain U. S. issues are predominently off-center, such as 1857, Grilled issues, Jamestown, 1919-21 Rotary, etc.; such are particularly applicable to this classification.

AVERAGE: sound copies without defect, usually somewhat off-center.

VERY GOOD: sound appearing but with trivial minor defect.

GOOD: one or more of the following defects: thin, straight-edge, nibbed perforations, creases faded, etc.

FAIR and POOR: low grade merchandise, usually damaged.

The above definitions apply to all gradings in this sale. Where classifications conflict with personal conceptions, ADJUST YOUR GRADINGS TO OURS for ONLY when classified lots do not adhere to above definitions will we accept returns. N. B. Lots graded "average" or lower are sold strictly without recourse for any reason and no returns for credit will be allowed.

TERMS OF SALE

1. All bids are per lot and not portions thereof.
2. Terms: STRICTLY CASH. Buyers MUST pay within seven days of date of notification of the amount secured for them. Those desiring special terms must secure written agreement prior to date of sale.
3. Successful bidders must be known to us or have established credit with us at least two weeks prior to sale date; otherwise must make payment in full as per invoice before lots are presented to them.
4. Claims for error in description, SUBJECT TO ABOVE DEFINITIONS ONLY, must be made within 3 days of receipt. This time limit can be extended only upon written agreement. Floor bidders may not return lots for any reason.
5. All stamps are guaranteed genuine. Claims for error will be considered at any time within 30 days from date of sale.
6. We reserve the right to withdraw any lot or to group two or more or to reject any bid we consider detrimental to the interests of the owner.
7. No charge is made for executing bids; however a nominal charge of at least 25c will be made on successful bidders to cover costs of postage, insurance and handling.
8. Combination lots, wholesale lots, or any lots containing over 5 stamps are sold strictly without recourse to return. Likewise, lots described below the grade of "fine" are sold strictly AS IS.
9. Lots not lifted within the necessary 7 days from date of sale may be sold either privately or at auction by us; any loss arising to be made good by the defaulting bidder, but inasmuch as we act only as agents for the owner, we shall not be considered personally responsible for any default on the part of either owner or bidder.